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Rachel Olszewski (No. 45) of Dallas gets the rebound in front of Crestwood's Sydney Myers (No. 44). Olszewski is one of four senior members of this year's Lady Mountaineers basketball team honored this week.



BILL TARUTIS FILE PHOTO/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Dallas' Jess Hiscox, left, drives to the hoop as Crestwood's Maury Cronauer defends in WVC girls basketball action. Hiscox is one of four senior members of this year's Lady Mountaineers team.



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Tanner Englehart, of Dallas, passes the ball around Crestwood's Sydney Myers (No. 44) to Dallas teammate Samantha Missal. Englehart is one of four seniors on this year's Lady Mountaineers basketball team.

## Senior Lady Mountaineers are honored

Four members of Dallas girls basketball season closing out high school careers.

By TOM ROBINSON  
For The Dallas Post

Dallas pounded the ball inside from the start Wednesday night, drawing fouls and converting free throws to take charge early.

By the time the Lady Mountaineers were done, Ashley Dunbar had sliced through the Wyoming Valley West defense to earn 24 free throw attempts.

Dunbar made 16 of the free throws on her way to a 30-point effort that led Dallas to a 76-63 victory and allowed it to finish the Wyoming Valley Conference Division I girls basketball season tied for first.

Dallas and Pittston Area were scheduled to square off Friday night to decide the division title after each went 12-2.

The Lady Mountaineers celebrated Senior Night with significant contributions from their four seniors.

"I'm happy for our seniors that they played as well as they did tonight," Dallas coach Kelly Johnson said. "I'm pleased with how each of our

players played and I was pleased with our composure at the foul line."

Dallas finished 23-for-38 from the foul line.

Dunbar, Jess Hiscox, Tanner Englehart and Rachel Olszewski are the seniors who played their final regular-season home game.

Hiscox added 18 points by shooting 8-for-13, including 2-for-5 on 3-pointers.

Englehart had eight re-

bounds and Olszewski seven. They joined Talia Szatkowski, who finished with 10 points, nine rebounds and six assists to lead Dallas to a 41-33 rebounding advantage.

The Lady Mountaineers hit eight free throws to open a 24-14 lead after one quarter and stretched the lead to 58-43 after three.

Cheyenne Reese led Valley West with 26 points and 15 rebounds.

Dallas' Ashley Dunbar, right, drives to the basket as Pittston Area's Mia Hopkins defends from behind. Dunbar and three other senior members of the Lady Mountaineers basketball team were honored this week.



PETE G. WILCOX/ THE DALLAS POST

Kayley Schinski, of Nanticoke, second from left, collides with teammate Alex Brassington as Lake Lehman players Karen Yamrick (No. 00) and Emily Sutton (No. 10) look on during a girls basketball game in Nanticoke.

## PLAYOFFS

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ond seed.

"I'm pleased with our performance the last few contests we've had," Johnson said. "We have a good group that works hard and we have inside and outside balance."

Lavan thinks Lake-Lehman, which finished 9-4 in league play, is close to being ready for its playoff challenges.

"We're trying to make sure we're at our best at this stage," Lavan said. "Our team's guard play has to improve, we have to work on boxing out and our man

defense has to be better.

"If we get those things, we'll be fine, because I think we'll get enough offense from (Cayle) Spencer, (Emily) Sutton and (Danae) Sutliff."

Lake-Lehman and Dallas are also in Class AAA for the District 2 boys basketball playoffs.

Both teams found themselves tied for key spots as they entered the last game of league play.

Lake-Lehman was tied among the teams trying for the eighth seed and a home game in the 17-game field.

Dallas was tied for the 16th spot, which would be required to play a preliminary game just to reach the round of 16.

The preliminary games were

planned for this weekend.

The first full round of Class AAA boys is Tuesday. Class AAA girls conduct their first round, with Dallas and Lake-Lehman at home on Wednesday.

The remainder of the Class AAA boys tournament has the quarterfinals Friday, the semifinals Feb. 26 and the finals March 1.

The remainder of the Class AAA girls tournament has the quarterfinals Saturday, the semifinals Feb. 27 and the finals March 2.

Both Class AAA events include a third-place game because the district sends three teams into Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association tournament action.

