

Lehman soccer

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The Elstons are also doing some preparation for the future. Mary Brislin will shuttle between midfield and her familiar fullback position. This move will ease the graduation of Jamie Elston and Turner next spring.

Brislin is one of four returning juniors who have started at the defensive positions since their freshmen season. The others are Nicole Bouthot, Jen Marchakitus, and Debbie White. Sophomore Hillary Pilosi saw plenty of action off the bench last year. Her improving play will allow Brislin to see quality time at midfield. They don't receive the headlines, but this unit may be the best of any group in the entire conference.

Their outstanding play should balance out Lehman's one weakness: inexperience at goalkeeper. Junior Tara Coletti and freshman Trisha Pilosi have been battling for playing time during the pre-season. For now, they're both receiving a fair shot at replacing the void created by Judy Sichler's graduation.

The Black Knights return 12 letterman from last year. With just two seniors and the influx of skilled freshman candidates each of the last three seasons they figure to be at or near the top of the division for some time.

"The depth on the bench is very evident," said Jan Elston. "This spring we have better team spirit

"Are the girls overconfident? No they're taking this one game at a time."

Jan Elston
Lake-Lehman coach

than before and the girls respect one another. Taking the conference in our second year as coaches was good. Districts is our long range plans; whether that happens this year, we don't know."

The teams most likely to stand in their way will be Crestwood and Coughlin. Crestwood has 10 returning starters, speed, a high-powered offense and a great sophomore keeper in Linda Jones. Like Lehman, the Lady Crusaders of Coughlin have a pretty good feeder system. They're led by Stephanie Smith, a junior, who was the league's top keeper in '95. The Elstons are also wary of Hoban, a team that always seems to peak around playoff time.

The Lady Knights are looking forward to the season and fans feel the same about watching them. Featuring some of the league's finest and most-refined players throughout the lineup, they play an exciting brand of soccer.

With or without the overtimes.



1,500 points for Maria Wright

Gate of Heaven's Maria Wright recently scored her 1,500th career point as a member of the eighth grade girls' varsity basketball team.

Maria is the daughter of Mary and Ted Wright of Dallas. Her maternal grandparents are Alfie and Joe Saraceno of Wyoming, formerly of West Pittston.

Pictured from left: George Narcum, coach; Ted Wright, Maria's father; Mary Wright, Maria's mother; Maria Wright, Trish Carr, coach.



Top spots in BMT Wrestling Club tourney

The Back Mountain Wrestling Club recently held its annual elementary wrestling tournament, with over 400 wrestlers participating. Top club finishers are, first row, Donovan White, PeeWee 4th place; Mike Prater, PeeWee 3rd place; Andrew Shaw, Midget 1st place; Jesse Cooper, PeeWee 2nd place; Second row: Tim Shaw, Jr. High 4th place; Jonathan Schutz, Junior 3rd place; Marc Shaw, Junior 3rd place; Aaron Kubasik, Junior 1st place; Matt Davis, Midget 2nd place.

Dallas soccer

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time by district champion Hoban. Offensively, Dallas should be fine this spring. Junior forward Cristy Callahan and senior co-captain Melanie Love lead the strikers. Callahan paced the Mounts in scoring with 11 goals and three assists last spring. Her total of 25 points ranked fourth among Division 1 girls, earning her second team all-scholastic status. Love was fourth on the team in scoring with four goals and three assists. Nicky Nackley and Miriam Thomas have earned starting positions while Erin Hefflon will see plenty of action up front.

Robin Holeman, was tops on the team in assists with seven as a sophomore last year. She also scored three goals from the forward position, but is one of the players being considered for a position change. She may switch to midfield this spring.

Other top midfielders include the other co-captain, Rebecca Hoover, along with Jennifer Hite and Holly Shiber.

"We need to be little more aggressive at the midfield position," Moran said. "We need to win the battle of the midfield; that's something we didn't do enough of last year. The other question is whether our defense will come through."

Dallas will start with a new team of defenders in the backfield. Jamie Slocum moves back to full-

"We need to be little more aggressive at the midfield position."

Ron Moran
Dallas coach

back for her senior season. Other top defenders include Liz Keating, Amy Rogan and Tara Mintzer. Lisa Barrett and Sara Podehl will also see time at fullback.

Adrienne Camp is one of the team's strengths at the keeper position. She earned honorable mention status as a sophomore last year. The Lady Mounts are questionable behind her. Podehl is fighting exchange student Egda Hernandez for the backup goalie position. Hernandez, from Venezuela, has seen limited action in the past.

Division 1 of the WVC will offer prime competition again. Dallas has the athletes to solve their midfield dilemma and the team as a whole is determined to return to the playoffs. How fast the defenders mature could decide whether or not they'll achieve their goals.

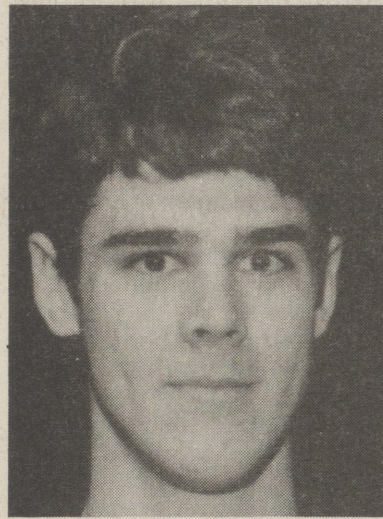
"Lehman and Crestwood will definitely be strong," said Moran. "This division is unbelievable, there's not an easy game for anybody."

"Our outlook is to make the playoffs, turn it up a notch and get back in."

Gager named hockey MVP

Wyoming Seminary recently recognized senior Phil Gager, son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Gager of Dallas, Most Valuable Player for ice hockey (offense).

Gager was among nine students to receive Most Valuable Player awards for his or her respective sport. The awards were presented by Wyoming Seminary athletic director Gary Vanderburg at a recent ceremony at the school.



PHIL GAGER

O'Reilly, Sem

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the ranks, however, and we'll be relying on them in years to come."

Another featured player will be Megan Conway. A midfielder, the junior was second on the team in scoring.

If Seminary has one advantage, it's the fact that they've been able to practice outdoors more so than any other team. Seminary had two exhibition games under its belt, while a few other schools

"Krista (Greger) is an excellent player and a real leader."

Steve Wise
O'Reilly coach

were seeking to practice outdoors for the first time. The Lower School field in Forty-Fort is well maintained and holds water very well. The Lady Blue Knights will call it their home field once again.

Adopt-a-Trail resumes at state park

The Adopt-A-Trail program at Frances Slocum State Park will be starting again with the first sign of spring. The park is in need of interested and motivated individuals and groups to assist in the maintenance of the various trails throughout the park. If you would like to learn more about making an adoption please feel free to contact the park at 696-3525 and ask for Jerry.

Volunteer programs resume at state park

Frances Slocum State Park is offering many opportunities for adventure in the outdoors.

The park has expanded its volunteer program to include many new fields, including helping with maintaining the park, working with environmental education, monitoring bluebirds or working as a campground host. Interested persons may call Jerry Kozlansky at 696-3525.

Disabled persons who wish to participate in any of the programs should contact Kozlansky at the above number or through Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at 1-800-654-5984.

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