

## Are you ready for some football? These guys are

**Dallas Mountaineers show compassion and take home 14-7 victory over Coughlin.**

The Dallas Mountaineers football team handed Coughlin a 14-7 season-opener defeat but not before showing compassion and memorializing two members of the Crusaders football team who are missing from this year's roster.

Coughlin players Joel Wallen, who was killed when hit by a car on the Cross Valley Expressway in May, and Robbie Jones, who drowned in Mountain Lake two weeks ago, were remembered prior to the game when Dallas players presented the Coughlin team captains with a wreath of red and blue flowers.

Players on both teams wore Jones' and Wallen's numbers — 80 and 19 — on the backs of their helmets.

The Dallas win came in the game's final period as the Mountaineers scored a fourth-quarter touchdown to get the Division 3A victory.

Dallas struck first, scoring one play after Keifer Rogers reco-

vered a fumble. Running back Jim Roccogranti busted through the middle for a 21-yard TD run and Kohner Rice's point after gave the Mountaineers a 7-0 lead at 6:45 of the first.

Dallas did little offensively after its first touchdown until Goeringer connected on a 26-yard pass to Paul Brace on the seventh play of the fourth quarter. Brace then dragged the pile into the end zone on the next play, a 13-yard touchdown run.

Trailing 14-7, Coughlin started its final possession of the game at its 34-yard line with just over nine minutes to play. Ten consecutive running plays moved the ball to the Dallas 22 but a fourth-and-8 pass was incomplete.

The victory gave Dallas interim head coach Tony Chiarucci his first coaching victory. Chiarucci is filling in while head coach Ted Jackson finishes a PIAA suspension that will last three more games.

Jackson, who recently retired as a teacher at Solomon/Plains school in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, taught both Wallen and Jones in his junior high physical education classes.



Adam Goeringer, Jordan Richardson and Jason Crispell present the Coughlin team with a commemorative wreath in memory of two Crusader players who died tragically this year.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST



Alyssah Dombek performs with the Dallas High School Marching Band.



Mountaineer Paul Brace is tackled by Coughlin's Frankie Mahmoud.



Jennifer Yannuzzi cheers for Dallas.

## Gilsky-era opens at Lake-Lehman with 21-15 opener loss

The Lake-Lehman football team struggled through a series of second-half cramps and lost a fumble inside the Old Forge 5-yard line in a 21-15 non-conference loss at Edward H. Edwards Stadium. As many as black Knights players were treated on the artificial turf at the same time.

Old Forge clung to a 14-7 lead midway through the third quarter when Lake-Lehman put together an impressive drive, going 61 yards in 12 plays to the Blue Devils' 4-yard line. But on second and goal, Black Knight quarterback Jared Novitski lost the ball and Old Forge recovered at the 3-yard line.

Seven plays later, junior tailback Louis Febbo broke and scored to give Old Forge a 21-7 lead.

Lake-Lehman played the scoring series without the services of several key players, including defensive back Bryan Mathers and linebacker Cole Barbacci who both struggled with leg cramps.

Despite the adversity, Lake-Lehman was able to pull within a touchdown when tight end Brandon Roberts made a nice catch of a Novitski pass in the end zone from 11 yards out. Novitski scored on a 2-point conversion run to make it 21-15 with 8:18 remaining in the game.

The era of first-year coach Jerry Gilsky got off to a great start as the Black Knights took the opening kickoff and put together an impressive 11-play, 65-yard drive. Four different players ran the ball and Roberts hauled in a 14-yard reception.



Jerry Gilsky, the new head football coach at Lake-Lehman, shouts directions to his players during the game against Old Forge.



Lake-Lehman griddler George Jones (No. 55) and several other Lake-Lehman players bring down an Old Forge opponent.

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Members of the Lake-Lehman High School cheerleading squad shout encouragement to their team.



Kayla Walsh shows her enthusiasm while cheering for the Black Knights.



Vito Sicurella plays the trumpet in the Lake-Lehman Marching Band.