

Wrestling

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senior Jake Santee missed the last few meets and was unavailable for the post-season due to a back injury.

Matt Raczkowski advanced to the 112 pound finals after pinning two opponents. He and Rich Uslin of Meyers were knotted at four early, before Matt put his experience and endurance to good use. Raczkowski dominated the second and third periods and registered a technical foul, 24-8 (5:41).

It was the third district championship for Raczkowski, the first two coming at 103.

"This one felt weird, only because I'm used to being the first one out there," said the energetic Lehman senior.

After placing second at 112 the past two years, Dallas senior Mike Metz figured the third time would be the charm at 119. He had defeated his opponent, Bill Brehma of Lehman, in each of their previous two meetings. The Lehman junior had other ideas.

Brehma scored his points early, jumping out to a 4-1 lead in the first period. Defensively he refused to let up, keeping the pressure on throughout for a 6-3 decision and his first district championship.

"Before the match I tried to focus more than I have all year," Brehma said. "It paid off."

As a freshman a year ago, Eric Maciejczak was an integral part of Lehman's interchangeable lineup. He missed the post-season, but made up for it by winning the 130 pound championship in '96. While the AAA bracket was taking a break, all eyes in the house saw Maciejczak post an exciting overtime victory over Hanover's Jesse Martinez.

Eric fell behind quickly 5-0 in the first, but managed to tie up the bout before the opening stanza ended. With the score board reading 7-7 and 17 seconds remaining, the Lehman sophomore used all his strength to keep Martinez from escaping.

In the extra period, Maciejczak just barely avoided a takedown and made a nifty five-point move of his own for a 12-7 victory.

"This feels pretty good," Maciejczak said. "After getting behind I just got all of my confidence back and was determined to beat him."

Not to be outdone in terms of dramatics, teammate Brian Butler pulled a reverse on Mike Smith of GAR with 2-seconds left in the very next match. The move gave Butler a 6-4 victory in the 135 pound championship.

District Wrestling Results

Records of Back Mountain Wrestlers from District 2, Class AA Finals (Top 4 finishers advance to pre-regionals)

CHAMPIONS

- 112 - Matt Raczkowski, Lake-Lehman 3-0
- 119 - Bill Brehma, Lake-Lehman 3-0
- 130 - Eric Maciejczak, Lake-Lehman 3-0
- 135 - Brian Butler, Lake-Lehman 3-0
- 152 - Mike Pitcavage, Lake-Lehman 3-0

RUNNER-UPS

- 119 - Mike Metz, Dallas 2-1
- 140 - Joe Halowich, Lake-Lehman 3-1
- 145 - Ned Walsh, Lake-Lehman 2-1
- 189 - Tony Tereska, Lake-Lehman 3-1

THIRD PLACE FINISHERS

- 103 - Nick Raczkowski, Lake-Lehman 3-1
- 160 - Pat Rogowski, Lake-Lehman 3-1

FOURTH PLACE FINISHERS

- 125 - Sam Saylor, Lake-Lehman 2-2
- 135 - John Crispell, Dallas 2-2
- 140 - Chris Kuderka, Dallas 2-2
- 160 - Matt Gingo, Dallas 3-2

FIFTH PLACE FINISHERS

- 171 - Mick Konigus, Lake-Lehman 3-2
- 189 - Dan Natitus, Dallas 3-2
- Hwt. - Harry Hazletine, Dallas 3-2

SIXTH PLACE FINISHERS

- 145 - Cody Friedel, Dallas 2-3

ALSO

- 103 - Randy Evans, Dallas 0-2
- 125 - Chad Newell, Dallas 0-2
- 130 - Mike Hoover, Dallas 1-2
- 152 - Rich Macri, Dallas 0-2
- HWT - Luke Shook, Lake-Lehman 0-2

"It happened so quick, I don't know how to explain it," said the senior of his first district championship. "I just relied on what the coaches taught me."

Lehman's fifth and final championship of the night was also very gratifying. Mike Pitcavage took gold at 152 with an easy 10-2 major decision over Bishop O'Hara's Tim Donahoe.

"Before the match I tried to focus more than I have all year. It paid off."

Bill Brehma
119-pound district champion

"This is very satisfying," Pitcavage said. "I got bumped out of the line-up last year; to come back and win districts is great."

As a sophomore Pitcavage placed second at districts before being edged out in wrestle-offs as a junior. He'd never faced Donahoe before Saturday's bout. "That usually works in my favor," said Pitcavage who explained that a better wrestler can worry about technique and not vengeance.

