

SPORTS

Mountaineers off to strong start on court

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Correspondent

Before the season began, Dallas High School Basketball coach Paul Brown felt his team would not begin to play their best basketball until late January.

If that prognosis holds true, the rest of the Wyoming Valley Conference Division II may be in for some trouble.

The Mountaineers began their

pre-season competition in fine fashion, capturing the championship in the Tunkhannock Holiday Tournament and then dropping a tough overtime decision to defending District 2 Class AAA champion Bishop Hoban.

"I'm happy with our play so far," said Brown. "The players from the football team aren't in basketball shape yet, but we've been playing well. We came from behind three times in the championship of the Tunkhannock tournament and we

played well against Montrose. Once we get into better shape, we'll be a pretty good basketball team."

Dallas defeated Montrose, 62-43, in the opening game of the Tunkhannock tourney. Senior forward Todd Paczewski led the way for the Mounts with 19 points while junior Brian Brady and senior guard Dave Fisher added 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Fisher nailed a three-pointer with one second remaining as the Mountaineers edged

Tunkhannock, 63-61, in the title game. The Mounts trailed by as many as 11 points before posting the come-from-behind win.

Paczewski again paced the Mounts with 16 points in the title tilt while Fisher added 14 and junior center Charlie Siglin tossed in 10.

Paczewski was named the tournament Most Valuable Player and was joined by Fisher and Siglin on the All-Tournament team. Tunkhannock's E.J. O'Malley and

Lupinski rounded out the squad.

Last Saturday, the Mountaineers dropped their first game of the pre-season, an 87-81 heartstopper to the Argents before a large crowd at the Dallas gym. The Mounts trailed by 10 early in the first period but rallied to build a 15-point advantage, 48-33, at the half.

But the Mounts were in foul trouble all night long, losing Paczewski with an 11-point lead

and 6:33 remaining in the contest and starting senior guard Mike Wagner with 45 seconds remaining.

Dallas placed four players in double figures, led by senior Dave Puz's 24 points. Siglin added 21 while Paczewski and Fisher chipped in 10 points apiece.

The Mountaineers will compete in the Crossin Memorial Holiday Tournament at Wyoming Valley West High School, in Plymouth, on December 28 and 30.



Dallas 9th grade basketball team

Kneeling, from left, Mike Suda, Brian Berlew, Brad Adams, John Michalak, Shawn Vogelsang, Steve Smith. Standing, from left, Greg Mussman, Connor Ennis, Rich Klick, J.P. Cosgrove, Dan Podehl, Chris Stolarczyk, Sean Blinn. (Post photo/Ron Bartizek)

Sports roundup

CRESTWOOD HAS EASY TIME AGAINST MOUNTS

The Dallas girl's basketball team dropped a 72-24 decision to Crestwood in exhibition action on December 14. Crestwood jumped out to a 32-12 lead at the half en route to the win. Kelly Janosky led the Lady Mounts with five points.

BLACK KNIGHTS ROLL OVER CRESTWOOD

Virginia-transfer Jesse Martin scored 22 points and Rich Davis added 21 to lead Lake-Lehman to a 72-60 win over Crestwood in an exhibition game on December 15. The Black Knights led by as many as 18 points and led 42-24 at

halftime. Senior center Dave Clancy added 19 for head coach Roger Bearde's Black Knights.

LADY KNIGHTS EDGED BY NANTICOKE

Nanticoke rallied from a fourth quarter deficit to defeat Lake-Lehman, 53-50, in girl's exhibition basketball action on December 17. Cherub Honeywell led the Black Knights with a game-high 20 points while teammate Heather Gray added 13.

DALLAS GIRLS LOSE TO TUNKHANNOCK

Tunkhannock rolled to an easy 53-27 victory over Dallas in girl's pre-season basketball action on

December 17. Missy Pomrinke led the Lady Mounts with six points, coming on two three-pointers.

KNIGHTS DROP CLOSE GAME TO NANTICOKE

Jesse Martin and Rich Davis combined for 47 points but it wasn't enough as Lake-Lehman dropped a tough 61-60 decision to Nanticoke in boy's exhibition basketball action on December 18. Martin led the Black Knights with 26 points while Davis added 21. Center Dave Clancy led the Black Knights with eight rebounds. The Black Knights outscored the Trojans, 20-7, in the second quarter to jump out to a 36-28 halftime lead.



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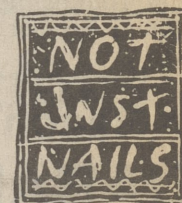
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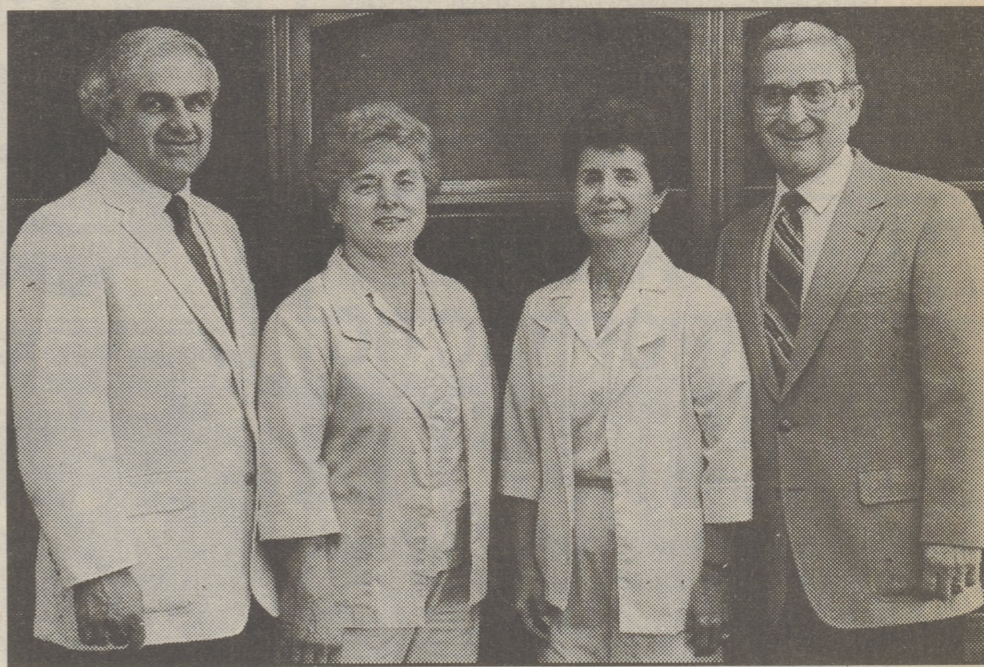
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