

Jr. Mounts A team continues its undefeated streak

A TEAM
Dallas 26
Plymouth 8

The Dallas A team extended its perfect season to 7-0 with a 26-8 win over Plymouth.

Dallas turned over the ball on the initial kick off as Plymouth executed a perfect inside kick. The first quarter ended scoreless as both teams tried to acclimate themselves to the rainy weather.

In the second quarter, Dallas marched the ball down the field, ending in a touchdown as Eric Zawatski scampered in from eight yards out. The two-point conversion failed. On the following Plymouth possession, Jason Siminovich intercepted a Plymouth pass and returned it 38

yards for a Dallas touchdown. The two-point conversion failed. Again, when Plymouth got the ball back, it turned it over. The Indians fumbled the ball and it was recovered by Connor Martinez and Steve Mingy. The Dallas offense took over as Aaron Napkora scored on a run from 28 yards out. The score at halftime was Dallas 18, Plymouth 0.

To open the third quarter, the kickoff was fumbled by Plymouth and Zack Macosky of Dallas recovered. Dallas was unable to take advantage of the turnover and gave the ball back to Plymouth on downs. Plymouth marched the ball down the soggy field, scoring a touchdown and convert-

ing the two-point conversion. This put the score at Dallas 18, Plymouth 8.

In the fourth quarter, Siminovich had his second interception of the game to give Dallas the ball on the 48-yard line. Siminovich then scampered 48 yards on the next play to score another touchdown. Mark Michno blasted through the line to add two points on the conversion. Logan Brace had a fumble recovery late in the fourth quarter. The game ended as Dallas ran out the clock.

Dallas goes head to head with the Back Mountain Bobcats today at Dallas High School.

B TEAM

Kingston Township 22
Ed-Lark 0

The Kingston Township Raiders B team scored two touchdowns in just over one minute of play before halftime as it upset the Hurricanes who entered the game undefeated.

Tanner Gattuso ran for the first touchdown on a 23-yard scamper after a long, grinding offensive surge with tough inside running from Omar Nijmeh and Corey Patrick.

The Hurricane returned the ball over to the Raiders on a fumble on their first play from scrimmage after the kickoff. Michael Olenginski then connected with



Nick Whitesell runs the ball for lone Back Mountain Bobcats touchdown in "C" team action.

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Different ages, same interest

By REBECCA BRIA
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Rick Nesler and Joe McKeown were in their late 30s when Drew Slocum was born but that doesn't stop the three from playing tennis together.

The men, all of Shavertown, are players on the men's 4.0 tennis team from the Eastern Pennsylvania District of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Middle States section.

The team claimed top honors at the 2008 USTA Adult League Middle States Section Championship August 22-24 at Veterans Park in Hamilton, N.J., completing the weekend at 5-0 with an individual match record of 16-9.

Other members of the team include Christopher Barclay, captain, Plymouth; P.J. Marranta, West Pittston; Marc Smulowitz, Shawanese; Mark Dryfoos, Sugarloaf; John Mack, Wilkes-Barre; Jason Sallemi, Plains; Kevin Kologie, Nuangola; Rick Barletta, Hazleton; and Dominick Cassetori, Exeter.

Using the Kirby Park tennis courts as its home base, the team begins its season in late May and plays through early August. The team was founded by Nesler in 1980 when he saw an ad in the newspaper to form teams for the new USTA League Tennis. The league groups players by using six National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) levels, ranging from 2.5 (entry-level players) to 5.0 (advanced players).

In 1985, the team won nationals in Las Vegas, Nev. with current players Nesler, McKeown, Barletta and Mack as members of that winning team.

Because of its performance at the Middle States Section Championship, the team was eligible to compete in the 4.0 division at the 2008 USTA Adult League National Championship from Septem-



Rick Barletta serves the ball as Joe McKeown waits at the net for a return hit during the 2008 United States Tennis Association Adult League Middle States Section Championship held August 22-24 at Veterans' Park in Hamilton, N.J.

ber 26-28 in Tucson, Arizona. But Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association rules prohibited the two men who play college tennis from competing in the tournament and two other players were unable to go, so the team did not make the trip.

