

SPORTS

Black Knights cop district title



LAKE-LEHMAN CHAMPS—Coaches Phil Lipski and Tom Williams proudly display the plaque they received for their Lake-Lehman Knights who won the District 2 Title for the second consecutive year. (Photo by Dave Kozemchak)

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

The Lake-Lehman Black Knight wrestlers kept their fans on the edge of their seats during last Saturday's district finals, but came through in the end to take the title for the second straight year.

Lake-Lehman went into the finals down by 17 1/2 points to a strong Meyers team and there were few fans in the capacity-filled Wilkes gym who believed the Knights could come out in front. But the Knights proved the fans wrong when their nine finalists came out on top, winning by a 213-209 score.

"It was amazing," said Coach Phil Lipski following the championships. "Our kids were down 17 1/2 points and no one—not even a lot of the coaches—believed they could pull it off, but our kids came through. Charlie Roper started us off when he had a fall over his Meyers opponent and Charlie Jacoby kept it going when he picked up a technical over Meyers Matt Fraley. Rich Peiffer wrestled a tough bout and came through losing only

by a 3-2 decision over Meyers Mike Toney."

The Knights then picked up the pace again, with the next three grapplers winning their matches.

"Justin Goodwin gave us a boost when going in as fifth seed, he took a 4-3 decision from his Hanover opponent. Mike Tereska at 145 deserves a lot of credit for decisioning Meyers Dan Jones 3-2 and 152 Jason Naugle came from behind to win 12-10 over Mohawk Chris Edwards. Terry Martin lost a tough match. He was doing alright until he got caught in the final seconds and, of course, Mike Geurin and Ray Rosencrans came through for us, Geurin with a pin and Rosencrans getting a technical to give us an extra point."

Lipski praised the young wrestlers for their persistence and preparation.

"It was a great tournament. Our kids were in great shape and that's what it takes. It was a grueling competition and the kids look like they were through a war. They have black eyes and bruises but they know what they have to do and they will be ready for regionals

this weekend," Lipski said.

The Knights will be taking 10 people to the Class AA Regionals at Williamsport this weekend, probably the most of any team. The top three finishers in AA advance so Roper, Jacoby, Goodwin, Tereska, Naugle, Geurin and Rosencrans will go as first place finishers; Peiffer and Martin, runnerup; and Jason McDade, third place finisher will travel to Williamsport.

District 4 usually dominates the

regional competition but Coaches Tom Williams and Phil Lipski believe their wrestlers are in good condition and have wrestled some of the toughest opponents, even some in Class AAA, and can go in with confidence. "Our wrestling Line Mountain late in the season and winning also helped them," Lipski concluded. The Knights were ranked sixth in the state before beating fourth-ranked Line Mountain two weeks ago.

Lady Knights lose first playoff game

Lake-Lehman Lady Knights hopes to advance in the playoffs were quickly dashed February 27 when they lost 64-33 to a strong Valley View team from Lackawanna County. The loss eliminated the Lady Black Knights from the playoffs.

Despite Alyson Davis and Cherub Honeywell scoring 10 points each, the Lady Knights defense was unable to stop the Cougars whose Renee Smola led all players with 13 points. Jenn Mroz and Eileen Bolecavage each scored 12 points.

Jobson goes from player to coach on the court

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Paul Jobson, an outstanding basketball player while in high school at Dallas and later Lake-Lehman, now spends his time on the court teaching youngsters as the director of the Back Mountain Basketball Organization.

Jobson was in one of the first groups to go through the organization in 1975 when he was in seventh grade. Joseph O'Donnell, a former faculty member at Dallas High School, had organized the program which was then run by Tim Bauman and John Szela.

"I have been enthusiastic about basketball since I was introduced to it when I was in third grade," Jobson said. "I played in the elementary grades, junior and senior to high school, and four years on the varsity team at Lycoming College. The past couple of years I have attended the college and high school games."

Jobson said a Pro Shop Basketball Camp run by John Szela whetted his interest in coaching and after a time Szela appointed Jobson as an assistant at the camp.

"Szela encouraged me to get into something related to the game so last year I had the opportunity to become an assistant in the Back Mountain Basketball program. I enjoyed working with the kids and when the former coach decided to give it up I decided to try it."

Jobson explained. Jobson said he had three meetings with the fathers of students from the previous year and when he found they were interested, he cleared it through the school district and set up his program.

"Although it is called Back Mountain Basketball Organization, it is for Dallas area boys and

girls only because of the insurance requirements," Jobson explained. "The program is in the

Dallas Middle School and this year it was expanded to two days weekly, Wednesday and Saturday," he said.

