

Mounts are district champions again

By LYNN OLDHAM
Sports Writer

A staunch defense again was the best offense as Dallas defeated GAR 14-6 last Friday at Lackanna County Stadium to claim a second straight District 2 championship.

The Mountaineers now head into the state playoffs in pursuit of another state Class AA title.

The Mounts were prepared for the battle with the Grenadiers. "When they walked down that tunnel today, you could see they were ready," said coach Ted Jackson of his players. "That's a tribute to these kids. They can turn it up. As they walked down those steps, you could feel the electricity, you really could."

GAR was forced to punt on its first possession from the 21-yard line after a third-down sack by Steve Button. Rich Butcofski earned the first first down of the game, advancing the ball to the Grenadier 35-yard line after a five-yard run by Ted Jackson to midfield. Buddy Rhodes then took the ball for a gain of three, and on second and seven, Jackson handed off to Frank Valvano, who burst through the line of scrimmage to the six-yard line. But he was stripped of the ball by a GAR defender who hung onto the ball as Valvano dragged him the last few yards.

GAR recovered, but after only four plays, the Grenadier quarterback fumbled and Butcofski recovered on the 18-yard line. Jackson's pass to Rich Klick in the end zone on fourth down was incomplete and Dallas was forced to turn the ball over on downs.

On their next possession, GAR would drive from their own 20-yard line all the way to the end zone for six points and the first score of the game. The Grenadiers would have to settle for six, though, as the extra point was missed.

PLAYOFF GAME Dallas vs. Mount Carmel Fri., Nov. 25, 7 p.m. Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium (at Meyers High School)

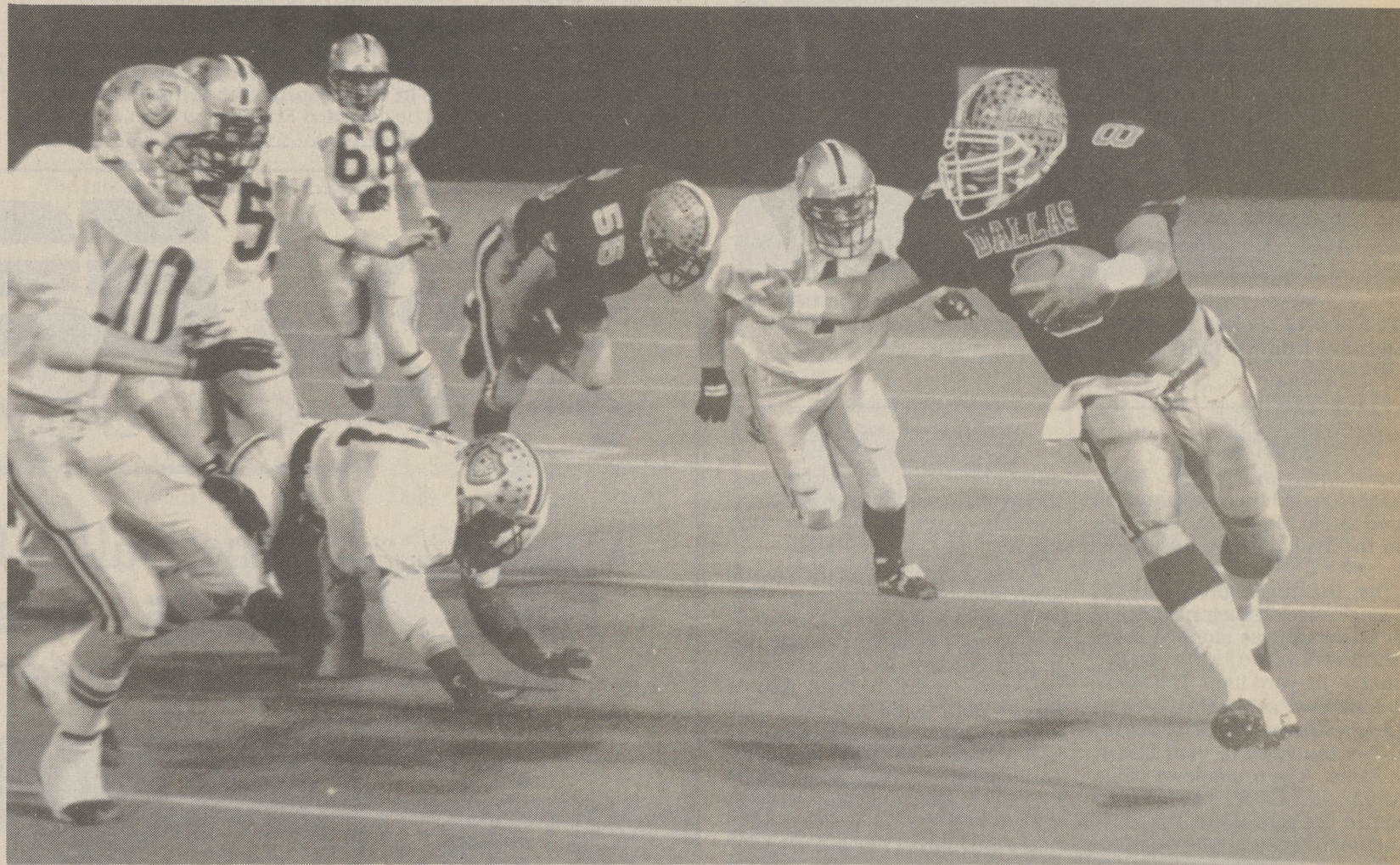
Not to be outdone, the Mountaineers came back on their next possession and scored on a three-yard touchdown run by Butcofski with 4:32 left in the half. The drive was highlighted by a 62-yard run by Jackson after a fake handoff to Rhodes at the Dallas 25 fooled everyone, including photographers and officials.

