

NEIRAD

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Darien High School, Darien, Connecticut

December 20, 1973



Based on the same principle as the Venus-flytrap, this seemingly innocent Christmas tree is, in truth, the latest in library detection devices. The bulbs contain miniature revolving T.V. cameras which monitor the entire Media Center. Because the "big brother" system has been subject to breakdowns, this seasonal approach to preventing library thefts provides an answer. So far, the tree has nabbed several would-be book thieves, but, in the Christmas Spirit, it has been lenient with first offenders. (Photo by Kim Hoffman.)

Is Christmas Spirit In Crisis?

By TOM GAMMILL

In this year of shortages of everything from heating fuel to toilet paper, many people don't know if they'll really be able to celebrate Christmas.

"My mom says we won't be able to put our neon flashers on the aluminum tree," I heard one sophomore say disappointedly during lunch recently.

"Oh, yeah!" said one of the girls' friends. "My mom told me we can't even afford an interior decorator to come in and do our tree."

"That's not so bad," I heard someone else say. "We just ordered an all-electric Santa's workshop set from *Reader's Digest* and my parents say we can't turn on the 23 elves, or put the gasoline-propelled sled on the roof... this is going to be the worst Christmas since the time I only got 31 presents!"

"Our family thought we might get along with just a Douglas Fir for the holidays," I said.

"That's not a bad idea," a friend en-

couraged me. "My dad says with our own thermostats down to 65 degrees, we should all be wearing furs..."

"NO, NO!" I piped up. "We're going to buy a fir tree from the senior class Christmas Tree Sale! They've been selling Christmas trees every day since December 8 at the football field! The prices are between \$7-10 and the trees range anywhere from 6 to 12 feet! And the revenue goes to the senior class scholarship fund!"

But my friends were apprehensive. "It sounds like another one of those capitalist plots to ruin the true meaning of Christmas... Whoever heard of a real tree for Christmas!"

"Come on!" I pleaded, "you guys don't know what Christmas is all about! Last year we bought a real tree, decorated it all by ourselves, and then we went to church on Christmas day!"

"Church!" my friends yelled hysterically. "Don't tell us they're trying to get into the picture, too!"

Board Searches For A Super-Man

By ROGER HORINE

The Darien Board of Education held a special public hearing on the selection of the new superintendent Wednesday, Dec. 12. The Selection Sub-committee of the board and the consultants they hired wanted to hear what the townspeople thought the "qualities and characteristics" of a new head administrator should be.

The regular board "groupies" were out in full force, urging selection of a superintendent that would provide "fiscal responsibility" and "conservatism" to the school system.

H. race Nichol, chairman of the Citizen's Committee on Schools said that young people in the Darien system "can't read, can't spell and can't understand grammar."

He recounted one story of a woman friend who needed a helper. He said he suggested that she call the high school, "I was glad to tell her, 'Call the high school; they have many fine young people who will work.' She called, and the high school told her that no one there wanted to work."

One woman said that her student comes home and tells of his freedom. She said that kids are "just roaming around, studying things like the sex life of a tsetse fly in menopause. The 3Ks and history are not there anymore. They've done away with penmanship! We can't read what they write anymore."

Another man said that there is need for the revival of discipline. He said that there is too much time for talk of sports and not cars that people must have to be in the "in" group.

Susan Faulkner said, "I'm looking for a man with experience." She added that an assistant superintendent moving up to the top spot would not be acceptable.

A common theme that was expressed in the comments of many, was expressed by William Jones:

"We've had a chain of three superintendents who have told us what we are going to have and what they were going to give us." He said that the Board of Education is charged with telling the superintendent what to do, not the other

Bruno Calls On Council To Pursue Other Issues

By SANDY WARD

Principal Gordon Bruno presented the following statement to *Neirad* in a recent interview:

"I certainly support the School Council's right to appeal my veto [of the Council-passed homeroom bill] with my administrative superior. However, it is incomprehensible to me why the Council has preoccupied itself with the homeroom issue for almost half of the year to the exclusion of many other priorities. The school's part in the energy crisis, a constitutional revision to prevent future hassles between the School Council and the administration, ways of improving our physical environment at school and how we treat it, are only a few of these priorities.

"It is beginning to appear as though the School Council has linked not only its image but also its very existence to winning a mythical power struggle. In so doing, it is avoiding the many opportunities to establish itself as a tremendously valuable influence on the direction and operation of the school."

