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**Neirad**

**Volume 7/XXVIII, Number 1**

Darien High School, Darien, Connecticut 06820

October 12, 1977

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**Familiar Faces To Local System Among New Darien High Faculty**

By TONY DERBYSHIRE

Seven teachers are new to Darien High School this year. Four of them are new to the Darien School System.

Among those new teachers is Keith Sibisi. Mr. Sibisi teaches math. He graduated from the University of Connecticut in June of this year. In addition to his teaching duties, Mr. Sibisi is the advisor to the Math Club.

Mr. Sibisi describes math as a process that must be built. He added that, to be successful in math, one must be active in it. Mr. Sibisi puts these ideas to work in his classes, commenting that “I try to involve the students as much as I can.”

When asked about his students, Mr. Sibisi commented that “they seem eager to learn and show a lot of interest.”

Dian Westerberg is new to the math department. Mrs. Westerberg received her bachelor’s degree at Florida State University and her master’s at Lowell University in Massachusetts. She has taught in New Mexico, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Florida, and Michigan before coming to Darien.

Mrs. Westerberg notes differences in teaching in Darien. “There were never any open ends or free study periods anywhere else that I taught. Also, this is the first school I’ve encountered where anyone besides seniors has been allowed to drive to school.”

Mrs. Westerberg also noted another difference in teaching here at DHS. “That difference is the intersection.”

“I may never get used to that. It’s amazing how all the students can get through.”

Leonard Krill is new to the English department. He taught at Central Connecticut State College earlier this year before coming to DHS. He received his bachelor’s degree at the University of California at Berkeley and earned his master’s degree at Yale University.

Currently, Mr. Krill is teaching sophomore English and is a sophomore advisory group teacher.

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**Spring Recess Cut; June Curtailed**

By JEANNE BUDDY

February vacation has been switched to a different week in line with the new school calendar for this year. April vacation is shortened to only two and a half days so that school can be closed two days earlier in June.

As a result of the switch in February vacation, Darien will be off while many of the surrounding schools are in session. In addition, what is left of April vacation is also scheduled for a different week than it was last year.

“If you have friends in other schools you won’t be able to see them. I visited friends last year, and I won’t be able to do that this year,” commented Jayne Csapel.

This also poses a problem for teachers who commute to work in Darien and have children in other school systems. The children will be off a different week from their parents.

“The school calendar,” said Joseph Porter, superintendent of schools, “are not the same in every town. Some schools do get off on a different week, but both Stamford and Westport have the same week we do. We’re not all alone.”

“I believe the February vacation is totally unnecessary. We only live for people who go skiing,” Jeanne Bruggermaner stated.

“Closing the schools down in February is necessary because it will save a lot of energy. We have to close down on the thirteenth for Lincoln’s Birthday, so we might as well have the vacation that week,” said Dr. Porter.

As for shortening the April vacation, the faculty wanted to leave it as it was, “a group of parents wanted it changed,” said William Benton, president of the DHA.

“A group of parents wanted students to get out sooner so they could leave earlier for summer vacation. Another reason for the schedule change is that the school buildings are not the same in every town. Some have a feeling that there were any great number of people in the community interested in the calendar,” Mr. Benton commented. “It is my belief that those people satisfied with the way things were didn’t bother following the discussion [at the Board of Ed. meetings]. Many didn’t understand the nature of the dispute, but it was not a wide battle in public. It came on the heels of last year’s contract. Maybe that’s why it didn’t get much attention.”

“Learning is hard work. It’s a very real pressure on young people. This pressure has been lifted considerably by the small segment of the community who pushed for the plan. Between February 20 and the end of school there are a total of four-and-a-half days off. In a survey conducted by the Darien Education Association, teachers indicated that, without a break, boredom and loss of motivation will likely set in.”

“I don’t mind not having any breaks continued on page 2

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**Addition Opens: Was It Worth The Wait?**

BY BILL WAGGNER

When DHS opened its doors for students in early September, several additions and changes in the school highlighted the return.

The new E-Wing, finished over the summer, has opened completely for classes and hosts the social studies history department and the special education classes. The library, history resource center, study skills lab, and the social studies learning center are also located in E-Wing.

