

DAMA

(continued from page 1)

Nowhere in their Complaint do Plaintiffs allege the manner of impropriety conducted by Township Defendants."

Attorney Phil Medico, representing Searles and C&K, was out of town and unavailable for comment on the ruling.

During oral arguments held before Judge Gifford Cappelini on April 30, Medico said that the suit would have been more detailed, but charged that much of the supporting evidence was unavailable because municipal officials discussed the garbage plan in executive session. Medico also charged that the real reason that DAMA was given responsibility for solid waste disposal in Dallas Borough, Dallas Township, and Kingston Township, is that it is deeply troubled financially.

Arguing against the suit, Attorney Benjamin Jones III said at the April 30 hearing that the suit jumps to the conclusion that the garbage plan was a malicious attempt to hurt the small haulers' business,

Big Leaguers

(continued from page 1)

in two days," said assistant coach Rich Conrad.

Facing more experienced teams in the U.S. Regional Competition in Prince Frederick, MD, last week, the girls won their first game against the Mid-Atlantic team 4-3 in 11 innings.

Heather Ruger wowed spectators with a spectacular overhead catch at a dead run, duplicated later in the game by Noel Brooks.

Ann Faulks made good on an 11th inning promise of a home run to a girl sitting in the stands who had been accidentally hit by a ball that Ann had thrown from the outfield early in the game. In addition to the winning home run, Ann earlier hit a triple that drove Cherub Honeywell home from first base.

Although they lost their next two games, 4-2 against New York and 9-6 against Southern Maryland, the Back Mountain girls played excellent baseball, Conrad said.

Shortstop Heather Gray executed a beautiful fake in the second game, preventing a Southern Maryland girl on second from stealing third. "That fake deserved an Academy Award," Conrad laughed. And Cherub Honeywell kept Southern Maryland on their toes by grabbing an unexpected hot line drive.

"They were like young David going up against mighty Goliath - a two-year-old small town team playing against well-trained, experienced county and state teams with a large talent base to draw from. They gave more than 100 per cent in whatever we asked them to do," Conrad continued.

Organized last year, the all-star team is comprised of fourteen young women, age 16-18, from Dallas, Lake-Lehman and Northwest Area school districts and the Bob Horlacher League.

Team members included Carra Giardina, Christina Conrad, Julie Babcock, Ann Faulks, Jennifer Smith, Karen Stefanowicz, Heather Ruger, Rene Lukasavage, Bridget Hozempa, Cherub Honeywell, Heather Gray, Mindy Main, Kelly Janosky and Noel Brooks. Robert Gray, assisted by Rich

without providing any supporting evidence.

Jones argues that the state Legislature has given municipalities the power to make exclusive contracts.

Attorney Robert Opel II, representing Kingston Township, pointed out that while Medico charged that discussions about the garbage contract were made in executive sessions, he did not include those allegations in the lawsuit.

Attorneys Ted Krohn from Dallas Borough and Frank Townend from Dallas Township refuted Medico's assertion that DAMA's poor financial health was the reason for the garbage contract, calling it "nonsense." Attorney David Heisler, also represented the three municipalities at the hearing on behalf of their insurance company.

The lawsuit had five counts, each asking for compensatory damages in excess of \$20,000. Suits which ask for less than \$20,000 are not eligible to go to trial, but go through arbitration instead.

Lake-Lehman plans many changes this year

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Beginning this school year, Lake-Lehman students will see changes in their schools, including new courses and new ways of teaching old subjects, according to superintendent Nancy Davis.

The addition of another kindergarten class at Lehman-Jackson reflects an increase in enrollment, Mrs. Davis said.

The half-day Head Start class at Lake-Noxen will expand to include an afternoon session for 17 new students, starting in January.

Instead of separate classes in English and reading, Junior High School students will take language arts courses combining both, Mrs. Davis said.

A new junior high study skills course, emphasizing specific study techniques, maximum utilization of library resources and choosing the most appropriate research references also has been added.

Students in classrooms enjoyed working with aides from the Foster Grandparents program last year, Mrs. Davis said. The program will continue this year. Aides help teachers in classroom activities or work with special needs students in the elementary and Junior High schools.

High school students still will be on an eight-period day, with more "Tech Prep" courses added, Mrs. Davis said.

Applied biology/chemistry courses combining hands-on vocational skills with academic knowledge will help to prepare students for occupations in the medical field. Applied communications will expand computer knowledge to the secretarial and business fields.

"We are still teaching the basics, but the basics are changing," Mrs. Davis said. "Today's students must be prepared either to enter directly into technical occupations after graduation or go on to further specialized training in a two-year technical school, junior college or a four-year college program. The days of graduating and getting a lifetime job in a factory or mill are long gone."

High school students also will

Teaching

(continued from page 1)

from similar eye-opening experiences.

That's one of the reasons that Coslett is eager to have the district implement the state's new outcome based education rules.

"We want to get away from just covering the curriculum to making sure that that curriculum is learned," said Coslett. "Boy Scout merit badges, that's all outcome based education. When you have completed a set of goals successfully, then you earn the merit badge."

In a nutshell, outcome based education is a list of goals that must be met before a student can pass on to the next level. Under the new regulations, it won't be enough for a student to have been taught something, they have to learn it.

"Outcome based education takes a look at what you've been doing and adds one more component to it," said Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction at Dallas. "You look at what you have written as a curriculum, what you're going to teach, you look at what you're going to test. The third component is the revision component."

"There are a numbers of students who have just put in their time, get their credits and walk out the door and really haven't learned a given body of knowledge," said Griffiths. "What we're going to do is change our focus from the credits to what the student is supposed to know."

Under the new rules, said Griffiths, students who have mastered the basic material will be given additional enrichment studies to work on for two or three days. The students who have not mastered the basic material will get some more help with it.

"If the student still hasn't learned the material, then there are two different paths," said Griffiths. "One, notes are taken, and the student gets extra help in the area as they move forward with the class. The other is that the student works at the area until the material is mastered."

The goals — the given body of knowledge that students are supposed to know — haven't been established in their final form by the state yet.

Since the beginning of the year, the outcomes, or goals have been pared down from 140 to 58, said Coslett.

Many of the goals aren't much different than what you would expect to find in schools. Students must be proficient in math, be able to write, speak, understand science.

Others have come under fire from columnists, some state legislators and taxpayer groups. For instance, the new rules state that students should understand and appreciate others. Is this teaching academics, or attitudes?, the critics ask.

"The state regs aren't in stone yet. People have reviewed them and looked at them and said some of them are very ambiguous and some of them need to have more specificity to them," said Griffiths. "Others are a little too specific."

Dallas plans to start work on outcomes based education with the nuts and bolts, mathematics.

This summer, the district used a \$10,000 grant to introduce 18 of its math teachers to the new education rules. Another \$10,000 has been budgeted to introduce English and history teachers to outcome based education next summer.

"Districts throughout the state are put into different waves. 1, 2, 3 and 4. We're in wave four," said Griffiths. "We're down the road about 4 years."

Dallas is mandated by the state to have outcome based education in place for the 1996-97 school year, but Griffiths said the district is targeting the 1995-96 school year to have the new program in place throughout the district.

"We don't want to do it by trying everything at the teachers and the students at one time," said Griffiths. "We'd like to be one year in front of the mandate, so when we go into strategic planning all of this is already in place and we've started to refine what we've been doing."

"Today it's teaching, testing and go on," said Griffiths. "It's going to be teaching, testing, and evaluating. The non-core subject areas have been doing it for years, your practical arts, your arts, your music, they're all programs where there's an end product."



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