

He's a winner!

Ted Jackson is highly respected

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Ted Jackson has always been regarded as one of the better coaches in the Wyoming Valley Conference even though he never had the opportunity to pilot a high school football team. Last year he finally got that chance and he disappointed no one.

Taking a Dallas team that had been among the league's also-rans the year before, Jackson not only turned the program around, but he guided the Mounts to a 6-5 record and the WVC Division 2 championship.

This year, with a strong nucleus returning, Dallas should again be a contender for the D-2 crown. But, turning the program around was a challenging task that worried even Jackson.

"It was scary," the second year, 35-year old coach said. "We were coming into a situation where the team was something like 1-10 the year before. We didn't know what kind of players we had but we tried to change the atmosphere into a more competitive one."

"Even in the drills where there would be one-on-one situations, we would emphasize win or lose type of thinking. We would encourage those who won to keep it up, and for those who didn't to try harder and not to give up."

Jackson knows all about winning. Coming from a Coughlin football program where he served as a defensive coach, he had been a big part of the Crusaders' success. But Jackson had higher ambitions and appeared to have the head coaching job at Tunkhannock sewed up a few years ago. For some reason, however, the position fell through and Jackson, dejected, left coaching for a few years.

"When the Tunkhannock job didn't turn out it sort of left a bad taste in my mouth," he explained. "But I missed the sport. Then when Johnny Joseph got the job at Coughlin a few years ago, he asked me if I would help out with the team. Actually I was hoping he would ask. But you don't stay in coaching to be an assistant all your life."

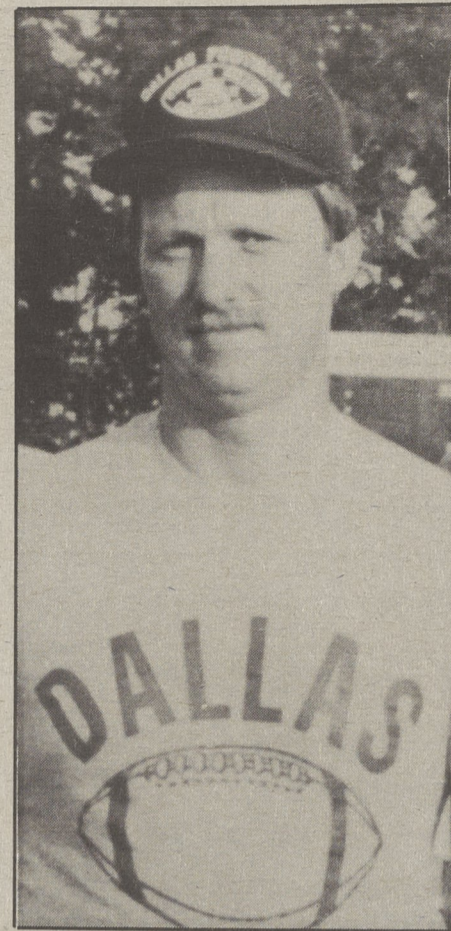
Jackson finally got his shot last year at Dallas, but found that things weren't much different than his days as an assistant.

"There are a lot of small details you have to deal with as a head coach, such as talking to the press and so forth, but Paul Brown (assistant coach) has been a big help, too. The program would probably crumble without him. I don't teach at the school so Paul puts up with any problems teachers and administrators may have with a player. When I come in, we just concentrate on the football end of it."

But Jackson has no complaints about his players.

"These kids have been great. The attitude here is very good, especially with the seniors. It isn't that the others aren't as enthusiastic, but the seniors know it is their last year and they would love to have a good year. And that attitude has been rubbing off on the younger players too."

Repeating as a champion is always tough to accomplish. With every division opponent looking to knock off the reigning king, and with the talent to do it, Dallas will face a stiff challenge in 1986. But if the Mounts are any reflection of their coach, Dallas fans will once again have a team they can be proud of.