Four specially designed conference rooms are there, that, according to Principal Donald Robbins, will be used “as needed” by teachers and students to meet in small groups. “They are to be used by teachers in the learning center and for college representatives to meet with students as well.”

The E-Wing, though operable, still leaves some things to be desired according to several teachers who work there. Most classrooms lack pencil sharpeners, some desks and chairs, file cabinets, and wasterpaper baskets.

None of the classrooms is soundproof adequately, students from hearing class proceedings in the neighboring room. To quote from a response to a Neirad questionnaire distributed to E-Wing teachers: “The most serious educational problem is the lack of soundproofing.”

Carolyn Krebs, psychology and social studies teacher, criticized the construction of the rooms saying that they are “long and narrow, so the distance from teacher to student is too great. A student can lose himself in the back of the room.” This social studies teacher continued to say that “it would be nice if architects and boards of education built it after they have consulted the people who will be in the buildings, teachers and students.”

Complimenting the “neatness and brightness” of the new wing another member of the social science history department says: “I continued on page 4

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**Homecoming Activities**

Friday, Double “X” period — suite sale, pep rally; Friday night — Laguna dinner, bonfire, coffee house; Saturday — parade through town to DHS, football game DHS vs. Stuyvesant High, winning team and Homecoming court announced during half-time, reception for alumni after game; Saturday night — Homecoming dance; Sunday morning — pancake breakfast, junior-senior girls’ football game.

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A fire broke out in portable one at approximately 1:00 a.m. Tuesday morning, September 20. Darien Police strongly suspect arson and an investigation continues. The Board of Education voted unanimously to repair the building, a project that has taken approximately two weeks.

(Photos by Richard Ferris)
Conscientious Seniors Deserve A Break

Heeding well the advice of last year's seniors, the class of 1975 has begun work early to formulate a proposal for seniors' final exam procedure. The senior privileges committee, chaired by David Braddock and Lia Congrove, has already submitted a proposal to Dean Robbins which calls for all seniors to be exempted from final exams.

We feel that the proposal under consideration is not only reasonable and well thought-out, but also academically sound. Dean Robbins has stated that he is open to suggestions from the senior privileges committee and that he feels that greater privileges for seniors should be accompanied by greater responsibility. The proposal of the senior privileges group does not place too much of a burden on faculty and provides a blanket exemption for all seniors. We feel that seniors with a bed attendance record and those who have not demonstrated a substantial grasp of the material in a particular course should not be granted exemption from finals. The reasoning that seniors are in college by the end of the second semester and therefore do not need to take finals, or that they deserve a break simply because they are seniors is illogical. Some seniors may need to take a final in order to boost their grade average in a particular course. Seniors that have had an unexcused or poor attendance in a course do not deserve a break. The purpose of taking courses at DHS is not to get into college; therefore, once students are admitted to college, their high school work does not lose any of its value.

We propose that seniors with a "B" average or better and good attendance in a particular course be excused from a final exam in that course during the spring semester. Such seniors will have worked hard and proved that they are responsible and therefore deserve a break. Seniors that wish to take a final exam to improve their grade average should be given the chance to do so. In courses which include both seniors and underclassmen, seniors who meet the above criteria should be excused from final exams.

Some teachers feel that without a final the over-all meaning of a course is lost, because without a final exam, students are not forced to tie together concepts learned at different times during the course. It is a well-acknowledged fact that students who receive good grades also do well on the final exam. Seniors with a "B" average or better and good attendance can afford to miss these "tying-together" benefits of a final exam. Other teachers may feel, as seniors are almost in college, that if a final can get seniors that they are not taking finals throughout high school. It seems to Neirad that a break, a chance to relax a little before the pressures of college, might be beneficial and has certainly been well-earned.

MacKenzie, Joanne

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New Aides UConn Alumni

By JOHN REICHART

If you have ever wanted to venture off to McDonald's for lunch, or felt as though that triple open end was just too good to pass up, you have no doubt encountered Darien High School's newest teacher aide team of Jeff Bremser and Joe Haja.

