

The Dallas Post SportsWeek

Lehman, Dallas head into playoffs

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Correspondent

When the 1992-93 basketball season began last November, head coach Paul Brown and the Dallas Mountaineers were looking towards a Wyoming Valley Conference Division II title.

Now, they're looking for respect. Lake-Lehman head coach Rodger Bearde and the Black Knights were looking towards a title as well. They found it, capturing the WVC Division II title last Saturday night with a thrilling triple-overtime win over Meyers.

Now, they're looking to add to their trophy case.

The two Back Mountain schools will compete in a District 2 Class AAA doubleheader this Thursday night at Wilkes University beginning at 6:30.

In the opener, the Black Knights, 20-5 overall and the second-seed from the WVC, take on the Honesdale Hornets, 14-9 overall and the third-seed from the Lackawanna League.

In the nightcap at 8:30, the Mountaineers, 18-6 overall and the WVC's fourth seed, will battle Bishop Hoban, 21-3 overall and the number one Class AAA in District 1. The Argents are the defending District 2 Class AAA champions and advanced to the state Eastern final last season.

Brown, the third-year Dallas coach whose hairstyles this season have reflected Pat Riley to Jerry Tarkanian, is now beginning to feel a little like Rodney Dangerfield.

"These kids just haven't gotten any respect," said Brown. "People aren't giving our team any chance against Bishop Hoban. There's no question that Hoban is an excellent team. But our kids just haven't gotten any respect at all."

Bearde and his Black Knights have taken the John Houseman road to the WVC title - they earned it. Now, heading into district play, the Knights are riding an emotional high and a 10-game winning streak.

"We need to go into the playoffs with some confidence and some aggressiveness," said the veteran mentor, whose team did not lose a game in the month of February. "We don't want to be overconfident, but also know that we're good enough to be here."

Here's a closer look at Thursday night's matchups.

LAKE-LEHMAN vs. HONESDALE

The Hornets, under head coach Ron Rowe, enter the game with

■ Dave Clancy did his part for Knights

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the Lackawanna League's leading scorer in Cesar DeCastro. The 5-10 senior is averaging 19 points per contest. The senior-laden squad gets offensive help from upperclassmen guard Josh Klein (6-1), forward Mike Collins (6-3) and center Kevin Gunuskey (6-4) who all average nearly 10 points per game.

"We're pretty balanced on offense," said Rowe, who is in his 14th season as head coach of the Hornets. "Four of our five starters this season have scored 20 or more points in a game. Cesar (DeCastro) is our leader on offense. He can shoot the ball very well."

"Lake-Lehman has some very nice players," said Rowe, who scouted the Black Knights in the WVC Division II title game last Saturday night. "Their big three (Rich Davis, Dave Clancy and Jesse Martin) are all very good. They can shoot the ball and they are very well-coached."

Rowe added that the key to his team's success will be in controlling the boards and the tempo of the game.

