

# Sports Week

Section 2

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

## Mountaineer boys salvage respect after slow start on court

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**DALLAS** - The Dallas Mountaineers boys basketball team's season has consisted of many streaks.

With only games left Friday night at home against G.A.R. and Tuesday night at rival Lake-Lehman, the Mountaineers were in the midst of a two-game losing streak heading into last night's game with Hanover. But before the current slide, they racked up four consecutive wins, the longest such streak in several years.

After all, they won a total of only six games the past two seasons.

But that was before current head coach Pat McCue took over. McCue has installed a great deal of confidence into a team which has taken its lumps the past few seasons.

From day one, McCue and new assistant coach Mike Fulton had the team believing they could compete with the rest of the Wyoming Valley Conference. The result finally appeared in mid-January when the team took advantage of a favorable schedule to defeat Lake-Lehman, Wyoming Semi-

*"We began playing less as individuals and more as a team."*

Tony Luizza  
Senior guard

nary, Bishop Hafez, and Seton Catholic in succession.

The key to success? "We began playing less as individuals and more as a team," said senior guard Tony Luizza.

Another possible explanation for the turnaround is the return of senior forward Ed Piekara. He

suffered an injury early in the season at Northwest and missed several weeks. He provides some size along with the ability to take the ball to the hoop.

Piekara also contributes on the defensive side with his ability to rebound, block shots, and make steals. He complements leading

scorers J.J. Smith and Jon Saba.

Freshman point guard Jay Carroll has seen his playing time significantly increase during the recent winning streak. His youth combined with his talent could well represent the new attitude at Dallas.

The winning streak began with Dallas's second victory of the season, over the Black Knights of Lake-Lehman. The outcome of the game, held at Dallas, was a 20-plus-point win for the Mounts, giving them their second victory of the first half. The other was a high-scoring affair against West

Side Tech. The first Dallas-Lehman game was the consolation game of the Crossin Tournament over the Christmas Holiday, a game which went to overtime.

The Wyoming Seminary game was decided very early. Dallas raced to an early 20-point lead and never looked back. A balanced scoring attack and unselfish play were keys to that victory over the Blue Knights in Kingston.

Bishop Hafez put up a tough fight, but the Mounts were stronger down the stretch to post a

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## E.M. Video wins overtime thriller 19-13

E.M. Video 19 -

Eastern Insurance 13 OT

It took overtime for E. M. Video to put Eastern Insurance away, and stay in first place alone after Illi Guy's Pizza

was knocked off by Sneaker King earlier in the day. This defensive game had Nicole Martin hitting the only bucket for E.M. Video in the first quarter, while Halli Williams hit a layup at the buzzer to end the quarter in a 2-2 tie. The second quarter was no different as far as great defensive play by Shosanna Gitlin for E.M. Video and the same by Williams, Megan Savage, Nikki Gelso, Amanda Szczucki and Kelly Corbett for Eastern Insurance, holding each other scoreless to end the half still 2-2.

Halli Williams ruled the third quarter, scoring 5 of her game high 11 points, while holding Kristy Schmidt to 1 point on the free throw line and a commanding 9-3 lead after three quarters. E.M. Video outscored Eastern Insurance 10-4 in the fourth quarter as Shosanna Gitlin hit a huge field goal in the last minute to tie the game 13-13 at the end of regulation. E.M. Video put it away in overtime as Shannon Thomas, Kristen Schmidt and Nicole Martin each scored a bucket and held Eastern Insurance scoreless. E.M. Video was led offensively by Schmidt, 7 points, Thomas, 4 points, Martin, 4 points, Norika and Gitlin 2 points apiece. Sarah Pieczynski and Tiffany Gergel played good defense for E.M. Video. Megan Savage had the only other bucket for Eastern Insurance and Bridget Henry had a good defensive game.

DYB  
5-6 GIRLS



## LADIES FIRST

There was plenty of action in the Dallas Youth Basketball girls division this weekend.

In left photo, Caitlin McGuire looked for an outlet as she was closely guarded by Jackie Hardwick in a grade 5-6 contest.

Jamie Youngblood (lower left photo) tried to catch up with Alana Allan. Jonelle Dickson (lower right photo) drove past Kelly Brzozowski in the 7-8 division.

The games were played Sunday at the old Dallas Township school on Church St.

POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### WRESTLING

Lehman, Berwick

After apparently taking a 36-24 victory over Lehman on Jan. 28 Wyoming Valley Wrestling Conference officials informed Lehman that an error occurred in a Berwick wrestlers' weight classification which resulted in the Bulldogs forfeiting the contest to give the Knights a victory. The ruling wipes out Lehman's only loss in the West Division and increases their record to 6-0.

Tunkhannock 48, Dallas 21

Five Dallas matmen took the count as Tunkhannock flattened Dallas 48-21 Jan. 29. It took Bill Duda just over five and a half minutes to finally dispose of Tunkhannock's Ed Rought for Dallas' only pin of the evening. Joe Saraka (119) and Matt Gingo (189) both won by decision while Dave Spurlin (135) landed a major decision and Damien Temperine (125) a technical fall.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Meyers 56, Lehman 45

A hometown crowd in looked on in dismay as visiting Meyers defeated Lehman 56-45 Jan. 30. James Lyons lofted a team high 14 points for the Knights followed by Matt Morris with 11. The loss drops Lehman to 1-5 in second half standings.

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## McGeehan hits 21, leads Herbie's to win

Herbie's Autobody 37 - Fieldhouse 33

John McGeehan scored 21 points to lead Herbie's Autobody to a 37-33 win over the Fieldhouse in Dallas Youth Basketball 5th/6th grade action. Chad Narcum and David Menzel scored 2 points each. The Fieldhouse was led by Matt Daube with 14 points and the defense of Eric Samanas.

