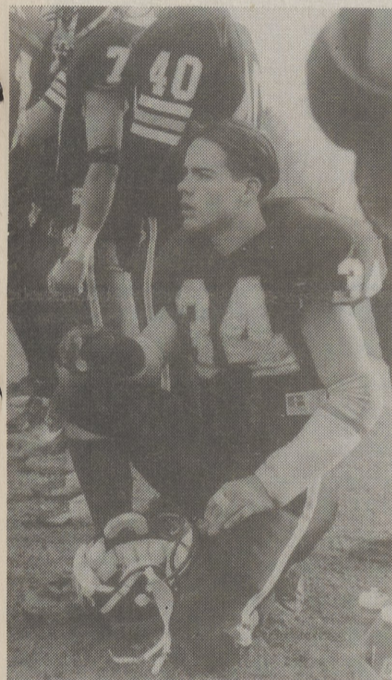
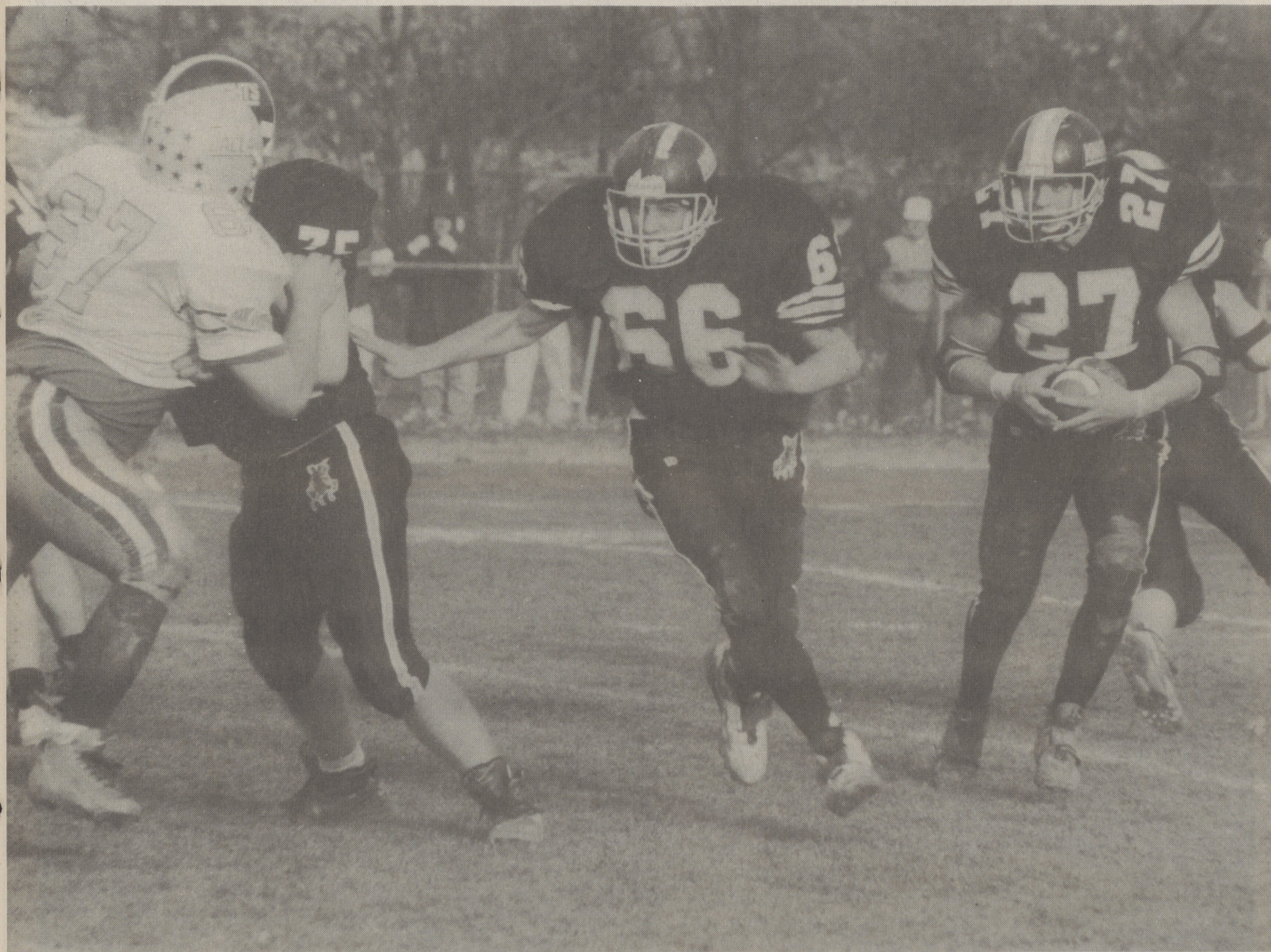


