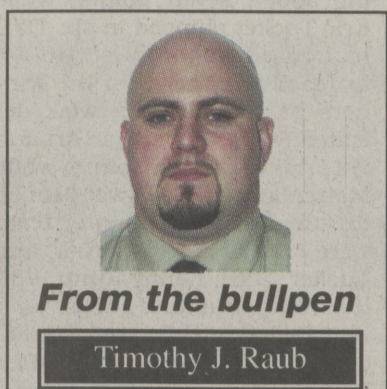


THE DALLAS POST

SportsWeek

Section 2



From the bullpen
Timothy J. Raub

If it's March, it's time for the madness

It's that time of year once again. The time when the madness surrounding the NCAA collegiate basketball tournament sweeps through the United States like a tornado, and has thousands of people compiling their selection pools.

Like many people, I too like to fill out the tournament bracket; and after years of trying to pick the correct winners in each region, I have put together a list of guidelines for picking the right teams.

1. Always pick a decent upset in the first round. It is a given that every year, some team that you never heard of, from some conference that you didn't know even existed, will knock off one of the more nationally known higher seeds. Teams like Gonzaga and Valparaiso are just some of the more easily remembered examples. But let it be known, Gonzaga is actually ranked this year, and is the sixth seed in the West.
2. Never pick a first seed to lose in the first round. Although sometimes it may be hard to overlook some of the records of the 16th seeds in the tournament, they are only there to provide a warm-up for the top seeded teams. Duke, Maryland, Kansas and Cincinnati will not lose to the likes of Winthrop, Holy Cross and Boston University.
3. Never pick your favorite team to win the whole thing. After seeing the Blue Devils fall for so many years, I decided that it was not a safe practice to keep picking my favorite team to win the entire tournament. So last year, for the first time in a long time — I didn't. I am convinced that it is a curse to pick your team to go all the way.
4. Don't be so quick to toot your own horn. If for some strange reason, you are lucky enough to pick some of the major upsets of the tournament, and most of your teams are in the Sweet 16, don't get too excited. The worst always seems to happen at that time.
5. If all else fails, close your eyes and just pick. Even with all the research and editorials written, it is easy to fall into the media trap of predicting who will win even before a single game has even been played. But when all is said and done, there is no sure-fire way to know for sure who will win the NCAA tournament. So if all else fails, just close your eyes, put names in a hat and pick 'em.

The chances of picking a perfect pool are slim to none, to say the least, and when all is said and done, you won't be seen as an amateur Vegas odds maker, so just have fun, and remember, basketball is only a game ... or is it really madness?

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Lehman girls' return to state playoffs is short

Tough Shamokin press ends any hopes of advancing

By TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

PLYMOUTH — Two losses in the last two games would not make most coaches happy. And although Lake-Lehman girls basketball head coach Rob Wilson was not pleased that his team lost 68-42 to District 4 runner-up Shamokin on March 9 in the first round of the PIAA Class 3A state playoffs, his team got some much-needed experience on the state level.

"I wanted to get the girls to realize that there is more to basketball than the Wyoming Valley Conference," said Wilson. "That's all they've ever known."

Unfortunately, for the Black Knights, though, the Indians had no intention of making

"We were happy to get to the district playoffs."

Rob Wilson
Lehman coach

Lehman's first trip to the state playoffs since 1984 an enjoyable one.

Lake-Lehman kept the game close early, and were down only 18-10 at the end of the first quarter.

But the Indians doused the Black Knight offense in the second quarter with a strong press, leading to a 15-4 run to widen the gap to 33-14.

Shamokin continued to dominate and opened the second half with a 10-2 run, highlighted by six straight points on Black Knight turnovers from Indian guard Jen Varano, giving them a 47-20 lead.

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POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Lisa Wasser (22) goes strong to the basket against Shamokin in their state playoff game March 9 at Wyoming Valley West High School.

Byron leads Hoban girls to state 2nd

By STEVE SEMBRAT
Special to the Dallas Post

UNIVERSITY PARK — Happy endings aren't always storybook endings.

The Bishop Hoban girls couldn't agree more after finishing second in the team standings at the PIAA Class 2A swimming championships on Saturday.

Sure, it would have been nice to win gold in the final event of the two-day meet along



Liz Byron

with the team title. That, however, went to Oakland Catholic, which won the 400-yard freestyle relay in record time, clinching the team crown with 173 points.

Hoban finished third in that race, and by doing so finished with 111 team points, edging out Gwynedd Mercy with 106 and Shady Side Academy with 100.

