

# SPORTS

Coach moves closer to barber's chair

## Lady Mountaineers clinch division title

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

The Dallas Lady Mountaineers knew they needed one more win to clinch the North Division title and when they learned Wednesday morning that they were to play Nanticoke that afternoon, they made up their minds the time was right.

In a game that went only five innings under the 10-run rule, the Dallas girls blasted Nanticoke 11-0 to clinch the AAA North Division title.

The team's win means Dallas Coach Jay Pope is one step closer to the barber shop to fulfill a bet he made with his team. And it's a short haircut Pope has to get, because that was the bet he made if they take the district title.

Just as Dallas pitcher Laura

*Two more wins and Pope visits the barber for the haircut he promised the girls if they won the title*

Poynton scalped the Trojans with a two-hit shutout, Pope will have to allow his barber to do almost the same to him.

Poynton not only gave up just two hits, but she fanned five and walked none. The hits were both singles, one by Jen Shemanski in the third inning with two out. She was then stranded on first on a groundout by the next hitter. The other single was by Ellen Bartuska, but she was shut down by a double play that Poynton helped execute.

"Everything went right," said Pope. "The offense, the defense; it was a great team effort."

The Dallas girls scored two runs in the first, three in the third, four in the fourth and the final two in the fifth.

Dallas took the North division title for the third time in four years, but this year was different from the others. In the other years, the teams had experienced veterans backing up the pitcher and each other. This season the team had to replace six starters, and has only two seniors on the team, one of whom is the pitcher Poynton, and the other Stephanie Andrasko.

The win over Nanticoke moves Coach Jay Pope one step to-

wards his barber. A win over Crestwood Tuesday would bring him even closer and a win over Abington Heights, Lackawanna County titlist, will sit him in the barber's chair for a scalping.

On Tuesday, Poynton also pitched a two-hitter to shut out Coughlin 1-0. That win had given Dallas a tie for the North Division title. Poynton was dead serious in gaining at least the tie and that combined with the running game of the team guaranteed it.

"They are much better than their record shows," said Poynton about Coughlin. "They play tough, very tough."

Poynton struck out six and walked none in picking up the win. Ann Faulks got the hit and scored the run that won the game for Dallas.

### Black Knights win one, lose one

Lake-Lehman's Black Knights bowed out to Northwest 7-4 last Wednesday but downed Seton Catholic 13-5 Friday afternoon behind winning pitcher Don James.

The score was tied 2-2 going into the seventh inning when Northwest's Kevin Harvey drove out a three-run homer in the top of the seventh to give the Rangers the win.

The runs in the seventh gave the win to Northwest's Brad Hontz, who scored the first run for the Rangers when he hit a homerun on the first pitch over the plate in the first inning by Knight Sam Gorgone.

Mike Sholtis had two hits scoring two runs for the Knights and Mike Strutko drove out an RBI double.

Gorgone struck out seven and walked only two before Harvey homered to win the game for the Rangers.

In Thursday's game with Seton Catholic, James Struck out 11 and walked only one while his teammates Andy Strutko drove out three hits and J.J. Konigus, Kris Bowman and Mike Sholtis each drove in two runs to lead the Knights in the 13-5 win. Konigus had a two-run triple in the first inning to lead the Lake-Lehman rally.

### Dallas girls shut out Tigers 4-0

Dallas senior Laura Poynton pitched a perfect four innings last Friday in the Lady Mountaineers 4-0 shut out over the Tunkhannock Tigers.

Poynton struck out seven and walked none and give up no hits while picking up her 15th win of the season.

Stephanie Kreiner came in as relief in the fifth for the Lady Mountaineers and gave up only one bunt single. S. Jervis had the lone hit for the Tigers.

Ann Faulks drove out an RBI double for the Lady Mountaineers who led 2-0 after the first four innings. Faulks double drove in the two runs that gave the Lady Mounts their 4-0 shutout.

"We took Laura and Melanie Langdon out of the game after the four innings because we didn't want to take any chances of either girl getting hurt before the playoff game with Crestwood set for Tuesday," Dallas Coach Jay Pope said after the Friday game. "We knew we had the North Division title clinched so we wanted to give all the younger players a chance to play."

Poynton's three year record going into Tuesday's playoff game with the Comets was 46-5.

### Beaumont teeners win

Beaumont Teeners defeated Harveys Lake 5-1 in the opening game last week. Chris Bell had excellent control on the mound for Beaumont striking out nine, giving up no walks and allowing only six hits. He helped win his own game by driving out an RBI triple.

Brian Llewellyn and Tom Smigielski each had two hits for the Harveys Lake Astros.

### Lady Knights down Seton 10-3

Karen Stefanowicz and Cherub Honeywell shared mound duty in Thursday's game with Seton Catholic to take a 10-3 win as the Knights drove out 16 hits against Sandy Cerza coming from behind in a 3-2 game in the fifth to score four runs in the fifth, and four more in the sixth to take the 10-3 win.

