

# The Dallas Post Sports Week

Section 2

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

■ School news  
■ Classified  
■ Calendar

## Raczkowski is Mat(t) man for the Knights

By LEN KRYESKI  
Sports writer

**LEHMAN** - Matt Raczkowski has won 88 percent of his bouts during three years as a member of the Lake-Lehman wrestling team. He's established himself as one of the most dominant wrestlers of the Wyoming Valley Conference in recent memory and is a rare three time champion at the district level. Heading into this weekend's state competition, his victory total stands at 92 — and counting.

Yet, if you hang around the Lehman wrestling team long enough, you get the feeling that Matt's favorite match is the one he'll be faced with next.

"That's a true statement," said Raczkowski who also admitted there hasn't been one particular bout that's memorable or a win

that carries an extra special meaning over the others.

Courteous and friendly away from the sport, Raczkowski is a fierce, well-respected competitor on the mat. Energetic, yet focused, Matt is constantly bettering himself - mentally and physically - for the future.

The match he's faced with next is set for Thursday in Hershey at the PIAA, Class AA state tournament. His first battle is with the number one seed out of the southwest regionals, Vince Peleski of North Star High School. Peleski carries a 27-3 mark, while Matt stands at 34-1 on the season.

This being his second consecutive state tournament, Matt is going through the wrestling procedure one last time at the high school level this week. He may be more focused and determined than ever.

*"Anybody can be beat. You're as good as you make yourself."*

**Matt Raczkowski**  
Lake-Lehman wrestler

"My preparation is about the same as always," Raczkowski said. "I'll probably go a little harder on the conditioning."

Matt won the Class AA 112 pound District 2 and pre-regional championships in February. Undeclared, he was the odds-on favorite to take the Northeast Regional crown last weekend, before being upset in the semi-final round.

The Lehman senior jumped out to a 5-1 lead, and nearly registered a pin over Barry Wise of

Benton, but suffered a momentary loss of focus for the first time all season. Wise pulled off an 11-9 come-from-behind victory and went on to win the 112 pound division.

A narrow 2-1 victory over Bradley Keister of West Snyder followed. Matt then bounced back with a vengeance, winning the consolation bout over Sayre's Erik Franklin 13-2.

As a result of his third place finish, the road to a state championship got a little rougher, but Matt has never been one to back down from a good challenge and isn't about to start now. If any wrestler has the determination, skill and strength to bounce back, it's the senior from Lake Sillworth.

Matt's attitude on reflecting on past glory draws plenty of praise

See RACZKOWSKI, pg 10

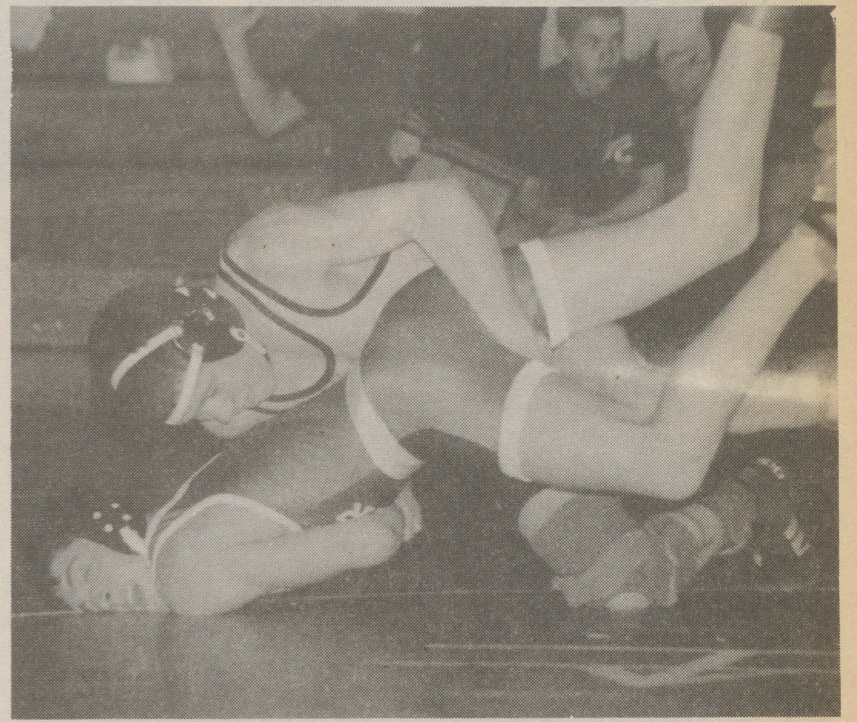


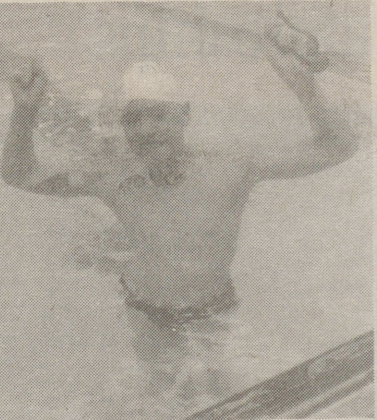
PHOTO BY DAVE KOZEMCHAK

Matt Raczkowski, taking control over an opponent at last weekend's regional wrestling tournament in Williamsport.

