

## Black Knights fall in state team quarterfinals

By JOE PETRUCCI  
Special to The Dallas Post

**HERSHEY** — Lake-Lehman's wrestling team has prided itself all season on the balance of its lineup.

On Friday, the Black Knights' one small hole was exposed.

Without a body to fill 140 pounds, Lake-Lehman forfeited there, starting an 18-0 Fort Cherry run that ultimately ended the Black Knights' run into the PIAA Class 2A Team Wrestling Championships, 35-28, in the quarterfinals at Hersheypark Arena.

After a major decision from Matt Dragon and a pin from Jeremy Schutz pulled the Black Knights (18-3) within 14-10, Lake-Lehman forfeited to Fort Cherry's Ken Beaumariage at 140 pounds and readied for two of the Rangers' toughest wrestlers — Steve Vanzin and Matt Schiff.

Vanzin, at 145, and Schiff, at 152, both won by fall and Fort Cherry took a commanding 32-10 lead.

"I knew it was going to be touch and go. We just don't have another body there," Lehman coach Phil Lipski said of his middle weights. "It's weird that we don't. I felt maybe we'd give up one fall realistically, not two. I didn't think we'd have the ability to win if we bumped everyone up. I thought we could win like this."

"The bottom was key," Lipski said. "I felt we had to win three matches. We only won two. But we weren't out of it yet."

Freshmen Dragon and Jeremy Schutz got those two wins to put Lehman right back into it. Dragon worked a pair of cradles for two sets of three back points en route to a 17-4 major decision over Ed Ruffenach at 130. And Schutz, after building a 4-0 lead, slapped a headlock on Gary

Green at 135, pinning him in 3:13 and cutting the Rangers lead to four points.

But then came the Rangers' 18-point onslaught, and a 7-4 decision by Fort Cherry's Tom Rutledge over Matt Stuart at 160 sealed the victory.

The Black Knights finished strong. His last three wrestlers, Bob Morris (171), Ed Becker (189) and Matt Carey (heavyweight) — each of whom have won all four of their bouts in the duals tournament — won with bonus points. Morris recorded a fall in 3:00 over Trevor Martinek, Becker came on strong in the third period for an 11-1 major decision against David Hursh and Carey needed only 36 seconds to pin Justin Stoffella.

Lehman joins Meyers as the only two District 2 teams to advance as far as the quarterfinals in the 4-year-old state team championships.

## Lake-Lehman Elementary wrestlers win at Benton

The L-L Elementary wrestling team won the Benton invitational wrestling tournament on December 14.

Those who placed were: Pee-Wee: Jeffrey Carter, 45 lbs., 1st place; Justin Pelosa, 45 lbs, 3rd place. Bantam: Hunter Murphy, 50 lbs., 3rd place; Curtis Bar-

bacci, 55 lbs, 2nd place; Josh Zacharias, 55 lbs., 3rd place; Richard Emel, 55 lbs, 4th place; Jake Winters, 60 lbs., 2nd place; Cole Barbacci, 65 lbs., 1st place; Ryan Murphy, 75 lbs., 1st place; T.J. Labar, 75 lbs., 2nd place; Walter Dropko, Unl., 2nd place. Midget: Brandon Peloso, 55

lbs., 4th place; Shane Stark, 75 lbs., 1st place; Tyler McDonald, 85 lbs., 1st place; T.J. Pearson, 85 lbs., 2nd place. Junior: Shamus Field, 65 lbs., 3rd place; Chris Barbacci, 70 lbs., 1st place; Robert Peloso, 85 lbs., 3rd place.

## Upsets rule the day in first playoff round

It was an upsetting day for Dallas Youth Basketball's seventh and eighth grade boys division. Two of the top three seeds were defeated as the league began playoff action Sunday at Wycallis Elementary School. The semifinals will be held Sunday afternoon at the school.

