

# Sports

## Season comes to end for three BMT cage teams

By TOM ROBINSON  
For The Dallas Post

High school basketball season came to an end in the Back Mountain in the District 2 Class AAA quarterfinals when three teams were eliminated.

The Dallas and Lake-Lehman girls and Lake-Lehman boys all lost and had their seasons end in their second district playoff game. The Dallas boys had lost in the first round.

Despite the playoff losses, the three teams had varying degrees of success.

Dallas won the Wyoming Valley Conference Division 1 girls championship with an incredible effort in a playoff game for the title. In addition to a shock-

ing 74-44 rout of Pittston Area for the division championship, the Lady Mountaineers also handed Scranton Prep its only regular-season loss.

Both Lake-Lehman teams posted winning records. For the girls, that included a 72-63 upset of rival Dallas behind a 33-point outing by sophomore Cayle Spencer.

After going two decades without a winning record, the Lake-Lehman boys now have two straight winning seasons, even in a year where they moved up in classification.

The season ended Feb. 23 when defending champion Honesdale topped Dallas, 74-68, and top-seeded Scranton Prep, the Lackawanna League Division 1

champion, stopped Lake-Lehman, 54-39.

Dallas finished 18-5 and Lake-Lehman went 15-9.

The Lake-Lehman boys ended their 12-11 season the night before when they were beaten by Crestwood, 56-44.

Talia Szatkowski scored 18 points and Ashley Dunbar added 17 for the Dallas girls in the loss to Honesdale.

The Lady Mountaineers fought back from a double-figures deficit but fell short.

Dallas remained a threat in

the game because of its ability to run and push the pace with a pressure defense and a strong rotation of players off the bench.

That formula is the one that overwhelmed Pittston Area in the division championship game.

"It's a faster-paced game," Dallas coach Kelly Johnson said after claiming the regular-season title. "We're forcing teams to run with us. We have the personnel to do that."

"That constant in-your-face pressure has to be frustrating over the course of a game and I think that was to our advantage."

The Lady Mountaineers were stronger because of the variety of weapons they had.

"If you don't have the personnel, it's hard to play that style," Johnson said.

Senior point guard Ashley Dunbar, who was named Player of the Year in Division 2 last season, was the Division 1 Most Valuable Player in all-star voting by Wyoming Valley Conference coaches.

Szatkowski, a sophomore who led the defensive pressure with her energy, and Jess Hixcox, a senior who was the top outside shooter, were both first-team division all-stars.

Senior post player Tanner Englehart was a second-team choice. Katy Comitz, who came off the bench for 15 points in the division playoff game, was selected to the third team.

Johnson was named Coach of the Year for the division.

Spencer, who averaged 20 points per game, had 14 in the season-ending loss to Scranton Prep. Emily Sutton added 13.

Spencer was named first-team division all-star. Sutton, a junior, and Danae Sutliff, a sophomore, were picked for the second-team.

The Lake-Lehman boys fell behind 15-7 after one quarter against Crestwood and could not recover.

Pete Borum, who gave the team an inside force throughout the season, led the way with 17 points. Adam Dizbon had 15.

### DHS gridders honored for individual performances



Head coach Bob Zaruta, left, recounts a play by Strongman Award winner Ryan Monk at the Dallas football banquet on Sunday evening.

By TOM ROBINSON  
For The Dallas Post

The Dallas football program honored 10 individuals for their performances in the 2012 season during its banquet Feb. 24.

Kris Roccograndi was named Most Valuable Player, Ryan Zapotcky was named Offensive Player of the Year and Zach Macosky was named Defensive Player of the Year.

Buddy Shutlock, Logan Bullock, Jason Simonovich, John Murray, Ryan Monk, Justin Mucha and Ryan Kozloski were also recognized.

A look at each of the awards:

- Shutlock received the Tony Lucidi Memorial Award. The two-way tackle and team captain was selected for the award, which was created in 2002 to recognize passion, commitment and dedication to the Dallas football program.

- Bullock, a two-way lineman, received the Unsung Hero Award.

- Simonovich was named Impact Player of the Year.

"We asked so much of him," first-year coach Bob Zaruta said of Simonovich. "We used him as wide receiver, tight end and in motion as a lead blocker. We switched him from defensive back to defensive end and he made so many huge plays for us."