Jackson's run to the Grenadier 13 set up the touchdown by Butcofski on first and goal. Jeff Kunkle kicked the extra point, giving Dallas a 7-6 lead which they would not lose through the remainder of the game.

"I'm tougher on him (Ted Jackson, Jr.)...It's tough being an underclassman running this team because they're all seniors. He's a junior running a team of all seniors. He does a great job and the kids believe in him...He had a big run tonight, a big interception tonight and a touchdown pass. He really contributed. He's not a flashy guy, but he really contributed and sure, I'm proud of him," coach Jackson said of his son, Ted Jackson, Jr. while reflecting on Jackson, Jr.'s performance in the big game.

Butcofski, Kunkle and Aaron Gingo pressured the quarterback on the next GAR possession which ended in a fumble recovered by Butcofski on the Dallas 6-yard line. But Dallas was forced to punt on fourth and 10 from the seven-yard line with only 1:03 left in the half.

GAR advanced the ball to the 10-yard line in only one minute and attempted a field goal at the end of the half. The field goal was



Rich Butcofski was on the run, scoring the Mounts first touchdown and dominating on defense. Here he sweeps the

left side as a bevy of GAR defenders try to catch up. He also recovered a key fumble and stymied the GAR offense.

POST PHOTO/LYNN SHEEHAN

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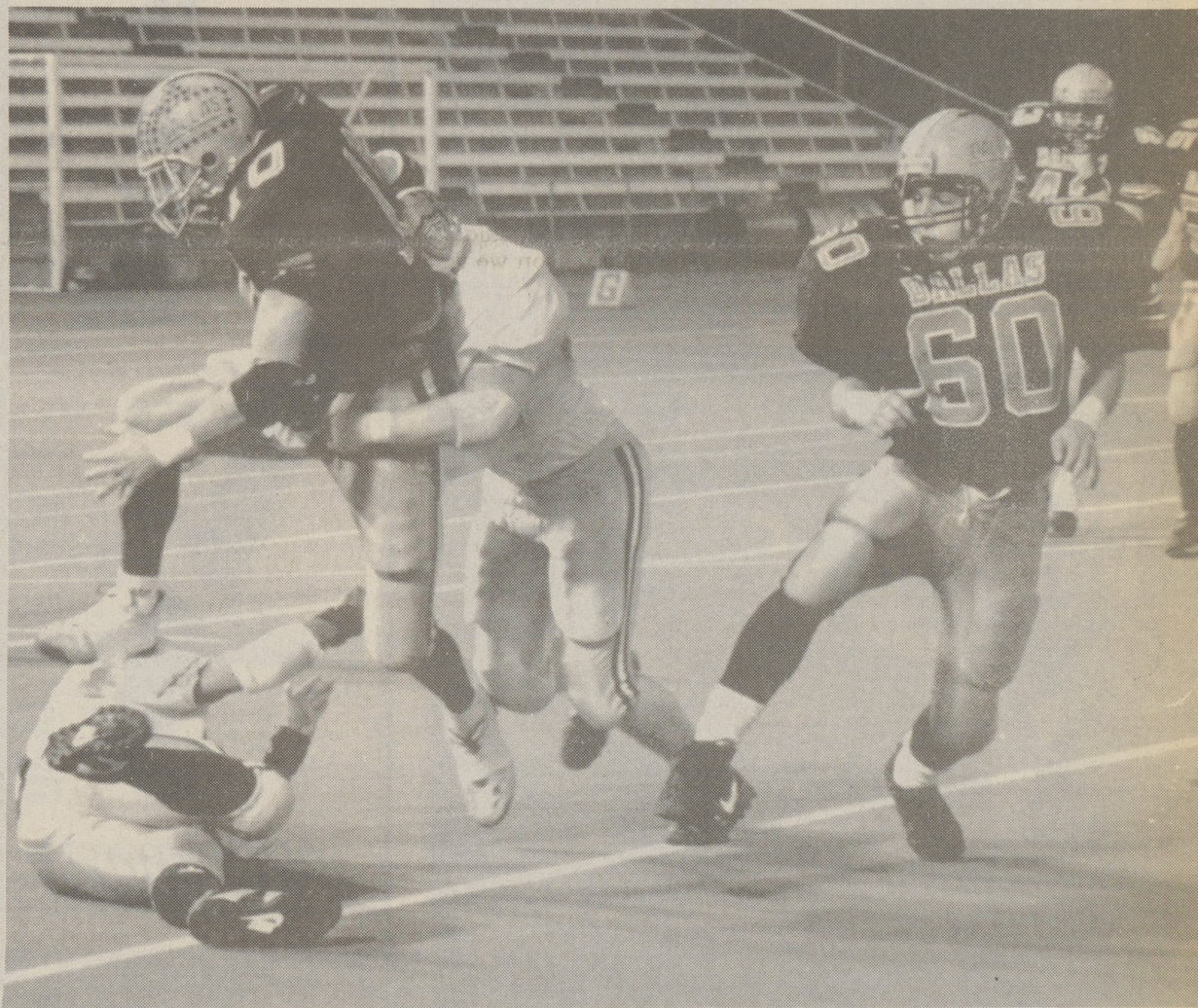
Ted Jackson
Mountaineer head coach

no good and Dallas went into the locker rooms with a lead of 7-6 at halftime.

Early in the second half, a GAR fumble was ruled dead by the officials at the 17-yard line with Mount players all over the ball. The Grenadiers kept possession of the ball, and even fumbled again on the same possession, but they recovered the fumble at the 32-yard line, setting up fourth and four and forcing a punt.