SportsWeek

Section 2

Wednesday, November 6, 1996



Lake-Lehman's Mark Ronczka (27), top photo, followed blockers Ryan Hartz (75) and Carl Sgarlat (66) in last weekend's Old Shoe game. At right, Dallas running back Frank Valvano escaped from Mike Woronko. At left, Mick Konigus watched from the sideline. Dallas regained the shoe by shutting out the Black Knights 21-0.

POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS



Knights' season over, Mounts look ahead

By VITO QUAGLIA
Sports Writer

BACK MOUNTAIN - Dallas defeated Lake Lehman 21-0 on Saturday, claimed the "Old Shoe" trophy, and also assured itself a home game in the Eastern Conference playoffs. The Mountaineers, co-champs of WVC Division II with Wyoming Area, finished the season 7-3 (7-1 in the division) and will host Bangor this Saturday. Lehman finished the year at 5-5 after being plagued by injuries to several key players.

According to Black Knights' coach Rich Gorgone, the grueling schedule of the Wyoming Valley Conference was too much for his team this year. "We play in a very physical league where week in, week out you bang with extremely tough teams. It's very hard to stay healthy."

Reflecting on the season, Gorgone is quite pleased. "We told them before the Dallas game that we (the coaches) were very proud of them. I don't think that I have ever been around a team with more character than this year's Lehman team. No matter what happened, they kept working harder and harder."

Several Black Knights had successful individual seasons. Mark Ronczka rushed for nearly 1,000 yards. Quarterback Mike Woronko and split end Chris Bath finished the year among the passing and receiving leaders, respectively.

Gorgone feels that Woronko, Ronczka, and Bath, along with tackle Joe Kosior, have the ability to play collegiate football. "Woronko got something like 1380 on his S.A.T.s and Kosior is 6'2", 270 and benches 350 pounds. I think that we have a few seniors that have what it takes to play at the next level."

For the Lehman seniors, their high school football games are over, fuel for future war stories of their glory days. For Gorgone and the underclassmen, after a few weeks off, the cycle will start again. "We usually start the off-season weight program after the first of

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Rich Gorgone
Lake-Lehman coach

the year, but the kids will start bugging us sometime in December.

Gorgone also believes that the future of the Lehman football program looks bright as many young players received valuable game experience this season. "With the injuries we had, we started as many as nine underclassmen at times. The freshmen team finished 7-1 and we have a terrific sophomore group. Our backup quarterback, D.J. Kapson, is just a freshman and Matt Morris (sophomore) did a nice job playing for Bath when he was hurt."

Dallas, on the other hand, is looking forward to its next game, rather than next season. Even though they play in one of the toughest divisions in the state, Dallas did not accumulate enough points and did not qualify for district playoffs. The Mounts do, however, find themselves in post season action, the Eastern Conference playoffs.

The Mounts' opponent will be Bangor, 8-2 in their league, a team that coach Ted Jackson feels is very good. "After watching film on them, I'd say Bangor is a solid team. They have a heck of a running back and their quarterback seems to be pretty quick. On film, they don't look to have a lot of size, maybe only two or three big kids, but they have speed."

Dallas should go into this game injury free, for the most part. "We're pretty healthy. Some guys have bumps and bruises, but nothing that should keep them out of a playoff game," noted Jackson.

