

Drinking: Staff Members Voice Concern

By MISSY McMAHON
MARY McGOLDRICK

Due to widespread feeling that there has been a gradual increase in the use of alcohol among teenagers throughout the United States, *Neirad* took a survey to see how this pertained locally, and then sought out what administrators and faculty felt about the drinking among Darien teenagers. (Survey results are printed on page 3.)

"Drinking is a problem in all of Fairfield County, not just Darien," explained Dorothy Herrmann, Social Worker for the Darien Schools. Miss Herrmann feels drinking is an "in-

dividual" problem and "definitely not a school-wide problem."

She stressed that drinking is not only a problem among teenagers, commenting that "alcoholism is a major health problem among adults in Fairfield County."

Early Education

Miss Herrmann suggested that beginning education regarding the effects of alcohol in the fifth or sixth grades could possibly cut down on the amount of drinking done in later years.

"Friend to friend" is the best way to help the drinking teenager. Miss Herrmann feels that in the majority of

cases it is a friend who helps the person who drinks excessively at a party or dance. She said that for students who need additional help, there are people in the high school who are there to help any student with a drinking problem, such as the nurse, Miss Pollart; Mrs. Ulrich, the school psychologist; guidance counselors and Miss Herrmann herself.

Increase In Drinking

Donald Robbins, assistant principal, feels that there has definitely been an increase in the number of students who drink in the last few years due to the lowering of the age of majority, and is

"seriously concerned" about student drinking. He is especially concerned about the "general acceptance by students of drinking as part of the social picture." He feels that the problem is not just a high school problem, but "a community problem," calling much of teenage drinking "a reflection of the larger community. Many parents seem to condone student drinking, accepting it as part of the social milieu."

Dr. Robbins feels that the problem of drinking should be "tackled by the students, which would be better than administrative edicts." He feels, however, that there is a need for an action based on "a cooperative effort among students, parents and administrators," citing the Activities Council or School Council as good "bases of discussion."

Dr. Robbins cited incidents at recent dances at DHS as examples of "unfortunate occurrences related to alcohol consumed prior to arriving at the

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NEIRAD

Volume LXXVI, Number 4

Darien High School, Darien, Connecticut

November 25, 1975



In an arduous quest for the perfect tree, Peter Daniel and Paul Sellew, Christmas Tree Sale co-chairmen, take a rest amidst the pines of New Hampshire. (Photo by Cindy Tower)

Winter Sales Raise Scholarship Fund

"I think this year will be our biggest profiting year," says co-chairman of this year's Christmas Tree Sale, Peter Daniel. The annual Darien High School Christmas Tree Sale will be held from December 6 to December 21. Located on the football field, this event is sponsored by the senior class and all proceeds will go to the Senior Class Scholarship Fund.

The trees, which are being bought from a dealer in New Hampshire, will be brought down in truck loads and unloaded by students by December 4.

All together there will be 500 trees and 100 wreaths. Out of these trees there are 475 balsam firs and 25 Scotch pines varying in height from six to eight feet. There will also be 50 twelve-inch wreaths and 50 fourteen-inch wreaths for sale.

The sale will be open weekdays between noon and 7 p.m. and between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Due to the high demand last year there will be more trees for sale this year. Paul Sellew is the other co-chairman for the event.

The annual Ski and Skate Sale took place on Saturday, November 22, at D.H.S. from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The purpose of the event was to raise money for the Darien Senior Scholarship Fund. According to earlier years' results and the large number of consignments, business manager Nancy Norton expected the sale to make an estimated \$2,500, which would be forty percent of all the money made.

This year the sale was under faculty and activities advisor Carolyn Krebs. Various committees were formed to run under the guidance of organizer of sale Lisa Shanahan, consignment

manager Patty Malone and publicity chairpersons Lynn Williams and Leslie Evans.

Despite the name of the sale, skis and skates were not the only items to be sold. Along with them, there were cross-country skiing equipment, clothes and winter and general sporting equipment.

The sale was run in the same manner as it has been in earlier years, with the only change being that customers were given a number on a first-come-first-served basis in order to cut down on large lines.

Faculty Member Bids Fond Farewell

By MARY McGOLDRICK

"Parting is such sweet sorrow," were the words of Herbert Gentry in a recent *Neirad* interview. Mr. Gentry of the Mathematics Department has recently retired from the faculty of DHS.

Mr. Gentry has been teaching mathematics at Darien High for the past eighteen years. Before coming to Darien, he taught in Norwalk. A graduate of Hobart College, he did extensive work at the graduate level. He attended various colleges: University of Buffalo, University of Vermont, Columbia, and New York University. Mr. Gentry also graduated from Harvard Law School. As a member of the Army, he participated in extensive travel to such places as Ulithi, New Caledonia, New Guinea and the Philippines.

