

Knights

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of kids to states."
 Nine Lehman wrestlers had their eyes on a district title Saturday night at Hazleton Area High School.

103-pound Matt Raczkowski was looking forward to wrestling Bishop Hoban's Shane Jerominski for the first time this season. It may have been a new tough opponent, but the results were the same - another quick victory. Raczkowski pinned his man in 1:35 and successfully defended his title.

The Black Knights won four straight titles from 119 through 135.

Senior Allen Scott began the streak with a 12-4 major decision over Nanticoke's Robert Skordensky. Skordensky's only points came courtesy of Scott allowing him to escape four times. The 119-pounder was thrilled with his first title.

"It feels great," said Scott. "I've been working for this since my freshman year."

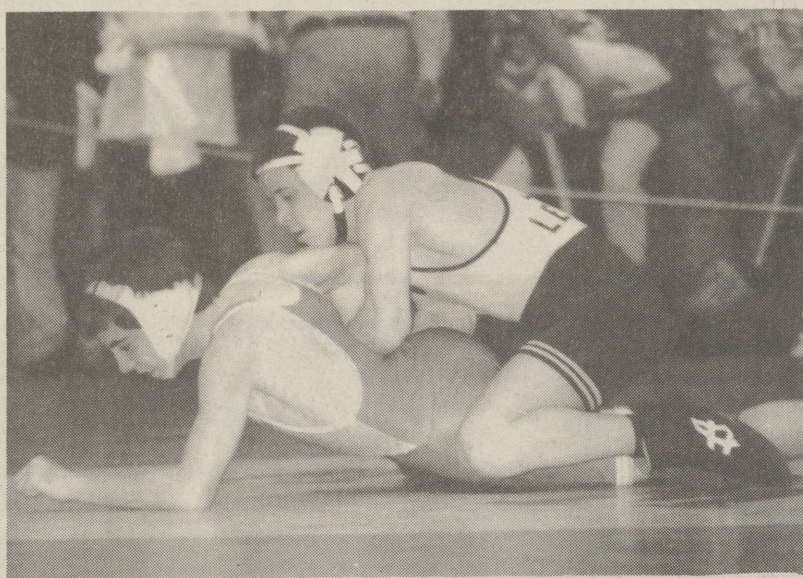
"He got bumped out last year with the line-up juggling," added Williams. "It was certainly very satisfying to see him win a district title."

At 125, sophomore Joe Halowich went one better than last year's second place finish. Halowich won with a 19-3 technical fall over West Side Tech's Duane Pretzman in 5:46.

Mike Stuart is a champion among champions at 130 pounds. Mike scored a 19-8 major decision over Vince Dell'aglio of Meyers for his second consecutive district title and third in four years. Mike was also a runner-up as a sophomore.

Tim Sayre found himself trailing 4-3 at the end of the first period of his 135-pound fight with Dave Solomon of Meyers. Sayre scored an 8-6 victory by taking control of Solomon for remainder of the match.

"I usually dominate people on my feet and felt I couldn't give him any extra points," said Sayre. "I beat him earlier in the season 12-



POST PHOTO/LYNN SHEEHAN

Lehman's Matt Raczkowski pinned each opponent in under three minutes on his way to the district title at 103 pounds.

5; this was a heck of a lot harder.

The gratifying victory came after a two-year wait for the senior. Sayre was on his way to a very successful junior season after being crowned champion as a sophomore, but dislocated his hip in a late season dual meet with Coughlin.

"It meant a lot to me to go out and win this time because last year I was out of the tournament," Sayre said.

Lehman hoped to raise the number of consecutive championships to six, but came up short in the next couple of bouts.

At 140, third seeded Brian Butler fell behind 5-0 before being pinned by Brain Hilburt of Meyers in 5:14.

John Wood led 1-0 after two periods in the 145 pound-bout, but failed to repeat as district champion. Wood suffered a 4-2 defeat to Todd Satt of Meyers in what may have been the most competitive battle of the night.

Another senior winning for the first time was 189-pound Mike Budzak. Mike improved on his third place finish of last year with an 11-6 decision of Jon Bohning of Meyers.

"It feels great. I've been working for this since my freshman year."

Allen Scott

Lake-Lehman 119-pounder

"I knew it was going to be a tough match," said Budzak. "He wanted it as bad as I did."

