308 Premiering With 'Showcase'; 'Antigone' To 'Alice' Featured

By MATT NICHOLS

"Everything's coming up roses," Eva Franco will sing when Theatre 308 opens for the first time this year with its production of A Showcase. Performances will be held on November 4 and 5 at 8:15 p.m. in the DHS Auditorium.

A Showcase is an originally designated production by Theatre 308 consisting of Broadway show hits, comic TV sketches, and straight drama. A preview of Showcase reveals that the production is made up of three acts. The first act will have scenes from The Carol Burnett Show, Family, and Alice. The second act will have straight dramatic scenes from Antigone, Macbeth, T. Lanke, a Director Named Desire, The Glass Menagerie, and Zoo Story. The third act contains scenes from Broadway hits such as Gypsy, Grease, A Chorus Line, and The Sound of Music. All the acts will combine to create what Jon Edwards, director of Theatre 308, describes as "something new."'

Some of the major performers in A Showcase are Frank Porocha, the lead in Grease, Duffy O'Brien as Amanda in The Glass Menagerie, Burt Stringer as Antigone, Sue Mallory singing, "Let Me Entertain You," John Mahler in Zoo Story, and Sherry Dryden in A Chorus Line. Mr. Edwards says, "There is wide variety of talent in this cast and a lot of new faces!"

T.V. Survey Results:
'M*A*S*H' Wins Favorite Program

Neirad recently conducted a school-wide survey of students' television watching habits. The survey was responded to by 918 students, which "reasonably" provides a representable sampling of the school, which has an enrollment somewhat over 1200.

Perhaps the most significant result of the poll was that 55% of the student body watches television regularly on week nights. Among other significant results, 30% of the students watch between one and two hours of television a night on week nights, 8% more than three hours, and 16% less than one hour.

M*A*S*H emerged as the overwhelming favorite T.V. show, tallying over twice the votes of any other show. The show was the favorite of the sophomores and senior classes, but the juniors had a slight preference for Saturday Night Live.

According to the survey, 21% of the DHS student body have four or more television sets in their house, while 29% have those who have three. A mere 1% responded that they do not have a T.V. set in their house. Most DHS students do some of their homework in front of the T.V. set, with 48% occasionally, 10% frequently, and 4% always opting to be entertained by the "boob tube."

Carrie Rich, Brenda Kaminski, Melanie Fullam, and Anna Fousier form part of a chorus line as they rehearse a scene from Grease in preparation for Friday and Saturday night presentations of A Showcase. The Theatre 308 presentation is set for 8:15. (Photo by Richard Ferris)

New School Government To Offer Wider Representation

By MARK CLOWES

"Student government is a farce," says John Kim, co-author of the constitution for the new DHS government, "unless there is active participation and adequate representation. In many respects, the previous government lacked these qualities and therefore failed."

Kim's statement implies, the new government is designed to be more representative of the student body. Last year there were twenty-six students representing the 1200 members of the student body. Under the new proposed system, there would be approximately eighty students, parents, and faculty comprising a General Assembly. The Assembly would enroll the School Council and Activities Council of old.

Elections for junior and senior members of the Activities Council were held earlier in the year. Those elected will become members of the General Assembly. Elections for the General Assembly were scheduled this past week in sophomore and senior homesrooms and in those junior and senior homesrooms which wished to elect a member in addition to their earlier-elected Activities Council representatives.

Members of the General Assembly will be responsible for informing their homerooms of the issues confronting the government. Members of the government committee agree that one of the main flaws of the previous government was its lack of communication with the student body.

The General Assembly will have two long meetings per week and one two-hour meeting per academic quarter. However, the Assembly would break up into four standing committees and ad hoc committees as needed. These committees would meet between the General Assembly meetings.

There have been two proposals discussed during the drafting of the constitution designed to involve students in government. One would allow anyone who has attended three consecutive General Assembly meetings to become a member of the Assembly.