Fishing and traveling are two of Mr. Gentry's hobbies. "Gardening, especially in roses," is another one of his hobbies.

In addition to his extensive travels while in the Army, Mr. Gentry has visited other areas of the world. "At my

own expense I went to Ireland, France, Mexico, England, Canada, Newfoundland, and the Caribbean.

Mr. Gentry noted major changes which he feels have been very beneficial to the academic quality of Darien High. "The Independent Study Program is an excellent opportunity. It gives students the chance to be on their own, and that's what education is all about." He feels this program better prepares a student for continuing education or entering a career. "It teaches a student self-discipline," he added.

"I think it is great that he started the stabilization of period one and the Alternate School," commented Mr. Gentry, complimenting Mr. Catania for these accomplishments. Mr. Gentry commented positively on Mr. Catania's first year as principal.

"I'm sad to go, and I will miss them. I've made so many friends here, both faculty and students," explained Mr. Gentry.

On the other hand, Mr. Gentry has interesting plans for the future. He will

'Viewpoint' Causes Controversy

By SUSAN LANE

During the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, October 28, Charles Leonard, a board member, commented that "all teachers should take particular note of the 'Viewpoint' expressed by the students in the October 20 *Neirad*." He said they (the students) were looking at things a little bit differently. Mr. Leonard was referring to the "Student Knocks Teacher Apathy" "Viewpoint" by Kelley Clough, which was about "a general lack of support among the faculty when it came to school activities." It also made reference to some teacher apathy in the classrooms.

Out of the seven board members surveyed, most did not feel that Mr. Leonard's action was unusual. Lillian Cooke felt, as did most board members, that "it was a good thing to bring up so the board members who did not see it would read it." Mrs. Cooke went on to say, "It probably took a lot of nerve to write it. I am sure it was a generality. There is, no doubt, some apathy. By the same token, there are others who work very hard." Macdonald Budd, chairman of the board, agreeing with Mrs. Cooke, "hopes and suspects the instances aren't substantial."

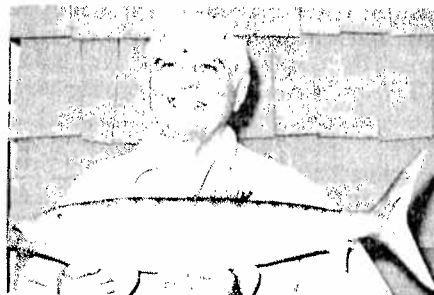
Jacqueline Danzberger wondered if

"there was any attempt to discuss this with the faculty," and "would like to know of particular instances where kids have run up against teacher apathy." She also felt that the Board might be able to come up with constructive ideas to correct the situation.

"It is always interesting to get a viewpoint of students, and it is interesting to get the opposing view," commented David Brown. Enid Oresman stated that "when kids say it (the 'Viewpoint') it's more meaningful to me." Mr. Budd felt the "Viewpoint" reflected that DHS has a "demanding and energetic student body."

"Apathy or indifference has no place in the teaching profession. Rather as you suggested in the 'Viewpoint,' teacher enthusiasm and participation in a wide variety of student activities is an essential component of quality education. The fact that any teacher is apathetic is sad. Widespread apathy is disastrous. If teacher apathy exists at DHS, it should be eliminated by the administrators with the support of the whole school community," were the views of John Zimmermann. Concerning the "Viewpoint," Mr. Leonard stated simply, "I have no reason to doubt it."

For a teacher response to the "Viewpoint," see the text on page two.



Mr. Gentry displays a bone fish which he caught while vacationing in Florida. (Photo by Mary McGoldrick)

Active Support For All

As the curtain falls on another season of fall activities, *Neirad* wishes to share some reflections.

Support of the DHS football team, which achieved a fine record, reached a zenith as dedicated fans flocked to Westport to view the Blue Wave as it battled, though in vain, for a berth in the county championships.

The Gentlemen Gymnasts, or Izzy's Boys as they are fondly called, captured the coveted state crown, continuing the legacy of excellence which has so often been associated with the Darien gymnastics program.

Neirad congratulates Donald Cunningham, who has directed a much-improved and expanded band corps in his rookie year as leader.

The support at some of these functions has been indeed outstanding. However, there are other sports and school activities for which there has been a minimal degree of this same support.

Let us not forget that Darien has an exemplary record of distinguished academics, as well as athletic endeavors.

We hope to see some of the zealous support, which was demonstrated at some fall sports activities, not only evident at all winter sports functions, but at other functions such as School Council, Activities Council, and class government meetings as well. Keep in mind that the DHS community is a diverse group which encompasses many dedicated individuals: both scholars and athletes. They all deserve your ideas, support, and active interest.

