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Rick Finnegan gets tough at 103

By FLORENCE FINN
Sports Correspondent

Competition consists of extreme mood swings from feelings of euphoria to feelings of despair, and moods can change in an instant with a dropped ball, a missed cue or a reversal. In the case of Rick Finnegan, a junior wrestler at Lake-Lehman High School, the inadequate feelings of last year's 10-22 record have disappeared this year beneath a 5-0 mark.

In a crucial meet against Crestwood January 22, Rick, wrestling at 103 pounds, pinned his opponent to give his team the initial momentum that it needed to defeat previously unbeaten Crestwood 34-27 at Lake-Lehman. But it wasn't always this way.

Last year, Rick was also on an undefeated championship Lake-Lehman wrestling team. But he weighed a mere 85 pounds, thus, he gave up 18 pounds each time he wrestled and he and his self confidence were getting pounded.

"My coaches kept encouraging me by telling me that the kids I wrestled had a lot of weight on me, but I'd be right up there next year," Rick reflected.

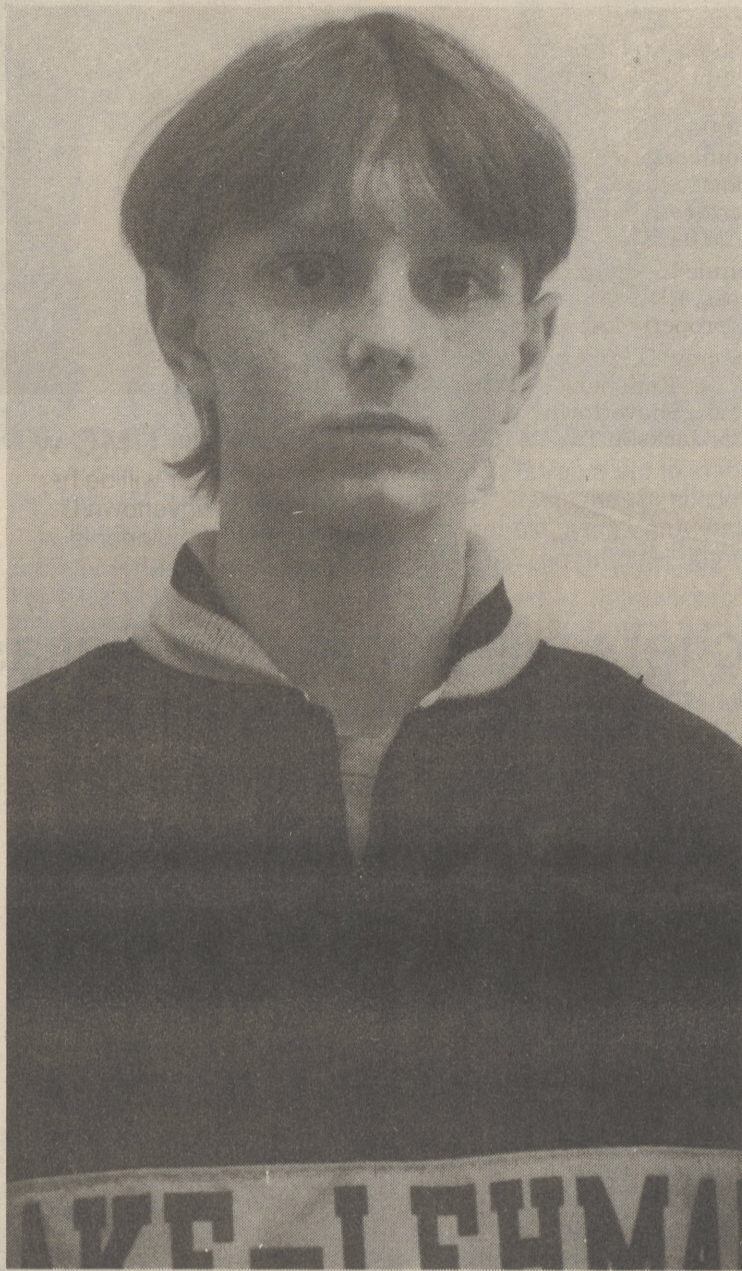
In spite of his coaches' and team's encouragement, Rick didn't feel that he was contributing to the success of his team, and he decided to do something about it. "I thought of how in elementary and junior high, when I wrestled kids my weight, I did well, so I decided

to try to gain weight." Throughout the summer of 1991, Rick trained, ate more healthfully, and wrestled with the Back Mountain Club. He was AAU state champ at 85 pounds, having defeated Pat McGraf from Toms River, New Jersey. Previously, McGraf had defeated Finnegan. By the end of the summer, he had increased his weight to 100 pounds.

