

# Knights outplay opponents but suffer loss

Damage done minutes into game.

**TOM ROBINSON**  
For The Dallas Post

Lake-Lehman spent the final 41 minutes of a championship football season racking up significant statistical advantages while outplaying District 11 champion Catasauqua.

The Black Knights, however, could not overcome the damage done in the first seven minutes of their first Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association state playoff game in 16 years or by the four fumbles they lost while trying to mount a comeback.

Catasauqua used two early touchdowns to build an advantage it never lost in a 33-21 victory Nov. 22 at Wyoming Valley West's Spartan Stadium that sent the Rough Riders on to this weekend's PIAA Class AA quarterfinals.

The loss ended an 11-game Lake-Lehman winning streak and a season in which the Black Knights won Wyoming Valley Conference Class AA-A Division and District 2 Class AA titles.

"We fought to the end," Lake-Lehman coach Jerry Gilsky said. "I guess you can complain about the turnovers, but the overall team effort this year, I can't complain."

Catasauqua sandwiched two touchdown passes in its first eight offensive plays around a three-and-out series by Lake-Lehman to take a quick, 14-0 lead that it never relinquished.

Lake-Lehman controlled the game the rest of the way, building advantages of 18-8 in first downs, 249-64 in rushing yards, 357-282 in total yards, 67-36 in offensive plays, and 32:00-11:19 in time of possession after falling into a two-touchdown deficit.

The game was a matchup of unique and distinctly different offensive styles.

Lake-Lehman featured



The Lake Lehman football team takes the field at Spartan Stadium in Kingston to play Catasauqua in a PIAA Class 2A playoff game.



Lake-Lehman cheerleaders root for the black Knights during Friday's PIAA Class 2A playoff game at Spartan Stadium in Kingston.

a power game that had seen the Black Knights run the ball more than 10 times for every pass. Even with the lead, Catasauqua never strayed from its fast-paced, no-huddle attack that had seen the team average more than 20 passes per game over the second half of the season.

Both teams had success for much of the game using those styles, although each defense also had its bright moments.

Dustin Jones carried 37 times for 206 yards and all three touchdowns while surpassing the 2,000-yard mark on the season for Lake-Lehman.

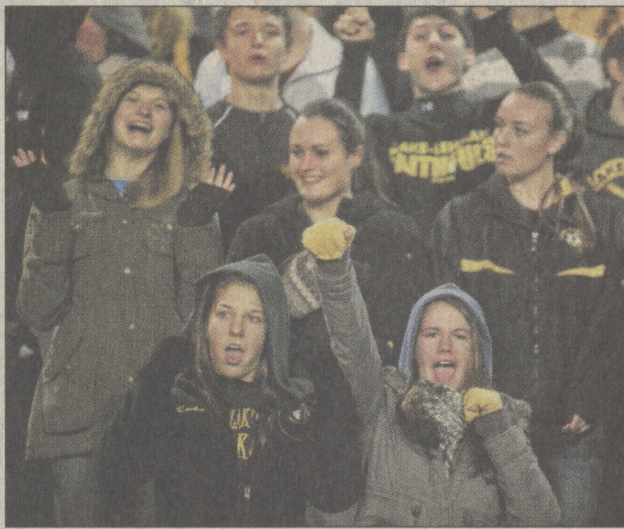
Catasauqua took advantage of the four fumbles and kept the Black Knights from eventually breaking off a long run.

Brady Butler had the only Lake-Lehman run of more than 15 yards in 58 attempts on a 30-yarder with a minute left and the Rough Riders in front by 19.

"Turnovers killed us," Lake-Lehman coach Jerry Gilsky said. "In this type of offense, this style of offense we had, you can't do it."

Zach Bradley was 11-for-22 passing for 260 yards and five touchdowns, including five for 164 yards and three touchdowns to Paryss Marshall to lead Catasauqua.

Lake-Lehman made two interceptions against a Rough Riders team that had thrown just three in the previous 12 games. After the fast start, the Black Knights allowed just six completions in 16



Lake-Lehman football fans cheer for their Black Knights in the first round of the PIAA Class 2A playoff game at Spartan Stadium in Kingston.

passes for 134 yards.

The Black Knights got within seven, 14-7, after one quarter. They lost ground, however, in the second quarter when they lost a fumble at the Rough Riders' 14, drove for 12 plays and moved into Catasauqua territory only to have to punt, dropped a pass that appeared to be ready to produce a touchdown, committed two penalties after reaching the 10 and missed a field goal.

"There were too many missed opportunities," Gilsky said. "We were in the Red Zone three times and couldn't convert."