VIEWPOINTS

Coulombe Extends Congratulations

To the Editors:

I wish to publicly thank Mr. Del Mautte and his coaching staff for bringing the football team through a successful season. Although the loss to Staples was on the one hand disappointing, on the other hand, the fact that we played with such tremendous spirit and ability is a tribute to the staff, the students, and the parents and friends who stood behind them. Congratulations, too, to the gymnastics

team, State Champions.

Darien High School's varsity and junior varsity cheerleading squads deserve our thanks for a job well done this year. They worked very hard to keep our spirits up. So thanks to Lynn Williams and Liz Cosgrove, captains respectively of the varsity and junior varsity squads.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the teaching staff who have produced winners in the academic area. As many parents and friends know, we have had academic champions on the state and national level in the areas of English and Foreign Language.

The many efforts, both individual and team, put forth this year seem to be endowed with a fantastic spirit. I hope we can keep it up because our efforts are worthwhile and the years in school, here at Darien, will be all the more meaningful and worth remembering for everyone, especially our students.

Gerard Coulombe
Assistant Principal

Clark Hails Corps

To the Editors:

I found the appearance of the Pom Pom Girls enjoyable and beautiful — a fitting complement to the all-male, thank God, football team.

The recent "Viewpoint" article expressing such zealous dissatisfaction with these girls was frustration or sour grapes and should be recognized and answered as such.

To want fairness toward both sexes is laudable, but those who would equate Mean Joe Greene and Pete Rose with Angie Dickinson and Phyllis Schlafly need a refresher course in human biology.

Keith Clark, Member
Board of Education

NEIRAD

Neirad is published by the students of Darien High School on a bi-weekly basis. Letters and "Viewpoints" may be mailed to *Neirad*, Darien High School, Darien, Conn. 06820. Annual Subscription rate, \$4.00.

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VIEWPOINTS

Apathy?: Teachers Respond

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.

By FAYE GAGE
Department of English
CAROLYN KREBS

Department of Social Studies

The Faculty of D.H.S. is a good faculty and one that deserves respect.

Kelley Clough's letter headlined, "Student Knocks Teacher Apathy," in the Oct. 20th issue of *Neirad* made several generalizations that carry widespread ramifications for school morale. Although the intent of the letter was to excuse some faculty while deploring the relationship between most faculty and the student body, Ms. Clough nevertheless commits the logical fallacy of forming a blanket generalization from random incidents and insufficient data.

The central issue of the letter was that teachers do not offer their out-of-school time for chaperoning school events, specifically, school dances. Several good reasons account for this fact. Chaperoning is not an enjoyable evening for teachers. Teachers and administrators, not students, are ultimately responsible for what happens at school events. That is a heavy responsibility given to a few people who often do not wish to assume such liability. At school dances it is not unusual for a chaperone to witness fights between students and be subjected to harsh words from students. Often students arrive at dances after they have been drinking off campus and create inordinate problems and tensions. Positive contacts do occur during these evenings, and problems do not occur at all events. Chaperoning responsibilities, however, go well beyond mere attendance at dances.

Chaperones: Policemen

Seen in this light, chaperoning is probably not an intelligent use of teacher time, education, and preparation. At present the role of a chaperone is that of policing the event, a job that might be done by increasing the number of policemen and by having students share more of the responsibility for the extra-curricular activities.

Another possible reason for disinterest in chaperoning is that the faculty is overworked. When nine and one half staff members are cut from a school, the results do show. Elsewhere in the same issue of *Neirad*, department chairmen discussed the results of the personnel cuts on academic offerings in the school.

Another point suggested in the "Viewpoint" was that because teachers did not wish to chaperone student events they were therefore apathetic, a condition also noted in the classroom where "as long as kids show up for class, they [the teachers] might as well teach them." It is erroneous to equate participation in chaperoning with teacher interest in students. There are certainly many other ways a teacher can support the school. Many teachers are advisors to clubs and spend uncounted hours working with such groups, as the Outdoor Club, the newspapers, the sophomore, junior and senior classes, the Green Thumb Club, the Philosophy Club, the Pep and Drill Team, the yearbook, etc. Many teachers, although they may not have a formal advisory position, share important moments with students outside

the classroom, helping with assignments, serving as listeners for students who want to talk, arranging for students to meet people, go places, or obtain materials that are offshoots of a student's interest in a course. Some teachers coach, and some are involved in intellectual pursuits which add an important dimension to the school.

Don't All March to Same Drummer

We do not ask that all students march to the same drummer. We recognize that their interests and abilities are quite different. The Homecoming Dance had an attendance of about 450 students; the Fall Stomp attracted about 350 students. Where were the other 700-800 students? The same respect for interests in different areas should be accorded to the faculty. Teachers who chaperone dances, go to museums with students on Sunday afternoons, spend weekends reading new books in their fields are all teachers who care. The student benefits through all three approaches.

