

Mounts

(continued from page 9)

RBI single capped off a three-run inning to give the Mounts the win. Earlier in the week, Dallas earned a playoff berth by overcoming a 7-2 deficit against Tunkhannock.

"It's nice that we can win games like that," said Wolensky, who is in his 14th season as Dallas head coach. "But to be honest, those games are exciting as a fan but not as a coach. There's a lot of heart on this team. No matter what the score is, the kids never give up. It's a sign of a good team to be able to win the close ones."

Now, Wolensky and the Mountaineers find themselves on the brink of making school history.

Dallas has had a number of outstanding teams in its history and the roster of former players is a virtual "Who's Who in Wyoming Valley Conference Baseball". But despite a handful of conference and divisional titles, the Mounts have never won a District 2 championship.

Wolensky and his troops know all that can change on Friday night.

"We have a chance to do something no other Dallas baseball team has ever accomplished," said the veteran head coach, himself a former standout at the school. "I think the kids are aware of what is at stake. It's really incredible. We're not only one win away from a district title, but also one win away from making the state playoffs."

Despite never playing for a high school baseball title, many of the Mountaineers have valuable experience in big-game situations. A number of players, including starters Brian Brady, Jeff Kunkle, Mike Viglione, Rich Butcofski, Rich Klick and Jared Cooney, were key players on the Dallas football team which captured the PIAA Class AA state championship last fall.

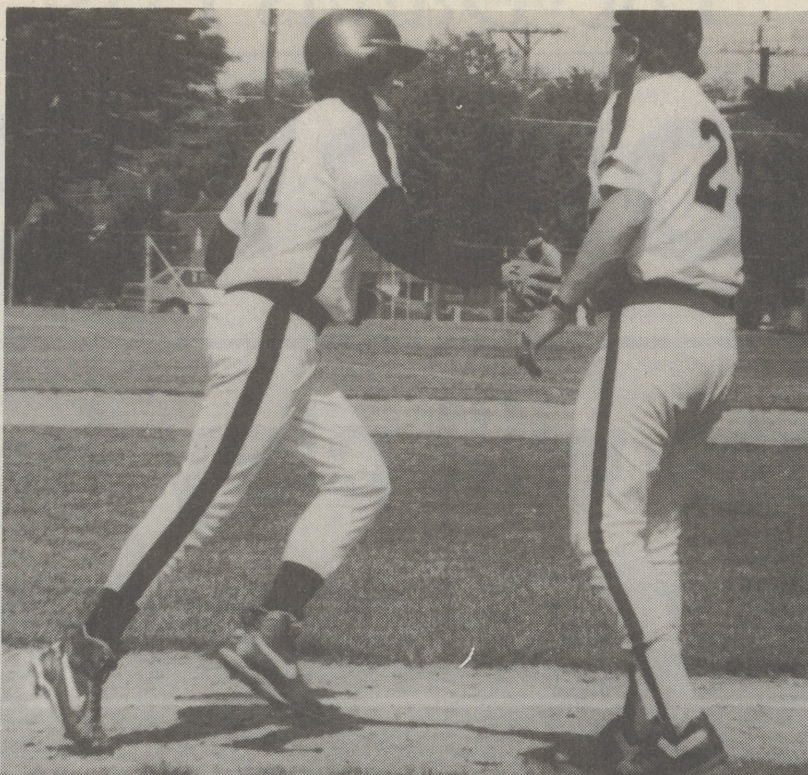
"These kids don't quit and maybe the fact that they've been in pressure-type situations before has something to do with it," explained Wolensky. "Our guys have the belief that they can play with anyone and they don't back down. Some people might think we're cocky, but there's a fine line between cockiness and confidence and I don't think our kids cross it. We just have a lot of confidence and it extends from practices to pre-game warm-ups to the game itself. These kids just believe in themselves."

Against Prep, Wolensky once again called on the services of Kunkle and the sophomore pitcher responded in a big way, striking out nine and walking just three in going the distance.

"What else can I say about him that I haven't already said," Wolensky stated. "He's mature beyond his years. Jeff threw real well and he pitched out of some real tight spots. Once again, just like in our last game against Tunkhannock, I think he got stronger as the game went on. He's just a sophomore, but he'll get the ball again if he wants it."

Friday night isn't just a big night for Dallas fans, but for all baseball fans in the entire Back Mountain. Dallas rival and Back Mountain neighbor Lake-Lehman will play at 5 p.m. on Friday at the stadium for the Class AA title (see separate story).

"I think it's a tribute to the entire Back Mountain baseball program, from Little League to junior high, right to the high schools," said Wolensky. "It's going to be a great Friday night in the Back Mountain. I hope a lot of fans show up for the games. I hope the whole Back Mountain community will be there. It's going to be very exciting."



CONGRATS - Tim Waslick got a shake from Black Knight head coach Dwight Barbacci after hitting a home run to right field in Lehman's win over Mid Valley Saturday.

Knights

(continued from page 9)

have. But for the Hanover game, it was an emotional game right from the start. It was fun that day. I hope it's like that again."

On the mound, Lehman has been led mostly by the combination of senior Ernie Chamberlain and freshman Geoff Engle. In fact, the two combined for the win over Mid Valley in the semi-final.

"Our guys have pitched well all season," said Barbacci. "Ernie is an emotional guy and gives you everything he has every time he's out there. Geoff (Engle) may have been the missing ingredient for our team this year. He's only a freshman, but he's pitched very well in some big games for us. Jamie Patton has done a very good job behind the plate this year. He's a very good defensive catcher and he calls a very good game."

