

The Dallas Post Sports Week

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From the pressbox

By Dave Konopki

Holiday wishes and gifts

Here's hoping you and yours have a blessed Merry Christmas and happy holiday. I hope Santa Claus brings you everything your little heart desires, but just in case the jolly old man ran out of things on his magic sleigh, here are my gifts (some serious and some on the lighter side) to a handful of local sports figures:

PAUL BROWN: An extended pre-season to the basketball season - until, like, March. **RICH GORGONE:** A couple of 250 pound linemen to complement some very talented returning skill people next season. **TED JACKSON:** Associated Press Small School coach of the year and a chance to coach Pennsylvania in the Big 33 game. **GREG MANUSKY:** A Pro Bowl appearance. **NIKKI SENNETT:** A state title and a chance to play one day on the LPGA. **BACK MOUNTAIN BASEBALL:** Another District 16 championship. **JOHN KONOPKI JR.:** After establishing himself as the most successful freshman baseball coach in the history of WVC, a chance to run his own program at the varsity level.

JEAN LIPSKI: A much-deserved District 2 championship. **ROGER BEARDE:** To suddenly find out Rich Davis, Jesse Martin and Dave Clancy have one more year of high school eligibility. **BILL KVASHAY:** Statewide recognition for continually producing some of the best cross-country and track athletes in Pennsylvania. **BOB CICON:** A six-week paid vacation.

LYNN TURNER: Another chance to play field hockey. **GREG NADZAN:** A Division I college football scholarship and the initials M.D. following his name. **JACK WOLENSKY:** A conference championship and some suntan lotion for his trip down south. **BRIAN FORD, ADAM HOOVER and MARTY STRAIGIS:** A "How to win at 8-Ball" video tape. Watch it. Then call me. **ED PITCAVAGE:** Recognition as one of the toughest football players in the WVC this past season.

RON BARTIZEK and THE DALLAS POST: Much-deserved recognition for the commitment made to the community of the Back Mountain, especially our young people, including our outstanding athletes.

And finally, **MY WIFE, DONNA:** A special medal. Any woman who can be a full-time mother by raising three young children, work a full-time job, survive six operations on her husband over a three-year period, struggle through a son's heart operation this past year and help nurse him back to health and still put up with me, deserves a medal.

...

Aside to the "Santa Claus" who sent a card to me at the Dallas Post. You'll never know what that card meant to myself and my family. Please call me. The newspaper will give you my home phone number. We need to talk. God Bless You!

Boys' basketball preview

Knights rebuild after record season

By DAVE KONOPKI Sports Writer

Roger Bearde has been in the high school basketball business too long to know that you don't compare the basketball teams you've coached over the years.

But it doesn't take a coach with more than 30 years experience to realize this year's Lake-Lehman High School basketball team is vastly different from last year's squad which captured the Wyoming Valley Conference Division II title.

Gone are Dave Clancy, Rich Davis and Jesse Martin, a trio of players who led the Knights into the Lehman record books and are now playing on the collegiate level.

Last year's team, which advanced to the PIAA Class AAA semi-final, had three starters at least 6-feet 4-inches tall. This year's starting lineup has no one over 6-3. Last year's team had at least three players who entered the season as returning starters. This year, just two players have legitimate varsity experience.

"You don't replace people like Rich, Dave, Jesse and Chris (Lehman guard Ziomek)," said Bearde, who enters his 15th season as head coach of the Black

Knights. "We had a unique team last year. A team like that only comes around once every couple of years."

"I don't like to compare the teams I've coached. They're all different," added Bearde, who will be assisted by veteran coach Clarence Ozgo. "I like to think of it as the young players are now getting their chance to play at this level. In high school basketball, you usually go through a period of two or three years with good teams and then totally rebuild. I think we're at that stage this season."

Senior guard Dave Fosko and junior guard Tim Waslick are the lone layers returning with any quality varsity experience. Neither player started the regular season last year but both made an impact during the Knights' playoff run.

Joining Fosko and Waslick in the starting lineup rotation are first-year junior Dave Raspen (6-2 forward), sophomore John Oliver, a three-sport standout, junior center Tim Brislin (6-3), junior forward, Chris Pagoda (6-1), junior guard Ray Bartosh (5-9), senior guard Nick Straub (5-7), junior guard Lou Kopko (5-9), sophomore forward Shaun Zeveney (6-0), sophomore forward Angelo DeCesaris (6-0) and fresh-

man center Mike Conte (6-4) are all vying for playing time.

Unlike last season, many of the Knights played another sport during the fall season. That, coupled with their inexperience on the varsity level, had Bearde believing the pre-season would be difficult.