Several of the panel members during the September 28 seminar on teenage drinking sponsored by the Community Council's Teenage Alcohol Education Task Force. Pictured from left to right are the Rev. Samuel Vogel, moderator; Paul Knag, Captain Angelo Toccano, and Pat Jackson, I.H.S. student. See story on Page 3. (Photo by Richard Ferris)
**Time For Students To Voice Opinions**

Over the past two years Neirad has printed several articles informing our readers of the various attacks to which the high school curriculum has been subjected. A number of DHS students did attend a Board of Education meeting over a year ago at which the possible elimination of certain English courses was discussed, but now a majority of students appear not even aware that several very outspoken and persistent Darien citizens would like to see many DHS courses virtually eliminated. We feel that the time has come for more students to express their views on these courses.

Among the courses that will be eliminated if these people have their way are calculus, Biology I, Chemistry I, and the entire family studies department. Private instrumental lessons given by the music department are also under attack.

It is time that the Board of Education and the town heard from people in addition to some older Darien residents. They, in most cases, have not made an effort to discover what the courses are like for themselves. Their judgments seem based on second-hand information, such as a perusal of the high school course catalogue.

The board will hold a meeting on November 29 to discuss the high school catalogue. It is likely that the same attacks on the curriculum will be made at this meeting. We urge all students who do not wish to see some of these courses cut from the curriculum to attend this meeting, for the dual purpose of being on hand to air their views, as well as becoming informed of the actions the board is taking in these matters.

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**NEIRAD**

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**New School Government Established**

continued from page 1;

The other is a proposal which provides that fifteen to twenty students be chosen to “represent groups that might not normally be represented in school government,” as expressed by faculty advisor and DHS principal Donald Robbins. The proposal will not go into effect now but will be considered for next year by the Operations Committee.

Work on the constitution began with Kelly Clough about a year ago. Kelly visited other high schools to analyze their governments and then discussed DSH’s problems with Dr. Robbins. After last December’s All-School Workshop, a school government committee was formed. Over the summer Mary Brown, Bob Ottenstein, John Kim and Ted Fletcher were principal contributors. Ginny and John Kim have done the actual writing with input from the rest of the group. Edmund Higgins of the history-social sciences department is the group’s advisor.

The constitution should be ready by the end of October according to Mr. Higgins.

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**On Teenage Drinking Habits**

**By KELLY BLACK**

Since the legal drinking age was lowered to eighteen, there has been a significant increase in vandalism and accidents involving teenagers and drinking, and children as young as thirteen and fourteen have been found consuming large amounts of alcohol. This follows the observations of Captain Angelo Teocsno of the Darien Police Department as he spoke to the audience of over 300 people at a seminar sponsored by the Community Council’s Teenage Alcohol Education Task Force. It was held on November 25 at the High School to deal with the increase in the use of alcohol among Darien teenagers.

This program is expected to serve as a launching pad for various programs exploring the problem of teenage drinking and it will also set up a basis for follow-through in the schools with a special emphasis on junior high students.

Paul Knaa, a litigation lawyer with Cummings and Lockwood, told the audience that anyone except a guardian who sells or gives liquor to a minor can be sentenced to a year in prison or fined up to $1,000. He added that this can happen to very prominent citizens, as was the case some years ago with several who were arrested after a seventeen-year-old girl was killed while under the influence of liquor served at their homes. He reminded the minors in the audience that they are also subject to stiff penalties for purchasing liquor, possessing bar, using fake identification, or driving in cars containing liquor.

Dr. Gerald Strachan, the chairman of the American College of Surgery in Connecticut, noted that the “slaughter and devastation” of teenagers due to liquor consumption is allowed to continue because a combination of Darien politics and overprotective parents effectively keeps youthful offenders from being fairly punished. He feels that teenagers lack the drinking sophistication and mature judgement to drink responsibly.