Jeff and Joe, both graduates of the University of Connecticut, have taken over the thankless duties of last year's dynamic duo, "Students in Action.

Jeff Bremser, who has been helping coach the junior varsity football squad along with his aide duties, is most interested in computers. A UConn grad in pre-meds, Jeff was intramural sports director. He would like to use these skills in making the intramural programs at Darien more competitive.

Joe Haja, who has been helping to pull the junior varsity football team along with his aide duties, is most interested in computers. A UConn grad in pre-meds, Jeff was intramural sports director. He would like to use these skills in making the intramural programs at Darien more competitive.

Jeff's counterpart, Joe Haja, who was a substitute teacher here at the high school last year, is interested in computers. Joe was a student at the University of Connecticut. After completing an internship as a student teacher, Mr. Haja decided to leave the state and pursue his dream of going to Florida. When he did not come through, the native of Connecticut decided to work in the field of computers.

Joe has been working as a computer programmer for a career in psychology. Much of his training in psychology came during his summer months while attending UConn. During this time he worked with a youth group at a local mental health clinic.

Joe commented that, as a computer programmer, the vast majority of students give him a hard time to get something. He feels that the students have not learned much from this experience.

"I think they ought to have it the same way as last year," said Jane Copley. "It's not worthwhile to have anyone else just get a few extra days in summer."

"A lot of people have already planned their vacations and are going to take that whole week off anyway," Molly Kolb pointed out.

"I think if they hold it at the beginning of the summer," said Mr. Bento, "we teachers don't like the heat either, and it doesn't seem worth all the havoc just to get in two days earlier."

Despite all these viewpoints on the effectiveness of the new calendar, it has not been tested yet. Donald Robbins, DPH principal, noted, "The pros and cons will become clearer after we've experienced this calendar for a year."
Exchange Students Active At DHS

By JAMIE MacKENZIE

Several students from foreign countries have joined the DHS community this year, living with families in Darien. Sponsored by such groups as the American Field Service (AFS) and Youth For Understanding (YFU), the students represent a wide range of nationalities and interests.

Masaki van de Kande is a senior from a town called Eindhoven, in the Netherlands. A member of the DHS girls’ swim team, Masaki (pronounced My-sake) has been a swimmer all her life. She has already participated in the senior class car wash and hopes to be involved in some capacity in the downtown Stockholm, Sweden, and an active musician. She plays the piano and recorder, sings in the Advanced Choir, and is beginning flute lessons with band director Donald Cunningham. Elisabet is heavily involved in a Swedish student government organization, in which she is chairman of a course selection committee.

Jari Schlutte, unlike the other foreign students, is not sponsored by an exchange organization. A native of Copenhagen, Denmark, suburb, Jari is living with the Mörtenes family, which is originally from Denmark. Jari has become involved in the chess and

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Masaki van de Kande – The Netherlands (YFU)

Tommy Olsen – West Germany (YFU)

Birger Edegran – Sweden (YFU)

By STACY HAMMOND

Over the summer a number of DHS seniors went on one or several exchange trips with organizations such as A.F.S. (American Field Service), A.I.F. (Adventist International Field), and Y.F.U. (Youth For Understanding). Neirad interviewed several of the students to learn some of the highlights of their experiences.

Matt Nichols went to Indonesia with A.F.S. He stayed with one family the whole summer. The father was a minister of state for the government. Anyone who is a high government official has three armed guards in front of the house whenever the family is in. Whatever the family and Matt left the house, the guards accompanied them.

During the week days and Saturdays he went to school with the brother and sister in the family. During his free time Matt wrote and illustrated a children’s book called Friendship Dreams (about a small Indonesian orphan boy) and dedicated it to A.F.S., Indonesia and to his family. In June a publishing company will submit the book to the government for possible publishing approval.

Sarah Patterson went to Finland with A.F.S. She stayed on a small island in the middle of eastern Finland. The nearest general store or house was a mile away. The father is the headmaster at a high school, and the mother is a secretary. Sarah went to a Finnish high school and gave lectures to the English class.