"We're struggling right now and I knew we would during the pre-season," said Bearde. "We play a very tough exhibition schedule and seven of the eight games we play are on the road. But we hope that by the time league play comes around we'll play consistently and improve with each game. I have a lot of confidence the kids will improve. But to be honest, the kids are ahead of where I thought they would be at this point in the season."

Like every season he has begun, the veteran coach will set goals for his team, beginning with defending his Wyoming Valley Conference Division II title.

"We like to set our first goals at the highest level, and that includes defending our title," explained Bearde. "We always start there and then set other goals, like making the playoffs and having a winning season. When the season is over, then you look back and evaluate how the team played. We want the kids to get better,

and the team to get better, as the season goes on."

Many coaches with Bearde's experience might have called it quits after last year's memorable season, but Bearde never thought about hanging up his whistle.

"I'm sure many coaches would have said 'That's it.' I know it," said Bearde, who also coached at Wilkes College and Warwick High School. "I enjoy seeing the development of the players, from elementary school to junior high to the varsity level. I enjoy the practices and the summer program."

"Right now, I think of last year as just another season," concluded Bearde. "I don't look back, at least not now. Maybe someday I will."

LEHMAN VARSITY BASKETBALL

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
Dave Fosko	G	5-10	Sr.
Nick Staub	G	5-7	Sr.
Tim Waslick	G	5-10	Jr.
Dave Raspen	F	6-2	Jr.
Lou Kopko	G	5-9	Jr.
Ray Bartosh	G	5-9	Jr.
Chris Pagoda	F	6-1	Jr.
Tim Brislin	C	6-3	Jr.
John Oliver	G	6-1	So.
Shaun Zeveney	F	6-0	So.
Angelo DeCesaris	F	6-0	So.
Mike Conte	C	6-4	Fr.

Multi-sport stars are key for Dallas

By DAVE KONOPKI Sports Writer

It's not that Paul Brown isn't a football fan. In fact, he loves the sport. And it's not that Brown doesn't want Dallas High School to enjoy the fruits of their first state football championship.

But with more than half of the players on his roster on the football field instead of the basketball court in December, the Dallas High School basketball head coach is hoping the thoughts of his players soon turn to basketball.

The success of the Mountaineers on the gridiron effectively ruined the basketball pre-season and the team is nearly one month behind schedule. But with a solid coaching staff and a good group of returning players, once the Mounts begin to concentrate on basketball, they could be dangerous.

"It was an exciting time for the kids, the community and, especially for (head football coach) Ted Jackson," said Brown, of the football team's season. "I was so happy for Ted, he's an outstanding coach. It could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them."

Now, Brown is hoping they can put the football season behind

them - at least for now.

"There will be a time, probably sooner than later, when those players will start thinking about winning basketball games," said Brown, who enters his fourth year as head coach of the Mountaineers. "I can understand the type of emotions they're feeling and its going to last for a while. But many of these kids, who were outstanding football players, love playing basketball."

Brown has a solid nucleus returning from last year's team which lost to Bishop Hoban in the semi-finals of the District 2 tournament, led by senior guard Brian Brady (6-1) and 6-5 senior center Charlie Siglin. Ironically, Brady and Siglin were integral members of the football team as quarterback/defensive back and tight end/punter, respectively.

"We have some outstanding athletes on this team," added Brown, who will be assisted by Joe Ellis for the fourth straight season. "We have kids who can do so many different things. Who we have on the floor at the time will dictate what kind of offense or defense we're going to run."

Senior forward Scott Kern (6-0), junior guard Jason Pieczynski (6-0) and sophomore guard Ted

Jackson (6-1) each saw playing time on the varsity team last season and are expected to see plenty of action this season.

In fact, the Mountaineers have plenty of depth, including an outstanding group of sophomores.

"We have 10 to 12 guys who we're not afraid to put into the game," said Brown. "We've been having great practices. There's a lot of very good competition going on in practices. We have a group of excellent sophomores who give us great looks. They're very aggressive and it's great to have a group of players like that."

Those sophomores include Jackson, Rich Klick (6-0), Jeff Kunkle (6-0), J.P. Cosgrove (6-2) and Joe Noon (6-0). Senior Chris Miller (6-3) and juniors Ed Thomas (5-10) and Dave Townsend (6-5) have been seeing steady playing time during the pre-season. Cosgrove and Miller have been pleasant surprises for Brown this season.

As the season progresses, Brown knows he can do more with the team.

