

## Old Shoe

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"We have had many friendships through football," said Bob Roberts.

"I wish football could go on all year," said Chuck Kindler.

"Football is the hardest thing to say good-bye to," said Dave Thomas. "We may never be together again as a team."

Jamie Patton recalled that the Old Shoe hasn't graced Lake-Lehman's trophy case since he moved up to the high school. Like his friends, he's looking forward to the game.

Calling the Mounts "a good challenge," Jason Stockage described how hard the Knights have worked for the game. "We worked out all winter in the weight room and practiced all summer," he said. "We deserve the Shoe."

"Yeah, the Shoe shows that we're the best," Thomas added.

The Dallas Mountaineers are defending state champions as well as winners of the Old Shoe in the last three meetings.

"It's our last time on our home field," said Dave Townsend, a senior and the second generation of his family to defend the Old Shoe. "I'm happy that the regular season is finished, but I know I'll miss it."

"We grew up with the kids from Lehman," said Adam Hoover and Rob Kohli, who have known and played against some Knights members since their days in mini-football.

Co-captain Marty Straigs said he wanted to get as much as possible out of the game. "It's very special, our last Lehman game," he said.

Looking forward to post-season playoffs, Matt Williams described his team's camaraderie. "It's a great bond," he said. "We're all friends, good friends."

"We're more like brothers," said co-captain Rich Butcofski. "Football is the only reason I come to school."

Although he says Dallas is a stronger team than Lake-Lehman, Kohli said the Mounts will still "have to play well. It's still a challenge."

"It's more than just football," said Jeremiah Jancik. "We'll still see one another, but it won't be the same."

Steve Button has two friends on the Knights' squad, but that won't stop him from playing as well as he can. "It's a serious rivalry," he said.

Pat O'Neill, co-captain Ed Langdon and Mike Viglone also have mixed feelings - they don't want the season to end but are looking forward to a good, challenging game.

"The Old Shoe is a neat tradition," O'Neill added. "I hope we'll get to keep it here."

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## A brief Old Shoe history

The annual Old Shoe Game is part of a 45-year-old traditional football rivalry between area high schools.

In 1949, Dallas Rotary president Francis "Red" Ambrose first suggested promoting the friendly rivalries by presenting a special trophy to the best team in the Back Mountain.

At that time there was intense gridiron competition between the Kingston Township, Dallas Township, Westmoreland and Lehman-Jackson-Ross high schools.

The Rotary donated a special trophy, a bronzed football cleat worn by Kingston Township captain Bill Griffith, who played in the first Old Shoe Game.

Since the idea had been conceived of so late in the season, it was decided to award the first Old Shoe trophy to the winner of the 1949 Thanksgiving game between Kingston and Dallas townships.

Each year thereafter it went to the Back Mountain's outstanding

team, which kept it until the end of the next season.

Kingston Township won the Old Shoe in 1949; Lehman-Township took it for the next two years.

The Old Shoe took the scenic route around the Back Mountain, travelling to Westmoreland in 1952, to Lehman-Jackson-Ross in 1953 and '54, then back to Westmoreland in 1955.

In 1956 there was a three-way tie between Lehman-Jackson-Ross, Dallas-Franklin and Westmoreland high schools.

Lehman-Jackson-Ross was the Old Shoe's home from 1957 until 1960, when it returned to Westmoreland.

As the Back Mountain grew and small local school districts consolidated, only two remaining Old Shoe contenders have remained: Dallas and Lake-Lehman.

For many years, the Old Shoe game has been the last regular season game and the host team's last home game.

## Townsend

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ships to Duke, Dartmouth, Brown and the University of Pennsylvania.

Jeff wishes that more importance were still attached to the Old Shoe Game, a hotly contested but fun local rivalry when he played for the Mounts.

"Back in those days the Rotary invited the winner of the trophy to dinner, when they formally presented the trophy in a ceremony," Jeff Townsend said. "I'd really like to see some type of presentation ceremony revived, even if the trophy was staying at the same school. I think it makes it more meaningful."

