

Spartans hold off Dallas

By JOHN ERZAR
Special to the Post

PLYMOUTH — Dallas hasn't played like a sophomore-dominated team all season. The Mountaineers came into Friday's game as the Division II first-half champions and with just two losses overall.

But Wyoming Valley West figured if it could tweak the younger Mountaineers ever so slightly, its job would be easier.

The Spartans did just that to start the third quarter, using a press to get a bit of a cushion and then holding off a few Dallas outbursts for a 65-60 victory Jan. 25.

"They're a young team and I think Coach thought if we kept up the tempo and put a lot of pressure on them, they would get a little nervous," said Valley West senior guard Jessica Ohrin.

Valley West opened the third quarter with a 12-2 run, to take a 36-27 lead. Defensive pressure led to Dallas turnovers and baskets by Annie Ritsick and Tara Matreseva.

Walters

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been a good player every year, and a true playmaker for this team."

Walters was selected spokesman for the all-American game, to be held June 15 at Blackbaud Stadium in Charleston, SC, and just missed making national player of the year honors after a "neck-and-neck" finish with eventual boys player of the year Joe Ducci, of Lincoln Way Central High School in New Lenox, Ill., according to the NSCAA web site. The game will pit the top 18 boys from the eastern part of the



Kelly Brzowski drove around a Pittston defender in the Lady Mountaineers 77-53 victory last week.

POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Until that point, neither team built a lead bigger than four points.

"It was right around there (when the game changed)," Dallas coach Joe Noon said. "But the kids played tough. Valley West is a good team, but we're just as good. It could have gone our way, too."

The game nearly did.

Dallas rallied back within 41-39 when freshman Cory Patton opened the fourth quarter with an outside jumper, but Valley West's strong inside offense came to the rescue.

Dallas, though, slowly came back within 62-56 with less than a minute left. Meredith Lacey, whose 12 points was second to teammate Shannon

Thomas' 14, was fouled on a three-point attempt and connected on all three free throws.

Ashleigh King put Dallas a tad closer, 63-60 with 20 seconds left on a jumper, but Ohrin hit her free throws and the Spartans prevented the Mountaineers from getting off a good three-point shot.

country against the top 18 from the West.

Walters was one of only four players from Pennsylvania to be selected to the team, and was the top vote-getter of all Pennsylvania players, making him the Pennsylvania Player of the Year.

"This is a great honor for me," said Walters. "To be the first spokesman for the national all-star game is a great honor in any sport."

"Making this team makes me proud to be from this area, and especially from Lake-Lehman

High School."

Stroney said Walters is not a top goal scorer, but can see things developing on the field, and is a far better as an assist player.

"He is a very unselfish player," said Stroney. "He is very happy to give the goal to his teammates and take the assist."

Walters could not agree more.

"By nature, I am not a forward, I am a midfielder," said Walters. "But I realized in high school that I had to step it up and do some things I was not always comfortable with."

Walters was recruited by many NCAA Division I programs, including 2001 National Champion North Carolina, Stanford, Penn, Wake Forest and Penn State, who he will sign with February 1.

And although Walters said he is only as good as his last game played, the honor does make things a little better for him.

"I have wanted to win most of all. This is a great honor, and helps take the sting out of losing a bit," said Walters.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hazleton 54, Lake-Lehman 36

Hazleton started with a 21-9 run in the first and never looked back as they defeated Lehman. Dustin Kapson scored 10. Jared Sadowski added 10 including two three-pointers.

Tunkhannock 66, Dallas 51

Chuck Suppon led the Mountaineers with a game-high 19 points, but it was not enough to prevent a defeat by the Tigers. Blake Saba had 10, including two threes. Dan Mulhern also scored 10.

Dallas 55, Pittston 51

Dallas led by 33-13 at halftime, but a 25-10 Pittston run in the third brought the Patriots back into the game. Dallas persevered in the fourth for the win. John Simonitis scored 16, and Chuck Suppon added 14.20

Lake-Lehman 61, Coughlin 55

Jared Sadowski scored 16 including two three-pointers as the Black Knights outplayed the Crusaders. Joe Walko had 15, and Joe Yankoski netted 11 including one three.