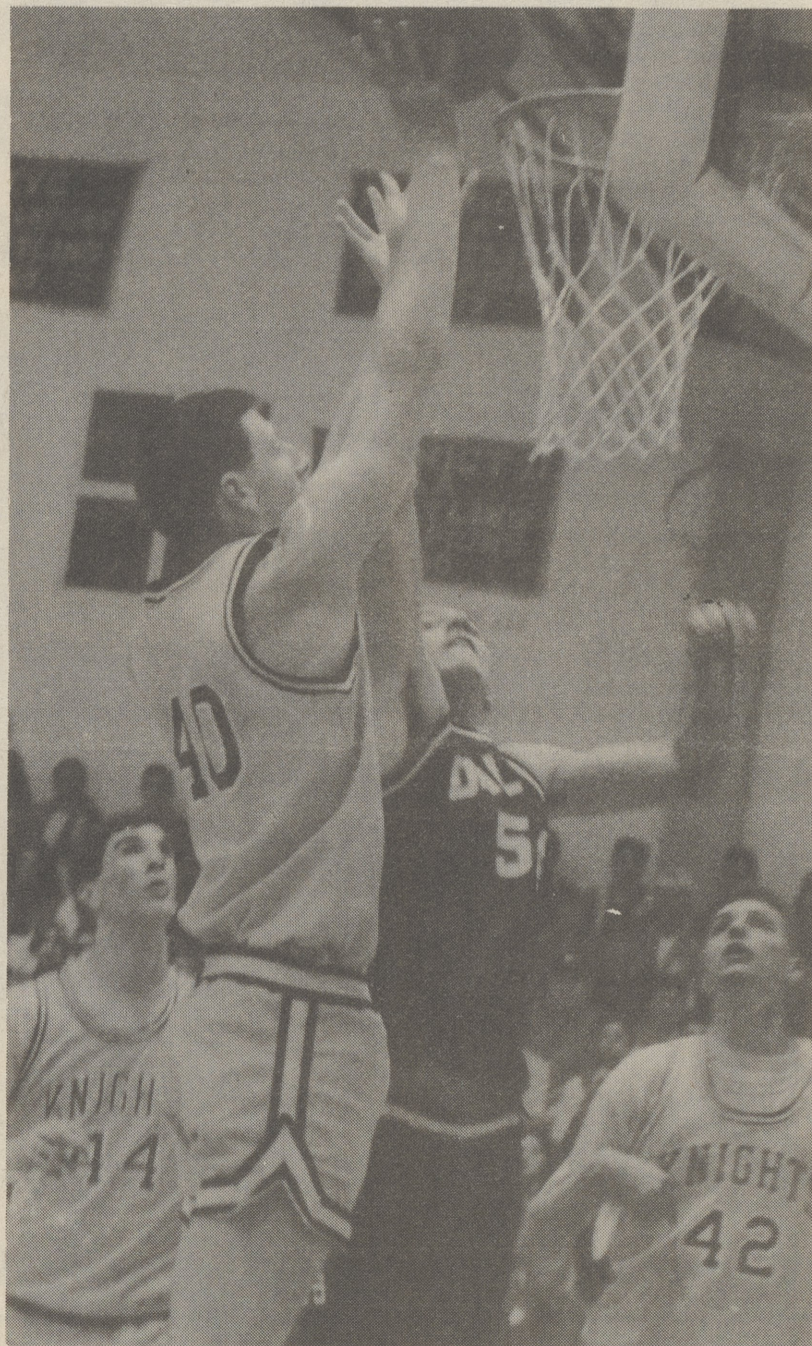
"We would like to try to run against them," added Rowe. "We can't allow them to get into a half-court game with us. We'll have to pressure their shots and we can't allow their big buys to get second shots."

Bearde said the key to a Black Knight victory may be more mental than physical. The Black Knights are playing in their first post-season game since 1989-90 when this year's seniors were freshmen.

"We've matured as the season has went on," said Bearde, who is assisted by Clarence Ozgo. "I think that if we were going to be nervous we would have been so against Meyers. Everyone at the school is very excited. We hope to have a good crowd at the game. Having a large crowd really helps the kids. They're looking forward to the game."

DALLAS vs. BISHOP HOBAN

The Mounts and Argents met each other early in the pre-season with Hoban coming out of the game with an 86-81 overtime win at Dallas. The Mounts led by as many as 15 points in the contest.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

OVER THE TOP - Lake-Lehman's Dave Clancy (40) dropped in a layup over Mike Wagner of Dallas in last week's showdown between the two Back Mountain powerhouses.

But the Argents, who have just one senior on their roster, have gotten stronger with each game this season and all three losses have come against Class AAAA powerhouse Hazleton Area. The Argents are led by Mike Barouk (6-2), the WVC's leading scorer. The junior center is averaging 25.6 points per contest and nearly 10 rebounds.

Junior guard Jay Williams (5-8) is averaging 15.1 ppg while teammates senior Eric Skvarla (6-1) and junior Mark Finarelli (6-1) are averaging just over 10 ppg a piece this season. The Argents are averaging 75.6 points per contest as a team.

"Dallas has a nice club," said Hoban head coach Chet Hine. "They have a balanced team and five guys who can score. They also play some good defense. They like to change their defenses during the game."

"It should be a very tough game," added the veteran coach. "We played hard all season to be the number one seed and we end up playing a good team in the first round. The AAA is very well balanced this season. You just have to play with the hand you're dealt."

Brown, who would like to see and expects a large crowd from the Back Mountain cheering both

schools, says the pressure is on the Argents, not his Mountaineers.