Along with teammates Charlie Roper and Jason Naugle, Rick has wrestled since elementary school. He is enjoying playing an important role in this year's team success. His goal is to win districts and become a state qualifier. If this year's improvement is any indicator, he will have a good chance of attaining that goal. "I placed 10th in last year's Tunkhannock Tournament and this year I made finals, but I have to get by Eric Murphy of O'Hara. He pinned me this year, but we're good friends. He often stays at my house," Rick said with a smile. Murphy is ranked 3rd in the state.

Although he is a modest competitor, Rick is not reluctant to exhibit his confidence in the team. "I think we'll stay undefeated this year," he boasted after the Crestwood win.

Rick is riding high this season, but knows what it is like to be on the losing end. Perhaps that has made him the competitor that he is.



RICK FINNEGAN
Tough customer at 103 lbs.

Knights snap GAR's win streak

Grenadiers had won 89 straight at home — until Lehman came to call

By FLORENCE FINN
Sports Correspondent

Lake-Lehman 43, GAR 37! The final score stunned a packed hometown crowd at GAR on Saturday, Jan. 25. The Grenadiers had not lost a home basketball game in 89 tries, but the Knights came out ready to change that.

"We came out strong and were up by 10 points in the first half," explained Rich Davis who had a game high 19 for the Knights. "But it was our defense that was the key to the win along with a total team effort," Davis said. The Knights used their usual tough man-to-man defense to hold GAR to just 11 points in the first 14 minutes and went into the locker room with a 25-15 lead.

Going into the second period, GAR gained new composure and had a run in which Mike Pavloski hit two three-pointers and Paul Rushton added seven points to pull their team within six points of the Knights.

Then, in the fourth quarter, GAR converted two free throws to lead the game 34-33. But Lehman's

number one defense held and the offense dug in to hit inside shots by Clancy, who totaled 16 for the game, and the lead returned to Lehman, 37-34. Later, it was Clancy again who closed the door for Lehman with three foul shots in the last 25 seconds.

"I felt we got the shots we wanted, the inside shots to win the game," Clancy commented. "But it was our defense that made the difference. Jeff Hynick was able to hold Pavloski to just six points and he (Jeff) turned the ball over very few times. He may have had the best game of his season," applauded Clancy. Dave referred to both teams' point guards.

GAR had just come off a big win against league-leader Northwest. "This game was really a confidence builder. Now we know we can beat any team," Davis explained. With this win, Lake-Lehman is optimistic about the second half since the two teams ahead of them already have losses. The Knights will meet contenders Wyoming Seminary on Friday, Jan. 31, at home.

Register February 1 for Back Mountain Baseball

Back Mountain Baseball, Inc. will hold registration for the 1992 season on Saturday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Shavertown United Methodist Church, Pioneer Ave., Shavertown. Registration is for boys ages 6 to 15 and girls ages 6 to 10. All first time players must bring their birth certificate. This will be the final registration for the upcoming season. Registration fee is \$20 per child or \$35 per family.

Back Mountain Baseball will be holding registration for their new senior boys league on Saturday, Feb. 1. The league will consist of boys ages 13-15. Players must bring their birth certificates. For information call 696-1959.

Back Mountain Baseball will hold a general meeting on Monday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m. at the Dallas American Legion. All coaches, parents, volunteers and the general public are invited to attend. League president Larry Lettice will preside.

Sports roundup

LADY KNIGHTS DEMOLISH TECH

The Lake-Lehman girls' basketball team began the second half with a win over West Side Tech, 66-18 on the loser's court on January 23. Heidi Wenrich was high scorer for the Knights with 16 points followed by Cherub Honeywell with 13 and Jen Smith with 10. Lake-Lehman had nine players in the scoring column: Jen Gabel had eight; Johanna Miller, five; Dyan Dymond, Heather Gray and Debbie Coslett each had four and Bridgette Hozempa, had two. The 24-4 lead in the first quarter predicted the pace of the entire game.

KNIGHT GIRLS TOP GAR 49-30 IN BASKETBALL

On Saturday, Jan. 25, the girls of Lake-Lehman High School acquired its second league win of the second half by defeating GAR 49-30 at Lehman. The Knights, who had recently been experiencing a losing streak, had a 10-0 start in the third quarter to ice the game after leading by only six going into the second half. The team used a zone defense against GAR to stop the Grenadiers inside game and it proved successful, holding them to only 15 points at halftime. Jen Smith was high scorer with 17, followed by Cherub Honeywell with 14 and Heidi Wenrich with 10. In the last encounter against GAR, the Knights won in overtime. "Our team's defense didn't let down this time," Wenrich explained. "It gave us regained confidence and got our team back in sync in this game. We played together and that should help us this half." The Knights play Wyoming Seminary Thursday, Jan. 30, away.