Jeffery Harrs went to Germany on Y.F.U. The father is a production manager at an aluminum plant in Koblenz and the mother is a housewife. Jeff attended a gymnasium with the brother for three weeks and participated in many activities with the young people in the town.

Sophomores Splashed By New Wave of Rules; Advisory Program Established

By LESLIE ANDERSON

This year the incoming sophomores at DHS have met a wave of new rules and restrictions.

The rules and restrictions include: Sophomores are forbidden to drive to school this year because of the parking shortage. The students have been assigned to a specific required study period. Sophomores have lost an opportunity to have an open end as a result of this assigned study period. An advisory program has been formed in which all students are assigned to a group. In these groups, the students are assigned an advisor who not only informs them about the school activities but also helps them adjust better to the school. According to Donald Robbins, DHS principal, “One of the rules, regulations, and programs that affect sophomores have been developed in order to meet the needs of this class and of the school.”

Dr. Robbins sees four primary needs to be met: a smoother transition for sophomores into the academic and extra-curricular portion of DHS, an emphasis on the idea that study habits are imperative for successful school work, the availability of a person that every sophomore can turn to in addition to his or her guidance counselor, and organization of the traffic and parking situation so that violations will be less numerous because parking spaces will be available.

Dr. Robbins stressed that sophomores have expressed disappointment in the new set of rules. Dr. Robbins and various other faculty members feel the new rules and program are an advantage. In view of their expectations, students will be more informed and better oriented to the school.

CARVEL of Noroton Heights wishes DHS students good luck in the new school year.
Seniorism: 

Where It's At?

By MATT NICHOLS

We were once sophomores; we were once juniors, and now at last we are seniors. But what is it like to be a senior at Darien High School? That is the question.

For so many years this mind-boggling issue has been struggled over by many students. Do they think they are older, wiser, tougher, more experienced (in academics that is), ready to conquer the world or their backyard (whichever comes first), and do they feel they are now better people because of DHS's education?

One of the best ways to get the opinions of seniors was to ask them to give their first response to the word "senior." These results were most interesting:


In a desperate attempt to find out whether or not seniors are all wackos we presented another question. This time we polled the seniors and asked them to write down the meaning of each letter in the word "senior." The results were overwhelmingly educational:

S — Sex 99% — Study 1% (represents Polly Prade)
E — Execute Sophomores 99% — Education 1%
N — No Homework! 99% — Norm 1%
I — Intoxication 99% — Ideology 1%
O — Opposition 99% — Organization 1%
R — Riot 99% — Religion 1%

From the figures on this poll it is obvious that not all you seniors have obeyed your little DHS Handbook. SHAME ON YOU!!! (Keep up the good work, Polly.)

Although there are some seniors who have little spirit for their class, the majority are extremely energetic. Recently at a DHS pep rally seniors placed fireworks in the toilet bowls so that when one used the facilities, the fireworks were triggered off and sparked into the air spelling "SENIORS!"

The Neirad staff honors these spirited-minded students but advises that the use of fireworks in toilet bowls is dangerous and unwise. The Neirad has had at least seven sophomores have been put in the hospital with first and second degree burns for what in essence are the words "burns bananas.

Also, last week three seniors were reported walking out of the auditorium looking very suspicious. It was suspects — the students were of senior ori gin because only five minutes later a teacher who asked not to be mentioned for fear of being mugged, reported that all the auditorium chairs had disappeared, and on the wall was written: "Seniorism is where it's at!!"

All eight-hundred chairs were later found in a nearby Volvo. Doc Robbins only commented, "My, my, we have an enthusiastic group here."

Well, seniors, you are enthusiastic, but still we at the Neirad staff are not exactly sure how you feel about being a senior... Possibly this poem written by a well-known upperclassman will sum up your feelings:

I am finally a senior / So happy as can be / I study every minute / I believe in democracy / I feel so much older / And wiser in my soul / I want to learn all my lessons / Oh, gosh, that's my goal / I am finally a senior / I have reached my fate / Now I have to try harder than hell / Just to graduate!!!

