

The Dallas Post Sports Week

Section 2

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Football seasons come to an end, but not by much

Late fumble ends Knight challenge

By LEN KRYESKI
Sports Writer

WEST PITSTON - The Lake-Lehman Black Knights were hoping the great season they had put together would last a few more weeks, but it just wasn't meant to be. Wyoming Area defeated Lehman 7-0 in a District 2, Class AA semi-final game on Saturday.

Rich Gorgone and the coaching staff knew the Warriors played good old fashioned football. Lehman knew all about the strong defense and the smash-mouth running game led by a corral or running backs. They didn't figure a quick kick might do them in, but the nostalgic play helped set up the games only score.

Faced with third down and 22 on their own 22-yard line and the wind at their backs, Wyoming coach sent in the play with time running down in the first quarter. The result was a good punt and roll that totaled 53 yards and pinned Lehman on their own 11-yard line.

"That was a great call," said Gorgone. "He took the wind in the first quarter and it was a big factor. We thought he would run a play, then call a time out and kick before the quarter expired. The quick kick was a big factor."

It was three plays and out for the Black Knights. Senior Mike Adamshick followed with a pretty good punt of his own that was fielded on the Warrior 35 by Nick Carsia. Carsia broke a couple of tackles before twisting his way the Lehman 38-yard line.

Wyoming needed just six running plays to take the ball in. Workhorse tailback Ben Kopka picked up 37 yards of those while carrying the pigskin five times.

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Knight girls will play Thursday

The Lake-Lehman girls' field hockey team will battle for Pennsylvania's eastern championship Thursday after a pair of 1-0 victories this past week.

The Lady Knights won their first state playoff game ever last Nov. 8 by defeating Lancaster Mennonite at Ralston Field. Senior co-captain Beth Turner scored the game's only goal at 5:44 of the second half.

Saturday Lehman eliminated Jenkintown, the top ranked team in the state and upped their season record to 17-3. Kacy Ziomek took an assist from Erin Edwards and slapped it in just 1:50 into the game played in Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

The victories earned Lehman the right to play District 2 champion, Middleburg in the Class AA state semi-final game. That game will be played Thursday at 2 p.m. at Middletown High School, near Harrisburg.

The winner will play for the state championship at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Saturday.

Lehman drops soccer state playoff game

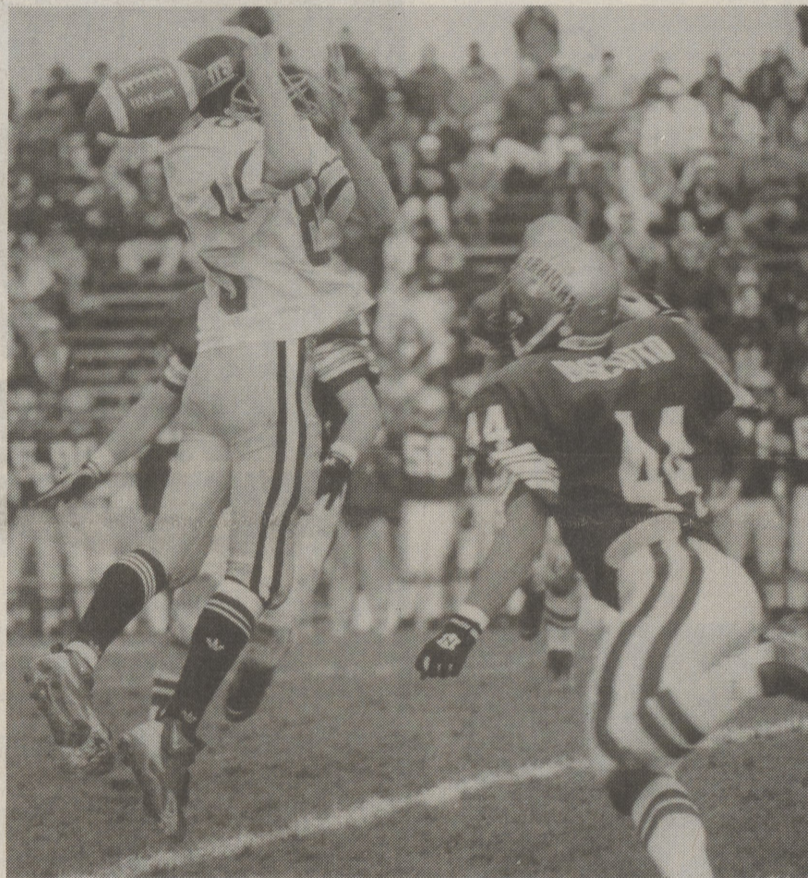
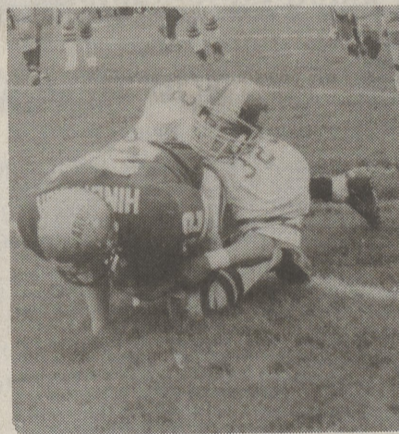
Lehman's other District 2 champion, the boys' soccer team saw their season end at Northern Lebanon High school for the second consecutive year. Oley Valley eliminated the Black Knights 3-0 in a PIAA Class AA state quarter-final game on Saturday.

