

## Sports

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## SOFTBALL CLINIC

The Dallas High School softball team will hold its second development clinic for girls ages 7-14 from noon to 2 p.m. today, April 21 at the Back Mountain Little League Field.

This clinic will have a brief review of Session 1, go over base running, proper infield and outfield positioning and offensive execution drills.

For more information, call call Brent Berger at 793-1126 or Bill Kern at 498-5991.

## FUN NIGHT BENEFITS TEAM

In the event of rain, the clinic will be held in the Dallas High School gymnasium.

The Dallas High School track and field team will host a Family Fun Night from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23 at Leggio's Italian Restaurant, Dallas location.

A percentage of all sales during that time period will support the team.

## JR. MOUNTS REGISTRATION

The Dallas Junior Mounts Football and Cheerleading Association will hold registration from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 25 at the Dallas American Legion. Any boy or girl who is 5 years old by Aug. 1 is eligible. Please bring a recent photo, a birth certificate and two proofs of residency.

## SOCCER REGISTRATION

Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association will hold registration for the fall 2013 intramural soccer season from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 27 at the Dallas Middle School cafeteria.

Age groups U-6 through U-18 will be accepted. Eligible players must be at least 5 years of age before Aug. 1. New players must show proof of age.

All players must register online at [www.bmysa.org](http://www.bmysa.org). Computers will be available at registration.

## CAR WASH/BAKE SALE

The Dallas Mountaineers High School Baseball Booster Club will sponsor a car wash and bake sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday May 5 at Newell Fuel.

Members of the high school baseball team will be on hand to wash cars and an array of baked goods will be sold. All proceeds will go to support the Dallas School District baseball program.

## RAIDERS REGISTRATION

The Kingstons Township Raiders will hold registration for mini football and cheerleading from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 18 at the Kingston Township Municipal Building, 180 E. Center St., Shavertown.

Parents should bring the child's birth certificate, two proofs of residency and a photo of the child.

Registration fees are \$50 for cheerleading and \$60 for football with a \$10 sibling discount.

## FASTPITCH PLAYERS SOUGHT

The Endless Mt. Blast U14 travel fastpitch program is still looking for a few qualified players to round out its teams for the upcoming season.

Anyone interested is asked to call 840-6433 or email [ronh@sbsmod.com](mailto:ronh@sbsmod.com).



Brian Stepniak delivers a pitch against Plains during Wyoming Valley American Legion playoffs in Rice Township early in his career. Stepniak has made a verbal commitment to pitch for Hartford University. FILE PHOTO/ THE TIMES LEADER

## Mountaineer diamondmen on WINNING STREAK

By TOM ROBINSON  
For The Dallas Post

The high school baseball season features just about a dozen games jammed into the time between when fields are ready for use in the spring and schools are going through graduations and other year-end activities.

At Dallas, however, 2012 felt like a long year on the high school baseball diamond.

"There is a positive vibe in the program this year," said Mountaineers coach Ken Kashatus. "Last year, even though there were only 14 games, it felt like a long year."

Even after a painful extra-inning crossover loss at Hazleton Area on Tuesday when a sixth-inning lead got away, Dallas is 3-1 and alone in first place of Division 2 of the Wyoming Valley Conference. It took the Mountaineers only three games to surpass the win total from all of 2012 when they were 2-12.

"It was as brutal a loss as losses can get," Kashatus said. "You're on the cusp of being 4-0 and instead, you're 3-1 with some tough games coming up."

Kashatus said it is important for the Mountaineers to remember what they have accomplished as they try to shake off the first disappointment of a season in which they have outscored conference opponents, 28-10.

"It's tough to beat Hazleton at Hazleton," he said of the second-place

team in Division 1. "We were right there; we just had to make one more play."

"But, if you asked me if I would sign up for 3-1 back in January, I would say 'absolutely'."

The Mountaineers are enjoying success with largely the same players who went through a trying season in 2012.

Leading the way is Brian Stepniak, who has verbally committed to play Division I baseball at the University of Hartford as a pitcher.

Stepniak has followed up an outstanding swimming season in which he earned two individual and one relay medal at the state championships.

"He's ahead of schedule compared to where he has been in the past because he did some stuff in the offseason even with the huge time commitment to swimming," Kashatus said. "He knew baseball was his bread and butter and what he's going to do in the future, even though he's an excellent swimmer."

Stepniak had a 2.57 earned run average last season while also hitting .341.

Until an infield error led to an unearned run Tuesday, Stepniak was in position to improve his pitching record to 3-0. He struck out eight in seven innings and got a no-decision.

Kashatus credits the seven-run-per-game average to each of the first six batters in the order clicking.

"The lineup has pretty much writ-

ten itself," he said. "With the way the first six guys have been hitting, I can't imagine the lineup changing."

Ryan Zapoticky has returned to baseball for the first time since his freshman year and is leading off while playing in the outfield. Zapoticky, the Dallas quarterback, is headed to Shippensburg University for football and had spent previous springs getting healthy for football season.

Nigel Stearns, who had the pitching win against Lake-Lehman in the first week, hit his second home run of the season against Hazleton Area.

Greg Petorak leads the team in extra-base hits with two doubles and two homers.

Petorak and Stepniak, who bat third and fourth behind Zapoticky and Stearns, are the team captains. Stepniak is in his fourth year as a starter while Petorak is in his third.

Catcher Bill Gately hit a grand slam on the first pitch he saw this season to fuel a 5-2 win at Tunkhannock.