### DYB 7-8 BOYS

**Gilroy Realtors 60, Dean Witter 28**  
Mike Race and Adam King led a balanced scoring attack as No. 8 seed Gilroy Realtors defeated top-seeded Morgan, Stanley, Dean Witter. Race finished with 16 points, while King added 15. Mike Wyberski chipped in 11 points, while Ryan Konopki and Ryan Gilroy finished with eight points apiece. Ben Thomas scored a team-high 15 points to

lead Dean Witter. Sean McAndrew added nine points and Adam Singer chipped in four.

### Wilkes-Barre Pallet 55, Eye Care Specialists 25

The brother combination of Bobby and Connor Lenahan combined for 50 of their team's 55 points as No. 6 Wilkes-Barre Pallet Co. defeated the No. 3 seed. Bobby Lenahan led all scorers with 28 points, while Connor finished with 22. Teammate Jeremy Weinstock chipped in four points. Eric Domzalski scored a game-high 40 points to lead Eye Care Specialists. Teammate J.J. Durr added eight points.

### PNC Bank 61, Sneaker King 50

Second-seeded PNC Bank survived a 34-point performance by Sneaker King's David Harding to advance to the semifinals. Brad

Fagula led PNC Bank with 28 points, while Mike Clemente added 19. Billy DeAngelo chipped in six points for the winners. In addition to Harding's 34 points, Max Millington scored 12 points and David Luksh tossed in four.

### Gordon Insurance 42, House of Nutrition 38

Robbie Myers scored a game-high 28 points as the No. 4 seed defeated the No. 5 seed. Robbie Tomko added eight points for the winners, while Joey Bailey finished with four. Nick Samanas led House of Nutrition with 23 points, while teammate Stephen Zubko added nine.

In semifinal action, No. 4 Gordon Insurance will play No. 8 Gilroy Realtor and No. 2 PNC Bank will face No. 6 Wilkes-Barre Pallet Co.

## Lions top Commonwealth for season championship

Mark Covert scored 30 points as the Dallas Lions captured the regular season championship with a 40-28 win against Commonwealth Telephone. Tommy Qswalt added four points and Harry Giacometti chipped in two for the winners. Derek Martin led Commonwealth with 12 points, while teammate Chris Mozeleski added eight. The Lions secured the No. 1 seed in the playoffs and will play at 3 p.m. Saturday.

### DYB 5-6 BOYS

**Dr. Jack Ellis 40, The Fieldhouse 39**  
Joe Bevevino scored a game-high 23 points to lead the winners, who earned the No. 2 seed in the playoffs. They will play at 4 p.m. Saturday. Garrett Hann and Justin Rice added two points apiece. Michael Tonart led The Fieldhouse with 12 points, while teammate Nick Barbouse was the team's leading rebounder.

### Pompey Dodge 37, Dough Company 34

Doug Harding scored 20 points and Matt Alfano added nine as Pompey Dodge clinched the No. 3 seed with the victory. Russell Jenkins added two points for the winners, who will play their play-

off game at 3 p.m. Saturday. Stephen Dudascik scored five points for the Dough Company, while teammate Aaron Hogan played well defensively.

### Renaissance Center 52, Wasserott's 38

Eric Tucker scored a game-high 30 points as The Renaissance Center for Plastic Surgery grabbed the No. 4 seed. Mike Mazur added eight points for the winners. Joe Kaiser led Wasserott's with 12 points and teammate Zack Breck chipped in two. Renaissance Center will play Wyoming Valley Auto Sales in the playoffs at 4 p.m. Saturday.

### Dr. Jack Ellis 46, Summit Pointe Builders 42

Jackie Ellis scored 19 points and Peter Steve added 15 in the double-overtime victory, as the teams played one of the best

games of the season. Vince Oliveri played well defensively for the winners. Michael Gross led Summit Pointe Builders with 19 points, while Josh Shaver chipped in four.

### Dallas Lions 57, The Fieldhouse 37

Mark Covert scored a game-high 30 points to lead the Lions. Eric Long chipped in added two points for the winners. Mike Kravitsky led The Fieldhouse with 26 points, while teammate Keith Roberts added two.

### WV Auto Sales 40, Dough Company 34

Ryan Phillips scored 10 points and Preston Balavage added six to lead Wyoming Valley Auto Sales. Kyle Arnaud led the Dough Company with a game-high 32 points, while teammate Ryan Williams played well defensively.