## Agony and ecstasy

Alisa Harris consoled Dean Evans, in right photo, after he missed qualifying for states in last week's district swimming meet. Below, Tim Herbert celebrated his finish in the 100-meter butterfly.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



## SPORTS SHORTS

### BMT softball tryouts Saturday

Back Mountain Softball will hold tryouts for all girls on Saturday, March 9, 1996 and Saturday, March 16, 1996 at the old Dallas Township School gymnasium (by the softball field), 1 p.m.: 8 and 9 year olds not on a team; 2 p.m.: 10, 11 and 12 year olds not on a major league team; 3 p.m.: 13, 14 and 15 year olds not on a senior league team. All players must make one tryout.

### BMT baseball tryouts Saturday

Back Mountain Baseball will hold tryouts on Saturday, March 9, 1996, at the Dallas Middle School gymnasium. All players not on a major league team and interested in playing on "AA", "AAA" or major division team must try out. Times are as follows:

American League - age 12 & 11, 9 a.m.-10 a.m.; age 10, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.; age 9, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.; age 8, 12 p.m.-1 p.m.  
National League - age 12 & 11, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; age 10, 2 p.m.-3 p.m.; age 9, 3 p.m.-4 p.m.; age 8, 4 p.m.-5 p.m.

## Dallas girls

(continued from page 1)



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Robin Suda, on the way to two or her game-high 20 points against Bishop Hoban.

remaining. Dallas simply inbounded the ball before claiming victory.

"This feels tremendous," Baseski said. "Being a senior you want to make the best of it. This is what you work for."

The Lady Mountaineers trailed 22-16 at halftime, but outscored Hoban in both the third and fourth periods. With their season on the line, the senior-laden team came out of intermission a determined bunch. Less than 2 1/2 minutes into the third period, Dallas tied up the score with a 6-0 run.

They may have come out of the locker room scoring, but with the Suda sisters leading the way, the second half rally can be attributed to maintaining control of the boards. Robin and Stacey combined for 17 rebounds in the second half.

"They hit the boards really well," Barbacci said. "That and our defense was the key."

Strong, tough defense is becoming a Dallas trademark with Barbacci at the helm. She keeps the opposition guessing by constantly mixing up the defensive sets.

Saturday the Mounts worked the diamond to near perfection. In the diamond set, four girls basically played a zone while Stacey Suda, one of the league's most underrated players, went

man-to-man on Stacie Miscavage. The strategy worked as Miscavage, the second-leading scorer in Division 1 at 19.1 ppg, was held to 11, only seven of which came from the floor.

Dallas also displayed the ability to mix up defenses in the middle of play. Whenever Hoban point guard Carlene Kratz got into the flow of the offense without the ball, the Mounts shifted to a type of triangle and two, with Baseski guarding Kratz.

"We've been working hard on defense since our last game," Baseski said. "We knew what to expect from (Hoban)."

Robin was a force inside scoring 12 of her 20 points in the second half. Most came within eight feet of the bucket.

"Coach told us that the inside was open," Robin said. "We just had to concentrate and look for the opening."

This week Dallas has been concentrating their efforts on preparing for Shamokin. They'll battle the 18-9 champs from District 4, at 2 p.m. this Saturday at Susquehanna University.

All six girls who entered the game got on the scoreboard for Dallas. Stacey added seven points to her 10 rebounds, while Adrienne Camp finished with five points and Sarah Barlow had four. Baseski and Austin contributed two apiece.

## Dallas skiers win third straight high school title

The Dallas Ski Racing Team won first place in the high school division at the Montage Interscholastic Finals Competition on Feb. 24. The win marked their third consecutive Finals victory as well as a record in Montage Interscholastic racing.

Dallas participated in the event along with several area schools. Unfortunately, the end-of-the-season match with rival Nanticoke never materialized when their team declined to compete. The Dallas team consisted of Jon and

Matt Kertesz, Mike Senausky, Chris Schneider, C.J. Tyrrell and Stacey Wagner.