Cheryli Hess and Pat Jackson were on hand to answer questions from the audience about teenage drinking. Several times during the meeting, they were under pressure from parents to explain why students drink. Dr. Strachan commented that the meeting was being held not to paint the atmosphere of a debate between teenagers and adults. He reminded the audience that teenage drinking is a problem for everyone in this community that can only be solved if parents and children work together.

Mrs. Judith Seixas, the director of the Alcoholism Service in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, and the author of Alcohol—What It Is, What It Does, said that teenagers should learn to drink in the home before they are allowed to experiment by themselves. Most of the people in the audience seemed to agree with this statement, but a few chions who were heard when Pat Jackson admitted that he had been drinking with his parents’ permission since he was sixteen. He said that many kids develop problems with alcohol when they try to hide their drinking from their parents.

Dr. Gerald Sein, a Darien school psychologist, also stressed the importance of communication between parents and their teenagers, especially since he feels that teenage drinking is here to stay.

Cindy van Seiver, a DHS student, was applauded when she made the same point. She said that children must not be afraid to speak openly with their parents, and that both can greatly benefit if they sincerely try to understand each other.

The Reverend Samuel Fogel, an active member of the Teenage Alcohol Education Task Force and the moderator of the seminar, said after the discussion that he was pleased with the group makeup at the meeting. He was especially proud of the teenagers on the panel and in the audience. He felt that they made some good points and showed themselves to be mature and responsible.

Several parents expressed an interest in the seminar and similar programs presented to school children, but the Reverend Fogel said that he would arrange one only if he was asked by students themselves. He wishes to avoid forcing information on students who have been turned off by the drug information blitzz which have been directed at the Darien Junior High School. Some of the students who were present at the seminar said that they failed to see any real purpose behind sessions of this sort, which do not produce any concrete results. They hoped to see sessions in the future which will be more productive.
Task Force Will Examine Present Family Studies Curriculum

By BILL WAGGNER

A task force, under the direction of Assistant Superintendent James Loughran, has been assigned to examine the family studies curriculum in grades nine to twelve. This task force, under the chairmanship of Harold Dayton, director of the industrial arts department, has been organized in order to "give us an overview of whether what we are teaching, adequately meets the needs of students," according to Mr. Dayton. Mr. Loughran states that this committee will discover if "there will be a re-direction for family studies in grades nine to twelve, based on the needs and interests, and students' career and vocational interests."

This committee is made up of Mr. Dayton, Helen Hovey, chairperson of the family studies department at DBS; Pat Galvin from Mother Junior High School; Don Dellera, Nancy Ambrose, Board of Education member, and Dr. Dwight Walker, director of Family Studies and Family Relations at UConn. Donald Robin, DHS principal, and Mr. Loughran are ex-officio members.

A list of ten objectives drawn up for this task force by Dr. Robbins and Mr. Loughran states among other points that this committee "investigates parent and community sentiment toward, and understanding of families," and that it identity other areas of the school curriculum which have a relevance or relationship to family studies. The committee is also charged with formulating a philosophy, set of purposes, or strategy of implementation for the family studies department.

The report from the committee is scheduled to be finished and submitted to Mr. Loughran on or by March 15. Mr. Loughran will then relay the findings and recommendations of this task force to the Board of Education.

"Tucked away in a corner of DHS, the family studies department has generated some controversy over the past couple of years."

To some citizens of Darien, the family studies department is not feasible in a "college preparatory" high school because they feel the skills taught by Helen Hovey and Rochelle Aasen in such classes could be learned at home with parents or some other relative or friend acting as instructor.

Mrs. Hovey rebutts that conception, saying that though people could frequently learn skills such as cooking, sewing, and child care at home, one can frequently be taught reading and arithmetic by a parent. But, she states, "Parents, as a whole, are not qualified to do so or do not take the time to do so."

The family studies department gives a student the time and the opportunity to practice these skills in classes in which degrees or credit could possibly be gained. It is a program that involves reading, group discussions, and encouraging them to under structured observation from the rest of the class.

"Humor Values" was so popular that an extra class was added. This is a course in which students explore their values through discussion and group exercises relevant to various topic areas.

