

SportsWeek

Section 2

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Mounts score TKO in 'Collision on Carpet'

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WILKES-BARRE - In this corner, wearing white jerseys with baby-blue numbers, unbeaten in divisional play, ladies and gentlemen it's The Back Mountain Bashers. And in this corner, wearing the navy jerseys with white numbers, representing the Heights section of Wilkes-Barre, the highly ranked contenders, the Hilltop Hooligans.

Ali and Fraser had "The Thrilla in Manila" and "The Rumble in the Jungle." They were fights that involved two ferocious heavyweights standing toe-to-toe, slugging it out, giving everything they've got. The Dallas Mountaineers outslugged G.A.R. 28-21 on Friday, October 4, 1996, in a game that could be called "The Collision on the Carpet."

The epic struggle pitted two of the conference's best running backs against one another. Dallas's Frank Valvano and G.A.R.'s Harold Jackson combined to rush 70 times for 488 yards. An exhausted Valvano said "I thought I might carry the ball a lot, but I didn't think it was going to be that much. This game took everything out of me."

Big Frank lugged the pigskin 37 times for 270 yards and two touchdowns while G.A.R.'s H-Train steamrolled 33 times for 218 yards and three touchdowns. As the game wore on, everyone in the stadium knew who was getting the ball. It didn't matter. Each team was saying, "Go ahead, try to stop us. We dare ya!"

The game was typical of Grenadier-Mountaineer matchups. Dallas coach Ted Jackson said, "When G.A.R. and Dallas get to-

"This game took everything out of me."

Frank Valvano
Ran for 270 yards

gether, there's always something to watch." He wasn't kidding.

In a game of this magnitude there are going to be many key players who put on heroic displays and there are always going to be some plays that turn the tide for each team. This edition of G.A.R.-Dallas was no different. Here are the biggest plays of the game. They are in not in order of importance (hey, I'm not David Letterman!):

Big Play number 1: With :40 left in the first half and his team trailing 7-0, Mark Kaschenbach makes a huge grab at the G.A.R. 20 yard line.

Big Play number 2: Kaschenbach hauls down a Billy Puchalsky pass for a touchdown with only :10 seconds left in the first half. Kaschenbach says of his team's effort: "We know that we're the best team out there. We just have to keep believing in ourselves and we'll keep winning."

Big Play number 3: Big Frank rumbles 60 yards to the G.A.R. 17, setting up his one-yard score later in the drive.

Big Play number 4: In the third quarter, Harold Jackson stops running after a penalty flag is thrown and he fumbles the ball. Dallas recovers. Several people said they heard a whistle on the play.

Big Play number 5: With 3:49 left in third, Dennis Wengrzynek recovers another G.A.R. fumble. The Mountaineers would score later in this drive as Puchalsky's

QB sneak made it 20-7.

Big Play number 6: After stopping G.A.R. on fourth down, Dallas takes over on downs, but fumbles the ball right back to them. Harold Jackson scores to make it 20-13.

