

Dallas looks like biggest dog in small division

The Dallas Mountaineers drop to Class 2A for the 2004 and 2005 seasons, and are considered the top WVC team in that bracket.

"We have a nice nucleus back," said head coach Ted Jackson. "We don't play Berwick or Valley West, but we still play five teams that are bigger than us. ... Our schedule isn't a cakewalk. We're playing three 3As and two quads. It's very challenging and a lot of our tough games are on the road."

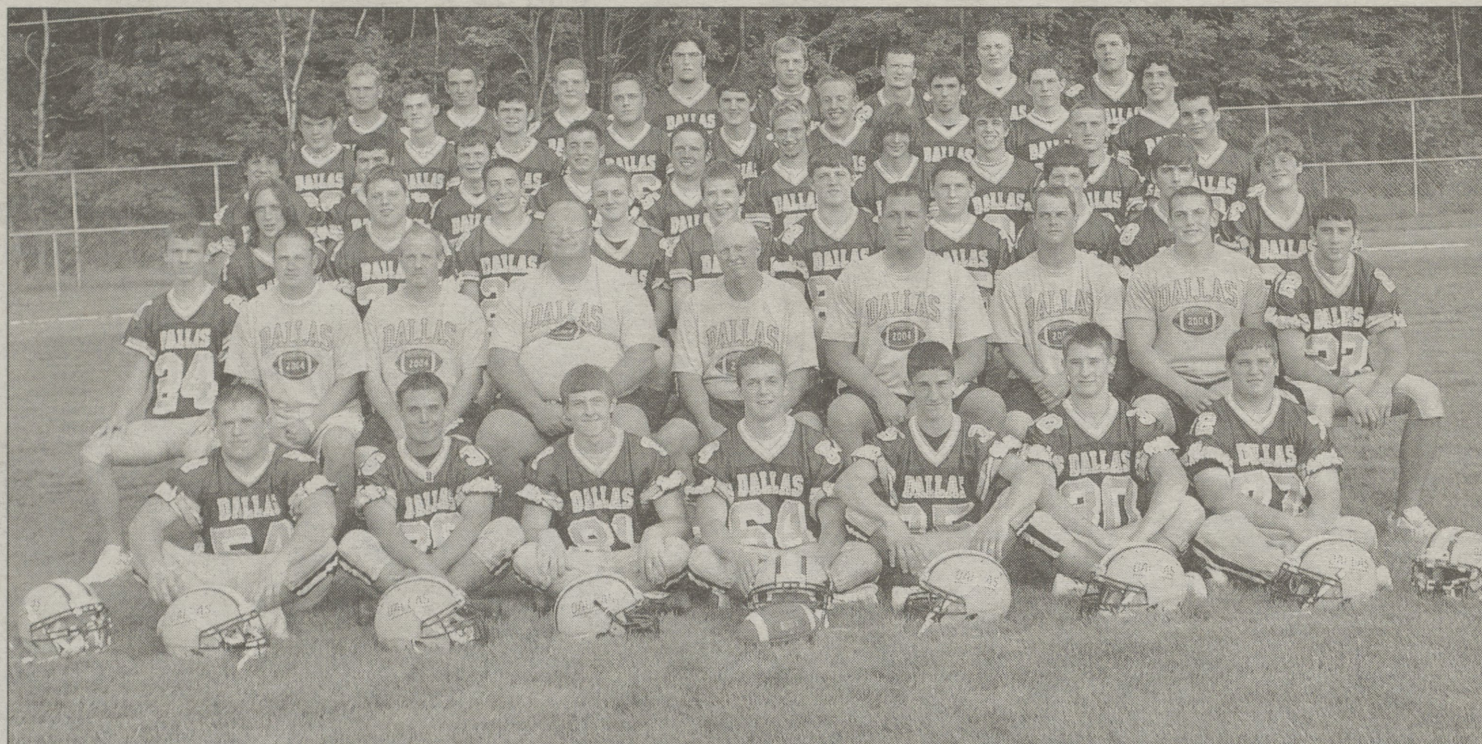
Now, Dallas goes back to the class where they've had great matchups with GAR, Hanover Area and others. However, more seems expected of the Mountaineers than another Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Quarterback Matt Kelly exceeded expectations last year, throwing for a WVC-high 17 touchdowns, some of which came because of his tremendous scrambling ability. He was also one of three WVC quarterbacks to throw for more than 1,000 yards.

Kelly's primary target should again be Mike Race, who caught 30 passes last season as a sophomore, second-most in the WVC. Wingback Nick Samanas and receiver Jim Schwerdtman are also experienced.

Tight ends Jeff Bernosky and Kyle Zapoticky were hampered by injuries last season, but did start on occasion.

In the backfield, Doug Harris was slowed by an illness during



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the preseason, but there is hope he'll have another 1,000-yard season. Joe Lambert will also see some time at tailback.

The fullback position is strong with Buddy Kocher, who averaged 4.4 yards per carry, back as the starter. Nick Onzik will be the backup.

Three starting offensive linemen have graduated, but the Mountaineers are in solid shape. Tackle Matt Daube and guard Steve Wengen, the returning starters, lead the unit.

John Yanik will be at guard after playing tight end last sea-

son. Curt Montz is a the new center, but has starting experience on defense. Alan Pugh will be the other tackle.

