

Lehman hopes for season of no 'ifs'

Head Coach: Rich Gorgone (26th season overall)
1993 record: 6-6 (District 2 Class AA semi-finals)

Key players: Seniors, Jamie Patton (LB), Chuck Kinder (OT/DI), Tom Smigelski (TB/DB), Brad Bittenbender (WB/LB), Dave Thomas (DT), Jason Stockage (C), Tim Waslick (SE), Juniors, John Oliver (QB/DB), Mike Pitravage (TB/LB), Chris Swire (GDE), Mike Spencer (GDE), Mike Adamshnick (LB)

Maybe this will be the season. Maybe this will be the season. Lake-Lehman head football coach Rich Gorgone will be able to complete a successful season without wondering "what might have been." Oh sure, the Black Knights have been more than competitive in recent years in the Wyoming Valley Conference Division II. But recently, it seems as though something has stood in the way of preventing the Black Knights from making the leap from contenders to champions.

Consider this: Three years ago it was injuries, lots and lots of injuries which forced the Black Knights to play an inexperienced player at nearly every position. Still, despite their record, they held their own against many teams. Two years ago, the Black Knights played nearly every team in the division tough, but a slow start forced Lake-Lehman to settle for a .500 season.

Last year, a couple of critical first-half breakdowns and a few costly turnovers may have prevented Lake-Lehman from finishing with a regular season record of 8-3. Instead, they finished the regular season with a respectable 6-5 mark, and made the District 2 playoffs for the first time ever.

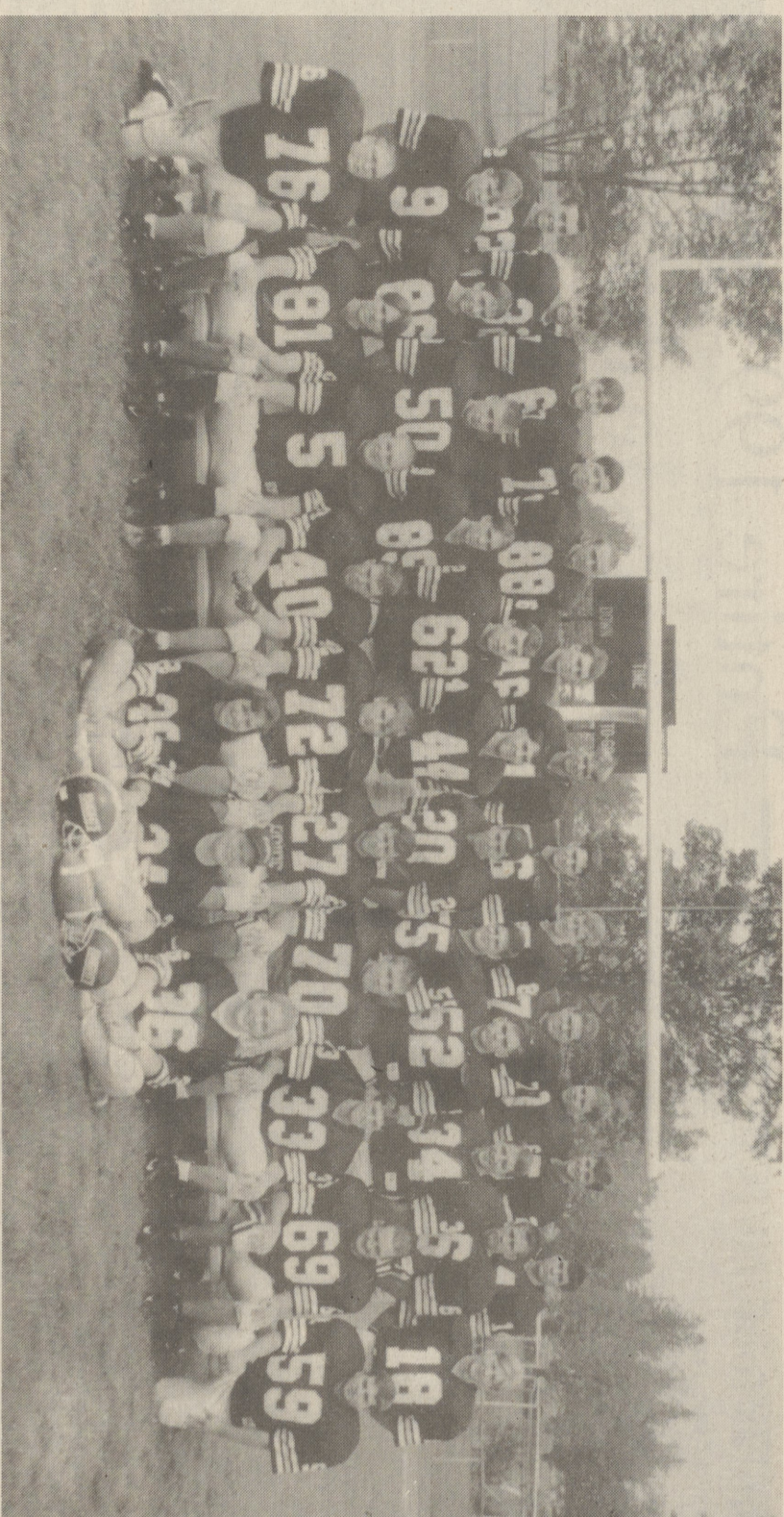
Steven's Town & Country Cleaners
Country Club Shopping Ctr. • 675-0468

