

# Sports Week

Section 2

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

## Mounts rebound, shut out Meyers

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Sports Writer

**WILKES-BARRE** - In some ways, the 1996 edition of the Dallas Mountaineers has resembled a sleeping dog. A great big, mean sleeping dog.

*"I was really nervous tonight. I had butterflies before the game."*

**Billy Puchalsky**  
Dallas quarterback

After a nightmare season opener against Marian Catholic, the Mountaineers tried to wake up the echoes and shake the cobwebs against Meyers. A heavy dose of Frank Valvano was administered Friday night, so was a healthy shot of defense, and the effects proved to be too much for the Mohawks, who came up on the short end of the 19-0 score.

Valvano, who did not see much playing time in his first game due to an early ejection against Marian, ripped off 49 yards on his first carry of the game. Big Frank would carry the ball 27 more times. After it all was over he had run around, over and through the Mohawk defense, who knew he was getting the ball, for 190 yards.

Another key ingredient in Dallas's first win of the season was the play of quarterback Billy Puchalsky. He threw only seven passes, completing four of them for 74 yards.

However, one of the completions was a beautiful 50-yard touchdown to split end Brian Pietraccini. The play combined the touch of Puchalsky and the height of Pietraccini. If this combination continues to connect, it will mean headaches for opposing defenses.

After the game, an elated Puchalsky stood grinning on the field, a conquering warrior assessing the damage caused by his men. "I was really nervous tonight. I had butterflies before the game. It's only my second game starting, and I know I need to get better. I thought Frank ran really well and our defense played awesome. It feels good to get the first win."

Coach Ted Jackson was very pleased with his defense. "I think we played much better this week on defense. We needed this win. After what happened to us last week, you can call it controversial or whatever you want. But we needed to play better this week and we did."

The defense in which Jackson sees improvement was anchored by the play of two solid inside linebackers. Brad Kohli and Mark Kaschenbach were the stoppers against the Mohawks. Numbers 54 and 8 were constantly around



POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS

Billy Puchalsky handed off to Fran Brown as Jason Henry (62) opened a hole in the Meyers line.

*"I think we should've thrown more. I was stubborn about running the ball."*

**Ted Jackson**  
Dallas head coach

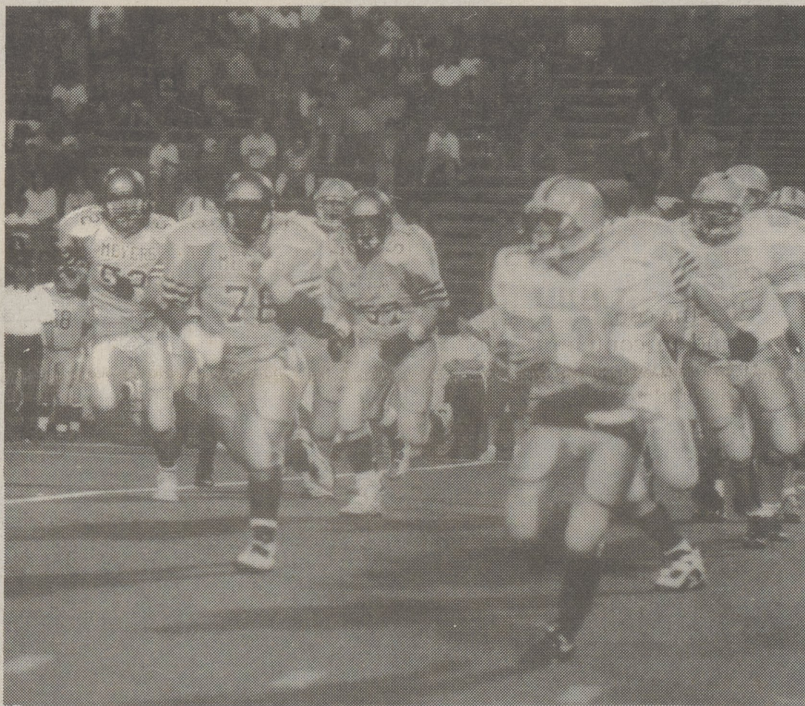
the ball, dishing out some ferocious hits. The fiery play of these two backers sparked frenzied defensive stands that pushed the Meyers offense backwards on many drives.

Offensively, several Dallas players figured in the victory. Pietraccini, in addition to his TD reception, added to the mixture by rushing three times, including a 33-yard reverse in the first quarter.

Fullback Fran Brown led the way blocking for Valvano most of the night and added 20 yards of his own. Puchalsky got knocked around a little bit by the Mohawk defense but stood tough.

Valvano scored twice on runs of two and eight yards. Big Frank showed that, in addition to strength and speed, he has some "ups" when he soared high over the pile on his first score. "I got that move from Emmitt Smith," Valvano proclaimed.

Statistically, Valvano may have had a big night, but he was not satisfied. "I'm not happy with how I played tonight. I fumbled twice and that's not good. The offensive line is the reason that I



Dallas quarterback Billy Puchalsky rolled out during Friday's win over Meyers.

ran well against Meyers, they did a great job opening holes for me."

