

Old Shoe

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las, Lehman can tie their arch-rivals for second and make the trip to districts. Lehman fell to 7-2, 5-2 in the conference after dropping a 30-23 game to Nanticoke last weekend. The loss also prevented the Black Knights from securing a playoff spot. Now they're just hoping for that fourth and final position.

"They lost a tough one last week that they probably shouldn't have lost," said Dallas quarterback/safety Ted Jackson Jr. "That gives me more motivation to win this week."

"A win gets us in districts," commented Swire.

Should Lehman lose, they'll be rooting for G.A.R. to knock off Meyers. If Meyers, a team Lehman trounced 27-7 two weeks ago, wins they'll be headed for the post-season.

Even without talk of playoffs and district championships, the rivalry between these two always means something. The players of 1995 still have something in common with their peers of yesterday - the desire to beat their neighbor on the field.

"This is my fourth year," said Lake-Lehman quarterback/cornerback John Oliver, "and we haven't won it yet. We're going all out to win this one."

"It's a big game; the game of the Back Mountain," said Dallas lineman Dan Natitus. "Whoever wins this is the best of the Back Mountain."

Defense will be key

Both teams love to play defense. Even the most potent scoring machines have found it a major chore to put points on the board against Dallas since Ted Jackson took over the coaching reins 11 years ago. This year the Lehman defense is especially strong. Before the Nanticoke debacle, the Knights were allowing the opposition about a touchdown a game.

"Personally I have to play the greatest game ever," said Lehman's Angelo DeCesaris. "The whole defense has to. If we shut them out the worst we can do is a tie."

"Because you know some of the kids you'd like to beat them a little more," said Dallas linebacker Connor Ennis. "It's not much bigger than any other game except Lehman is better this year, so it's more important than last season."

Both defenses will have their hands full. The Knights have their own all-star backfield with running backs Mike Pitcavage and Mike Adamshick joining Oliver. Every game the tight end or any one of five different wide outs seems to step up and give Oliver an imposing target.

The featured runner for Dallas

is junior tailback Frank Valvano, but the Mountaineers like to mix up the run and pass as well. Jackson's favorite targets include wingback Jeff Kunkle and tight end Mark Kaschenbach. The Mountaineer split ends and fullbacks give the Lehman defense more than enough to think about.

"It's been a long time, but I think we have what it takes to beat them this year," said Lehman defensive end Tony Tereska. "It's a very important game for us."

"It's going to be a tough battle," added teammate Dave Rogers. "We both have pretty good records coming in. Emotionally we have to be ready to beat Dallas."

Both teams have been getting quality play from their special teams as well, so the team that wins in the trenches may be the team that claims the shoe. Lehman offensive lineman Joe Morris figures that's one battle that may go the way of the Knights.

"If we play well and stay on our blocks, we should beat them," Morris said. "We also need to run hard and tackle."

"It's always a good game," said Ted Jackson Jr. "This year it's going to be the best it's been in a while. It's going to take pretty much a perfect game by one team to win."

When school jointures became the norm some two decades ago many rivalries went by the wayside. The Coughlin/Wyoming Valley West game hardly compares to Coughlin/Kingston, Berwick and Bloomsburg no longer schedule each other because of the disparity of the two programs, but the Dallas-Lehman rivalry is more than alive and well. Another local contest that rates equally as high is Wyoming Area/Pittston Area.

After Saturday afternoon, Dallas lineman Frank Lombardo will have the distinction of saying he's experienced both. As an underclassman at Pittston it was a special feeling to beat Wyoming. Now he's ready to help his new buddies beat Lehman.

"It's a big game for me," Lombardo said, "but since these guys all seem to know one another personally it makes it even bigger."

The memories last a lifetime and this should be the most exciting and well played Old Shoe contest in years. Many fans would prefer a traditional Thanksgiving Day matchup, but the modern system gives the players the best of both worlds. Each team can qualify for the post-season while still having the opportunity to defend the honor of their class.

Especially for the seniors. "We could be 0-9 at this point," DeCesaris said, "if we beat Dallas we have a great year."

"If we beat Dallas, that's the season right there," added Oliver.

Run, Pass, Block, Tackle

BEST OF LUCK

in this year's

Old Shoe Game



DALLAS SENIORS - From left, seated, Dan Podehl, Chris Stolarczyk, Connor Ennis, Eduardo Lopez, Chris Kuderka, Griffin Bicking. Standing, Cody Friedel, Jeff Kunkle, Frank Lombardo, Joe Noon, Frank Geskey, Dan Natitus, Rich Klick, Ted Jackson Jr.



LAKE-LEHMAN SENIORS - From left, Erik Chrisman, Chris Caines, Tom Fostock, Brian Wesley, Joe Morris, Chris Swire, John Oliver, Angelo DeCesaris, Tony Tereska, Len Crawford, Jason Adamski, Mike Adamshick, J.J. Kopko, Mike Pitcavage.

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Turkey Shoot golf tourneys scheduled

Four Seasons Golf Club, Exeter, will hold their fifth annual Turkey Shoot Golf Tournaments on Saturday and Sunday, November 18 and 19. Each day is a separate tournament and tee times will be taken starting at 9 a.m. The \$25 per person entry fee includes 18 holes, meal, beverages and all turkey prizes for flight winners and contests held on the golf course. Call 655-8869 for reservations.

Gridiron Club says thanks for support

The Dallas Gridiron Club would like to thank all area businesses, families, and friends of the club for making its Night at the Races a success.

PA GAME COMMISSION NOTES

In Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company Water Division is being considered for sale. The parent company is planning to purchase 7,000 acres of watershed and leaving 46,000 acres of the watershed up for sale. The utility claims that, due to new filtration plants, they do not need as much watershed land. However, they say they will keep community interest in mind when developing the land. The best community interest would be to keep the watersheds natural and pristine. The land should be sold to a nature conservancy or the Game Commission who would insure that natural habitat, valuable to wildlife, plants and people stay intact. Economic development is not always in the best interest of the community. WCO Edward J. Urban, Taylor.

I am sure longtime Game News readers are used to enjoying field notes written by WCO Bill Bower and know how he portrays himself as being older and being on the job longer than most can remember. Well, let me tell you of recent events at regional fitness training sessions for Wildlife Conservation Officers. Bill seems to be jumping higher and running faster than the rest of us, and on one occasion, I barely bested Bill on a two mile run, even though I am almost 20 years his junior. My questions to Bill are, who are you and how old are you - really? WCO Joseph G. Wenzell III.

This fall, hunters and trappers may be greeted by some unfamiliar faces in Game Commission uniforms. Members of the 23rd class of the Ross Leffler School of Conservation will be assisting Wildlife Conservation Officers with their district duties during field training, which coincides with the hunting and trapping seasons.

Recently, the only active nesting site of Blackpoll Warblers ever found in Pennsylvania was discovered here on Game Lands 57. Yellow Bellied Flycatchers, a threatened species were also spotted. Several people have also observed a pair of mature bald eagles near by. Our State Game Lands, purchased primarily by sportsmen and sports-women, are outstanding places to see unusual wildlife and game animals.