The loss came after Lehman beat Notre Dame of East Stroudsburg 2-1 in overtime last Wednesday.



Marc Ronzcka, above, tried to escape the grasp of a Wyoming Area tackler. At right, a pass slipped through Ryan Healy's grasp. Below, Mike Pitcavage brought down a Warrior runner.

PHOTOS BY JACK JONES/ACE HOFFMAN



Mounts miss chance on game's final play

By LEN KRYESKI
Sports Writer

DUNMORE - After spending part of the fourth quarter on the bench with badly bruised ribs, Ted Jackson Jr. wasn't about to let his senior season end without a fight. The younger Jackson took over the reins at quarterback, and marched Dallas to the Dunmore 20 by completing 5 of 10 passes. Two of the incompletions were purposely spiked to stop the clock.

With six ticks left on the clock, the Mountaineers would get one shot at victory from the 20.

Jackson's throw to Frank Valvano on a slant-in was a little long, and the ball was picked off by Dunmore linebacker Brian Forgione.

The Mountaineers scored 15 points in the first quarter, but couldn't muster any over the final three periods of play against Dunmore as the Mounts lost a 19-15 heartbreaker to the Bucks in a District 2, Class AA semi-final contest on Saturday.

"We didn't have the ball enough in the second half," said Dallas coach Ted Jackson Sr. "It's a rotten way to end the season."

Dallas scored on its opening drive of the contest and carried that lead into the fourth quarter. With nine minutes remaining in the contest Dunmore took over the lead for the first time on a 3-yard run by Brian Forgione.

The Bucks were threatening to score again late in the game when defensive lineman, Frank Lombardo jumped on a Forgione fumble. The mishap wasn't to-

"I'm really happy with the way they never quit."

Ted Jackson Sr.
Dallas head coach

tally Forgione's fault, the pitch from Sean Gallagher wasn't accurate, but the tailback would redeem himself nonetheless.

Dallas finishes the season at 8-3 while Dunmore will battle top seeded Wyoming Area for the District 2 crown this Saturday.

The Dunmore running game in the first half was all Gallagher as Dallas contained the running backs.

"We cut off the pitch and shut down Forgione in the beginning," said Jackson. "They were a little bigger and stronger than us and that wore us down a little bit later on."

Jackson was wary of the Bucks' size going into the contest and compared them favorably to Wyoming Area, only bigger in size. After being shut out by Lake-Lehman a week earlier in the Old Shoe contest he also wanted to get his offense on the board early.

After an 8-yard punt by Dunmore, following their first possession, Dallas did just that. The Mounts went 22 yards in nine plays as Ted Jr. ran the quarterback keeper from three yards out. Valvano ran the ball in for two and Dallas led 8-0.