DYB  
5-6 BOYS

Luzerne National Bank 40 - Fahnestock 25

Sean Leary, Ryan Murray and Sam Brown combined for 33 points to lead Luzerne National Bank to a 40-25 win over Fahnestock. Connor Judge and Nate Yoh led Fahnestock. On Saturday, Feb. 7, Fahnestock will play Inter-Metro Industries for the regular season championship and the top seed in the playoffs.

## 5-6 boys basketball skills winners

Dallas Youth Basketball recently held their skills competition in the 5th/6th grade division. The results:

5th Grade: Foul shots, 1st place, Ryan Marascio; 2nd place, Tim Crossin; 3rd place, Sean Leary.

5th Grade: Layups, 1st place, Tim Crossin; 2nd place, Ken Regan; 3rd place, Ryan Murray.

6th Grade: Foul Shots, 1st place, Andrew Gialanella; 2nd place, Elijah Miller; 3rd place, Bruce Deeble.

6th Grade: Layups, 1st place, Jeff Pace; 2nd place, Eric DalSanto; 3rd place, Erich Mahle.

See 7-8 BOYS, pg 10

## Balanced scoring brings Team 3 win

Team #3 - 37, Team #4 - 32

Jan. 25, Jill Youngblood and Whitney McOwen scored 12 points each and Jonelle Dickson added 11 to lead Team 3 over Team 4. Nancy Levinson led all scorers with 18 points to lead Team 4.

Brandy Rickaby, Jamie Sickler and Jamie Sulewski added 5, 4 and 2 points.

DYB  
7-8 GIRLS

Team #2 - 27 - Team #1 - 23

Jan. 25 Rachael Kukosky led Team 2 over Team 1 with 18 points, Krista Carpenter added 4 and Jessica Karasek and Casey Noreika added 2 each. Karla Blase was high scorer for Team 1 with 9 points. Nicole Bostock added 5 points while April Piazza and Laura Fauerback added 2 baskets each.

Team #1 - 27 Team #3 - 15

Feb. 1, Karla Blase scored 18 points to lead Team 1 over Team 3. Nicole Bostock scored 3, Kelly Brzozowski, Holly Schwartz, and Laura Fauerback added a bucket each. Playing strong on defense were Kelly Brzozowski, Rebecca Rowett and Ashley Razawich.

Team 3's offense was led by Whitney McOwen with 6 points, Jill Youngblood added 3 points, while Jonelle Dickson, Sheree Senausky and Amanda Donahue each added a bucket.

## Dr. Jack stays on top with overtime win over TGIF

Dr. Jack Ellis 49 - T.G.I. Friday's 45 O.T.

T.G.I.F.'s Herby Bressler scored 9 of his game high 24 points in the first quarter, while Dr. Jack Ellis's Tim Faneck and Mike Dombroski combined for 6 first quarter points. Dr. Jack led at quarter's end 10-9. The teams traded baskets in the second quarter, while T.G.I.F.'s Donny Murray and Ryan Love providing their teams offense, while Dr. Jack's Dombroski and Andrew Cheek sank key second quarter shots. The score at half-time was all tied up at 18 apiece. Dr. Jack's team outscored T.G.I.F. in the third quarter 16-14, to take a 2 point lead at quarters end, 34-32. Both teams spread the scoring around in the final quarter, and the defense was exceptional at both ends of the floor. The fourth quarter, ended in a 45-

45 tie. In the overtime Dr. Jack Ellis's team sank some key free throws to seal the victory. Dr. Jack Ellis's offense was led by Dombroski with 21 points, followed by Tim Faneck with 10 points and Andrew Dale with 8 points. T.G.I.F.'s offense was led by Bressler with a game high 24 points, followed by Ryan Love with 11 points and Donny Murray with 6 points.

DYB  
7-8 BOYS

Mellon Bank 44 - NAPA Auto Parts 34

Both teams came out in the first quarter with a well balanced scoring attack. Mellon Bank's scoring came from Andrew George and Brian Dempsey, while NAPA Auto's defense came from Blake Saba and Paul McCue. Both teams were knotted at 8 apiece at the

end of the first quarter. Mellon Bank outscored NAPA 14-8 in the second quarter, behind the shooting of Mark. Mellon Bank led at halftime 22-16. Mellon's Bank George scored 8 of his game high 27 points in the third quarter, to extend Mellon's lead at the end of the quarter 32-24. The teams traded baskets in the final quarter, with Mellon recording the 10 point win. Mellon Bank's offense was led by George with 27 points, followed by Mark with 12 points. NAPA Auto Parts offense Matt Pietrzak with 4 points.

Kingston Metals 29 - Grotto Pizza 36

Grotto Pizza came out shooting in the first quarter with John Pambianco and Arthur Redmond providing the offense. Grotto

outscored Kingston Metals 12-5 at quarter's end. Kingston Metals regrouped in the second quarter and outshot Grotto 10-4, behind the shooting of Chris Heister and Bobby Zaruta. Grotto held a one point lead at half-time, 16-15. The teams traded baskets in the third quarter, with Grotto's Stephen Luksh and Ryan Morgan sinking key baskets, while Kingston Metals, Greg Mascioli, Heister and Zaruta providing their offense. It was 24-24 at quarter's end. Kingston Metals, Heister, Mascioli and Mike Smith combined for 15 points and held off a determined Grotto Team in the fourth quarter. Grotto Pizza's John Pambianco had a fine fourth quarter, scoring 9 points. Kingston Metals' offense was led by Heister