

## Post sports arena

### Knight matmen going for 4-0 record

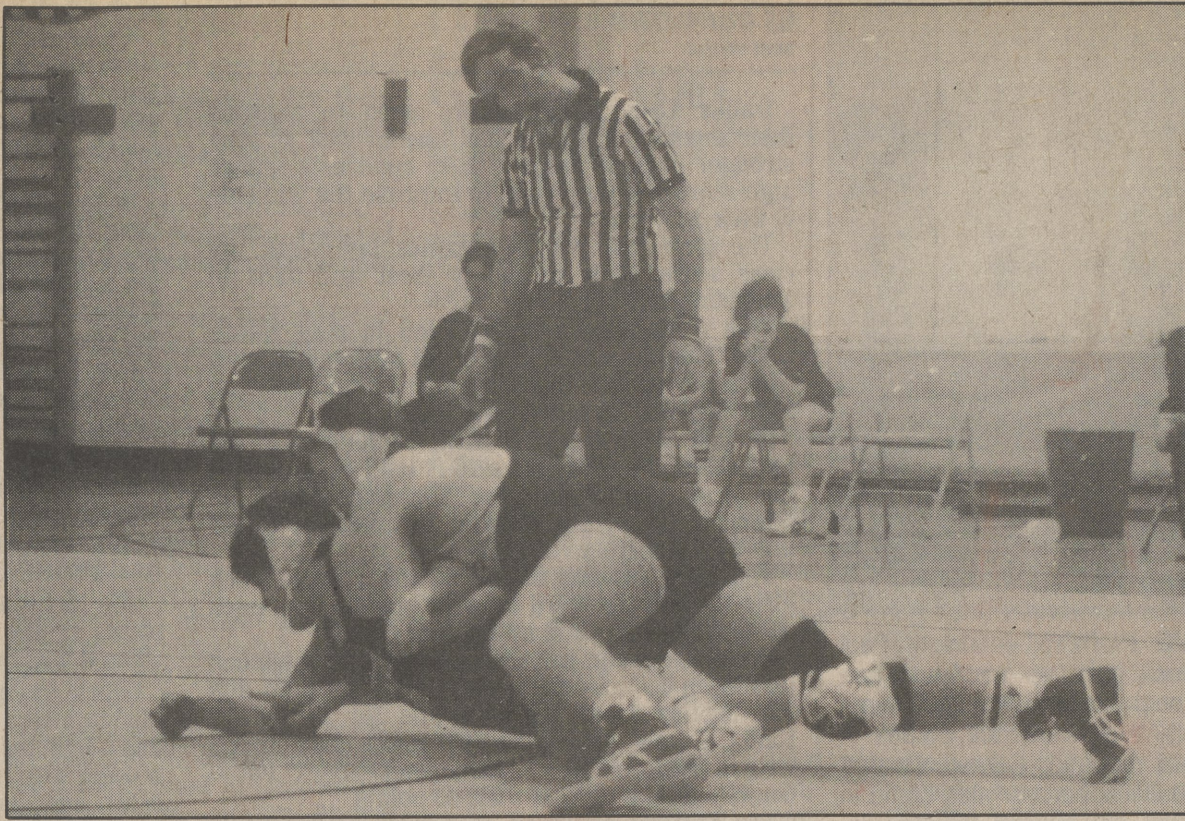
BY CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Coach Ed Ladamus' Black Knights go into this week's bout with Nanticoke away Wednesday, and Dallas away, Friday night with a 2-0 league record and hope to come out at the end of this week sporting a 4-0 record in the Wyoming Valley Conference.

After jumping out to a 29-0 lead by winning the first six bouts, Hanover came to life when 138-lb. Mike Swiderski pinned Knight Paul Goodwin in 3:45, then 145-lb. Joe Ropietski picked up a technical fall over Ed Higgins in 4:07 and 155-lb. Jason Martinez added six more to the Hawkeyes score on a forfeit.

Hanover's hopes began to fade when the Knights 167-lb. Tim Bernick flattened Jason Politz in 4:56 and 185-lb. Ed Kelly took a 5-0 decision from Greg Paulsen. Hwt. John Bleich took the heavyweight bout with a 10-0 major decision from Joe Konigus.

