

It was a good year!

Football coaches satisfied; look forward

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Going into the 1986 Wyoming Valley Conference season, the outlook for both the Dallas and Lake-Lehman High School football teams was that of optimism. The Mountaineers were coming off a 6-5 season in which they also captured the WVC Division II title, while the Black Knights were looking forward to fielding a young but somewhat talented squad in D-III competition.

And after both teams battled in the mud of Edward Edwards Stadium on Saturday afternoon in the season's finale, in which Dallas retained the "Old Shoe" trophy for another year

with a 15-2 victory, both coaches said they were satisfied with their clubs 1986 performance and are already looking forward to next season.

"We thought we would do a little better this year than we did," Lake-Lehman coach Rich Gorgone said of his teams 4-7 record. "But we were a young team and inconsistent at times. I believe you win with a veteran team. They don't make as many mistakes."

"And you could see the inconsistency with this year's team," Gorgone added. "At times, we played great. We came very close to beating Tunkhannock and Meyers. But, other times we made too many mistakes."

Next season, the Black Knights should be a legitimate contender for the D-III title. Lehman will have 31 players from this year's squad returning, including quarterback Len Annetta

who will be a Junior.

We started five sophomores and eight juniors today and we also had one of our best Junior High teams this season," Gorgone explained after the game. "We are really looking forward to next year's club."

And so is Dallas coach Ted Jackson. Although the Mounts will be losing a host of talented players from this year's 8-3 squad, including quarterback Scott Francis, who became the first Mountaineer QB ever to throw for over 1,000 yards in a season, Jackson will have 12 juniors and five sophomores returning who either started or saw plenty of action this year.

"We lost a lot of horses, but we have a good nucleus coming back," Jackson said. "We think Jay Cherup (a sophomore) is going to do the job

for us at quarterback next year. He's tall and thin. We expect good things from him.

"But we also have guys like Mike Koprowski and Jerry Ogurkis and Jonathan Wagner who will be back," Jackson added. "And we have a lot of other people returning who played very well for us this year."

"We would have liked to have gone to the playoffs this year but we lost to GAR and Meyers and that cost us. But it was a good year and I'm very proud of these kids. They never quit. They gave it their best in every game."

Whether or not the "Shoe" will be on the other foot next year is anybody's guess. But with two veteran teams returning in 1987, next year's clash between the two Back Mountain schools should be one to remember.

Sports

Mud dampens field, not spirits at 'Old Shoe' Game

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

It was the "Game of the Season", the entire schedule rolled into one important contest for the Dallas Mountaineers and the Lake-Lehman Knights - the "Old Shoe" game.

Predictions were made, bets were placed, statistics were put away and the teams were ready to play.

The gray clouds, hanging low in the sky, cast a gloomy curtain over the area. A sea of mud, surrounded by dirty, white snow marked the field of play.

Game time was 1 p.m. but fans began arriving early, bundled in heavy jackets and coats, wearing caps and gloves and carrying blankets to protect them from the cold, damp air. This was not a perfect football day, weather-wise.

Enthusiasm, however, was not to be dampened as the attractive Black Knights cheerleaders dressed in their mini-skirt uniforms of bright gold and black came through the gate. There, the girls took up their task of escorting senior football players and senior cheerleaders to their waiting parents standing along the side of the field facing the Lehman fans.

Each player presented his mother with a corsage and payed homage to his dad; each cheerleader presented a corsage to her mother and greeted her dad with a "thank you, I love you" kiss. And the coaches' wives, their hus-

bands unable to join them, were not forgotten as the cheerleaders proudly presented them with corsages during the thunderous applause from the stands.

Parents Day ceremonies over, the parents and students left the field to take their proper places in the stands or with the team. Now came time for the Lake-Lehman Award-Winning Band's performance!

But, no — the field was too muddy and too slippery. Band director John Millauskas wisely decided the band would not go on. It was not worth it to have a student slip and perhaps, injured under the existing conditions. Fans had to be content with the 'show' music played from the bleachers as seats on both sides of the field filled with fans.

Dallas cheerleaders, shivering in the cold, jogged around the outside of the field to their places on the visitors' side and, just as their counterparts, had the Dallas Band members filed onto the track and marched quietly to their seats on the visitors side.

Black and white shirted officials, none in shorts, entered the field. A hush came over bleachers on both sides as fans, young, old, friends and visitors waited for the entrance of the contestants.

The Dallas Mountaineers came first — in sparkling white and Columbia Blue, waiting at the entrance to the field until the cheerleaders unfolded their large paper banner urging

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Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

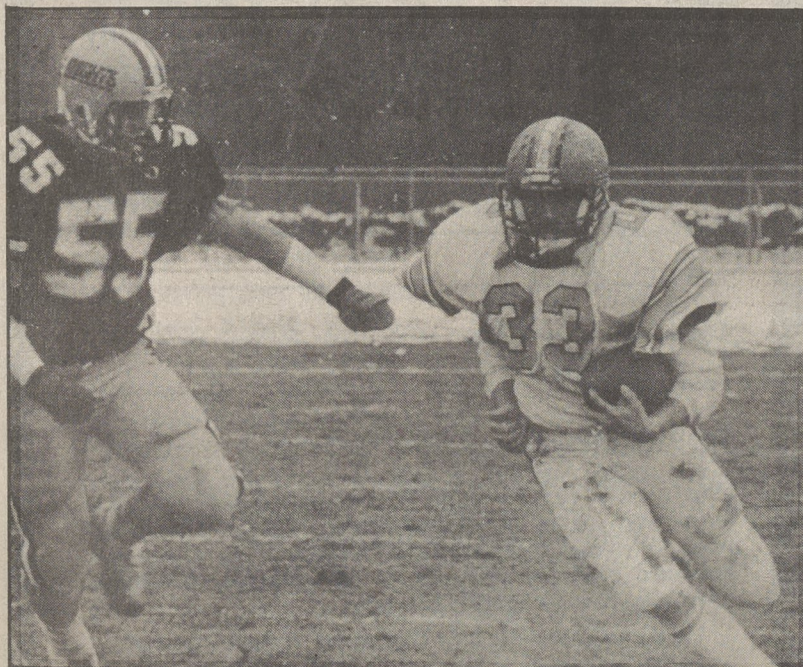
One of the best

Missy Hontz, drum majorette of the Lake-Lehman Marching Band, stands proudly in front of a banner the band won during Atlantic Coast championships last weekend.

