

The Dallas Post

Sports Week

- School news
- Calendar
- Classified

It all comes down to this

Dallas, Lehman will meet Saturday

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Writer

People in South Bend, Indiana are calling this Saturday afternoon's college football showdown between No. 1 Florida State and No. 2 Notre Dame the biggest football game to hit that town in the last 25 years.

But for players and fans of local high school football, there is an even bigger game taking place this Saturday afternoon and the result could make or break both Back Mountain teams' season. At 1 p.m. at the Edward Edwards Stadium in Lehman, the Dallas and Lake-Lehman football teams will play in the biggest game between the two schools in the storied history of the nearly half-century battle.

The two teams will square off for the 46th time in the annual battle for the "Old Shoe Trophy". But unlike the majority of the other 45 times, much more than pride is on the line this time around.

What makes this particular meeting so special? Here are three reasons:

1) For the first time in nearly 50 years, both Dallas and Lake-Lehman have the chance to make the playoffs in the same year.

2) Dallas (9-1) is ranked fourth in the state in the Harrisburg Patriot News Class AA poll and a win over the Black Knights and a District 2 or Eastern Conference championship could give the Mounts their first-ever state playoff berth.

3) Lake-Lehman (6-4) has won three straight games and a win over Dallas could do two things: First, they would virtually be assured of a post-season berth (and maybe as high as a third seed) and second, they would all but end the state playoffs hopes of their backyard rivals.

Okay, so maybe this isn't for the national championship. But there is no doubt this game is very important to both teams.

"I think it adds something to (the rivalry)," said Lehman head coach Rich Gorgone. "Even without the playoff situations, this is usually the biggest game of the year. This rivalry is a lot bigger than myself or Teddy (Dallas head coach Jackson). It was here before we got here and it will continue long after we leave."

Jackson agreed.

"This is a big game, both for the teams and for the community," said Jackson, whose Mounts are 7-0-1 versus Lehman in his eight years at Dallas, including a 21-0 win last season. "Lehman should go to the playoffs with a win against us and we don't want to go into the playoffs on a negative note. It's going to be a very tough game."

Here is a breakdown of the offensive and defensive matchups between the two teams followed by the weekly prediction. The prognostication record for the year stands at 15-5.

DALLAS PASSING GAME VS. LEHMAN AGAINST THE PASS: Dallas has the WVC's most prolific passer in senior quarterback Brian Brady, who leads the conference with more than 1,300 yards this season. He is nearing the 3,000 yard mark for his career and could get the necessary yardage against Lehman. It comes down to experience—Brady and



DALLAS COACHES - Kneeling, Ted Jackson, head coach. Standing, from left, Bill Silvi, Sam Jayne IV, Sam Jayne III, middle school coach Harry Gulich, Scott Francis, John McNeil. Absent from photo, Tony Chiarucci.

his corps of receivers, led by junior Mike Viglone (28 catches for 410 yards) versus Lehman's secondary, led by Ernie Chamberlain, Mike Ruger and John Oliver. Some of the success for Dallas's passing game will rely on how well the Mounts run the ball. If full-back Rich Butcofski and tailback Buddy Rhodes can combine for at least 125 yards rushing, look out!

EDGE: DALLAS

LEHMAN PASSING GAME VS. DALLAS AGAINST THE PASS: In the first game of the season Pittston Area's combination of Jerry Ranieli to Mike Alba torched the Dallas secondary for nearly 200 yards and it looked as though it could be a long year for the Dallas defensive backfield. But first-year starters Jared Cooney and Brian Ford have been pleasant surprises and no trio of defensive backs hit harder than Cooney, Ford and Brady.

In his first varsity season, Oliver has exceeded everyone's expectations at quarterback for the Knights. The sophomore has passed for more than 1,000 yards and is third in the WVC in passing. Lehman also has two outstanding athletes in receivers junior Tim Waslick and senior Ernie Chamberlain. In his first year on the gridiron since mini-football, Waslick has developed into one of the WVC's best receivers. He's currently second in the league with more than 600 receiving yards. Like Waslick, Chamberlain is a threat to score from anywhere on the field.

slight edge dallas

DALLAS RUNNING GAME VS. LEHMAN AGAINST THE RUN: IN A THREE GAME SPAN (CRESTWOOD, GAR AND HANOVER) the Black Knight run defense gave up more than 700 yards rushing. But Lehman's defense

has gotten better, led by massive defensive linemen Larry Lucarino (6-5, 260-pounds), Chuck Kindler (6-4, 240) and Dave Thomas (6-2, 230). There should be some serious hitting going on in the trenches with Dallas linemen Greg Nazdan (6-4, 245) Marty Straigis (6-4, 250) and center Ed Langdon (5-10, 240) taking on the big boys of Lehman.