Dr. Bruno elaborated on some of the points in his veto message. He said that it "necessarily follows" that administrative chaos would result with the proposed policy which called for a "check-in" system of homeroom attendance. He feels that an "unmanageable burden" would be placed on the homeroom teacher and that the teacher would be in an "impossible position" due to the work required by the policy.

According to Dr. Bruno, "a perfect analogy to this ludicrous policy" would be in the form of posting the speed limit on the "Thruway" at "somewhere between fifty and seventy and expecting it to work."

He then discussed what he termed, "the other side of responsibility." He said

that we (the school community) have many freedoms, but "what we haven't done enough of is the other side." Most students, he said, do not want to accept those kinds of responsibilities such as keeping the smoking area neat.

Dr. Bruno believes that the present homeroom policy offers a good chance to exercise responsibility by asking students to be on time. Those who don't show up, according to him, need to be "guided." The policy is effective, he says, because there is a "very clear consequence."

He continued that if he had been able to think up an equally effective policy without using suspension as a penalty, he would have chosen it last summer. He went on to say that the school Council has spent too much time on the matter and he believes that their attitude is one of "if we can't have all the marbles, we can't have any." The council and he can work together, but there must be a shared authority, he feels.

On Friday, December 7, a group of students distributed a leaflet calling for a boycott of homerooms on Tuesday. They also suggested that all students attend the Board of Education to support the Council's appeal of Dr. Bruno's veto.

Monday morning, Dec. 10, Andy Walworth, editor of *Neirad*, read a statement over the P.A. asking that students not boycott the next day. The editorial said that the editorial staff did not consider the policy fair, but felt that mass action now would be premature. They urged that all legal action be "exhausted" before any such mass action took place. Finally they asked that students show up at the January meeting of the Board of Ed. to show how serious the school community views this issue and to "make our voices count."

SCHOOL SESSIONS WILL REMAIN ON SCHEDULE

The Board of Education has ruled that Christmas vacation will not be extended as per the State Board of Education's directive. Jack Forte, the board's representative to a conference in Westport of superintendents and board members told *Neirad* that the schools are going to stay open as usual.

Mr. Forte characterized the Westport confab as an "information exchange of ideas." No formal binding votes were taken.

According to Jacqueline Danzberger, chairman, the board will not comply with the state order to close schools at 4 p.m. daily and not open on weekends at this time.

Mr. Forte stressed that fuel economy measures would be widespread. Town and other meetings that normally use school facilities will be consolidated to one night each week whenever possible. Adult education is expected to continue on schedule.

way around.

He continued, "We need someone who will get the most for the taxpayer's dollar. We've had enough empire building, proliferation of courses, and experimental programs."

Norman Donofree represented a faction advocating the nomination of Ralph Perchino. He was disturbed that the board called in three out-of-town professionals to aid in the selection. "You don't know any of the special problems Darien has," he told the panelists. "You might suggest somebody from Nebraska who has never heard of Darien," he said.

Rudolph Safarik, with the Citizens Committee on Schools, said that the board gives in under parent pressure in approving "unreasonable" ideas. He called for a man with "conservative imagination," who would not encourage proliferation of electives.

The consultants chosen by the board also met with student, teacher and other citizen groups earlier in the day in an attempt to view all sides of the issue.

NEIRAD



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Make Our Voices Heard Where They Will Count

On Monday, Dec. 10, a Neirad editorial was read over the p.a. system. The editorial asked students to refrain from boycotting homeroom on the following Tuesday. No boycott occurred, and Neirad commends the student body on their sound judgement during a difficult period.

As the editorial stated, we urged all students not to boycott homeroom "not because we consider the present policy fair, but because we believe any illegal mass action at this time would be premature."

The following is a partial text of the Dec. 10 editorial:

We urge you not to strike, because we must exhaust every legal alternative before resorting to mass action. For almost half a year now, the School Council has been trying, through every constitutional means possible, to retract the present policy. Principal Bruno's latest veto is under appeal to the Superintendent of Schools. If the veto is upheld at this level, it can be appealed to the Darien Board of Education. The Board of Ed is analogous to the Supreme Court, and their decision cannot be altered unless they themselves do so on a later date.

The point is this: How can we expect Dr. Bruno or the Board of Ed to uphold the constitution if we ourselves have no faith in it?

We must, however, show our support for the School Council and the Constitution during this most crucial of periods. We are reaching the end of our constitutional rope, and we can either hang by it or be raised by it.

There will be a Board of Education meeting early in January, and the final appeal will be made.