Scenes from Saturday's annual arch-rival game

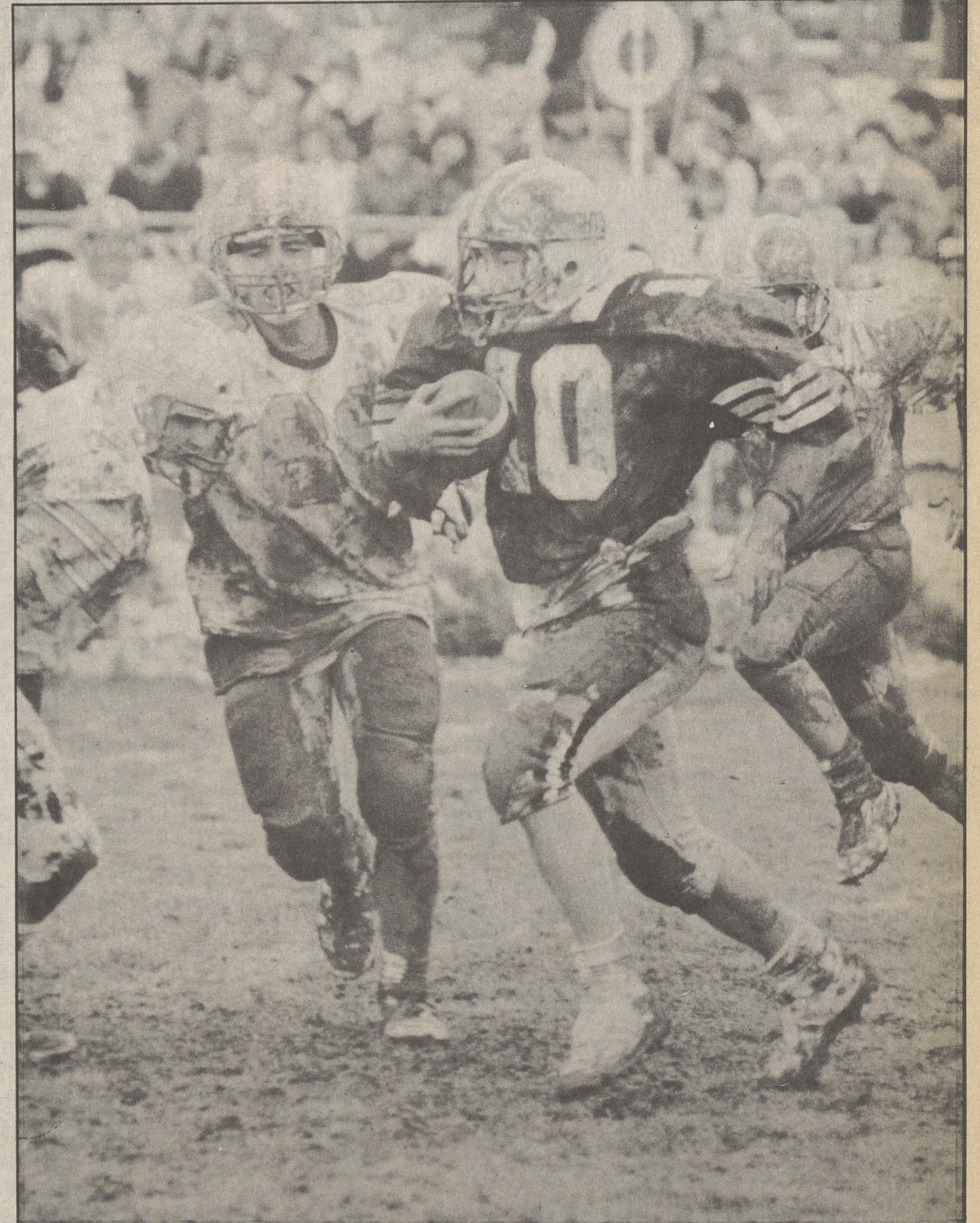


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Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

Dallas retains Old Shoe with 15-2 victory



Dallas Post/Jack Steblinski

Action-packed contest

Other than to keep moving as they are in the upper left photo, there wasn't much the Dallas High School cheerleaders could have done to keep warm Saturday afternoon. Temperatures were frigid for the annual Dallas/Lake-Lehman football game, but weren't cold enough to keep the crowd down as the Mountaineers and the Knights played to a full house. In the lower left photo, Ryan

Holthaus of the Dallas football team sweeps around the end to gain yardage for the Mountaineers while arch-rival Knight Scott Shafer is in hot pursuit. Scott Wascalus (No. 10) gains some yardage for the Lake-Lehman Knights in the photo at right while Mountaineer Kyle Boudreaux (No. 88) is in hot pursuit during the annual Old Shoe Game Saturday at the Lake-Lehman football field. Dallas won the game, 15-2, to retain possession of the Shoe.