It's true Dallas may not have the 1,000 yard rushers they have had in the past, but Rhodes, Butcofski, Cooney, Viglone, Ed Mattie, Rich Klick and Ted Jackson have formed a committee of rushers who have gotten the job done this season.

EDGE: DALLAS

LEHMAN RUSHING GAME VS. DALLAS AGAINST THE RUN: Of all the matchups, this is the most lopsided. A quick look at these two statistics is all you need to know: 1) The quintet of Cough-



LAKE-LEHMAN COACHES - Kneeling, Rich Gorgone, head coach. Standing, from left, Scott Kerkowski, Bob Langan, Bob Roberts. Absent from photo, Don Spencer, Scott Shaeffer.

lin's Baldo Vincarelli, Nanticoke's Mike Vnuak, Hanover's Kevin Proctor, Crestwood's Mike Graham and Bishop Hoban's Nick Quaglia have combined to rush for more than 5,300 yards this season. Against Dallas, the five combined for less than 250 yards rushing, and 67 of those came on one run (by Proctor). 2) Dallas's defense has yielded just 10 points to WVC Division II

opponents and has outscored those teams (GAR, Crestwood, Meyers, Hanover, Bishop Hoban and Nanticoke) by a combined score of 179-10.

With the transfer of junior full-back Rob Fugate to Coughlin and some injuries, Lehman's backfield has become a virtual revolving door this season. Sophomore Mike Pitcavage, who started the year on the bench, is now the starting tailback while brother Ed, a senior who began the year as an offensive guard, will be the fullback.

EDGE: HUGE EDGE DALLAS

INTANGIBLES: The similarities are astounding. Both teams are coming off 35-0 wins against less-than-spectacular opponents. Both teams are playing their best football of the season. And it appears as though both teams are headed for the playoffs.

It could be argued that Dallas could have more incentive with a possible state playoff berth on the line. But depending on what happens elsewhere this weekend, a win over Dallas could be the difference between a third and fourth seed in the playoffs for Lehman.

They say because of the increased social interaction between the students of both schools, the intensity of the rivalry has diminished over the years. But this is still a football game, not a debutante's coming out party.

PREDICTION: Before the season began, Lake-Lehman head coach Rich Gorgone felt Dallas was still one step ahead of the rest of the league. They haven't proven him wrong. But Gorgone also said that when the dust settles, one or two teams may be there to give them a battle. Those two teams look to be GAR and Lehman. GAR had their chance and lost, 26-0. Now it's Lehman's turn. Unfortunately for them, they probably won't fare much better.

DALLAS 26 - LEHMAN 6

Dallas Mountaineers

1993 overall record: 9-1 (6-0, WVC, Div. II)
Head Coach: Ted Jackson
Assistants: Bill Silvi, Ponch Gillick, John McNeil, Scott Francis, Tony Chiarucci, Sam Jayne III, Sam Jayne IV
Total Points Scored: 288 (179, WVC Div. II)
Total Points Against: 44 (10, WVC, Div. II)

Lake-Lehman Black Knights

1993 Overall Record: 6-4 (3-3, WVC Div. II)
Head Coach: Rich Gorgone
Assistants: Bob Roberts, Bob Langan, Scott Kerkowski, Don Spencer, Scott Shaeffer.
Total Points Scored: 210 (127, WVC Div. II)
Total Points Against: 142 (114, WVC Div. II)

When Dallas has the ball

DALLAS OFFENSE

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
15	Brian Brady	QB	6-1	165	Sr.
10	Buddy Rhodes	TB	6-2	185	Jr.
8	Rich Butcofski	FB	6-3	205	Jr.
23	Jared Cooney	WB	5-10	150	Sr.
27	Mike Viglone	SE	5-10	155	Jr.
80	Charlie Siglin	TE	6-5	215	Sr.
72	Greg Nazdan	T	6-4	250	Sr.
76	Marty Straigis	T	6-4	245	Jr.
62	John Howe	G	6-0	210	Sr.
60	Jeremiah Jancik	G	5-10	180	Jr.
or					
78	Dave Townsend	G	6-5	200	Jr.
74	Ed Langdon	C	6-1	250	Jr.