Dallas 69, WVW 57

John Simonitis scored a game-high 20 as the Mountaineers cruised past the Spartans. Chuck Suppon had 15. Blake Saba netted 13, including two threes.

Lake-Lehman 48, Berwick 40

The Black Knights led by two at the half, but the Bulldogs stormed back to tie the game at 38 and force overtime. Lehman outplayed Berwick 10-2 in overtime for the win. Joe Walko tossed in 14. Jared Sadowski scored 11, including two threes. Joe Yankoski netted 10 and also had two three-pointers.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hazleton 62, Lake-Lehman 33

Hazleton put the game away with a 27-7 run in the third quarter. Lisa Wasser led Lehman with 9 points.

Lake-Lehman 66, Coughlin 38

Lehman led by 41-17 at half and continued to dominate for the win. Casey Horvath had a game-high 23, including one three point goal.

Dallas 77, Pittston Area 53

Dallas sealed their victory with a 28-24 run in the fourth quarter. Jackie Hardwick scored 17. Meredith Lacey added 15. Shannon Thomas had 11, including one three. 20 Dallas 54, Lake-Lehman 40 Shannon Thomas had a game-high 20 points, including two threes, to lead Dallas to their second victory over their rivals from Lehman. Jackie Hardwick and Rosalyn Wentko both added 12 for Dallas. For Lehman, Lisa Wasser scored 14, and Megan DeCesaris tossed in 13.

WRESTLING

Lake-Lehman 72, Wyoming 6

Lehman had 12 wins, including nine forfeits. John Schutz (119), Matt Stuart (160), and Bob Morris (171) recorded pins.

Tunkhannock 42, Dallas 26

For Dallas, John Hettes (119) and Todd Jones (145) pinned their opponents. Perry Coolbaugh (152) won by technical fall.

Pittston Area 58, Dallas 9

Dallas' only win came from a pin by John Walter (171).

BOYS SWIMMING

Dallas 123, Elk Lake 52

Dallas beat Elk Lake with first, second, and third place finishes in the 200 Medley, 200 IM, and the 100 Breaststroke.

GIRLS SWIMMING

Dallas 132, Elk Lake 37

Dallas placed first in 200 Medley Relay, 200 Free Relay, and 400 Free Relay. Annie Savage finished first in the 200 Free and the 500 Free.

Bankers put hurt on Eye Care

Brad Fagula and Mike Clemente combined to score 38 of their team's 42 points as PNC Bank topped Eye Care Specialists 42-32.

DYB 7-8 BOYS

Fagula led all scorers with 22 points, while Clemente added 16 for the winners, who raised their record to 10-3. Eric Domzalski scored a team-high 20 points to lead Eye Care, which dropped to 8-5. Teammate J.J. Durr added 10 points.

Wilkes-Barre Pallet 58, House of Nutrition 51

Bobby Lenahan and Brandon Wills combined for 37 points as Wilkes-Barre Pallet Co. posted a 58-51 win against House of Nutrition. Lenahan finished with 20 points, while Wills added 17. Teammate Connor Lenahan tossed in 12 points for the winners, who raised their record to 4-9. Nick Samanas scored a game-high 23 points to lead House of Nutrition (6-7). Chris Parrish added 18 points, while Jesse Swartwood added seven.

DYB 8th crushes GAR

David Harding led a balanced scoring attack as the DYB eighth grade boys travel team recently defeated GAR, 49-25, in a battle between two of the top three teams in the Plains-Solomon League. Harding finished with 13 points, while Robbie Myers added 10. Ben Thomas and Bobby Lenahan scored nine and eight points, respectively, while Eric Domzalski chipped in seven. The win raised the team's record to 7-2. The victory, combined with Solomon-Plains' 34-29 win against previously undefeated Meyers, moved DYB to within one game of first place. GAR dropped to 6-2.

Builders edge Renaissance Center

Michael Gross and Casey Judge combined for 44 points to lead Summit Pointe Builders over Renaissance Center 57-55.