## Knights

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find out the identity of the cheerleader who has been decorating his locker and leaving him encouraging notes and munchies all season.

## Bridge

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has 4,200 affiliated bridge clubs in 25 districts and there are over 1,000 tournaments each year. (ACBL is one of the largest users of hotel space in the country.)

Locally there are six tables playing each week, by invitation only, at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre. On Wednesdays, Irem Temple Country Club holds five to 12 tables which are "open" - you can just walk in and play. Further details can be had by calling either of the two ACBL field directors in our area...Rev. Kenneth McCrea at 823-5957 or Ray Harris at 675-0087.

Melanie Harris never have predicted her presence in the upcoming Minneapolis tourney when she first started at bridge. It all began when, as a real estate sales person, she got the idea that bridge would be a good way to meet people. She says, "Then, in the middle of my first

session, I thought: What am I doing here? I don't like this and I can't do it!"

Husband Ray, who retired from the Postal Service as a Kingston supervisor, was strictly a poker player, and no help to Melanie at all. Then they took lessons. "Always a good idea...a must!" they both agreed. "Hannah and Henry Ibsen of Kingston took us under their wings and we were on our way...hooked for sure, both of us."

The Harrises firmly believe that bridge can stimulate mental growth. "It keeps your mind busy and alert," Melanie says. "I'll give you a good example. We met and played with an elderly lady in Maine while on vacation. We thought she was in her seventies...very interesting to talk to and sharp as a tack. She had retired from a United Nations career in which she had met five

U.S. presidents. We were both shocked when her actual age turned out to be 102. That's a lot of bridge - see what I mean?"

Melanie, who was a Zielinski from Hudson, grew up only one mile from where Ray lived. It took a chance bowling alley meeting to bring them together. There are two Harris daughters, Helene in New Jersey and Raquel in Maryland. Neither play bridge!

Ray is looking forward to this tourney, especially since duplicate bridge will be played. He calls it "more aggressive." Everyone talks 'aboveboard: the point count is better and the competition is keener. It's just great, real stimulating."

Well, win, lose or draw...sound like fun! Best of luck, Ray and Melanie Harris!

## Beginnings of bridge lie deep in history

Contract bridge remains the most fascinating of all man's games, certainly the most addictive. It is played everywhere in the world, and by all sorts of people. It is the world's most popular game.

A good bridge player can move into any social group. Wherever three bridge fans are together a call goes out for "a fourth at bridge."

Primarily a game of skill, bridge also rewards study and perseverance. Sometimes - not always - luck can be a factor...duffers sometime rise above their meager talents from nothing other than pure luck.

Duplicate bridge - the type played in the ACBL tournaments

- tends to eliminate luck. The "deal" you play is replayed at other tables; your score is then compared with results earned by those who held the same cards you did. That comparison determines whether you do badly or well.

Playing cards were used in China as far back as A.D. 969. It took 300 more years for them to reach Europe. Niccolo Polo (Marco's son) brought them to Venice.

It is said that Columbus's sailors threw their playing cards overboard in superstitious terror at the raging storms in the strange Atlantic. Later, on dry land, they had to make new ones out of leaves.

Early in the 15th century in

England, the ancestor of modern bridge showed up as "whisk" - later "whist" - English literature is full of references to it. Whist was played in coffee houses and attracted "kibitzers" who would bet both players and among themselves.

It was a group of whist players who, at Edward Lloyd's Coffee House, formed the famous Lloyd's of London!

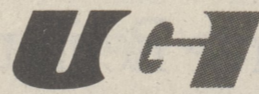
Whist turned into bridge at the end of the 19th century. Competitive bidding started and in 1925 one of the Vanderbilts - Harold S. - developed another form he called contract bridge. A man named Ely Culbertson, helped make it popular worldwide.

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