

FROM THE EDITOR

Coaches need to live by the words they use

Now that the fall sports season is in full swing, you're going to be hearing a lot about high school sports. And about life. And how student-athletes can learn many life lessons by participating in sports.

Most of those words will come out of the mouths of coaches, whether it's at postgame interviews with reporters, pre-game talks with their players, or meetings with members of the booster clubs.

It's about time for some of those coaches to start living the words they preach.

After last weekend's game against Dallas at Mountaineer Stadium, a Wilkes-Barre Area School District football coach declined to speak to reporters following his team's season-opening loss to the Mountaineers. It's understandable that a coach whose team committed several costly turnovers en route to a 35-0 loss would be less-than-overjoyed after the game.

But this is a head coach with a 12-38 record through five seasons who — on more than one occasion — has talked about how he teaches his players life lessons through football.

"Wins and losses are important, but we're also trying to send kids to bigger and better things in life," he once said. "We're trying to teach young men about things like hard work and responsibility."

The coach certainly didn't show any responsibility after the game against Dallas. It might have been a little cliché, but he could have talked about how his players kept playing hard until the final whistle, despite the score. He could have talked about the positive things the players did during the game.

Instead, he took his ball and went home.

The scene was much different the night before at Lake-Lehman, where the host Black Knights suffered a lopsided loss against Hanover Area. If there was a coach who had reason to be upset, it was Greg Myers, whose team committed six turnovers in a 40-13 loss. There's a good chance Myers, a standout player in high school and at Virginia Tech, hadn't been part of a team that committed that many turnovers in a single game.

But instead of waving off reporters, the 26-year-old not only answered every question, he graciously waited off to the side for almost 10 minutes while the winning coach was being interviewed. He could have easily walked away and had someone tell the reporters he wasn't available.

That's not to say all of the coaches in our Back Mountain high schools are perfect. Hardly. In fact, there have been many coaches — past and present — who have been downright nasty after games. But most of them consent to interviews. And those coaches are certainly the exception to the rule.

Instead, we have role models like Matt Samuel and John Sobocinski.

Despite being head coaches of so-called "secondary sports," there aren't too many coaches who put in the hours they do with the Dallas and Lake-Lehman cross country and track teams, respectively. And you'll never receive a "no comment" from either of them. No matter how difficult the circumstances.

When the Dallas girls cross country team fell short in its attempt to repeat as state champions last year, Samuel wasn't a no-show after the state championship meet. Instead — despite being obviously disappointed — he talked positively about the effort of his team and the quality of competition.

It's easy for a coach to stand in front of a group of people and talk about how winning and losing isn't the most important thing in high school sports. But if you're going to say the words, you better mean them.

Playing high school sports can have an overwhelmingly positive affect on young people. And there's no question student-athletes can learn a lot about life and handling adversity by participating. Many coaches can learn a lot, as well.

Dave Konopki is editor of The Post. He can be reached by e-mail at dkonopki@leader.net or by calling 829-7248.

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

On Sept. 18, 1789, with the nation's finances in a mess, the United States government takes out its first loan. It took a little under a year to repay the loan of \$191,608.81.

On Sept. 17, 1884, Judge Allen disposes of the 13 criminal cases on his Oakland, Calif., docket in only six minutes. Defendants in Oakland's criminal court did not stand much of a chance of gaining an acquittal. In a 40-year period, only 1 defendant in 100 was acquitted.

On Sept. 16, 1908, William C. Durant founds the General Motors Corporation, consolidating several motorcar companies, including Buick, Oldsmobile and Cadillac. Over the next few years, GM bought out Chevrolet, Delco, the Fisher Body Company and Frigidaire.

On Sept. 13, 1916, children's author Roald Dahl is born in South Wales. Author of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" (1964) and "James and the Giant Peach" (1961), Dahl also wrote the screenplay for "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (1968) and a James Bond film, "You Only Live Twice" (1967).

On Sept. 12, 1940, near Montignac, France, a collection of 15,000- to 17,000-year-old prehistoric cave paintings are discovered by four teenagers who stumbled into a cavern. The grotto, briefly opened to the public, was closed due to mold on the paintings.

On Sept. 15, 1954, the famous picture of Marilyn Monroe, laughing as her skirt is blown up by the blast from a subway vent, is shot during the filming of "The Seven Year Itch." The scene infuriated her husband, Joe DiMaggio, and the couple divorced shortly after.

On Sept. 14, 1974, Eric Clapton's version of "I Shot the Sheriff," written by reggae legend Bob Marley, hits No. 1 on the music charts. The lyrics, in which the theft of a Stetson hat leads to the death of a self-professed family man, were based on an actual murder that occurred in St. Louis, Mo., in 1895.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

You don't need an expensive remote-controlled recliner or a beautiful porch swing to sit back and relax. This wooden chair is almost begging you to sit awhile and enjoy the quiet of a cool autumn afternoon.

Annual Word Horde to shine light on local talent

By CAROL KING
Back Mountain Memorial Library

The kickoff event of this year's annual Dallas Harvest Festival will be the Word Horde at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. The open microphone event will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16 at the library on Huntsville Road in Dallas.

Call the library at 675-1182 if you'd like to participate by displaying your artistic talent. Be sure to ask for Brian.

A sale of Halloween and Thanksgiving items will be held

from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17 in the Community Room of the library. Among the items to be included will be wreaths, wall hangings, indoor and outdoor decorations, lighted Halloween novelties and costumes. Members of the Halloween fund-raising committee will conduct the sale. All proceeds benefit the library.

The library action committee will hold a mini-auction from 1-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18 in the Dallas Borough maintenance garage. Call the library for more information.