Finally, Mrs. Hovey gives the position of the family studies department regarding the opinions of those who feel that education at DHS would not be damaged by the complete elimination of family studies:

"We keep hearing about getting back to basics in education. We feel these courses are as basic as you can get. The skills learned are basic to everyday living and will be used by students throughout their lives."

An increasing number of young men have been enrolling in family studies courses. Mike Alfiero is shown with a down jacket for Backpacking Equipment and Food. (Photo by Richard Ferris)

Newcomers Club 'Breaks the Ice'

By MARYLYNN SLATTERY

This year a Newcomers Club has been established at Darien High School and several meetings have already taken place.

At the end of August, a meeting was held for all the students new to Darien. Foreign exchange students were also encouraged to attend. At this meeting chairpersons Cyndi Bonanno and Joan Corsiglia introduced the strangers to each other and to some of the old students who attended the meeting.

Most of the newcomers seemed to feel the August meeting and the one in September had "broken the ice" and they knew a few people whom they could talk to. But for the most part "people came enough to say hi but that was about it." Ailiee Kelly, a newcomer from New Jersey said. Sophomores new to Darien found it a lot easier to adjust since all sophomores in a sense were new and if people from Middlesex didn't recognize them, then they thought that they must have come from Mother and vice-versa.

For the new juniors and the seniors, it was more difficult, since the various cliques were already somewhat established. One senior from Switzerland said, "The Newcomer Club helps newcomers meet other newcomers and some of the old students, but not many of these people are in each other's classes, so in a sense it doesn't help much."

Lately there hasn't been much action within this new club since school has been in session for about two months, but in October another meeting was held and Doug Ferguson, a newcomer from Canada, attended the meeting. He commented about the meeting: "I was able to meet many new people and it made me feel like I was a part of the school."

The crowning of Matt Nichols and Kim Wheeler highlighted Homecoming weekend. Other winners included the class of '79, which won the float competition, and the football team, which defeated Stamford by the score of 21-13. (Photo by Richard Ferris)
Daring Baton Twirler Ignites Half-time Show

By LESLIE ANDERSON

This year DHS has an addition to the half-time entertainment at football games. In addition to the band front (including the Pom Pom Corps, majorettes, color guard, and swing flag members) and the band, we are now entertained by Christy Kuebler, whose specialty is twirling flaming batons.

Christy is a senior at DHS and is new to Darien. She moved here from Los Gatos, California, and in her former school she was the lead majorette.

She has had several years of training and has attended Santa Cruz Majorette Camp for the past three years. Her instructor was a Nebraska state baton champion.

Christy was motivated to take up the baton when she was young. She claims that all of her friends were either involved with sports or an instrument, and she wanted to be involved too. So she began practicing and now has several awards for her talent and achievement.

She competed at camp, which involved twirling the baton in a dance routine. The girls were judged on coordination, talent and rhythm. Christy usually finished in first place.

Christy began twirling in seventh grade, and it wasn’t until the ninth grade that she started using a flaming baton.

The ends of Christy’s batons have special wire running through the cloth. To prepare for the performance she soaks each end in gasoline for five minutes. Once this has been done, she must shake her baton to get rid of the unnecessary gas, and then she lights the ends.

So far Christy has never had an accident with the flames and claims that shouldn’t be a problem if she keeps the baton in motion at all times.

Besides participating for enjoyment, Christy not only taught the younger majorettes at her old school how to twirl batons but also taught professionally outside of school.

Christy already knows how to twirl two batons and is in the process of learning how to twirl three unites. Her ambition is to stick with the baton, learning more techniques and stunts, and hopefully some day become involved on a college team.

Green Thumb Club

By JEANNE MUELLER

Why are some sophomore girls excited about going to meetings of the Green Thumb Club? It is not because they are interested in geraniums.

The club roster contains 25 members of the DHS football team. Elaine Fattibene, club advisor, explained, “I was complaining at the beginning of the year that we didn’t have enough people. Tim got everyone to come.”

