



SUBMITTED PHOTO

DHS girls volleyball team wins 2008 Spartan Classic

The Dallas High School girls volleyball team recently won first place in the Wyoming Valley West Spartan Classic 2008 Volleyball Tournament. The team was 6-0 in pool play against WWV, MMI and Susquehanna, heading into the playoff rounds. During the single elimination playoff rounds, Dallas remained undefeated by winning against Panther Valley and Crestwood. In the final round, the Lady Mountaineers faced Troy High School in a best of three series and defeated Troy, 2-0, in the championship match. Members of the Dallas High School volleyball team are, from left, first row, Sarah Flannery, Chelsea Pike, Shauna Phillips, Erica Miller and Erin Belles. Second row, Head Coach Mike Williams, Meghan Murtagh, Katrina Heintz, Megan Hine, Samatha Backus, Monica Esopi, Colleen Pike, Assistant Coach Steve Chopick.

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at least 20 girls. I think that tennis is on the rise and I know the United States Tennis Association is doing everything they can to get a big interest."

McKeown started playing tennis over 40 years ago when his interest in the sport drove him to take lessons through the Wilkes-Barre Recreation Department.

"I started playing and had a knack and it seemed like it caught on pretty easy," McKeown said.

The 56-year-old signed up for the tennis team while he was a student at Meyers High School in the late 1960s. McKeown qualified for districts, in which there were only three people. He came in second and got to compete in states, which was also small. McKeown went on to play men's tennis at King's College.

In 1981, McKeown met Nesler while playing in a tennis tournament at Kirby Park and McKeown joined the men's tennis team from the Eastern Pennsylvania District of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Middle States section. McKeown now considers Nesler his best friend.

Nesler, 58, first got into tennis in 1978 when a neighbor asked him to play. Nesler says he then fell in love with the sport and began practicing for several hours



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Members of the men's 4.0 tennis team from the Eastern Pennsylvania District of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Middle States section claimed top honors at the 2008 USTA Adult League Middle States Section Championship held August 22-24 at Veterans Park in Hamilton, N.J. The team completed the weekend at 5-0 with an individual match record of 16-9. From left, kneeling, are Drew Slocum; Chris Barclay, captain; P.J. Marranca and Marc Smulowitz. Standing, Mark Dryfoos, Joe McKeown, Rick Nesler, John Mack, Jason Salemi, Kevin Kolodgie and Rick Barletta. Absent at the time of the photo was Dom Cassetori.

each day.

It was just two years later that Nesler formed the men's tennis team that has won over 20 of the 28 Adult League Middle States Section Championships. He has been teaching tennis lessons at the Kingston Indoor Racquet Tournament for 25 years.

"I think people are finding out it's a tough sport to play; it's not as easy as they think," Nesler said. "You have to put the time in. You can't just take tennis lessons and be good. You have to put the time in on the court."

"We need some new talent," McKeown said. "There is a big age gap. There are many of us in our 50s and then guys in their teens and 20s. Some people lost interest; they were tennis players and decided to take up golf. Others had families. There are too many things now to take up your interest."

Keeping things in perspective, Nesler remembers what is most important in any sport.

"The main thing is to have fun playing the sport," Nesler said.

STREAK

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Gattuso for a 43-yard touchdown pass with 20 seconds left in the first half, giving the Raiders a 16-0 lead at halftime.

The second half was a long, grinding defensive struggle until Michael Oleginski ran a bootleg outside for the final score behind key blocks by Ryan Martin, Adam Niznik, David Edwards, Bret Storrs and Shawn Spencer.

Peter Capitano and Chris Knecht were solid in the defensive secondary, limiting a formidable Hurricane passing attack to one reception.

The Raiders defensive front, consisting of Michael Golden, Aaron Khamovich and Kyle Piskorik, forced five Hurricane fumbles with jarring hits in the trenches.

Back Mountain 38 Duryea 8

The Back Mountain Bobcats A team improved to 7-0 on the season with a 38-8 win over Duryea.