Two-day deer hunt in December at Frances Slocum Park

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) will conduct a regulated antlerless deer hunt at Frances Slocum State Park, Luzerne County, Dec. 16 and 17, to help control the deer population within the park.

The two-day hunt is for antlerless whitetail deer only, and will be conducted in areas not normally open to hunting. To ensure the safety, the park will be closed to all other activities these two days.

To participate, hunters must

hold a Luzerne County antlerless license or Bonus License, as well as a special state park permit. Only manually operated shotguns or muzzleloading firearms will be allowed, though they may be of any type caliber. The hunts will be limited to 40 hunters each day, chosen by random drawing.

"An overpopulation of deer prompted the need to expand hunting areas at Frances Slocum State Park. When the deer population is out of balance with the park land, it affects other wildlife, including the elimination of plant

species and destruction of habitats for birds and small mammals," said Roger Fickes, director of the Bureau of the State Parks.

Fickes explained that the excessive deer herd is destroying park vegetation. He said after hunts at other state parks, the park staff usually sees a return of long-absent wildflowers, shrubs, and small trees.

Safety zones, no hunting areas, and park boundaries will be posted and strictly enforced. Extra park rangers, Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel, and

the State Police will be stationed throughout the park area during these hunts.

Applications for the controlled hunts can be obtained at the Frances Slocum State Park Office, open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Applications must be received by Nov. 20. Hunters will be chosen by a random drawing and notified by mail. Hunters must attend a hunter safety program at the park prior to the hunt.

For more information, call the park office at 696-3525.

Lady Knights win playoff

Lake-Lehman stopped Line Mountain 1-0 Tuesday afternoon in a first round game of the PIAA state field hockey playoffs. Jen Johnstone netted the game's only score off an assist from Debbie White in the game played at Wilkes University's Artillery Park.

Jr. Football Charity Bowl Nov. 17

The Greater Pittston Junior Football Conference will hold its annual "Kids Helping Kids" Charity Bowl on Sun., Nov. 17, at the Exeter Panther Field Complex in Exeter. There will be two games beginning at 12 noon and 2 p.m. respectively. The event will feature football players, cheerleaders, coaches and advisors from 16 municipalities raising funds to benefit children with disabilities who receive therapeutic services at Wyoming Valley Children's Association. The day will also feature a Chinese Raffle Auction of numerous prizes which were donated by local businesses along with food and fun for the entire family.



Supersonics win first place

The Back Mt. Supersonics took first place in the 8th Annual Columbus Day Tournament in Poughkeepsie, New York. The Sonics posted a 4 win 1 tie record to claim the U-14 boys prize. Pictured from left, Brook Kryston, Kevin Callahan, T.J. Dougherty, Mike Son, John Isaac, and Aaron Moyer; 2nd row, Coach Duane Sprau, Keith Sprau, Josh Katyl, Colin McHale, Sean Lykon, B.J. Lewis and Stephen Moyer.



Predators take second

Back Mt. Predators captured second place in the 8th annual Columbus Day Tournament in Poughkeepsie, NY. The Predators played five games posting a 3-1-1 record. Pictured from left, 1st row, Daniel Katyl, Eric Feinstein, Jonathan Schmid, Nathan Carsman, Michael Choe, Greg Mascoli; 2nd row, Tye Morris, Stephen Luksh, Brett Sprau, Dustin Kapson, Don Murray, Paul McCue, Neil Buckman. Back row, Asst. coaches Don Murray and Rick Buckman, Coach Dave Katyl.



Irem Golf officers for '97

The Irem Women's Golf Association recently held its closing event for the 1996 season. The event marked the presentation of prizes for the past season. The 1997 chairman will be Sandy Valenti. Shown above are the new officers for the coming season. Seated, from left, treasurer, Sharon Cosgrove; secretary, Sharon Strauser; captain and rules chairman, Sis Ertley; standing, handicap chairman, Dot Harding; chairman, Sandy Valenti; handicap, Betsy Thomas; co-chairman, Estelle Laux; representative to the Northeast Pennsylvania Women's Golf Association, Esther Saba.