"It's unfortunate, but there would be no reason going short-handed," Slocum said.

Slocum, 19, became interested in tennis through his grandparents, Bruce and Nancy Slocum, of

Dallas. At 75 years old, Bruce Slocum still plays tennis three to four times a week. Bruce and Nancy Slocum purchased tennis lessons at Kingston Indoor Racquet Club for their grandson when he was just 13 years old.

"From there, the interest stuck and I continued with it," the younger Slocum said.

A 2007 graduate of Dallas High School, Slocum was a tennis standout at the school. He joined the Dallas boys tennis team in

ninth-grade and played on the team for four years. He and his high school doubles partner, Mark Covert, finished second at the 2007 PIAA Class 2A Boys Doubles Tennis Championship. Slocum was chosen as the 2007 Times Leader Boys Tennis Player of the Year. He was also manager of the Dallas girls tennis team for three years while he attended the school.

Now a student at Millersville University, Slocum is studying

biology and is a member of the men's tennis team. In the spring of 2008 when he was a freshman, he was named Rookie of the Year for men's tennis at Millersville. He was also selected as a member of the All-Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) First Team.

Slocum knew many of the players on the men's 4.0 tennis team from the Eastern Pennsylvania District of the USTA Middle States section from playing at the

Kingston Indoor Racquet Club and Kirby Park. The team is composed of two singles and three doubles matches. When the team needed a singles player this year, they asked Slocum to join.

"I think tennis has definitely been growing, looking at the numbers at the Dallas High School team," Slocum said. "The four years I played at Dallas, there were probably 25 guys and

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Lake-Lehman cheerleading squad

Members of the 2008 Lake-Lehman High School cheerleading squad are, from left, first row, Ranya Grzybowski, Miranda Sayre, Tasha Coenen, Megan Davis, Megan Spencer, Jamie Wilkes, Ashlee Barker and Josh Lubin. Second row, Lauren Boyle, Sara Davis, Kailee Taylor, Keegan Truska, Amanda Zacharias, Rachel Holena and Suzie Norten. Third row, Mandee Juckett, Leigh Mulhern, Kirsten Litchman, Melinda Wright, Johnna Hudak, Jill Franklin and Laura Lohmann. Fourth row, Erica Schwartz, Caity Wright, Katelyn Dawsey, Alycia Fowler, Ashley Headman, Samantha Brown, Gabi Dragon and Mackenzie Brown.



Members of the 2008 Lake-Lehman High School cheerleading squad can be seen cheering on the Black Knights football team.

SPORTS BRIEFS

DMS pool opens to public tomorrow

Beginning Monday, Oct. 6, the Dallas Middle School swimming pool will be open to the Dallas School District public with early morning and evening hours.

No one under the age of 18 will be admitted without an accompanying adult. Proof of residence and a \$2 per swimmer fee applies.

Days and times are as follows: 6:45 to 7:45 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 to 9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m. Fridays and 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Dallas Mountaineers Aquatic Club meets

An informational meeting for

the "Mini-Mounts," a swim team that provides expert competitive swimming instruction and fun swim meets throughout the winter season, will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 6, at the Dallas Middle School swimming pool.

A two-week trial practice period will follow. Team fees apply.

For more information, contact mstretanski@dallassd.com or kateberger@epix.net.

Mountaineer Diving Club starts Monday

Sign-ups for the Mountaineer Diving Club, a United States Diving Club for novice or experienced competitive divers, will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 6

and 7, at the Dallas Middle School swimming pool.

For information, practice times and dates, contact Coach Kimberly Kuzma at kuzma@dallassd.com.

Water Polo Clinic scheduled for Oct. 7

A Fall Water Polo Clinic will be held from October 7 to October 23 at the Dallas Middle School swimming pool.

The six-session clinic will be held from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is open to boys and girls in grades 6 through 12.

Participants will learn the fundamentals and rules of the sport of water polo. A \$40 per participant fee will apply.