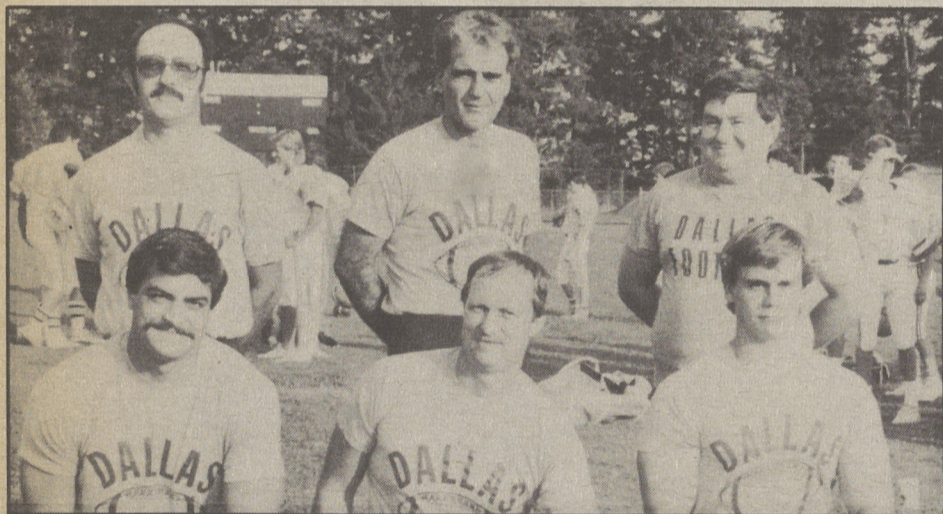


TED JACKSON

1986 Dallas Mountaineers

Eric Moore, WB-S, 6-1, 165, 11
Jay Cherup, QB-S, 5-11, 150, 10
Eric Olsen, QB-S, 5-6, 140, 11
Scott Francis, QB-S, 5-11, 175, 12
Clark VanOrden, QB-S, 5-4, 130, 10
Bill Fedrow, DE, 5-9, 170, 12
Jonathan Wagner, SE-S, 5-9, 155, 11
Walt DeGaudio, OLB, 5-7, 155, 11
Jeff Kehl, LB, 5-7, 175, 12
Jerry Ogurkis, HB-S, 5-11, 170, 10
John Gregg, ED, 5-11, 170, 10
Josh Henry, SE-S, 6-1, 145, 11
Mark Buss, TE, 5-11, 160, 11
Ryan Holthaus, HB-OLB, 5-9, 180, 12
Ed Kwak, WB-S, 5-9, 175, 12
Scott Drasnin, HB-S, 5-6, 140, 11
Mike Koprowski, HB-OLB, 5-9, 170, 11
John Boos, SE-S, 5-1, 110, 11
Mark Mehlichick, SE-S, 5-4, 125, 11
Bob Barbacci, HB-S, 5-7, 150, 10
Lynn Sheehan, HB-LB, 5-7, 155, 12

Ron Post, SE-S, 5-11, 145, 10
Steve Brace, HB-S, 6-0, 185, 12
Dale Williams, G-LB, 6-0, 195, 12
Ben Kern, G-DT, 5-10, 185, 11
Scott Horoshko, T, 6-1, 185, 10
Paul Mehlichick, G-DT, 5-10, 180, 12
Dave Cooper, G-DE, 6-0, 170, 11
Tom Charney, C-DT, 5-9, 235, 11
Joe Shandra, C-DE, 6-0, 185, 11
Phil George, T, 6-0, 195, 10
Mike Welitchko, T, 6-0, 235, 11
Todd Chamberlain, T, 6-1, 230, 12
Matt Andrasko, T, 6-1, 225, 12
Shawn Ruth, G-LB, 5-11, 170, 10
Mark Chester, T-DE, 6-1, 200, 12
Dan Williams, TE-OLB, 5-11, 180, 12
Scott Starbuck, SE-OB, 5-9, 155, 10
Chris Lesjak, TE-OLB, 5-11, 160, 10
Art Morgan, WB-OLB, 5-9, 145, 12
Kyle Boudreaux, TE-LB, 5-11, 190, 11
Bill Janosky, WB-LB, 5-7, 155, 11



DALLAS COACHING STAFF — From left, first row, Paul Brown, Ted Jackson, head coach; Joe Ostrowski. Second row,

Tony Chiarucci, Bill Silvi and Ray McNulty.

Football '86/Charlot M. Denmon

TOUGH

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Gridders

(Continued from page 2)

Knights successful season. He was an outstanding running back and linebacker for the Black Knights. He played under Coach Rich Gorgone in his senior year.

Ron Ostrowski, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Ostrowski, is continuing his education at Wilkes College and is trying for a starting position on the varsity team.

In his senior year, Ostrowski was one of the leading rushers for the Dallas Mountaineers, piling up more than 500 yards on 101 carries. He also scored five touchdowns.

Gerry Mihalick, son of John and Margaret Mihalick, will continue his education at Gettysburg College and is vying for a position on a special team as a punter and place kicker. An All Star soccer player in his four years in senior high school, Mihalick also was a stellar punter and place kicker for the Dallas Mountaineers. He also led the Wyoming Valley Conference and in his senior year averaged over 40 yards per punt. Mihalick kicked 14 for 14 extra points and made four for seven in field goals in 1986. In his senior year, his longest field goal

was 47 yards. Mihalick is a natural athlete and has a strong leg. He was one of the first high school soccer players in Wyoming Valley to fill in as punter and field goal kicker for the varsity football team.

Tim Lyons, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lyons, who was a quarterback and captain for the Dallas Mountaineers in 1986, will continue his education at Lycoming College. Lyons is also trying for a starting position on Lycoming's varsity team. He is aggressive and hardworking and a fine athlete. Lyons has a strong arm and throws well. He also runs well and with some coaching become a fierce competitor. Lyons as well as Mihalick and Ostrowski played under Coach Ted Jackson in their senior year.

Rich Long, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Long, Dallas, was a key player for the Mountaineers. An All-Scholastic defensive back, Rich is continuing his career at Lock Haven University, where he is also competing for a defensive position on their football team. Long was the leading receiver in his senior year for

(See GRIDDERS, page 6)