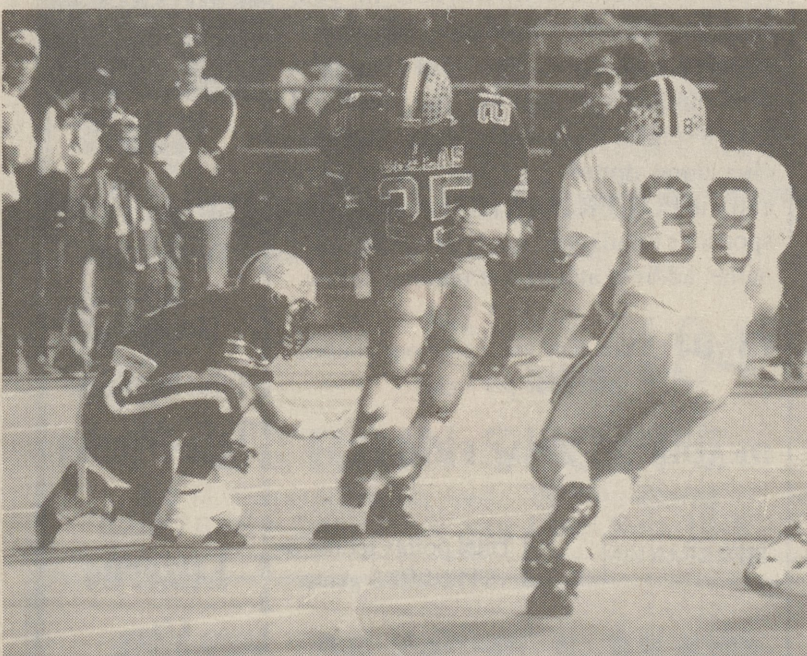
Klick signaled fair catch at the Mount 31-yard line. Butcofski, Jackson and Rhodes advanced the ball to the Grenadier 26, which set up a touchdown pass from Jackson to Mike Viglone in the end zone. Viglone outjumped Grenadier star Manuel DeGraffenreid in the end zone, and Dallas improved their lead with 4:04 remaining in the third quarter. Kunkle's extra point was good, and Dallas went up 14-6.

Coach Jackson was impressed with the play which clinched the



Buddy Rhodes high stepped over a downed GAR defender during last week's District 2 title game. Jeremiah Jancik (60) wisely avoided the clip. While he didn't get into the end zone, Rhodes again contributed to the Mount win.

