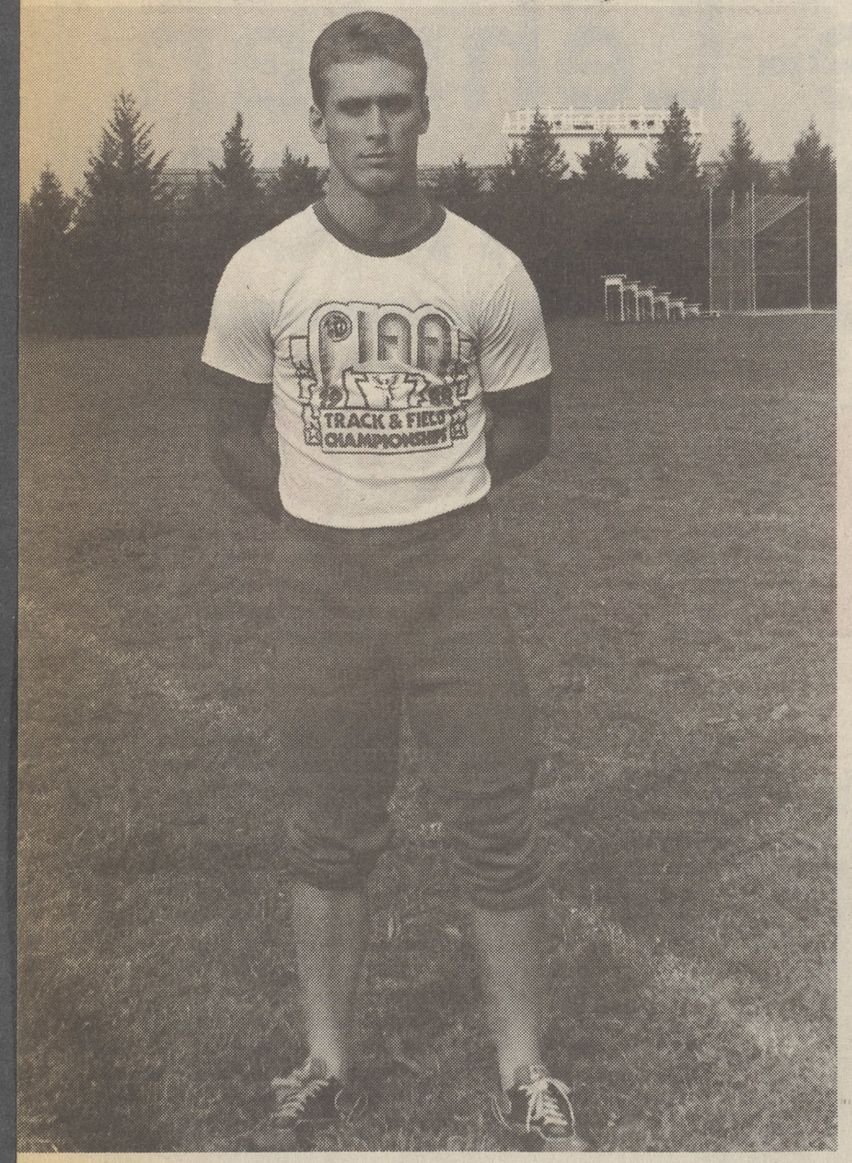


Jerry Ogurkis, Dallas High School

Jerry Ogurkis fought back from injury to play both offense and defense

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Jerry Ogurkis is an outstanding athlete and the test of his love for sports is evident in his determination to play football after a serious injury last year.

Ogurkis suffered an inury to his knee last season in the Dallas-Meyers game. He suffered a ruptured medial miniscus to the knee, ruptured medial collateral ligament and a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament, injuries so serious that doctors said it was doubtful he would ever play football or wrestle again.

This season, after less that a year, Jerry has not only returned to the team but will play tailback on offense and outside linebacker on defense. Despite the injury, which kept him out for the rest of last season and also eliminated his wrestling last year, Ogurkis is not worried about reinjuring his knee.

"'I wear the strongest type knee brace there is and I can't worry about being injured, I love football and I love wrestling and I plan to do both this year," Ogurkis said.

