

The Dallas Post

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Rusty teams gear up for action

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Writer

Now that we've survived a knockdown punch from Mother Nature, it's time to get back to the business of playing high school sports.

The record snowfall during the past two weeks played havoc with Wyoming Valley Conference athletic teams, including the two Back Mountain high schools, Dallas and Lake-Lehman.

But the athletic directors from each school, along with league officials, have gotten together to reschedule the postponed sporting events (see make-up schedule on this page). According to Dallas athletic director Bob Cicon and Lake-Lehman A.D. Rodger Bearde, the rescheduling of events should not interfere with the scheduled playoffs at the end of February and beginning of March.

That means for the next two weeks, many local high school sports teams will be spending as much time playing games as they will be practicing.

That's good news for high school sports junkies, who have been suffering from cabin fever during the past two weeks. But, if Mother Nature cooperates, they should be able to enjoy plenty of basketball and wrestling action during the next three weeks.

Here's a brief look at each of the two schools' three winter athletic teams and where they stand at the restart of the season. All information is correct as of January 24 and the teams are listed in alphabetical order:

DALLAS BOYS' BASKETBALL: The bad weather could not have come at a more inopportune time for the Mountaineers. Before the snow began to fall, head coach Paul Brown's troops had been impressive in winning three consecutive WVC divisional games to jump out to a 3-0 league mark. But when the team returned to the court this past Monday night, they ran into a buzzsaw in the form of division-leading Meyers, which swamped the host Mountaineers by 42 points. Senior center Charlie Siglin and junior Jason Pieczynski are among the top 10 leading scorers in the division. Siglin is averaging nearly 15 points per contest while Pieczynski averages 11 ppg. Pieczynski is third in the division in free throw percentage at 83.3% and senior guard Brian Brady is among the top 10 in the division in three-point shooting. Heading into the Meyers contest, the Mounts were averaging 65 ppg while allowing a league-leading 47 ppg.

DALLAS GIRLS' BASKETBALL: The Lady Mountaineers, under first-year head coach Kim Barbacci, look as though they are headed in the right direction with a conference mark of 3-2. The Lady Mounts, who have struggled the past few years, are led by sophomore center Robyn Suda, who is second in the division in scoring, averaging nearly 18 ppg. As of last Monday, senior Kelly Janosky was 12th in the division



Before the storms

Before the snow began falling, the Dallas Mountaineers beat Hanover at home. Above, Jason Pieczynski (23), battles for control as Ed Thomas (00), and Charlie Siglin (54) look on.

POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

in scoring, averaging just over 10 ppg.

DALLAS WRESTLING: With some outstanding wrestling talent, this could be the most successful mat season at Dallas in the past five years. The Mounts, under head coach Steve Kaschenbach, have a .500 (1-1) record so far this year. Mike Metz (2-0, 103-lbs.), Chris Snyder (2-0, 125), John Crispell (2-0, 130), Mike Vavrek (2-0, 140), Cody Freidel (1-0, 145), Aaron Gingo (4-0, 3 pins, 152), and Chris Kuderka (1-

0, 152) are each undefeated so far. The Mountaineers' big match with backyard rival Lake-Lehman has been moved to February 26 at Dallas.

LEHMAN BOYS' BASKETBALL: The Knights have gotten off to a slow start this season, finishing the pre-season with a record of 0-6. But don't underestimate head coach Rodger Bearde and his troops. The Knights are 1-2 in the divisional play, averaging 55 ppg while allowing an average of 54 ppg. Senior Dave Fosko

is currently seventh in the division in scoring, averaging just more than 11 ppg. Fosko is also fourth in the division in three-pointers with six, an average of two per contest. Junior Tim Waslick leads the division in free-throws, shooting 88.9% while sophomore John Oliver is fifth, shooting 71.4%.

LEHMAN GIRLS' BASKETBALL: Dick Morgan's return to varsity coaching has gotten off to a pretty good start at Lehman, where the Lady Knights are 2-3 in divisional play. Many thought this would be a rebuilding year for the Knights, who advanced to the state playoffs last season. Senior Debbie Coslett is among the top 15 in the conference in scoring, averaging nearly nine points per game. The returning senior leads the division in free-throw percentage as she's a perfect 10-10 from the line. Kelly Spencer is tied for the 11th spot in FT's, shooting 60%.

LEHMAN WRESTLING: Coaches Tom Williams and Phil Lipski are smiling - and with good reason. The Knights are 1-0 in the conference and are once again a serious contender for the WVC West championship. John Morgan (1-0, 119-lbs.), Mike Stuart (1-0, 130), Burt Morgan (1-0, 140), Ryan Gold (1-0, 145), Ed Pitcavage (1-0, 189) and Vito Pilosi (1-0, HWT) each won their first league dual meet and will look to keep their records perfect.

Sports schedule changes

Due to school closings last week, the following are revised schedules for winter sports. All times are as on the original schedules, except as noted.

