

Undefeated season leads Knights to district title

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Lake-Lehman's baseball coach Dwight Barbacci was confident he had a strong team going into this season despite losing five key players through graduation. His concern at the opening of the league play was filling those key positions, but as the season progressed Barbacci began to see the district title down the road for his Knights.

He has an excellent pitching staff, power hitters and fast runners on the bases. His worries about defense lifted when J.J. Konigus performed well behind the plate, Rob Michaels settled in at shortstop and John Reed did some excellent fielding at second when R. Hynick and Mike Strutko alternated with him.

Barbacci's hopes for the district title were realized last Tuesday when Todd Sallo pitched six and one half innings to lead the Knights to a 4-1 win over GAR and the Wyoming Valley Conference AA title. The win ran the Knights record to a 14-0 season.

The Knights now advance to play Scranton Prep, who defeated Mid-Valley 15-2, Thursday, May 26, to advance the District 2 championship playoff. That game will be played Wednesday, June 1, at Artillery Park.

Barbacci, who did not expect his Knights to go through the season undefeated, said they were fortunate to win all their games. The AA team had to play every team in their division twice. After the first time around, each team was out to take the Knights.

The Knights have four excellent pitchers in Brett Evans, Todd Sallo, Keith Schultz and Chris Engle and

if his boys continue their power hitting Barbacci figures they have a good chance at winning the District 2 title.

The Knights scored all of their runs on GAR in the second inning on a single by Schultz, who went to second on a wild pitch by Dave Koretz and scored on Chris Engle's single. Evans hit a single to first, Rich Evans drew a walk to load the bases then Engle scored when J.J. Konigus grounded out to the infield. Reed forced home Evans for the third run when he went to second on an error and Jim Chamberlain hit a sacrifice fly to send home James.

Earlier the Knights shut out Northwest 4-0 behind Brett Evans, who struck out 10 Rangers and gave up only three singles.

Northwest's pitcher, Jeff Spencer gave up only four hits one of them a double by Todd Sallo but he

allowed two runs to score on wild pitches.

The Knights Back Mountain neighbors, Class AAA Dallas Mountaineers were not as successful, holding a 5-10 record with a game to be made up with Hanover.

The Mountaineers, a young team in their rebuilding year lost 10-3 to a strong Tunkhannock team last Wednesday. The win gave the Tigers, 12-4, a tie with Bishop Hoban for the AAA North Division.

The Tigers jumped out to an early lead over the Mountaineers scoring three runs in the first inning but Ed Mason hit a three-run double in the fourth inning that sewed up the game for the Tigers when they went in front 7-1.

Lupinski picked up the win for Tunkhannock. L. Ashworth was the losing pitcher for the Mountaineers. Gauntlett came in to pitch for Dallas in the final inning.

Sports

Lady Mounts clinch division - look on to AAA title game

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Dallas girls softball coach Jay Pope wasn't taking anything for granted despite coming off some impressive recent wins last week.

"We're to play Meyers for the AAA title at Kirby Park Tuesday," said Pope. "We went against Kim McGuire and won during the regular season but Tuesday is a playoff game. You forget anything in the past and start over. If weather permits and we play Tuesday and our girls play like they did against Valley West, that will be the key to the title.

"We were up against a good team Thursday," Pope said. "Allen is a good pitcher but our girls had great defense, good pitching and lots of powerful hitting against Valley West. That's the key to a win over Meyers."

"They're a great bunch of girls! They're not only great athletes but they have worked hard all year and played together as a team. They never gave up and one was always there to pick up another one. We

couldn't ask any more of them," said Pope last week after the Lady Mounts clinched the North Division title by defeating a strong Valley West team 10-0.

The win was an exceptionally great win for the Dallas girls for it was the fourth one in as many days on their march to the North division victory. Two of those games were played last Wednesday when the Mountaineers took a doubleheader from Wyoming Area.

It's unusual that doubleheader is played in the Wyoming Valley Softball Conference but the two teams were forced to play when their game scheduled for Tuesday was rained out. It was more unusual that the same pitcher pitches both games but Laura Poynton did that for Dallas Wednesday and led the Mountaineers to a 4-0 and 15-5 win. The second game was stopped in the fifth inning under the league's 10-run rule.

Poynton gave up only five hits in the first game, struck out three and walked none. She pitched the first four innings of the second game and gave up six hits, three runs, walked two and struck out two

before Tracy Hunter came in to pitch the final inning in the fifth.

Poynton also went four-for-eight at the plate with three doubles and three RBI's. She had help at the plate from Jill Urbanas, catcher who hit two-for-three in the first game and four-for-four in the second. Joyce Tinner helped with four-for-six in the two games driving out two doubles and picking up three RBI's and Chris Legenz had four-for-seven and two RBI's.

That wasn't enough for the Dallas girls. After seven hours on the field for the doubleheader with Wyoming, they returned to their school and practiced for an hour in order to prepare for Thursday's game with Valley West which the Mountaineers won 10-0 behind outstanding pitching by Poynton, great defense behind her and excellent power at the plate with the offense driving out 11 hits.

Tinner drove out two doubles, Holly Bachman had two hits and Hunter drove out two hits. Tinner stretched feet into the air to rob a Valley West batter of an extra base hit and Poynton pitched a two hit game for a great performance.



Lady Mounts are the champs

Members of the Dallas High School girls softball team share a moment of glory after defeating Valley West 10-0 Thursday to clinch the North Division title. Now it's on to the playoffs at Artillery Park.