Left fielder Dominic Oliveri is in the sixth spot.

The Mountaineers have seven home runs in four games.

"The two, three, four, five and six hitters have all hit home runs," Kashatus said. "We only had one inside-the-park homer last year."

"We're making strides from last year with a lot of the same guys."

As a result, 2013 is not feeling like such a long season for the Mountaineers.

## Gorski returns to LL helm

By TOM ROBINSON  
For The Dallas Post

The last time Brian Gorski was the head coach of the Lake-Lehman baseball team, the Black Knights won Wyoming Valley Conference and District 2 championships in 2007.



Gorski is back in charge this season, but the program is facing a challenging season before the Shavertown resident can have the Black Knights back to chasing titles again.

"We're going through both a transition and a rebuilding year," said Gorski, who spent five years as a high school coach then put in time as both a Back Mountain Little League and Back Mountain Junior Legion coach during his time away.

Lake-Lehman moved up a division within the WVC to a higher classification for District 2 and potential Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association play. The Black Knights used to play with the WVC's smallest schools, but are now in the middle division of the three following realignment. They also jump up from Class AA to AAA, the second-largest of the PIAA's four classifications in baseball.

The move to a more difficult schedule comes at a time when Lake-Lehman has just three returning starters - Jeff Carter, Pete Borum and Scott Bean.

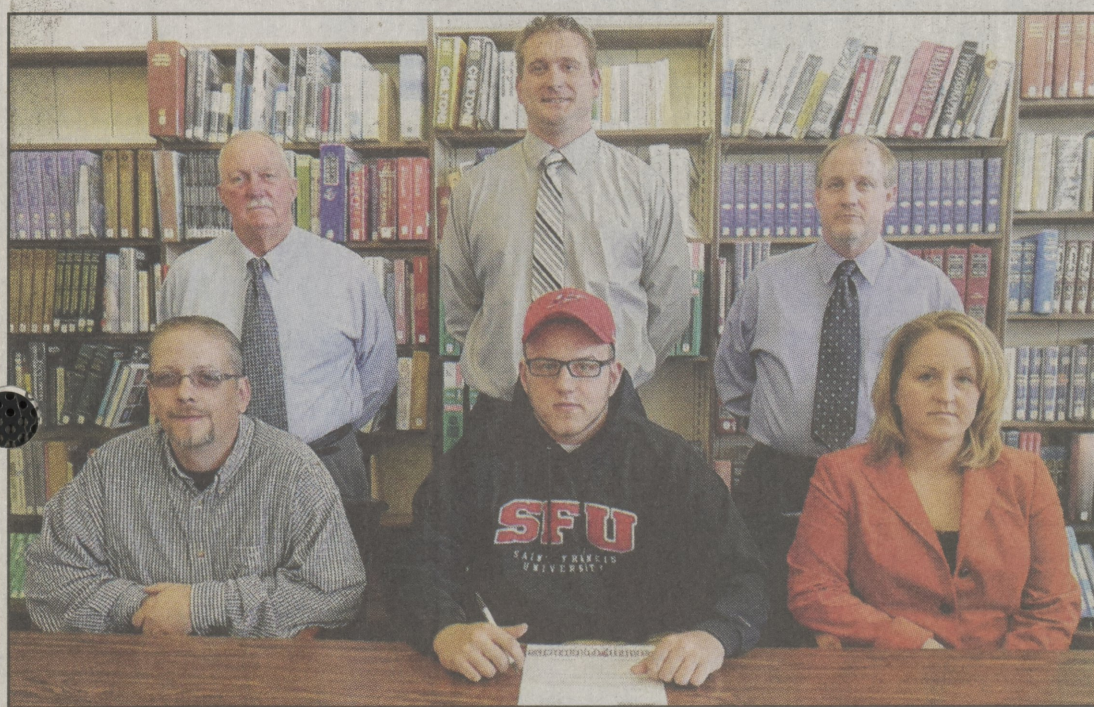
"Undoubtedly, we need to start hitting the ball," Gorski said after the Black Knights managed just one hit against Berwick Tuesday to fall to 1-4 in conference play. "We need to have multiple hits in multiple innings and to start coming up with clutch hits. We're definitely struggling putting runners on base."

Gorski, who teaches government and history at Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School, is emphasizing fundamentals and basics with his baseball team as he always had. During the early struggles, he is seeing positives upon which the Black Knights can build.

"We are playing extraordinarily good defense and our pitching is keeping us in the game, but we are not yet getting run support," he said.

The three veterans give Lake-Lehman players something to build around. All have had success in the past.

Carter batted .405 last season. Borum hit .335 and had a 1.31 earned run average. Bean struck out 30 in WVC play.



BILL TARUTIS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

### Shutlock to St. Francis

Dallas High School senior Buddy Shutlock, front center, signs a letter of intent to play football for St. Francis of Loretto University at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. From left, first row, are Michael Shutlock, father; Buddy Shutlock and Melanie Shutlock, mother. Second row, former head coach Ted Jackson, Sr. and former assistant coaches Jonathan Saba and Bob Mahle.



### Dallas freshmen end season at 13-3

The Dallas freshman girls basketball team completed a successful season in the Wyoming Valley Conference Division I League with a conference record of 10-2 and an overall record of 13-3. From left, first row, are Samantha Pollick, Lauren Dotter, Talia Kosierowski, Breezy Coolbaugh, Marian Bednar. Second row, Courtney Devens, Paige Evans, Maddie Kelley, Sara Lojewski, Catherine Dillon and Coach Johnna Schickram.