As to how Tim Sellew, president of the Green Thumb Club as well as co-captain of the football team, “got everyone to come,” he said, “I told them to.

“If you were president of a club and wanted to get more interest in it, you’d try to get people you know to come,” he added.

Tim, whose father owns a tomato and a corn farm, has a genuine interest in agriculture. As to what the other football players get out of the club, Tim said, “Whatever they put into it.”

“I’m the greenest thumb in the club,” Todd Harrington boasted.

“I’ve always enjoyed working with plants,” linebacker Doug Stevenson commented. “Besides, it does look good on your college application.

“We started off just coming,” Doug said on the level, “but now we’re getting interested.”

“I’m planning on bringing in guest speakers to talk about plant problems,” Mrs. Fattibene mentioned enthusiastically.

The club is presently working toward its in-school plant sale, which will be held December 21. The plants will include Swedish ivy, spider plants, coleus, begonias, and wandering Jew.

Sophomore Charlie Bounty, when asked about being a member of the club, said, “I can’t wait to start growing plants.”

Growing As Football Players Sign Up

T.V. Poll Results

Below are some of the most interesting results from the Neirad TV Poll:

How many television sets do you have in your house?

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<tr>
<td>a) None</td>
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<td>b) One 1%</td>
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<td>c) Two 37%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<td>d) Three 29%</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<td>e) Four or more 21%</td>
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Do you have a set in your room?

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<td>b) No 63%</td>
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Do you do your homework in front of the television?

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<td>a) Always 4%</td>
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<td>b) Frequently 10%</td>
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<td>c) Occasionally 45%</td>
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<td>d) Never 40%</td>
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Does your television watching ever interfere with homework?

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<td>a) Always 5%</td>
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<td>b) Frequently 10%</td>
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<td>c) Sometimes 54%</td>
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<td>d) Never 30%</td>
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Do you regularly watch television on weeknights?

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<td>a) Yes 54%</td>
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<td>b) No 45%</td>
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If so, how many hours a night do you watch?

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<td>a) Less than one hour 16%</td>
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<td>b) Between one and two hours 30%</td>
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<td>c) Two to three hours 18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) More than three hours 3%</td>
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Are you selective in your television viewing habits?

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<td>a) Yes, I only watch when I know there is a good program on 48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Usually, but sometimes watch whatever happens to be on at the time 41%</td>
<td>41%</td>
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<td>c) No, I watch whatever happens to be on at the time 5%</td>
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Tim Sellew and Joanne Kelley planting various vegetables during a recent Green Thumb Club meeting. (Photo by Richard Ferris)
Girls' Cross Country On The Right Foot

By ROBIN CRAWFORD

Katie Lawrence, a senior at Fairfield University, is the new coach for the Darien High School Girls' Cross Country Team. Coach Lawrence is taking Coach Steve Norris' place, as he is now teaching at St. Mary's of Greenwich.

Coach Lawrence was brought to Darien High School last year as assistant coach for girls' spring track.

She was a volunteer coach at Staples High School prior to last spring. This year she was offered the job as coach for girls' cross country.

When asked why she runs, Coach Lawrence answered, "I like to have the chance to excel myself without depending on others to do well as in team sports."

Running has a definite future according to Coach Lawrence. The girls at Darien High School began their cross country team last year, and the number of members has significantly increased since then. People everywhere can be seen jogging to keep in shape or to compete. It's definitely catching on.

Coach Lawrence and the girls seem to be on very friendly terms as the girls call her "Katie" instead of "Coach" or "Coach Lawrence." She has the girls run five to six miles a day on trails or Wes Barn Golf Course, or do "track work," which consists of intervals of 220's, 300's, and 440's on the track.

The official rules and those of Coach Lawrence for cross country are much more relaxed than those of track. Coach Lawrence said, "The sport is new, and very few girls are interested. I don't like to put too many pressures and restrictions on them. As time goes on and the team develops, these restrictions will increase." She said a good percentage of the girls go on to winter and spring track. They use cross country to "get in shape."