POST PHOTO/LYNN SHEEHAN

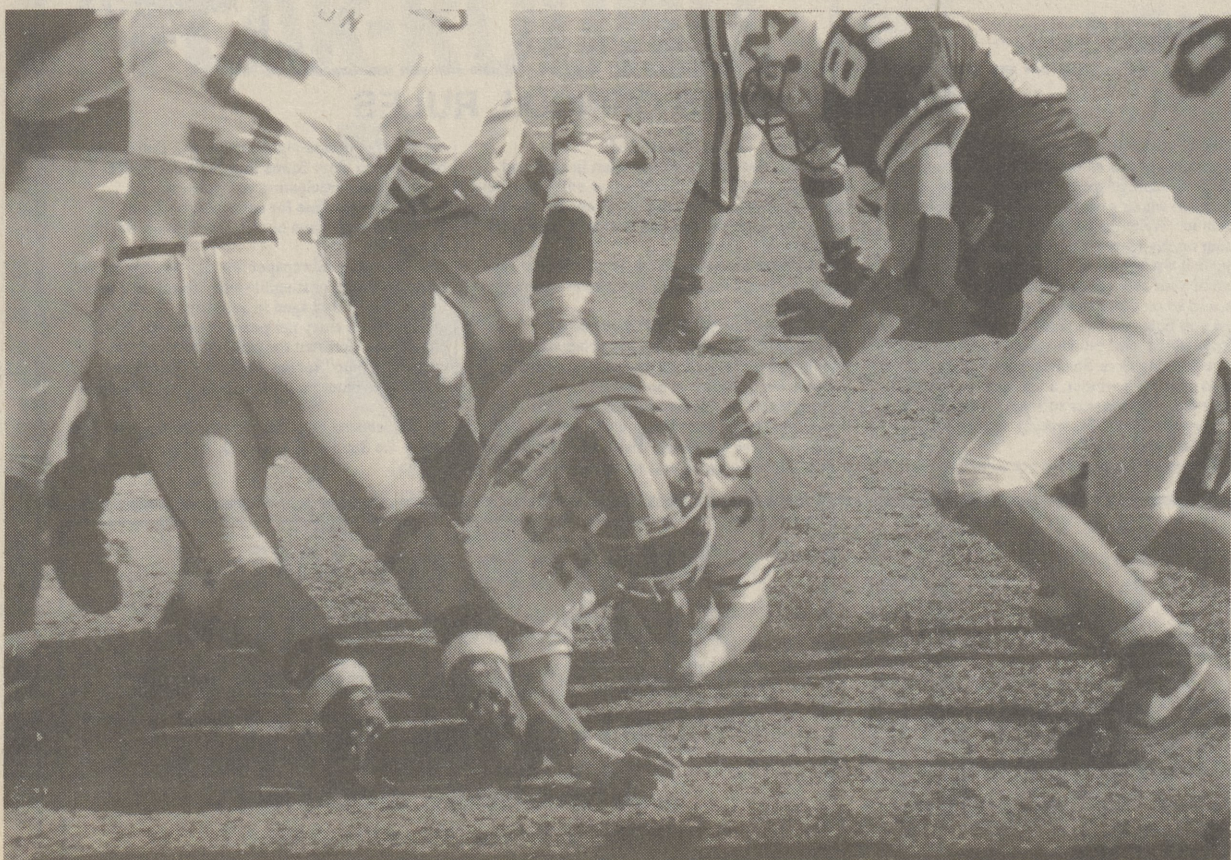


POST PHOTO/LYNN SHEEHAN

Jeff Kunkle converted two PATs to contribute to the 14-6 final score. He has hit over 30 this year.

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Five touchdowns not enough for Knights



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Mike Pitcavage dived in for the score against the Montrose Meteors.

By LYNN OLDHAM
Sports Writer

Lake-Lehman fell to Montrose 36-31 in the Eastern Conference Class AA Championship game last Saturday after a brilliant display of offensive talent on the part of both teams.

The lead seasawed throughout the game, as the teams scored five touchdowns each but the Meteors made three two-point conversions to a single PAT for the Knights.

Lehman had to settle for six first-quarter points as their attempt at a conversion failed after Mike Adamshick scored the first Knight touchdown. The first quarter ended with the score 8-6 in favor of Montrose.

In the second quarter, both teams scored at will, Lehman on all three possessions and Montrose on two. Lehman pulled ahead first with a Mike Pitcavage touchdown run from the two-yard line. The attempted two-point conversion failed as the John Oliver pass to Jamie Patton was incomplete. Lehman led 12-8.

The Meteors came right back with an 11-yard run by Casey

Goff capping a 39-yard drive, to lead by a score of 14-12. Their attempted conversion also failed when the Lehman defense stopped them short of the goal line.

On their next possession, the Black Knights barreled down the field behind the talents of Pitcavage, Patton and Tim Waslick. Knight quarterback Oliver looked to a wide-open Waslick, who walked the ball in for Lehman's third touchdown of the game. The Black Knights only led by four points, though, as the attempted two-point conversion again failed.