Heavyweight Vito Pilosi came up a little short in his effort to defend his title against Nanticoke's Joe Mushala. Like Wood, Pilosi lost by a point 4-3.

"We're not used to losing those one point bouts," said Williams. "In the consolation round this morning we lost two one point bouts. Hopefully we'll work on that and turn it around next week."

Ryan Gold won two bouts Saturday to finish third at 152. The senior scored a 4-3 victory over Tim Donahoe of Bishop O'Hara for the consolation prize.

In the 160-pound consolation, Paul Vandermolen was tied with Nanticoke's Jason Croughn with 20 seconds remaining. Croughn made a takedown and was

awarded three back points for a dramatic finish and an 8-4 victory over Vandermolen.

All 13 Lehman wrestlers had a crack at continuing in regionals when Saturday's matches began.

Bill Brehla lost in the 112 consolation semi-finals to Meyers' Rich Basset 2-1. Brehla beat Basset earlier this year 8-4, but bounced back in the fifth place match with a 12-7 win over West Side Tech's Ryan Sullivan.

At 171, Tony Tereska was leading Adam Hoover of Dallas with 11 seconds to go before losing 4-3. Tereska finished fifth via forfeit.

Prior to the championship finals Lipski and Williams were presented with two awards from the Wyoming Valley Conference: The Sportsmanship Award and the Class AA Coach of The Year. By the end of the night it was the kids receiving praise from the coaches.

"(They're) just a great bunch of kids," said Williams. "A team effort the whole way through the tournament. There's 17 other kids that weren't here that shared in the victory. We left a district runner-up (Mike Pitcavage) at home."

Eleven Black Knights will square off with the top District 12 wrestlers at Valley View this weekend. The top four winners at each weight will meet the best four from District 4 in Williamsport the first weekend in March.

The Black Knights hope this weekend is another rung on the ladder to their second regional title in the 90s.

"We should come out ahead on that one too," said Budzak of this weekend. "It'll be close."

The main competition will come from Lackawanna Trail. The Lions claimed six individual titles and their fifth straight District 12 title this past Saturday.

Lehman's sparkplug, Matt Raczkowski, knew exactly what he and the team should do at Valley View this Saturday.

"The same thing," said Raczkowski.

Georgetown crushes Orange to move into first place alone

This past Saturday Georgetown upped its record to 10-2 and retained sole possession of first place with a lopsided win over Syracuse by a score of 48-16.

Leading the offense for Georgetown was Patrick Mulhern with 14, followed by Danny Mulhern with 12 point, Matt Eyet with eight points and Keith Sprau with six points.

Syracuse was led by T.C. Harding with six points, followed by Andrew Ruddy and Steven Liparala with four apiece. Kevin Razavich played a fine defensive game for Syracuse.

This Wednesday, Georgetown, 10-2 will face Miami with a record of 7-5.

In other action, Miami improved its record to 7-5 by defeating Seton Hall. Miami offensive was led by Jay Carroll, Matt Marks and Lloyd Droppers.

Seton Hall never led in the game. It's offensive was led by

Buddy Shah, John Lukasavage and Mike Domzalski.

Seton Hall will face Boston College, which sports a 3-9 record, on Wednesday.

On Saturday, St. Johns came from behind to hold off Pittsburgh. St. Johns' offense was led by Jason Race and Herby Bressler, with fine defensive play by Danny Krause.

Pittsburgh's Paul Dougal was the offensive and defensive leader on the floor.

St. Johns will play Villanova Wednesday, while Pittsburgh finishes its regular season with Syracuse.

Boston College beat Villanova to improve its record to 3-9, and knocking Villanova out of first place. Boston College had a fine performance from Tim Faneck and Mike Dombroski.

Villanova's offense was led by Danny Fetko and Justin Bicking.

Final BMT baseball, softball registration

Back Mountain Baseball will hold the last registration for boys and girls Thurs., Feb. 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. downstairs at the American Legion Post on Memorial Highway in Dallas. Signups will be for boys and girls tee-ball, ages 6-8; boys baseball, ages 8-18; and girls softball, ages 8-18. Anyone not signed up by Thursday may not be able to play.