Finally it should be pointed out that in spite of the difficulties in finding chaperones, there have been two dances and a coffee house so far this year, using fourteen different staff members as chaperones.

In answering Ms. Clough's letter, we do not wish to attack the writer but rather to put the role of a teacher into a clearer perspective. In addition, a major concern is that the problem raised by Ms. Clough's letter has become a community one. At the Oct. 28th meeting of the Board of Education, a member of the Board drew special attention to the letter. The issue then became very public. As faculty members, we are distressed to think that Darien residents might take that one viewpoint as an accurate and complete picture of the high school faculty. Darien High School is too fine a school to be subjected to such an illogical conclusion.

Because we are teachers who have often tried to find chaperones for student activities, we sympathize with Ms. Clough's problem. Attacking the faculty is not, however, a productive solution. Rather, serious efforts should be made to promote student responsibility for extra-curricular activities. Since the dances and related events are designed for the entertainment and involvement of students, we think students should also provide the manpower for clean-up, managing the doors, checking lavatories, dealing with disruptive students, etc. Those who "give" the party should, in other words, see to it that the party goes smoothly. Faculty would, we believe, be more willing to help if they felt they were advising and backing up the students rather than running the dance or activity for the students. Perhaps if students had to deal with the unruly few who cause the trouble at dances, this approach would have a second benefit of improving student behavior.

The Activities Council and the School Council are potential forums for discussion of ways to improve the sense of responsibility and leadership potential of students. The present privileges might thus become more meaningful and be better safeguarded.

Darien High School has a fine faculty and a bright, interested student body. The problems they face will not be solved by namecalling. Constructive and creative approaches are needed and, we believe, will be beneficial to the entire school.

'Neirad' Surveys DHS Students On Drinking Habits

COMPILED By MISSY McMAHON

Questions one, two and three ascertained the grade, age and sex of the respondent. All results are expressed in percentages. The survey was conducted in four randomly selected homerooms in each grade.

The sample covered approximately one-fourth of the student body. Care was taken to insure randomness, but Neirad cannot, of course, guarantee that the surveyed population is totally representative.

	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
4. How often do you drink alcoholic beverages?			
a. never	10.2	4.3	4.9
b. 1 to 3 times a year	8.1	5.7	4.9
c. 4 to 8 times a year	5.1	10.1	7.3
d. 1 to 3 times a month	23.0	21.7	25.6
e. once a week	23.0	27.5	22.0
f. twice a week	20.5	26.4	18.2
g. more than twice a week	7.6	4.3	14.6
no answer	1.2	0	2.4
5. When do you usually drink?			
a. holidays/special occasions	24.3	13.0	9.7
b. with meals	0	1.6	3.6
c. weekends	48.7	63.7	51.2
d. anytime during week	8.9	5.7	7.3
e. combination of above	7.6	11.5	24.6
no answer	10.2	4.3	3.6
6. Where do you usually drink?			
a. parties or friend's house	35.8	33.8	32.9
b. beach/other outdoor secluded place	11.5	10.1	9.7
c. bar	0	2.8	8.5
d. home	19.2	8.6	9.7
e. combination	23.0	40.9	35.3
no answer	10.2	4.3	3.6
7. What kind of liquor do you usually drink?			
a. beer	58.9	72.4	51.2
b. wine, champagne	20.5	5.7	22.0
c. hard liquor/mixed drinks	10.2	17.6	23.2
no answer	10.2	4.3	3.6
8. On an average evening, how much would you consume of beer?			
a. 1 or 2 cans	39.7	30.7	25.6
b. 3 to 5 cans	19.2	19.2	35.4
c. 1 sixpack	21.7	21.7	12.2
d. 2 sixpacks	11.5	11.5	11.0
e. other	2.5	2.5	1.2
no answer	14.1	14.1	14.6
9. On an average evening, how much would you consume of wine or champagne?			
a. 1 to 3 glasses	42.3	36.3	43.9
b. 4 to 5 glasses	10.2	11.5	17.7
c. 1 bottle	16.6	11.5	4.9
d. more than 1 bottle	2.5	1.6	2.4
no answer	28.4	39.2	31.7
10. On an average evening, how much would you consume of hard liquor/mixed drinks?			
a. 1 to 2 drinks	38.6	26.4	26.9
b. 3 to 4 drinks	16.6	18.8	30.5
c. 5 or more drinks	14.1	14.4	14.6
no answer	30.7	40.4	28.0
11. If under 18, how do you obtain liquor?			
a. parents buy it	23.0	7.2	9.8
b. older friend/brother/sister buys it	46.4	27.5	25.6
c. buy it yourself	8.9	36.2	48.8
d. other	11.5	24.8	6.0
no answer	10.2	4.3	9.8
12. If under 18, do you have a False I.D.?			
a. yes	14.1	36.2	34.1
b. no	75.7	59.5	59.8
no answer	10.2	4.3	6.1
13. If under 18, do you ever drink without your parents' knowledge or consent?			
a. yes	71.9	85.6	73.2
b. no	19.2	10.1	19.2
no answer	8.9	4.3	7.3
14. Have you ever consumed alcoholic beverages before or during school?			
a. yes	12.8	21.7	24.4
b. no	75.7	74.0	72.0
no answer	11.5	4.3	3.6
15. Do you ever combine drinking with drugs?			
a. often	6.4	7.2	6.1
b. sometimes	19.2	14.7	12.2
c. very rarely	7.6	11.5	17.1
d. never	57.9	62.3	62.2
no answer	8.9	4.3	2.4
16. Do you ever drive after drinking?			
a. often	3.8	5.7	1.2
b. sometimes	5.1	23.1	14.6
c. very rarely	5.1	28.9	36.7
d. never	75.8	38.0	45.1
no answer	10.2	4.3	2.4
17. Have you ever had trouble remembering what you did while drinking?			
a. often	5.1	5.7	1.2
b. sometimes	30.7	23.1	14.6
c. very rarely	16.7	28.9	36.7
d. never	38.6	38.0	45.1
no answer	8.9	4.3	2.4
18. Have you ever gotten sick and/or passed out while drinking?			
a. yes	32.2	46.3	44.0
b. no	58.9	49.4	53.6
no answer	8.9	4.3	2.4
19. Do you feel that the legal drinking age should be under 18 or should it be raised?			
a. should be under 18	31.9	24.7	14.6
b. should remain the same	57.9	70.9	83.0
c. should be raised to over 18	3.8	1.6	1.2
no answer	6.4	2.8	1.2
20. Do you believe parents should allow their children under 18 to drink?			
a. yes	33.3	39.2	36.9
b. at home only (special occasions meals, etc.)	55.2	53.7	61.0
c. at no time	5.1	2.8	0
no answer	6.4	4.3	2.4



