

Sports Week

Dallas girls clean up on court

By CHRIS BELL
Post Correspondent

Apparently it's true that there is strength in numbers — at least as far as the Dallas High School girls tennis team is concerned.

With 21 players on the roster, the team is enjoying its best turnout in years. And with three victories in their first five matches, the Mountaineers are also enjoying their greatest success in recent history.

"We lost a lot of seniors from a year ago and I wasn't sure what to expect this season," said third-year head coach Mike Balutanski. "It was a pleasant surprise to have so many girls come out for the team this season."

Balutanski takes that as a sign that the program is headed in the right direction. "I think the kids are having fun and are getting their friends to give the sport a try," he said. "We're starting to build interest in the pro-

gram."

After back-to-back 1-10 seasons, the Mounts are 3-2 this fall with victories over Seton Catholic, Hanover and Wyoming Valley West. The team suffered close losses to Pittston and Hazleton.

"We could easily be 5-0," said Balutanski, who serves as the tennis pro at Valley Tennis & Swim Club and Odyssey Fitness Center. "We've been competitive in every match this season."

The Dallas lineup usually features seniors Shauna Gitlin and Aly Nakkache at first and second singles, respectively. Sophomore Alia Pyros plays at number three and senior Kristen Evans starts at fourth singles.

Balutanski utilizes a variety of combinations in his doubles lineup, with Paige Kyle and Rachel Schaub regularly teaming up at the number three position.

Seniors Leslie Wetzel, Jill Liebensen, Katie Kupstas and Michelle Luksch all see

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time at doubles.

Last week, Luksch also picked up a key win at number No. 4 singles to clinch the win over Valley West.

Other team members

include Alicia Evans, Kelly Murphy and freshmen Erica Lisses, Claire Mitchell, Marge Gelso and Ali Durvin.

"Dallas traditionally has very athletic girls," said Balutanski. "But, they don't always have as much tennis experience as some of the better teams. It takes time to learn the game and get control of your shots. The girls have been extremely cooperative and are working very

hard to improve."

While Balutanski thinks a .500 season is a realistic possibility, his goals for the team are actually much more fundamental.

"It's more important for me to see the team continue to improve throughout the season," he explained. "It's very rewarding to see them learn the game and understand the mental aspect of the game."



Rachel Schaub teamed up with Paige Kyle in doubles play against Wyoming Valley West. They won to help Dallas earn a 4-3 match victory.



Kristen Evans lobs a forehand from the baseline in a match against Wyoming Valley West. She won both her singles and doubles matches.

SPORTS ROUNDUP FOOTBALL

Lehman 33, Tunkhannock, 12

Sept. 20 — Lake-Lehman wide receiver Rich Schofield caught five passes for 156 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Black Knights over the Tunkhannock Tigers 33-12. Lehman stopped a fake punt attempt by the Tigers in the first quarter and after two plays, quarterback Ryan Arcangeli hit Schofield for a 48-yard touchdown pass. Arcangeli was 12-of-20 for 205 yards and had four touchdowns. He also connected with Derek Shurmanek on a 5-yard TD pass.

The Tigers scored before the half on an 11-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Ryan Alfieri to Andrew Farr, who posted two touchdowns on the night. Lehman put the game on ice in the third quarter on a 1-yard run by fullback Greg Pimm. Tunkhannock committed three turnovers in the game and managed only 60 yards rushing on 26 attempts.

Stroudsburg 28, Dallas 20

Sept. 20 — Mike Race was on the receiving end of two touchdown passes from quarterback Matt Kelly, one for a 61-yard score in the Mountaineers' 28-20 loss to Stroudsburg. Kelly also scored on a 1-yard run but the ensuing extra point was blocked. The Mountaineers had one last chance late in the fourth quarter, but a fourth-and-26 pass from Kelly fell incomplete with less than two minutes in the game. The Mountaineers were penalized six times for 84 yards in the game. Stroudsburg coughed up the ball three times, but rushed for 168 yards in the victory.

GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY

Bishop O'Reilly 7, Berwick 0

Sept. 22 — Annie Onzik recorded a hat trick, helping Bishop O'Reilly defeat Berwick to gain sole possession of first place in Wyoming Valley Conference Division II field hockey.

