

Ashley Dunbar making a name for herself on court

Dallas High School senior guides Lady Mountaineers from point guard position.

By TOM ROBINSON
For the Dallas Post

Ashley Dunbar has shown she can rack up impressive personal numbers in athletic competition.

In her senior season, Dunbar is leading Dallas in another way, guiding an extremely balanced attack as the point guard for a basketball team that has established itself as a serious contender for a pair of titles.

"She's distributing the ball more, which is fine by me because she passes well and has good vision on the court," Dallas coach Kelly Johnson said of Dunbar.

Dunbar and fellow returning first-team, all-star Tanner Englehart have been trading the scoring lead on a team that has five players averaging between seven and 10 points per game.

That list includes Talia Szatkowski, who piled up 26 points and 14 steals Monday night in a 57-55 victory over Wyoming Valley West, as well as Jessica Hiscox and Sanantha Missal.

"This year, my state of mind is everyone can do everything," Dunbar said. "Everyone in our starting lineup can score. It's harder for teams to defend us."

It is Dunbar's responsibility to make sure the ball winds up in the hands of the player with the best chance of producing points.

"It's whatever the game situation presents," Johnson said. "Some games, she has more opportunity to score. I've never felt like she was a selfish player. She's a team player. She reads opposing teams and makes the best of whatever that situation is."

The Dallas offense has been running well under Dunbar's control. The Lady Mountaineers moved up to Division 1 of the Wyoming Valley Conference this season and made it through the first half of that schedule tied with Crestwood for the best record at 6-1.

That performance also left Dallas tied for third among 18 teams battling for seeding position in the District 2 Class AAA playoffs.

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Kelly Johnson
DHS girls basketball coach

Running a balanced offense shows Dunbar's willingness to adjust her style of play on the court and as an athlete in general. She averaged 13.1 points per game a year ago when she was the WVC Division 2 Player of the Year.

In the fall, after leaving behind an all-state career in field hockey when the WVC moved soccer away from a spring schedule for the first time, Dunbar again earned Pennsylvania State Soccer Coaches Association All-State honors. She had started since her freshman season in both sports.

"It was a really tough decision because I do love both sports and I loved both teams," said Dunbar, who is close to the conclusion of her athletic days before going to study pharmacy at Temple University.

Dunbar scored 52 goals and assisted on 12 others this fall. She ended her career as the all-time scoring leader in the highly successful Dallas girls soccer program with 114 goals.

Johnson has seen what makes Dunbar such an explosive player on the soccer field.

"She has tremendous drive and determination," Johnson said. "She has a no-quit attitude. You can always count on her to go after it. She's in attack-mode most of the time and that's how she plays on the basketball court."

That drive has made Dunbar one of the conference's top basketball players despite all the time she has put into being one of the state's top soccer players.

"She's a busy kid," Johnson said. "We like to take advantage of any opportunity to get in the gym



PETE G. WILCOX FILE PHOTO/ THE DALLAS POST

Ashley Dunbar, of Dallas, drives the lane around Honedale's Katie Miller in the first half in the championship game of the Rotarian Mike Duda Wyoming Valley West Lady Spartans Tip-Off Classic in December 2012.

that we can. She's with us in the summer some and she did go to a team camp in the summer. Once

the soccer season starts, obviously she is very busy." And, now that basketball sea-

son has arrived, Dunbar has transitioned from being the conference's most dominant individual

threat to leading the way for one of its most effective balanced attacks.

Knights take advantage of strength and opponents' error

Lake-Lehman grabs 31-28 wrestling victory over arch-rival Dallas.

By TOM ROBINSON
For the Dallas Post

Lake-Lehman and Dallas took a break from their respective Wyoming Valley Conference divisional races Monday night to battle for Back Mountain bragging rights.

Derek Dragon, Brady Butler and Josh Sayre provided key decisions but Lake-Lehman also took advantage of a Dallas coaching error and wrestlers avoiding giving up extra team points in losses while pulling out a 31-28 victory over the host Mountaineers.

This is the second straight close win for the Black Knights in the annual battle with their biggest rival. Lake-Lehman pulled out a 32-31 win over Dallas a year ago.

"It was a team effort," Lake-Lehman coach Tom Williams said in a telephone interview after the match. "There were some key spots where we didn't give up more than three team points."

One of those came in the closing 145-pound bout when Steve Minge of Dallas shut out Josh

Winters, 7-0, but could not get the pin he needed to tie the team score and give the Mountaineers the victory on a tiebreaker.

Lake-Lehman took a 13-9 lead after five bouts with the help of a clerical error by Dallas and two wrestlers avenging earlier defeats.

Tommy Williams, the son of Lake-Lehman's coach, received a forfeit to open the bout when Dallas coach Mike Richards mistakenly presented a wrestler who was ineligible at the 152-pound weight class because he did not weigh in at a high enough weight.

Zach Macosky pulled out an overtime win for Dallas at 160, but Dragon answered with an 11-3 win over Logan Brace at 170.

After Kris Roccograndi received a forfeit for Dallas to cut the deficit to a point, Brady Butler defeated Connor Martinez, 14-7, in a rematch of a Wyoming Valley Conference Championships final.

