

Rich Gorgone

New Knights coach has positive attitude

By JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

Lake-Lehman Black Knight football fans will see a familiar face pacing and shouting instructions along the sidelines this 1985-86 season as Richard Gorgone, who led the Black Knights from 1974-1978, is back as this year's head coach.

Gorgone is excited about the upcoming 1985-86 slate and looks to lead the Black Knights to a number of victories through positive attitudes and dedication. Gorgone also worked during the off-season to establish a program of the future.

"I really think we can win a lot of games this season," said Gorgone, a 17-year coaching veteran. "This year we have a very young team, a lot of sophomores and juniors, but I am not in any way giving up on this season," Gorgone stressed. "We have eight seniors who are very good football players and we are going to take one game at a time."

Gorgone said the main point stressed this year is emphasizing a positive attitude and concentrating on the fundamentals of blocking and tackling.

"Basically, my coaching style is one of trying to be very positive," said Gorgone, a history teacher for the Lake-Lehman School District. "I, along with my coaching staff, am looking to determine what exactly the kids can do. I am looking for kids who want to play. After all, this is a contact sport," said Gorgone. "I am also stressing good blocking and tackling fundamentals," Gorgone continued.

Gorgone said he wants his players to use their intelligence as well as their physical attributes when facing an opposing team.

"I like my players to know how to hit, but hit intelligently," said Gorgone. "Sometimes you have a player who can hit really hard and that can hurt the team if the hit is at the wrong time," Gorgone explained. "I want my players to think out there. Not to hurt someone, but to hit with intelligence."

Gorgone began his coaching career in 1968 as a varsity defensive coordinator for Morris Knolls High, New Jersey. Gorgone stayed with Morris Knolls until 1974, when he began his first year as head coach for Lake-Lehman. Gorgone's best season with the Black Knights was a 6-4-1 finish in 1976 when Gorgone's squad beat area power-house Wyoming Area and tied perennial contender Pittston Area.

In addition to coaching the benefits of intelligent play, Gorgone is determined to utilize many of his players in order to



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LAKE LEHMAN COACHING STAFF — Kneeling, Richard Gorgone, head coach. From left, standing, Bob Roberts, Mark

Boyle, John Oliver, Jeff Smith and Bob Langer.

build for the future.

"As I said before, I do not intend to give up on this season by any means," Gorgone said. "But, obviously this year our team is an uncertain quality."

According to Gorgone, heavy off-season recruiting and use of many sophomores and juniors this year should insure a bright future for Lake Lehman football.

"We recruited a lot of football players (41) in the off-season," said Gorgone, "and we seem to be getting more every day."

"Last year," said Gorgone, "we did not have a lot of kids spending time on the playing field. This year we are spending a great deal of time with a lot of kids," Gorgone continued. "What we are trying

to do is to establish a foundation for the years to come. I would like my sophomores and juniors to have a lot of playing time," Gorgone said.

Gorgone also concentrated on his junior varsity squad, reportedly laden with top freshman candidates. The JV emphasis, says Gorgone, is to insure a constant quality flow of football players.

"We also recruited a couple of really good looking freshmen who I think will help us," said Gorgone. "I am looking to establish a good feeder-system for Lake Lehman football," Gorgone said.

Gorgone said he sometimes finds himself in a Catch-22 situation with the younger football players. "If you have a young kid who thinks he can play and you do not use him, he will quit," said

Gorgone. "I think they should all be given a chance and some playing time."

The Black Knights finished with a 4-3 slate in the 1984-85 Division II conference. Gorgone says his team can improve upon the third place finish and the key ingredient will be attitude.

"The kids have got to play our kind of football this year," said Gorgone. "Sometimes it is tough for a kid who has been around for four years to accept a new coaching philosophy. Our kids have got to want to play our kind (the new coaching staff's) of football."

Said Gorgone when asked what it would take to have a successful season, "It all depends on the kids. They must believe in us (new coaching staff) if we are to have a good season."

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