"Coming in, we thought we could throw the ball on them and obviously, we did. Our concern was stopping their pass, their run, and we felt we had to get them in somewhat of a long yardage situation and then handle the pass, and we just didn't do it," said coach Rich Gorgone.

Montrose again took the lead, as they advanced the ball through the great defensive efforts of Kevin Whipple, Tom Smigielski and Angelo DeCesaris. Meteor quarterback Josh Weller rushed the ball in from the seven. The Meteors gained the two points and were up 22-18 with only 2:38 left

in the half.

Oliver again turned to Pitcavage, Patton and Waslick to move the ball once more, and a pass interference call against Montrose set up a Lehman first down at their own 12, paving the way for the next Black Knight touchdown. Under pressure, Oliver threw to Patton for the touchdown. A holding call against Lehman on the two-point conversion forced the Black Knights to replay the down, and their second attempt in a pass to Waslick failed as he was tackled short of the goal line.

The half ended with Lake-Lehman ahead 24-22, when Bob Roberts shut down Weller with a sack at the Meteor 47-yard line.

On their first possession of the second half, Lehman punted the ball away from their own 44-yard line after an incomplete pass to Patton on fourth and seven.

Montrose returned the punt to their own 30. Smigielski and Len Crawford had some good tackles, but Goff and Scott MacNamee advanced the ball well for the Meteors and put them in range for a one-yard run by Goff for the

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