If this final appeal for a fair homeroom policy is voted down, the School Council will have been reduced to an advisory committee to the principal, with no power other than to suggest.

If this final appeal for a fair homeroom policy is voted down, we will be saddled with the present policy, which has suspended over 60 students to date, and will continue to suspend students every semester, every year.

For these reasons, we urge students not to strike now, but to show faith. We must show that, despite recent set-backs, the student body still believes in an effective School Council.

A January Board of Ed meeting will be the place to show ourselves. If every student, teacher, and parent sympathetic to this cause is at that meeting, we will show the Board of Ed just how serious we are about this issue. Two hundred students won't make much difference. Five hundred might make them think twice, but it will take no fewer than one thousand people, protesting the present policy and supporting the School Council, to have any effect upon their decision.

Let us all work toward that goal: to be at that meeting in full force, and to make our voices heard where they will count."



"YES, VIRGINIA- THERE IS A HOMEROOM POLICY."

VIEWPOINTS

Ride The Bus With Us

Editor's note: The ideas expressed in this column do not necessarily represent the editorial positions of Neirad. Readers are invited to turn in their views in editorial form to the Neirad box in the front office. Submission of a column does not guarantee publication, but we will attempt to print as many worthy "Viewpoints" as possible.

By BILL HELMAN

Every morning the top two parking lots at DHS are full. In addition, most of the football field lot is full. Cars are parked outside power mechanics and on Nutmeg Lane. It is obvious that many of these cars belong to administration and faculty and that some cars are necessary to some students, but the amount of automobiles is ridiculous. I feel that

those who drive "for the helluva it" should start making that long walk to the bus stop.

With the current gas shortage and the high prices, wouldn't it be wise to leave the "wheels" at home in favor of the less expensive, as a matter of fact free, bus ride?

The buses arrive at school on time and many of you live within easy walking distance of a nearby bus stop. So why not take the bus? Is it too downgrading to be seen with those sophomores who don't have their licenses? The buses must go to school anyway so why not dust off your hiking boots and plan for the trek tomorrow? Let the school pay for your trip so you don't have to pay the high price per gallon of gas. That tremendous amount of exercise in the morning might be enough to make gym optional!

Give Us A Homeroom Break

By A DHS STUDENT
(Name withheld by request)

I can understand why Dr. Bruno rejected the homeroom policy, but I still don't see why students must be suspended just because they missed three homerooms. This penalty is too strong. It hurts the student academically by causing him to miss classes. It goes on his high school record which doesn't make him look too good either. Anyway, four absences are not enough. A student should be given more chances.

While driving to school last week, I let a teacher go before me. I followed her all the way up Noroton Avenue. I came into

homeroom at 7:52 and received a tardy. I got a tardy because my homeroom teacher was on time for the first time that week, but what happened to the other teacher? Why can a homeroom teacher come in at 7:55 or 8:00 several times a week and get away with it, when a student comes in two minutes late and gets a late mark (that is, if the teacher is there yet).

I also sit in homeroom listening to the morning announcements and watch the teachers park their cars and proceed (late) to homeroom. A student should be penalized for breaking a school rule, but isn't there some alternative? Give us a break, not a cut.

Women's Lib Ms.understood

By MARTHA CONSTABLE
(another DHS girl)

The "Viewpoint" by "a DHS girl" published in the November 5 issue of Neirad is another example of the flagrant misrepresentation that women's liberation is given all over the country. Apparently the author believes that the essence of this controversial issue is that women want to act, look, and think "like men" in every possible way. According to her, this is done at DHS by wearing clothes "purposely as scruffy as boy's clothes," being "as clean as the boy's locker room," and having "purposely foul language." Not only is this interpretation of women's liberation a fallacy, but it is a personal insult to every male in our student body.

The letter goes on to admit grudgingly that "perhaps" girls are equal to boys

intellectually, but they are not equal physically. Of course this is true. No girl who wears "unisex clothing" does so to prove that she, too, is unisex. This is impossible, for obvious reasons. The popularity of boy's clothing is due to the fact that it is often more comfortable and more practical than girl's clothing. By no means does it have to be "scruffy," as the letter implies. It is fortunate for the author that she decided to remain anonymous, for her objection to "unisex" clothing has offended a significant percentage of the school population.

The Women's Movement is, if anything, an individualist movement. It emphasizes that a society with strict, separate codes of behavior for the two sexes restricts the freedom of both sexes. The people that denounce it, like our unknown author, are usually those who don't understand it.