DYB 5-6 BOYS

Gross finished with 23 points, while Judge added 21. Teammate Zach Halbing chipped in two points. Eric Tucker scored a game-high 27 points to lead the Renaissance Center for Plastic Surgery. Joey Collini added 20 points, while Tommy Golightley chipped in six.

Dr. Jack Ellis 39, Smith Barney 34

Peter Steve scored a game-high 20 points and Joe Bevevino added nine as Dr. Jack Ellis clinched an opening-round playoff bye with a 39-34 win over Smith-Barney. Garrett Hann added six points, while Vince Oliveri played well defensively. Chris Klaiss scored 18 points to lead Smith-Barney. Teammate Devon O'Brien played well defensively.

Dallas Lions 28, Commonwealth Telephone 15

Mark Covert scored 14 points and Scott Daube chipped in

Dean Witter 48, Gilroy Realtors 27

Ben Thomas and Sean McAndrew combined for 37 points as Morgan, Stanley, Dean Witter raised its record to 11-2. Teammate Adam Singer added six points for the winners. Mike Race scored a team-high 12 points to lead Gilroy Realtors (1-12). Mike Wyberski added eight points, while Adam King finished with seven.

Gordon Insurance 59, Sneaker King 40

Robbie Myers scored a game-high 33 points as Gordon Insurance raised its record to 8-5. Joe Bailey added 12 points for the winners, while Robbie Tomko chipped in nine. David Harding scored a team-high 22 points to lead Sneaker King (4-9). David Luksh and Robert Monk added six and four points, respectively, while Adam Besecker and Sage Price tossed in three points apiece.

Pompey Dodge 35, WV Auto Sales 27

Doug Harding scored a game-high 21 points to lead the winners. Tommy Youells added six points, while Matt Alfano and Russell Jenkins finished with four and two points, respectively. The win gave Pompey Dodge sole possession of third place in the division. D.J. Berley led Wyoming Valley Auto Sales with five points. Andrew Besecker and Brad Johnson finished with four points apiece.

Dallas Lions 47, Dough Company 42

The Dallas Lions clinched an opening-round playoff bye with the win. Tommy Oswald led the Lions with 13 points, while Jason Darling added eight. Teammate Josh Clay played well defensively. Kyle Arnaud scored a game-high 30 points to lead the Dough Company. Bruce Sobocinski added four points, while Eddie Stredney played well defensively.

5-6 boys skills competition winners

Dallas Youth Basketball held skills competition in the fifth and sixth grade boys division. In the fifth grade layups, Casey Judge took first place, Jackie Ellis finished second, and Lee Culver took third. Scott Skammer won first place in the free throw competition, while Brian Haughwout was second and Steven Meskers finished third. In sixth grade, Mark Covert won the layup competition, followed by Eric Tucker and Mike Kravitsky in second and third place, respectively. Peter Steve won the free throw competition, while Michael Gross took second, and Tommy Golightley finished third.

Defense rules as Rotary holds off Rosenn

In a defensive battle, Erin Crossin and Ashley Myers scored four points apiece to lead Dallas Rotary over Rosenn Law Firm, 11-9.

DYB 5-6 GIRLS

Jessica Flaherty added three points. Samantha Backus and Kaley Roberts scored three points each for Rosenn, Jenkins, and Greenwald. Carrie Bailey added two points, while Kailey Peters tossed in a free throw.

Penn State Seed 33, Quality Collision 29

Melissa Gorski scored 21 points and Penn State Seed held off a fourth quarter rally by Quality Collision to capture a 33-29 win. Kristina Toussaint tossed in seven points, while Shauna Phillips and Carli Menzel added three and two points, respectively, for Penn State Seed. Allison Evans led Quality Collision with 18 points. Emily Polachek and Erica Slocum added four points apiece, while Paige Selenski chipped in two points and Margo Aidelus scored one.

