

Lady Knights working hard for season wins

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Lady Knights softball coach Rose Ragnacci is pleased with the way her girls have been working this season.

"Most of the girls are inexperienced. Pam Coolbaugh and Denise Davis are the only two returning starters but both my assistant, Cheryl Travis, and I believe we have a good bunch of athletes. They are dedicated and hard-working. We have a saying 'Lake-Lehman's winning tradition continues,'" Ragnacci said, "And the girls are proving it."

Going into Nanticoke's game with Nanticoke Monday, the Lady Knights were tied with Dallas girls for the lead but a 3-1 loss to Nanticoke in an overtime game Monday dropped the Knights to 7-2 and in second place one game behind the Dallas Mountaineers.

The Knights led 1-0 in the fourth inning on Stacey Newell's homerun but Nanticoke tied the score in the sixth on Sue Charnecki's homer and Charnecki and Hughes drove in the winning runs in the eighth. Hughes picked up the win.

They meet Bishop Hoban, Wednesday, then go to Dallas to play the Lady Mountaineers, Thursday.

The Lake-Lehman girls are going into this week's competition knowing they have to improve their defense which has caused them to give up most of the runs they have

to date.

Ragnacci, a graduate of Valley View, did not play softball in high school, only inter-mural. She likes softball, however, and after graduating from Bloomsburg, she played fast pitch softball in the Scranton Area. She later ran a Scranton women's 16-team league but this is her first high school position as head softball coach.

Ragnacci coached basketball at Bishop O'Hara and started an eighth grade program in the Scranton area. She coached for three years at Bishop O'Hara and had a 46-12 record and two district Class AA championships.

Her knowledge of softball is evident in the play of her young team and Coach Ragnacci is optimistic about this week's games.

Following Monday's 3-1 loss to the Nanticoke Trojans, she knows their game with Bishop Hoban can be tough. Bishop Hoban is a very competitive team and are much better than their present record shows.

Dallas has a fine team of athletes and Ragnacci knows her girls will have to play a different game than they did last time out with the Mountaineers. Their trouncing by the Mountaineers was due to the poor defensive play of the Knights and Ragnacci feels the girls are much improved in that area.

If Coolbaugh is at her best on the mound in both of the above games, and the young Knights are 'hungry', Ragnacci believes they can win.



It's just too wet!

Back Mountain Baseball Inc. officials postponed Little League Opening Day until May 7 due to wet field conditions on Saturday. The players were disappointed but the season will begin soon. (George Poynton Photo)

Mounts boast triple winners

Jon Strange and Mike Richards were triple winners for Dallas as the Mountaineers defeated Tunkhannock 81-68 and Coughlin 112-29 last Thursday.

The Tigers defeated the Coughlin Crusaders 104-45.

Richards took the 400 run and ran a leg of the winning 1600 and 3200 relays. Strange took firsts in the 100 and 200 dashes and ran a leg of the winning 1600 relay.

Double winners for Dallas were Hugh Mundy, who ran a leg of the 3200 relay and the 800 run; and Jim Evans, who placed first in the 1600 run and a leg of the 1600 relay.

Other winners for the Mountaineers were Farris, Hopkins, Clemm, Fader, Boudreaux, O'Donnell, Lesiak, Koprowski, Moore and Lupinski.

The Mountaineers defeated Lake-Lehman 113-37 and Hanover 118-32 in a tri-meet at home Tuesday with Strange setting the pace with four wins.

Strange won the 100 dash, 400 run, 200 dash and a leg of the 1600 relay. He also placed in the top three in the 100 hurdles, 300 hurdles.

Other winners were Dallas 3200

relay team of Farris, Hopkins, Richards and Aston; 100 hurdles, Post; 100 dash, Clemm; Dallas 1600 relay team of Strange, Evans, Richards, Lapinski; 1600 run, Mundy, Fader; 400 run, Richards; 300 hurdles, Post; 800 run, Evans, Fader, Lapinski; 200 dash, Clemm, Sands; 200 run, Mundy; pole vault, O'Donnell, Olson, Farrell, D; high jump, Clemm; triple jump, Koprowski, Moore; long jump, Koprowski; shot put, Boudreaux; discus, Jane; javelin, Jane.

Lehman defeated Hanover 91.5-54.5 in the same tri-meet.

Placing for the Knights were Gensel, 100 hurdles; Clark, 100 dash; Radzinski, 1600 run; Doerfler, 400 run; Radzinski, 200 run; Hutchins, high jump; Clark, triple jump; Clark, long jump; Shafer, shot put; Shafer, discus; Shafer, javelin.

In their tri-meet with Pittston Area and Bishop Hoban, the Knights lost 94-56 to Pittston and 84-69 to Bishop Hoban.

Placing for the Knights were Maransky and Gensel, 110 hurdles; Doerfler, 100 dash; Radzinski and Campbell, 1600 run; Shafer, shot put; Doerfler and Hutchins, 400

dash; Shafer, discus; Clark, triple jump; Gensel, 300 hurdles; Shafer, Bowman, Monaco, javelin; Campbell, 800 run; Clark, 200 dash;

Dallas girls facing big week

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Dallas girls softball coach Jay Pope said Monday his team had three tough games in front of them this week, meeting Crestwood Monday at home, Tunkhannock Wednesday and Lake-Lehman, Thursday at the Mountaineers field.

