

SportsWeek

Spencer heading to Pepperdine

By JOHN ERZAR
For The Post

LEHMAN TWP. — Lake-Lehman volleyball standout Cory Spencer has decided to continue his academic and volleyball pursuits as a member of the fourth-ranked Division I team in the nation, Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

Division I men's volleyball is limited to four full scholarships and one partial scholarship for its 18 players. Spencer won't be getting either, but Pepperdine put together an attractive financial package to secure the 6-foot-5 middle hitter.



Cory Spencer

"It is kind of weird for someone around here to get this kind of exposure and treatment," Spencer said, "because I've never heard of anything like this from this area and Pennsylvania in general."

The last Lehman player to play Division I volleyball was 1988 graduate Allen Andes, who played for Ohio State.

So how did a university on the other side of the country find Spencer? Lehman coach John Baranowski said Pepperdine had Spencer on its radar for a while, but it was a series of events that solidified the union.

Spencer played for a club team in Lancaster that qualified for the national tournament in Phoenix, where a number of college coaches were in attendance.

Some of his club teammates, several of whom played for defending PIAA champion Hempfield, then decided to attend a volleyball camp at Pepperdine. Spencer decided to go as well.

"Then the whole recruiting process started," he said.

Pepperdine and Long Beach State jointly flew Spencer to the West Coast in October. He visited both campuses. He also considered Penn State and Hawaii as well as Division III Juniata.

"I gave up basketball because I had to concentrate on volleyball all during the winter. It was a good decision in my opinion," he said.

Spencer was a Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association second-team all-state selection last season. He has led the Black Knights in kills since his sophomore season, but Baranowski said Pepperdine is getting more than just a strong player at the net.

"D-I is tough," Baranowski said. "The thing is, he has such natural talent and knowledge of the game. It's almost like having a coach out there. He figures things out well, he reacts to things well. He has a sense for the game."



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Caroline Motyka (17) of Lake-Lehman tries to block Sem's Christina Brown (23) at the sideline during the April 14 game at Lake-Lehman. The Black Knights shut out Sem 5-0.



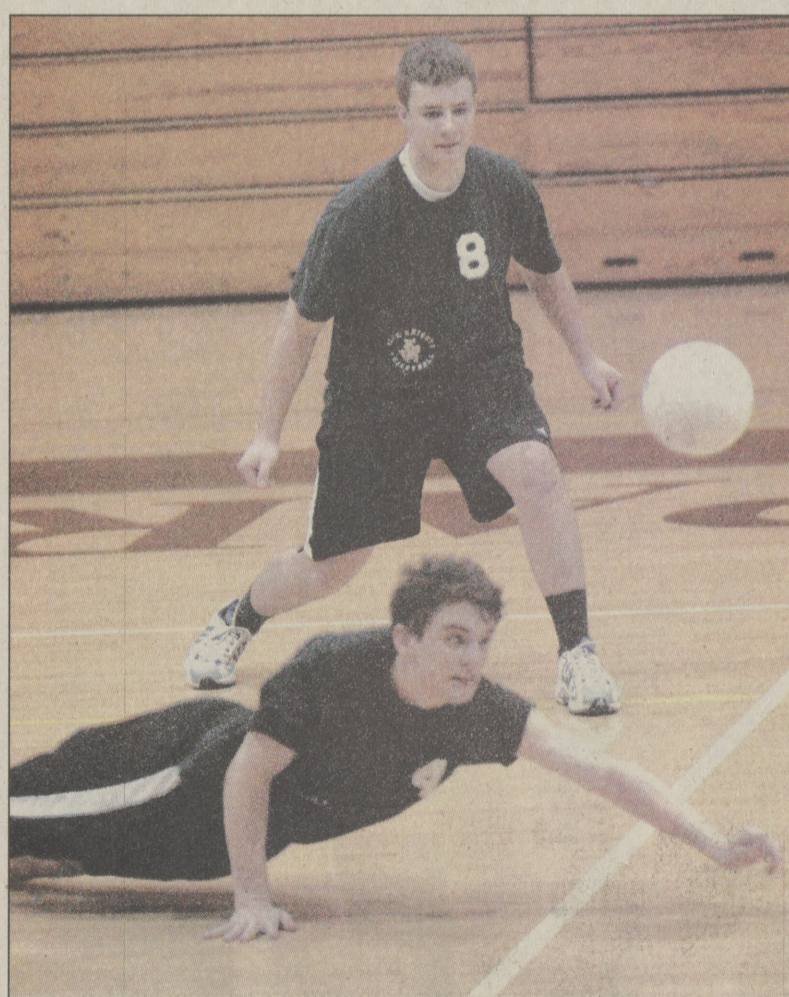
Jackie Thomas (20) Wyoming Seminary can only look on after ball is kicked away by Chrissy Kazmierski.