Girl Resolves Dress-up Dilemma

By ANOTHER DHS GIRL:
(Name withheld by request)

After reading the "Viewpoint" of the DHS girl in your Nov. 5 edition, I stared at myself in the mirror — from my combat boots and khaki pants to my pea jacket. I couldn't help thinking how appalled that girl would be at my appearance. Just as I was about to run home to douse myself in perfume and struggle into a dress, I stopped to think. I don't care what she wears — she can show up in satin and pink chiffon if she wants. Far be it from me to say that I

think she looks pretty dumb in patent leather loafers so I don't see why she has the right to criticize my clothes. In reference to her statement about the dating situation here at DHS, I must say that wardrobe seems a rather thin basis for romance. But that's my opinion. It may come as a shock to her that all girls do not dress for boys. Some girls do not depend on clothes to attract attention. If she feels she must dress to please others, fine, but she has no right to expect me, or anyone else, to do so.

Nelson Courts Girls' Basketball Team



Coach Nelson working with the team. (Photo by Moira Gehring.)

By JANE ADAMS

The 1973 Girls' Basketball Squad starts its season with two new coaches and plenty of enthusiasm.

George Nelson of the Math Department and Deborah Billington, the new physical education teacher, coach the varsity and junior varsity respectively.

Mr. Nelson, the first male coach of a girls' sport in the history of DHS, mentioned four reasons why he decided to coach the team. First of all, the girls' team needed a coach. Secondly, Mr. Nelson stated, "I couldn't practice with the boys until 4 p.m. and I don't like to waste the time between 2:35 and 4:00." Mr. Nelson expressed a desire to teach the girls the fundamentals of the game and to cultivate an appreciation for basketball. "It's not just a rat race on the court; it's a highly skilled and organized game." Finally, Mr. Nelson added that he likes the game and feels there is a lot to learn in competition. He commented, "Girls are willing to compete academically and I'd like to see the same competitive energy athletically."

Coach Nelson remarked on the abilities of his 12 varsity players. He feels Co-captains Debbie Grant and Laura Molony are "good players and good leaders" and mentioned that "Jeanne Harford and Leslie Milne are very enthusiastic and will help us a lot."

Two new players, Mary McCurdy and Cathy Levy, are shaping up well. Mr. Nelson feels, along with Karen Fitzpatrick and Inga Trohan, Julie Hendrickson, Alison King, and Betty McDermott were all termed "very valuable." Kathy Kamin and Terry

Delaney have joined the basketball squad since the swimming season ended and he sees rapid development in both of them.

Mr. Nelson stressed the need for weekend and vacation practices and added, "Girls' sports are the only ones that don't practice on weekends. If we want to represent this school we'll have to put in a little extra effort." Mr. Nelson intends to work with the team in the same way he does the boys' team. (He also coaches the boys' j.v. basketball team.)

Regarding the junior varsity, first year coach Miss Billington remarked on the "very enthusiastic response of over 35 sophomores." She stated, "It was difficult to select the j.v. team." Coach Billington hopes to see a lot of fan support for the team.

Gymnastics Coach Predicts Fine Season

By ANDY WALWORTH

"We don't expect to lose too many this season," grinned Coach Battino in a recent *Neirad* interview. Indeed, the DHS gymnastic team's prospects for the coming year seem promising. With 19 gymnasts, this year's large team should be able to continue Izzy's phenomenal history at Darien.

Co-captains Mickey Vitti and Walter Dorrell are both returning state champions, in parallel bars and all-around respectively. Both hope to repeat last year's performance at the individual States. Other prospective state champs are Steve Infante on floor exercise, Don Hoffman on side horse, and Bob Bianco on parallel bars. John Lammis and Craig Sweeney are also fine gymnasts. New and promising sophomores are Joe Pagliarula and Anthony Totilo.

"Greenwich will be our only tough team," said Coach. "They've got an experienced club; only two or three of their gymnasts graduated. It'll take a little work to beat them, but we've got a strong club. Actually, our biggest problem is space. We've got over forty kids working out in this gym foyer every day. There's no room for rings, high bar, or a large floor ex. mat." If that proves to be the team's biggest problem for the '73-'74 season, it's going to be quite a year.

Matmen Assume Ready Position

By JIM CLARK

The Darien High School Wrestling Team, coached by James Girard, opens its season at New Canaan Friday, December 21.

This year's team has been working hard preparing for its new season. Unfortunately they will be slightly handicapped because of the loss of seven seniors in last year's graduation. But the team is ready and waiting with three returning veterans from last year's team, including Captain Aaron Peters, and juniors Sal Ferraina and John De Cesare, who will try to preserve Darien's five meet end-of-last-season win streak in the opener.