As for what's in store for the Nanticoke Trojans this week, Valvano said, "I'm just going to go out this week at practice and work harder, and then we'll see." Coach Jackson echoes the idea that Dallas needs to work harder. "We had too many mistakes, too many fumbles, and Meyers is a hell of a defensive team. That could've cost us. We should've mixed it up more. I think we should've thrown more. I was stubborn about running the ball."

Jackson said Dallas will mix it up a bit more and will continue to stress defense as it readies for Nanticoke. A more balanced offensive attack, as opposed to the running one-sidedness of the performance against Meyers, should make Dallas a very dangerous team.

Jackson has said that he has confidence in his quarterback, and if the Dallas passing game loosens up the defense for Valvano, who knows what this team can do. Like the saying goes, you should let a sleeping dog lie.

### SPORTS SHORTS

#### SOCCER

##### Dallas 3, Crestwood 0

Kevin Pizzano sank the game-winner at the start of the fourth to break a scoreless match and lead the Mounts to a 3-0 blanking of Crestwood Sept. 6 at home. Justin Kerr followed with an insurance goal and an assist to Richard Douglas to end the scoring. Goalie John Fagan recorded the shut out for Dallas.

##### Lehman 2, Dallas 1

The Knights and the Mounts battled it out in Lehman Sept. 4 to kick off their 1996 soccer seasons with the Knights topping Dallas 2-1. Lehman forward Tony Van Scoy commenced the scoring in the league opener with a shot past Dallas keeper John Fagan at 19:53 in the first. Dan Dulebohn followed with an insurance goal in the third off an assist from Eric Rittenhouse. The Mounts tallied their only goal late in the third as Rich Douglas sank a pass from Rich Samanis.

##### Lehman 3, Abington Hts. 0

The Knight defense had a stellar day as they shutout Abington 3-0 Sept. 6. Ken Weaver booted the game-winner on a penalty shot at 15:54 in the first. Eric Rittenhouse and Russ Wienrich added insurance goals in the second and third periods respectively.

#### VOLLEYBALL

##### Lehman 2, Valley West 1

Kim Spencer commanded the court for the Knights Sept. 5, dishing out 11 kills and five aces in the Knights victory over Valley West 15-11, 10-15, 15-1. Kelly Spencer also had a fine day on the hardboards with nine aces and 15 assists.

##### Dallas 2, Meyers 0

The Mounts served up 24 aces en route to a 15-1, 15-0 thrashing of Meyers Sept. 5. Lori Buzin led the attack with 11, followed by Stacey Engler with 7.

##### Lehman 2, Meyers 0

Lehman took Meyers in straight sets 15-2, 15-1 Sept. 9. The Knights relied upon their solid serving to capture the win as Kelly Spencer and Kim Halowich accounted for 15 aces and Amy Kehler added 5.

#### CROSS-COUNTRY

##### Nanticoke 15, Dallas 50

With only two Mounts running the Mounts had to forfeit their meet with Nanticoke Sept. 3 losing 15-50. Tony Giasdina completed the course fifth for the Mounts while teammate Jeff Nutche placed seventh. The girls had a better showing but couldn't capture the points as Nanticoke edged them out 28-29. Amber Coolbaugh crossed the line first at 26:43 followed by Bridget Baines, third and Joy Morgan, fourth, but Nanticoke placed the next five finishers to take the points lead.

##### Lehman 22, Crestwood 33

Jason Lyons (16:52) paced the Knight squad with a second place finish just behind Crestwood's P.J. Ward (16:40) as Lehman outran the Comets 22-33 Sept. 6. Jim Lyons (17:02) trotted to a third place showing while Joe Maskalas (17:09) came in fourth.

#### HOCKEY

##### Coughlin 2, Lehman 1

Coughlin utilized two goals in the second half to upset Lehman 2-1 Sept. 4 in both teams' season opener. Despite a 1-0 lead at the half Coughlin managed to rebound with two late game tallies, including the game winner with just 40 seconds left on the clock. Jen Johnstone accounted for the Knights only goal, assisted by Nikki Yoblonski. Lehman outshot the Crusaders 18-4 in the setback.

##### Lehman 10, Hazleton 0

The Lady Knights used an explosive offensive attack to thrash Hazleton 10-0 Sept. 6. Sara Kasper commanded the field with 4 goals and an assist, while Kacy Ziomek added two goals. Lehman's sticks pumpled the Cougars' cage, slapping off 25 shots and 16 corners.

##### Lehman 6, Wallenpaupack 0

The Lady Knights belted out 5 goals in the second half Sept. 9 en route to a 6-0 blanking of Paupack. Sara Kasper accounted for 3 of Lehman's points and 2 assists. The Knights move on to face back yard rival Dallas away on Wednesday Sept. 11.

##### Wyoming Sem. 3, Dallas 1

The Lady Mounts could not recover from a 3-0 deficit at the half as they succumbed to Seminary 3-1 Sept. 4. Late in the second half, Natalie Temperine belted the lone goal for the Mounts past rookie goalie Annie Zinkavich.