WV Prosthetics 14, Dr. Jack Ellis 4

Sisters Katherine and Kristen O'Brien scored four and six

Moody, Mitchell lead Pace to victory

Kelsey Moody scored 16 points and Claire Mitchell made two crucial free throws in the fourth quarter to lead Pace Physical Therapy to a 32-31 victory over Rosenn Law Firm. Mitchell finished with seven points, including six in the last quarter. Stephanie Pace added seven points and Ashley Cleaves finished with two. Lindsey McCabe led all scorers with a game-high 21 points for Rosenn, which had the lead for the first three quarters. Kathleen Paley added six points, while teammates Courtney Taylor and Elysia Balavage scored two points apiece.

DYB 7-8 GIRLS

Physical Therapy to a 32-31 victory over Rosenn Law Firm. Mitchell finished with seven points, including six in the last quarter. Stephanie Pace added seven points and Ashley Cleaves finished with two. Lindsey McCabe led all scorers with a game-high 21 points for Rosenn, which had the lead for the first three quarters. Kathleen Paley added six points, while teammates Courtney Taylor and Elysia Balavage scored two points apiece.

Eastern Insurance 39, Burger King 32

Cassie Snider scored a game-high 19 points to lead Eastern Insurance Group to a 39-32 win against Burger King. Brittney Allan added 11 points, while Kasey Corbett finished with seven. Teammate Kelli Crossin added two for the winners. Nikki Pisacano scored 20 points to lead Burger King. Suzy Krogulski and Amanda Kamarunas added six points apiece. Eastern Insurance led by one point at halftime, but used a big third quarter to outscore Burger King

16-5 and take a 12-point lead into the fourth quarter.

Pace Physical Therapy 37, Diagnostic Imaging 36

Pace Physical Therapy used a 17-point fourth quarter to come away with the win. Kelsey Moody led a balanced offense with 11 points, while Alyse Miller and Claire Mitchell scored nine points apiece. Teammate Ashley Cleaves scored six of her eight points in the fourth quarter. Lisa Giacometti scored a game-high 14 points for the Center for Diagnostic Imaging. Stephanie Konecke and Becca Slavoski added seven points apiece, while Caitlin Green scored six points and Devin Lacey finished with two.

Eastern Insurance Group 36, Rosenn Law Firm 23

Kelli Crossin led all scorers with 14 points to lead the winners. Cassie Snider added 10 points, while Kasey Corbett chipped in six. Brittney Allan and Chelsea McHale added four and two points, respectively. Kathleen Paley scored a team-high nine points to lead Rosenn. Lindsey McCabe added eight points, while Elysia Balavage and Courtney Taylor scored four and two points, respectively.

Knights of Columbus free throw winners

The Knights of Columbus Council 8224 recently held a free throw contest for children ages 10-14. Boys and girls winners included: Jonathan Orlando, 10; Samara H. LaFoca, 10; Joseph Osick, 11; Alyssa Miller, 12; Doug Harding, 12; Carla Reino, 13; Chris Parrish, 13; Casey Harrington, 14 and Alan Sheridan, 14.

DYB 6th grade boys win close one

The DYB sixth grade boys travel team recently defeated Wyoming Valley West, 66-62, in the Lake-Lehman league. Mark Covert scored 20 points, while Eric Tucker and Michael Kravitsky added 16 points apiece. Michael Gross chipped in with six points and made a key steal with a few seconds remaining to seal the win.

DYB 5th graders top Lehman

The DYB fifth grade boys travel team recently defeated Lake-Lehman, 26-13, in the Lake-Lehman league. DYB held the lead throughout the game and used an 11-0 run in the fourth quarter to seal the win. Josh Backes scored 10 points to lead DYB. Derek Martin added five points, while Russell Jenkins and Kevin Pierce scored two points apiece.

Send your sports reports by e-mail
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BMT Baseball & Softball meeting Feb. 4

Back Mountain Baseball will conduct a general meeting at 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 4 at the Dallas American Legion. All individuals who wish to manage a baseball or softball team at any level should submit a letter expressing that interest to President Jack Snyder at the meeting. All board members, coaches, volunteers and other interested individuals should attend.