

THE DALLAS POST

SportsWeek

Section 2



From the bullpen

Timothy J. Raub

Time for the real season

Like a kid on Christmas morning, I raced over to the radio exactly a half hour early.

As I moved through the AM channels hoping to catch the pre-game show, I prayed I would not miss out on anything important, anything I needed to know.

And when I found what I was looking for, I was thrilled.

I had found my beloved Yankees' game on ESPN radio 630/1240, and it was Opening Day, one of the greatest and most unique days of the year for me.

There is nothing that I like to do more than to be able to sit at home during the spring and summer months and watch a game on the television, or listen to one on the radio.

From the time I was a child, I can remember Phil Rizzuto and Bill White broadcasting the games for Channel 11, with the Scooter's signature birthday wish rally calls, and the "Hey so-and-so, this Bud's for you!" with every home run.

Major League Baseball's Opening Day is unique because in no other sport is the first game of the season promoted and covered by the sports media more than that of baseball.

Fans begin tracking their favorite teams and players early on in spring training, when line-ups are full of guys who will be working at the checkout line of the local Wegman's in a few weeks, and pre-season injuries are cause for much media attention, even with the most minor of injuries.

You don't see this in any other sport. From the NFL to the NBA and NHL, pre-season hoopla and Opening Day do not carry the same weight as that of Major League Baseball.

Fans like myself eagerly anticipate Opening Day days in advance, and are glued to the television or radio for constant updates.

On this Opening Day though, my Bronx Bombers didn't come out on top, losing 10-3 to the Baltimore Orioles.

But I'm not worried or sad in the least bit.

There's still 162 more games to play.

The Dominator

Dallas pitcher Ryan Gryskevicz showed mid- to late season form in his complete game one-hitter over Wyoming Valley Conference Division II preseason co-favorite Meyers.

Gryskevicz looked strong throughout the game, finally failing in his bid for a no-hitter with one out in the sixth inning, but showed why the Mountaineers are considered by many to be the favorite to repeat as WVC champions.

The offensive attack mounted by Dallas was not a power, slam-the-ball-into-the-seats style of play, but rather a gritty grind out the runs anyway you can style, which seems to suit them well. The line-up is loaded with hitters, and although it is only one game into the regular season, pre-season worries about youth and inexperience in key positions may not be a worry much longer.

Butcofski Update

Former Dallas High School standout Rich Butcofski will be with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers for the team's season opener at 7 p.m. April 6 at the First Union Arena against the Greensboro Prowlers, but won't see any playing time.

The Times Leader reported the Pioneers placed the linebacker/fullback on injury reserve to start the season as he rehabilitates an ankle injury he sustained in the team's training camp.

Butcofski took part in the team's scrimmage at Rochester last week, but according to the article, his ankle is only 75 percent healed.

"We need him to be 100 percent," Pioneer coach Terry Karg told the Times Leader. "This will bide him time. He needs to get where he needs to be. He'll help this team this year."

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Gryskevicz 1-hits Meyers in opener

By TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

WILKES-BARRE — Perfection is rare any time in the season, let alone the first game.

For 5 1/3 innings, Dallas pitcher Ryan Gryskevicz was just that.

Scott Mudzick ended the no-hit bid with one out in the fifth inning, connecting on an 0-2 pitch for a single to center field. That would be the only hit Meyers could muster as Gryskevicz picked up a complete game 9-1 victory against the Mohawks in Wyoming Valley Conference Division II action at Barney Farms.

"We just wanted to set the tone from the beginning and be relaxed and get to (Meyers starter Pete) Monka early," Gryskevicz said. "We hit the ball good, and

I can't wait to pitch again."

Meyers got some help from the Mountaineers early, capitalizing on three consecutive fielding errors in the third that led to Kenny Kruk scoring for a 1-0.

But Dallas tied the score in the fourth on Ryan Bolton's bases-loaded single to center.

Dallas then jumped on Monka in the fifth with six consecutive hits, leading to eight runs and a 9-1 lead. Jeremy Harris led the Mountaineers with a two-run single, and A.J. Harris, Adam Tkaczyk and Jeff Dickson each added an RBI in the inning.