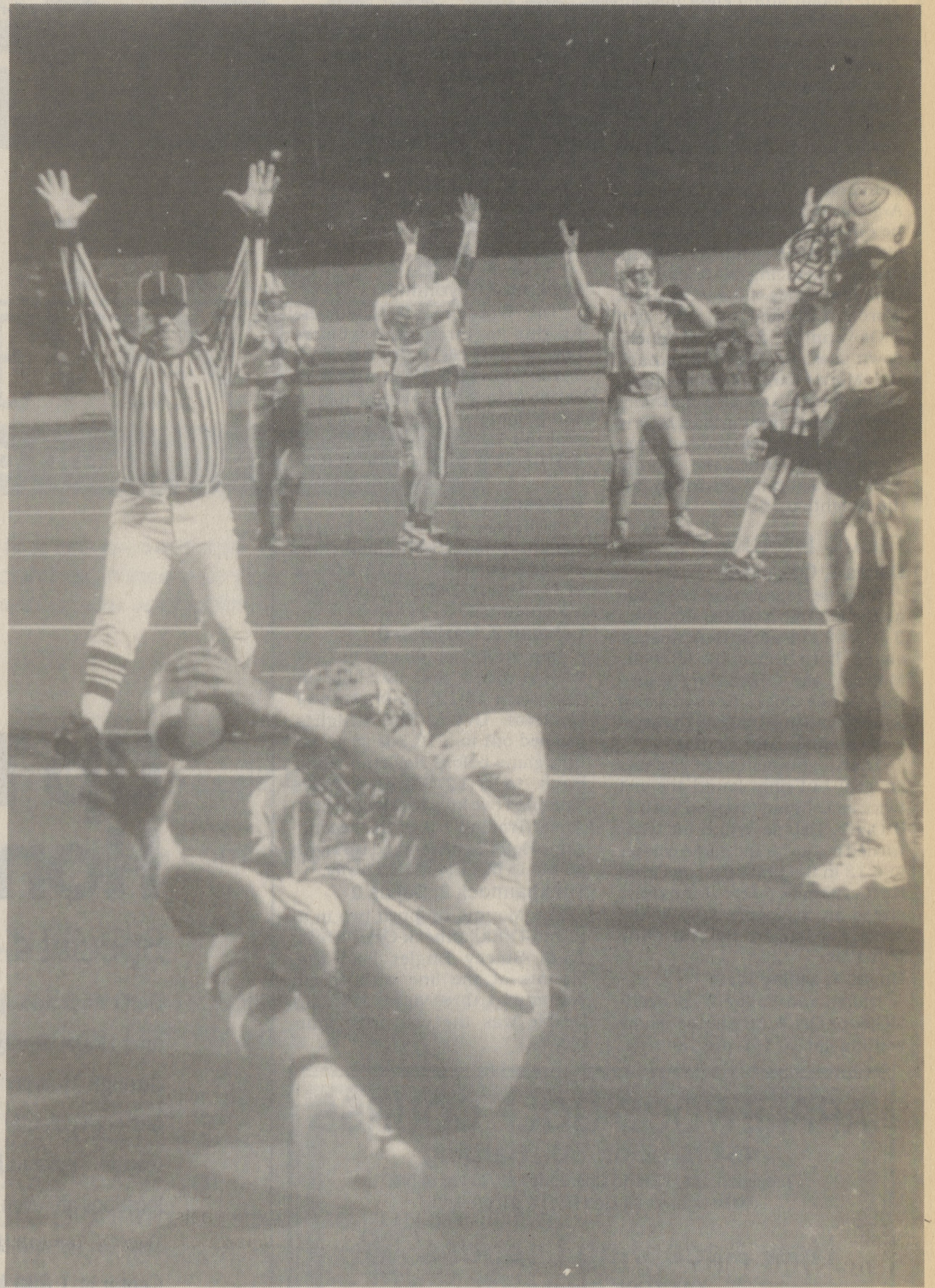
Big Play number 7: G.A.R.'s Wayne Whitaker intercepts Puchalsky, setting up a strange play. Big Harold Jackson, all 240 pounds of him, lines up at quarterback. He takes the snap and tries a dive into the left side. There is no room, so he bounces off a would-be tackler and runs off right tackle for a 36-yard score. The H-Train also takes it in for the two point conversion. G.A.R. 21, Dallas 20. Coach Jackson says of the play, "We practiced all week with Harold at quarterback. We knew they'd try something like that. He still runs for a touchdown. He's that good."

Big Play number 8: With 4:46 left in the game, Whitaker picks off another pass, but he fumbles the ball and the Mounts' Harry Hazeltine pounces on the loose ball to keep the drive alive.

Big Play number 9: There's under three minutes to go in the game. It's fourth down and one long yard to go. Big Frank busts through the line and darts all the way to paydirt. Valvano later says "I got past the first guy and there was nothing but green ahead of me." Frankie V. also gets in for the "two" and Dallas now leads 28-21.

Big Play number 10: With one tick left on the clock, Harold chucks a Hail Mary into the end zone, but Dallas' Brian Pietracini swats it away to preserve the win.

Dallas now will get ready to face the Argents of Bishop Hoban.



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Mark Kaschenbach held up the ball after scoring the first Dallas touchdown against GAR Friday night. Kaschenbach hauled in a 9-yard pass from quarterback Billy Puchalsky. Dallas won 28-21

SPORTS SHORTS

SOCCER

Dallas 2, Lehman 1

Kevin Pizzano had a score and an assist to vault the Mounts over Lehman 2-1 Oct. 1. Pizzano broke open a scoreless game with an unassisted sinker in the third. Lehman's Fabio Marques retaliated with his first goal of the season to even the score at one apiece. Rich Samanis put the game away in the fourth off a pass from Pizzano.

Crestwood 2, Dallas 1

Dallas outshot the Comets 22-12 but were unable to penetrate the net as Crestwood edged out the Mounts 2-1 Oct. 3. Justin Kerr evened the score at one apiece in the third off an assist from Kevin Pizzano but the defense let one slip pass later in the period to give Crestwood the win.