The BMT defense had another impressive game, holding Duryea 3 1/2 quarters without a first down and holding them to just one TD.

The defensive line led by Justin Winters, Cody Long, Ryan Deamer, Chris Cooper, Justin Butler, Brian Goode and Evan May applied constant pressure while the D-backs - Dylan Pilger, Nate Vario, Josh Winters, Justin Mucha, Aingelino Baltier and Brady Butler - contained the outside, combining for five sacks.

Baltier and Justin Winters each added an interception for BMT.

The offensive led by Brian Goode had another spectacular outing, scoring six TDs and gaining nearly 300 yards rushing. The offensive line led by Ryan Deremer, Cody Long, Dylan Pilger, Justin Butler, Brian Durling, Justin and Josh Winters paved the way for the power running game.

Brady Butler led the team with three TDs, Nate Vario had two and Dylan Pilger added the final TD. Brady scored the 2-point conversion for BMT.

Justin Mucha, Angelino and Josh Winters each had some nice runs for BMT as well. BMT faces Dallas today and both teams are 7-0 on the season.

C TEAM

Duryea 30 Back Mountain 12

RJ Driscoll returned the kickoff for the Bobcats to the 50-yard line but, during the Bobcats' possession, Zack Gabel and Nate LaBar ran the ball but were unable to reach a first down, forcing the Bobcats to turn the ball over on downs.

The Wildcats took over on the 45-yard line. Despite tackles and great defense by Cole Wyffels, Owen Morgan, Chris Allen, Erik Sweppenheiser, Tom Piatt, Ian Evans, Charlie Kushcke, Nick Karuza and Bradley Adams, the Wildcats broke to the outside and scored on the very next play. The two points were good and the score was Wildcats 8, Bobcats 0.

On the next few Bobcat possessions, carries were made by Cameron Brennan, Stone Mannello and Nick Whitesell and Mannello headed for the endzone for a Bobcat touchdown. The two points were unsuccessful but the Bobcats were only down by two, 8-6.

Nate O'Donnell kicked to the Wildcats. Great tackles this series were made by Joey Ciaccia, Nate LaBar and Chris Allen. The Wildcats scored on the next drive and the two points were good, giving them a 16-6 lead.

The Bobcats drove the ball with carries made by Zach Gabel and Nate LaBar but turned the ball over on downs and, on the next Wildcats' drive, they scored, going up, 24-6.

Great tackles were made in the second half by Nick Whitesell, Nate O'Donnell, Zack Hill, Nate LaBar, RJ Driscoll, Anthony Grandinetti and Stone Mannello. The Wildcats scored but the two points were no good, putting the Duryea team up, 30-6.

The Bobcats scored again on an outside run by Nick Whitesell after Owen Morgan forced the Wildcats to turn the ball over on downs. Whitesell's TD was made possible by runs from Driscoll, O'Donnell and Mannello.

D TEAM

Jr. Mounts 20 Plymouth 6

The Dallas Jr. Mounts D team remained undefeated last week with a 20-6 victory over Plymouth.

Todd Phillips carried the load for the offense, scoring all three touchdowns against a stubborn Plymouth defense. Blane Rex, Sean Cuba, Joe Brennan and Jack Farrell anchored the offensive line.

The defense, led by Xander Shaner, Ryan Maloney and Kurtis Ryniec, came up with some timely big stops to preserve the win for the Jr. Mounts.

Dallas moves to 7-0 and plays Back Mountain today at home.

Oremus UK's Camper Of The Week

For the third year in a row, Lindsey Oremus, of Franklin Township, was named the United Kingdom's Camper of the Week. This award is given to a player who exhibits not only great soccer skills, but shows a respect for the coaches, mentors those in need and shows a real commitment to the sport. Lindsey's younger sister, Riley, also received an award for winning the penalty kick competition among 40 plus players. From left, first row, are Riley and Lindsey Oremus. Second row, Coaches Andy, Lawrence and Rob, United Kingdom.



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