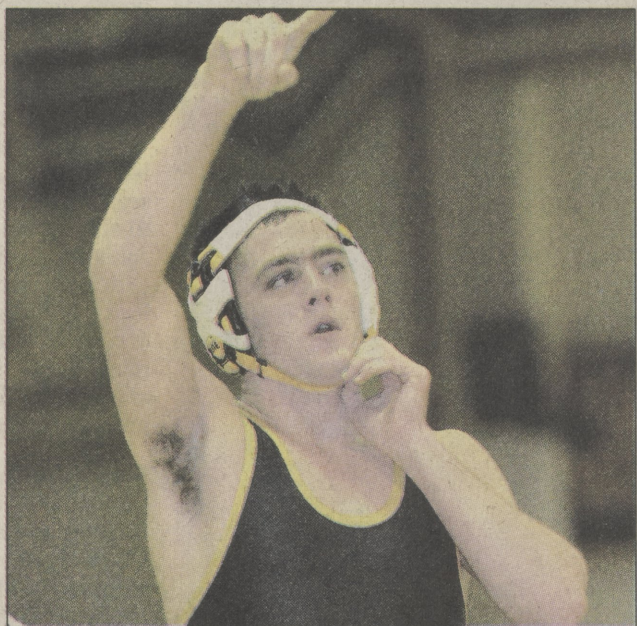


Sports Week

Lake-Lehman wrestler Derek White gestured after winning the District 2 Class 2A 130 lb. wrestling title Feb. 21.



FOR THE POST/
PETE G. WILCOX

Knights put opponents on the mat

□ Lake-Lehman captures district championship for fourth straight year

By DAVE KONOPKI
For The Post

SCRANTON — Lake-Lehman sophomore Joe Klemunes recorded three key pins during the District 2 Class 2A Wrestling Championships at Scranton Prep Feb. 21, helping the Black Knights capture their fourth consecutive team title with his third-place finish.

Lake-Lehman's Matt Dragon (145 pounds) captured his third district championship during the event and was also named the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler.

Dragon, Jeremy Schutz (135), Andy Josuweit (140) and Derek White (130) each won individual titles as Lake-Lehman finished with 210.5 points to pull away from second-place Western Wayne (175). Blue Ridge (150) finished third and Meyers was fourth (126).

Lake-Lehman advanced five wrestlers to the Northeast Regional Tournament in Williamsport. Results were not available in time for this is-

sue. The Black Knights picked up seven key pins during the consolation and third- and fifth-place matches Saturday, including three by Klemunes. After losing in the quarterfinal round Friday night, the 171-pounder recorded four consecutive falls to earn a spot in Williamsport.

"It feels like winning a district championship," said Klemunes, who entered the tournament as the No. 5 seed with a 16-11 record. "I knew I had a chance to get some extra points and help my team win the championship. When I

See WRESTLING, pg 9

Mounts claim district diving

By STEVE SEMBRAT
For The Post

WILKES-BARRE — Alaric Eby of Dallas won the District 2 Class 2A Diving Championships boys title with 482.60 points Feb. 21, in the process breaking the oldest of any of the District 2 swimming and diving records. The old record of 478.48 was set by Michael McGinley of Bishop Hoban in 1975.

"I just had the best day of my life," Eby said. "Everything just fell together."

It was a tremendous day all around for Dallas, as sophomore Whitney Bolton won the girls title with 343.55 points. Sarah Rupert, a sophomore, won bronze for the Mountaineers and Shannon Dingle, a sophomore, placed 12th.

"Our team has worked so hard," Bolton said. "We put it together today."

Eby, also a sophomore, and Bolton earned a berth in the PIAA Class 2A diving championships set for March 11 at Penn State's main campus.

The boys and girls runner-up also got a trip to states, and the battles for second were much closer as Eby and Bolton each won by a comfortable

See DIVING, pg 8



FOR THE POST/AIMEE DILGER

Alaric Eby stretched into an entry during the District 2 Class 2A Diving Championships at the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center Feb. 21. Eby set a record for the highest score ever by a diver in this area.

Queenswomen shake off rust, cruise to win

By JOHN ERZAR
For The Post

EXETER — After a slow start following a long layoff, Bishop O'Reilly dominated Old Forge 57-30 Feb. 25 to advance to the District 2 Class A girls championship game.

O'Reilly (22-3) played five-time defending champion Forest City (18-7) Saturday for the title. That game took place after this issue was completed. Both teams are guaranteed berths in the Class A state playoffs.

In case O'Reilly needed any motivation against Old Forge, a team it whipped by 29 points in December, it simply looked at a recent game between the Blue Devils and Forest City.

"We know they have been playing a lot better and lost to Forest City by only two in overtime," said guard Lindsey Williams. "We knew what we had to do because we didn't want to end our season tonight."

"Our coaches told us if we lose

tonight, we're handing in our uniforms. We didn't want that."

The minds might have been willing, but the bodies were weak in the early going. Old Forge used some solid three-point shooting to hang with the Queenswomen through the opening minutes of the second quarter.

"Old Forge came to play and they have some good shooters," Appel said. "The layoff, you could see it in our legs. You can simulate things in practice, but you don't get the game scenario until you get out there."