Your Money's worth

Plus friendly service and complete satisfaction
We can help you stretch your clothing dollars!
We can keep your clothes looking new and wearing longer with our gentle drycleaning and careful finishing.
We'll even reweave loose hems, mend open seams and replace missing buttons.
You always get a smile and your dollar's worth at...

Steven's Town & Country Cleaners

Check Out Our New Store Hours Mon. - Fri. 7 A.M. - 7 P.M. • Sat. 8 A.M. - 6 P.M.
The Professional Edge, The Personal Touch
A member of the International Fabricare Institute, the association of professional drycleaners and laundries.



1994 LAKE-LEHMAN BLACK KNIGHTS - Kneeling, from left, Edin Walker, Tim Waslick, Jamie Patton, Brad Bittenbender, Dave Thomas, Tom Smigelski, Chuck Kinder, Bob Roberts, Jason Stockage, Gabe Sidonio, Second row, Dave Rogers, Roy Holcomb, Kevin Whipple, Len Crawford, Joe Kosier, Mike

LAKE-LEHMAN FOOTBALL

Gorgone knows the word 'if' has become a frequent part of his vocabulary when talking about his Black Knights in recent seasons.

"We've had a couple of breaks that haven't gone our way, but I think we've been a very competitive football team," said Gorgone, who is assisted by Bob Roberts, Bob Langin, Scott Kerkowski, Don Spencer and Scott Shaler. "This year, I think we could be in the hunt for a championship, if we stay healthy. We have a lot of tools and some very good athletes returning."

The Black Knights return a number of outstanding athletes from last year's history-making team including one of the most dangerous passing duos in the region.

Junior quarterback John Oliver (6-1, 172) and senior wide receiver Tim Waslick (6-0, 172) return to the gridiron for an elite core performance following a sensational season last year. In 1993, the combination of Oliver and Waslick gained more than 600

yards through the air, second in the conference.

"They had an outstanding season last year," said Gorgone of the dynamic duo. "They're both great athletes. John's a great athlete who can do a lot for us. But I don't think we can just sit back and feature our pass offense. We have the ability to run the ball and we're trying to get as many people involved in the offense as possible. But in the end, we're going to do what the other teams give us."

Although they have a number of quality people back from last year, the Black Knights have gotten off to a shaky start in terms of head luck early in 1994. Lehman has already suffered a couple of injuries to key players, although none of the injuries appear to be of the season-ending variety.

Returning starters Chuck Kinder, Tom Smigelski, Chris

Conte, Angelo DeCesari, Chris Swire, Dan Thomas, Jason Adamski, Joe Morris, Mike Woronko. Third row, Chris Bath, Mike Pitravage, Erik Crisman, Chris Lucarino, Tony Tereska, Mike Adamshnick, John Oliver, Mike Spencer, Chris Gaines, Brian Wesley, Ryan Hartz, Maric Ronczka, Tom Foslock.

"Everyone in our division is good. We have some nice talent, but so does everyone else."

Rich Gorgone
Lake-Lehman football coach

Swire and Mike Spencer have already gotten either hurt or suffered from illness during the pre-season.

Kinder, a 6-3, 265-pound senior, will start at offensive/defensive tackle. Smigelski, a 6-1, 172-pound senior returns to his defensive back position and will have time in the Black Knight backfield on offense. Swire (5-11, 225) and Spencer (5-10, 185), both juniors, will play on the offensive and defensive lines.

"We have to stay healthy," said Gorgone, who enters his 26th season overall, and 10th consecutive year, with the Black Knights.

"Injuries and depth are going to be factors this season. We haven't gotten off to a good start as far as injuries are concerned, but if we can stay healthy, we should be a very good football team."

Also returning on offense is tailback Mike Pitravage. The 5-10, 165-pound junior, who will also start at linebacker, began his sophomore season on the bench but earned a spot in the starting backfield and raised a few eyebrows in the final five games of the season.

