

# Tennis victory is sweet in Joanlanne household

Nathalie Joanlanne wins first-ever Sem state tennis title; mother coaches team

**TOM ROBINSON**  
For The Dallas Post

The hardest part of getting through the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Girls Tennis Championships for Nathalie Joanlanne was just getting started.

Joanlanne arrived in Hershey Nov. 1-2 a bit rusty and lacking confidence after taking time off from practice to try to be healthier for the tournament.

The Wyoming Seminary junior and Dallas resident shook off a tough start to leave Hershey with the title of Class AA singles champion.

Joanlanne lost her first set at the Hershey Racquet Club, then won eight straight, taking four matches and the championship.

"The score definitely showed the first match was the toughest," Joanlanne said. "I went into the tournament not having played for two weeks before because I had strained my calf."

Nathalie shared the title with her mother, Allison

Joanlanne, who became the Wyoming Seminary coach at the start of the 2012 season.

"It's been a long road," Allison said. "A lot of work has gone into it in the past year or so from Nathalie. She's really worked hard on and off the court."

The process of becoming a state champion – and the coach of a state champion – started much earlier.

Allison, who played tennis at Old Dominion University and taught the sport professionally in New York before moving to Dallas about 10 years ago, introduced her daughter to tennis at an early age.

"I've played all my life," Allison said. "... When she was about 3 or 4, I put a racket in her hand. Just for fun in the summertime, I would take her out and I taught her the swing. I taught her all the basic fundamentals until she was about 9, then she had other people teach her."

When Nathalie arrived as a high school player, she began her Wyoming Seminary career playing for coach Mike Balutanski. As a freshman, she reached the district singles final, before winning a doubles title and a first-round state match with Sheena Syal and also helped the Blue Knights to the final of the district team tournament.

The path of her high school career changed before Nathalie began her sophomore season.

Balutanski suffered a



Wyoming Seminary tennis coach Allison Joanlanne directs her team before a meet with Dallas.

stroke and was unable to continue coaching. The Wyoming Valley Conference's most successful girls tennis program needed a new coach.

"Mike's incident was definitely a huge upset," Nathalie said. "The entire team and I were devastated to have him have to leave as a coach. We really loved his coaching."

There was, however, a solution and an opportunity for the Joanlanne family.

Allison resigned from her job as Misericordia University men's and women's tennis coach to take over the Wyoming Seminary programs.

"They needed a coach immediately," Allison said. "I had to resign my position at Misericordia, but I took the position with no hesitation."

"Of course, I did think about it but I had gotten to know the girls, my own daughter was on the team and I knew I was already coaching her as her mom. She didn't have a problem with it and they welcomed me with open arms."

And, the success continued.

Wyoming Seminary has gone 26-0 in the WVC under Allison and has now lost just one conference match in the last five years. The team seasons ended with district final losses to Scranton Prep, which went on to finish as state runner-up this year.

Nathalie extended her singles seasons further. She moved up to district champion and state quarterfinalist as a sophomore and put in the summer tournament play to enter this season



BILL TARUTIS | FOR THE DALLAS POST

Wyoming Seminary's Nathalie Joanlanne returns a serve against Scranton Prep's Emily Jonsson during a semifinal match at the District 2 Class 2A girls tennis championships at Kirby Park.

ready to pursue a state title.

The poorly-timed leg trouble dampened some of that hope between repeating as district singles champion and heading to Hershey.

"It's a good feeling to win a state championship," Allison said. "We didn't think it was going to happen. We weren't expecting it."

Lin Robertson of Berks Catholic added to those doubts by winning the first set of the first round match, 6-2.

"I was a little bit shaky, a little bit nervous going into the tournament, then I lost that first match," Nathalie said.

When Nathalie rallied to pull out a 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory, her hopes received a boost.

"When I headed down there, I had confidence that I was going to make it pretty far, but the night before when I was practicing, I was not playing well at all," Nathalie said. "My game was breaking down and that made me nervous. When I won that first match, I regained all my confidence and actually said, 'OK, now you can do this.'"

"That first match was definitely a huge obstacle to get past."

Later that day, Nathalie rolled through the round where her season ended a year ago. She handled Sewickley Academy's Samantha Gohh, the champion of the Pittsburgh suburbs in District 7, winning, 6-1, 6-1, to reach the semifinals.

After the tough start, Nathalie did not face trouble again until the final set of the tournament. She defeated New Hope-Solebury's Genevieve Hobson, 6-1, 6-3, before fighting through a second-set tiebreaker to defeat McConnellsburg's Bronwyne Mellott, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

"I knew Bronwyne was the toughest because I had looked up her rankings," Nathalie said. "I was definitely happy to see her on the opposite side of the bracket from me."

After watching Mellott and getting tips from her coaches, Nathalie stuck with her game plan of hitting to the lefty's backhand and came away with the first girls' tennis state championship in Wyoming Seminary history.

# Borum makes impact as two-way lineman

**TOM ROBINSON**  
For The Dallas Post

Throughout the championship Lake-Lehman regular season, Pete Borum made a constant impact with his role as a two-way lineman on a team that produced a pair of 1,000-yard rushers.

The job of a lineman, even one who is 6-foot-7 and 315 pounds, often goes unnoticed, particularly on offense where Borum's personal success relies on precision work of a unit including the other tackle, two guards, a center and even the one or two tight ends the Black Knights use, depending on formation.