DALLAS

Boys' Basketball
GAR Jan. 28 Away
Bishop Hafey Feb. 1 Away
West Side Tech Feb. 19 Away

Girls' Basketball
Meyers Jan. 26 Away
7 p.m. no JV
GAR Jan. 28 Home
West Side Tech Feb. 19 Home

Wrestling
Hazleton Feb. 8 Away
Lehman Feb. 26 Home

LAKE-LEHMAN

Boys' Basketball
Meyers Jan. 29 Away
Northwest Feb. 1 Away
Hanover Feb. 2 Home
Meyers Feb. 17 Home
Wyo. Seminary Feb. 18 Home

Girls' Basketball
Meyers Jan. 29 Home
Hanover Feb. 2 Away
Wyo. Seminary Feb. 19 Away

Wrestling
Hazleton Jan. 28 Away
Tunkhannock Feb. 3 Home
Crestwood Feb. 5 Home
1 p.m.
Dallas Feb. 26 Away

BMT Baseball registration

Back Mountain Baseball, Inc. will hold registration for the 1994 season this Saturday, Jan. 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Saturday, Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dallas Middle School Cafeteria. All returning players were mailed application forms and are asked to bring a completed copy with them. Registration fee is \$20 per child and/or \$35 per family.

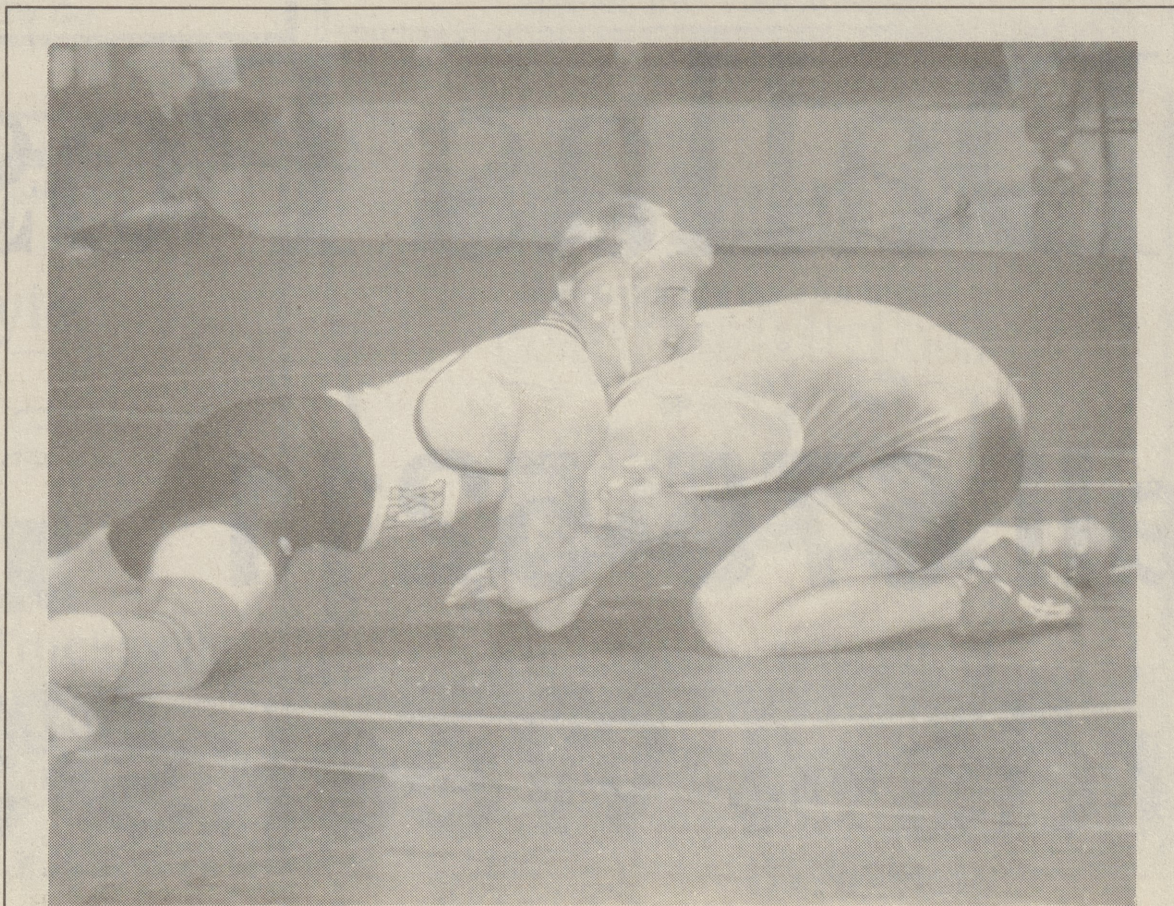
Registration is for the following groups: boys and girls tee ball; boys' Little League, ages 8-12; boys' Junior and Senior Leagues, ages 13-15. Girls' Little League softball, ages 8-12; girls' Senior League, ages 13-15; and girls' Senior League, ages 16-18.