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Mr. Krill has plans in the near future for an "environmental action club." Its functions will include monitoring the environmental soundness of the school and working outdoors to monitor air, land, and water pollution. Anyone interested in this club should contact Mr. Krill.

Marzene Ferraro has been added to the business department. Before coming to Darien, Mrs. Ferraro taught in Virginia and Pennsylvania. She received her bachelor's degree at Carnegie Mellon Institute. Unlike the other new faculty at DHS, Mrs. Ferraro teaches part time.

Mrs. Ferraro stated the general atmosphere of the school as open and noted the students as very well behaved. She mentioned some of the reasons for the open atmosphere being the rotating schedule and open ends.

Among those teachers new to the faculty but not new to the school are James Girard. Mr. Girard previously was a physical education teacher at Middlesex Junior High School. While teaching at Middlesex, he coached j. v. football and also wrestled at DHS.

Mr. Girard's decision to come to Darien High School was difficult one for him. "I liked teaching at Middlesex, but teaching and coaching at two different schools was becoming difficult."

Commenting on the main reason that persuaded him to become a full-time member of the DHS faculty, Mr. Girard commented, "One of my most rewarding experiences is helping kids get into college, and I think I can do a better job at that if I concentrate my time here."

Elizabeth Rubin comes to the English Department after teaching at Mather Junior High School. She was the advisor to Spilled Ink, which is a newspaper published by journalism students there. Mrs. Rubin noted the difference in how the faculty handles students at the high school level. "The responsibility is on the student there. The administration operates with the understanding that the student has a certain amount of maturity. I think this creates more respect between student and teacher."

Building Altered

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Mr. Krill, English Department; Keith Biblis, Math Department

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Wavettes Wait For States

By PHILIPPA BOWLEY

"Success in swimming is swimming faster, and if we attempt to get ready for each and every dual meet, we'll not allow ourselves the proper training for swimming faster in more important meets." This is the philosophy determining the destiny of the DHS girls' swim team this season.

Head coach Dave Riley doesn't want the team to get too psyched up for difficult dual meets because then it won't have much psyche left for the state and county meets in which it really has more of a chance of doing well. It is the custom in swimming to rest before each meet, but according to Mr. Riley, this team would be resting more than it worked if it followed that custom. The DHS meets involve some of the toughest teams in the state. They consist mostly of all-year A.A.U. swimmers who are accustomed to an emphasis on tough competition. It is important to them to win each meet that comes along. They follow that policy of resting for each meet and usually do well. "But," said Riley, "we have fun knocking off the top teams by the time we get to championship meets."

Last year the team had a 34 duel meet record and tied with three of the teams that beat Dartmouth placed behind them in the state meet. Riley believes that this is because they wear themselves out getting psyched for dual meets while his team trained steadily. "Our goal this year is for the championship meetings starting in early November with counties and ending in late November with the Connecticut State Championships." Riley hopes to win half the dual meets, place fifth in Fairfield county, defend the runner-up title in the Division meet and to finish in the top four in the state, equalizer or bettering last year's fifth place. He breaks the swimming into two seasons, expecting to do better in the second season.

Riley mentioned a few sophomore who should help the team in realizing its goals. He lauded Linda Harstem as a promising swimmer who should amply fill the void of June Hesselton, last year's top breast-stroke swimmer. He added that Tracey Stewart would take All-American Cappy Craig's place, teaming up with All-American Karen Gans to live up to last year's diving record. Cindy Duff was mentioned as a "promising but inexperienced swimmer who looks like she could be a great contributor come championships." He stated that this year's team is stronger and much more dedicated than any in the past.

Strategy Adds Spunk To Volleyball

By PHILIPPA BOWLEY

When volleyball is mentioned it might conjure up pictures of girls in bikinis tossing a ball around the beach. But according to the DHS team it's a lot more.

Coach Deborah Billington says it is definitely an established sport. For 60 years it has been internationally organized with Olympic and professional teams. More people realize this on the West Coast because of all the publicity the sport gets out there. Miss Billington says the publicity here is improving as more colleges take up volleyball.