"He was a little more mentally focused and wrestled more aggressively on his feet this time," coach Williams said of Butler's

victory.

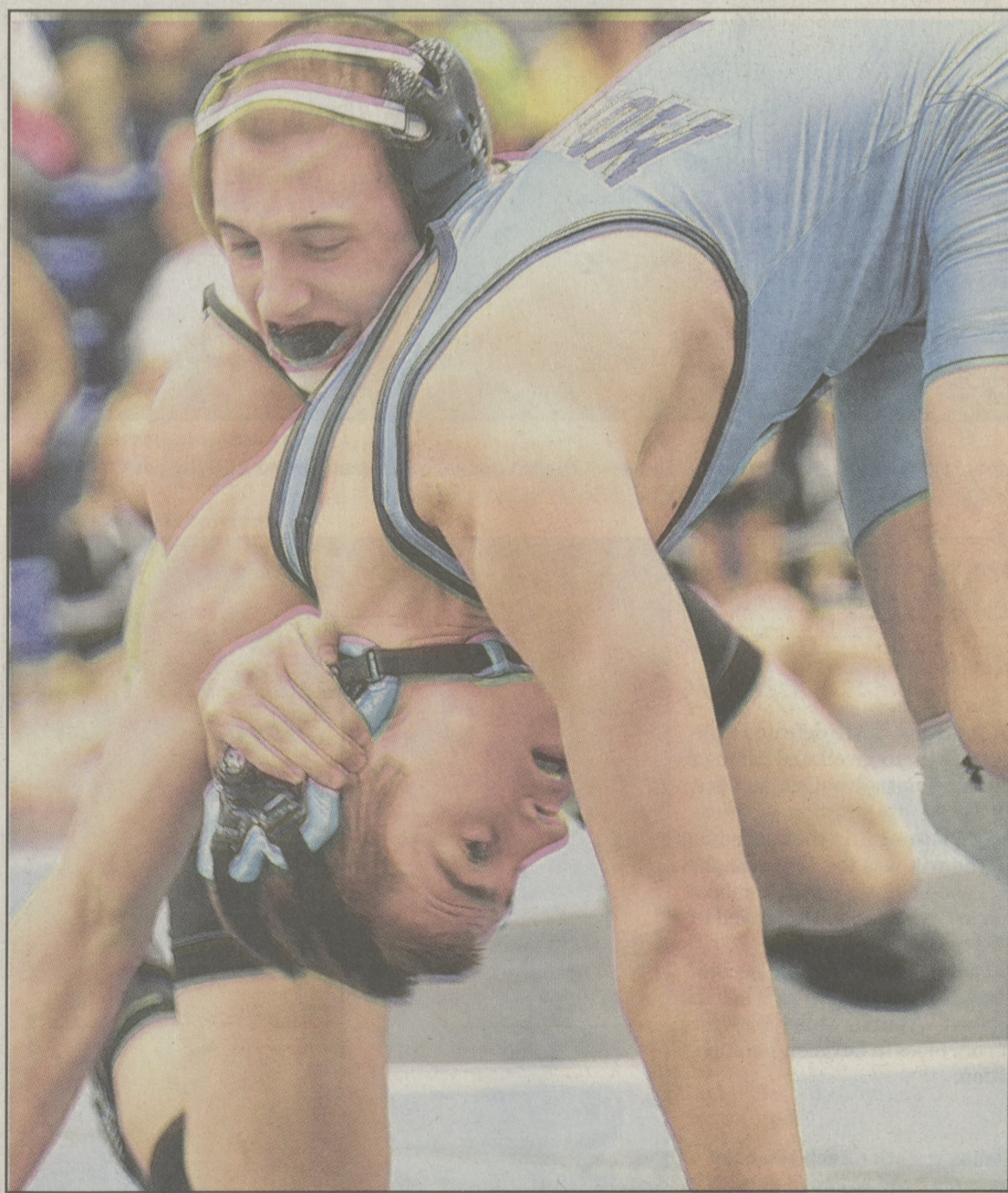
Dallas won the next three bouts that were wrestled on the mat during a stretch in which each team picked up a forfeit.

The Mountaineers emerged with a 25-19 lead on decisions by Mark Michno (220) and Ryan Monk (285) and a major decision by Aaron Klimovich (120) for the only bonus point captured by a Dallas wrestler.

Dominic DeGraba of Dallas picked up a forfeit at 113 while Rebecca Wright earned one for Lake-Lehman at 106.

Zeb McMillan started the Lake-Lehman comeback by pulling out an overtime decision at 126. Unbeaten Austin Harry then put Lake-Lehman back in front by coming up with a pin in the first minute at 132 on a night that he called the biggest match of the season for the team.

Josh Sayre, who produced a pin in the final bout to rally the Black Knights to the one-point victory over Dallas last season, again came through for Lake-



FRED ADAMS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lake-Lehman's Derek Dragon takes control of Logan Brace, of Dallas, in the 170 lbs. bout en route to a major decision, 11-3.

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