All first time registrants must bring a copy of their birth certificate and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Horlacher Little League registration

The Bob Horlacher Memorial Little League will hold registration for children living in Orange, Beaumont, Noxen, Centermoreland, Kunkle or Falls, who want to play Little League baseball or softball.

Registrations will be held at the Old Beaumont Elementary School January 26 from 6 until 8 p.m. and January 30 from 1 until 4 p.m. Registration fee is \$20 per child.



Knight power

Lake-Lehman's Bryan Gizenski attempted to gain control over Pittston Area's Don Lewis in the January 13 match.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

From the pressbox

By DAVE KONOPKI

Wishes for weight, how you can help

One year ago this month, my wife, Donna, and I sat in the waiting room of the Intensive Care Unit at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia while a surgical procedure was performed on our son's heart.

But believe it or not, it was during that time we began to count our blessings. Of course, any heart operation on a four-year-old child is serious, but after seeing and talking to parents of children with life-threatening injuries and illnesses, we knew our situation could have been a lot worse.

It was at that time I began to think about what it must be like to be the parent of a child with a life-threatening or terminal illness. And even though I've thought about it hundreds of times since, I still can't imagine being in that situation. I don't think any parent with healthy children could.

I've always known about the Make-A-Wish Foundation. For those who don't know what I'm talking about, Make-A-Wish is an organization which grants wishes to terminally ill children or children suffering from a life-threatening condition which creates the probability they will not survive beyond their 18th birthday.

The local chapter of Make-A-Wish, which serves an 11-county area, has granted more than 90 wishes since 1989, including three Back Mountain children in the past year. The late Laura Federspiel of Dallas had her wish to go to Disney World come true as did Mark Yanchik and Jeremy Whispell, both of Dallas. Most children under the age of 12 wish to go to Disney World but the wish is only limited by the child's imagination. Currently, there are 16 children on the organization's pending list.

As you can imagine, granting these wishes can come with quite a hefty price tag. When a wish such as a trip to Disney World is granted, the entire immediate family goes with the child. The average cost to send a family of four to Disney World in Florida is between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

In March of 1990, I had the misfortune of being involved in a traffic accident. Forty-six months and five operations later, the accident has left me with less than 25 percent use of my left arm and, because of inactivity and certain medications, nearly 50 pounds heavier than I was before the accident occurred.

Soon, I will be going to John Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Md., where I will undergo another surgery. This time, doctors are confident they can help restore some of the use of my left arm. But it won't be a complete recovery until some of the weight comes off.

I need to lose weight. The Make-A-Wish Foundation needs money. That's where you can help.

Starting January 26, I will be going on a diet. In order to raise money for this great organization, I'm asking individuals, businesses, community organizations, church groups and school groups to pledge money for each pound I lose.

Here's how it works:

Just fill out the coupon on the bottom of this column with your name, address, telephone number and signature, along with how much money (per pound) you would like to pledge. Example: You pledge \$1.00 per pound and I lose 20 pounds. You would then make a donation to Make-A-Wish for \$20. It's that easy. Pledge whatever amount you like: 25¢, 50¢, \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00 etc.

You also may pledge a flat figure donation, regardless of how much weight I lose.

The diet will run from January 26 and continue until April 8. The amounts will be tallied and the final donation total will be announced at halftime of Make-A-Wish's charity basketball game with the Philadelphia Eagles on April 10.

With the eyes of Northeastern Pennsylvania focused on that basketball game, what a great way to show the kind of people, businesses and schools we have here in the Back Mountain.

For verification purposes, I will be weighed at the Dallas Family Practice medical office on Machell Avenue every Monday and the weight will be verified by their doctors and staff. Each week, my starting weight and current weight will be published in the Dallas Post, along with a list of all individuals, businesses and organizations who've pledged money.

C'MON BACK MOUNTAIN!!! This is your chance to have some fun and help someone on the long road to recovery. But most of all, here's your opportunity to help make a terminally ill child's wish come true.

Weight for Wishes

PLEDGE FORM

Your pledge will help Make-A-Wish bring pleasure to youngsters in the Wyoming Valley area. To help:

1. Fill out the form below, indicating the amount of your pledge, whether a flat amount or an amount per pound.
2. Send the form to The Dallas Post at the address shown. We will forward all pledges to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.
3. Watch for the final number of pounds Dave loses. Then send your check directly to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We will publish their address with the final weight tally in the April 13 issue. Make-A-Wish will contact everyone who has pledged at the conclusion of the fund drive.

Here's my pledge to the Make-A-Wish Foundation

\$_____ per pound lost

Flat amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Signature _____

Checks should be made payable to Make-A-Wish Foundation. All contributions are tax deductible.

Send or bring to: The Dallas Post
45 Main Road
P.O. Box 366
Dallas, PA 18612

I do not want my name listed as a contributor.