

DALLAS SOCCER

New coach inherits strong team

"They've been in big games before and they just want to go all out and make a run at the championship."

Head Coach: Paul Callahan (first year)
1993 record: 12-5 (District 2 Class AA runner-up)
Key players: Seniors Sean Callahan (midfield), Joe Ankenbrand (striker), Ed Thomas (midfield), Ken Mansola (midfield), Adam Molesty (defense), Brian Achuff (defense), Mike Vozniak (defense), Tim Raub (goalkeeper), Juniors J.P. Cosgrove (defense), Quinn Cavannah (striker), Matt Swock (midfield), Ed Friar (midfield), Fred Maier (goalkeeper)

Not much has changed for the Dallas Mountaineers since last season. They enter the 1994 season with a wealth of talent, a ton of experience, and it seems as though all the names are the same—well, all but one.

There's a new sheriff in town—and his name is Paul Callahan. Okay, so he's not a sheriff, but as the new head coach of the Mountaineer soccer team, he's definitely the man in charge.

Perhaps Callahan can understand how former Dallas Cowboy football coach Jimmy Johnson felt when he replaced legendary

graduation, the Mountaineers return most of the key performers from last year's 12-5 team which came within a goal of becoming the District 2 Class AA champion, an overtime shootout in the D-2 title game last fall.

Leading the way is senior midfielder Sean Callahan (son of the head coach), one of the premier players in the WVC who should receive all-state consideration this season. Callahan, one of the most prolific scorers in the conference last season, will team with fellow senior Joe Ankenbrand to form what is arguably the top scoring duo in the conference.

"Barring any major injuries, we should be very competitive," said the Dallas head coach. "We should be in the thick of things at the end of the season. The kids have worked very hard and our seniors have led the way. They've been in big games before and they just want to go all out and make a run at the championship."

Callahan also had praise for his predecessor.

"John has been very helpful and receptive," said Callahan, of McCafferty. "I want to try to follow and build what John has started."

He's a class act.

In addition to Callahan and Ankenbrand, the addition of returning starters Ed Thomas and Ken Mansola should give the Mountaineers one of the top midfielders in the area. Also returning from last season are seniors Adam Molesty (defense), Brian Achuff (defense), Mike Vozniak (defense) and Tim Raub (goalkeeper). Also juniors J.P. Cosgrove (defense), Quinn Cavannah (striker), Matt Swock (midfield), Ed Friar (midfield) and Fred Maier (goalkeeper) return from last year.

If the Mountaineers are to contend for a WVC and D-2 title, they will have to replace goalkeeper Pat Scoble and all-scholastic defender Ed Schall in addition to Ken Chappal and Ryan Finn. Callahan will be counting on Maier to fill Scoble's shoes.

"We're hoping to have to play good defense," said Callahan. "We've moved some players around so we're going to be inexperienced in spots. It may take some time for the players to get used to their positions. But their attitude has been fantastic and we're looking forward to the season."

LAKE-LEHMAN SOCCER

Knights will be offensive

Head Coach: Mark Stoney (second year)
1993 record: 12-8 overall (District 2 Class AA semi-finalist)

Returning players: Seniors, Shannon Kelly (goalkeeper), Mike Yablonski (defense), Jeremy Flegler (midfield), Tim Brislin (defense), Juniors Mike Tribendis (goalkeeper), Dave Dulebohn (midfield), Charles Snyder (forward), Phil Snyder (forward), Ryan Bombick (midfield), Mike Coletti (midfield), Jeremy Baranowski (defense).

Promising players: Juniors, James Smith (defense), freshman, Mark Steele (defense)

Lehman soccer

Mark Stoney is a soccer coach. No, make that a good soccer coach. But he's not a miracle worker. Hopefully, fans of Lake-Lehman High School soccer understand the difference. Stoney took over the Black Knight program in 1993 P.K. (post-Kelly, as in former Lake-Lehman All-American Brian Kelly), when expectations were running higher than Jim Hendrix at Woodstock. After watching Kelly lead the Black Knights into the state playoffs during his playing days, Lake-Lehman fans liked that winning feeling.