Jody Dutton, the Dallas eighth-grade coach, is leading the fifth-grade team. It includes Laura Charlton, Morgan MacNeely and Samantha Michael from Dallas and Livia Moore from Good Shepherd.

The program also draws players from Crestwood, GAR, Nanticoke, Pittston Area, St. Nick's/St. Mary's in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton Prep, Wyom-

ing Area, Wyoming Area Catholic and Wyoming Valley West.

Practices begin March 3 and tournament play starts March 23.

Part of the training at Rock Rec will include the use of The Gun, a basketball shooting machine that returns shots to players to help them develop their skills at game speed.

## BRIEFS

### Bandits lacrosse accepts registrations

Registrations are now being accepted via the web site at [www.laxteams.net/](http://www.laxteams.net/) bmylax for the Back Mountain Bandits lacrosse team.

Boys and girls in grades 1-3 may sign up for intramurals. Boys age groups are U-9, U-11, U-13 & U-15. Girls age groups are third and fourth grade, fifth and sixth grade and seventh and eighth grades.

The registration fee includes US Lacrosse registration, US Lacrosse magazine and a team jersey.

Participants should print the form and mail it, along with applicable fee to BMYL, P.O. Box 1746, Shavertown, PA 18708.

### Comedy Night benefits Bombers

A Comedy Night at Wise Crackers Comedy Club (next to Genetti's in Wilkes-Barre) on Saturday, March 2 will benefit the Back Mountain Bombers.

Doors open at 8 p.m.; show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.

### Rock Rec basketball season begins

The Rock Recreation Center is accepting registration applications for the 2013 Upward basketball season. The league is open to girls and boys Pre-K through sixth grade.

The final game is set for Saturday, March 16.

For more information, contact The Rock Rec Center at 696-2769.

### KaPow hockey club offers training

KaPow Field Hockey Klub is offering spring training and game play age groups U6, U8, U10 and U12 directed by Olympian Lauren Poweley April 14-19 at Wyoming Seminary, Kingston.

For a registration form, email [lcomiskey@ka-powfh.com](mailto:lcomiskey@ka-powfh.com). Deadline is March 31.



BILL TARUTIS FILE PHOTO/ FOR THE DALLAS POST



Kristen Mericle, of Shavertown, a senior at Wyoming Seminary, will continue her academic and athletic career at Villanova University in Villanova in the fall. Seen during her announcement on Signing Day are, from left, seated, Karen Klassner, Sem head field hockey coach and director of athletics; Kristen Mericle. Standing, Kim Mericle, mother; Robert Mericle, father; Robert Mericle, brother.

## Mericle to Villanova

Kristen Mericle, of Shavertown, a senior at Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School, will continue her academic and athletic career at Villanova University in Villanova in the fall where she will play for Villanova veteran field hockey head coach Joanie Milhous in the NCAA Div. I Big East Conference.

This fall, Milhous embarks on her 19th season with a 183-167 all-time record after finishing the 2012 season at 7-12. She has twice been named Big East Coach of the Year.

As a member of the Blue Knights' 2010 and 2011 state AA championship teams, she was named to the Second Team All-State in her junior and senior years and was an Academic All-State Squad member as a senior.

A member of the Citizens' Voice and The Times Leader All-

Star teams for 2012, she was selected to compete in the Futures Elite Tournament for 2011 and 2012 and attended the 2012 Futures Elite Academy. She also competed in the 2011 Junior Olympics.

A Blue Knights co-captain as a senior, she helped lead the team to a 17-5-2 record in 2011 and to the PIAA state quarter-finals in 2012. Her 2010-2012 record at Sem is 18 goals and 20 assists.

In addition to field hockey, Mericle is a four-year varsity letter winner in girls lacrosse and will serve as team captain in her senior year. She plays at the attack position for the team, which won the District II championship in 2011.

Mericle, who plans to attend Villanova's School of Business, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mericle, of Shavertown.

## CAGERS

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las; Angelina Allen, Emily Farrell, Haley Fennell, Sarah Kuderka, Gabriella Olinginski and Synday Strickland from Dallas; and Gianna Centrella from Good Shepherd.