Chris Schneider skied to a second place finish in the Individual Male category with the fastest time in the first heat. Stacey Wagner placed second in the Individual Female category.

During the 95/96 ski season, the team has so far accumulated a total of 20 medals and trophies while competing in Montage, ASRA, PARA, and Keystone Game events.

## Heat tops Warriors to take 7th-8th grade title

The Heat defeated the Warriors 37-30 in the finals of the 7th-8th grade Dallas Youth Basketball League. Both teams got off to a slow start, with the first quarter going to the Heat 6-2. The Heat used a well balanced offense in the second quarter to increase their lead to 14-8 at half time. It was much the same in the third quarter, with the Heat outscoring the Warriors 8-6 in the third stanza. The Warriors had their chances in the fourth quarter, however costly turnovers and some key missed shots sealed the win for the Heat. The Heat offense was led by Joe Stupino and Danny Fetko with 12 points apiece followed by Al Pisaneschi with six points. The Warriors' offense was led by Paul Dougal with 12 points, followed by Kevin Piekara with eight points.

In the first of two semi-final games it was the Heat defeating the Bulls by a score of 32-25. At the end of the first quarter, the Heat took an 11 to 5 lead over the Bulls on a well-balanced scoring attack. The Bulls trimmed the lead at the end of the second quarter to two, by outscoring the Heat 7-3. The Bulls cut the lead to one in the third quarter, by outscoring the Heat 4-3. How-

Photos of winning teams, pg 10

ever, the Heat woke up in the fourth quarter and outscored the Bulls 15-9, to seal the win. The heat offense was led by Jared Karalunas with 11 points, followed by Joe Stupino with six points and Kevin Yurko and Jason Race chipped in with four points apiece. The Bulls' offense was led by Mike Regan with a game high 18 points, followed by Lloyd Droppers with four points.

In the second game, it was the Warriors upsetting the Celtics 49-40. The Warriors took a commanding 18-8 lead over the Celtics at the end of the first quarter. The Warriors and Celtics traded baskets in the second quarter and the score at half time was the Warriors 24-17 over the Celtics. The Celtics narrowed the gap in the third quarter to a two point Warrior lead 31-29. However, Paul Dougal and T.C. Harding combined for 13 points in the final quarter to seal the win. The Warriors' offense was led by Paul Dougal with a game high 22 points

See 7-8 BALL, pg 10

## Miami edges Georgetown for 5th-6th grade crown

Miami and Georgetown met in the 5th/6th grade Dallas Youth Basketball finals, and the Hurricanes came from behind to claim a 32-31 victory.

Georgetown led at the half 12-11, and increased their lead to 22-19 at the end of the third quarter, but could not hold on for the win. Blake Saba hit three free throws in the fourth quarter and nine of his game high 19 points as Miami edged Georgetown 32-31. Chris Hiester added five points and Matt Carey five rebounds and four points. For Georgetown, John Simonitis had 10 points and eight rebounds and Paul McCue added another seven points.

In the semi-finals, Georgetown advanced with a win over St. John's, 27-24. St. John's attempted to come back from an eight point deficit at half time and narrowed Georgetown's lead to

three points before the final buzzer. Georgetown was led by a balanced offensive attack; Paul McCue and Angelo Recchia each had eight points and John Simonitis added another seven points for the win. Herby Bressler had a game high 13 points and Brian Downey had five points and seven rebounds for St. John's.

The other semi-final matchup put Miami against Seton Hall with Miami holding on to the lead in the closing minutes for a 30-27 win. For Miami, Chris Hiester had 15 points and Blake Saba seven points. There was some key rebounding by Miami's big boys, Chris Arnaud, five rebounds and Matt Carey, 5 rebounds. Seton Hall's high scorers were John Pambianco with 15 points and Tim Faneck with six points. Tony VanHorn had a strong defensive game with five rebounds.

## FSU claims grade 3-4 title

John McGeehan scored 11 points to lead Florida State to a 23-7 playoff victory over Duke. Kevin Domzalski and David Heister scored five each and D.J. Tasselmyer chipped in with two points. Leading Duke were Mitch Mitchell and Ken Regan.

In the other playoff semifinal, Tyler Droppers scored six points with four rebounds to lead Georgia Tech over North Carolina 22-

20. Also scoring for Tech were Colin Baird, Brian Gage, Jeff Pace, Sean Leary and Matt Rattigan. North Carolina was led by a red-hot Tim Kerestes with a game high 16 points.

In the championship game, John McGeehan scored five points to lead Florida State to a 13-6 victory over Georgia Tech. Kevin Domzalski had four for Florida State. Sean Leary led Georgia Tech with three points.