##### Tunkhannock 1, Dallas 0

The Lady Mounts suffered their second loss of the season with a 1-0 setback to Tunkhannock Sept. 6. Dallas rattled off 13 shots on goal and 20 corners but could not penetrate the net. Dallas keeper Jennifer Jacewicz had 2 saves and allowed the lone goal at 19:30 in the first.

##### Dallas 2, Abington 0

Heather Wilt scored the game's two points as Dallas captured their first win of the season and shut-out the Comets 2-0 Sept. 9. Wilt was assisted by Mary Ann Selenski in the first half and Natalie Temperine in the second. Dallas' record improves to 1-2.

#### GOLF

##### Tunkhannock 165, Dallas 174

The Mounts record drops to 2-1 after a narrow 165-174 loss at Shadowbrook Sept. 3. Brian Blaze was low score for Dallas, shooting a 4-over-41 on the par 43 course just behind Tiger medal winner Andy Neely with a 3-over par 40. Behind Blaze were Justin Jumper, 43 and Chuck Fehlinger, 44.

##### Dallas 158, Pittston 219

Brian Blaze mastered the greens Sept. 5 carding an even-par 36 to capture medalist honors and vault the Mounts over visiting Pittston 158-219. Justin Jumper also had a fine day on the links with a 38 just ahead of Chuck Fehlinger who shot a 40.

##### Wyo. Sem. 165, Dallas 170

Dallas' Justin Jumper garnered medalist honors with a 2-over-par-38 but did not have the support behind him as Seminary outshot Dallas 165-170 Sept. 9 at Huntsville. Brian Blaze finished with a 41, Chuck Gehlinger a 45 and Tom Swartwood a 46.

##### Nanticoke 162, Lehman 175

Lehman carded a low 41 on the par-36 Jean's Run course as Nanticoke dropped the Knights 162-175 Sept. 3. Steve Hoprich sported the low card for Lehman followed by Joe Halowich with a 44 and Mark Coslett and Gary Sagen with 45 apiece.

##### Tunkhannock 173, Lehman 199

Joe Hardisky carded a low 48 for the Knights, 7 strokes behind the leader, as Tunkhannock knocked off Lehman 173-199 in golf action Sept. 5. Gary Sagan and Joe Halowich finished with 49's.

##### Coughlin 172, Lehman 211

The Knights continued on their downward spiral as they were defeated by Coughlin 172-211 Sept. 9. Low for Lehman was Chris Sorber with a 49, 8 strokes behind the medalist. Joe Halowich shot a 51 and Joe Hardisky a 55. With the loss Lehman's record drops to 0-6.

### Dallas Youth B'ball slates registration

Dallas Youth Basketball will hold registration for boys and girls winter leagues at the Dallas Middle School cafeteria Sat., Sept. 21 from 9 to 11 a.m. and Mon., Sept. 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Children in grades 3 through 8 who reside within the Dallas School District are eligible. For more information, call George Gracely at 639-1467.

### Grade 5-6 basketball registration Sept. 23

The Lehman-Jackson PTA will hold registration for its 5th and 6th grade basketball program, Sept. 23, 6-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. This is open to all 5th and 6th grade boys and girls in Lehman-Jackson Elementary.

Players will learn basic fundamentals through clinics and practice in a non-competitive environment.

Volunteers are always needed to help coach. For further information contact Brian Coombs at 675-4054, or Barry Horvath at 477-2789.

## Brian Goeringer takes turn as batboy

Nine year-old Brian Goeringer of Dallas, recently had an opportunity to meet the entire Red Barons team and serve as honorary bat boy at a Red Barons home game.

Brian was the grand prize winner of the Red Barons Bat Boy contest held exclusively at T.G.I. Friday's on Kidder Street in Wilkes-Barre. As part of the grand prize package, Brian and his family enjoyed lunch with several Red Barons players at T.G.I. Friday's.

After lunch, guests had the opportunity to collect player autographs, and win Red Barons and T.G.I. Friday's baseball memorabilia.

Later that evening, Brian was the honorary bat boy as the Red Barons hosted the Norfolk Tides at Lackawanna County Stadium.



Brian Goeringer, left, enjoys a lunch time autograph session with his brother Eric, right and Red Barons players Robert Butler, back left and Jon Zuber, back right.

### Tournament will aid autistic children

The First Annual Golf Tournament for Autistic Children will be held September 20 at the Mill Race Golf Course, Benton, with a shotgun start at 11 a.m.

It will benefit all children and families in the Wyoming Valley through S.A.F.E. Foundation (Supporting Autism and Families Everywhere).

Prizes are \$2,000 for flight winners, hole in one; men's longest drive; ladies' longest drive, straightest drive; and closest to the pin on all par 3, with a format of Captain and Crew, the cost is \$90 per person.

Registration is limited to the first 120 golfers. Mail to Northeast Home Improvements, RR 2, Box 2310, Sweet Valley, PA 18656. For more information call 675-8300. Donation includes lunch on the course, golf cart, green fees and prime rib dinners.