

Lake-Lehman cheerleader Tiffany Thomas does a cheer for her team.



FRESHMAN FOOTBALL

Starry Knights



Scott Gallup of Dallas attempts to get away from a Lake-Lehman defender during a freshman football game between the rivals.

The person who coined the phrase "nobody's perfect" never met this year's Lake-Lehman freshman football team.

The Black Knights recently capped off a perfect season with a convincing 30-7 win against Back Mountain rival Dallas under the lights at Edward H. Edwards Stadium. Lake-Lehman was under the direction of head coach Gary Grandinetti, while Dallas was guided by longtime coach Bob Zaruta.

Despite a hectic schedule that's been running him non-stop since August, Lake-Lehman varsity football coach Greg Myers knows all about the success of the younger players in the program.

"I'm well-aware of what they've accomplished this season," said Myers. "I'm at every junior high game. I'm at their practices during breaks in our practices. I'm up to the minute."

That includes off-the-field matters, as well.

"I track their progress in the classroom," said the Lake-Lehman athletic director. "I try to talk to as many players as I can during school. I honestly believe the junior high program is the most important program you have."

Although he doesn't teach at Dallas, Mountaineer varsity football coach tries to keep informed about his younger players, as well.

"This is a good group of kids," said the 20-year head coach. "There are some very good athletes on this team."



Steve Meskers of Dallas tries to avoid the tackle of Lake-Lehman's D.J. Heller.



Lake-Lehman's D.J. Heller gains a few yards before being tackled by Brian Houghwout of Dallas.



Lake-Lehman's Josh Lubin takes a picture of his classmates.



Aly Litchkowski performs a routine with the Dallas cheerleaders.

Photos for The Post by Charlotte Bartizek