This year, the win-loss record for tour and four. This may not seem like an impressive number of meets compared to the boys' team, but not many schools have girls' cross country teams yet. The girls have set some records. Molly Koth, who broke the old school record for the girls' course, running 15:55. A member of the varsity team set the course record this year at 12:28. Everyone on the team has worked hard and improved their time and endurance, according to Coach Lawrence.

She considers this year's cross country team "a good group and very competitive with the other teams. They've proved their competitiveness and talent at the county meet Thursday, October 27, as they ran second behind the ever-powerful Ridgefield squad.

Senior Girl Gridders Win

By PHILIPPA BOWLEY

Last year's bruised players covered in tomatoes and eggs left the field swarming at each other and arguing the score. This year's junior-senior girls' football game on October 16 ended with a definite 18-12 senior victory, hand-shaking, and cheers.

Before the game Cathy Scholtz told everyone, "We can have fun without killing each other." She mentioned that they didn't have any protective equipment and shouldn't play a game roughly as they would if they did have it. She said one player went to the hospital last year, in which someone responded, "Yeah! Let's send five this year!" The end result was a broken rib, and a soccer back on sidelines. But there were no apparent hard feelings between the two teams aside from a few disgruntled mumbles and arguments during play.

The seniors dominated the game, keeping the juniors on the defensive side most of the time. They got their points with many passes and short runs. Joanna Scott proved to be just that, bit extra for the seniors, as she ran the last ten yards of two touchdown drives. Sally Nisell captured an additional six points to assure a senior victory. The seniors had a couple of good opportunities in the second half, but the long passes were both incomplete.

The junior strategy was a horse of a different color. They used their spring time talents for two very quick touch downs. Carol Revell scored the first, running seventy yards and leaving several surprised seniors behind her. Mandy Reineck tried the same trick. Seniors were close enough to grab her before she finished her fifty-yard sprint. But she went by too fast for that.

"I'm really glad it turned out this way," said Cathy Scholtz to a junior. If it hadn't, you guys wouldn't have had it [the game] next year."

Coach's Optimism Spurs Field Girls To 3 More Wins

By PHILIPPA BOWLEY

Rebecca Strominger, Darien's field hockey coach, said October 21 that she expected her team to win 50 percent of its meets to qualify for the states. The record stood at 1-2-3. But such optimism was justified by three more wins in the week before Newsday press time.

The team had a chance to juggle past history when it replaced one of its tie games. A match against Stamford Catholic High School was played under protest on a football field with no grass in the center and grass as long on either side that players couldn't see their feet or the curve of the hockey stick. At one point no one could find the ball or hit it back into bounds. Miss Strominger talked to the coach and the athletic director, who agreed the field was in bad shape.

She suggested writing to the Stamford Catholic Principal, Donald Robinson, the DHS principal, did that and scheduled a meeting on October 19 at which they decided to replay the game on Friday, October 22, at the Darien field.

According to Miss Strominger the first few teams on the schedule were the toughest, especially the Stamford team. "They've been very aggressive, and now they've got very good teams," she feels that Darien has done better than the record indicates. The team has shown good defending against excellent teams. Westhill, who was undefeated at the time, beat Darien, by only two points. In the 2-2 tie game against Stamford, Darien came very close to winning according to Miss Strominger. She says they might have won by two points if it weren't for the other team's excellent goals, who dove from one side of the cage right to the other, saving both expected goals. Miss Strominger felt that Darien could have been beaten Rippowam if the team had played up to potential. But there's "nothing rash and lazy as if they didn't care."

The DHS team tied state-qualifying Staples, which had won its five matches against the weaker squads that Darien played at the end of their season.