"We knew we had to beat Gwynedd Mercy in that last relay, or we would have ended up third" in the team standings, Hoban senior Liz Byron said. "We knew what we had to do."

Byron, who won a silver medal in the 100 freestyle to start the evening's finals, nailed down the relay bronze in 3:35.10. Gwynedd Mercy was fourth.

"It's great that we won the most medals ever for a Hoban girls team. But it's sad that it's over."

Liz Byron
Bishop Hoban senior swimmer

"Once I touched the wall and we saw that we beat them," Byron said, "it was insanity."

"Every single girl has a piece of that," Byron added, pointing to the second-place team trophy the Argents received. "Every girl that swam, and every girl who was in the stands cheering us on was a part of this."

Both Byron sisters earned points for Hoban in the 100 freestyle, with freshman Caroline Byron placing 10th with a time of 54.55 seconds, and Liz Byron taking second in 52.93.

Liz Byron had been seeded first heading into that event, and first going into the finals, but Kristen Brown of Bermudian Springs was a little better, winning in 52.55. While it was a disappointment, Liz Byron didn't let it give her a sinking feeling.

"I didn't let the mental nonsense get in my way," she said. "That was true of all the Argents."

"I told them to keep plugging away," Hoban coach Mara Pawlenok said. "We were able to keep on getting points that way."

Justine Grilz finish meant that all Hoban had to do was finish ahead of Gwynedd Mercy in the final event to grab second. Liz Byron, Caroline Byron, Katelyn Ostopick and Grilz accomplished that.

"This is the perfect ending," Liz Byron said. "Actually, it's an ending that's kind of happy and sad. It's great that we had the best finish ever for a Hoban girls team. It's great that we won the most medals ever for a Hoban girls team. But it's sad that it's over."

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.

Coach: Showing at states bodes well

By JOE PETRUCCI
Special to The Dallas Post

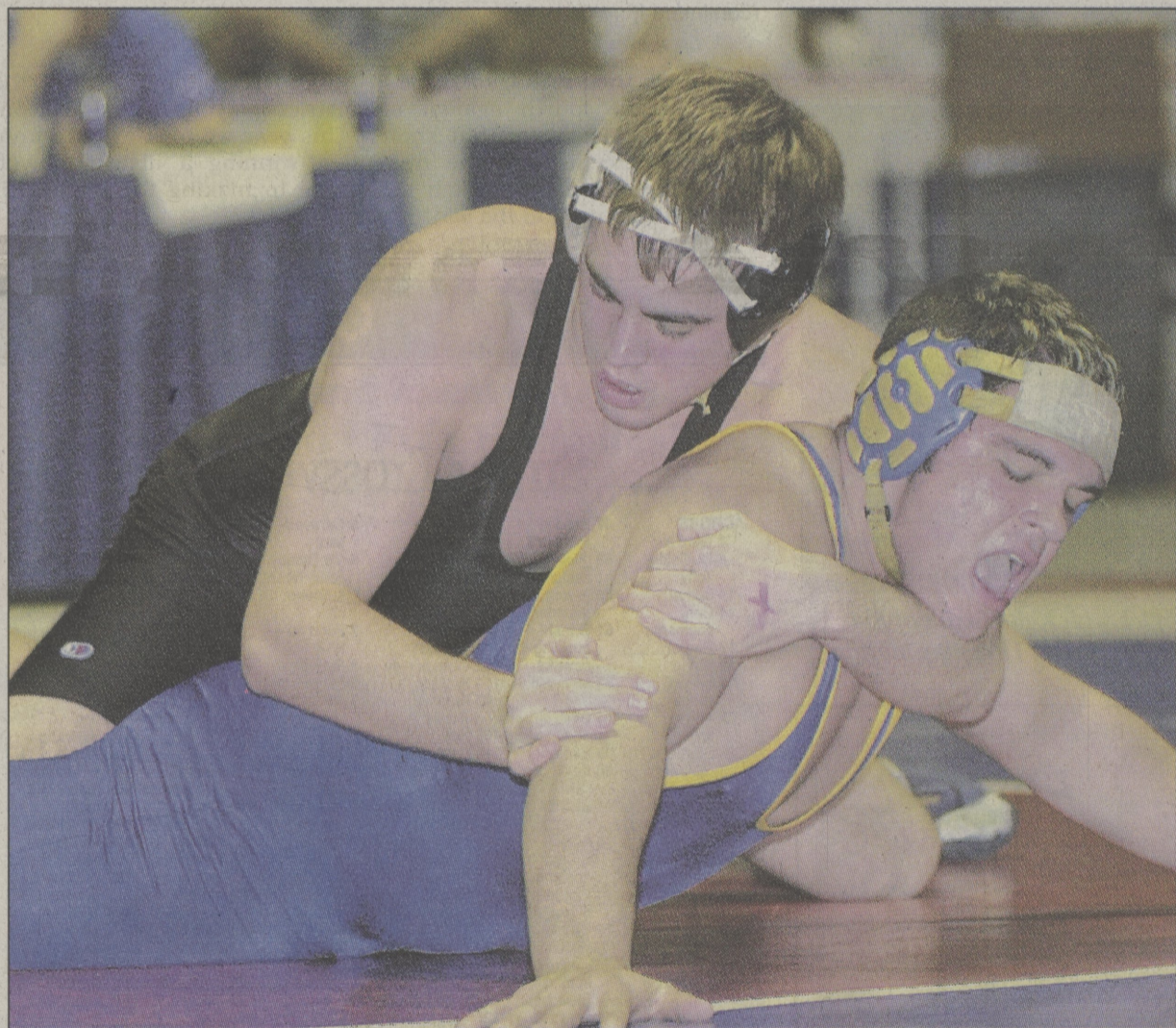
HERSHEY - Without a doubt, Lake-Lehman wrestling coach Phil Lipski is thinking the quartet of Black Knight state qualifiers will only have a positive effect on his already battle-tested program.