Good Luck Back Mt. Teams!
Caddie LaBar's
Distributing Company
Auto Parts • Sporting Goods • Marine Service
Memorial Highway, Dallas PA 18612
(717) 675-1181

Improved image brings big turnout

Head coach: Richelle Straka (2nd year)
1993 record: 5-10

Returning letterwinners: Seniors, Alisha Merroll (setter) and Alyssa Rosentel (hitter)

Promising players: Seniors, Laura Chocalla (hitter), Joyce Scott (defenses), Juniors, Sarah Mission (blocker), Susan Benedetti (defense), sophomores, Emily Schweitzer (defense)

Richelle Straka isn't a building contractor and she's never built a house. But she is a volleyball coach and despite her lack of experience in the construction field, she knows a strong structure can't be built in a day.

Neither can a competitive volleyball team.

But it appears as though the second-year head coach of the Dallas Mountaineer girls' volleyball team has the program headed in the right direction. Last year, Straka laid down the foundation. This year, she's hoping to build on it.

"I think the word is getting around that our program is moving forward," said Straka, who coaches a whopping 33 girls on her roster, including 12 players who are new to the program. "Our team is much better on skills this year. We probably had better girls last year, but this year the skills are much stronger. Our goal is to improve on last year's record and, at all times, put our best foot forward."

The Lady Mounts finished the 1993 season with a 5-10 record, returning just two letterwinners to the court in seniors Alisha Merroll and Alyssa Rosentel. Merroll is a strong setter while Rosentel is a hitter. But Dallas has a number of promising players, including a strong sophomore class.

"They're going to be outstanding," said Straka, who coaches the team with her husband, Kevin. "I think that when they're seniors you are going to see a Dallas team seriously competing for the

"Our goal is to improve on last year's record and, at all times, put our best foot forward."
Richelle Straka
Dallas volleyball coach



DALLAS SPIKERS - Front row, Angie Austin, Shannon Caboot, Allison Ash, Amy Wisniewski, Sara Clemeni, Joy Scott, Sarah Podenh, Stacia Site, Second row, Lori Buzzzen, Christy Callahan, Alisha Merroll, Emily Schweitzer, Joey Walke, Sue Buckley, Bridget Baines, Jill Jumper. Third row, Stacey Engler, Heather Deebie, Chris Kovaleski, Laura Kaschenbach, Alyssa Rosentel, Michelle Chocallo, Sarah Mission, Laura Chocallo, Jen Miers, Richelle Straka, coach.

DALLAS VOLLEYBALL

(league) championship. It takes time to build to that level but this is a real good group. They listen well and follow instructions."

In addition to the two returning letterwinners, players who are expected to have an impact on the 1994 squad include seniors Laura

DALLAS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL			
Thur. Sept. 8	Hazleton	Home	
Tues. Sept. 13	GAR	Away	
Thur. Sept. 15	Abington	Home	
Mon. Sept. 19	WVV	Away	
Wed. Sept. 21	Pittston	Home	
Tues. Sept. 27	Wyoming Area	Away	
Thur. Sept. 29	Turkhanook	Home	
Tues. Oct. 4	North Pocono	Away	
Thur. Oct. 6	Nanticoke	Away	
Mon. Oct. 10	Crestwood	Home	
Wed. Oct. 12	WSAVT	Home	
Wed. Oct. 17	Lake-Lehman	Away	
Wed. Oct. 19	Hanover	Away	
Tues. Oct. 25	Meyers	Home	
Thur. Oct. 27	Coughlin	Home	
Tues. Nov. 1	League Playoff	Home	
Thur. Nov. 3	District Playoff	Home	
Match time: 4:30			
Head Coach:	Richell Straka		

Good Luck Back Mountain Athletes
Carmen's Flowers & Greenhouses

Our Family has provided floral excellence for 3 generations and we are pleased to announce the opening of our second location on **114 Memorial Highway, Shavertown** (Formerly the Mum Farm)

For Flowers and more, Call us at **675-1918** or **654-4361** (1233 Wyoming Ave., Exeter)

Our Family looks forward to serving Your Family in the Back Mountain.

All Major Credit Cards Accepted.

Dallas Auto Parts 675-2143
668 Memorial Hwy., Dallas

SALE

NAPA EVERCRAFT™
6-PC. DELUXE SCREWDRIVER SET

Chrome vanadium alloy steel with power-grip handles. Vapor-blasted magnetic tips for long life. #775-0501

\$999

FULL LIFETIME GUARANTEE!

Bully Cap & R.V. Center
BULLY STORAGE SYSTEMS

"THE FINEST IN TRUCK CAPS AND VAN EQUIPMENT"

1447 Scott Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18705
PHONE (717) 822-2448