

# SportsWeek

## Dallas teens cheer the Pioneers

By CHRIS BELL  
Post Correspondent

If you happen to go to a Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers arena football game, take a good look at the guys making all the noise in section 201.

One of them could be your neighbor. Or your nephew, or your grandson.

### NEXT HOME GAME

Sat., June 5, 7 p.m.  
vs. Manchester  
Wolvers  
Wachovia Arena

A group of Dallas High School students has become an unofficial cheering section for the Pioneers. The guys are so enthusiastic, one local television sports-caster has dubbed them "The Stable."

"We were looking for something to do one night and we decided to go to a game," said junior Matt Daube. "We saw some other kids from school at the game and we all got together. We've been going to the games ever since."

Daube, Phil Walter, Tom Van Horn and Dan Retzena were among the original group and hung around to talk to team members after the game. "The players loved us,"

See PIONEERS, pg 8



"The Stable" has become the almost-official cheering section for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers arena football team. The section is made up of Dallas High School students.

## Back Mountain Baseball

### Giants win see-saw battle

Adam Holena drove in Kevin Gilbert with the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh, as the Giants topped the Yankees 12-11. Erik Cannon's double started the comeback in the bottom of the inning. Kevin Pierce walked and scored the go-ahead run in the top of the seventh for the Yankees. Leading Giants hitters were Kevin Cope, double and single; Adam Holena two singles; Chris Dailey, Kyle Caffrey and Erik Cannon, a double each.

Kevin Pierce and James Young had two doubles each for the Yanks.

Kyle Caffrey, Kevin Gilbert and Chris Dailey combined to strike out 11 Yankees. Chris Ellis and Kevin Pierce struck out nine in a losing cause.

### A's 8, Horlacher Phillies 4

Nick Lombard had two hits and two RBI to lead the Athletics. Tyler Rice, Aaron Perez and Devon McMahon each had one hit for the victors. Perez scattered six hits over five innings for the pitching victory. Horlacher was led by Tyler Patten and Paul Narcum with two hits each.

### Red Sox 19, Horlacher #2 1

Eric Baines pitched a one hitter and struck out nine in leading the Red Sox to a win. Baines also helped himself at the plate with two hits. Brandon Harding and James Youngman each had two hits, Scott Riccetti helped with a triple, Cody Plesnar a double and Ryan Thomas and Tanner Baloh with singles in the win. Danny Ayers scored the only run for Horlacher off the lone hit by R.J. Barr.

See BMT BALL, pg 8

## District volleyball

### Black Knights sweep N. Pocono

By JERRY KELLAR  
For The Post

May 26 — Led by Pepperdine-bound middle hitter Cory Spencer, Lake-Lehman swept North Pocono — 25-12, 25-22, 25-22 — in District 2 volleyball semifinal play at the winner's gymnasium.

After hardly being tested in the opener, Lake-Lehman had to rally several times during the next two games to win.

In both encounters, the Knights turned to Spencer and junior setter Kenny David when things got rough, and both players responded. David finished with 29 assists, while Spencer totaled 30 kills — a few of them particularly vicious — to go along with five blocks and two aces.

"Cory's role on our team is the 'Terminator,' basically, but everybody does a job for this team," said Black Knights coach John Baranowski. "They're unselfish. I'm so proud of the way they

See VOLLEYBALL, pg 8

## Golf

### Sieminski ace 3rd at Huntsville

Libby Sieminski of Shavertown had a hole in one May 23 at Huntsville Golf Club. She aced the 113-yard third hole with a 5-wood. The shot was witnessed by Marsha Silberman.

## Soccer tryouts

### BMT Blitz U-9/U-10

The U-9/U-10 Back Mountain Blitz travel team will hold soccer tryouts on Saturday, June 5 at 4 p.m., at the Pit fields at the Dallas High School complex. If you have any questions, contact Barb at 675-0985.

### U-10 Magic

Tryouts will be held for the Back Mountain Magic U-10 boys travel soccer team at 4 p.m., June 4 at the Pit fields behind the Dallas High School. For more information, call Don Murray at 675-6996 or 510-4474.