There is a charge of \$20 per child or \$35 per family. Anyone signing up for the first time must bring a copy of the child's birth certificate.

Baseball clinic March 18

The Dallas Baseball Boosters will host a Little League Baseball Clinic at the Dallas Middle School on March 18.

It will feature former professional ball players, Scott Francis (Atlanta Braves) and Mark Konopki (Boston Red Sox) and the Dallas Senior High School Coaching Staff and players.

The clinic will cover hitting (3 machines) pitching, fielding and baserunning.

The cost is \$15 per player. Call Jack Wolensky at 696-4040 (home) or 675-5201, ext. 242, for a registration form.

Strikers place at Abington Heights

The Noxen Strikers wrestled at Abington Heights January 28. The 10 wrestlers who placed were:

Midgets: 55 lbs., John Houssock, 1st; 60 lbs., Shawn Stroll, 4th; 70 lbs., Todd Jones, 1st; 70 lbs., Perry Coolbaugh, 2nd; 90 lbs., Billy Evans, 2nd; 110 lbs., Keith Bomberger, 3rd.

Juniors: 70 lbs., Matt Metz, 1st; 104 lbs., Louie MacMillen, 1st; 104 lbs., Darrell Evans, 4th; 112 lbs., Richie Maciejczak, 2nd.



Warriors take U-14 crown

The Back Mountain Warriors U-14 Girls Travel Soccer team recently won first place in the Northeast Travel League playoffs. The team also captured first place in the regular season with an overall record of 8-1-1. Team members are, row 1, from left, Tara Mintzer, Lori Shonk, Nicole Hooper, Julie Pryor, Kristin Roberts, Mandy Marx; row 2, Holly Shiber, Erika Knappman, Coach Harold Roberts, Jill Marchakitus, Faith O'Dell, Nikki Verry, Jenny Germick, Coach Ed O'Dell, Jenelle Kerr, Joanne Gregor. Absent from photo: Lauren Wasser.



Power wins U-13 playoffs

The Back Mountain Power U-13 Boys Travel Soccer team won the Northeast Travel League playoffs in both the spring and fall seasons. The team also captured first place in the regular seasons, remaining undefeated. Attending more than 32 soccer tournaments throughout the season, the team finished in first or second place in all but two tournaments, where they took third place. Team members are, row 1, from left, Tom Brislin, Mike Kostrobala, Michael Faneck, Danny Mentrikoski; row 2, Tony Van Scoy, Steven Swatkowski, Jordan Moseman, Russell Mosier, Jesse Williams, Damien Temperine; absent from photo: Brian Noler, Scott Newton, Nate Hoffman, Chad Gensener.



Blast takes U-11 boys travel title

The Back Mountain Blast U-11 Boys Travel Soccer team won first place in the Northeast Travel League playoffs in the fall season by defeating East Mountain 3-0 in the championship game. Blast also captured first place during the regular season with an overall record of 8-0-0. Attending four major outdoor tournaments throughout the season, the Blast attained a record of 15-4-0 and secured one first place, two second places and one third place finishes.

Team members are row 1, from left, Matt Duncan, Andrew Dale, Brian McMahon, Ricky Branco, Chip Harrison, Drew Suszko, Adam Burkland; row 2, Ryan Love, Jason Mahle, Jamie Rhodes, Wally Karl, Andrew George, Aaron Moyer, David Walters, Tim Faneck; row 3, Assistant coach Bob Faneck, Coach Hank Walters, Assistant coach Chris Harrison.



Girls U-18 takes first

The Back Mountain Dalesemocklins U-18 Girls Travel Soccer team recently won first place in the Northeast Travel League playoffs, defeating Kingston 2 to 1 in the championship game. The team also captured first place in the regular season with an overall record of 8-1-0. Team members are row 1, from left, Sarah Sordoni, Katie Hovan, Allison Adonizio, Dawn Kolb; row 2, Kristen Kosakowski, Therese Paxton, Elyse Ide, Amory Fetko, Tami Palka, coach Ed Palka; row 3, assistant coach Jerry Paxton, assistant coach Pete Kosakowski.

Absent from photo: Megan Burke, Alisa Merolli, Melissa Miller, Michelle Miller, Heather Pencek, Jennifer Sandstrom, Jaime Slocum, Miraim Thomas.