"We're not green there," Jackson said, "but we lost three good players."

On the defensive squad, Daube and Yanik return as the ends, and a healthy Bernosky at tackle should help solidify the unit. Either Pugh and Wengen will be the other tackle.

Jackson has seven linebackers with whom he feels comfortable, making the position one of the deepest.

Harris, Kocher, Onzik and Sam Perry will man the inside, with Lambert, Zapoticky and Matt Brokenshire reliable on the outside.

The defensive backfield handcuffed nearly every opponent last season, allowing just 37 percent of passes to be completed and two touchdowns during the regular season.

A similar performance could be expected with Samanas back at one corner and Kelly returning at safety. Race and Schwerdtman are the candidates for the other corner spot.

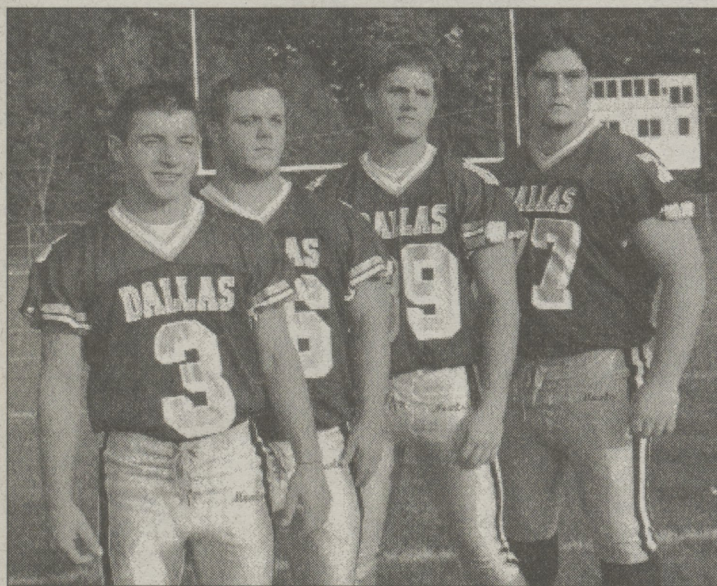
Few can argue that Dallas is the elite team of Class 2A in the WVC. Anything less than a District 2 playoff berth would seem like a huge disappointment.

If the Mountaineers want a district title, they'll need to tighten up the run defense since Lackawanna Conference 2A foes Dunmore and Valley View are run-first teams.

— by John Erzar

2004 Dallas Mountaineers

No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Yr.
1	Rob Lehman	6-3	170	QB	Jr.
2	Jim Schwerdtman	6-1	170	WR	Sr.
3	Matt Kelly	5-8	170	QB	Sr.
4	Doug Harris	6-1	190	RB	Sr.
5	Mike Race	6-1	180	WR	Jr.
7	Rob Santillana	5-11	175	QB	Jr.
8	Chris Parrish	6-0	165	QB	Jr.
9	Brian Kerpovich	6-0	170	QB	So.
11	Nick Samanas	5-9	185	WB	Jr.
21	Kyle Lewis	6-0	160	WR	Jr.
22	Brad Fagula	6-2	170	WR	So.
23	Dave Caruso	5-7	165	WR	So.
24	Dave Henry	5-9	160	WR	So.
26	Buddy Kocher	5-10	235	FB	Sr.
30	Mike Gergel	6-0	175	WB	So.
32	Nick Major	6-0	170	TB	Sr.
33	Matt Brokenshire	6-1	185	FB	Sr.
34	Joe Lambert	6-2	200	TB	Jr.
35	Robert Hayes	5-10	160	FB	So.
36	Joe Kapral	5-10	170	WB	So.
43	Rob Tomko	5-10	175	WB	Jr.
44	Nick Onzik	5-11	210	FB	Jr.
50	Giryes Nijmeh	5-11	230	T	Jr.
52	Josh Perry	5-5	165	C	So.
54	Bruce Redmond	5-11	200	T	So.
55	John Yanik	6-1	230	G	Sr.
60	Sam Perry	5-10	225	T	Jr.
62	Steve Wengen	6-2	230	G	Sr.
63	Casey Husted	6-0	240	T	Jr.
64	Adam Tamanini	6-0	195	G	So.
65	Curt Montz	5-11	215	C	Sr.
66	Alan Pugh	6-1	225	T	Sr.
68	John Kopcho	6-1	205	G	So.
70	Andy Hiller	5-11	215	T	Jr.
71	D.J. Anderson	6-3	260	T	So.
72	Chris Larson	5-11	215	T	So.
76	Anthony Oliveri	5-8	175	C	So.
77	Matt Daube	6-5	290	T	Sr.
78	Matt Lanyon	5-11	175	T	So.
80	Larry Harris	5-10	175	WR	So.
81	Greg Jerzak	5-10	165	WR	So.
82	Robert Monk	6-3	245	TE	So.
86	Jake Devlin	5-10	175	WR	Jr.
88	Dan Considine	5-11	175	WR	Jr.
89	Jeff Bernosky	6-3	220	TE	Sr.
99	Kyle Zapoticky	6-2	200	TE	Sr.



PHOTOS FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Captains of the 2004 Dallas Mountaineers football team are, from left: Matt Kelly, Buddy Kocher, Jeff Bernosky, Matt Daube.