



The Dallas Post

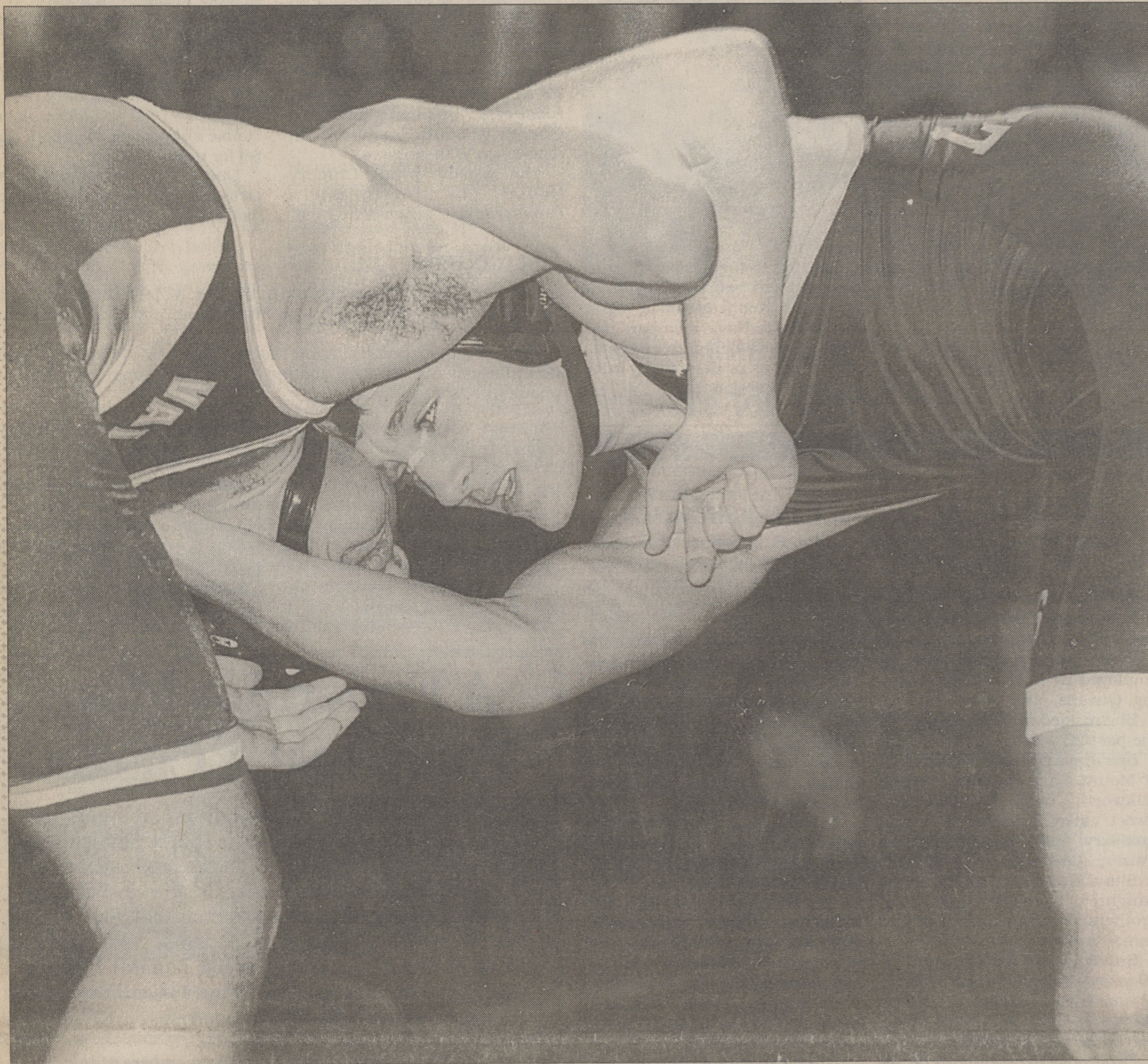
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POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

LOCKED IN BATTLE

Lake-Lehman wrestler Sam Saylor sparred with his counterpart from Wyoming Valley West in last week's match. Saylor posted

a major decision as the Black Knights took an easy 39-18 win. The Black Knights are undefeated so far this season.

Pair aim to be student ambassadors to Australia

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

BACK MOUNTAIN - Amie Tkaczyk wants to scuba dive the Great Barrier Reef. If she raises \$4,000 by March, her wish will be realized.

Amanda Young is also looking forward to the chance to go scuba diving as well as the opportunity to look up some of her father's friends in Australia.

The two Dallas Middle School students were selected for a program called the People to People Student Ambassador Program. The 50-year-old program sends American students abroad to meet with government officials and visit important national sites in Australia and New Zealand.