LEHMAN DEFENSE

89	Dave Thomas	DT	6-1	235	Jr.
76	Larry Lucarino	DT	6-5	285	Sr.
30	Ed Pitcavage	NG	5-11	200	Sr.
80	Bob Sayre	DE	6-0	195	Sr.
55	Brian Gizenski	DE	5-11	185	Sr.
17	Jamie Patton	LB	5-11	180	Jr.
5	Aaron Yaple	LB	5-8	165	Sr.
25	Tom Smigelski	LB	6-0	165	Sr.
27	Mike Ruger	DB	6-0	165	Sr.
24	Ernie Chamberlain	DB	6-1	165	Sr.
1	John Oliver	DB	6-1	165	So.

When Lehman has the ball

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
1	John Oliver	QB	6-1	165	So.
32	Mike Pitcavage	TB	5-9	155	So.
30	Ed Pitcavage	FB	5-11	200	Sr.
24	Ernie Chamberlain	WB	6-1	165	Sr.
or					
7	Dave Raspen	WB	6-3	180	Jr.
80	Bob Sayre	TE	6-0	195	Sr.
81	Tim Waslick	SE	6-1	160	Jr.
70	Chuck Kindler	T	6-4	260	Jr.
76	Larry Lucarino	T	6-5	285	Sr.
55	Brian Gizenski	G	5-11	185	Sr.
56	Mike Spencer	G	5-11	170	So.
or					
62	Chris Swire	G	5-11	205	So.
61	Jason Stockage	C	5-11	185	Jr.

DALLAS DEFENSE

72	Greg Nazdan	DL	6-4	250	Sr.
76	Marty Straigis	DL	6-4	245	Jr.
70	Steve Button	DL	6-3	185	Jr.
30	Ed Mattie	NG	5-11	190	Sr.
8	Rich Butcofski	LB	6-3	205	Jr.
62	John Howe	LB	6-0	210	Sr.
35	Matt Williams	LB	6-0	180	Jr.
43	Pat O'Neil	LB	6-0	185	Jr.
or					
10	Buddy Rhodes	LB	6-2	185	Jr.
23	Jared Cooney	DB	5-10	150	Sr.
22	Brian Ford	DB	5-10	155	Sr.
15	Brian Brady	DB	6-1	165	Sr.

Pizza-eating contest will add spice to Old Shoe tradition

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Unless you have lived in the Back Mountain for a long time, you may not understand the unusual combination of football and an old shoe.

Pizza will be added this year to spice up the combo. As part of "Old Shoe Game

Week," 10 Dallas and Lake-Lehman pigskinners will pig out in a friendly pizza-eating contest November 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Villa Roma at Harveys Lake.

Each athlete will have to devour a large 18-inch pie in the timed event. The team whose members are finished eating first wins.

For every pizza sold that night, Villa Roma will donate \$1 to be split between both schools.

"Wow, that's a lot of pizza," said the Lake-Lehman athletes while trying on their special pizza event jerseys during lunch period Monday. "That's OK. We can eat faster than Dallas."

The Lake-Lehman athletes, Will

Woronko, Mike Adamshick, Kevin Rusinko, Ernie Chamberlain and David Fosko, may have met their match, depending on who defends Dallas's honor.

Several Dallas football players said Saturday that David Townsend, Rich Burcofski, Ed Mattie, Marty Straigis and Greg Nazdan would probably represent

their school

Straigis set the 1992 record for eating Buffalo-style chicken wings - 75 - at the Gridiron Club's annual Wing Night last year. His record fell this year to Greg "Naz" Nazdan, who devoured 90 wings, four cuts of pizza and a six-pack of Coke.

The Old Shoe Game is all part

of a 45 year-old football rivalry between area schools, dating back to 1948, when Dallas Rotary president Francis "Red" Ambrose first suggested promoting the friendly rivalries by presenting a special trophy to the best Back Mountain team.

See PIZZA, pg 10