In the last few years the method of playing has changed in that more strategy and teamwork are involved. Cathy Scholts feels that the game resembles football in that way. Examples of the teamwork are the five-one set up in which there are five offense hitters and one setter who "sets up" the ball for the hitters, and the set up with three hitters and three setters. Cathy feels the added strategy in the game makes it more interesting to watch. The games are usually held at 6:30 p.m. so they do have adequate support from parents who are home from work by then. But there are very few student spectators. Miss Billington stated, "Support would mean a lot." Cathy says that last year they were in first year season with a record against more experienced teams. This year they have a basis to work on and they hope to improve the record. Miss Scholts said they look promising because they've had a two-year volleyball program at their junior high schools. The team hopes for a "300 season" to qualify them for states. They also expect to compete in the county play-offs, the first ones in Fairfield county, brought about because of the increase in teams. They also hope more students get interested in the game to give them added support.

Hockettes Return To Tough Season

By BETH TORPEY

In losing its season opener 0-1, the DHS Field Hockey Team put up a strong battle but failed to overcome the goal New Canaan scored only minutes after the players took the field, Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Despite Dartmouth's loss, juniors Julie Lindenbug, Karen Deegan, Carol Boothill and Patti McKenna led a strong attack. Co-captains Jeanne Fawole and Kathy Deegan, both halfbacks, also played sharply.

Coach Rebecca Storrminger said after the game that the team played well, but they are capable of playing better. While the varsity team suffered a close loss, the j.v.'s ran over the New Canaan j.v.'s, shutting them out 7-0. Mary Leavenworth scored three goals, Liz Mirarchi chalked up two and Kathy Evans and Sue Harrington knocked on one apiece.

Sixteen DHS field hockey players went to hockey camp for a week in August. At Camp Tegwituha, in Tobyhanna, Penn., the team, seeded fifth out of the twelve attending camps, spent their days by doing drills to improve their skills in the mornings and playing three games each afternoon on a rotating basis with other teams. On the last day the DHS squad played in a camp tournament. The squad, placed in group A, played six evenly matched teams winning every game. Then they played the champions of group B, losing to them by one to nothing count.

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Cross Country Extends Winning Streak To 18; Jackson Slashes Old Team Mark By 25 Seconds

The Darien High School Cross Country Team has started out this season as it ended the last one, by winning. They had jumped out to a dominating 60 crusade at press time.

In the first tri-meet of the season the Harvards swept arch-rival New Canaan by a score of 23-33 and Ridgefield 17-40. (The lower score wins.) Darien Co-captain Pat Jackson took first, Mike Kohb took third, Evan Kerrigan took fifth and Steve Vorwerk took sixth. According to Evan Kerrigan, "The team came well, but we did not run to our potential."

In the second tri-meet of the season Darien defeated a strong Greenwich squad by a score of 24-31 and romped over Rippowam 10-47. Coach William McCarthy, in his fifth season as mentor, commented on this performance by saying, "That was the best race I have ever seen a Darien team run."

Pat Jackson took first, setting a course record at a swift 15 minutes and 16 seconds, surpassing the old record set in 1970 by 23 seconds. Pat commented on his record-breaking victory by saying, "I think I ran real good."

Mike Kohb, Evan Kerrigan, Steve Vorwerk, and Co-captain Dave Frederick also had strong performances by putting in their best times ever as varsity runners.

Gridders Win First, Slide In Second

The DHS football team opened its season with a strong 7-6 home win over Brien McMahon High School and lost a 34-8 game the following week at Staples.

Machon's failure to convert an extra attempt following a 45-yard touchdown run by Correll Jordan in the first quarter proved to be the difference in Darien's win.

Darien took command of the game in the second half and scored on a 71-yard, eight-minute march in the third quarter. That was the longest drive that I can remember the team's having in my three years as head coach," said Del Maoote of the successful effort. The drive was buoyed by three clutch plays and the steady running of running backs Mike Konig and . Mike Causten. The first key play was a fake run on third down by quarterback Dave Tuttle to give Darien a first down. Another first down was contributed by Clay Colbath with a 50-yard catch.

