

## Dallas, Lehman start with wins

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Sports Writer

A quick look at the standings in the Wyoming Valley Conference Division II football league is all you need to realize that it wasn't a very good weekend for the boys from WVC.

And, fortunately for high school football fans in the Back Mountain, two of the three unbeaten teams are in their own backyard.

Dallas and Lake-Lehman join Bishop Hoban as the only unbeaten in Division II. The other schools, Nanticoke, Crestwood, Hanover, GAR and Meyers, each suffered losses in the opening weekend of local high school football action.

Although they both posted impressive victories, the Mountaineers and Black Knights took different roads en route to putting a "W" in the win column.

Lehman utilized a decisive size advantage, a stifling defense and the play of sophomore quarterback John Oliver to pin a 28-0 win over Wellsboro, a AA school from the Northern Tier League.

Dallas, meanwhile, built up an early 21-0 lead behind an impressive offensive performance and then held off a rally by a fiery Pittston Area team on the way to a 35-20 win over the Patriots, a AAAA school from the WVC's Division I.

Here is a recap of both games plus a preview of their upcoming games this weekend and a prediction of those contests:

### DALLAS 35 - PITSTON 20

For the first quarter the Mountaineers looked invincible, scoring touchdowns on their first three possessions, and led 21-0 just 20 seconds into the second period. Dallas scored the three TD's before the Patriots even got a first down.

Then their defense collapsed.

"Our defense left a lot to be desired," said Dallas head coach Ted Jackson, whose Mounts gave up two touchdowns in the span of one minute and eight seconds. "We gave up some big plays. We blew some (pass) coverages and they turned plays that should have gone for 10 yards into touchdowns. But give the Pittston players and their coaching staff the credit. They never gave up."

Offensively the Mountaineers looked strong. Very strong. Dallas's first team scored on five of their seven possessions, led by senior quarterback Brian Brady, junior tailback Buddy Rhodes and sophomore split end Jeff Kunkle.

Brady completed eight of 12 passes for 187 yards while Rhodes rushed the ball 17 times for 94 yards and three touchdowns. Kunkle caught just two passes but made them count as they combined for 92 receiving yards, including a 64-yard touchdown.

But although the skill people performed well, it was the play of the offensive line, led by Greg Nazdan, Marty Straigis, Dave Townsend, John Howe, Jeremiah Jancik and tight end Charlie Siglin that allowed them to succeed.

"They opened up some holes I could have run through," said Jackson. "They also gave Brian a lot of time to throw the ball. They're doing a great job. We're going to need that. We hope our offensive line is our strong point down the road."

### GAR AT DALLAS SEPT. 11

The Grenadiers, under head coach Charlie Fick, fumbled away a chance to open the season with a win. Literally. GAR fumbled the ball on the Riverside five-yard line with under a minute in play, allowing the Vikings to escape with a 19-18 win.

"Honestly, from what I've seen, GAR has the best offense in our division," said Jackson. "They

have two extremely quick tailbacks and two nice size tackles. They have great skill people. If we play defense like we did against Pittston, GAR could score 50 points against us."

**PREDICTION:** Since Ted Jackson arrived at Dallas in 1985, only a handful of teams have scored 20 points against the Mountaineers, including some outstanding playoff teams. Look for Jackson and his group of assistant coaches to challenge their defense at practice.

Offensively, the Mountaineers are explosive. Brady and his crew scored at will against the Pats and the only ones who stopped them were themselves. Defensively, the Mounts must contain GAR's outstanding skill people, led by tailback Manuel Degraffenreid and outstanding sophomore quarterback Alex Janoski, who rushed for more than 100 yards against Riverside.

### DALLAS 27 - GAR 12

### LAKE-LEHMAN 28 WELLSBORO 0

Making his first varsity start, John Oliver wasted little time making an impact. The sophomore quarterback completed six of 11 passes for 79 yards and rushed eight times for 63 yards.

When Oliver was not leading the Black Knight offense, the defense was all over the outmanned Green Hornets. Lehman held Wellsboro without a first down for the entire first half and yielded just 85 yards of total offense during the contest.

Wellsboro may have been without starting quarterback Chad Watters but tailback Chris Morral, a college Division I prospect, rushed for more than 1,100 yards last season and is being recruited by Syracuse University. The Black

Knights held Morral to just 27 yards on 15 carries.

"Obviously, it's important to win the first game of the season," said Lehman head coach Rich Gorgone. "Our defense took it as a challenge (to stop Morral). They were determined not to let them score."

"John has a very good arm," said Gorgone of his quarterback, who led the Knights to more than 300 yards of total offense. "But he was getting a lot of help from our offensive line (Jason Stockage, Brian Gizenski, Mike Spencer, Chris Swire, Larry Lucarino, Chuck Kindler and Ed Pitcavage). We tried to mix it up offensively as much as possible."