Both students were first recommended for the program and

then selected through an interview process. Prospective students are interviewed by three members of a committee of past People to People Ambassadors.

Amanda explains that the committee looks for certain characteristics in the candidates. "You can't be too much of a picky eater," she said. "You have to be able to wake up in the morning and you can't be really homesick."

The 21-day program takes place in the summer so as not to interfere with the students' school schedules. There will a total of 40 high school students and 40 middle school students on the highly structured trip. Cathy Tkaczyk, Amie's mother, said the students selected come from all over New York, New Jersey, and

See AMBASSADORS, pg 3



AMANDA YOUNG



AMIE TKACZYK

Westmoreland parents unhappy with school vote

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - The Dallas School Board is learning that it can't please everyone even some of the time.

The board voted Monday to rescind its Dec. 17 decision to build a new K-5 elementary school on the administration site in Dallas Township, instead putting the building back on the 100-acre main campus. The 5-to-4 vote had Maureen Banks, Reese Finn, Thom Russ and John Litz voting no to the campus site, while Joseph Kunec, James Richardson, John George, Ernest Ashbridge and Thomas Landon voted yes.

Landon originally voted for the administration site, but switched his vote at Monday's meeting. "I walked the main campus with Gil Griffiths (assistant superintendent) who showed me all the sites that were available. That's why I

Walk the main campus sites with board, architects Sunday, 1 p.m.

changed my vote," said Landon. The mixed crowd of more than 50 Westmoreland and Little League parents expressed different reactions after the vote, with Little League proponents pleased and Westmoreland parents disappointed.

John George, property chairperson, made the motion because "so many people have approached me about the demolition cost of the old Dallas Township High School (estimated to cost anywhere from \$200,000 to \$300,000)," he said.

Both John Litz and Maureen

See SCHOOL VOTE, pg 12

Lawsuit against asphalt company headed to trial

Last-minute meeting may avert further action

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

JACKSON TWP. - Jackson Township's long-standing battle against American Asphalt will finally find its way to court on Monday, January 13. Jackson Township alleges the asphalt company has been mining 800 feet outside of the mining zone. The township has filed two cases against the operation, one in 1979 and one in 1982.

The supervisors met with criticism from residents of the township when Solicitor Blythe Evans announced a closed meeting scheduled for January 7 between the township supervisors and American Asphalt.

John Phillip said, "They are in violation of a zoning law. There is nothing that can be given to American Asphalt at a private meeting. I believe this is a ridiculous situation when all that can happen at a meeting is intimidation and lies."

"They've raped and pillaged the community and they want to negotiate. The meeting shouldn't be heard," Ed Chesnovitch added. Evans explained that no action would be taken before it was discussed with the citizens.

Township supervisors John

"They've raped and pillaged the community and they want to negotiate."

Ed Chesnovitch
Jackson Twp.

Wilkes Jr. and Walter Glogowski both felt that residents shouldn't be present at the meeting, according to Evans. Evans explained that the supervisors felt pessimistic about the upcoming meeting. "The meeting is not going to be long. There is very little they can offer," he said.

The 1997 budget for Jackson Township includes a tax rate of 17 mills. Wilkes opposes the budget, citing salaries he disagreed with, as well as donations to the fire and ambulance departments. Wilkes added that it was "nothing personal."

Donald Jones, township police chief, disputed his "reduction of salary." Three Jackson Township employees who were both salaried and part time will now be paid an hourly wage.

Chief Jones, township secre-

See JACKSON, pg 3



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

Louis Alar, known around the Shavertown fire hall as Luke, has been honored for heroism in Maryland.

Award-winning firefighter learned skill in Shavertown

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN - Louis Alar has made the Shavertown Fire Department proud. The 27-year-old Back Mountain native won a bronze medal of honor for going above and beyond the call of duty in firefighting.

Although he now lives and works in Maryland, Alar visits the local station often and hasn't forgotten where he learned the basics of firefighting and friendship.

Alar, who is affectionately called Luke, won the award after he and three other firemen ran into a burning building and pulled out the occupants. He is now a captain in Maryland and acting battalion chief. Prior to moving to Maryland, he was captain in Shav-

"It wasn't just whistles and bells for Luke. He truly wants to help others."

John Turner
Mentor to Louis Alar

ertown for more than a year. As a mere eight year old, Alar could be found hanging around the fire station asking questions and fetching a wrench here and there for the firemen. The men didn't seem to mind, and the department made him an honorary member, giving him a hat and patch. As one fireman put it, Alar

See FIREFIGHTER, pg 3

■ **School board** had an offer for the old Dallas Twp. High School. Pg 12.

■ **Slow start**
The Dallas girls' basketball team is short on experience, but the coach thinks things will get better. Pg 9.

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