Eileen Foulds and Jeff McLean rehearse a scene from Theatre 308's production of *A Christmas Carol* set for the DHS stage December 12 and 13. (Photo by Cindy Tower)

Officials, Faculty Reflect On

(Continued from page 1)
 dance." He said it was unfortunate that more students seemed to be using school social functions as "reasons" for increased social drinking before arriving at the events. He cited the difficulties drinking among students creates for chaperones, who he feels are put in "an uncomfortable position. I can understand the reluctance of teachers to chaperone these events; because of some unfortunate incidents, it's not always a pleasant experience."

"Alcohol is not the school's problem. It is an individual's which you treat when you come across it; and you do come across it," commented Assistant Principal Gerard Coulombe.

Mr. Coulombe noted drinking as a problem of only a few students, and definitely not a school problem. During the school day he feels drinking is very minimal.

Referring to drinking at school-wide activities, Mr. Coulombe commented, "Whenever you try to do something good, you are going to have to take the risk that someone is going to make a

fool of himself." Referring to the many dances which Mr. Coulombe has chaperoned, he commented, "Most students behave very well. It is unfortunate that the people who know of an incident tend to see the whole group as doing it."

Faye Gage and Samuel Hougas also are particularly worried about drinking among students before they arrive at school activities, and the problems and worries it creates for chaperones. Both cited a major problem



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I.S. Application Deadline Near

The deadline for Independent Study applications has been extended to Tuesday, Dec. 2. However, applications received before Thanksgiving will be processed first.

A faculty committee will review all applications during the month of December. Each application is judged on the basis of feasibility, educational value and the needs and aspirations of the individual student. Students are notified of the recommendation of the committee by mail during the Christmas vacation.

Sophomores and juniors may elect Independent Study on a one period

Teen Drinking

of student drinking to be driving afterwards, saying that it endangered lives and also placed a great amount of responsibility upon chaperones.

Mrs. Gage shared the feeling that "drinking seems to be a part of the fabric of social activities in Darien" with Dr. Robbins. She feels "a particularly worrisome" aspect is that "it's the faculty that's worried, not the students. The students need to tackle this problem and help find the solutions."

basis. Seniors are able to elect Independent Study for up to five periods during the second semester.

Applications and a brochure more fully explaining the program may be obtained in the Independent Study office in the library or in the Guidance Office. A list of projects successfully completed is posted on the bulletin board opposite the library.

'Current' Makes Waves

Current, the DHS literary magazine, will soon be available. According to Editor-in-chief Drew Wheeler, *Current* hopes to change this year. "In the past years *Current* has been too far removed from DHS. The student body as a whole should be responsible for its content, not three or four 'select' individuals. There are plenty of good writers in this school and they are free to submit whatever material they want. *Current* is looking for poetry, short stories (or any work of fiction), art work and photography."

