

SportsWeek

Brian Blase masters two sports, classroom too

By CHRIS BELL
Sports Correspondent

DALLAS - When the phrase "Jack of all trades, master of none" was written, it wasn't done with Brian Blase in mind.

On the golf course, tennis courts in or the classroom, the Dallas High School senior excels.

A four-year letterman on the Mountaineer golf team, Blase has led the team to a 10-2 record heading into the final week of the regular season. His 41 stroke average has helped the Mounts to an almost certain playoff berth.

"My only goal in golf this season is to win the team championship," said Blase, who shot an 88 and finished in the middle of the pack at the recent district meet. "I was a little disappointed about my finish at districts. I thought I

had an outside shot at making the top six and qualifying for states. But, my focus is on the team making the playoffs."

For Blase, it is important to play smart golf and take advantage of his strengths. "My short game has always been the best part of my game," he explained. "I'm starting to hit the ball a little farther off the tee, but I want to make sure I don't sacrifice any accuracy. I just try to be smart on the course."

For now, golf is his favorite of the two sports, but when spring rolls around, Blase's attention will shift to tennis. "I like both sports, but I tend to like whichever one is in season better," he explained. "I'm a better tennis player than I am a golfer and I'd like to play tennis in college."

In fact, Blase has enjoyed even

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Brian Blase
Dallas senior

more success on the tennis courts, where he is a two-time Keystone State Games champion. In addition, he has qualified for the PIAA state tournament twice and has been named Most Valuable Player in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Tennis Conference twice.

After finishing second at districts as a sophomore and third as a junior, Blase is looking forward to his senior season. "Hopefully, our team will make it back to the playoffs," he said. "I'd like to qualify for states and win at least won match."

Blase's success isn't limited to

athletics. He is also the president of the Honor Society and maintains a 3.8 grade point average while taking four advanced placement courses. In addition, he is a member of the senior class steering committee and the JETS Team which participates in physics competitions.

He hasn't decided on a major yet, but has eliminated one option. The 17-year-old son of Rob and Mary Blase of Dallas won't be following his father's footsteps into the medical profession.

"I'm definitely not going to be a doctor," explained Blase. "I don't really like being around blood. Other than that, I really like all of my classes so it's been hard to decide on a major. I'm thinking about engineering or business."

Blase did follow in his father's footsteps to get his start in golf

and tennis. "My dad plays golf and it was something we could do together, so I started playing about six years ago," he said. "I started playing tennis in our backyard hitting a ball on a string. My dad started taking me out to play. He has spent a lot of time working with me."

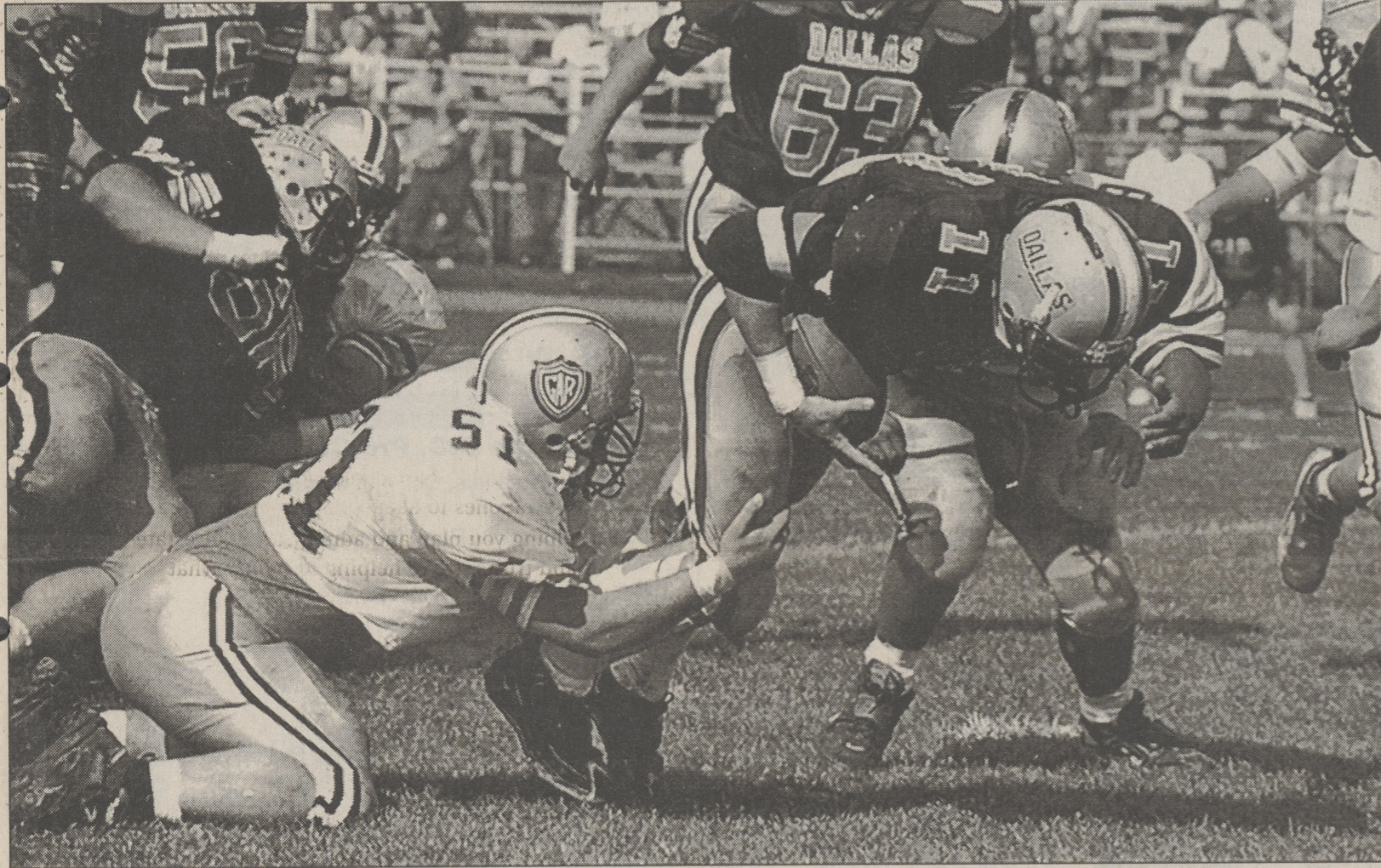
"I think the best part of my tennis game is my all-around game," said Blase. "My serve has lagged behind a little bit, but it is starting to come around."

