

## SPORTS

## Cheerleaders going to national championships

By DAVE KONOPKI  
Sports Correspondent

When the Dallas High School cheerleaders pack their bags to begin their journey to the Universal Cheerleading Association National High School Cheerleading Championships in Florida next month, they won't be packing one of their biggest assets.

They don't need to. They carry it with them everyday.

In a sport where presentation and rapport with the crowd is nearly as important as athletic ability, the Mountaineers have hit

the jackpot.

When the squad received a critique after performing in qualifying for nationals, two words jumped right off the page: "Killer smiles".

The Dallas cheerleaders will take those killer smiles to the championships in Orlando, Florida. The squad will leave on Thursday, February 18 and will return on Tuesday, February 23. Dallas won the Eastern Pennsylvania Regional Championship on November 21.

"These girls have good natural ability," said cheerleading coach Shelia Bonawitz. "They know how to work the crowd and that is very

important. Sometimes you have to teach a squad how to smile. But not these kids.

"This is a very young squad," said Bonawitz, of her team which has just one senior member. "We lost seven seniors from last year's squad and we couldn't believe how the young girls developed such precision. Even though though they're young, they're very strong."

Before the squad is able to compete in Florida, they'll have to defeat another opponent: a lack of funds.

Because of the rising price of airline tickets, the cost of the trip

will be \$613 for each member. The group has been holding various fundraisers and will be holding a raffle this month. They will also be sending out letters to local businesses asking them to either purchase raffle tickets or make a donation.

According to Bonawitz, who is assisted by Ann Marie Danna, the experience is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

"From the moment you step off the plane the people (from the association) are there," said Bonawitz, who has been involved in the Dallas cheerleading pro-

gram for more than 15 years. "Your feet never hit the ground again. The girls get a tour of Universal Studios and then they are at the competition at Sea World on Saturday and Sunday."

Squads from all over the United States will compete in the competition with the top 10 finalists being shown on ESPN. Squads are judged in cheering, gymnastics, stunting and dance. By qualifying for the nationals, the team's senior members are eligible for scholarship money that will be awarded based upon merit and community involvement.

Bonawitz said the squad, which will be joined by at least 15 family members on the trip, has received much support in their effort, including cards and stuffed animals from the football team and coaches.

Members of the squad include: Senior captain Sara Cuba, co-captains Laura Selenski and Jennifer Bryant; juniors Michelle Sivar, Bridgette Ziminski and Christy O'Bryant; sophomores Kim Jones, Vanessa Wysocki, Jennifer Cutter and Joan Bednar and freshmen Melissa Prokopchak, Christy Francis, Beth Ann Wagner, Julie Haas and Mary Ann Selenski.

## Conference basketball title could be won here

By DAVE KONOPKI  
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Though they're hesitant to admit it, Roger Bearde and Paul Brown know they're on the verge of something special.

For the first time in nearly a decade it appears that the basketball games between Dallas, under the direction of Brown and Lake-Lehman, underveteran head coach Bearde, will be played for something more than pride.

The first sign of that came last

week when the Black Knights defeated Dallas, 60-54, in the finals of the 13th Annual Crossin Basketball Tournament.

But both coaches know that game was just round one of the battle of the Wyoming Valley Conference Division II heavyweights. There will be at least two more and the winner of those fights could walk away with the championship belt.

"It was a big win but we know we'll have to face them at least two

more times," said Bearde, whose Black Knights were led by tourney MVP Jessie Martin and leading scorer Rich Davis. "It's going to be tough playing them again. We told our kids that once conference play began last Saturday, we were all 0-0. But it was a nice win and it put us on a positive note going into conference play."

Brown entered the contest with great respect for Bearde and his Black Knights and left with even more.

"Going into the game I had a lot of respect for Lake-Lehman, from coach to substitute," Brown said. "My respect for them has increased. Roger is an excellent coach. They played a very good game, especially on defense. We just hope we stay competitive in the league until we play them again."

Both coaches said the possibility of two Back Mountain teams competing for the title could be great for the community.

"I think the best thing that could

happen is for both teams to be in it at the end," Bearde said. "I think it would be great. But we going to have to play hard. There are some tough teams in our division. We were the last team to beat GAR for the division championship. To have Lehman and Dallas playing for the title would be a great thing."

Although he hasn't been around the rivalry as long as Bearde, Brown has noticed an increase in the intensity this year.

"I felt something in the air,"

Brown said of the first meeting between the two teams. "It (the rivalry) is the most intense in the three years I've been here. I think it's going to be great for the community."

Davis led all scorers in the title game with 16 points. Martin added 13 while Chris Ziomek and Wil Woronko added 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Dave Fisher led the Mounts with 14 points, including four three-pointers while Todd Paczewski and Brian Brady each tossed in 13.

## Back Mountain Baseball will register Saturday

Back Mountain Baseball will hold registration Saturday, January 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dallas Middle School. All ages can register, and players must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. First time players must bring a copy of a birth certificate. The following leagues will register:

**Little League Baseball** - boys and girls, ages 6-12. T-ball, Minor League and Major League.

**Girls' Softball** - Little League, ages 8-12; Senior League, ages 13-15; Big League, ages 16-18.

**Boys' Senior League** - 13-year-old league; 13-15-year-old league. Boys eligible for Seniors are those whose 13th birthday is before 8/1/93 or whose 16th birthday is after 7/31/92.

There will be a second registration Saturday, January 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., also at the Dallas Middle School.

Both registrations are for Back Mountain Little League and Senior League only.