The Farmers' Market will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17 on the library grounds. The second annual event has been a very successful, as more and more people have become acquainted with the excellent quality of the fruits and vegetables, as well as the novel cheese varieties.

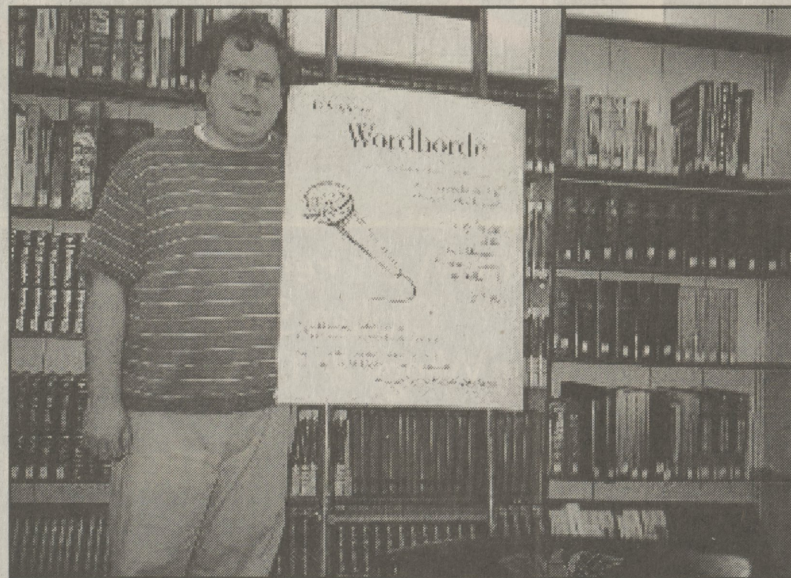
The library is offering a basic beginners class in crocheting from 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 24. The class will run for three to five sessions, based on the participants' needs,

through October. Pre-registration is required because the class size is limited. Call or stop by the library to register. There is no fee to attend the classes.

Participants can make either a scarf or a napkin. For the first session, participants should bring a 5H or J crochet hook and a skein of yarn. Recommendations will be given regarding purchasing needed materials for the project.

Carol King is a volunteer at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Her library news column appears every other week.

OPEN MIC EVENT SEPT. 16 AT LIBRARY



The Back Mountain Memorial Library will celebrate the first anniversary of Word Horde at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16 on the library grounds near the gazebo. In case of bad weather, the event will be moved inside. The program started a year ago to celebrate and showcase local talent in an open microphone, coffeehouse atmosphere. Past performances included a monologue performed about an Indian Princess in love; songs about love, war, and peace; and songs about sailors and their true love, the ocean. The public is encouraged to attend. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy local talent under the stars. Anyone interested in performing may either register at the door the evening of the event or by calling the library at 675-1182. The event is being held in conjunction with the Dallas Harvest Festival and is being sponsored by the Friends of the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

70 Years Ago
Sept. 13, 1935

RECORD-BREAKING VOTER TURNOUT EXPECTED

Faced with the dreary threat of an un-American political dictatorship, Dallas voters will turn in tremendous pluralities



ONLY YESTERDAY

on Tuesday for local and county candidates who are opposed to the present Republican leadership in Luzerne County.

This was the consensus of opinion last night as candidates entered the whirlwind finish of Luzerne County's most heated primary election in years.

Mrs. Elizabeth Garrahan, widow of the late Harry Garrahan, was named overseer of the poor for Dallas Borough on Saturday by the court en banc. Mrs. Garrahan succeeds her

husband to the office.

60 Years Ago
Sept. 14, 1945

MOST FRESHMEN EVER

AT COLLEGE MISERICORDIA

College Misericordia began the 1945-1947 school year with 100 girls in the largest freshmen class in its 22-year history. Students represent 10 eastern and southern states and Puerto Rico. Additional residence halls on campus will be built within the next year.

Plans for the formal opening of the Back Mountain Memorial Library on Sunday, Oct. 7 and for the establishment of a "closed shelf" collection of books were discussed at the meeting of the Library Book Club.

50 Years Ago
Sept. 16, 1955

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS WILL DRIVE NEW CAR

Lehman-Jackson-Ross juniors will learn to drive in the latest

thing in Fordomatic cars provided by Motor Twins. The dual-control training car will be in operation shortly. Out of 56 juniors, 18 already have a drivers' license. There are another 21 students below the requisite 16 years.

Daddow-Isaacs Post American Legion Post 672 will participate in the Americanization Day Parade on Sunday afternoon in Kingston. Commander Fred Cockayne says every Legion Post in the area is expected to attend.

40 Years Ago
Sept. 16, 1965

GATE OF HEAVEN PASTOR WINS MAN OF THE YEAR

The Rev. Francis A. Kane, pastor of Gate of Heaven Church in Dallas, was presented with the American Legion Man of the Year award by Daddow-Isaacs Post American Legion Post 672. The award was given during the annual Americanism Night ceremony.

Margaret Reese, of Franklin

Street in Dallas, was named queen of the annual Dallas Rotary Fall Fair. Fair princesses were Patricia Ann Sickler, Donna Lynn Bryant and Mary L. Casterline. Herman Otto was the emcee and last year's queen Linda Mekeel crowned this year's winner.

30 Years Ago
Sept. 11, 1975

LEHMAN IS CHAMPION AT FIREMEN'S OLYMPICS

The Lehman Fire Company captured first place honors in the Firemen's Olympic contest held Sunday afternoon at the Luzerne County Fair on the Lehman Horse Show grounds. Except for the 5-man bucket brigade that was won by Idetown and the pumping contest captured by Shavertown, the Lehman company captured first place in all events.

Despite a rumored prison break by two inmates at the State Correctional Institute in Dallas, a prison spokesman assured the Post that "everyone is here that is supposed to be here."

THE POST

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