

Sports Week



TIMES LEADER FILE PHOTO/FRED ADAMS

Lyndsay Ellis will be the starting point guard for Dallas this season.

Black Knights shooting for success

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

LEHMAN TWP. — Jim Spencer knows basketball is a simple sport. Put the ball in the basket more times than your opponent and you'll likely have success.

And if the Lake-Lehman girls basketball team can perform that still up to their potential, the Black Knights should have a very successful season.

"This is best shooting team I've had," said Spencer, who enters his third year as head coach at Lake-Lehman. "We have some girls who can really put the ball in the net."

The Black Knights are led by returning starters Sheree Horvath, Jill Chocallo and Tina Watkins. Horvath is one of the top players in the Wyoming Valley Conference Division II and is closing in on the 1,000 career point mark. The senior will play forward, while Chocallo, a senior, and Watkins, a junior, will start at the guard position.

They'll be joined in the starting lineup by junior center Marissa Harrison and junior guard Joscelyn Mahon. Juniors Carol Manzoni and Lauren Spencer, along with sophomore Audriana Lippnik will also see playing time. Junior forward Emily Duebler has been out with an injury, but is expected to return after the holidays.

"We expect to be really competitive in our division," said Spencer, whose team plays Bishop O'Hara in the Meyers Tournament at 6 p.m. Dec. 26. The Black Knights will play either Meyers or Blue Ridge on Dec. 28. "We're in a very tough division. All of the teams had a winning record during the preseason. It's going to be tough, but we expect to finish over .500 in our division."

Spencer says his team's ability to shoot well is only one of its strong points.

"We have a strong inside game," he said. "And we're very athletic. These girls have a lot of athletic ability. Our teams are usually big or they're athletic. This year, we're big and athletic."

Lake-Lehman, which has only two seniors, is also a very solid group away from the game, says its head coach.

"We have a great group of young ladies," said Spencer, whose team posted a 3-1 record during the preseason. "They're great kids off the court. They recently adopted a local family for Thanksgiving. Our two seniors (Horvath and Chocallo) provide great leadership and they lead by example. When our younger players see the older kids diving on the floor, they want to give the same kind of effort."

Dallas hopes to overcome tall obstacle

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

DALLAS TWP. — Joe Noon has been blessed with many good athletes since he took over the Dallas girls basketball program seven years ago.

He has several this season. Noon has been fortunate to have many good shooters during his time with the Mountaineers.

He has several of those this season, as well. And Noon has had his share of tall players who have given his teams an intimidating inside presence.

This season? Well, that's another story. Despite not having a starting player taller than 5-foot-8, Dallas is expected to be among the contenders in the Wyoming Valley Conference Division II this season.

"This is the smallest team I've ever coached," said Noon. "Cassie Snider is about 5-7 or 5-8 and that's pushing it. But we have a winning attitude. We feel we can beat anyone on any night. I know we're young and we're not big, but I really feel we can make a good showing."

The Mountaineers are led by returning starters Snider, a senior guard, and sophomore guard Melissa Gorski. They will be joined in the starting lineup by a trio of sophomores, including Lyndsay Ellis (point guard), Erin Delaney (guard) and Danielle Krawetz (forward).

Senior Robin Razawich, juniors Brittany Allen, Lindsay McCabe, Devin Lacey and Stephanie Konecke, along with sophomore Ally Evans will also see



Cassie Snider (3) is one of the top players returning for the Dallas girls basketball team.

significant playing time.

Noon says his team will have to make up for its lack of size with solid shooting and mistake-free basketball.

"We have to use our speed and our shooting. So far, we've been shooting the ball pretty good. Fundamentals are important. We have to limit our turnovers. We can't make stupid mistakes because we won't get second chances."

Dallas will face a very tough regular season schedule. Joining the Mountaineers in Division II are state-ranked Nanticoke Area and Bishop O'Reilly. Nanticoke is considered by many to possess a team good enough to make a run at a Class 3A state champion-

ship. Lake-Lehman has excellent senior leadership, GAR is improving and Meyers could be the dark-horse to win the division title. Dallas defeated Meyers in the opening game of the regular season.

The Mountaineers play in the Bishop O'Reilly holiday tournament at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26 at the Kingston school. They will play either Bishop Hoban or North Schuylkill on Dec. 28. Dallas returns to the regular season against GAR on Jan. 3 and a possible showdown at Nanticoke Area is set for Jan. 5.

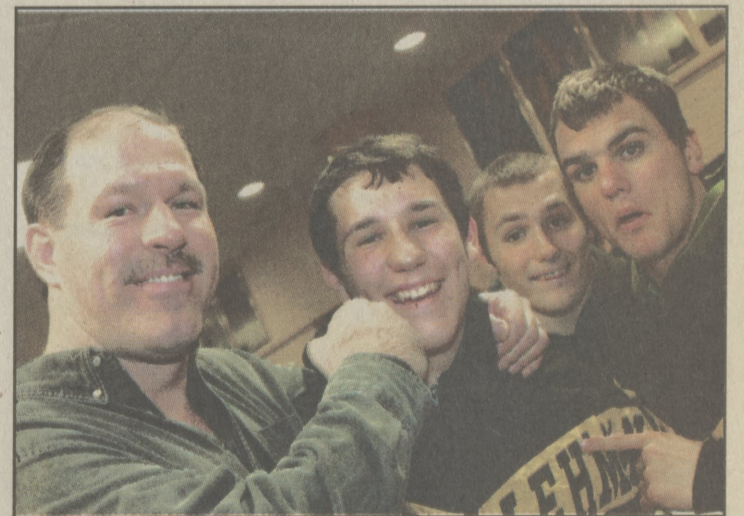
"As far as I'm concerned, we play in the toughest division in the Wyoming Valley," said Noon. "It's going to be tough. But I feel our girls will be ready to play."

LAKE-LEHMAN CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Members of Lake-Lehman's 1981 state championship wrestling team who attended a ceremony Wednesday night, from left, first row are Mike Leskowsky, trainer Jeff Pace, Scott Oakley, Que Walczak and Rocky Bonomo. Second row: John Zaleskas, Mark Harshbarger, Ricky Bonomo, Rusty Coolbaugh, Fred Appenzeller, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Hontz, parents of Brad Hontz.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Mike Leskowsky, a member of the 1981 state championship team at Lake-Lehman, has some playful encouragement for this year's team members Wally Simko, Brandon Higgins and Josh Arnold.

The Lake-Lehman wrestling program held a ceremony Wednesday night to honor the 1981 state championship wrestling team. The ceremony took

place before the Black Knights' match against Back Mountain rival Dallas.

Under head coach Floyd "Shorty" Hitchcock, Lake-Leh-

man produced three individual state champions en route to capturing the PIAA Class 2A title. Twin brothers Ricky and Rocky Bonomo joined teammate Mike

Leskowsky on the gold medal stand in Hershey. The Bonomos went on to become outstanding college wrestlers at Bloomsburg University. Leskowsky al-

so continued his athletic career in college, playing linebacker for head coach Joe Paterno at Penn State University.

Stories about this year's Lake-

Lehman and Dallas wrestling teams, as well as more information about Wednesday's ceremony, will appear in next week's edition of The Post.