

Lehman netters sweep Dallas in WVC action

TOM ROBINSON
For The Dallas Post

When Lake-Lehman swept three sets from rival Dallas in the meeting of Wyoming Valley Conference girls volleyball rivals, it extended a winning streak for the Black Knights.

Now, Lake-Lehman coach Kevin Koziol said the team is intent on extending that run to set itself up for the post-season.

"We're swinging for the fences," Koziol said. "We're going to try to get over everybody and, hopefully, get into second place."

Lake-Lehman has its eye on one of the top two spots for the District 2 Class AA playoffs since those teams get to open the postseason on their homecourt.

The 25-28, 25-19, 25-20 win at Dallas Sept. 27 was the sixth straight for Lake-Lehman, which started the season at 1-2.

"The rivalry between Lehman and Dallas is always pretty big," Koziol said. "My girls were pretty fired up for it and I think we all performed well."

Kahli Kotulski had 12 kills and Brittany Acevedo scored 13 service points for Lake-Lehman in the win.

The hitting of Kotulski and Danae Sutliff has made the most of the setting

by Maria Chinikaylo to lead the Black Knights during their surge to fourth place out of 18 teams in the WVC. Those were again big factors against Dallas.

"Our setter, Maria Chinikaylo, did a great job and Danae Sutliff and Kahli Kotulski, our two middle hitters, stepped up and gave us points when we really needed them," Koziol said.

Koziol said the team works well together. Chinikaylo, in her second season as setter, is a big part of that in putting her teammates in position to finish off points as the assist leader.

Kotulski and Sutliff shared a spot in the lineup last season and now work together.

"They're very similar in their styles, but they both have their strengths so they're a little bit different," Koziol said. "Danae is a little bit more of a finesse player, being able to place the ball real well."

"Kahli is really strong in serving. When she's in a zone, her serves are really tough to return."

Koziol is hoping for that success to continue as the team works its way through the second half of the regular season.

"They have a real never-say-die attitude," Koziol said. "They're going to do whatever they can to be victorious."



Photos by Charlotte Bartizek | For The Dallas Post
Olivia Musto (No. 3 for Dallas) and Kahli Kotulski (No. 3 for Lake-Lehman) battle at the net in a varsity volleyball show down between the two schools that Lake-Lehman won.



The Lake-Lehman varsity girls volleyball members celebrate their win over the Dallas Mountaineers.



Danae Sutliff, of Lake-Lehman, whacks the ball over the net for the first point of the game against the Dallas Mountaineers.



Sentiment shows on the court as the Lake-Lehman varsity volleyball team member smile while the Dallas players are dejected.



Maria Chinikaylo (No. 16) puts the ball over for Lehman defending is Mallory Faux (No. 21) for the Dallas Mountaineers.

Hockenbury working toward ultimate goal

Added a second invitational title Sept. 21 when he won the Class AA boys race at the PIAA Foundation Invitational.

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When Dominic Hockenbury won his first high school cross country invitational, he never lost sight of his ultimate goals for this, his sophomore season at Lake-Lehman.

"The goal is to run in the low-16s on the state course," Hockenbury said after breaking 16 minutes in his win at Scranton's McDade Park in the

Lackawanna County Commissioners Invitational on Sept. 14.

Hockenbury took a major step toward that goal and added a second invitational title on Sept. 21 when he won the Class AA boys race at the PIAA Foundation Invitational, leading a field of 182 runners in 16:43 on the Hershey Parkview Course that will host the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Championships in November.

Continuing to lower that time would allow Hockenbury to repeat as a state medalist and likely move up the ranks in the process.

Because of the number of top teams and runners from around the state that compete, the PIAA Foundation Invitational is often seen as an unofficial preview of the state meet.

Defending state champion Pottsgrove won the Class AA boys team title where Lake-Lehman finished 17th of 26 teams.

Last year, Hockenbury ran a 16:56 while finishing 22nd in the state. He was one of only five underclassmen in the top 23 in the state in his class and the top freshman.

Dominic DeLuca, of Dallas, the top returning AA boys runner after placing 11th in the state in 16:44 last year, did not compete. Bryan Mattson, one of DeLuca's Dallas teammates competing as individuals, finished 10th in 17:37.

DeLuca and Hockenbury should

both be viewed as state threats as cross country moves toward its post-season. Dallas will try to capture Wyoming Valley Conference boys and girls titles when it closes the regular season Wednesday in a cluster meet that includes top threat Tunkhannock and Lake-Lehman.

The following two Wednesdays are the WVC Meet and the District 2 championships. Runners qualify for states at the district meet.

SPORTS BRIEFS

MARTIN SCORES HOLE IN ONE

MaryAnn Martin, who resides in Zellwood, FL and summers at Mill Race Golf Camping and Resort in Benton, scored her third career hole in one when she shot a hole in one at Newberry Country Club on Sept. 7 while golfing with her husband, Alfred.

In April of this year, she also shot a hole in one at Zellwood Station Country Club. In 2001, she scored another hole in one at Newberry Country Club by MaryAnn.

FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT SET

An adult flag football tournament will be held on Sunday, Oct. 13 at the Noxen field.

Eight team flag belts per team will be provided.

Entree fee is \$120 per team for a 12-man roster. Entry deadline is Wednesday, Oct. 9. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team as well as a Most Valuable Player trophy.

For more information, call Dwight at 570-417-2797.

Rockathon raises money for two memorial causes

A Rockathon, held Sept. 20-22 at the Rock Recreation Center in Trucksville, raised money for two memorial causes.

The Rock is working on plans for both a POW/MIA Memorial at the base of its driveway and an artificial turf outdoor sports playing field in the name of Matthew Benjamin Rondina, a Kingston Township Raiders youth football player who died in 1998 at age 13 from brain cancer.

Elijah Miller, development director at Rock Recreation and one of Rondina's friends, ran 54 miles on Sept. 20 in memory of his childhood friend. Rondina wore number 54 as a junior

football player and many of the weekend's events had a connection to that number.

A 5K trail run and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament were part of the weekend, along with other community events. There was live music, food and craft vendors.

The total cost of the Matthew Benjamin Rondina Memorial Sports Field, including site preparation and bleachers next to the field, will cost close to \$1 million. Plans call for Rondina's number 54 to be stitched in to the turn in the middle of the field, which would become the new home of the Kingston Township Raiders.



Photos by Bill Tarutis | For The Dallas Post
Alex Meuser, left, and Zach Luksic go one-on-one in the 3-on-3 basketball tournament at the Rock Recreation Center.



Marijo Zehner, left, of Pittston, and Natalie Miller, of Exeter, serve food to hungry athletes during the Rockathon at the Rock Recreation Center.



Members of 'The Royal Court' basketball team Bianca Cantando, Leah Mullery, Lauren Wasiakowski and Madison Guido relax between games.



The Mud Pond Boys perform outside the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly Rock Recreation Center in Trucksville. From right, are Paul Riffon on fiddle, Carl Kohl on banjo, Jess Fink on guitar and Floyd Balliet on bass fiddle.