It was impossible to miss Borum's presence on defense, however, when the playoffs opened Nov. 8 at Edward Edwards Stadium.

Borum pronounced himself ready for the postseason by making tackles on the first three plays of the game as Lake-Lehman overpowered Susquehanna up front, 35-0, in the semifinals to reach the District 2 Class AA championship game for the first time in 16 years. The Black Knights played for that title Friday night, putting a 10-game winning streak on the line as they tried to land a spot in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association tournament.

"It's a playoff game; everybody's pumped up," Borum said. "Everybody's ready to go."

"I was real excited." It showed in Borum's play in what he acknowledged might have been his best defensive game of the season.

By the time Susquehanna had run seven offensive plays, Borum already had five tackles, including



Pete Borum (No. 55) plays an important role for the Black Knights' defense this year.

one for loss and one for no gain. He took away much of the inside running threat in the Sabers' volatile veer option game.

"I was just trying to read what their running backs were doing," said Borum, who teams with Dustin Jones as defensive tackles. "I was holding my guy, sitting in the hole and seeing what was happening."

"Dustin and I were responsible for the running back behind the quarterback."

Borum had eight tackles in the first half. On a night when Susquehanna ran just 34 plays against the starting Lake-Lehman defense, Borum finished with a team-high nine tackles, assisted on

two others, batted down one pass and rushed the quarterback into an incompleteness on another.

Lake-Lehman coach Jerry Gilsky has been able to count on the play of Borum, and the teammates with which he works most often, throughout the season. He credits Borum, Jones and Brady Butler for taking away the inside from opposing offense and Borum, Luke Hummel, Cory Hoyt, Phil Hetters, Conner McGovern, Zach Brucher and Kody Pachamovitch for providing the blocking that has allowed Lake-Lehman to remain almost exclusively on the ground while averaging more than 42 points per game.

"We're very athletic and very

physical up front," Gilsky said.

Borum shows his athleticism year-round at Lake-Lehman where he is also a standout as a center on the basketball team and a pitcher in baseball season.

The Black Knights had other players excel in the playoff opener.

Jones carried 20 times for 125 yards, three touchdowns and a two-point conversion. Joey Vigil carried seven times for 124 yards, including a pair of 51-yard runs to set up scores, and also returned an interception 44 yards. Antonio Ferrari threw a touchdown pass and made an interception. Pachamovitch caught the touchdown pass and Wright ran for the other score.



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Lake-Lehman's Kody Pachamovitch, left, bobbles the ball in the end zone but gains control for a touchdown as Susquehanna's Craig Stanley defends in a District 2 Class 2A semifinal.



Lake-Lehman's Brady Butler celebrates after recovering a fumble against Susquehanna.

# Hockey players named all-stars

Wyoming Valley Conference scoring champion Vanessa Parsons led a group of three Dallas players selected as first-team Division 1-2A all-stars in voting by conference coaches.

Michelle Thompson and Cortlyn Van Deutsch also represented Dallas on the first team. Lily Amadio and Abby Downs were named to the second team.

Lake-Lehman's Alyssa

Adams and Korri Wandel were named to the first team while Taylor Abda, Emily Galasso, Tiffani Malinowski, Sarah Sabalusi, Tracy Snyder, Lilli Stepanski and Katie Supey were all selected for the second team.

Tunkhannock placed Marley Mason and Haylee Underwood on the Division 2 first team and Kailey Reposa, Mary Sickler and Alissa Zamber on the second team.

# Lehman prepares to host UNICO game for first time

Annual East-West gridiron classic set for Nov. 30

**TOM ROBINSON**  
For The Dallas Post

Lake-Lehman will host the UNICO All-Star Football Classic for the first time at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30 and six Black Knights will play on their home field

- unless they have something better to do that weekend.

Rosters for the game, which features senior players from the Wyoming Valley Conference, were revealed last week with the understanding that players on teams still active in the state playoffs will not be eligible to play.

Lake-Lehman, which is in the District 2 Class AA playoffs trying to advance to state play, had six players selected to the West team scheduled to

be coached by Wyoming Valley West's Pat Keating. If Keating is still busy with state playoffs, Holy Redeemer's Pat Reece will step in.

Two-way lineman Pete Borum, running back/linebacker Brady Butler, running back/defensive tackle Dustin Jones, wide receiver Kyle Romanofski, wide receiver/linebacker Josh Winters and running back/linebacker Bobby Wright were selected from Lake-Lehman.

The West will try to

extend a seven-game winning streak.

Dallas also has six players in the game - running back/linebackers Logan Brace and Bill Gately, two-way linemen Luke Edwards and Rocky Rutkoski, tight end/defensive lineman Mark Michno and offensive lineman/linebacker Mike Mihal.

Tunkhannock had offensive lineman/linebacker Alex Bishop, two-way linemen Josh Kosak and Ben Swiley, running back/linebacker Shane Edmondson and wide

receiver/defensive back Mike Markovitz selected for the team.

The West also features players from Berwick, Holy Redeemer, Northwest, Wyoming Area and Wyoming Valley West.

The East, which will be coached by Hanover Area's Ron Hummer and GAR's Paul Wiedlich Jr., has players from those two schools as well as Coughlin, Crestwood, Hazleton Area, Meyers, Nanticoke and Pittston Area.