"With so many games during the pre-season, it takes away from our practice time," said Brown. "There were so many things we picked up over the summer but

have not been able to do in practice. That limits what we can do on offense and defense. But we're coming along slowly and I'm hoping by mid-January, we'll be playing with all of our options."

Although their legs may not be quite as fresh as he would like them and their timing may not quite be where he would like it, Brown has never questioned the character of his players.

"We have a great group of kids," Brown said. "It shows every day in practice. These kids are competitors, they'll give it everything they have. I can honestly say that when a team beats us this season, it won't be because they outthusted us."

DALLAS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
Brian Brady	G	6-1	Sr.
Charlie Siglin	C	6-5	Sr.
Scott Kern	F	6-0	Sr.
Chris Miller	C/F	6-3	Sr.
Ed Thomas	G	5-10	Jr.
Dave Townsend	C/F	6-5	Jr.
Jason Pieczynski	G	6-1	Jr.
Ted Jackson	G	6-1	So.
Rich Klick	G	6-0	So.
Jeff Kunkle	G	6-0	So.
J.P. Cosgrove	F	6-2	So.
Joe Noon	G	6-0	So.

Greyhounds hand Dugan's first loss

The Greyhounds led by Rick Coslett's 31 points defeated previously unbeaten Dugan's Pub 65-57 in the Dallas Adult Basketball League. Coslett had help from Rick Pincofski with 13 points and Jeff Phillips who added 12. John Maier had 20 for Dugan's before fouling out. With the win the Greyhounds move into a first place tie with Dugan's with both teams at 6-1.

Philadelphia Subs stayed one game behind the leaders with a 90-75 win over the Lion Inc. Frank Kepp led the winners with 25 while Rick Gebhart and Ken Carter had 21 and 19 respectively. Mike Luksic had 24 and Bill Cuff and Charlie Lamoreaux 22 each for The Lion.

Bassler Equipment got back on the winning track by whipping

Allen Construction 81-56. Pat Flaherty fired in 25 points for the victors and Mark Millington added 19. Jim McCue had 13 for Allen.

After a one week hiatus for the holidays, play resumes on Jan. 2 with three games at Dallas High School beginning at 12:30.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Dugan's	6-1
The Greyhounds	6-1
Philadelphia Subs	5-2
Bassler Equip.	3-4
Allen Construction	1-6
Lion Inc.	0-7

Jan. 2 Schedule
12:30 - Bassler Equip. vs. Dugan's Pub
1:30 - Philadelphia Subs vs. The Greyhounds
2:30 - Allen Const. vs. Lion Inc.

The Greyhounds - 65

Player	FG	F	Total
Coslett****	10	5	31
Obeid*	1	2	5
Pincofski	5	3	13
Phillips	4	3	12
Meuser	3	0	6
Parsons	0	0	0
Total	23	13	65

Dugan's Pub - 57

Player	FG	F	Total
Hosey	1	0	2
Jastei*	2	4	9
Carey	0	0	0
Hage	3	0	6
Debona*	5	1	12
Straigis	4	0	8
Maier*****	7	0	20
Total	22	5	57

Philadelphia Subs - 90

Player	FG	F	Total
Carter*	8	2	19
Swank*	1	1	5
Gebhart	10	1	21
Feddock	2	4	8
Lanza	4	0	12
Kepp	10	1	25
Total	35	9	90

Lion Inc. - 79

Player	FG	F	Total
Luksic**	10	1	24
Cuff*	9	1	22
C. Lamoreaux**	9	2	22
Dente	6	0	12
M. Lamoreaux	0	0	0
Total	44	4	79

Bassler Equip. - 81

Player	FG	F	Total
Millington**	6	5	19
Woychick	7	0	14
Flaherty**	10	3	25
Wilson**	6	0	14
Race*	4	0	9
Total	33	8	81

Allen Const. - 56

Player	FG	F	Total
Reidinger*	3	0	7
Sinkulak	2	4	8
McCue*	5	0	13
Golembeski	3	0	6
Hraboski	6	0	12
Allen	1	0	2
Gent	4	0	8
Total	24	4	56

* Denotes 3 point goal
* Denotes 4 point goal

Dallas Junior Football raffle winners

Dallas Junior Football Association announced the winners of the drawing at their Mini Football Banquet held November 12. 1st prize was awarded to Joe Polkowski, W. Luzerne, Larksville; 2nd prize was awarded to Lois Perry, RR 3, Kingston Twp., Wyoming; 3rd prize was awarded to Bruce Pitts, Lackawanna Ave., Dallas.

Marsha Garcia played for Drew

Sophomore Marsha Garcia, of Dallas played in 18 games at Drew University this season earning two starts, scoring one goal and adding two assists. Garcia is a graduate of Dallas High School.