BLACK KNIGHTS BLAST TECH 78-29

Lake-Lehman boys also defeated West Side Tech on January 23, at home by a score of 78-29. Big man Dave Clancy tossed in 24 points while Mark Shisson and Rich Davis combined for 22. Lehman played 10 players in the rout with three of them hitting three-pointers: Will Woronko, Rich Davis and Tim Wasluck. Woronko and Scott Schobert collected 20 points between them.

LADY MOUNTS LOSE TO MEYERS

The Dallas girls also lost to Meyers at home on the same night. Wendy Cave hit for 17 including two three-pointers. Tara Killeen and Jen Janosky had nine and 12 respectively. Dallas will meet GAR Thursday, Jan. 30, away.

KNIGHT GRAPPLERS PIN CRESTWOOD

Lake-Lehman wrestlers remained undefeated by defeating previously undefeated Crestwood on January 22 at the winners' site. The 34-27 victory began with a pin by Rick Finnegan at 103 making the score 3-0, Lehman. The Comets came right back with a pin in the next class to even the score and went out in front with two consecutive decisions, but Lehman's Jason McDade came from behind to win at 130. Charlie Roper followed with a pin to make it Lake-Lehman 15 and Crestwood 12. The Comets tied it at the 140 weight class, but the Knights strong middle weights took charge with a major decision by Charlie Jacoby at 145. Perhaps the most exciting match of the night came at 152 when Lehman's Justin Goodwin won in the last two minutes 5-4. Jason Naugle and Mike Geurin then put the meet away for Lehman with pins.

6 KNIGHT WRESTLERS STILL UNBEATEN

On Saturday, Jan. 25, Lake-Lehman wrestlers continued undefeated by beating Tunkhannock 45-15. Six Knights remained undefeated in league competition: Mike Guerin, Charlie Jacoby, Rick Finnegan, Jason McDade, Justin Goodwin and Jason Naugle. Other winners were John Morgan, Tim Sayre, and Brian Gizenski.

Lehman meets Canton away on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

HEFFRON, BUTKIEWICZ, JESSE, NATITUS SCORE WINS IN WRESTLING

The grapplers of Dallas lost to Hanover Area 51-21 at home on Jan. 22. The Mounts began with a win at 103 by Mike Heffron and Chris Butkiewicz pinned his opponent at 125 while Bob Jesse, at 135, also had an impressive pin in only 54 seconds. Not to be outdone, teammate Frank Natitus followed at 140 with another fall in 1:35. However, that was the end of the winning for Dallas as Hanover controlled the last six matches.

MEYERS TOPS MOUNTS IN ROUND BALL

Despite the 23-point effort of Todd Pazcowski, Dallas boys' basketball team lost to Meyers 61-50 on Saturday, Jan. 25, on the winner's court. Dave Puz added 15 points for Dallas. The Mounts will journey to GAR on Friday, Jan. 31.



Kirby-Jo Richards wins skating contest

Kirby-Jo Richards, 8 year old daughter of Hugh and Linda-Jo Richards of Dallas, captured a first place at the 1992 Midwinter Invitational Roller Skating competition.

The event was held at Shillington, Pa. on January 18. Kirby-Jo is a 1991 Junior Olympic National Roller Skating Champion. Kirby is pictured above after winning her gold medal at the National Competition held in Tulsa, Oklahoma over the 1991 Labor Day weekend. Kirby-Jo is a third grade student at Dallas Elementary School and is coached by Stephanie Vida of Nanticoke.

Horlacher league registers Feb. 2

The Bob Horlacher Memorial Little League will conduct registration for the 1992 season on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 2 to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 5 from 6 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. (not at Kunkle).

Registration will be at the following locations: Falls Fire Company; Noxen Township Bldg.; Beaumont Little League Field; Centermoreland Fire Hall; Orange United Methodist Church; Kunkle United Methodist Church.

Registrations will be accepted for boys from ages 6 to 15 and girls from ages 6 to 18. All new applicants must show proof of age. A registration fee will be charged. You may register at any location.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Beaumont Building.

Looking for something heavy?

The Y has weights and Nautilus equipment

Are you looking to become a body builder? A powerlifter? Or maybe you would just like to look better or feel better. Come in and tour the YMCA's facility. Check out the Free Weight Room and Nautilus Center; they'll take your resistance training levels to new heights. Call the Wilkes-Barre YMCA for more information at 823-2191.



Pouring it in

Cherub Honeywell scored 14 points in Lake-Lehman's win over GAR January 25. The Lady Knights took the win 49-30 to go 2-0 in second half league play. (Post photo/Charlotte Bartizek)