The three straight wins were definite victories. The Darien field girls edged Andrew Warde 2-0 on October 21, trounced Ridgefield 4-0 on October 24, and completely buried Trumbull 6-0 on October 26. Rudowe managed to snatch a win away from Darien on October 26.
Booters Pick Up Speed;
Playoffs Within Reach

By TONY DERBYSHIRE

Injuries and inexperience were factors in the slow beginning by the young Blue Wave soccer team that saw only five starters return from last year’s 9-5-2 squad which reached the first round of the state championships. However, wins against Willson, Westhill, Trumbull, Ludlowe, and Greenwich have kept alive this year’s hopes for reaching the state finals.

At the onset of the season, Darien’s blistering offensive attack and legging defense seemed attributable to a team which lacked maturity. While the effective line put pressure on the opponents’ goal, things hadn’t been put together in a winning effort. After its first win against Wilton, it seemed that Darien’s once see-saw soccer team might be poised to level itself and to play more aggressively and more precise method of play.

This did not prove to be the case, and Darien lost to a mediocre Andrew Wardle with the score of 1-0. After tying a tough Ridgefield team, Darien capped its second victory by defeating Ludlowe, with scores by Chris Pace, Jim Settleri, and Tim Appleton.

A tie to Rippowam slowed down Darien’s road to recovery, but victories over Trumbull and Westhill raised the Wavers’ record to 4-1-1. In the clutch, Darien crushed a solid Greenwich team by the score of 3-1. The impressive victory marked a vast improvement from the sluggish performance of earlier in the season.

Since qualifiers for the state championships must win at least one-half of their games, Darien is in its final game against Danbury. (Results not available at press time.)

James Quigley, varsity soccer coach. (Photo by Richard Ferris)

Gymnasts Unbeaten, Roll Toward State Title

By CHRIS PACE

The DHS boys’ gymnastics team won its first four meets commanding, beating Newington, East Lyme, Westhill, and Stanford high schools.

Co-captain Clay Moltz has been an outstanding performer and usually has placed first in all but two events: floor exercises and vaulting. He has generally placed second.

John Reichert, the other co-captain, specializes in the floor exercises, and also does well on the parallel bars and vaulting. John was injured during a tumbling run and inverted his knees in the middle of a vault. Reichert was a substitute, and expected to be back for Darien’s toughest meet against Greenwich.

Junior Tom “Tuck” Kirby performed well in all events, especially in the vaulting. He usually places first in the vaulting and second in the all-around behind Clay Moltz.

The gymnasts have been doing some quite spectacular dismounts off their routines, practiced with the aid of new safety belts in the new gym. Clay Moltz has been doing a “back somi with a full twist” dismount off the rings and a front leg spring dismount off the parallel bars. Sal Abbate, a junior, has been performing “double back somi’s” off the still rings.

Coach Iadore Battino has been impressed by his team’s performances. “They have so much potential, they keep getting better.”

In their first meet, the DHS gymnasts overwhelmed Newington High School by the score of 96.4 to 75.5. They won all the events and swept the top three spots in four of the six events.

Against East Lyme, the gymnasts won a decisive 103.5 to 76.3 victory. Kirby placed first in front of an unusually large home town crowd of about 75 spectators.

Coach Battino used the meet against Weudill as a DHS JV meet in order to give younger members of the team more varsity experience. Westhill was better than expected and Clay Moltz had to perform on the last event, the parallel bars, to insure the victory, 76.4 to 68.8.

The meet against Stamford was characterized by a lack of enthusiasm on the part of both teams and there were a lot of missed routines, especially on the part of DHS. Clay Moltz and Tom Kirby were in the lead, and the impression is almost every event. The final score was DHS 94.3, Stamford 68.35.

Other strong performers on this year’s team are Gary Eckrich on the high bar and pommel horse, Dave Carroll on vaulting, and Sal Abbate on the high bar and parallel bars.

Overall, the gymnasts are looking towards another state championship after a difficult regular season meet against Greenwich. The FCIAC championships will be held in the new DHS gym on Friday, Nov. 4, at 6:00 pm.