While athletics and his studies keep Blase occupied, he manages to find time to follow the Philadelphia Eagles and was in attendance at their win over the Washington Redskins, Sunday.

"I watch the Eagles whenever I can," he said. "I usually go to one game a year and this year they won. It was a great day."



Brian Blase is leading the Dallas golf team, as he does the tennis squad in the spring.

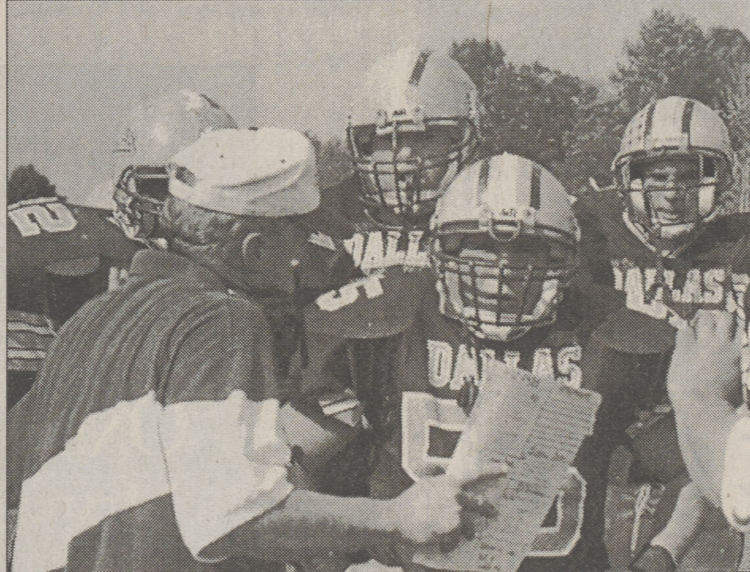


MOUNTS EKE OUT

ANOTHER WIN

Dallas held on to beat GAR 15-12 in Saturday's homecoming game, despite being outgained on the ground and in the air. Matt Jackson, top photo, rushed for some of his 61 yards. Near right, Bill Piasta went around end. Coach Ted Jackson went over a play with his squad, far right.

POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS



SPORTS ROUNDUP

SOCCER

Abington 3, Lehman 0

The Knights were unable to find the net as Abington blanked Lehman 3-0 Oct. 2. The Comets sank two goals in the first half and an insurance goal in the second. Russ Mosier and Chris Crawford shared time in the net for Lehman with seven and one saves apiece respectively.

Dallas 2, Crestwood 0

Crestwood stretched Dallas to second overtime before Richard Douglas scored a header off a corner kick from Mike Cleary to give the Mounts all they would need to extinguish Crestwood 2-0 Oct. 2. Dallas kept the rally alive with a goal from Rich Semanas just two minutes later.

