Old Shoe Game still big after 60 years

By DAVE KONOPKI dkonopki@timesleader.com

With one team playing its best football of the season and the other struggling through a season of bad breaks, it might appear on paper as though the 60th edition of the Old Shoe Game could be a one-sided contest.

But football games - especially back yard rivalry games - aren't played on paper.

Rivals Dallas and Lake-Lehman will square off in the 60th annual Old Shoe Game at 7 p.m. Friday at Edward H. Edwards Stadium in Lehman Township. Dallas is under the direction of longtime head coach Ted Jackson, while Lake-Lehman is led by secondyear coach Carl Kern.

At press time, the Mountaineers were 6-2 entering their game against Meyers. Dallas is also third among District 2 Class 3A teams in state points, with the top four teams making the play-

Meanwhile, Lake-Lehman was taking a 1-7 record into its game against winless Nanticoke Area. The Black Knights lost four games this year by a touchdown or less and, in another, was leading in the fourth quarter.

Dallas has won six consecutive games against Lake-Lehman, including last year's 35-0 win against an injury-depleted Black Knight squad.

match up:

OFFENSE

While Dallas and Lake-Lehman have quality skill players, both teams are led offensively by their quarterbacks.

The Mountaineers are led by 6foot-4, 220-pound Fred Mihal. Despite playing in a relatively conservative offense, the senior has ses for 853 yards and a Wyoming (15.2) and Scott Gallup (13.8). Valley Conference-leading 12 touchdowns. Mihal has also

for almost 200 yards. winless Nanticoke Area. Volkel Aaron Setzer (126). has thrown 10 touchdowns and Eric Popovich is second with 65. 150 yards each.

But the quarterbacks aren't the only performers on offense. At Dallas, senior running back

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK FILE PHOTO/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Students from Lake-Lehman and Dallas High Schools, coaches and past participants gathered last year for a pre-game "Old Shoe Game" breakfast at the clubhouse at the Huntsville Golf Course. Shown here during the breakfast are, from left, Ted Jackson, Dallas High School football coach, Bob Dolbear and Tony Marchakitus. Dolbear and Marchakitus played in some of the earliest Old Shoe Games, a traditional annual competition between Dallas and Lake-Lehman High Schools.

Joe Hayes leads a balanced rush- pressive on defense at times - but Here's a look at how the teams ing attack with 445 yards and three touchdowns. The receiving corps is deep and has big-play capability. Pat Murray leads a group of six players who average more than 12 yards per catch. The senior has 12 receptions for 267 yards (15.3 yards per catch) and seven touchdowns.

Hayes has caught 12 passes for 193 yards (12.4), followed by Vito Recchia 4-88 (22.0), Kyle Arnaud completed 51 percent of his pas- 4-67 (16.8), Joe Collini 5-76

The Black Knights have bigplay guys of their own. Six playthrown just three interceptions ers have at least 100 receiving and has compiled a quarterback yards, led by Cody Lamoreaux's rating of 141.24. He's also rushed 36 catches for 373 yards. Tight The Black Knights are led by the WVC 2A with 255 yards on 25 junior Nate Volkel, who has receptions. Other players with at Knights, meanwhile, have reco-times this season. thrown for a WVC-high 1,220 least 100 receiving yards are Coyards - and that total could have dy Komrowski (191), T.J. Stepan- one interception. increased significantly against ski (141), Keith Roberts (129) and

Lamoreaux is also a threat to has a quarterback rating of run, compiling a team-high 528 120.65. His 111 completions are yards on 93 carries. Setzer (220), by far the most of any WVC Class Komrowski (191) and Volkel 2A quarterback. Hanover Area's (168) have also run for at least

DEFENSE

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have looked shaky, as well.

Dallas surrendered a combined 128 points in game against Berwick (55), Tunkhannock (38) and Valley West (35), but allowed just a combined 43 points in its other five games. Lake-Lehman has posted similar numbers, allowing only 19 more points than Dallas. With the exception of giving up some big plays - very costly big plays - the Black Knights played solid defense in losses against Meyers, GAR and Crest-

vered six fumbles and recorded

With both teams full of potentially-explosive offensive players, the team that allows the fewest big plays might walk away with the trophy.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Lake-Lehman struggled early in the season with its placekicking, but seems to have found a reliable kicker in soccer player Gary Knauer. Although he's missed several extra-points, Knauer has shown a strong leg at times.

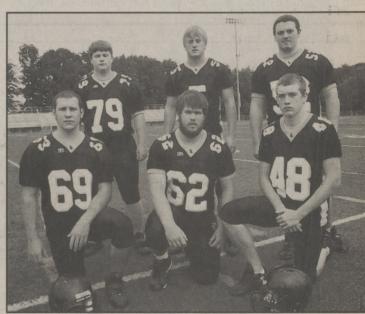
Dallas has a solid kicker all season in Recchia. The senior has Dallas has also been able to made 25 extra points, the second force turnovers by its opponents. most in Class 3A and No. 3 in the The Mountaineers have reco- entire conference. Murray has alvered 12 fumbles and intercepted so done a nice job as the punter, end Kenny Pollock is second in five passes for 17 takeaways - sec- pinning the opponents inside ond in the league. The Black their own 10-yard line at least five

COACHING



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Senior members of the Dallas High School football team who will play in their last Old Shoe Game against the Black Knights of Lake-Lehman on Friday are, from left, first row, Kyle Arnaud, Anthony Rubbico, Joe Collini, Steve Pearson and Matt Luksick. Second row, Steve Pearson, Vito Recchia, Patrick Murray, Fred Mihal, Jeremy Fike and Mike Adams.



Senior members of the Lake-Lehman football team who will play in their last Old Shoe game against the Mountaineers of Dallas this Friday are, from left, kneeling, Wally Simko, Eli Foss and Remington Boyd. Standing, Matt Sikora, Ken Pollock and Dan

dozen championships - including a state title – during his 23 years at Dallas. But this year might be his best job of coaching. The Mountaineers entered the berth in the District 2 Class 3A season with just 32 players on the playoffs. roster. The team featured just

Jackson has won more than a four players who started a varsity game last season and an offensive line with four sophomores.

The result: a chance for an \$-2 record in the regular season and a

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