Lehman 3, Abington 1

The Knights belted out two first period goals including one just 33 seconds into play as Lehman toppled Abington 3-1 Oct. 3. Brad Diffenbacher sank the first tally off a pass from Mark Steele. Russ Wenrich followed up with a goal of his own later in the period and Andrew Verdikal rounded out the scoring in the fourth assisted by Dan Dulebohn.

Dallas 2, Meyers 1

Justin Hoover put the Mounts over the top with an unassisted goal in second overtime to snap a 1-1 deadlock and lift the Mounts past Meyers 2-1 Oct. 5. Mitch Bailey evened the score at one apiece on a penalty kick in the third. His shot was one of the Mounts 20 for the day. Keeper John Fagan had nine saves in the cage.

Lehman 4, Hazleton 3

The Knights survived a 3-2 late game deficit with two fourth period goals to drop Hazleton 4-2 Oct. 5. Fabio Marques and Tony Van Scoy had a goal apiece in the second and third periods respectively to pull the Knights within one of the Cougars. Mark Steele then knotted the score at three all off a pass from Eric Rittenhouse.

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KNIGHTS BLANK TRAIL 2-0

Lake-Lehman shut out Lackawanna Trail Oct. 2 in a non-conference meeting. Above, Jen Johnstone was about to put the ball in the net for a score. Marie Manzoni was behind the play. Sara Kasper battled for control with Trail's goalie in the photo at right. The Knights are on top of the WVC Class AA and ranked second in the state.

POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS



Raiders win 2 of 3 over Edwardsville

Although coming up short on the scoreboard, the Raiders A Team as always battled hard and played with a lot of pride throughout the entire game.

Raiders B Team continued their winning ways on Sunday with an impressive 32-6 victory over the Edwardsville Eagles. The Raiders balanced offensive attack was led by the rushing of Jonathan Barbose, who had more than 100 yards on the ground, and Bobby Zaruta who threw three TD passes. Barbose, Matt Rondina, Kenny Regan each scored one touchdown and Steven Salavantis crossed the goal line twice. Rondina added a two point conversion.

Once again the Raiders played strong defense, giving up only one score and forcing three interceptions and two fumbles. Putting forth fine performances were David Rowett, Billy Youells, Danny Piccillo and Nick Mathewson.

The Kignston Township Raiders C Squad won yet another game on the road to the Super Bowl.

The offense performed with great flair on a pass from Elijah Miller to Steve Rosencrans in the third quarter. Miller made the two point conversion. Brian Ostrowsky turned in another great game. Rushing for most KT yards and setting the team up for the score, Brian deserves the offensive player mention of the week. Matt Brokenshire logged some time at quarterback and Matt Kelly showed his stuff at tailback. The offensive five starring Curt Montz, Jeff Mentis, Noel Smith, Tom Perrigo and Andrew Hiller showed near dominance around the line of scrimmage. Only a few turnovers and penalties held the Eagles to zero. This is the fourth week in a row the Raiders defense has not allowed a single point. Playing well for the Raiders defense were Jacob Kovalchik, Matt Brokenshire, Steve Rosencrans, David Judge and Jamie Trochi. Corey Guiliano and Sean McMahon had a strong showing of defense as well as Jonathan Baker and Derrick Elston.

Golf tournament will aid GOH School

The Gate of Heaven School P.T.G. will hold a "Captain and Crew" golf tournament Oct. 12 at the Four Seasons Golf Club, Exeier. Registration will be held at noon, followed by a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

The \$50 per person fee includes 18 holes, cart, buffet dinner, beverages and prizes for flight winners and contests.

A trip for two to Florida will be awarded to the person making the first hole-in-one on hole #10. To enter a foursome, call Michele Fagula at 675-6573. Payment is due by Oct. 4. Hole sponsorships are available for \$50.

BMT Baseball banquet tickets on sale

Back Mountain baseball and softball banquet will be held October 20 at 5:30 p.m. at Genetti's Hotel, Wilkes-Barre. Tickets are \$5, youth 12 and under, \$10, age 13 to adult and are available during normal business hours at The Fieldstone, Hillside Dairy, and Humphrey's Bootery. Also tickets will be sold at the Back Mountain refreshment stand at the field Oct. 12 from 9-11 a.m. All tickets must be purchased by October 13.

Race night will aid Dallas Gridiron Club

The Dallas Gridiron Club will host a "Night at the Races" October 12 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin Township Fire Hall in Orange. The \$3 admission charge includes free beverages and refreshments.