Joe Halowich finished atop the 125 bracket as a sophomore. This year he came up just a little short wrestling at 140. Halowich lost a hard fought battle to Dave Solomon of Meyers 6-2.

After spending most of the season at 160, Ned Walsh made a good run after moving down two weight divisions. At 145, he fell to one of the conference's best in

Brian Hilbert. Walsh lost an 11-4 decision to the Meyers star.

Tony Tereska fought Jon Davies (GAR) to a 1-1 tie during regulation. The referee tied up the score at 2 after calling a double stall in overtime. Tereska then chose bottom and couldn't escape nor reverse Davies in 4 tries. Davies was awarded a 3-2 win via a ride-out.

Freshman Nick Raczkowski was most impressive during his first district performance. His only loss was a pin at the hands of Bishop Hoban's Shane Jerominski, the tournament's outstanding wrestler. The younger Raczkowski bounced back in the 103 consolations with a 3-0 win over Mike Slusser of Meyers.

Pat Rogowski lost his first match on Friday, but came all the way back though the losers' bracket to finish third at 160. He edged out Matt Gingo of Dallas 3-2 in the consolation final.

Gingo, just a freshman, opened some eyes with his performance. He took number one seed, Jason Croughn of Nanticoke into double overtime before losing a ride-out, 4-3. He also won three consecutive bouts in the losers' bracket before meeting Rogowski.

Mountaineer teammate John Crispell finished fourth for the second consecutive year. He finished 2-2, losing to Butler 6-4 and Gino Mercandante of Meyers 8-0. The 135 pounder showed tremendous courage battling through a rib injury suffered late

in the second period of his consolation bout with Mercandante.

Chris Kuderka also finished 2-2 and will make the trip to pre-regionals. In the consolations he lost to J.T. Arnone of Bishop O'Hara 5-0.

Lehman's Sam Saylor also finished fourth, losing his consolation bout, 3-2 to Hanover Area's Matt Potsko. It was most disappointing since Saylor opened the tournament with an 11-6 win over Potsko.

The four remaining Dallas wrestlers are practicing with their Back Mountain rivals this week. Lipski indicated preparations for the Black Knights won't be much different, since 11 of them are still eligible.

"We'll be doing more of the same this week," added co-coach Tom Williams. "We'll also get together with some AAA kids. We're asking our guys to step up again."

Shortly after winning his third consecutive district title, Matt Raczkowski was already thinking about this weekend.

"I'll be working hard at getting my weight back down and continue shooting for number one," said Raczkowski who remains undefeated on the season.

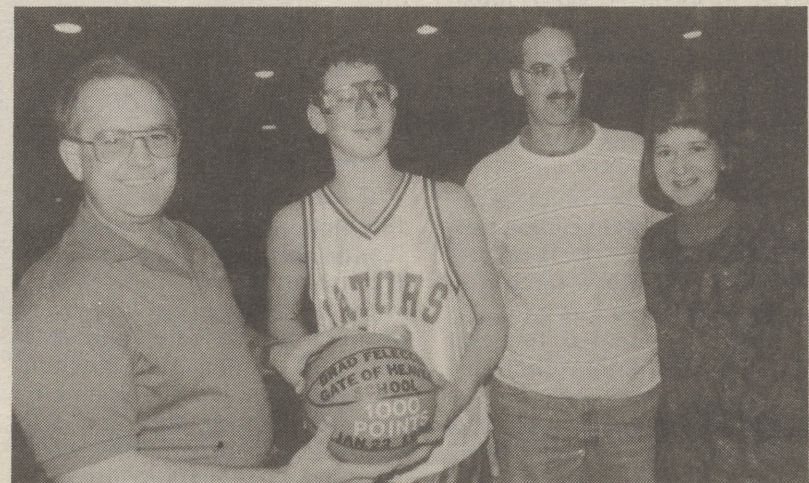
Following this weekend's pre-regional tournament, the Black Knights hope to defend their Class AA Northeast Regional crown in Williamsport March 2-3. Individuals will need a top three finish in Billtown to qualify for a trip to Hershey and a chance at a state medal.



POST PHOTO/ANN BELL

Score 500 for her

Bridget Narcum was flanked by parents George and Ann Marie, when she was honored for scoring 500 points in Gate of Heaven basketball. At far right is her coach, Trish Carr, and in front is younger sister, Kristine Narcum.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

A grand score

Brad Feleccia was honored last week for scoring 1,000 points in his Gate of Heaven basketball career. Above, from left, Jim Keiper, left, presented a commemorative ball as parents Rob and Arlene Feleccia looked on.

Kaufman

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including the desire to win."