Senior heavyweight Matt Carey advanced to the semifinals before earning a sixth-place medal at the PIAA Wrestling Championships at Hersheypark Arena last weekend, while three other Lehman grapplers, senior 189-pounder Ed Becker and juniors John Houssock (112) and Willie Weber (152) lost their first two matches and were eliminated.

While several other Lehman wrestlers were on the cusp of qualifying for states — freshmen Matt Dragon and Jeremy Schutz, sophomore Matt Stuart and juniors Kelby Morgan and Bob Morris, to name a few — Lipski is banking on the big weekend at Hershey to cash in on more PIAA qualifiers next season.

"It's certainly nice to get as many kids down here as we can" Lipski said. "The more kids you get, it's contagious. They say 'Boy I was close with him in my district match and he placed at states. That means I'm close, too. I can get there.' (Getting as

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DON CAREY/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Ed Becker of Lake-Lehman controls Bryan Eckhart of Wilson Area during their 189lb. match Thursday at the Hershey Arena.

Slocum stars as Pirates PeeWee A finish second at Spring Classic

Drew Slocum had 23 saves, but it was not enough as the Medford (NJ) Jaguars defeated the Pocono Pirates PeeWee A team 3-0 in the finals of the Pocono Pirates 2002 Spring Classic.

In the opening games of the tournament Eric Wroblewski had a goal in the Pirates' 7-3 victory over the Brewster (NY) Blackhawks. Slocum made 16 saves in the winning effort.

Alex Slocum leads Pocono Squirt A team

Alex Slocum had two goals and an assist to lead the Pocono Pirates Squirt A team to a 4-2 victory over the New Jersey Lightning in recent youth hockey action.

Slocum also had a goal and an assist in a 3-3 tie with the Wisahickon Warriors.

Pirates Squirt B team places third at tourney

Graham Speace, of Shavertown, had an assist in the Pocono Pirates Squirt B team's 3-2 loss to the Kings of Exton in the Pocono Pirate Spring Hockey Tournament March 3 at the Ice Box.

Dallas Jr. Football registration

If you are a young man or young lady and you will be between the ages of 6-13 by Aug. 1 and you live in the Dallas, Dallas Twp. or Franklin Twp. areas, you can be playing football or cheering for the Dallas Jr. Mounts.

Registrations will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday March 23 and from 6-8 p.m. on Friday May 10. You need to bring copies of your Birth Certificate, Health Insurance, a recent photo and a recent physical. Any questions call 674-5549.



POST PHOTO/TIMOTHY J. RAUB

Lindsay Boris headed to Brown

Lake-Lehman field hockey standout Lindsay Boris made her official announcement March 12 that she would continue her academic and athletic careers with Brown University.

"It is a very nice relief (to make the announcement)," said Boris. "It is the final step in the college choosing procedure."

Boris was an all-state field hockey player, and member of the 2001 state runner-up Black Knight team.

She ranks second in her class academically.

Picture in the photo, from left, front row: Susan Boris, Lindsay Boris, Frank Boris. Second Row: Assistant coach Sandy Boyle, head coach Jean Lipski, Lake-Lehman principal John Oliver and assistant principal Fred Sponenberg.