Though the team lacks experience, there are many enthusiastic, talented men trying to fill these open spots.

Though no positions are definite, the team is beginning to take shape, and probable wrestlers on the varsity could be the following: Gary McDaniel, unlimited; Aaron Peters, 169 lbs.; Rick Risely, 155 lbs.; Sal Ferraina, 147 lbs.; Rich Grimaldi, 140 lbs.; Wade Peters, 124 lbs.; Peter Dragone, 134 lbs.; Steve Hart, 128 lbs.; Jamie McElroy, 114 lbs.; and John DeCesare, 107 lbs.

Luckily for this year's team it has seven men coming back from last year's fine team.

Darien may be lacking in weight distribution and experience, but makes up for it with determination and spirit and will try to prove it this year in the Christmas Tournament at Westhill December 28, against Westhill, Stamford, and Rippowam, which the Blue won last year.

Winter Track Scene:

The Diary Of A Harried Harrier

By GARRY LEONARD

Summer has gasped its last and we can soon look forward to winter. One of the more unusual things about this time of year is that it's the season designated to run track. Track? Well, indoor track really, but it's the same as spring track... almost.

For the sprinter and the field event man, winter track has obvious advantages. One of these is being able to practice in the warmth and luxury of the great indoors. There is, however, another member of the team who is not so fortunate: the distance runner for whom long mileage daily is essential. It is to this Godforsaken athlete this journal is dedicated.

The public in general is of the opinion that anyone who would run seven to ten miles on a hard road is of questionable sanity, and anyone who'd do it in thirty degree weather or below should be committed, even if he appears harmless.

One of the things that is a constant source of amusement to me when I'm run-

ning (believe me one isn't easily amused gasping for air amid exhaust fumes in cold weather) is the reaction of people you pass on the sidewalk. Women clutch convulsively at their children, their pocketbooks, or both, and glare at you suspiciously as you jog by.

The men, not to be outdone, express their knowledge of road running by giving you a knowing grin, and asking something intelligent like, "Whatcha doing, pal?"

There is another common occurrence in the daily life of a runner. In a word, dogs. Put on a pair of running pants, find the most docile dog in the world, and jog past him slowly. As you gaze down at the remainder of your leg, you should begin to understand what the sight of the lowly runner does to the canine mind.

There is one other peril familiar to the road runner, especially in winter, known as the automobile. You have not experienced the full spice of life, until you round a turn and are confronted by this wondrous machine controlled by someone who feels that he is the sole

owner of the road and all that surrounds it. His philosophy is that pedestrians are a nuisance that must be tolerated, but runners? Unless they can go sixty miles an hour in a thirty mile zone like he can, they have no business impeding his progress.

Another joy is the driver that comes along behind you, then suddenly leans on the horn. Your heart, which is already under considerable strain, practically leaps through the roof of your mouth. Obnoxious of the turmoil he has caused, the driver will then nonchalantly give a hand signal indicating he just wanted to turn into the drive you're running across. I usually comply with a hand signal of my own.

The average reader must by now be curious as to why, if I have so many complaints about the sport, I continue to run it. To you I say, because it's there. If you think that's a pretty sad reason, remember it was used to justify the climbing of Everest, and if it was good enough for them, it's good enough for me.

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Hoopsters Hope To Be Happier

By TODD BURGER

Just as seasons of weather change, seasons of sports change. Basketball is on top at Darien High with head coach Richard Percudani at the helm of the Blue Wave for the second year.

Darien fans were optimistic about their team's chances of having a winning year this season, and it was with no wonder with four returning lettermen back in the fold this year.

Co-Captains Greg Gillman, and Greg Jones, John Risola, and Bert Barrow are all returning veterans to the team, with Gillman and Risola starting at the forwards, receiving relief from Barrow and Jones starting at guard. Center is occupied this year by Chip Tallman, a promising senior transfer from Chicago, Illinois, and Jeff Leonard is the other guard with Jeff Fitzpatrick alternating with him or Jones.

The hopes of Darien fans were further enhanced by the Wave's rousing victory over St. Lukes in a scrimmage. Darien completely destroyed the St. Lukes basketball team, defeating them by a score of 90 to 34.

In the season opener against Jonathan Law, Friday, December 7, the Darien side of DHS gymnasium was packed in anticipation of a Blue Wave victory. Darien lost the ball game 44-42. Don't let the score mislead you. It was anything but a defensive struggle. Both teams played in the Yuletide spirit that it is better to give than receive. It looked as if neither team wanted the basketball. Darien trailed at halftime 24-22.