Rachel's biggest accomplishments have been in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society as well as Who's Who Among High School Students, Kaufman is currently among the top two in her senior class. Her favorite subjects have always been the sciences. Next fall she'll begin work toward an engineering degree at either Lehigh or Lafayette.

"I plan on using my college experience as a guide to the future," said Kaufman. "I'll definitely pursue a job in a science field; I've always been inclined toward the sciences."

She also hopes to continue playing basketball, if not varsity, then at the intramural level. While she's looking forward to making

new friends and learning to live independently, she's going to miss her present familiar surroundings.

"I'm going to miss the school community," Kaufman said. "At Lehman I know everyone in my class, we're a close-knit group. I'll miss my personal relationships with the teachers. I do like meeting new people, so I'll adjust."

Meanwhile there's still time to be spent in a Lehman uniform. Rachel will be a midfielder for the Lady Knights soccer team in the spring. She's also involved with peer tutoring and serves as a member of student council.

Rachel is the oldest of three children. She has a teenaged sister, Rebecca and a brother, Andrew.

8th grade girls record 12th, 13th wins

The Gate of Heaven Gators Girls' 8th grade varsity had its 13th game of the season Feb. 19 against St. Nick's-St. Mary's of Wilkes-Barre at home. Gate of Heaven won by a score of 51-30 which takes their record to 12-1. The high scorers for Gate of Heaven were Maria Wright with 18 points and Veronica McRipley with 14 points. Gia Jackson had 12 points for St. Nick's-St. Mary's. The Gators next game is Thursday, Feb. 22, against Holy Child of Plymouth at Gate of Heaven.

The Gate of Heaven Gators Girls' 8th Grade Varsity won their 12th game of the season Feb. 15 against St. Peter & Paul of Plains at home.

High scorers for Gate of Heaven were Maria Wright with 16 points, and Bridget Narcum with 15 points. Bridget Narcum also scored her 500th career point for the Gators.

7th grade girls take championship

The Gate of Heaven 7th grade girls varsity clinched the Championship of the Wyoming Valley Catholic League with a record of 16-0.

The Lady Gators closed their season out with a convincing 47-28 win over St. Mary's Assumption of Pittston.

A trio of Gator starters hit double figures against St. Mary's: Chelsey Ostrowsky, 12; Katie Guntill, 12; and Shannon Leary, 12. Shannon Lupien finished with five points.

Awesome performances off the bench were contributed by Ali Hutch, Jocelyn Kozick, Jessica Holton, Samantha Leandri and Laura and Beth Charnick.

This is the first time after five years in the league that the Lady Gators have been able to secure first place. What is more impressive is that all the girls are in 7th grade. St. Mary's had strong performances from Walsh with 12. The Lady Gators are coached by Ed Ostrowsky and Joe Leary.

JV boys swamp St. Nick's

Gate of Heaven JV boys team beat St. Nick's 63-33 on Feb. 14. The GOH team was led by J.C. DeRojas with 24 points and Andrew Lohin with 22 points. Their record is now 13-0.

Boys varsity squeaks out win

The Gate of Heaven Varsity team beat St. Nick's in a close game 58-52. GOH was led by Mike Regan with 29 points and Brad Feleccia with 12 points. Feleccia scored his 1000 point and was awarded a ball. The team's record is 6-7.

GOH 6th grade girls take two wins

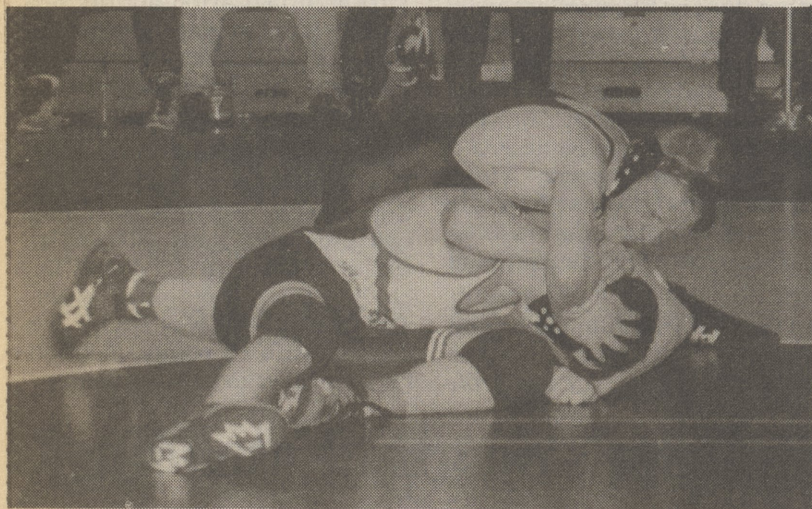
Gate of Heaven 6th grade girls defeated St. Peter and Paul's of Plains and St. Nick's Purple of Wilkes-Barre. High scorers in the St. Peter & Paul game were Courtney Dombroski, Sarah Armand, Monica Latosek and Katie Delaney. In the St. Nick's game, Ce-Ce Williams-Moen, Sarah Armand, Katie Delaney and Kim Celusniak provided the scoring. Rebounding were Lauren Davis and Laura Krakosky. The defense was led by Jennifer Bjelich, Paula Wasluck, Jeanne Herman and Chrissy Carboni.