## Softball playoffs

### Dallas falls in second round

Staff report

May 26 — In a District 2 Class 2A softball quarterfinal game, Dallas (13-5) was eliminated by an opponent that came out swinging.

"They hit the ball," Dallas coach Joyce Tinner said. "They beat us the first and second time up."

The Cougars took a 2-0 lead in their first at-bat, with Mandy Nagy delivering a two-run, two-out single.

The Mountaineers pulled within 2-1 when Sara Sweptson lined a home run over the left-field fence in the top of the second inning. Valley View's Alex Blewitt answered with a two-run blast in the bottom of the third, making the score 4-1, which was the final.

Dallas made good contact off pitcher Lauryn Filipowski, but Valley View answered with even better plays in the field. On two occasions, the Mountaineers got a runner at first with one out, but in each instance, a hard-hit ground ball to second was turned into an inning-ending double play.

The Mountaineers were also crisp in the field in an errorless game.

Lindsay McCabe and Cassie Backes also had hits for Dallas. Lauren Collini scattered five hits over five innings.

"We have two very good seniors and they played their hearts out," Tinner said, referring to shortstop Shannon Thomas and center fielder Meredith Lacey. "We'll come back strong next year. We finished 13-5 with two seniors. We did all right."

### Dallas 3, Montrose 2

May 25 — Meredith Lacey's single scored Julie Pettite with the winning run with one out of the bottom of the seventh inning as Dallas defeated Montrose 3-2 in the first round of the District 2 Class 2A softball playoffs.

After one out in the seventh, Cassie Backes singled and stole second base. Pettite came in to pinch run for Backes. Pettite moved to third on a single from Cory Patton. Lacey followed with a single to right-center field to end the game.

Winning pitcher Sara Sweptson allowed five hits and struck out 10 over seven innings. Sweptson, Lacey and Backes had two hits apiece for the Mountaineers, with Sweptson and Backes knocking doubles.

Dallas grabbed a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when Shannon Thomas drove in a run on a ground-out. A bases loaded walk to Lacey in the second inning scored Lindsay McCabe for a 2-0 lead.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Julie Pettit is out at home plate trying to score for Dallas. Making the tag is Brit Ely for Montrose.

### Lady Tigers lose heartbreaker

Staff report

May 25 — Pittston scored on a suicide bunt in the bottom of the ninth inning to capture a 2-1 victory over Tunkhannock in the opening round of the District 2 Class 3A softball championships.

Tunkhannock scored its only run in the fourth inning when Nicole Palmer had a sacrifice bunt to score Jess Wildrick.

The game was all about defense as only 14 hits were allowed between the two pitchers.

Each team had scoring chances, but outstanding defensive plays left them unfulfilled.

Tunkhannock had the opportunity to take the lead in the ninth inning when Wildrick reached first on a hit and then stole second base. But Pittston Area's defense ended the Tigers' chances with an unusual double play on the next batter. Wildrick was tagged out at home as she at-



FOR THE POST/AIMEE DILGER

Tunkhannock's Jess Wildrick tried to get back to third base before Pittston's Kristin Littzi could tag her out.

tempted to score on an overthrow to first base off of Staci Szychowski's hit. Then Szychowski was tagged out on the same play when she attempted to reach third base while the play at home was taking place.

## Soccer playoffs

### Mounts' offense stymied in loss

#### Lake-Lehman edged by Crestwood, page 8

May 24 — A stingy Coughlin defense allowed the Mountaineers only four shots on goal, all but one of which were stopped by goalkeeper Justine Segear in a District 2 semifinal playoff match.

Top-seeded Dallas (12-2-1) was at-

tempting to make the championship game for the first time since 1993. The Mountaineers put strong pressure on the fourth-seeded Crusaders' defense in the waning minutes, with their best chance to tie coming with less than two minutes to play. Hallie Williams sent a perfect cross from the right sideline.

See SOCCER, pg 8



Celia Pambianco stretched to block Coughlin's Jessica Musto during last week's District 2 semifinal playoff game. Coughlin upset the top-seeded Mountaineers 2-1.

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