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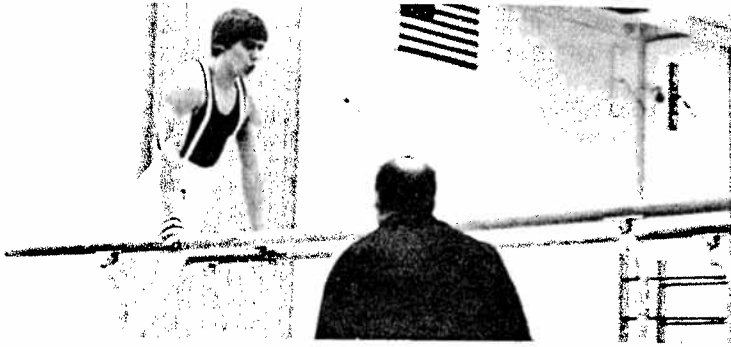
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Gymnasts Whipped Yet Become Cream Of Crop



Coach Battino cheers Joe Pagliarulo on to victory. (Photo by Rob Josephs)

By JOHN C. NELSON
KAREN ECKRICH

The Darien gymnasts, after losing to Stamford in the Fairfield County Championship on November 8, came back to beat Stamford and three other teams to capture the Connecticut State Championship Crown on November 15 at Newington High.

At the States, the gymnasts were losing after the floor exercise and high bar events but came back by sweeping first and second on side horse and first on rings to take the lead by .55 of a point. They continued to lead through vaulting and parallel bars to win the meet and the state crown by the final score of 110.1 for Darien to 107.35 for Stamford. Greenwich placed third, Newington fourth and Hamden came in fifth.

Outstanding performances for Darien were given by Joe Pagliarulo, who placed first on still rings and parallel bars and placed third on high bar. Anthony Totilo placed second in floor-ex and third on parallel bars. Peter Francesconi placed first on side horse with Anthony DiSilvestro and Josh Moltz tying for second. Peter Stanton placed third on floor and gave solid performances to help the Darien team.

The strong Stamford team was led by Stu Goldstein, who placed first in floor-ex, high bar, vaulting and second on still rings and almost changed the outcome of the meet but choked during his parallel bars routine and ended with a low score.

Counties

In the county championship, Darien lost to Stamford by the score of 109.5 for Stamford and 107.55 for Darien.

The star of the night was Stamford's

Stu Goldstein, who placed first in the floor-ex, high bar and long horse vaulting events. He scored second in rings and parallel bars and placed third on side horse to win the all-around award for the night.

Darien did well throughout the meet but could not earn enough points to beat the Stamford squad.

Winning the state crown and having a 7-1 record for the '75 season were the result of outstanding performances by all of the Darien gymnasts and the coaching of Isidore Battino, whose record stands at 73 wins with only 4 losses for the ten years he has coached for Darien.

Next year Coach Battino's team should be strong, although they are losing co-captains Anthony Totilo and Joe Pagliarulo. But they can rely on strong junior and sophomore performers from the State Championship team of the 1975 season.

Girls' Gymnastics

Hopes are high this year for the DHS girls' gymnastics team which officially began practice last week.

The team was named fourth in the state last year, and this year is seeking first place. The girls have several reasons to place their hopes so high. First of all, returning for her second year of coaching the girls is highly qualified Sandy Oldham, who is a gym teacher at Mather J.H.S.

Depth will be a major asset this season, because twenty girls are out for the team. In addition to all the returning talent, there are several promising sophomores and two transfer students, Bev Johnson and Ann Votova, who should be a big boost to the team.

"The team to beat this year will be Greenwich," says Anita Hammer, who is co-captain along with Winky Ward. "They were the only team that defeated us last year."

Ms. Ward says she's "really excited about this year's team. We have a lot of talent and great personalities on the team that will make a really close group that will work well together."

Basket Babes' Hopes High

By BETTIE HOOP

In its first season under Coach Deborah Billington, the girls' basketball team is looking forward to defeating some of the toughest teams in their region including Trumbull, New Canaan, Staples, and Ludlowe.

On Nov. 12, final cuts were announced. Coach Billington is pleased with the small size of this year's team, but she is disappointed that only 15 sophomores came to try out. However, Coach Billington states that "this year there is more emphasis on the junior high level. More interscholastic games than ever are being played at Mather and Middlesex Junior High Schools. Therefore, next year's try outs should be big."

Co-captained by Beverly Flowers and Page Kennedy, the basket babes are planning on playing aggressively throughout their 15 game season. "A

fast action, man-to-man contest is becoming the trend in girls' basketball," comments Page Kennedy, "and Darien's team is hoping to join in."