Gryskevicz struck out five of the last 10 batters en route to the win.

"Gryskevicz pitched an outstanding game, and did just what we talked about (coming into the game)," said Dallas coach Steve Federici. "(Meyers has) a very

good hitting team, and we wanted him to get ahead of their hitters. The kids hit the ball in the clutch, and that is what you need to do."

Jeremy Harris went 2-for-4 with two RBI and two runs to lead Dallas. Gryskevicz and Bolton each had two hits.

"You have to give their pitcher credit," said Meyers coach Tony Modrovsky. "When you get a pitching performance like that, it is pretty hard to beat a team."

Lake-Lehman 9, Hanover Area 3

HANOVER TWP. — Charlie Besteder pitched a complete game with 10 strikeouts for the Black Knights. Jared Sadowski had two hits and two RBI and Brian Cornia drove in four with one hit for Lehman.

Spring, and sports arrive



The weather finally broke enough for the spring high school sports season to begin. The sun was shining, but it wasn't otherwise a great day when the Dallas boys tennis team visited Wyoming Seminary, where they were swept, 7-0.

In photos, clockwise from top: Ryan Love smashed a forehand; Jeff Rothstein returned a backhand; John Beberus tried to muscle a backhand from behind the baseline.

POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS



POST PHOTO/MONICA MARZANI

Jill Youngblood (left photo) took advantage of an Abington Heights player's stumble to advance the ball during a game last week in Clarks Summit. Results were not available. In right photo, Rosalyn Wentko, left, and Ashleigh King sandwiched an Abington Heights player in last week's game, played under cold, dark skies in Clarks Summit. Game results were not available.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Frank's nets two goals in Lehman win; Elstons record 100th victory

BERWICK — Stephanie Frank scored two goals and the coaching staff reached a milestone in Lake-Lehman's 5-1 victory over Berwick in Wyoming Valley Conference girls soccer April 2.

The victory was the 100th for the staff of Jan and Dave Elston and Larry Rittenhouse. Jenna Elston added a goal and an assist.

Dallas 6, Pittston Area 1

YATESVILLE — Jackie Hardwick scored three goals as Dallas opened with a victory. Caitlin Dukas added a goal and an assist.

BOYS TENNIS

Wyoming Seminary 7, Dallas 0

KINGSTON — Wyoming Seminary swept the singles matches in straight sets, then battled for three-set victories in doubles.

GIRLS TRACK

Lake-Lehman 104, Northwest 45

LEHMAN TWP. — Jasmine Watson swept the hurdles and Meredith Edwards was victorious in the 1,600 and 3,200 in Lake-Lehman's victory.

BOYS TRACK

Lake-Lehman 93, Northwest 57

LEHMAN TWP. — Phil Kasper won the 110 hurdles, javelin and pole vault and Joel Mazer was first in the 300 hurdles and long jump for Lake-Lehman.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Lehman 2, Crestwood 0

LEHMAN TWP. — Josh Baranowski had 21 assists, Phil Pinenó served 10 points and Corey Spencer made seven kills as the Black Knights won 15-2, 15-1.

Basketball Shootout set for April 7 in Dallas

The Kingston Township Recreation Commission has announced the 7th Annual Back Mountain Basketball Shootout Competition will take place at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, April 7, at the Dallas Elementary School Gym. The Shootout is a Free Throw and Three-Point Shooting Competition for boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 16. Each event will have multiple age flights with shooting distances modified accordingly. Prizes will be presented to the top three finishers in each flight and overall champs. There will also be a Parent-Child Team Shooting Competition. Registration and warm-up time will be noon on April 7. A donation will be collected for participants not residing in Kingston Township. For more information contact Bob Zaruta at 675-0066.

Back Mountain Youth Soccer set registration Saturday

Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association will be holding registration for the Fall 2002 Intramural Soccer Season from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 6 in the Dallas Senior High School Cafeteria. Age groups U-8 through U-18 will be accepted. Eligible players must be at least 6 years of age before August 1, 2002. A special introductory program will be available for children who will be 5 before August 1, 2002. Social Security numbers and proof of age required.