Oliver wasn't the only Black Knight to make an impressive showing in his first varsity start. Split end Tim Waslik caught five passes for 61 yards in his first game. Tom Smigielski ran for two touchdowns while Mike Ruger and Ernie Chamberlain each scored one apiece. Will Woronko was perfect on all four PAT's for the Knights.

### LAKE-LEHMAN AT NORTHWEST SEPT. 11

"Northwest has some very big players," said Gorgone of the Rangers, who lost their opening contest, 12-0, to Bishop Hoban on Friday night. "I was very impressed. I thought they outplayed Hoban. Their quarterback does a lot of nice things."

Even though the Rangers are coming off a shutout and the Black Knights are coming off an impressive win, Gorgone doesn't expect Northwest to roll over and die.

"I don't think we're ever fortunate enough for people to fear us," said Gorgone. "We're just about neighbors with Northwest. They get up for us. This game is not as



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK  
PEP UP - Amy Beardsworth led the Dallas Pep Band during Saturday's game against Pittston. The Mounts won and the band sounded great.

big as the Lehman-Dallas game, but for them it is. We just have to take one game at a time."

**PREDICTION:** Gorgone knows the Black Knights can't afford to look past anyone. But with crucial divisional games against Nanticoke and Crestwood looming on the horizon in weeks four and five, they have to realize that getting off to a 3-0 start this season could go a long way in build-

ing momentum and confidence heading into those games.

Riverside is next week. But first comes the Rangers. Oliver gets a chance to hone his skills while the defense looks to pitch another shutout. A late score by the Rangers against the Black Knights' second team may be the only thing standing in their way from accomplishing both.

### LEHMAN 35 - NORTHWEST 6

## Junior Football

### Junior Knights off to strong start

The Lake-Lehman Junior Knights had a hot and exciting first game of the season against the Larksville Green Waves on Sunday, August 29 at Larksville's field.

Although it didn't feel like football season with the hot and humid weather, the Junior Knights C team won over the Green Waves with the final score 12-0.

The Junior Knights B team took a 42-0 victory over the Green Waves.

The Junior Knights A team played a good game against the Green Waves, but the Green Waves took the victory with a final score of 14-28.

It was a shut-out on Sunday, September 5 with a victory for the Lake-Lehman Junior Knights over the Dallas Mini Mounts at the Lake-Lehman Junior High home field. The C, B, and A teams all played with great enthusiasm being cheered on by the C, B, and A squad cheerleaders, many fans, and spectators from both teams.

	Jr. Knights	Mini Mounts
C team	12	0
B team	36	0
A team	42	0

### KT Raiders sweep Forty Fort

In direct contrast to last week's performance, the Kingston Township Raiders swept the Forty Fort Flyers during Sunday's games.

The C team started off with a 8-0 victory. An impressive punt return by veteran player Jared Swire scored the only points of the game. A total team effort brought the youngsters to victory.

The B team's relentless defense

set up a 34-8 victory. Four interceptions by Mike Regan and a touchdown scored by Matt Jackson on an interception sealed the Flyers' fate. The defensive line of Garringer, Ruddy, Barrett and Zimmiski kept pressure on the Flyers' fate. Rookie outside linebacker John James made key tackles which stopped the outside running game. Due to illness on the offensive line, the make-shift replacements did an excellent job. They enabled Matt Jackson to get through the defense and cross the goal line four times.

The A team also capitalized on the home field advantage. They started the contest with a 80-yard kickoff return touchdown by Rick Lorah. The Raiders defense held the Flyers deep in their own territory and was highlighted by a Chris Tucker interception.

The first play from scrimmage resulted in a 44-yard pass completion from Joe Kukosky to Rick Lorah. The K.T. defense again stopped the flyer threat forcing a punt which was run back by Eric White. Another Chris Tucker interception led to a Tim Dickson 53-yard TD.

At the conclusion of this score, the Forty Fort Flyer A Coach opted to discontinue the game. K.T. coaches attribute the scores to the effort of the offensive line blocking and a solid defense. The score was 28-0 at the time of forfeit.

An entertaining musical program was presented by an ensemble of the A, B and C cheerleading squads between the A and B games.

Next Sunday the Raiders will travel to Swoyersville. There will be a meeting at 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 12 at Gate of Heaven School. All interested parents are encouraged to attend.

### Irem Women's Golf results

Joanne Freeman won "A" class, Micky Aicher won "B", Myrna Hudack "C" and Dale Davis won "D". Putting went to "B" Micky Aicher. Next week will be medal play.

### L-L Boosters will meet Thursday

The Lake-Lehman football Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 9 at Grotto Pizza, Harveys Lake. Coach Gorgone will show the film of the Wellsboro game. All interested parents and friends of football players and football cheerleaders are invited to attend. Parents are reminded that the deadline for the daily number tickets is September 10th. Please make returns of money or tickets to the football/cheerleader coach on or before that date, or bring your returns with you to the meeting

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