In addition to the team's new head coach, is the new j.v. coach, Roseanne Shegiran. Both coaches feel that the teams outlook is pretty bright. Coach Billington says that "if we can start out strong in pre-season, working hard and sacrificing to put the team in good condition, then we will have a great chance."

The increased action and speed that the team hopes to put forth, and the added feature of two night games should prove to be more exciting for this year's spectator.

The basket babes will face Weston and Sacred Heart in two tough pre-season scrimmages on Nov. 26 and Dec. 5 respectively, and open their season with a night game against Staples on Dec. 11 at Staples.

Mermaids Submerge At Trumbull, Surface In Finals

By KAREN ECKRICH

Despite a very strong showing against the Trumbull Eagles, the DHS Aquamaids completed their meet schedule with a 76-96 loss.

Kelley Clough received a first in both the 200-yard Individual Medley and the 400-yard freestyle against Trumbull, while Stacey Johnson placed second in butterfly, followed by Robin Bennett in third place and Diana Herrmann in fourth. In 100-yard breaststroke, June

Hazelton placed first and Trudie tenBroeke was close behind in third place. Cindy Atkinson placed second in the 100-yard backstroke.

The results of the diving were as follows: first, Karin Gess; third, Ginny Smith; and fourth, Cappy Craig.

The blue mermaids then proceeded to the Fairfield County Championships on Saturday, November 8, where they took a fourth place.

The 200-yard medley relay team of Cindy Atkinson, June Hazelton, Kelley Clough, and Trudie ten Broeke placed fourth, improving their time by a full second.

A third in the 100-yard freestyle and a fifth in the 100-yard backstroke were won by Kelley Clough, while Cindy Atkinson received a fifth in 100-yard backstroke and a sixth in 50-yard freestyle. In the 100-yard breaststroke June Hazelton received a second place and Trudie tenBroeke took seventh. The freestyle relay team of Linda Bornhuetter, Ginny Smith, Sheila Flynn, and Diana Herrmann chalked up a sixth place.

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Gridders' Title Bid Foiled, End Up 7-3

By HUM PHREY

After winning five games in a row, the football team dropped its final game of the season, 20-10, to Staples in Westport. The five-game winning streak included wins over Warde, Trumbull, Ludlowe, Catholic, and Ridgefield, and put the Blue Wave in a position to challenge the Staples Wreckers for the Eastern title. However, the loss to Staples dropped them back to second place and sent Staples to the county championship.

Trumbull, at one time ranked #2 in the state, fell to the Blue Wave by the score of 13-0. Darien's defense dominated throughout the game, which was highlighted by six Wave fumbles. Dave Chandler scored the first touchdown on an 11-yard sweep after Nick Toscano and Pete Bonnanno had bulled their way into Trumbull territory. Toscano picked up 165 yards on the day, including runs of 60 and 45 yards, both setting up touchdowns. Tom Watkins scored the other touchdown, this one on a 55-yard spectacular interception and return in the fourth quarter. Trumbull couldn't get anything going against the stingy Darien defense, evidenced by their gaining only four first downs on the ground.

Homecoming weekend brought the Warde Eagles to town, and the Wave rolled to a 33-0 victory. Their potent running game reached a pinnacle, as Toscano picked up over 200 yards, and Bonnanno added close to another hundred. The defense again had a field day in recording its second straight shut-out, as Warde managed just three first downs and never threatened the Waver goal. Watkins was again everywhere in the secondary, as he picked off three and was the leading "receiver" for both teams. Wiggy McAuliffe and Randy Starr also nabbed stray Eagle aeriels.

These two wins set up the big game with Staples, in what Coach Mautte predicted as "the most exciting game this year in the state." Apparently many people agreed with him, for the estimated attendance was over 5,000 people, a truly amazing figure for high school football. The winner of the contest was to represent the east in the county championships.

Darien started off on the right foot, as they scored first on a Bob Marchesi to Justin Vorwerk slant pass over the middle. The scoring drive was highlighted by Marchesi's playcalling and a good

catch by Bill Bogardus, who caught four passes during the day. Throughout the first half, the defense hit hard and held the Wrecker offense to just four first downs. However, a fifty-yard pass play was good enough to put Staples on the board with a 7-7 tie. Later in the second quarter, Randy Starr booted a field goal to give the Wave a 10-7 lead over the #1 ranked Staples Wreckers.

Darien was slowed down in the second half, as they could barely manage 75 yards in total offense. Meanwhile, Staples was capitalizing on several Waver fumbles and some secondary lapses to punch in two more scores. The defense, spearheaded by Scot Bondlow, who played an outstanding game, was tough, but allowed Staples to make the big play which usually got them out of a jam.