In the early bouts, 98-lb. Chris Smith gave the Knights three points with a 14-7 decision over D. Robinson and 105-lb. Tony



**GOING FOR THE PIN** — Lake-Lehman's Ed Kelley goes for the pin over West Side Tech's Tony Klukosky in Saturday night's match at the Knights gym. The Knights defeated the Titans easily to pick up their second win. (Lynn Sheehan Photo)

Monaco added six by pinning Dave Palchanis in 3:07. 112-lb. Jason Clancy picked up six for the Knights on a forfeit and 119-lb. Tom Duffy added six more on a technical fall over Bill Snyder in 5:04. 126-lb. Mark Rogowski defeated Doug Munson 3-0 and 132-lb. Matt Reinert gave his Knights a superior 14-2 decision from Mike Jaslar.

In Saturday's meet against the West Side Titans at the Black Knights gym, the Titans

took a 6-0 lead at 98-lb. but it was short-lived as the Knights came back with a 10-4 decision by 105-lb. Matt West over Jerry Johnson and added six points on a 11-2 forfeit by the Titans to Tony Monaco. 119-lb. Jason Clancy won on a forfeit and 126-lb. Tom Duffy added six points on a technical fall by Jim Aaron.

132-lb. Mark Rogowski took a 12-0 decision from Joe Matello and 138-lb. Matt Reinert won on a forfeit. The Knights Paul

Goodwin pinned 145-lb. Mike Guinta in :47, 155-lb. Ed Higgins flattened Dave Aumich in 1:39, and 167 Tim Bernick turned over Brian Garey in :42.

Ed Kelley gave the Knights three more when he decisioned 185-lb. Tony Klusky 9-8 and Hwt. J.J. Konigus gave the Knights their fourth pin by flattening Dave Richards in 1:55.

The meet Wednesday night pits the Knights at 2-0 against the Trojans 1-1 and 4-2 overall. The Knights are 3-1 overall.

### Front and center:

### Laura Poynton, Dallas's all-around athlete

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

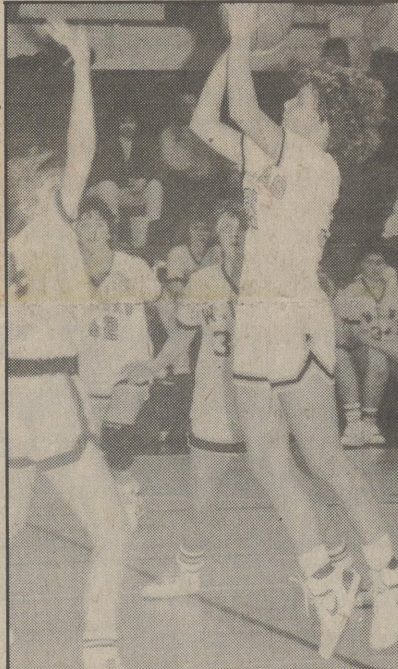
When she was only seven years old she wanted to play baseball but knew she was too young for the Back Mountain Baseball teams so evening after evening she asked her dad to play catch with her and he did. When she was eight years old, she became a member of one of the Back Mountain Baseball League's teams-not softball but hardball where she became one of the outstanding players.

She is Laura Poynton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Poynton of Dallas. Laura, now a sophomore at Dallas Senior High School, played on the senior high school varsity team last season and is the only freshman who earned a varsity letter.

A dedicated athlete, Laura has spent hours and hours years in and out, practicing every sport in which she is interested.

After playing hard ball in Little League for four years, she played on a Back Mountain softball team for three years and in ninth grade when she made the Dallas High School softball team Laura pitched, played third base and the outfield.

When on the Back Mountain softball teams she was named to the All Star team each year. In eighth grade, Laura was a member of the track, hockey and basketball team, all of



**POYNTON IN ACTION** — Laura Poynton never holds anything back when she's in a game, whether it's softball or basketball (Charlotte Denmon photos)

which won the District Junior High championships. She was one of three students, who received special recognition for playing on all three teams.

Laura also played soccer for five years on teams in the Back Mountain Youth Soccer League and played field hockey in eighth grade. She played basketball in seventh, eighth and ninth grade.

This year, Laura made the high school varsity team where she is presently playing post position. She participated in the Tunkhannock Kiwanis Tourna-



**POYNTON IN ACTION** — Laura Poynton never holds anything back when she's in a game, whether it's softball or basketball (Charlotte Denmon photos)

ment and was awarded a plaque for being named one of the All Stars of the tournament.

Laura also enjoys other sports such as track where in junior high she ran the 100m, 200m, 4x100m relay and the mile relay. She also is an accomplished swimmer despite the fact that there is no high school team.

She gives a lot of her athletic ability to her father, whom she said was always willing to help her and taught her a lot especially in baseball.

