

Dallas cagers improving over season opener

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Despite coming off two close defeats to Wyoming Valley West and Bishop Hoban last week in exhibition play, The Dallas High School boys' basketball team had showed improvement over their opening season loss to Nanticoke Area.

But just as the Mounts were getting ready to play for keeps, preparing for last night's Wyoming Valley Conference league opener at home against Crestwood, Dallas incurred another setback.

Senior point guard Tom (T.J.) Perlis suffered a broken cheekbone during practice after colliding with another player and will probably be lost for the season.

"I feel real bad for him," coach Clarence Ozgo said. "For two years he waited to play and this year when he finally got his chance, he gets injured."

"Last year he played second guard behind Dennis Dacusin who made second-team All-Scholastic. But he never complained. This year he came and did a real nice job for us at point guard."

"In fact we thought he was one of our strong points this year after coming off the scrimmages along with Luksic (Mike)."

Perlis, who scored 15 points in the Valley West loss, as did Luksic and Tom Shalata, broke his jaw in three places and will have to undergo surgery to have it repaired.

"They have to wait for the

swelling to go down before they could pull it back out and wire it," Ozgo said. "I talked to his mother and she said the doctor told her he would probably be out for the year."

Replacing Perlis in the lineup will be Jerome Matthey, another senior who saw action in the Bishop Hoban game. The Mounts held a three point

advantage at halftime in that game and were playing well before the Argents slowly began to pull away in the second half. "The third quarter really hurt us," Ozgo noted. "We had eight turnovers and we were still only down by six going into the fourth quarter."

"But we did see some positive things from our first game with

Nanticoke. John Mokychie scored 18 points and that picked up the slack from the outside. We felt our real strength this year was our inside game. But if we can continue to hit those outside jump shots that will give us good balance."

Ozgo says the Mounts still need to work on their defense, however, but says he is happy with the progress of the team.

Knights need balanced scoring attack

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

The Lake-Lehman boys' basketball team defeated Benton, 56-38, Elk Lake, 71-25, and lost to a strong Bishop Hoban team, 66-46, last week in exhibition play but head coach Rodger Bearde says the team has to have more balance if it's going to win in league play which begins this week.

Carl Houck led the Knights with 20 points and 14 rebounds, but the rest of the team will have to do more scoring to help Houck. With the exception of Houck, the Knights are a small team so they'll have to play a balanced game.

In the game with Benton early in the week, Houck dominated Benton with his height and

scored 12 points in the first quarter. Benton took the Knights out of their game in the second and part of the third quarter but, in the second half, the defense picked up on their game.

Bearde said he wasn't happy with his players' defensive play in the first half but they came on better in the second half.

They made a good showing in their game with Hoban although they didn't win.

"They played great the first 30 minutes and we had a chance to win," Bearde said. "But our kids let Hoban make some long shots in the final two minutes and that was the ball game."

The score was tied at the end of the first quarter but the Knights made some mistakes near the end of the game. They were out-rebounded and their

shooting from the field could have been better.

This year is a down year for Elk Lake and they are smaller than the Knights. Lake-Lehman had a good first quarter and lead, 10-4, going into the second. They didn't play well in the second quarter, but rallied in the second half. Houck had 18 points and Alex Frederick also hit 18, Chris Landmesser hit 12 and Walt Konopke tossed in eight.

This week the Knights play Northwest, which has all but one of last year's starters returning. Last year, the Knights defeated the Rangers at home and lost to them away. Bearde believes the two teams are evenly matched and, if his Knights play to their potential, they should win.



Bank manager gets buck

Rick Gaetano, assistant manager of the Dallas Branch of United Penn Bank, recently downed a 5-point buck which weighed 162½ pounds. He was hunting with his brother Bob, and brother-in-law David Novak. This is Gaetano's first buck.

Lehman

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bout and 185-lb. Scott Wascalus took two.

The Knights didn't enter their 112-lb. nor 138-lb. wrestlers in the tournament but they will be in the lineup today when the team wrestles West Scranton.

The Lackawanna County team lost a lot of wrestlers through graduation and the Knights should be able to win. The Knights will enter the Selinsgrove Tournament, Dec. 27. They have placed second in this

tournament for the past three years.

Ladamus said this is the first time many of his boys wrestled varsity, but they are working hard and he believes they may be able to pull off some surprises despite the fact that they are young.

The league season opens January 3 but the Knights won't wrestle in their first meet until Jan. 7 when they go against West Side Tech.

— CHARLOT M. DENMON

McGruff visits hospital patients

McGruff, the Crime Dog, recently visited with children in the Nesbitt Memorial Hospital Pediatric Department to discuss

safety. McGruff's visit was part of a Safety Awareness Program sponsored by the Harveys Lake Police Department.

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