Williams was hot from the perimeter in the first half, scoring 10 of her 14 points as the Queenswomen took a 29-13 lead at the half. The inside game, O'Reilly's main offensive component, eventually followed suit. Centers Janelle Zabresky and Erin Chesnavich scored 14 and 11 points, respectively, and Zabresky added five of the team's 15 blocked shots.

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.

Lady Mountaineers drop ball against Nanticoke

Staff report

Feb. 25 — Nanticoke kept its composure on the way to a 62-48 victory over defending District 2 Class 3A champion Dallas in a semifinal game at Wyoming Area High School.

Dallas (22-5) played Berwick (18-8) Saturday for third place in the Wyoming Valley Conference Division II and a state playoff slot. Results from that game were not available in time for this issue.

Dallas, which had won two of the three previous meetings, led just once — 21-20 — at 2:25 of the second quarter when Rosalyn Wentko tossed in a rebound.

Although Nanticoke bombarded Scranton Prep with three-pointers two

days earlier, Dallas knew what was going to happen Wednesday.

"We're only 5-foot-7. We can't play the game under the net. We could never do it," Dallas coach Joe Noon said. "All these years, we've gotten away with it and were able to force teams out."

Nanticoke wasn't about to go to the perimeter. The Trojanettes made only three three-pointers.

This game was going to be won inside with all available players. Nanticoke reserve center Sara Acker, a 6-1 freshman, grabbed 15 rebounds, blocked five shots and scored 10 points.

Dallas tried to rattle Nanticoke in

See DALLAS, pg 9

Back Mt. Baseball final registration Monday

Back Mountain Baseball will hold final signups for the 2004 season on Monday, March 1, 6-8 p.m. at the Dallas American Legion. Registration is open to players of all levels of play. To be eligible for signups, a player must reach the age of 6 on or before July 31, 2004.

Registration fees are \$45 for the first player, \$30 for the second player, and \$20 per player after that. Each player is being asked to either sell a box of

candy, or pay an extra \$20 per player.

There are separate registration fees for Junior and Senior League (ages 13 and up) of \$75 for the first player and \$65 per player after that. There are no additional fundraisers for Junior and Senior League. If a registration form was received in the mail, complete it before coming to registration.

All players must have their Social Security number on their registration form. All new players to Back Moun-

tain Baseball must also bring a birth certificate to registration for verification of age.

Following registration, there will be a public meeting at 8 p.m. All coaches and parents are invited to attend. Volunteers are still needed for coaches, umpires, concession stand and grounds. Board members will be available at registration and the public meeting for questions about volunteering and the league in general.

Hettes wins District 2 Class 3A championship at 125 lb.

Dallas junior John Hettes won the District 2 Class 3A wrestling championship at 125 lb. He beat Pat Krasavage of Wyoming Valley West 9-2 in the title bout. By winning, Hettes earned an invitation to the Northeast Regional tournament. Results from that championship were not available in time for this issue.

John Hettes is shown at left, with teammates Josh Anderson (So. 6th place at 171 lb.) and Morgan Anderson (Sr. 5th at 160).



O'Reilly boys barely escape from Hannan

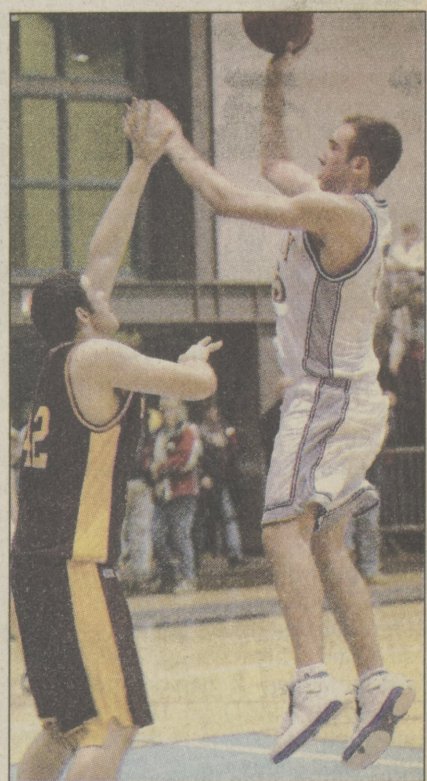
By VAN ROSE
For The Post

Feb. 24 — Sophomore center Josh Aciekewicz converted a three-point play with just 32 seconds left, propelling Bishop O'Reilly to a come-from-behind 63-60 victory over Bishop Hannan in semifinal action of the District 2 Class A playoffs at Wilkes University.

"I wasn't expecting the ball," said the 6-foot-5 Aciekewicz, who took a pass from Mike Podcasy, then made a reverse layup and was fouled by a Bishop Hannan defender. "I thought he was going to dribble it to the basket."

The Queensmen (24-4) faced Old Forge (21-7) for the district championship Friday, with both teams advancing to the PIAA tournament. That game took place after this issue was completed.

See O'REILLY BOYS, pg 9



FOR THE POST/AIMEE DILGER

Bishop O'Reilly's Josh Aciekewicz shoots over Hannan's Brian Siemion during a District 2 Class A semifinal game Tuesday at the Marts Center.