I've always enjoyed sports of

all kinds," said Laura. "My favorite is softball and I plan to continue again this year just as I hope to continue in all high school sports and later in college."

An honor roll student with a EQA of 3.4, Laura is looking toward college in her future.

When the weather permits, Laura spends as many hours practicing her favorite sports as possible. From a child she wanted to be an athlete and practiced every night, especially softball. She also spent hours observing particular positions played by professionals.

"Laura is very dedicated to the sports in which she participates," her father said. "she concentrates on various sports tips and also listens carefully to Rick Vitale, commentator on college sports. She watches and listens and learns from him."

Laura gives a lot of credit to Michael Williams and Tom Gauntlett, her coaches in youth basketball when she was in fifth grade and to Tom Kilduff, who helped her sharpen her skills when she was in junior high.

"He helped develop my interest in basketball," Laura said. "He spent a lot of extra time and effort helping me when we had free time."

Laura also gives a great deal of credit to her parents, whom she said gives her full support and cooperation and rarely, if ever, miss any game in which she plays. "They've always supported me in every way," she said.

### Dallas mat coach remains confident

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Dallas mat coach Larry Schuler knows his wrestlers have a tough schedule in front of them this week but he also is optimistic that his athletes can make a good showing if they don't give up.

"We have Coughlin and Lake-Lehman this week and both are tough but we have a good bunch of kids and they are willing to work," said Schuler.

The Dallas coach felt good about his squad's tie with Hazleton but he was disappointed that they didn't win. The Dallas Mountaineers were leading 26-20 going into the heavyweight bout and anything but a pin by Hazleton's wrestler would have given Dallas the meet. That was not the case as the young Dallas grappler was turned over in 1:52.

"All we needed was one less pin or a decision instead of one of the draws. Another problem was that we had to forfeit at 105," Schuler said.

He was pleased, however, with the results from most of the boys.

Rich Hoyes took his opponent, Tom Paisley, at 98-lb. by 6-0 to give Dallas the lead. Hazleton forged in front at 105 when Dallas forfeited to 105 Randy Slank and 112-lb. Paul Avillion pinned Mark Meholchick.

Dallas Eric Olsen added to Dallas' score at 118 by defeating Tony DeBias 7-2 and 126-lb. Jim Newell moved the score to 10-12 by taking a major 13-2 decision from Ron Rodgers.

The score moved to 12 (D) - 14, (H) when 132-lb. Keith Graham wrestled to a 7-7 draw with Bob Drummond. 138-lb. Bill Janosky gave Dallas an 18-14 lead when he drew a technical fall over John Snyder but the team score tied at 18-18 when 145-lb. John Gilmore took

a major 17-8 decision from Dallas' Mike Richards.

155-lb. Gene Faulls put Dallas back in the lead when he defeated Mike Herbinka 6-0 and 167-lb. John Strange added three more for Dallas on a 7-2 win over Jason Pedriani. The score moved to 24-18 Dallas when 185-lb. Ron Post wrestled to a 4-4 draw with Vince Correale.

Dallas Mountaineers visions of a win faded when Hazleton's heavyweight Matt Williams pinned John Greene in the first period.

In Saturday's meet with Pittston, Schuler was shocked by the Patriots upset over his Mountaineers.

The Patriots used five pins to collect the win with at least three of them completely unexpected by Coach Schuler.

The Patriots 98-lb. Lance Mascatelli pinned Rick Hoyes in 3:27; 112-lb. Fran Lombardo upended Matt Balberchak in 5:25; 132-lb. Charlie Crick flattened Keith Graham in 1:10; 167-lb. Tony Shamnoski pinned John Strange in 3:31 and Hwt. Joe MacMillan pinned John Green in :27 seconds. The Mountaineers also forfeited at the 105-lb. weight.

119-lb. Eric Olsen clamped his opponent Gordie Herbert in 2:38 and 126-lb. Jim Newell flattened Nick Darbenzio in 3:06 and 138-lb. Bill Janosky upended Sal Maida in 4:39. 155-lb. Gene Faulls flattened Nick Cardinale in :39. 145-lb. Mount Mike Richards took a 12-6 decision from John Crich but 185-lb. Ron Post lost a 12-8 decision to Pittston's Joe Lena.

"Coughlin is always tough and when it comes to Lake-Lehman anything can happen. Any type meet with the Mountaineers and the Knights can't be predicted. Records never mean much," Coach Schuler said. "Our kids are working and should improve with each meet. They're a dedicated group."