Lake-Lehman's Brittany Hillard tries to beat Sem's Christina Brown (23) and Vanessa Balder to the ball.



In left photo, Lake-Lehman's Craig Thomas returned the ball over the net against Wyoming Valley West April 12. He had eight kills in the match. Right photo, Kenny David dove for a dig against Wyoming Valley West last week. Dave Harrison backed him up.



FOR THE POST/AIMEE DILGER

Sports Roundup

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Lake-Lehman 3, WVW 0

Apr. 13 — The Black Knights remained undefeated by sweeping Wyoming Valley West on the road. Cory Spencer and Craig Thomas each had eight kills and Kenny David added four kills as Lake-Lehman swept Wyoming Valley West 25-4, 25-13 and 25-16 in Wyoming Valley Conference boys volleyball action on Tuesday. Dave Harrison posted three kills for the Black Knights.

GIRLS SOCCER

Lake-Lehman 5, Wyoming Sem 0

Apr. 14 — Five Lake-Lehman players scored goals as the Black Knights defeated Wyoming Seminary 5-0 Wednesday to remain tied for first place in Division A of Wyoming Valley Conference girls soccer. The Lehman defense held Seminary (0-4) without a shot as the Black Knights improved to 5-0. Callie Carsman opened the scoring in the 18th minute, and Lehman built the lead to 3-0 by halftime as Caroline Motyka and Chrissy Kazmierski also found the

net.

Allison Culver scored early in the second half and later assisted Claire Apaliski for the final goal.

Dallas 6, Meyers 0

Apr. 14 — Caitlin Dukas scored four goals to lead undefeated Dallas (5-0-0) to the victory over winless Meyers (0-5-0) in a Division A game. Ashleigh King added a goal and an assist for the Mountaineers while Megan McDonald scored one goal and Halli Williams had two assists. Rosalyn Wentko made just one save for the shutout.

Youth Run and Walk at Harveys Lake

The 2004 Youth Run and Walk, organized by the Jewish Community Center of Wyoming valley, will be held at the Jewish Community Center Day camp site near Harveys Lake on Saturday, June 6.

The event is for children 14 and under and includes three separate categories: two-mile for girls and boys ages 8-13, one-mile for girls and boys ages 7-14 and 1/2 mile for girls and boys ages 5-10.

Entry fee is \$10 if received before the day of the event. Awards will be presented. For more information call 824-4646.



Lehman Lightning captures second

The fourth grade Lehman "Lightning" boys basketball team recently took second place in the 2004 Gate of Heaven Basketball Tournament. From left, first row: Justin Salvatti, Noah Kustrin, Jordan Thomas, Matt Wolman. Second row: Assistant Coach Kevin Bohan, Kevin Bohan, Jay Dawsey, Timmy Piatt, Cody Poepperling, Coach Dwayne Poepperling.

Camp St. Andrew for girls

Camp St. Andrew in Tunkhannock will run its 31st annual basketball camp for girls in July. The first clinic runs July 11-16 and the second clinic runs from July 18-23. The camp is for girls entering grades 5-10 and the cost is \$275 per week.

Fundamentals will be emphasized through instruction and daily competitions. Campers will play two league games daily. The director is Bernie Kozlowski, a graduate of Lackawanna Trail High School and Lehigh University. She played professionally in Belgium in 1990 and is a member of the NE Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame. The assistant directors will include Renee Casterline, head coach of Wyoming Seminary.

For a brochure, call 226-4606 or e-mail campstandr@aol.com.