- Murray, a safety, was the Most Improved Player.

- Monk, a sophomore, received the Strong Man Award as pound-for-pound the strongest player on the team.

"It is amazing what he does in the weight room," Zaruta said.

- Mucha, another sopho-

more, received the Mr. Athlete Award.

"He has incredible versatility and speed," Zaruta said of Mucha, who was used as a receiver, running back, quarterback, cornerback, punter and kick returner. "He can catch, throw and run."

- Zapotcky, the quarterback, accounted for 18 touchdowns while passing for nearly 1,400 runs and running for almost 500.

- Macosky led the team with 105 tackles and intercepted three passes.

"He's the kind of player who is all over the field," Zaruta said. "He gave offensive coaches nightmares."

- Roccograndi produced more than 1,000 total yards, almost 1,000 of it on the ground, while also making big contributions as an inside linebacker and on the special teams.

"He was instrumental in our running game when we put our seven-game winning streak together," Zaruta said.

- Kozloski received the Climb Award, which signifies character, loyalty, integrity, mountaineering and believe.

"When we were 0-3 and the noise and a lot of distractions were there, his leadership and interactions with his teammates were a big reason why the entire team was able to handle the adversity and turn it into a successful season," Zaruta said.



Defensive Player of the Year Award winner Zach Macosky shakes the hands of the assistant coaches after receiving his award at the Dallas football banquet on Sunday evening.



Offensive Player of the Year Award winner Ryan Zapotcky walks back to his seat after accepting his trophy.



Josh Winters of Lake Lehman (left) and Ryan Filiipiak of Wyoming Area battle in the 145-pound weight division during last Friday's District Class 2A wrestling tournament at Lake Lehman High School. Filiipiak won by decision, 9-7.

## Lehman grapplers win goal - a District 2 championship

By TOM ROBINSON  
For The Dallas Post

At Lake-Lehman, the wrestling season typically begins with the goal of ultimately winning the District 2 Class AA Tournament championship.

For the second straight year and the 22<sup>nd</sup> time in school history, the Black Knights accomplished that goal when they won the team title on their home mat Feb. 22-23.

Lake-Lehman wrestlers collected their individual medals, including four golds and five silvers, when the tournament came to its usual Saturday evening conclusion.

The team title essentially was decided, however, when that day's activities began. Lake-Lehman opened the second day of the tournament by going 9-1 in the semifinal round, earning its nine championship round berths and the points necessary to separate from Western Wayne.

"Winning nine of 10 in the semis is huge," Lake-Lehman coach Tom Williams said. "Basically, where we sealed it was with the really strong semifinal performance."

Lake-Lehman has a total of 10 wrestlers in action at this weekend's Northeast Regional Class AA Tournament, trying to earn spots in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association championships in Hershey. Although team scores are still kept, the large number of schools involved and the prestige of participating in the state tournament turn the emphasis to individual performances at this stage.

The Black Knights were still thinking about team goals last weekend, however.

Lake-Lehman and Western Wayne went head-to-head three weeks earlier with the District 2 Dual Meet Championships at stake. The Wildcats won that

battle of teams who went unbeaten in their divisional regular-season schedules, taking the Dual Meet championship, 28-28.

The Black Knights immediately set out for their original goal and a measure of revenge in the rematch.

"Once we got beyond the team tournament, we set our sights on this one," Williams said. "We worked hard to make it happen."

"We have a good number of kids who are pretty battle tested in tournament settings."

In dual meet competition, teams go head-to-head, matching their entire lineups just as they do in a regular-season meet. At the tournament, wrestlers work their way through separate brackets in each weight class, scoring points for the team with each win and with their final placement.

"I think we have a pretty strong tournament team," Williams said. "We have several strong individuals who are likely to place."

Those individuals combined for a 216-197 team advantage over Western Wayne. Wyoming Area, which matched the four champions by Lake-Lehman but did not have any other finalists, was a distant third with 139.5 points.

"We didn't match up very well with Western Wayne as a dual-meet team," Williams said. "It's all in how you match up and we didn't match up well, particularly at the lower weights."

As a tournament team, the Black Knights proved to have more top-end wrestlers. Lake-Lehman led Western Wayne, 4-3 in champions, 9-7 in finalists and 10-8 in regional qualifiers.

Austin Harry (132), Derek Dragon (170), Brady Butler