### Lady Knights turn cold

BY CHARLOT N. DENMON  
Staff Writer

The Lady Knights of Lake-Lehman will have to reach deep and do it soon or they will be looking at a long season ahead of them.

The girls who started out on a high note working hard at practice and appearing to be on the road to winning have turned cold the past week, losing 80-58 to the undefeated Crestwood Comettes last Thursday and earlier in the week bowing 51-20 to Bishop O'Reilly.

Becky Cooper tossed in 30 points to lead the undefeated Comettes to their win Thursday. She put in 10 points in the first quarter to pace her team to a 20-12 lead at the end of the period. Sue Hudock combined with Cooper and scored eight of her 14 points in the second period to increase their lead to 49-29 at the half. Michelle Foote added six points in the period and Cooper put in five.

Before Crestwood put on a strong defensive pressure, the Lady Knights took an early 8-2 lead in the first period but Crestwood's strong pressure defense caused turnovers by the Lady Knights and the Comettes converted them into points.

Pat Coolbaugh was high for the Lady Knights with 20 points and Carolyn James hit for 10, eight of them in the first period. Sophomore Wendy Skibitsky scored 16 points for the Lady Knights, nine of them in the second period.

In their game with Bishop O'Reilly earlier in the week, it was Laura Balberchak and Sue Oakschunas whose scoring soared them past the Lady Knights. Balberchak had 13 points and Oakschunas hit for 12, all of hers from the field.

None of the Knights were able to hit in the double figures with Skibitsky leading the scoring with seven points.

The Lady Knights never hit double figures until the final period when they scored 10. Coolbaugh had one three-point goal and the team hit only one-forp-four from the foul line.

### Dallas boys squeak past Tigers

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

At the beginning of the season, Dallas basketball coach Clarence Ozgo said he believed the league was probably the most balanced he has ever seen it.

"The teams are so well balanced that any team can beat another team on any given night," said Ozgo. "Every game is critical and a team has to be at its best to win. All are well-balanced and playing well."

The Dallas coach will have an idea how well his boys are turning it around this week with them scheduled to play Nanticoke at home Tuesday, Coughlin away, Thursday and Pittston at home Saturday and Ozgo knows if they show any weaknesses, their opponents will jump on them.

His boys played well against Tunkhannock last week and surprised the Tigers by pulling off a 66-65 win in the closing second when Mountaineer Randy Coolbaugh handed the Tigers their first loss of the year by putting in both ends of a one-one shot.

The Mountaineers were on the short end of a 38-31 score at halftime but Mike Luksic and Dave Szela did some good shooting to give the Mountaineers an eight point lead in the fourth period with only four minutes on the clock.

Poor foul shooting by the Mountaineers and a three-pointer by the Tigers Marc Marini tied the score at the end of the second half and the game went into overtime.

In the overtime, the Tigers made the first points but a goal by Luksic tied it up but Jim Fenwick came back and gave the Tigers a 65-64 lead by making the first shot of a one-and-one but missed the second shot with about eight seconds on the clock.

The Mountaineers took the ball down the court but they missed the shot from the field with Coolbaugh going up for the rebound and being fouled on the play.

Despite timeouts by the Tigers, Coolbaugh remained cool and dumped in both ends of the foul shot to give the Mountaineers the game.

Luksic canned 23 points for Dallas followed by Szela with 14 and Coolbaugh with 12.

Marini and Fenwick each had 16 points for the Tigers and Keith VanAuken had 11.

In the game with Valley West Saturday, Dallas and the Spartans played evenly in the first half taking a 32-32 score into the lockerroom at halftime.

The Spartans came out with hot hands in the second half and picked up a seven point lead as they outscored the Mountaineers 21-14. Rob Bonczewski, George Mizzer and Howard Yelen, who scored 21 points, 20 and 19 to lead the Spartans kept their balanced scoring in the final period with Mizzer and Bonczewski hitting six each and Yelen adding four to outscore the Mountaineers 20-17 and dash their hopes of a comeback as the Spartans won 73-63.

Coolbaugh hit 22 points for Dallas followed by Luksic with 14 and Szela with 13. Szela hit two three-pointers, Weyman hit one and Russin one. Mizzer hit one for the Spartans.



### Free dinner

Mountaineers Mike Kaprowski, Tom Charney, Kyle Boudreaux, Chris Chapple and Jeff Miller thank Castle owner Alan Roberts (3rd from left) for the dinner he gave in their honor. (C.M. Denmon Photo)