Offensively, the Black Knights possess the most potent bats in the WVC regardless of classification. According to Barbacci, Chamberlain and sophomore John Oliver lead the team in hitting with a whopping average of .580, leading the league in hits. Senior Harry Owens hit .421 during the regular season and Will Woronko, a three-year starter for the Black Knights, hit nearly .400.

Lehman lost to Old Forge in the district playoffs in 1992, with several of the current Black Knight

players in the starting lineup, including Woronko and Chamberlain. Barbacci is counting on that experience to help his team on Friday.

"When we lost to Old Forge in the first round in 1992 these guys started as sophomores," said Barbacci, whose Knights won their last District 2 championship in 1988. "We're going to need that experience. Our pitchers have to throw strikes and we have to play good defense. I have a lot of respect for Hanover. I know they're going to come ready to play. But I think our guys will be ready to play, too."

Not only will Friday be an exciting day for the Knights, who get the opportunity to play in the baseball showcase stadium in Northeast Pennsylvania, Barbacci knows it will be a great day for the entire Back Mountain community. Backyard rival Dallas will play for the Class AAA title at the stadium immediately following the Lehman-Hanover Area game.

"I think it's neat," said Barbacci, who has built one of the most consistent baseball programs in the WVC. "The kids from Lake-Lehman and Dallas know each other very well. Most of them played Little League together. I know I'll be rooting for Dallas. Our kids are really excited about playing on Friday."

Major League Girls' Softball

| League Standings | League Record | Overall Record |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Red Sox | 6-0 | 9-0 |
| Dodgers | 4-2 | 8-2 |
| Cardinals | 2-2 | 4-2 |
| Phillies | 3-3 | 4-3 |
| A's | 0-3 | 1-5 |
| White Sox | 0-5 | 1-8 |

the runner off second base. Kourtney Koslosky had the lone hit for the Dodgers.

WHITE SOX 14 - HORLACHER A'S 10

Katie Guntli tripled, doubled and singled to lift the White Sox over the A's 14 - 10. Abby Ahmad had two hits for the White Sox and pitcher Amanda Koleassar got the win. The A's threatened in the 5th but the White Sox' Rachel Sherin ended the rally with an outstanding catch in centerfield. Top hitter for the A's was Angie Harris.

CARDINALS 22 - PHILLIES 8

Melissa DeCesaris smashed two home runs and singled to lead the Cardinals to a 22-8 win over the Phillies. Katie Natitus captured the win for the Cardinals pitching a complete game. Michelle Pryor had three hits and Amy Fallon had two hits for the Cardinals. Jennifer Yurkon went four for four for the Phillies.

RED SOX 9 - DODGERS 3

Sarah Stolarick allowed only one hit and struck out seven to retain the Red Sox undefeated status in the Girls Major League Division. Amanda Stolarick banged out two doubles, Jennifer Noon had three hits and Maria Wright and Sarah Armand each had two hits to give the Red Sox a 6-2 lead in the 5th. The Dodgers threatened in the 5th inning scoring one run and then loading the bases with one out. Red Sox shortstop Maria Wright ended the rally by snagging a line drive hit by Melonie Sappe and doubling



Golf tourney fights arthritis

The Ken Wallace Dealerships will sponsor the 9th Annual Golf Tournament, to benefit the Arthritis Foundation June 20, at the Wyoming Valley Country Club.

This year's prizes will include a '94 Chevy Cavalier, '94 Saturn SL1, or a '94 Dodge Shadow for any hole-in-one on the designated holes. A \$95 donation includes green fees, golf cart, on-course refreshments, and a buffet meal following the tournament. A shotgun start will begin at 12:30 p.m. Showing off the prize cars are Clem Shypulewski, Valley Chevrolet; Dianne Triacario, Wyoming Valley Board of Directors; Deborah Hannon, Chairperson and Finance Director-Ken Wallace Dealerships.

Absent from photo: Dave Stull, Co-Chairperson and COO Ken Wallace Dealership

Harveys Lake Little League

HARVEYS LAKE METS 4 - BK. MT. GIANTS 1

The Harveys Lake Mets continued their strong pitching as they downed the Bk. Mt. Giants 4-1 behind the 18 strikeout performance of D.J. Kapson. He allowed three hits and walked two batters. Tom Byron led the Giants with two doubles while Joe Whipple added a single. Whipple went the distance for the Giants giving up six hits while striking out seven. Kapson had a triple and single for the Mets while Greg Woronko delivered a triple.

HARVEYS LAKE METS 13 - HORLACHER ROCKIES 0

Greg Woronko pitched a no-hitter for the Harveys Lake Mets as they raised their season record to 10-0. He struck out 14 Rockies' batters and allowed three walks, the only batters to reach base. The Mets played an error-free game and provided good defensive back-up for their pitcher. D.J. Kapson belted his 12th homer of the season while Gary Sagan added two singles to the Mets hitting attack.

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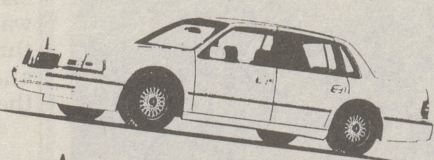
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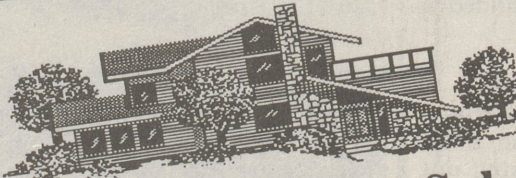
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