## DYB 5-6 boys tourney starts Monday

The annual DYB fifth and sixth grade boys tournament will begin Monday, Feb. 18. Eight teams in each age group will play in a double-elimination format with all games scheduled for the Dallas Elementary School. Teams which have registered in the fifth grade division are DYB, Gate of Heaven, Wyoming Valley Auto Sales, St. Mary's of Avoca, Hanover Area, and Fairview Elementary.

The eight teams in the sixth grade division will be DYB, Lake-Noxen Elementary, Northwest, St. Mary's of Avoca, Valley West, Berwick, Sacred Heart of Wilkes-Barre, and Gem Therapeutics.



POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS

Rosalyn Wentko (left photo) tries to pass around two Nanticoke defenders in Wyoming Valley Conference girls basketball action. Dallas guard Meredith Lacey brings the ball up court in the Mountaineers' game with Nanticoke.

## Dallas

(continued from page 11)

second-half divisional title. The two teams will meet tentatively at 6 p.m. February 14 at Wilkes University, for the second-half title. Dallas won the first-half championship and the teams will play again February 16 should Wyoming Area win February 14.

"Everything that could have gone wrong went wrong," said Dallas coach Joe Noon, who starts five sophomores. "Maybe this was the game to get rid of all those things."

The same could be said for

Nanticoke, which came into the season as the three-time Division II champion. The Trojanettes (2-6, 12-12) lost their fourth straight.

Dallas took the lead midway through the first quarter, then led by as many as 11 in the second period as guard Shannon Thomas scored 10 of her 12 points. Foul trouble beset the Mountaineers' top inside players — Wentko and Jackie Hardwick — and Nanticoke went about pecking at the deficit. Candice Gesecki and Lauren Kurkowski

spearheaded the rally with six points apiece.

The Trojanettes gained the lead four times in the fourth quarter, the last 50-49 with 1:12 left on Arielle Phillips' outside jumper. Wentko, though, powered inside for a basket despite having four fouls to give Dallas a 51-50 lead.

After a Nanticoke miss, King hit two free throws. Nanticoke then set up for a three-pointer, but was forced to its third option. Wentko nicked the ball just enough to alter its flight.

Send The Dallas Post to a friend.

It makes a great gift. Call 675-5211 for information.



What bank can I rely on for the latest technology and hometown service?

First Liberty Bank gives you both.

High-tech access makes First Liberty Bank & Trust more convenient than ever.

Scranton Offices:  
Keyser Ave. 343-1211  
Minoaka 341-5555  
Spruce St. 558-3660  
Wyoming Ave. 961-2402

Local Branches:  
Carbondale 282-9390  
Clarks Summit 587-0575  
Daleville 842-5715  
Dickson City 307-7500  
Jermyn 876-6500  
Jessup 489-4736  
Kingston 331-0412  
Olyphant 489-4721  
Paterson 655-7750  
ATMs at all locations, Riceland's in Danmore & LJC

Checking organization has never been easier.

Our new, easy-to-read digital laser statements show all information sorted by check number. They're three-hole-punched for easy storage in a binder, to get you organized fast.

Get 24/7 account access, anywhere you go.

Now you can check balances, transfer funds, see transaction histories and verify deposits, round-the-clock, from home, work, or on the road. Toll-free telephone banking and website banking at www.firstlibertybank.com make it easy.

Use your checking funds — without writing checks.

The VISA CheckCard is the ultimate in convenience; and it's safer than carrying cash. Use it wherever VISA is accepted — worldwide — then see all transactions neatly displayed on your monthly statement.

Stop by or call today for these and other exciting services.

**First Liberty Bank & Trust**

a division of COMMUNITY BANK, N.A.

Bank and trust in us.

Visit us at the branch nearest you, or on the web at www.firstlibertybank.com

Member FDIC LENDER

**Banners**

**Vehicle Graphics**

**Digital Prints**

**Signs**

**Magnets**



**SignWerks**  
Custom Sign Factory

**570-714-7446**  
Kingston Corners