Instead of continuing the comeback, Lake-Lehman went into half-

time trailing, 20-7.

The championship season was led by major contributions from six seniors, fullback/defensive tackle Jones, running back/linebacker Butler, two-way lineman Pete Borum, two-way end Kyle Romanofski, wingback/defensive back Bobby Wright and defensive back Josh Winters.

"The six seniors were the pulse of the team, they really were," Gilsky said.

While those seniors led the Black Knights to a breakthrough season, having the majority of the roster returning also gives reason for hope of more success in the future.



The Lake-Lehman Knights huddle together and raise their helmets before the start of Friday's PIAA Class 2A playoff game against Catasauqua at Spartan Stadium in Kingston.



Joey Vigil (25) of Lake Lehman tries to elude Catasauqua defenders in the 1st quarter of Friday's PIAA Class 2A playoff game at Spartan Stadium in Kingston.



Lake-Lehman football coach Jerry Gilsky, left, and his coaching staff send in a play during Friday's PIAA Class 2A playoff game at Spartan Stadium in Kingston.

## Four BMT soccer teams advance to WV Cup finals

The U-13 and U-18 girls teams won titles while the U-13 and U-16 boys teams reached championship games.

**TOM ROBINSON**  
For The Dallas Post

*Editor's note: This story originally ran in the Nov. 17 issue of The Dallas Post; however, it did not run in its entirety. We are running the entire story again this week.*

Four Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association travel teams wrapped up their seasons by making it to the finals of the Wyoming Valley Cup.

The U-13 and U-18 girls teams won titles while the U-13 and U-16 boys teams reached championship games.

"This is the biggest thing that our U-11 and above teams do," said BMYSA U-13-plus commissioner Shane Fegely.

Fegely coached the U-13 boys team, which had the most wins of any Back Mountain team in the event. It was the fourth straight year that Fegely coached a team to a runner-up finish in the Wyoming Valley Cup.

After losing its opener in the 11-team tournament, the Back Mountain Raptors won five straight games in the double-elimination event

to fight all the way back to the U-13 boys championship game.

The Raptors scored at least four goals in all five wins, outscoring opponents, 28-10. In the losers' bracket final, the Raptors avenged a 1-0 loss in last year's championship game with a 4-3 victory over Hanover.

The five-game win streak set up a rematch with Mountaintop #1, which opened a three-goal lead before Brenden Jesse scored on a penalty kick with a minute to go in the 3-1 loss.

The Raptors roster includes Jesse, Jonathan Bapst, Russell Coolbaugh and Garrett Wakely from Dallas, Ibrahim Dabsheh, Brandon Hoyt, Brian Kmetz, Trey Leo and Alexander Solano from Shavertown, Nicholas Fegely from Sweet Valley, Mason Cross from Shickshinny, Ryan McDermott from Wyoming and Kyle Naugle from Hunlock Creek.

The Back Mountain Wild Angels won four straight games, the last two over Plains #1, to take the title of the seven-team U-13 girls bracket.

Mike Borton coached



Back Mountain's Brian Kmetz, left, looks to score against Mountain Top in the Wyoming Valley Cup U-13 championship.

the Wild Angels with assistance from Don Strickland and Holly Kline. The roster included Jordyn Jones, Natasha Pavlichko, Aryan Blazick, Sydney Strickland, Hunter Kline, Megan Borton, Isabella Green, Hailey Sobocinski, Shelby Carr, Sarah Derhammer, Johanna Kiska, Celeste Josulevicz, Emily Bogdon and Samantha Boice.

Back Mountain beat

Kingston in two straight games to win the title in U-18 girls, which featured three teams.

Laurence Stearn coached the team and was assisted by Tess Klaipe.

The roster was Sarah Evans, Haley Haddle, Kelly Jacobs, Lindsey Jacobs, Mary Kate Katyl, Hannah Martin, Courtney Powell and Allison Rismondo from Dallas; Leah Kleynowski

and Keisha Segear from Trucksville; Alexis Pelchar and Marissa Rollman from Shavertown; Lia Ruggerio from Harveys Lake; Kayla Stearn from Wyoming; and Sydney Butwin from Luzerne.

There were five teams in the U-16 boys tournament where Back Mountain won twice and lost a pair of games to the Stoners #2 team that won the title.



Brandon Hoy, left, controls the ball for the Back Mountain Raptors in the Wyoming Valley Cup U-13 championship against Mountain Top.



Back Mountain Raptors' Brenden Jesse, right, chases down the ball against a Mountain Top player in the Wyoming Valley Cup U-13 championship.