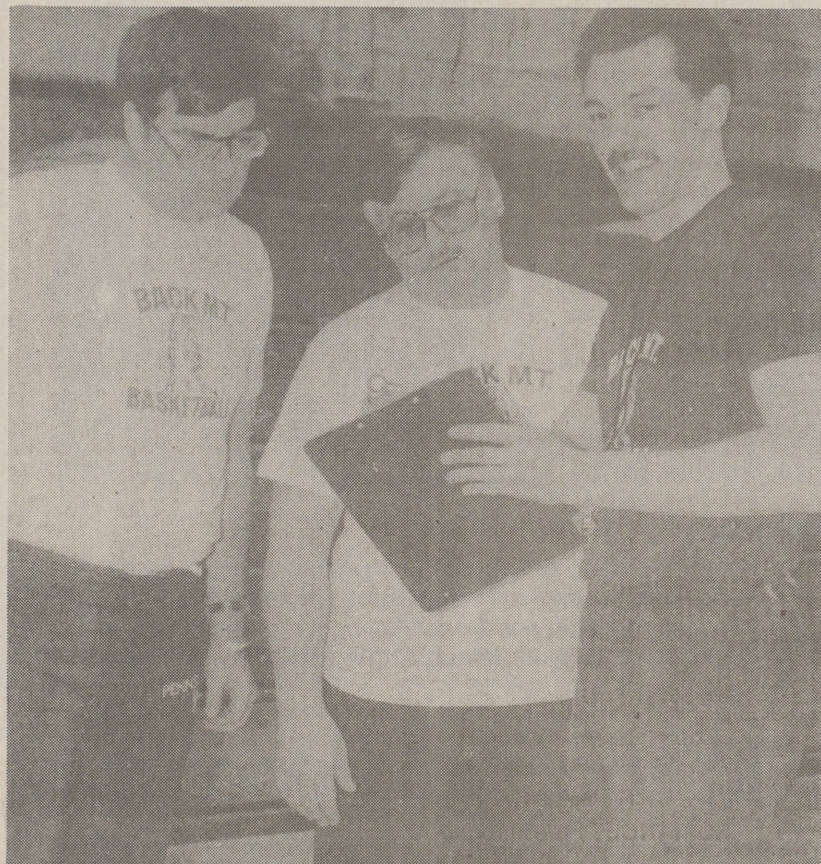
"The signup schedule was in September and October and we had 108 boys and girls sign up. Ninety six was to be the maximum but I stretched it for the final 12 kids. The participants were divided into two groups; third, fourth and lower age of fifth grade boys and girls; and the higher ages of fifth, sixth and seventh grade boys and girls. We signed up 67 percent more students than last year," Jobson said.

Jobson had two goals for the program, for the kids to have fun and learn the fundamentals of the game.

"The program this season has been a learning experience for me," he said. "We practiced Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and at the beginning of the year we had no games. We practiced layups, passing, dribbling and shooting. After learning the fundamentals in November and December, we divided the kids into teams as even as possible and in January and February we had the teams play games, but we didn't keep score. The kids did and always know which team wins."

"Each team has a coach, most of them parents. We have six teams in the younger group and six teams in the older group and the members are boys and girls mixed. We ask the coaches to split the teams playing time up as best they can," Jobson explained.

He also said he talked with Dallas High School coach Paul Brown, who agreed to let the teams attend



BACK MOUNTAIN BASKETBALL PROGRAM - Back Mountain Basketball Organization Director Paul Jobson discusses the Dallas third through seventh grade program with coaches Gary Beisel and Barry West. Above from left, are Beisel, West and Jobson. (Post Photo/Charlot M. Denmon)

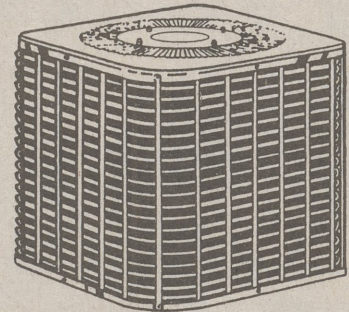
two Dallas games free of charge and he also got the coaches at King's Wilkes and College Misericordia to let them come to a college game free of charge.

"The coaches have done a fantastic job and Rich Jumper has been a tremendous help to me throughout the year. The entry fee for the program was \$20 for the first member within a family and \$15 for each additional child in a family. The fee included a Back Mountain tee shirt, a notebook and the expenses of the program. About 20 percent of the members are girls," Jobson said. "The kids can also come into the camp where they can learn offensive and defensive skills in mini-camp on weekends."

The program concluded Sunday at the Middle School with a single elimination tournament, foul shooting, layup and knockout contests with one person from each team participating. Entrants were determined by team playoffs held several weeks ago. A pizza party and awards ceremony followed the tournament.

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Russin hits 1000th point in Dallas win

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

The Dallas Mountaineers first round playoff win over Valley View brought both team and individual rewards. Ray Russin scored the 1000th point in his high school basketball career during the 73-65 win in the District 2 Class AAA quarterfinal and Damon Lisnow led the

scoring with 25 points and had 13 rebounds to set the pace for the Mounts.

Russin tossed in 19 points using outside shooting to score two three pointers. John McKeever tossed in 11 points three of his shots three-pointers.

Dave Puz and Tod Paczewski added nine points each, with Paczewski hitting a three-

pointer. The Mountaineers had a good night on the foul line with Paczewski going 4 for 4, Russin hitting 3 for 4, Puz dumping in 3 for 5 and Lisnow hitting 2 for 4. Lisnow also made a three-pointer.

The win advanced the Mountaineers to the Class AAA semifinal against Scranton Central scheduled for Tuesday night at John Long Center.

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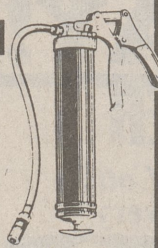
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