Knowing the Crestwood girls were playing excellent ball, he predicted an exciting game between the two teams but his Mountaineers pleasantly surprised him by blasting the Comets 10-1.

The game was tied at 1-1 going into the bottom of the fourth inning and it appeared Pope's expectations would be proven until Crestwood Coach pulled pitcher Tammy Danna for Karla Paul.

With Paul on the mound, Dallas broke the game wide open in the bottom half of the fourth inning picking up six runs, three more in the fifth, and one in the sixth. Poynton had three RBIs.

From that point, Crestwood could do nothing right while it seemed Dallas could do nothing wrong.

"I'm happy with the way our girls played," said Pope. "Laura

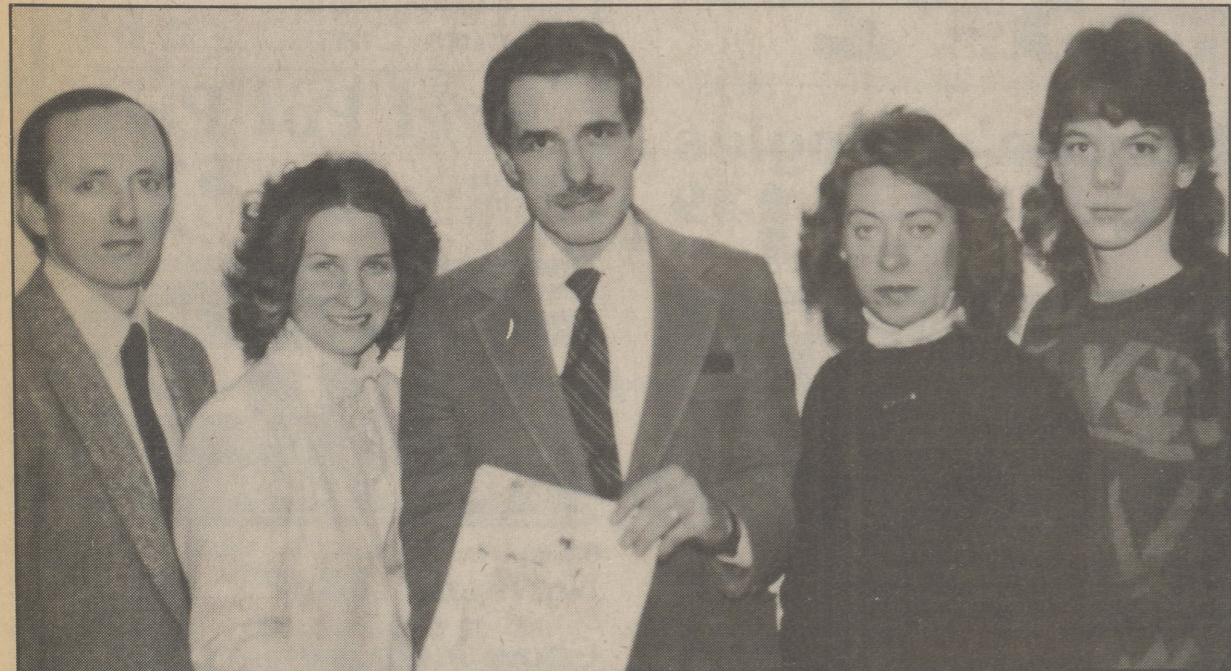
Poynton did an excellent job on the mound for us. She gave up only seven hits, struck out none but walked only one."

"We're not home free yet because we have Tunkhannock on Wednesday, then Lake-Lehman Thursday. Tunkhannock was tough the first time we played them but we hit well and had some good pitching to win the game. Before the season they were picked as the team to beat.

"Our first win over Lake-Lehman is no indication of the Knights ability. They have some excellent athletes and Coach Rose Ragnacci has been doing a great coaching job with them. The Lady Knights are always tough and this game will be no exception."

Coach Pope said in past years they have had good pitching and good offense or good offense and defense, or good pitching and good hitting. This year he said that the Mountaineers have been good in all aspects.

"They have been putting everything together and making it click," said Pope. "We will continue to take just one game at a time each week."



Special soccer registration still open

The registration has been extended for the Special Olympic Soccer Program, to accommodate those who have not registered.

The program is open to boys and girls, ages 8-21, regardless of experience.

Practices will be held every Sunday 3-5 at the Lake-Lehman Jr. High School till June 5. Practices are conducted by Ray Dennis, coach Lake-Lehman High School.

The program is sponsored by Luzerne County Association of Retarded Citizens, Deutsch Institute and the Special Olympic Committee of Luzerne County.

All soccer players must have a current Special Olympic Medical-Parent release form on file. Special Olympic registration forms are available through the Deutsch Institute, 320 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Wilkes-Barre, 18701 or by calling Jane Griffin at 829-6624 Deutsch

Institute.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the Special Olympic Soccer Program call Judy Kmetz, Volunteer coordinator at 675-2952.

From left, Jane Griffin, Deutsch Institute; Ray Dennis, Lake-Lehman Soccer Coach; John Presper, Lake Lehman School Board President; Judy Kmetz, President

Lake-Lehman Soccer Association; Eric Smith, Lake-Lehman varsity soccer player.

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4-H Horse Show

The Luzerne County 4-H Horse Club recently sponsored a horse show at the Dallas Fair grounds. The two-day event featured English and western confrontation. Pictured above is Tonya Campbell on Scout. (Wendy Martin Photo)

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