Fearless bowl game forecasts

By DAVE KONOPKI

After posting an incredible 21-5 record (a whopping 81 percent) predicting the outcome of high school football games this season, my phone has been ringing off the hook with people begging me to accompany them to Las Vegas.

Although my schedule, and budget, won't allow for such indulgences, here are my predictions for the upcoming major college football bowl games on New Year's Day.

HALL OF FAME

MICHIGAN (-13 1/2) vs. NC STATE: After looking horrendous during the first half of the season, Michigan has played a Top 10 team in its last three games, including a 28-0 win over 10th-ranked Ohio State. The ACC has been overrated all season long and the Wolfpack will show why. **MICHIGAN by 17.**

CAR-QUEST AUTO PARTS BOWL

BOSTON COLLEGE (-5) vs. VIRGINIA: Just what kind of incriminating pictures does the ACC have of the members of the Bowl Coalition? Virginia and NC State, neither ranked in the top 25, will play on New Year's Day while Top 20 teams Ohio State (10), Oklahoma (16), Colorado (17), Alabama (18) and Kansas

State will not. BC's Glenn Foley is one of the top three best quarterbacks in the nation and Virginia will soon find out why. Virginia may keep it close for a while. The name of the bowl is the only thing that's a bigger joke than this matchup. **BOSTON COLLEGE by 8.**

FIESTA BOWL

MIAMI (-6) vs. ARIZONA: If you would have told me before the season started I'd get Arizona and six against the Hurricanes, I would have taken it in a minute. But the Wildcats have been more inconsistent than a Mark Strehl forecast this season. Still, Miami may be the most overrated team in the nation. It's a tough call but take the home state 'Cats in a low-scoring affair. **ARIZONA by 2.**

ROSE BOWL

UCLA (-7) vs. WISCONSIN: Seven presidents have come and gone since the last time Wisconsin played in the Rose Bowl (1963), so it would be nice to see Barry Alvarez and the Badgers take home the roses. But for as bad as Nebraska has been in the post-season, UCLA has been successful. Seven points is still a lot to lay a team like Wisconsin, but J.J. Stokes & Company have enough firepower to cover the spread. Another Big 10 team goes to Pasadena and gets caught up in all the hype. **UCLA by 8.**

SUGAR BOWL

FLORIDA (-6 1/2) vs. WEST VIRGINIA: West Virginia is undefeated and untied. But they're still not playing for the national championship. After being railroaded by the Bowl Coalition, one has to wonder how much of an effect it will have on the Mountaineers. Still, head coach Steve Spurrier and the Gators possess a sophisticated passing game which should give WVU fits. If they win this game, WVU should at least share the national title, but... **FLORIDA by 5.**

ORANGE BOWL

FLORIDA STATE (-17) vs. NEBRASKA: Okay, so the Seminoles may be the best college football team in the nation. But they lost in mid-November and there's no way they should be playing for the national championship. Okay, they'll beat up on Nebraska, which has lost their last seven bowl games by an average of more than 20 points. But at least six other teams can probably do the same. FSU will win the game but Nebraska may be a better team than most people realize. A decent defense and a solid ground attack on offense should keep the score within two touchdowns. But watch out. If Bobby Bowden gets the chance late in the game, he'll run up the score to influence voters. **FLORIDA STATE by 13.**

COTTON BOWL

NOTRE DAME (-7) vs. TEXAS A&M: YAWN!! Notre Dame goes 11-1, beats the number one team in the country and what do they get - a chance to play in the same bowl against the same team they beat by four touchdowns a year earlier. Some say a win by the Irish, a loss by West Virginia and a Florida State win will give Notre Dame a share of the national title. Are you kidding me? The voters want Bobby Bowden to win the national championship and they loathe Lou Holtz. No incentive means lack of emotion and lack of emotion spells trouble for the Irish. They could very well lose this game. Texas A&M will be sky-high for this one, looking for respect. **NOTRE DAME by 3.**

FLORIDA CITRUS BOWL

TENNESSEE (-9 1/2) vs. PENN STATE: Two years ago, these two teams met in this bowl and it was all Penn State. If you don't think the boys from "Rocky Top" will remember, think again. Tennessee is playing as well as any team in the nation right now and Penn State, although they're winning, has given up more than 50 points in the last two games (Northwestern and Michigan State). But Joe Paterno is one of the best in the business when it comes to big games. I've always said, give JoePa three weeks to prepare, and he can beat just about anyone. He may not win this one, but he should keep it relatively close. **TENNESSEE by 7.**