Dallas Junior HS wins league title

The 11-2 Dallas Junior High School baseball team, coached by John Konopki and Brian Montross, won the 1988 Junior High School League championship. Shown from left to right are: Row 1, Todd Paczewski, John Romano; row 2, Mike Wagner, John Colasanti, Pat Joyce, Fred Parry, Shawn Scavone, Jason Matthey, Eric Spear; row 3, Sean Shovlin, Marc Barbose, Matt Bailey, Brian Karuza, Brian Miller, Dave Fisher, Neal Kaiser, John McKeever; row 4, Mark Medura, Ray Russin, Mike Mikula, Eric Paczewski, Jason Davies, Walter Fry, Dave Podehl and Steve Oliver.

Giants and Indians battle for first place

With the first half of Little League play coming to an end, the Indians and the Giants have their sights set on first place.

The Indians led by Brian Brady, Chad Stuart and Bob Kunkle recently beat the Reds 14-0 and downed the Yankees 7-6 in seven innings.

Rich Butkofski got the win in the Yankee match.

The Giants paced by Mike Petruska and Ernie Chamberlain continued their winning ways in a 6-3 victory over the Orioles.

The Phillies at 7-2 still entertain playoff hopes and lead the Dodgers and Yankees both knotted at 6-3.

The Dodgers featuring the play of John Oliver, Randy Slaff and Tom Froncek have turned in a fine first half.

Tim Waslick, Charlie Siglin and J.J. Wycallis have been consistent performers for the Yanks.

The Astros at 4-3 have been led by Dave Fosko while the 2-6 Pirates get their spark from Sean Scavone and Rich Klick.

The Orioles paced by Langdon and Natitus and the Tigers led by Morris and Viglalone have recorded one victory while the Reds, who remain winless have gotten strong performances from Greg Bogdon and Matt Teltoe.



Catcher receives Kolesar award

Spencer named 30th honoree

Don Spencer, of Lehman, a freshman at Penn State Wilkes-Barre was recently named the recipient of the Kolesar Athletic Award.

Originated by Professor John Kolesar of the Wilkes-Barre campus, this award is given to the student who has most distinguished him or herself in the area of athletic accomplishment during the academic year.

It is the 30th year in which Kolesar has honored an outstanding student athlete.

Spencer, the son of Donald and Linda Spencer, is a 1987 graduate of Lake-Lehman High School.

Majoring in surveying technology, he is catcher on the Penn State Wilkes-Barre baseball team and is an all-state candidate in the Pennsylvania Collegiate Athletic Conference.

At Lake-Lehman, he was a District Champion in baseball, a two-time District Champion in wrestling, and received the Tracy Slocum Memorial Trophy for the most wrestling wins in one season.



HONORED FOR ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE — Lehman Resident Don Spencer is shown, left, accepting the Penn State — Wilkes-Barre Kolesar Athletic Award from Professor Kolesar at a recent awards banquet.

US Cycling Federation Trials Championship scheduled to be held in Wyoming County

The U.S. Cycling Federation Pennsylvania State Time Trial Championship, in conjunction with the Lackawanna Bicycle Club, will conduct a 25-mile race on June 5 beginning and ending at the Nicholson Viaduct.

The event, which is sponsored by Murray Insurance, will proceed to South Gibson and return to Nicholson Viaduct for the finish.

A time trial is an individual race against the clock. Riders, who can begin registering at 6 a.m. at the viaduct, will set out

over the course in one-minute intervals.

Each rider will attempt to cover the course in the shortest amount of time. The rider with the lowest elapsed time will be declared the winner.

Due to the nature of the event and the fact that riders will not be clustered, Route 92, along which most of the race will run, is not expected to be clogged with bikers.

The Cycling Federation, however, does ask if motorists try to watch out for bikers and give

them as wide a berth as possible. Also, residents living along Route 92 are asked if they would keep pets leashed or indoors during the race to ensure the safety of the participants and the animals.

Spectators are advised the best viewing will be in the area of the start-finish line.

The first rider will set out at 8 a.m., rain or shine.

For additional information, contact Paul Gronski Enterprises, Inc. at 344-8558.

Don't rock the boat and be safe

Sit down! Don't rock the boat! That is the advice the National Safe Boating Council gives to people who use small boats for hunting, fishing or cruising.

A small boat is unstable and standing in the boat raises the center of gravity, which increases the instability of the boat. Many sportsmen have fallen overboard as they stood up to cast a line, land a catch or answer nature's call.

The load of a boat affects its stability. Using the capacity plate as a guide for the safe amount to

load on a boat, the boater should keep the weight of the load evenly distributed within the boat. If the operator must steer the outboard from the stern (back of the boat), the gear should be loaded as far forward as possible.

Most boats have flotation and if capsized or overturned will remain floating. Boaters who fall into the water are urged to keep calm, get back in the boat or climb onto the top of the overturned boat and wait for help.

Bill Boyle led DelVal in RBI's

Lake-Lehman High School graduate Bill Boyle enjoyed a fine season with the Delaware Valley College baseball team this spring.

Boyle, a junior outfielder, led the team in runs batted in with 14 while hitting an even .300 (16-for-53). The 5'9", 167-lb. left-handed hitter, also belted 2 homers and scored 12 runs. Boyle is a native of Dallas.

DelVal finished the season with a 3-13 overall record.