The play of the game, however, had to be in this drive, when Mast Maley caught a fourth down pass for a first down at McMahon's three yard line. Tuttle took the ball in for the touchdown, two plays later and a dubious Matt Maley kicked the extra point.

It was later learned that Tuttle had played the second half with a broken finger on his passing hand, putting him out at least until the October 8 game against New Canaan.

The defense, headed by the intense play of senior Scott Savage at linebacker, was a major contributor to theDarien win. Savage, according to Coach Matau, "was one of the main reasons we won the game." Todd Harrington, at defensive back, also made his presence known to several McMahon players. Co-captain Tim Sellew was a force on the defensive line and he killed a bid chopped punt.

Coach Matau gives much of the credit for the improvement of this year's team to the two platoon system, in which virtually all the players play either defense or offense, and not both, as was frequently done in past years. "The addition of Junior Matau was strictly responsible for the institution of the two platoon system," says Matau. "It has allowed us to split our players up into their different categories with their own coach every day. The basic idea is to use more kids in the football game and have them be better rested and better conditioned."

"Attitude," continued Matau, "is another thing that has contributed the better. The captains knew that there was a moral problem on last year's team and they have done a lot to improve it this year."

Things did not seem to click at all in the second game against Staples the way they had in the first. Darien lost a convincing 31-8 in Westport under portable lights. The lights, which were not worth the one hour delay it took to get them started, were so bad that they prompted Coach Matau to comment, "It will probably be the last time Darien plays under portable lights."

Mast Maley started at quarterback in place of the injured Tuttle. A slashing rain did not make things easy for Maley and the Darien team. A bright spot for the Wildcats was the 130 yards gained on the ground by Maley.

"It was not a good experience," said Coach Matau of the game, "what with the bad weather and the cheap shots by Staples players that went unnoticed by the referees, and the absence of Tuttle. That's to take nothing away from them, but it did seem an inferior job under the situation."

Matau spoke of his role, "It was quite an exciting experience for us, a really enjoyed playing quarterback."

"They just moved off the ball well," summed up Matau, "both offensively and defensively. The best thing for the players to remember is that it's a long season yet and they have to keep working hard. It was no Mickey Mouse team we lost to."

Charles Avedisian

Charles Avedisian - Who Is He?

By JOHN TIBBETS

It would probably be accurate to say that seventy to eighty percent of the students at DHS do not know who Charles Avedisian is.

For those who do not know, he has been the Director of Physical Education and Athletics for Darien Schools for approximately the last ten years. "When you say my boys and girls don't know me," says Avedisian, "that's the sign of a good director. A good director does his job and stays in the background. But I do make it my business to get involved with as many students and parents on an individual basis as I can. I also support the students by attending as many athletic events as my schedule permits."

Specifically, his job consists of the planning, organizing, administering, supervising, and evaluating all facets of the physical education curriculum and athletic programs in grades one to twelve in Darien.

Mr. Avedisian's office at Cherry Lawn is packed with a massive collection of paraphernalia, ranging from a chart showing the 122 coaches in the school system, over whom he is responsible, and their teams, to two large bookcases containing books and pamphlets that pertain to his job.

All around him, in any spare place, are the more than 40 notebooks that summarize all the parts of his job, such as: "Salary Studies," "Scheduling of Facilities," "Staff Meetings," "Boys' and Girls' Interscholastic Schedules," and "Budget Procedures."

In his career in Darien, he has succeeded in getting additional full-time physical education teachers hired. He has started a system in which the results of physical fitness tests taken by DHS students are compared with their students' fitness tests from all over the country.

He has expanded the number of sports at DHS, including boys' and girls' gymnastics teams that prompted him to say, "I think we have one of the finest programs in the country. It is a college level."

"Wrestling, indoor track, girls' sports in swimming, basketball, cross-country, volleyball, track and softball, and a boys' and girls' ski team have all been added during his Darien career. He has set up the three-timers-a-year sports banquet for all teams, about which he commented, "It used to be before my time that if you had a winning team, you had a sports banquet, but never if you had a losing team."

Whether or not DHS students know him, Charles Avedisian is working for them every day.