So when Stoney took over from former head coach Bill Traylor and led the Black Knights to a 12-8 record last year, there may have been a feeling of disappointment among those fans. But with some good players returning and a solid group of 12 freshmen on the roster, it appears Stoney has the Lehman program headed in the right direction. He wants to become involved in the local youth soccer program, he wants to get the community interest in the sport of soccer to grow and he even wants to see a small pep band from the award-winning Lake-Lehman band perform at the Black Knights home games.

All the second-year coach is asking for in return is a little patience.

"Sometimes people think you can take over a program and make miraculous things happen," said

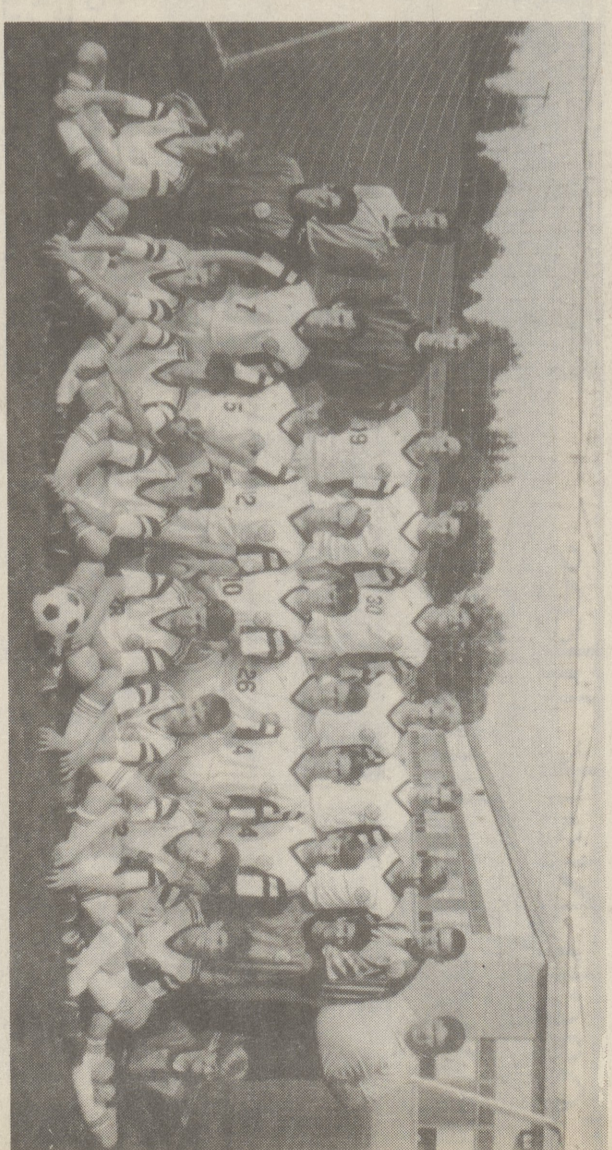
"Our biggest strength is that we have four players who can score goals."

Stoney, who was a winning high school coach at Abington Heights for six seasons and a successful collegiate coach for two years at Lackawanna Junior College before taking the position at Lake-Lehman. "But we're trying to build a consistent, winning program here and sometimes it takes time."

The Black Knights may not have to wait too long before another Wyoming Valley Conference championship is claimed at the Black Mountain school. Don't forget, Stoney led a good, but certainly not overwhelming, Lehman team into the District 2 Class AA championship semi-finaler, it appears Stoney has the good group of players return from that team.

Goalkeeper Shannon Kelly and midfielder Jeremy Flegler lead a group of five seniors who started on the last year's squad. Other returning seniors are Mike Yablonski (defense), Eric Diefenbacher (midfield), and 6-4, 198 pound defender Tim Brislin.

"Jeremy Flegler has the ability to be one of the top five players in the conference," said Stoney, who is assisted by longtime Black Knight assistant coach Jim Welby. "He can really attack the goal."