Grade 7-8 boys win two, drop one

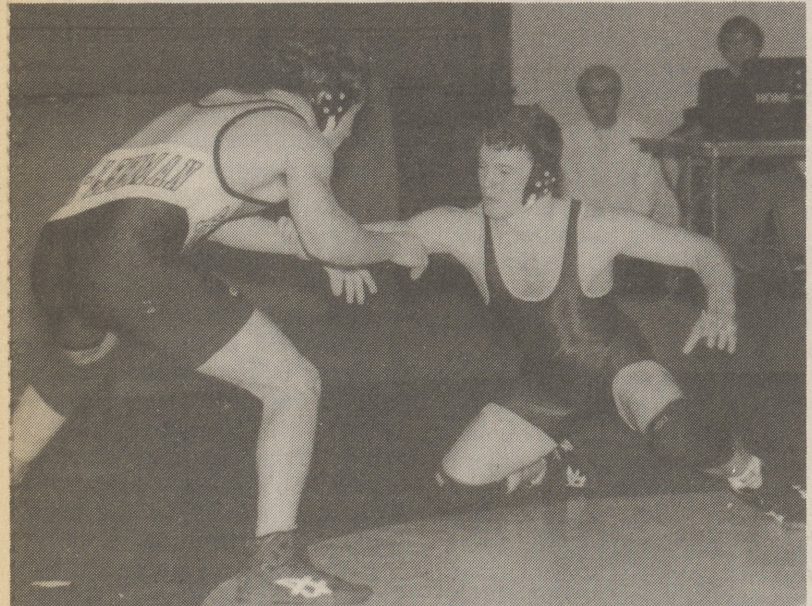
Gate of Heaven 7-8 grade boys defeated St. Mary's of Nanticoke in an away game, and at home last week. Gate of Heaven also lost to Plains. Leading the scoring in the first St. Mary's game was P.J. Spigarelli with 16 points, Mike Kashnicki, 13, and Bryan Wagner five.

In the second St. Mary's game, Mike Kashnicki scored 17 and Lorne Trapani 10.

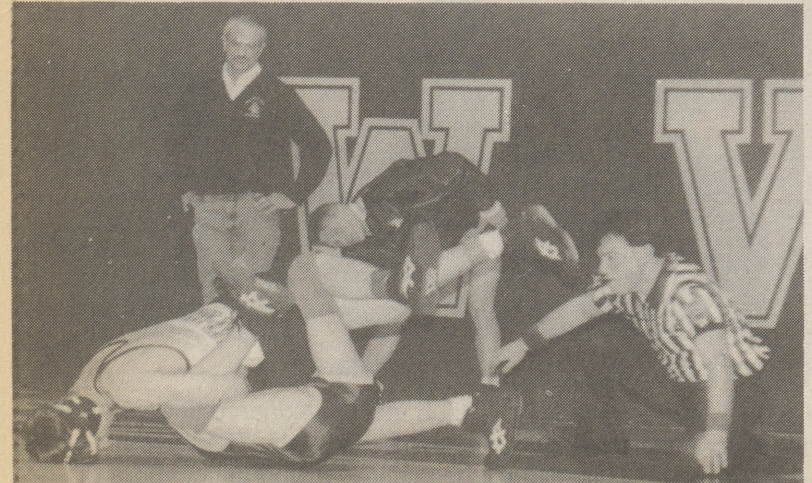
In the Plains loss, C.J. Adamchak scored 15 and Mike Kashnicki 11. The Green team has 13 wins.



