



Sports



Who

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emotion and rivalry of the team members are at the highest for this 37-year old contest.

Over the years since the first game was played in 1948, the Old Shoe trophy often has been won by the team picked most likely to win. Spirits run high and the game becomes a championship season all wrapped into one contest. Teams sporting mediocre records, weak lines, less than average offense, are looking to this game to prove themselves for the season. Coaches of both teams play the role of psychologists trying to keep the contest in proper perspective for the players.

There is a new aspect to this season's contest. Both teams have new head coaches — coaches under whom they have had to learn different offensive and defensive programs.

Lake-Lehman Knights Coach Rich Gorgone returned as the Knights head coach this year, after holding coaching positions out of the District for the past five years. He brought to this year's team more than new plays. He brought a fresh type of enthusiasm, a will to win, and a fighting spirit. He has given to his players the will to keep fighting, to come from behind to win. They have installed confidence in themselves by playing bigger and better teams than they and holding their own.

Dallas Mountaineer Coach Ted Jackson is the new head coach at Dallas coming to the Back Mountain School from Coughlin where he served as Assistant Coach. Jackson has taken last year's record and turned it into a winning season. He has instilled confidence in a group of boys who were beginning to believe they could not win. He has molded them into an aggressive, never say die team, willing to go against the toughest in the area as they proved against Wyoming Area and Pittston Area. Win or lose, his team members never gave up in agame this season. Quite often they came back to win by as little as three points.

Coaches around the Valley were reluctant to pick a winner of the Old Shoe Game this season. It is under-

standable since the kids are fired up and anything can happen.

As former Dallas Coach Jack Jones once said, "When it comes to Dallas and Lake-Lehman, throw away the record books — tossing a coin would be a better way of predicting a winner." This year he believes Dallas is in for a battle but by the comparison of scores Jones said Dallas has the ability to win.

"Jackson has to be wary of a Gorgone-coached team. He always has them prepared," said Jones. "Be cautious is my advice. It is a contest of Hooterville VS Pixley, it's a big game. The team best prepared for opportunity should win."

Lake-Lehman School Board President Joseph "Red" Jones said he congratulates the Board of Education at Dallas for hiring Ted Jackson. "Not only is he an excellent coach but an outstanding individual, who truly cares about his players," said Jones.

Jones also commended his colleagues at an early in the season Lake-Lehman Board meeting on hiring Rich Gorgone, the same type of individual.

"Both coaches have put together a fine staff, all of whom have a positive attitude. The teams are fundamentally sound and I believe it is going to be a very close game. I can't predict a winner but whichever team wins, it will be an excellent ballgame," said Jones.

There will be a lot of emotion among fans as well, particularly among the Gorgone and Jackson families.

Like many Lake-Lehman faculty members, Rich Gorgone and his family reside in Shavertown. He teaches and coaches at Lake-Lehman and so does his wife, Drena. His children, except Sam, attend the Dallas Schools, and his daughter, Megan is a Dallas varsity cheerleader. Naturally, Rich's cheering will be for his Black Knights of Lake-Lehman but the rest of the family will have to make a choice—cheer for dad or for daughter or sister!

To make the Old Shoe game more interesting, the Gorgones and Ted Jackson and his family are neighbors and friends. Both family's chil-

dren have had the same babysitter, both families have visited and entertained one another. Together much of the time, this Saturday they will be on opposite sides of the field.

The Jacksons, on the other hand, have relatives in the Lake-Lehman District. Ted Jackson's sister and her family live in Lehman and his nephew is a member of Gorgone's football team. Lots of fun for these two families.

This situation is similar dozens of times over in the Back Mountain. The contest which was initiated in 1948 to develop a friendly rivalry has indeed become that — family members are rivals due to sons playing on one team or the other, or nephews, or because they reside in one district and teach in the other and filtering down to the younger generations, these team members, some of them at least, date girls from the opposing district. So come this Saturday, fans and players remember that this is a one-day rivalry and win or lose, after the game the Back Mountain Area should return to being one big community of friends.

Gorgone and Jackson know it will be that way. They sat and discussed the excitement and camaraderie of the contest this past week. Gorgone is familiar with the Old Shoe Game and all that it represents, for Ted Jackson it is a new experience.

"I have been hearing about it from some of the kids and from friends and relatives but I guess I will really know what it is like after this Saturday," said Jackson. "I'm excited about it and cautious about what will happen but we will be prepared."

Gorgone said that it is a clean rivalry. "I think it's because the kids know each other so well. They have relatives in each district. Taking the game away from Thanksgiving Day hurt the enthusiasm some but playing at the end of the season helps. We'll prepare like any other game. Ted and I knowing each other so well makes it interesting."