Darien came out in the second half and just couldn't avoid committing errors and missing shots. But Law, not to be outdone, matched Darien error for error and Darien led going into the fourth period 36-32, but couldn't hang on and finally lost the heart-breaker.

High scorer for Darien was John Risola who had fifteen points. Chip Tallman was right behind him with fourteen. Others who scored for Darien were Greg Jones who had six, Jeff Leonard with two, and Greg Gillman tallied a surprising one.

Darien's next opponent was Stamford High, a home game played on December 11. In a surprise performance, considering how they played against Law, Darien threw a scare into Stamford, playing good, aggressive basketball in the second half. In the first half it looked like an instant replay of the

Law game only against a better team. At times it looked as if Stamford was going to blow Darien off the court, leading at one point in the first half 30-12. Darien came back to narrow Stamford's lead at half time 44-31.

Darien came out in the second half a different ball club. They were more aggressive, more confident, in complete contrast of the way they played against Law. Led by Greg Gillman, who was high scorer with twenty-four points, Darien came back and with about three-and-a-half minutes remaining in the game Chip Tallman, who for the second game in a row made 14 points, scored, tying the game at 62-62. Stamford went ahead 66-62 but that was narrowed to 66-64 on a shot by Jeff Leonard who had twelve points for the game. But Darien then reverted to their old ways losing the ball twice and fouling a Stamford player and lost the game 72-64. Darien's remaining points were scored by John Risola, who had eight, and Jeff Fitzpatrick with six.

It was a tough loss for Darien who proved that they could play basketball when motivated.

Icemen Skate For Winning Season

By MATT CLINTON

The Blue Wave Hockey Team, coached by Dan Doolittle, is looking forward to another successful season, this year in the Eastern Division of the FCIAC.

As usual, Coach Doolittle is playing two lines alternately. The first line is centered by senior Jim Groat with Charlie Hartigan and Brian Nadriczny skating the wings. The other of the two lines is centered by Bill Vernon with Huck Hough and Steve Franklin skating along side him. The defense is led by co-captain Greg Clark along with Matt Clinton, Eric DiSilvestro and Curt Sites. Co-captain Marc Chilton is starting in goal.

The Wavers suffered a grueling 2-1 defeat in the opening game of the season against the New Canaan Rams, last year's runner-up for the state championship. Next the pucksters faced the Vikings of Westhill. The Wavers blasted



Blue Wave puckster Brian Nadriczny (12) vies for puck with Ram player in opener against New Canaan December 4. (Photo by Dave Meeker.)

Do Poolsters Lack Depth?

By TODD BURGER

The Darien Blue Wave Boys' Swimming Team has been working hard to try and register another winning season to go down in the annals of DHS sports history.

This year's team has several lettermen returning and some promising newcomers to help carry Darien to a winning season. Co-Captains Jay and Rob Byler return along with Tom and Peter Craig, Mike Amaya, Richard Simms, Richard McKenzie, Steve Kamin, John Beauchamp, and Rollie Lamberton. Newcomers to the team who will help the Wavers include Dave Chandler, Jim

Shannon, and Scott Kenney.

The team finished last year with a 13-2 record. Both losses occurred against Greenwich, whom the Blue will try to overcome this year.

When asked how he feels the teams chances are of repeating last year's success, head coach Mike Sangster replied, "It is difficult to say at this time. With the new ruling we are under it is hard to tell how we will do."

Darien last year swam under the rules of the NCAA, which count only the first three places in a meet. This year Darien is under the new rule of the National Federation of High School Athletics, which count the first five places in a meet. Coach Sangster stressed the importance that depth will play with Darien this year. "Our front line of swimmers is fine. Right now I'm worried about the depth we have. We have some unproven newcomers this year and they will have to come through for us to win this year. If everybody reaches their potential and develops the way they should we should do alright in the state meet. In the dual meets there is no way to tell because of the new ruling. What the new ruling does is count the first five places, whereas it was only the first three last year under the NCAA. Last year it took some 48 points to win a meet. This year it will take about eighty points to win a meet. We could take first place in every event and still lose the meet."

Darien is going to have a tough time to try and repeat last year. They have a tough schedule, and, with the new ruling, will have to have depth on the squad. But under the tutoring of Coach Sangster, look for the Blue Wave to be right up there in the top of the standings once again.

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