For a while it looked as though Jerry would never play football, wrestle or walk properly again.

The injuries to his knee seriously affected muscles and ligaments and required surgery which was done locally. A second surgery was required and it looked doubtful for Jerry's athletic future until his local physician referred Jerry to Dr. Nixon in Philadelphia. Nixon is a specialist for the Philadelphja Eagles and New York Giants.

Dr. Nixon did the second surgery, a procedure which usually requires nine to 12 months for complete healing.

Jerry was determined to return to football and as soon as he was given approval by his doctor, began therapy and weightlifting. Now he is back with the team ready to play.

"He is a great athlete," Coach Jackson said. "He refused to give up and was very determined. Doctors said he would never play again but now he is back on the team."

"It bothered my parents but they knew I wanted to play,"Jerry said.

His mother said his playing makes her nervous but she can't and won't try to stop him because he loves the sport so much.

Coach Ted Jackson and the Dallas Mountaineers are glad to have Jerry back.

Good Luck to the teams this season
from
FINO'S PHARMACY
3 Main Street
Dallas, PA
675-1141

Vacation is over
Bakery Delite is back!
No need to drive to the city
Come to
J&J Deli and Bakery
659 N. Memorial Highway
Dallas, PA

Get the local news and sports every week with a subscription to
THE DALLAS POST
Call 675-5211, or mail in the coupon below:
Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Send to:
The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612

SPURLIN'S DALLAS EXXON

3 Fulltime Mechanics NAISE Approved 24 Hour AAA Road Service
Mon. - Sat. 7 AM - 10 PM sun. 8AM - 9 PM
You can drop your car off for any servie and have lunch in Dallas
DO IT RIGHT!
Complete Air Conditioning Service
Add Life to your car - LUBRICATE!
Electronic Tune Up
Check BRAKES - and drive safely
675-3336
Cool It - Check your Radiator
Check SHOCKS - for smoother ride
WHEEL BALANNCING
We carry a full line of
ATLAS products - tires, batteries, access.

Football excitement '88 is alive in the Back Mountain

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Sportswriters have been predicting champions, sportscasters have been naming the Top 10, fans have been getting out their booster cushions and heavy sweaters just in case the weather is chilly, and making arrangements with friends for the 'game'.

Excitement fills the Back Mountain air as fans head toward the newly-painted bleachers overlooking a field prepared with tender, loving care.

Marching band music floats through the air, mesh shirts bearing black numbers have been hanging on lines the past weeks and weary athletes have returned home to lounge in recliners or retire early to bed.

Booster club or gridiron club members for weeks have been scurrying from business to business, trying frantically to beat the deadlines with their ads so programs get to press on time.

Yes football is in the air!

The practice fields are empty. Band members stand outside the stadium wearing brand new uniforms of columbia blue and white, gold and black or royal blue and gold. Cheerleaders jump up and down nervously in their short pleated skirts and colorful sweaters bearing the school monogram. waiting to enter the stadium with their large construction paper banners printed with such phrases as "Crush the Crusaders" or "Down with the Hawks".

Fans file into the stadium, stopping at the stands for a hot dog, pizza, coffee or coke, then climb the bleachers to find a seat among friends. Reporters climb to the press box atop the bleachers; photographers, professionals and amateurs, set themselves up along the field.

The band enters to the tune of a lively marching song, all members stepping in unison, strutters twirl their batons, cheerleaders shake their pom poms high above their heads. The home band presents its field show to one side of the field, then to the other and finally members file quietly to their seats on the sidelines.

The community ambulance takes its place near the field gates and the black and white striped clad officials take to the field and survey the scene.

Visiting team members and home-team members, in spanking clean school color uniforms begin to file through the gates and cheerleaders rush to the entrance, their large banners in hand and first the visiting players rush on the field and break through their welcoming sign before proceeding to their bench.