Note: residents of Lake Twp. should register with Harveys Lake Little League; Franklin Twp. and Kunkle with Bob Horlacher League; and Ross Twp. with Northwest Little League.

## Sports roundup

## MOUNTS BLAST SETON CATHOLIC 69-47

Dave Puz and Charlie Siglin combined for 43 points as Dallas opened their Wyoming Valley Conference regular season with an 89-47 win over host Seton Catholic on January 2. Puz finished with 22 points and Siglin 21 for the Mounts, who jumped out to a 47-23 halftime lead. Todd Paczewski added 13 counters for the Mounts.

## DAVIS, MARTIN LEAD KNIGHTS TO WIN

Rich Davis and Jesse Martin scored 56 of their team's 74 points to lead Lake-Lehman to a 74-52 win over Northwest in the WVC opener for both teams on January 2. Davis led all scorers with 34 points while Martin added 22,

## including a pair of three-pointers. LADY BLACK KNIGHTS LOSE TO O'REILLY

The Lake-Lehman girl's basketball team ran into a buzzsaw in the form of Bishop O'Reilly as they dropped a 61-34 decision in the finals of the Yozwiak Holiday Tournament on December 29 on the winner's floor. Debbie Coslett led the Black Knights with 11 points while Miller and Cherub Honeywell added nine and eight points, respectively.

## NORTHWEST EDGES LADY KNIGHTS

The Lady Black Knights dropped their WVC opener, a tough 36-32 decision to host Northwest on January 2. Cherub Honeywell tallied 11 points for Lake-Lehman

while teammate Debbie Coslett added nine.

## LADY MOUNTS CAN'T HOLD OFF SETON

Seton Catholic posted a 43-33 come-from-behind win over Dallas in girl's basketball action on January 2. The Lady Mounts, led by Kelly Janosky, took a 21-17 halftime advantage. Janosky finished with 12 points while Suda added seven for the Lady Mounts.

## FINNEGAN, SAYRE TAKE WRESTLING WINS

The Lake-Lehman wrestling team captured two individual championships in the finals of the Tunkhannock Kiwanis Tournament on December 30. Rich Finnegan and Tim Sayre took the titles at 103 and 119 pounds,

respectively for the Black Knights, who finished fourth in the team standings. Finnegan dethroned Moody of Wyalusing, 5-2, while Sayre dethroned Shuts, also of Wyalusing, 11-6. Burt Morgan and Mike Stewart each captured third place honors.

## DALLAS GRAPPLERS EDGE MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Dallas wrestling team got pins from Mike Heffron, Harry Phillips and Mike Vavrek in posting a 36-33 win over Mountain View on December 30. The back-to-back pins by Heffron and Phillips enabled the Mounts to jump out to an 18-0 lead.

Glenn Ellsworth registered a pin for the Mountaineers while Rick Hodle, Chris Snyder and Aaron Gingo posted decisions.

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Providing More Than Telephone Service

For nearly a century, Commonwealth Telephone Company has played a major role in the communities we operate in. For example:

## \*Commonwealth Telephone Company

- presents the "Choices" program to area high school students to encourage them to stay in school
- donates telephones to the needy through the "Friendship Phones" efforts
- sponsors numerous community organizations and events, such as little leagues, charitable events, 9-1-1 education, telephone fraud education, etc.

\*Commonwealth Telephone Company is a top contributor to the United Way throughout Pennsylvania. Through not only the contributions of our employees but also as a result of a corporate gift, the company is committed to making our communities better.

## \*Commonwealth Telephone Company also contributes to:

- fire and ambulance units in our operating territory
- Chambers of Commerce
- Red Cross blood drives
- local colleges and universities
- scout troops
- cultural events
- child and family welfare organizations

\*C-TEC Corporation, the parent company of Commonwealth Telephone Company, was recently chosen as the Wilkes-Barre "Employer of the Year" by United Rehabilitation Services, for employing URS clients.

\*As an employer, we are contributing to the local economy by providing jobs and paying taxes. In fact, in 1991 the total payroll for Commonwealth Telephone Company amounted to over \$20 million -- dollars that support the economies of the communities where our employees live and work. Also, as a corporation, we are proud to say that, despite the economy, we are still actively recruiting and hiring employees to fill vacancies in our ever-expanding operations.

We are strongly committed to the communities we serve. Just as we are committed to providing our employees with a fair and reasonable package of wages and benefits.

There's been a lot of publicity about Commonwealth Telephone Company this past year. Contract negotiations between the company and unionized employees have been going on for more than 14 months. All this publicity may have you confused or concerned. The facts, however, speak for themselves.

Commonwealth Telephone Company's final offer to unionized employees would:

## \*Compensate Employees Fairly

The company proposed a wage increase that would bring the weighted average rate to \$14.84/hour, or \$30,867 annually. Furthermore, the current top rate for unionized employees is \$16/hour, or \$33,280 annually, not including benefits or overtime.

## \*Protect Employees Health Benefits

The company proposed to continue paying the far greater share of increasing medical and dental insurance premiums for employees and their dependents. The company has asked for contributions of 17%, 20% and 25% over the next three years. For the same three years, the company would contribute 83%, 80% and 75%. Not bad when you consider the current value of all company-paid benefits for the average employee is more than \$14,000 per year.

We hope this information reassures all parties concerned that Commonwealth Telephone Company is firmly committed to providing quality services and products for its customers, to creating value for its shareholders, to contributing to the communities in which we operate, and to securing the welfare of all our employees.

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