

JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER

A backyard rivalry gets an early start



Lake-Lehman goalkeeper Rebecca Stull makes a nice save for the Black Knights.



Travis DeBona of Dallas, left, and Lake-Lehman's Brady Sutliff go after a loose ball during a junior high school soccer game.

It's been said many times that when Dallas and Lake-Lehman high school athletic teams square off on the field, the records of the teams don't matter.

Apparently that holds true for junior high school sports, as well.

The Mountaineers and Black Knights recently battled to a 1-1 tie in a Wyoming Valley Conference junior high school soccer match. Dallas (7-2-2) entered the game with hopes of staying in the playoff race, while Lake-Lehman has only two wins.

"I think that game was good for our program," said Black Knight first-year coach Ted Maomalpy, who has 23 seventh and eighth grade players on his roster. "Our kids played very well."

Dallas, with 35 seventh and eighth grade players, is enjoying another solid year under coach Russ Eyet. The former Dallas standout is in his second year as head coach after spending two years as an assistant. Eyet led the Mountaineers to the WVC championship last season.

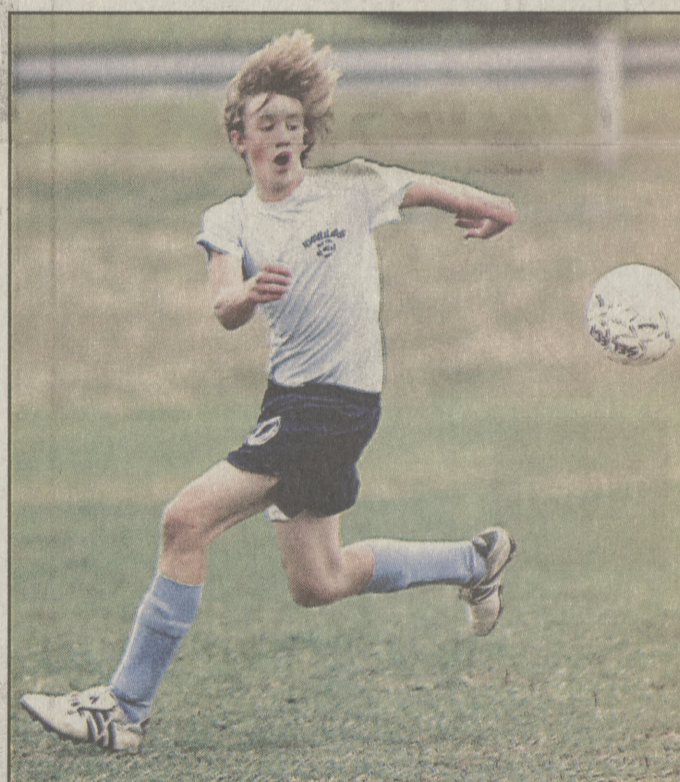
"The team is doing well," he said. "We have a lot of seventh-graders starting, so we've had some growing pains."

Dallas plays at Hazleton Area on Oct. 17 before playing at Wyoming Seminary on Oct. 20. The Mounts end the season with a game at Valley West on Oct. 24.

Lake-Lehman hosts Wyoming Seminary (Oct. 17) and Crestwood (Oct. 18) before closing out its season with road games at Crestwood (Oct. 20) and Hazleton Area (Oct. 24). All games start at 4:15 p.m.

Dave Konopki

Ellen Arnaud of Dallas attempts to take the ball from Lake-Lehman's Brady Sutliff.



Dallas player Chris Rose goes after a pass during the game against Lake-Lehman.

At left, Travis DeBona of Dallas and Lake-Lehman's Ashley Dunn battle on the field.

Photos for The Post by Charlotte Bartizek



Ellen Arnaud of Dallas falls on the ball as Lake-Lehman goalkeeper Rebecca Stull attempts to make a save. Stephen Olshemski of Lake-Lehman also gets tripped up on the play.