Gallagher put Dunmore on the

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Jeff Kunkle commits to Penn State in baseball

By LEN KRYESKI
Sports Writer

DALLAS - A number of high school baseball players from Northeastern Pennsylvania have earned athletic scholarships to play for Division 1 universities. It is rare, however, for a player from our area to put his name on the dotted line during the early signing period. Jeff Kunkle is not only a rare player, but a rare individual in the most positive sense of the word.

The senior student/athlete from Dallas announced his intention to accept a scholarship offer to play for Penn State University late last week.

"I'm excited," said Jeff. "I've always wanted to play baseball at a Division 1 college and I've al-

"Jeff is a special kid and a clutch performer."

Jack Wolensky
Dallas baseball coach

ways had an interest in Penn State."

The son of Robert and Shirley Kunkle of Dallas Township is a three sport letterman in baseball, football and basketball for the Mountaineers, but his talents don't end there. Jeff excels in the classroom, is a member of the National Honor Society and is among the top five percent in his class academically.

Jeff plans to major in engineering or biology at University Park. Academics factored heavily in his decision as Penn State won out over Yale, Princeton, Lehigh, Lafayette and Maryland.

"Jeff went for education first, baseball second," said Mountaineer baseball coach Jack Wolensky.

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John Oliver got a shake from Lake-Lehman guidance counselor Flossie Finn after announcing that he will attend Clemson University in the fall of 1996. Also attending the signing announcement Monday were Carol Oliver, John's mother, seated to his right, and his sister Joanna, to his left. Standing, from left, John Oliver; Rodger Bearde, Lake-Lehman athletic director; Chip Sorber, Lake-Lehman baseball coach; Rich Gorgone, Lake-Lehman football coach.

John Oliver chooses Clemson as college

It came down to three, and Clemson University won John Oliver's vote to pursue his academic and sports career.

Family members, classmates and coaches watched Oliver make his announcement Monday morning in the Lake-Lehman High School library. After the announcement he said his choices had narrowed to Clemson, Old Dominion and Kentucky after being recruited by 28 Division 1 colleges and visiting those three.

Oliver laid out four requirements he had in a university:

1. Outstanding academics.
2. A chance to play in a college world series.
3. Outstanding coaching and

competition to prepare him for a professional baseball career.

4. The opportunity to start as a freshman.

"Clemson, I believe meets these requirements more than any of the other 27 Division 1 schools I was recruited by," Oliver said.

A three-sport star at Lake-Lehman, the son of John and Carol Oliver said he will restrict himself to baseball at the college level. The senior Oliver said John had received a "very generous" athletic scholarship, which is renewable year to year.

Chip Sorber, who has coached Oliver in American Legion ball and is the new Lake-Lehman baseball coach, said Oliver has what big-time coaches want in a ball player. "He has all the tools,"

Sorber said, pointing to foot speed, a strong arm, a quick bat with power and potential as a pitcher.

More important, Sorber said, "John is an outstanding person," who excels in the classroom and exhibits the qualities teachers and society look for in a leader.

Clemson's appeal stemmed in part from its highly-rated baseball program. The school had a 54-14 record in 1995 and won the ACC regular season championship, the Eastern Regional and went to the College World Series in Omaha. Eight Tigers were drafted into professional baseball in June.

Oliver said he will not declare a major until his sophomore year, but said he is leaning toward business.

Huntsville Gold Club ranked 2nd-best new course in U.S.

Huntsville Golf Club has been selected second on a list of best new private golf courses in the United States published in the December issue of Golf Digest magazine.

The annual survey was conducted by more than 700 panelists who played and evaluated 143 courses throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Panelists are knowledgeable, single-digit handicap players who are assigned specific courses. They judge courses based on criteria

such as shot values, resistance to scoring, design variety, memorability and esthetics.

Huntsville finished behind only the Sand Hills Golf Club in Mullen, Nebraska. Glenmaura National Golf Club in Moosic was ranked eighth.

Huntsville was designed by Rees Jones, whose design of the Burnt Pine Golf Club in Destin, Florida also won third place in the resort course category.

Golf Digest's December issue went on sale Nov. 14.