"There is no doubt that Bishop Hoban is the favorite," said Brown. "Not only in the district but also in this part of the state. Barouk is the best player in the area. No one can match up with him on the floor."

"But we'll be ready," Brown quickly added. "The problems that we've had this season can be corrected by putting the ball into the basket. This is a do or die situation. The winner goes on, the loser goes home for the rest of the season. We've had too much fun this season. I'm sure the kids don't want to see it end just yet."

Lake-Lehman/Honesdale matchups

LAKE-LEHMAN BLACK KNIGHTS

Conference: WYOMING VALLEY DIVISION II
Record: 14-2 (20-5 overall)
Head coach: ROGER BEARDE
Team offense: 59.1 ppg
Team defense: 46.0 ppg

NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	YEAR	PPG
Rich Davis	F	6-5	Sr.	18.6
Jesse Martin	F	6-4	Sr.	15.1
Dave Clancy	C	6-6	Sr.	10.8
Will Woronko	G	6-0	Jr.	8.0
Chris Ziomek	G	5-10	Sr.	2.8
Tim Waslik	G	5-11	So.	2.1
Dave Fosko	G	5-11	Jr.	4.0

HONESDALE HORNETS

Conference: LACKAWANNA LEAGUE
Record: 10-6 (14-9 overall)
Head coach: RON ROWE
Team offense: 64 ppg
Team defense: 60 ppg

NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	YEAR	PPG
Cesar DeCastro	G	5-10	Sr.	19.0
Josh Klein	G	6-1	Sr.	10.0
Mike Collins	F	6-3	Sr.	10.0
Dan Rickard	F	6-0	Jr.	4.0
Kevin Gunuskey	C	6-4	Sr.	10.0

Dallas/Bishop Hoban matchups

DALLAS MOUNTAINEERS

Conference: WYOMING VALLEY DIVISION II
Record: 12-4 (18-6 overall)
Head coach: PAUL BROWN
Team offense: 62.5 ppg
Team defense: 49.0 ppg

NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	YEAR	PPG
Dave Puz	F	6-7	Sr.	13.8
Todd Paczewski	F	6-0	Sr.	12.4
Charlie Siglin	C	6-4	Jr.	10.7
Dave Fisher	G	5-11	Sr.	8.7
Brian Brady	G	5-11	Jr.	8.0
Mike Wagner	G	5-11	Sr.	3.4
Ted Jackson	G	5-10	Fr.	3.8
Scott Kern	F	6-0	Jr.	4.6

BISHOP HOBAN ARGENTS

Conference: WYOMING VALLEY DIVISION I
Record: 13-3 (21-3 overall)
Head coach: CHET HINE
Team offense: 75.6 ppg
Team defense: 62.9 ppg

NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	YEAR	PPG
Mike Barouk	C	6-2	Jr.	25.6
Jay Williams	G	5-8	Jr.	15.1
Eric Skvarla	F	6-1	Sr.	10.4
Mark Finarelli	F	6-1	Jr.	10.1
Matt Conway	G	6-1	Jr.	6.1
Bill Nilon	G	6-0	Jr.	5.8
Jeff Isaacs	G	5-10	Jr.	2.5

Lady Knights to meet high-scoring 'Paupack

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Correspondent

Joe Martini is just waiting to see which Lake-Lehman girl's basketball team shows up Wednesday night at Crestwood High School in District 2 Class AAA opening round action.

Will it be the one that looked like a championship contender in the Wyoming Valley Conference for most of the season? Or the one that looked inconsistent at times and the one who lost to backyard rival Dallas (4-19 overall) in their final regular season contest?

The Black Knights, 13-9 overall, face Wallenpaupack, 16-7, in the opening game at 6:30 p.m. The Lady Buckhorns play in the Lackawanna League.

"We've been inconsistent this season," admitted Martini. "We've

had some good practices since the loss to Dallas. If we stay focused and take what comes, who knows? We hope that we can put everything together."

"We have to prepare for their 1-3-1 zone," said Martini. "They like to trap, especially in the corners. The Scranton school usually play good in girls' basketball. They're always competitive."

The Black Knights got a little break (no pun intended) when the Buckhorns lost their top scorer, Amy Cerato, to a leg injury. The sophomore was averaging nearly 12 points per contest.

