

Sports Week



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Lake-Lehman's Alan Sheridan drives to the basket ahead of Adam Singer and Brad Faqula of Dallas.

Dallas, Lake-Lehman: Let the Madness begin

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

The calendar says it will remain February for more than a week. But for the Dallas and Lake-Lehman boys and girls basketball teams, March Madness is just hours away.

The teams open play in the District 2 playoffs this week. The Dallas boys and girls, along with the Lake-Lehman girls, compete in Class 3A, while the Black Knight boys participate in Class 2A. The boys begin district play Wednesday, Feb. 22 and the girls start Feb. 23.

The official pairings will be announced Monday, Feb. 20 and a complete list of all games will appear in the Feb. 21 edi-

tion of The Times Leader. You'll also be able to see the brackets online by visiting the Web site www.piaa.org/district2.

Although the pairings are unofficial, here's what the local teams were facing at press time. All teams, except the Lake-Lehman boys, should host a first-round game. The seedings are based on records in league play.

On the boys side, Dallas should enter the tournament as the No. 4 seed in the 16-team field. Under head coach Ted Jackson Jr., the Mountaineers compiled a 17-6 record, including a 7-5 mark in the league. The Mountaineers will most

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DYB, Lake-Lehman youth basketball playoffs begin

Dallas Youth Basketball will hold quarterfinal playoff action for its seventh and eighth grade boys division on Sunday, Feb. 19 at Wycallis Elementary School.

At 2 p.m., top-seeded Dr. Jack Ellis will play eighth seed D.J. Charlie Hayes. At 3 p.m., second seed Digital Print Services plays 7th seed Quad Three Group. At 4 p.m., third seed Offset Paperback faces No. 6 seed McCarthy Tire, and fourth seed Karchner Refrigeration squares off against No. 5 Bishop Photo.

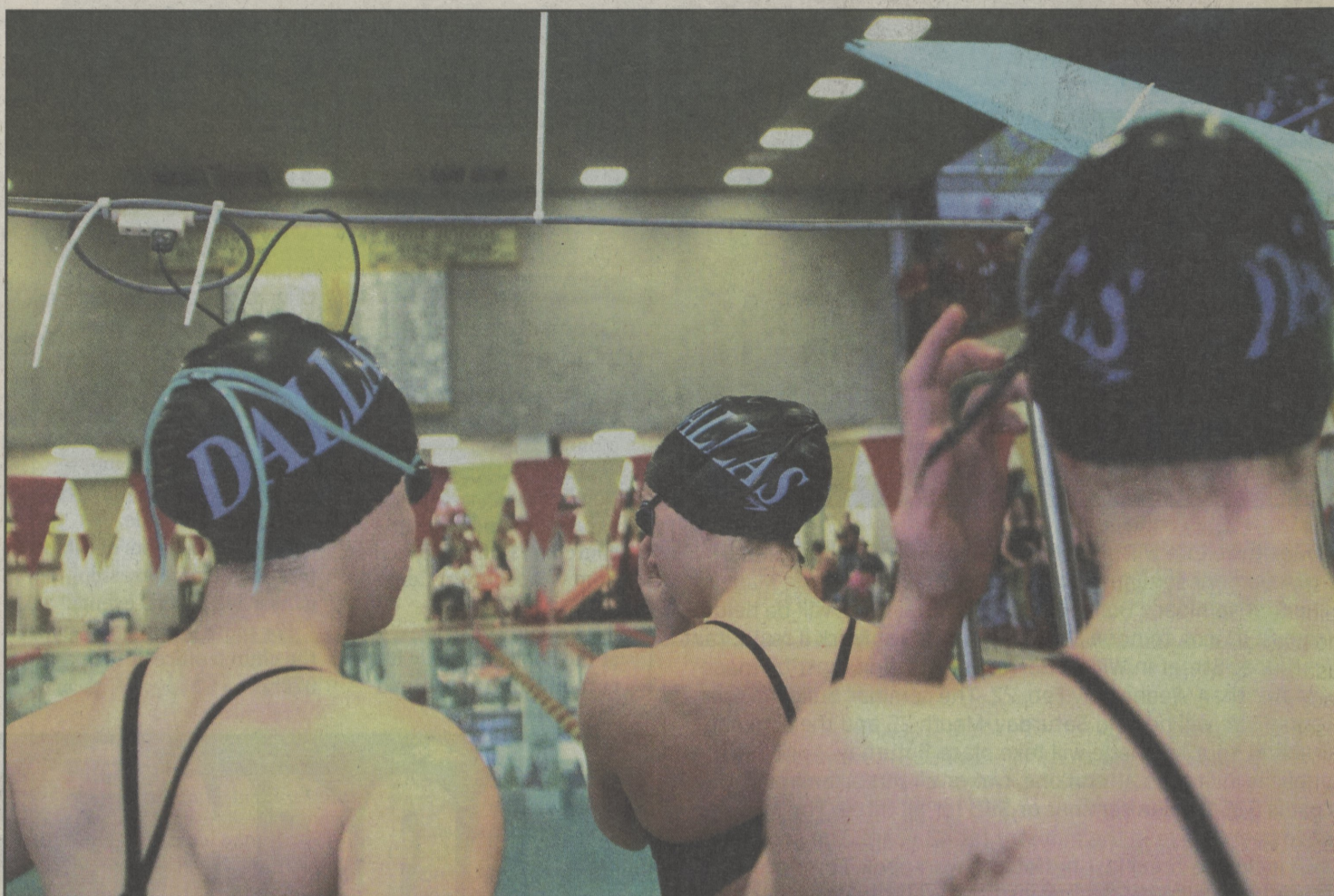
The semifinals will be played at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturday,

