

Sports Week

Junior Mounts tame Wildcats

The Dallas Junior Mounts football program coasted to a sweep of Duryea in the Wyoming Valley West Youth Football and Cheerleading Conference last weekend. The B, C and D division teams combined to outscore the Wildcats 100-20 in the three games.

The Junior Mounts host the Swoyersville Sailors on Sunday, Sept. 11. The D team plays at 11 a.m.; the C team plays at 12:15 p.m.; and the B squad takes the field at 1:45 p.m.

B DIVISION

Led by a dominating performance by his offensive line, Brett Wanek rushed for more than 150 yards and three touchdowns as Dallas posted a 38-6 win against the Duryea Wildcats.

Ryan Hanson added two touchdowns of more than 40 yards and Garrett Artsma ran for a 21-yard score. Billy Dixon scored the two-point conversion for Dallas. The offense line led by F.J. Costantino, Jeremy Geisinger, Sal Moran and Chase Benson opened huge holes for the backs.

The stingy Dallas defense held the Wildcats to one touchdown, led by Dylan Pilger, Artsma, Eric Anderson, Donnie Behm, Brian Stepiak, Shane Jacobson and Jordan Visneski. Wanek and Mike Mulea each recorded an interception. Stepiak also did a nice job on special teams with several long punts.

C DIVISION

Ryan Zapoticky rushed for three touchdowns and Nick Luzetski added another as Dallas posted a 32-8 win against Duryea. Zapoticky started off the game with a 30-yard touchdown run on a fumble recovery on the opening kickoff. Dallas added two points as John Hutchins ran a quarterback sneak into the end zone for the conversion. Will Akins set up Zapoticky's third touchdown, intercepting a Duryea pass and returning it 64 yards to the 25-yard line.

The Dallas defense was led by Ryan Monk, Mitchell Benson and Mikey Shutoff, who had multiple tackles. The offensive line led by Josh Probst, Robert McGinley and Cody Long also played extremely well. Zapoticky added a 75-yard touchdown pass to Mark Michno in the fourth quarter.

D DIVISION

Justin Sweeney, Paul Zabloutney and Chad Phillips each rushed for touchdowns as the Junior Mounts defeated Duryea, 30-6, for their second win of the season. Matt Harrison caught an 80-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Cole Dixon, who ran for the first of his two 2-point conversions.

Colin Ryniec, Eric George, Jackson Shaver, Stone Manello, Justin Hutchins, Cameron Brennan and Jacob Corey turned in stellar defensive performances Dallas (2-1).



Dallas girl meets legend Getting the ride of a lifetime



Amy Polachek holds a trophy she won at The Meadowlands Race Track.



Amy Polachek is interviewed by a track announcer while harness race driver John Campbell looks on.

BY GENELLE HOBAN
Post Correspondent

Attending a harness racing camp at Pocono Downs only amplified one Dallas resident's love for horses. And in the process, she was able to race with a harness racing legend.

Amy Polachek was one of the dozen participants at the Pocono Downs camp who were chosen from a pool of applicants via an essay contest.

"I already work at the Dallas Equine Center cleaning stalls and stuff," she said. "I love being around horses. As soon as I got the job at the stables I loved horses."

The daughter of Larry and Cathy Polachek found out about the camp from Jeff Wainwright, the man she works for at the Dallas Equine Center who also gives her mini riding lessons.

She applied to the camp because she wanted to be able to experience racing and learn something new.

The camp is run by Ellen Taylor, executive director for the Harness Horse Youth Foundation of Westfield, Ind., which conducts camps for children to not only learn about harness horse racing basics, but life in general.

Each day at the camp had a particular theme. They included safety, equipment, care, driving and success. The days began with barn work at approximately 7:30 a.m. and campers didn't hit the hay until 10 p.m.

At the camp Polachek — a freshman at Dallas High School — said she learned a lot, including how to drive the horse.

"Racing gives you such a rush and your heart just races," the 14-year-old said.

At the week-long camp, a single

camper was chosen to move on to the finals at The Meadowlands racetrack in New Jersey.