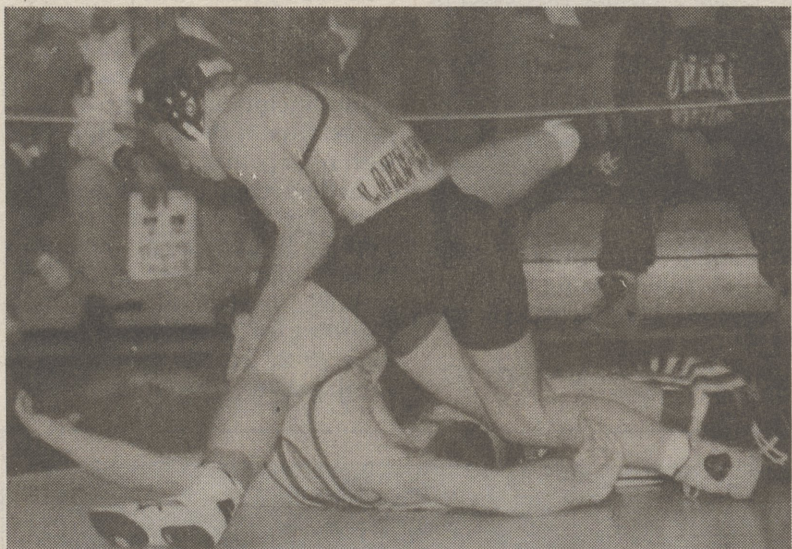
John Crispell, on the way to a major decision victory. He finished fourth on Saturday.



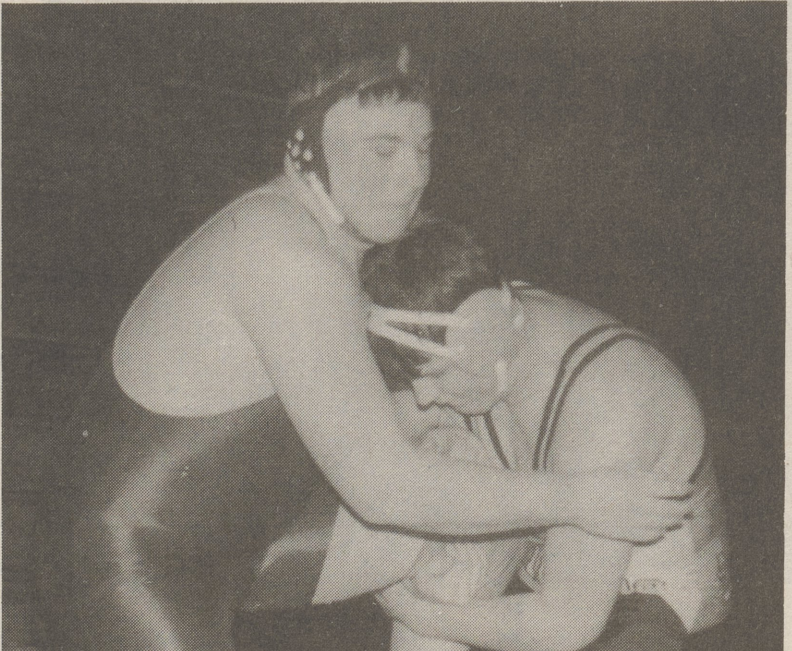
Chris Kuderka, in his trademark crouch against Joe Halowich. Halowich won, but Kuderka came back for a 4th place finish Saturday. Halowich finished in second spot at 140 lb.



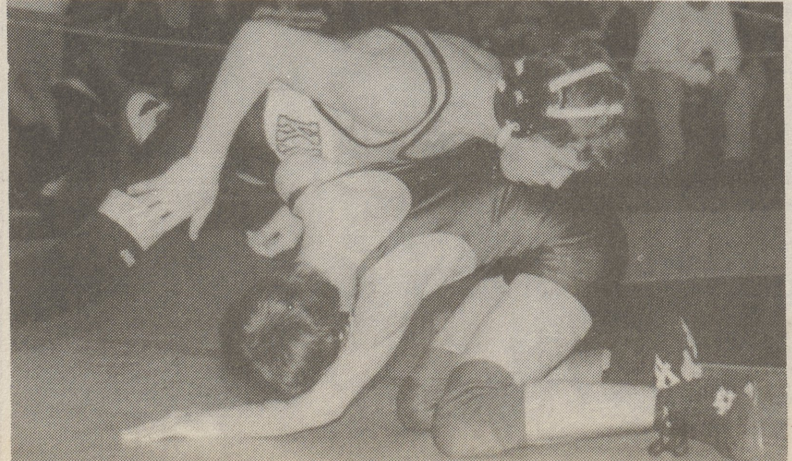
Eric Maciejczak scored a pin Friday, and went on to take first at 130 lb.



Ned Walsh worked toward a pin Friday. He was runner up at 145 lb.



Luke Shook had a grip on Harry Hazletine, but Hazletine would turn it around to post a pin.



Nick Raczkowski's debut was a winner, when he beat the Mounts' Randy Evans with a technical fall.