Predict the outcome? Not those two — just come to the game Saturday at Dallas.

PA disappoints Dallas

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Dallas Mountaineers took the ball on the opening kickoff and were moving well toward the Pittston's end of the field until they fumbled on the Patriot's 34-yard line. It was on the sixth play following the opening kickoff and the Patriots John Baloga recovered the ball and stopped the Mountaineers in Saturday's game at Dallas won by the Patriots, 24-2.

Junior quarterback Scott Francis threw two nice passes, a 12-yard to Richard Long and a 15 yard strike to Marc Ramirez in moving Dallas from their own 32 to the Patriots 34.

After recovering the fumble, the Patriots started a march downfield. On the third play Senior Ken Scalpi raced 40 yards for a Pittston first down and several plays later Scalpi went around the left side for a four yard touchdown. Lou Scarantino kicked the extra point to give the Patriots a 7-0 lead.

Two minutes later, with 5:03 on the clock, the Patriots scored a second touchdown as a result of Chris Phillips interception of a Dallas pass. He caught the ball at his own 49-yard line and ran it back to the Mountaineers 34-yard line.

Following Phillips interception, Quarterback Mike Ristagno threw a long, high pass to Baloga who caught the ball over his back but he couldn't get in to the endzone. On the next play John Wojcik rushed over for the touchdown and Scarantino kicked the extra point to give the Patriots a 14-0 lead.

Old

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In 1979, the Black Knights of Lake-Lehman again took the Old Shoe but this time under the leadership of Tom Hisiro.

Dallas Coach Ron Rybak took over in Dallas in 1980 and for two years, 1980 and 1981 the Dallas Mountaineers kept the Shoe. In 1982, the two teams played to a tie under

The Mountaineers were unable to move the ball or stop the Patriots during the first half and in the second quarter, Pittston was on fourth and eight at the Mountaineers 39-yard line and went into punt formation. Instead of snapping the ball to the punter, back Frank Skoranski took the ball and carried it to the 19-yard line for a 20 yard gain and a first down. Scalpi took the ball over on the next play but a motion penalty against the Patriots moved the ball back to the six yard line.

With eight minutes remaining in the quarter, Scarantino kicked a

field goal to move the score to 17-0. Pittston Area scored their final points in the game with less than five minutes remaining in the half. Their quarterback Ristagno threw a 48-yard pass to Baloga, who went in for six points. Scarantino kicked the extra point to give the Patriots a 24-0 lead.

In the second half, the Mountaineers did a better job of holding the Patriots but although their offense moved the ball better, the Mountaineers were unable to take advantage of their scoring opportunities. They had at least half dozen scoring opportunities but were unable to take the ball into the endzone.

Basketball tourney slated

The Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center will conduct its Seventh Annual Diocesan Junior Boys and Third Annual Junior Girls Basketball Tournaments sponsored by the Sunday Independent.

Ed DeMichele, Athletic Director of C.Y.C., stated the tournament will begin Monday, Nov. 25, and conclude Sunday, Dec. 15.

The tournament features the finest competition in Junior Basketball throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania providing an atmosphere of competitive spirit and sportsmanship between all team members representing their respective schools.

Invitations were mailed to all parochial schools throughout the Scranton Diocese. St. Paul's of

Scranton are the defending champions of the Jr. Boys and Jr. Girls Tournaments.

Officials from the Wyoming Valley Basketball Officials Association who are registered PIAA officials referee all games while the scorebook time table is operated by the C.Y.C. Junior Basketball Officials Club.

Anyone seeking information concerning either tournaments is requested to contact Ed DeMichele, Athletic Director of C.Y.C. at 36 S. Washington, St., Wilkes-Barre.

All tournament applications are due back at the C.Y.C. by Monday, Nov. 18. The teams will be bracketed and mailed back to all schools participating in this year's tournament.

Coaches Rybak and Knights Coach Mark Kirk, each school displayed the trophy for six months.

In 1983 the Mountaineers regained possession under Coach Rybak and last year, the Knights took the Old Shoe when they shutout the Mountaineers 33-0.

This season both teams are playing under the leadership of new

head coaches. The Black Knights are again being coached by Rich Gorgone, back at the helm after five years of coaching outside the District. The Mountaineers are coached by Ted Jackson, Shavertown resident, who came to Dallas from Coughlin, where he was an assistant.



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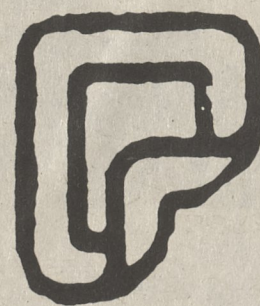
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