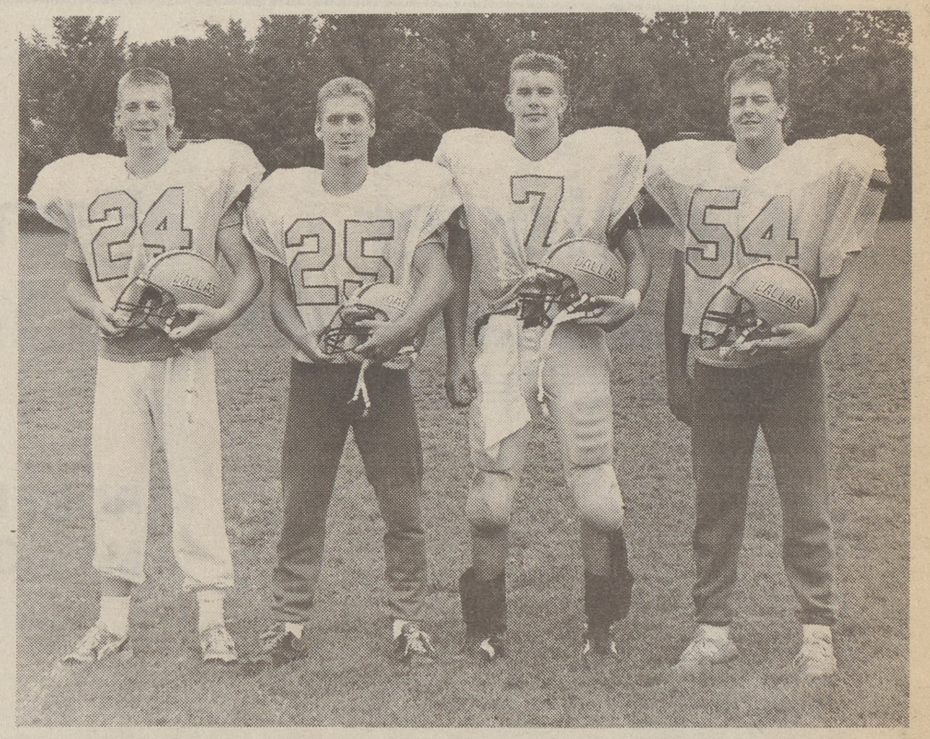
Fans roar as the home team players run on the field and break through their sign and coaches walk slowly and casually behind them.

Players go through their warm-ups on both sides of the field, then at the signal, captains of both teams approach the official standing in the center of the field.

'Heads' or 'Tails' are called. The official acknowledges the winner and the players run out to take their positions. The scoreboard lights are on, the national anthem is sung and then..the gun!

The season is here-the game starts-football 1988 is with us!

Bands, fans, cheerleaders, sportswriters, photographers are here-and don't forget the coaches and players! Without them there would be no high school or college football. That's what it's all about-Football 1988!



Mountaineer captains
Captains of this season's Mountaineers are above,, from left, Chris Lesjak, Jerry Ogurkis, Jay Cherup and Shawn Ruth.

Brothers on Dallas team
Coach Ted Jackson has four sets of brothers on this year's team. Above, they are, kneeling, Wade Post, Chris Ruth, Eric Paczewski, Jay VanOrden; standing, Ron Post, Shawn Ruth, Mark Paczewski and Clark VanOrden.

Dallas defense
Coach Ted Jackson has confidence in his defense but lacks the depth he would like to have. His starting defense for this season are, kneeling, above, from left, are John Gregg, Scott Starbuck, Dave Mayers, Clark VanOrden, Joe Piskorik, Barry Miller, Sam Jayne; standing, Seth Roskos, Jay Straigis, Chris Lesjak, Jay Cherup, Jerry Ogurkis, Shawn Ruth, Jim Lister, Ron Post, Frank Nadzan and Bob Barbacci.

Dallas offense
The Mountaineers have a group of good offensive players returning to this year's team. Above, kneeling, from left, are Ron Post, Scott Horoshko, Frank Nadzan, Mark Paczewski, Shawn Ruth, Phil George, Seth Roskos, Jim Lister; standing, Dave Mayers, Jay Straigis, Jay Cherup, Chris Lesjiak, Scott Starbuck, Jerry Ogurkis, Barry Miller, Bob Barbacci and Clark VanOrden.