Junior guard Lisa Hochreither and sophomore center Kelly Steuhl pick up the slack, averaging 11.5 and 11.2 ppg, respectively. The Buckhorns have been averaging 55 ppg while yielding 42.6 per contest.

Lake-Lehman/Wallenpaupack matchups

LAKE-LEHMAN BLACK KNIGHTS

Conference: WYOMING VALLEY DIVISION II
Record: 10-6 (13-9 overall)
Head coach: JOE MARTINI

NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	YEAR	PPG
Cherub Honeywell	C	5-8	Sr.	16.8
Heather Gray	G	5-6	Jr.	8.2
Johanna Miller	G/F	5-5	Sr.	7.8
Debbie Coslett	F	5-7	Jr.	7.3
Amy Rogers	F	5-8	So.	7.7
Dyan Dymond	G	5-5	Sr.	2.3

WALLENPAUPACK BUCKHORNS

Conference: LACKAWANNA LEAGUE
Record: 12-4 (16-7 overall)
Team offense: 55.0 ppg
Team defense: 42.6 ppg

NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	YEAR	PPG
Lisa Hochreither	G	5-7	Jr.	11.5
Shannon Kennedy	G	5-7	Jr.	9.1
Priscilla Kmetz	F	5-6	Jr.	5.3
Mary Harrington	F	5-8	Sr.	7.4
Kelly Steuhl	C	5-10	So.	11.2
Amy Cerato*	G	5-8	So.	11.9

*Out for season due to injury



Wrestlers place at Bloomsburg

The Back Mountain Wrestling Club recently attended the Bloomsburg Tournament. The following boys placed: First row: Andrew Shaw, 45 lb., bantam, first place. Second row: Louis Spurlin, 60 lb., midget, fourth place; Nick Raczkowski, 70 lb., junior, second place; Dennis Brown, 70 lb., midget, second place; Brett Brown, 75 lb., bantam, third place.

SportsShorts

Youth basketball playoff schedule

The Dallas Youth Basketball Organization has announced their schedule for the championship finals to be held this Sunday afternoon at the Dallas Middle School.

12:00 p.m. - 3rd, 4th and 5th grade girls; 1 p.m., 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls; 2 p.m., 3rd and 4th grade boys; 3 p.m., 5th and 6th grade boys; 4 p.m., 7th and 8th grade boys.

Semi-final action will be held on Saturday afternoon from 1-5 p.m.

Kristen Hardisky playing lacrosse

Kristen Hardisky, a 1992 graduate of Dallas High School, is playing on the Beaver College Women's Lacrosse team. A freshman, Hardisky will be getting considerable time playing offense for the Lady Knights. Hardisky, a resident of Dallas, is a biology major.

Teener League registration Mar. 6

Back Mountain Sports Club, sponsors of the original Teener League Baseball program in the Back Mountain will conduct its second and final player registration on Saturday, March 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dallas Junior High School cafeteria.

Back Mountain Teeners this year will play in the North Valley League which will be made up of five teams from The Dallas/Lehman area against teams from Plains, Miners Mills, Jenkins Twp., Bear Creek and Parsons.

Registration is open for players 13 through 16 years of age. Registration fee is \$25 per player or a maximum of \$35 per family.

For additional information call Don Berlew, 675-4360.

Back Mountain Sports Club has provided a Teener League Baseball program in the Back Mountain Area for over 40 years.

UGI Volunteers' celebrity sports auction March 8

UGI Utilities, Volunteers, Kingston, will sponsor a Celebrity/Sports Auction to benefit United Way and Operation Share on Saturday, March 6, 1993 at 2 p.m. in the Independent Fire Hall, 166 Sprague Avenue, Kingston, near Kingston Corners. Autographed items to be auctioned include a Michael Jordan basketball, Terry Bradshaw football, Penn State, Notre Dame, and Florida State

Footballs, Gordie Howe hockey stick, Don Mattingly, Phil Rizzutto, and at least 12 Hall of Famers autographed baseballs, and much more. Appearing in person will be Wally Chambers a four time All Pro and two time NFC Most Valuable Defensive Lineman with the Chicago Bears. Refreshments will be available. For more information contact UGI Utilities, Inc. at 283-0611 or 1-800-962-1212.