Coach Mautte was obviously disappointed with the team's loss to Staples, but felt that his team was one of the best in the state this year and that they had a good year. And indeed they did, as their final record was 7-3. More important, they brought a winning season back to Darien, a tradition Mautte is hoping to continue to instill in his Waver gridmen.

Nick Toscano was the leading ground gainer for the Blue Wave with over 800 yards. Pete Bonnanno gained about 500 yards. Bob Marchesi, in addition to running for about 200 yards, passed for over 500 yards, including 120 yards against Staples, which supposedly possesses the best secondary in the county. Marchesi completed 36 passes this season, with Bill Bogardus

as his favorite target with 13 receptions. Justin Vorwerk with nine, Rick Horan with seven, and Wiggy McAuliffe and Bill Helman with five each were Marchesi's other targets. Bogardus had over 200 aerial yards, while Vorwerk and Helman racked up about 125 each. McAuliffe completed several reverse passes, including a touchdown to Bogardus, and Tom Watkins passed for a couple of halfback

pass completions. Watkins also intercepted five passes this season, as Dave Chandler, Scot Bondlow, and Randy Starr each picked off two enemy passes.

Darien's 7-3 record was the best for a Blue Wave team in over ten years. Great spirit was shown by both players and spectators, as Darien re-established itself as a team to beat in the Eastern Division of FCIAC.



Quarterback Bob Marchesi pitches the ball to the Wavers' leading ground-gainer Nick Toscano. (Photo by Dick Ferris)

New Hockey Coach Expresses Optimism

By PETER PUCK

Once again it is that time of year to hang up the cleats and don the silver blades. The pugnacious pucksters are doing it in style this year with a brand new coach and eight returning lettermen

Phil Clark is taking over the reigns of the DHS squad and is optimistic about the results. He comes to Darien with admirable credentials. Canadian born, Coach Clark played Jr. A hockey then attended Yale University and played three years of varsity puck. At Yale, Clark holds three scoring records and is

tenth in career scoring.

"Speed is still the most important factor of the game," says Clark, and this is why he emphasizes skating, passing, and team play during practice sessions. After two weeks of rigorous early morning practice, Clark believed the Wavers have shown a great deal of improvement but still have a ways to go. Phil is striving for a well-balanced team and hopes to skate three lines this season. "Everyone on the team is a star in his own sense," mentioned Clark, "and no one will play on the team unless he has a definite strength to offer."

Defense is the forte of this year's squad, but Clark also believes that "we've got some guys who can put the puck in the net." When asked about the captains, Clark commented, "Matt Clinton and Peter Romanos have shown a great deal of leadership ability; however, I was a little disgruntled at captain number two, who showed up late for practice with an unshaven face."

Returning lettermen who will bolster this year's squad are co-captains Matt Clinton and Peter Romanos, Craig Sinclair, Jeff Taylor, Matt James, Regan Ashbaugh, Dan Grady, and Burch Baylor.

Others that will play a crucial role in the success of this year's team are star defensemen Jamie Widman, Frank Carter, Tom Holland, Dwight Collins, Brian Hathaway, Bill Helman, and Pat Corsiglia.

The Wavers are looking forward to a fantastic season and will open up their '75-76 campaign against perennial arch-rivals New Canaan on Dec. 1.

Ski Team Looks For Promising Year

By SAM SLUSH

This year's ski team is already working out even though we haven't seen too much of that white stuff called snow.

The team has been running some afternoons and selling tickets other afternoons. Under the leadership of captain Jeff Armstrong, the team consists of about twenty-five members. The racers will again be coached by Navio Ottavi, a teacher in the business department and long time coach of both the ski team and the golf team.

Jeff stated that the team "looks good" and has sophomores with potential. The team lost many varsity skiers last year and only has two returning lettermen, Jeff and Mark Handley.

Some of the skiers for this year's team will be Jeff, Mark, Jenny Doble, Eric Armstrong, Randy Jacob, Pat Goth, Frank Hammel, Chris Leigh, and Mike Hathaway.

Some of the hardest meets will be against Staples and Greenwich. Both of these teams lost some good skiers but will still be strong. The meets and practices will be held at Big Birch and Woodbury. There will probably be fourteen to fifteen meets this year. Some of the members of the ski team are also members of other ski teams in Vermont and others are members of various ski mountain patrols. The racers must supply their own equipment. The team overall looks good and hopes to equal or better last year's record which was twelve and one.

The tickets the team members are selling are for the upcoming fund raising ski movie. It is Warren Miller's brand new one called "There Come A Time." The team has a fund raising movie every year because it does not receive any money from the Board of Education. The movie will be shown in the high school auditorium on Sunday, December 14, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for this are two dollars each. They can be bought from any member of the team or at the door.

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