

This year, it all came down to the last 14 seconds of the game

Old Shoe goes to Lehman



JONATHAN J. JUKA PHOTOS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lake Lehman's Thomas Stepanski sacks Jake Simon of Dallas during action in the annual Old Shoe Game between the two Back Mountain rival schools. Top photo: Lake-Lehman's Shane Stark holds up his own old shoe.

The buildup lasts all season long. Players, coaches, cheerleaders, fans and parents all look forward to the annual Old Shoe Game between the Dallas and Lake-Lehman football teams.

And, this year, it all came down to the last 14 seconds of the game played at Mountaineers Stadium when Lake-Lehman quarterback Nate Volkel threw a short pass to T.J. Stepanski who got an outstanding block from teammate Keith Roberts and sprinted 35 yards down the sideline for the game-winning touch-down, giving the Black Knights a 27-22 win in the 61st annual Back Mountain event and allowing them to have possession of the coveted Old Shoe trophy for the

first time in eight years. Lehman, which finished the regular season at 9-1, advanced to the District 2 Class 2A playoffs against Hanover this past Friday night. Dallas ended its season at 2-8.



Old-time football players from Back Mountain high schools gathered prior to the start of this year's Old Shoe Game between Dallas and Lake-Lehman. From left, are Don Britt, John Cottle, Red Brace, Bucky MacAvoy, Bill Long, Bruce Griffiths, Jake Harrison and Jim Martin.

Dallas has dominated the rivalry between the Back Mountain neighbors in recent years. The last Lake-Lehman victory took place in 2000 and the Black Knights entered their year's game with just four wins in the last 24 meetings. The 49 combined points is the most in an Old shoe Game since Lake-Lehman beat Dallas, 42-14, in 1978.

Following the game, Lake-Lehman coach Carl Kern held the trophy in his hands for the first time since he helped Lake-Lehman beat Dallas as a senior in 1969.



Top left: Dallas students cheer on their Mountaineers.

Top center: Lake-Lehman cheerleaders cheer their loudest during the final moments of the game.

Top right: Lake-Lehman quarterback Nathan Volkel passes for yardage.

Bottom left: Dallas Marching Band member Amy Polachek plays the flute.

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