Lehman 10, Hazleton 3

The Knights blasted five unanswered goals in the first half to knockout Hazleton 10-3 Oct. 3. Russ Wenrich and Justin Kreller scored two goals apiece for Lehman (7-4) who outshot the Cougars 34-6 and led on corners 4-2.

Dallas 2, Meyers 0

Richard Douglas booted a goal of his own and assisted on Jesse Williams' tally in the second half as Dallas silenced Meyers 2-0 Oct. 6. Mike Cleary assisted Douglas' goal in the first. The Mounts record stands at 8-4.

FIELD HOCKEY

Lehman 5, Honesdale 0

Jonelle Perlis drilled two goals to lead the Knights to a 5-0 rout of Honesdale Oct. 3. Leigh Isaac, Susie Walters and Sara Kasper dropped the remaining goals for Lehman who remain on top of the Class AA rankings with a record of 11-0-1.

Dallas 3, Coughlin 0

Sherri Kuderka let two fly to lead the Mounts to a 3-0 shutout of Coughlin Oct. 1. Jen Hite slapped the remaining tally unassisted in the second. Melanie Sappe recorded the perfect game with three saves.

Valley West 2, Dallas 1

Nadalie Temperine tied the game late in the first half off a pass from Jen Noon but it was all Valley West from there as the Spartans bounced Dallas 2-1 Oct. 3. With the loss Dallas' record drops to 7-4.

CROSS COUNTRY

Lehman 15, Dallas 44

The Knights swept the first five spots as Lehman dusted Dallas 15-44 Oct. 1. Joe Maskalis was the first to cross the line at 16:29 followed by Jim Lyons (16:30), Jason Lyons (17:07), Nick Long (17:37) and Will Bloom (17:45). Jeff Nutche was the first Mount to cross the line at a 18:02 trailed by Jamie Raub 18:57.

GOLF

Dallas 173, Wyoming Area 182

Brian Blase captured medalist honors with a six over-par-41 as Dallas topped Wyoming 173-182 Oct. 1 at Fox Hill. Chuck Fehlinger carded a 43, Larry Lettie and Ed Piekera shot 44's. The Mounts record increases to 10-2.

Lehman 190, Nanticoke 197

Don Castrignano took home medalist honors after shooting a 41 at par-36 Hunstville and lead the Knights to a 190-197 victory over Nanticoke Oct. 6. Chad Sorber and Joe Hardisky trailed with 49's. The Knights' record increased to 9-4.

JR. FOOTBALL

Raiders B and C beat Swoyersville

On Sunday afternoon the Kingston Township Raiders B Team were on a roll, defeating the Swoyersville Sailors 32-0 at Dallas stadium. Elijah Miller scored first from eight yards out. Matt Kelly intercepted a Sailors' pass and rambled 55 yards for the score. Eddie Grundowski added six more on a great leaping catch in the end zone on a pass from QB Brian Ostrowsky. Ostrowsky then sneaked one across from the five on the next offensive series. Finally finishing the scoring binge was Matt Kelly diving across the stripe from 10 yards out. Defensively the Raiders were led by Jacob Kovalchik, Jon Miller and Jaimie Trocki. The Raiders are away next Sunday at Wilkes-Barre.

The Kingston Township Raiders C Team defeated the Swoyersville Sailors 14-0, Oct. 5 to even their record at 3-3. Kevin Roman opened the scoring for the Raiders by returning the opening kickoff 65 yards for a touchdown. Sean McMahon tacked on the two

point conversion on a quarterback sneak. Kevin Roman scored again in the second quarter on a 20 yard run. The extra point attempt failed as Nick Onzik was stopped just short of the goal line. Near the end of the half, the Raiders threatened again but the Swoyersville defense held tough at the goal line on three successive plays. The Raiders offensive line of Matt Harostock, Bridget Major, Tom Perrego, Eric Tucker and Paul Green played well all day. They opened up some big holes for Onzik, Roman and Andy Casterlin and gave the Raiders time to complete passes to Rodney Sampson and Nick Onzik.

The Sailors offense played a strong game but was kept out of the end zone by the tough Raiders defense. The defensive line was led by Anthony Oliveri, Grant Cebic, and Chad Kubasti who spent most of their day in the Sailor backfield. Justin Kubasti and Nick Majors led the Raiders

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USING HIS HEAD

Lake-Lehman's Mark Steele prevented an Abington Heights shot from reaching the goal in the team's game last week. Black Knight goalkeeper Russ Mosier and Mike Kostrobala guarded the net. Lake-Lehman dropped the contest 3-0, and stands at 7-4-1 on the season. They had a key game with Bishop Hoban Tuesday, too late for this issue.

POST PHOTO/CHAD SEBRING