Katie Goode scored a pair of goals for O'Reilly and added an assist. Meg Mathewson and Colleen Bustin' each scored for the Queenswomen. Samantha Solack had a pair of assists and Kathleen Paley made two saves to get the shutout.

Meyers 1, Dallas 0

Sept. 22 — Dallas outshot the Mohawks 11 to 8, but Meyers scored with 6:25 left in the game to win a key Division I game.

Meyers and Dallas figure to challenge for the fifth and sixth District 2 Class 2A playoff spots available to Division I teams along with Nanticoke at Honesdale.

Keeper Lindsay Davenport made six saves.

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Punt, Pass and Kick contest postponed

Wet field conditions have forced the postponement of the Punt, Pass and Kick competition scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 25 at the Dallas High School football practice field.

A new date has not yet been set. Call Bob Zaruta at 675-0066 with questions.

Mountaineer Aquatic Club signups in Oct.

Registration/Practice will be held for the Mountaineer Aquatic Club age group swim program October 4, 5, and 7, at 6 p.m., at Dallas Middle School pool. The program is open to all children ages 5-14, with no residency requirements. For more information, call Ken at 675-2759, or Kathy at 675-0817.

Spaghetti Dinner for Bishop O'Reilly boys' basketball

The Bishop O'Reilly Boys' Basketball team will sponsor a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Oct. 16 at the Bishop O'Reilly High School cafeteria. Dinner will be served from 3 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person and takeouts will be available. All proceeds will benefit the Bishop O'Reilly boys' basketball program. Purchase tickets at the Bishop O'Reilly High School Office, or call Beth Aciekewicz at 696-4323 or Kathy Kester at 696-5044.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Mounts go 3-0 in Cup play

Dallas trounced its Back Mountain rival Lake-Lehman last week on the Irem Temple Country Club golf course. The victory gives the Mountaineers a 3-0 lead in the 2004-05 Back Mountain Cup competition. Next up is an Oct. 4 girls volleyball match, a sport the Black Knights usually shine in. In photos, clockwise from upper left: Bryan Cardillo, Lake-Lehman, reacts as his putt slides by the hole; Chris Jones, Lake-Lehman, blasts out of a sand trap; Ryan Franconi, Dallas, tees off. He shared medalist honors with a 39.

2004-05 Back Mountain Cup standings

Date	Sport	Result	Standings
Sept. 2	Golf	D 161-LL 194	Dallas 1 - LL 0
Sept. 10	Soccer	D 4-LL 1	Dallas 2 - LL 0
Sept. 20	Golf	D 162-LL 209	Dallas 3 - LL 0
Oct. 4	Girls Volleyball		
Oct. 7	Soccer		
Oct. 15	Boys Cross Country		
Oct. 15	Girls Cross Country		
Oct. 20	Field Hockey		
Nov. 6	Football		

Tour Saturday of Game Land 57

The public is invited to tour State Game Land 57 on October 2. The tour is free.

Registration will be held from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the headquarters building complex on State Game Land 57, Ricketts Station near Lopez, Forkston Township, Wyoming County. Game Commission personnel will be on hand to explain various points of interest, including wildlife habitat improvement projects.

Four-wheel-drive vehicles are strongly recommended for this three-hour, 30-mile, self-guided driving tour. The Game Commission may refuse entry to vehicles that could be damaged due to the terrain. All vehicles must exit the route by 3 p.m. Each vehicle will receive a map and brief explanation of wildlife management programs being carried out on this parcel.

Directions: At the intersection of Routes 487 and 118, take Route 487 north for 7.5 miles and turn onto a dirt road near State Game Land sign on right. Travel on a dirt road one-tenth of a mile to a "Y" intersection and go left for three-tenths of a mile to the headquarters complex.

In 1919, the Game Commission was granted authority to purchase lands to be set aside for the protection, propagation and management of game and wildlife, and to provide areas for public hunting and trapping. Since that time, the Game Commission has acquired more than 1.4 million acres in 65 of the state's 67 counties (Philadelphia and Delaware counties being the exceptions).

With few exceptions, State Game Lands were purchased by using revenues from the sale of hunting and furtaker licenses;

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