LAKE-LEHMAN SOCCER - Bottom row, Josh Cholick, Eric Rittenhouse, Shaun Norconk, Jason Perlis, Justin Kreiler, Bob Bevan, Dan Dulebohn, Mark Steele, Joe Paculawich, Middle row, Nathan Pankratz, Charles Snyder, Dave Dulebohn, Kevin Kulp, Mike Coletti, James Smith, Jason Dietz, Brad Diefenbacher, Mike Sudal, coach Mark Stoney, Top row, Shannon Kelly, Erik Diefenbacher, Phil Snyder, Tim Brislin, Ryan Bombick, Jeremy Flegler, Jeremy Baranowski, Mike Tribendis, Jim Welby, asst. coach. Absent, Mike Yablonski

Shannon (Kelly) has gotten better since last season. He's gotten more mature and he's become more consistent with his distribution."

Other players returning from last season include juniors Mike Tribendis (who shared goalkeeper duties with Kelly), Dave Dulebohn (midfield) and twin brothers Charles and Phil Snyder at forward. Also returning are Ryan Bombick (midfield), Mike Coletti

(midfield) and Jeremy Baranowski (defense).

Although it's not known if they can contend for a championship this season, one thing is certain—expect the Black Knights to be an exciting, high-scoring team this season.

"Our biggest strength is that we have four players who can score goals," said Stoney. "Flegler and Bombick really attack the goal and the Snyder brothers have

looked very good. On defense, if Brislin and Baranowski stay healthy, we should be tough in the middle of the field.

"Some people probably are writing us off again this season," said Stoney. "We're not a very deep team and we're playing in a very, very tough conference. But if everything goes right and we avoid major injuries, I think we have the talent to make the playoffs and contend for the championship."

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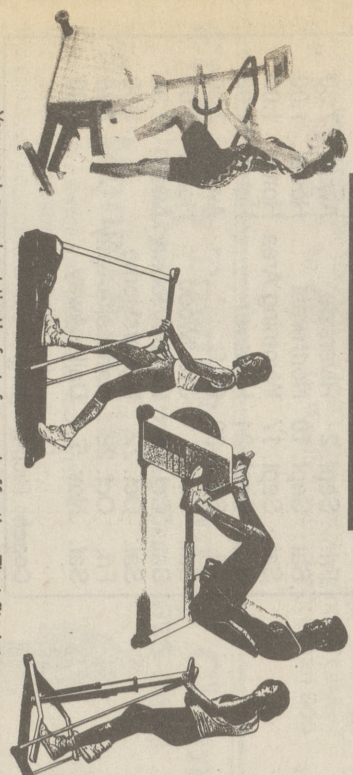
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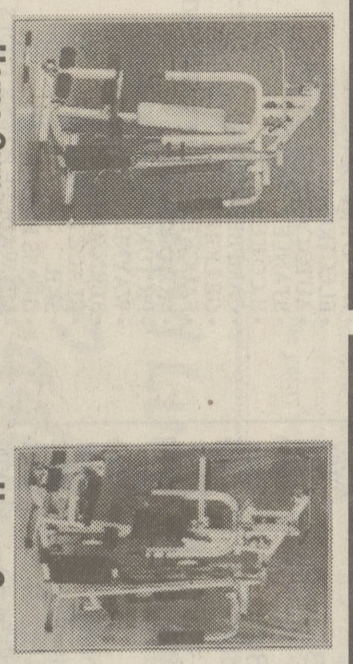
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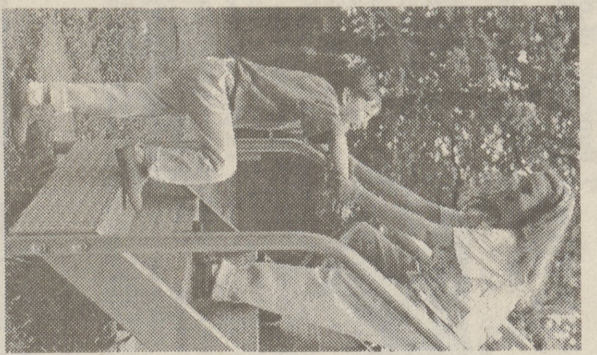
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 Photos by Ron Bartzick
 Dallas Cross Country appears on this week's issue.
 Schedules not in this section appear on this week's issue.
 The Dallas Post Sept. 7, 1994

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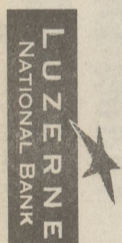
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Coach: Mark Stoney

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