Feb. 25, while the championship game will be played at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26. All games are scheduled to be played at Wycallis Elementary.

The seventh grade boys skills competition was held recently. Travis DeBona won the free throw event, with Kurtis Manganella placing second and Steven Haughwout finishing third. Chris Dillon won the three-point contest, with Kevin Muldoon taking second place and Zach Smith finishing third.

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HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING



Members of the Dallas 200-meter medley relay team prepare for the race.

PHOTOS FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Ready for greatness.

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

DALLAS TWP. — Martin Luther King Jr. didn't see it. Neither did Moses.

But the Dallas girls swimming team caught a glimpse of the Promised Land earlier this week. And it appears it's just a matter of time before the Mountaineers will enter it.

Dallas came up just short in its quest for a Wyoming Valley Conference girls swimming championship, suffering a 100-86 setback against perennial power Wyoming Valley West. While the Spartans have won numerous championships, the Mountaineers were on center stage for the first time since the program was started in 1995.

"I don't think our kids realized how big this meet was," said head coach Matt Stretanski. "They've never been there before and they didn't know what to expect. They were very flat in the first half of the meet and we got off to a bad start. We were down 16 points after four events. That's huge.

"Valley West was the better team."

But not by much. The Spartans won several events by tenths of a second against a talented Dallas team. Stretanski put the loss in an interesting perspective.

"We probably lost the meet by about one second," he said. "There were five or six matches where a few tenths of a second were the difference. If add all of those up, we lose by about one second."

The Mountaineers will have another shot at winning a championship in two weeks at the District 2 Class 2A championships. Dallas won't face Class 3A Valley West, but it will face stiff competition against perennial power Bishop Hoban, Scranton Prep, Wyoming Seminary and Berwick. Scranton Prep defeated Valley West in a head-to-head meet earlier this season.

"Do we have a shot? Absolutely," said Stretanski, the only head coach in the program's history. "It's going to be a huge challenge. But I think we have depth that no other teams have."

Stretanski has no doubt his swimmers possess the skill required to win a championship. Now, he's working on their men-



Dallas diver Alaric Eby is congratulated by his teammates after posting a new pool record at Wyoming Valley West.

tal approach.

"They have to believe in themselves," he said. "I think that hurt us against Valley West. They have to believe they can win. There's no doubt they have the ability."

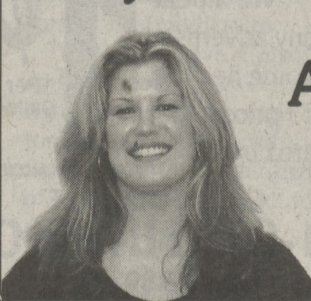
Stretanski says his team will receive a much-needed rest before the district meet, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre with the

diving portion of the championships. The swimming will be held March 3-4 at the CYC.

"It's going to be a numbers game," Stretanski said. "We're going to take 15 to 18 girls to districts. Everyone who enters has to score a point. If we can get our number 2 and 3 girls to get points, we're going to be in great

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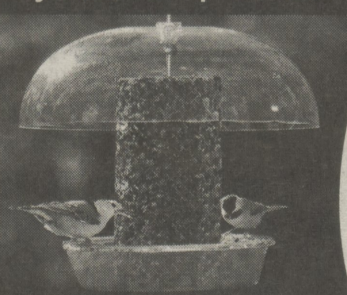
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