"I was picking out people who I thought it was going to be," Polachek said. "When they said it was me I was in shock. I was so excited, I couldn't believe it."

At The Meadowlands, Polachek was paired to race with legendary harness driver John Campbell. Campbell was the youngest driver ever inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame at 35 in 1990. He has driven the winners of more than \$3 million annually every year since 1979.

"Before camp I had never even heard of him," Polachek said. "He told me when and how he started harness racing. He was just so easy to talk to."

Aside from her love for horses, Polachek is involved in the school's Key Club and plays soccer in the Back Mountain Youth Soccer League.

At the Meadowlands, Polachek said there were four other participants besides her.

"They were from Pittsburgh, Long Island, Canada and Maine," she said. "Meeting all those new people was fun. I made so many new friends."

On race day, the five participants raced around a half-mile stretch of the track.

"I started out the race in fourth place," she said. "We just started giving the horse more of the line and it flew around the corner. Around the back stretch we moved up to second. John told me to let the horse go and we won."

After her recent racing experiences Polachek, who wants to be a veterinarian, said she plans to continue with harness racing in the future.

"I want to get licensed once I turn 16," she said.

DALLAS WINS SEASON OPENER



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO/CLARK VAN ORDEN

Dallas wingback Nick Samanas (11) picks up some tough yardage during the Mountaineers' season-opening win against Coughlin. At press time, Dallas was getting ready to take the field against GAR, while Back Mountain rival Lake-Lehman was preparing to play Pocono Mountain West in a non-conference game.

Offensive lines dominate as Raiders win two games

The Kingston Township Raiders youth football program won a pair of games last weekend against Edwardsville in Wyoming Valley West Youth Football and Cheerleading Conference action.

The C and D division teams improved to 3-0 with 22-0 and 30-6 wins, respectively. The Raiders A team lost, 14-6, against the Eagles while the B team fell 14-6.

Kingston Township continues its season at Kingston on Sunday, Sept. 11. The D team plays at 11 a.m.; the C team plays at 12:15 p.m.; and the B squad begins play at 1:45 p.m.

B DIVISION

A couple of big plays by the Eagles were costly for the Kingston Township. The Raiders were led by the inside running of Robby Boedecker, who scored his team's only touchdown. Another Raider scoring opportunity was lost when a fumble at the Eagles' 1-yard line went through the end-zone for a touchback. The Raiders will try to even their record Sunday at Kingston.

C DIVISION

Corey Patrick, Jesse Shaffer, Omar Nijmeh, Robert Wargo, Jake Rome and Matt Doggett combined to rush for more than 225 yards and three touchdowns as the Raiders C team remained in first place of its division. Omar Nijmeh capped a 10-play scoring drive on the Raiders first possession with an 8-yard touchdown burst be-

hind the blocking of Joe Stier, J.T. Carey and Jason Morgan. Jesse Shaffer added a 33-yard touchdown run on the Raiders second possession while Corey Patrick went 62 yards on the first drive of the third quarter to close out the scoring. Patrick and Doggett added the two-point conversions.

Defensively, the Raiders posted their second straight shutout. Stier, Kevin Lazarowicz and Ryan Boedecker contained Edwardsville's passing attack with pressure all day. Joey Kimble and Chris Knecht captured defensive Player of the Game honors with strong efforts at safety and cornerback, respectively, while Mike Oleginski and C.J. McCauley were named offensive Player of the Game awards for terrific play at end and offensive tackle, respectively.

D DIVISION

Tanner Gattuso used the blocking of his offensive line to score on runs of 37, 63, 45 and 48 yards as the Raiders remained in first place. Brett Storrs scored on the opening play of the game with a run of 70 yards.

The defense played extremely hard with excellent performances by Peter Capitano, Ryan Martin, Ricky Morgan, Mitch Kelly, Ray Anthony Ostroski, Jason Anderson, Collin Pertyl and Tommy Kulikowski. The Raiders were also able to create two fumbles that were recovered by Jason Anderson and Gattuso.



Kingston Township's Peter Capitano makes a tackle during a D team game against Edwardsville.



Kingston Township's Omar Nijmeh scores a touchdown during the C team game last weekend.