Stefanowicz was credited with the win giving up the six hits and striking out six in the 5 2/3 innings she pitched. Honeywell came in as relief and had a single, double and a triple at the plate and Tracy Krupa hit a double and a single.

## Mounts lose playoff game

The Dallas Mountaineers baseball season ended Monday when Hanover Area defeated them 10-3 in a Class AA playoff Monday at Artillery Park.

The Mountaineers were leading 3-2 going into the fifth inning behind pitcher Rob Ashworth. But Ashworth then gave up three walks, which combined with two errors to give the Hawks a 5-3 lead which they never relinquished.

In the sixth inning Hanover drove out five hits, three of them

RBI singles and an RBI double to score five more runs.

Ashworth threw a no-hit game for three innings, but in the fourth the Hawks began to get to him before rallying for the three runs in the fifth.

Hanover was set to play Bishop Hoban again in the final qualifying round for AA in the districts Tuesday and the winner of that game will meet Dunmore the Lackawanna County champions Friday.

## Back Mountain Baseball grew from small start

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Back Mountain Baseball Inc. has come a long way since it first began in about 1946 or 1947 with only Dallas, Fernbrook, Shavertown, Trucksville and then Dallas Township participating.

"My brother and I played on the Dallas team and our field was on Lake Street, about where the Commonwealth building is today," said Bob Richardson of Dallas. Richardson wasn't sure about Dallas Township but Tex Wilson remembered that the township made a field for the Little League team somewhere in the vicinity of where the Dallas Administration building stands today.

Wilson coached a Fernbrook team, assisted by Art Belles and later by Paul Kunkle.

"We first played on a field up on top of Roushey plot" said Wilson. "Then we moved down along the road. We cleared a field down there and practiced and played our games there. When we first started there was no common field, but the teams played one another on the home team's field."

Wilson wasn't sure where the Shavertown and Trucksville teams

played, but he knew they had fields. He vaguely remembered that one of the teams played on the school ground but didn't remember whether it was one of them or both.

"It was about 1950 or 1951 that Charles Steinhauer, who lived along the highway in Trucksville, organized the league and became president. He and several other men worked hard at making a decent playing field in Shavertown in the area of the old Shavertown School, now gone. A group of the men and some of the kids used to spend hours working on the field and raking it over.

"It was the Little League field where all of the teams played. I

*In the 1940's there were six teams of 10-12 players. Today, there are dozens of teams and hundreds of players, including boys and girls*

think we had about eight teams by that time. One of them was Lehman-Jackson."

In 1960 the Little League moved to the field where the teams play today in Dallas Township.

Over the years, the league grew from five or six teams to a great many more and during that time softball teams for the girls were organized.

This year, another large step was taken when the league built a new refreshment stand and lights were added to the field. The numbers have grown considerably from six teams of 10 or 12 players each in the 1940's to dozens of teams with several hundred players, both boys and girls today.

The growth of the organization can well be attributed to one far-sighted, hardworking man, who wanted to make certain there was good, clean recreation for youth—Charles Steinhauer.

## Dallas Girls All-Star softball game scheduled for June 25

The 11th annual Dallas Girls All-Star Softball Game will be played Monday, 8 p.m., June 25, 1990 on the Back Mountain Little League field, Church Street, Dallas. The chairman of this year's game is Charles Kishbaugh.

P.I.A.A. rules and officials will be used. To assure the participation of each girl chosen, nine innings will be played and the 10-run rule will be suspended. Each player will wear her own team uniform and additional equipment will be provided.

Each team will be comprised of 18 senior girls from teams in the Wyoming Valley Softball League and divided into the East and West.

The divisions will be East Division-Meyers, Coughlin, Pittston, Bishop Hoban, Crestwood, Hazleton, Seton Catholic, G.A.R., Hanover, Nanticoke and Bishop Hafez; West Division, Valley West, Tunkhannock, Dallas, Lake-Lehman, Wyoming, West Side Tech, Wyoming Seminary, Bishop

O'Reilly, Northwest and Berwick. There will be one head coach and two assistant coaches for each team. The head coach for each division will be the coach with the best win and loss record for the 1990 season. Head coaches will select their own assistants.

All coaches will be requested to attend a meeting to select players for the respective teams. This meeting will be held Tuesday, June 5, 7 p.m. at Bishop Hoban High School, 159 S. Penna. Blvd., Wilkes-Barre.

If a coach cannot attend this meeting, he is requested to submit a list of senior players with a data sheet of statistics. If no list is submitted, it will be difficult to include the team's seniors on each squad.

Send your list to John Veseck, Bishop Hoban High School, 159 S. Penna. Boulevard, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702. Each participant in the game will be covered by a medical policy.

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