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Darien High School, Darien, Connecticut
March 11, 1975


By TOM GAMMILL and GARRY LEONARD

This week's meeting of the Board of Selectmen has been a topic of concern among faculty at Darien High since its implementation in February of 1974. Merit pay evaluates teachers on a scale of one to five and financially rewards teachers who receive a two, three, four, or five rating.

Performance Objectives

At the beginning of the year every teacher is required to submit a list of his performance objectives to his department head and designated assistant principal. Throughout the year teachers are evaluated by their respective department heads and assistant principals. The department heads and assistant principals observe the teacher by visiting the classroom and on each visit complete a standardized form which appraises the teacher's relationships with his pupils, class preparation, and teaching procedures.

Midway through the year a conference is held involving the teacher, his department head and the assistant principal. At this conference, the teacher's performance relative to his objectives is discussed. The purpose of this meeting is to strengthen the teacher's weak points with constructive criticism and acknowledge the areas he is proficient in. How well the teacher performs the objectives he set for himself at the beginning of the year is also reflected in this interim report as well as the final report. The department heads and assistant principals must visit the classroom observing the teacher in a classroom environment and recording their observations until the final conference with the teacher at the end of the year. It is at this meeting that a final evaluation is formulated and the teacher is given a numerical rating according to the merit pay scale.

State Requirements

The state requires every school system to devise and implement teacher evaluation procedures. This is the primary reason for the existence of our teacher evaluation system. Although Darien has adopted a merit pay rating, an evaluation program is being employed in order to fulfill the state's requirement for an evaluation system, regardless of whether or not the school system had merit pay.

The effects of merit pay are now being experienced by the school system. Many of the teachers and department heads whom Neird interviewed believe that, although the philosophy behind merit pay is good, it is difficult to administer. Some faculty members also noted that merit pay appeared to be hurting the morale of the teachers. "Teachers who receive a three rating tend to feel it is equivalent to a grade of 'C,' which has a demoralizing effect," expressed one teacher whom Neird interviewed. There is a $600 difference in the year's raise between a teacher with a three rating and a teacher who receives a five rating.

One suggestion to improve the merit pay system is to eliminate the use of numerical ratings and require a form which appraises the teacher by

By MARTHA Constable

Centre Stone, Darien's peer counseling telephone service, is undergoing financial problems which may result in a decision to close it.

Michael Grimes, Centre Stone's director, told Neird reporters that the Board of Directors of the hotline and drop-in center had asked the Board of Selectmen for full funding, to the amount of $19,900. "We do not have the time, energy, or manpower to do the fund-raising on our own—it spreads us too thin," explained Mr. Grimes. He stated that the work load is increasing—the center has received a 25% increase in the number of calls per month during the past six months.

If the Board of Selectmen refuse full funding of Centre Stone, two alternatives may be taken: 1) the center may be put under auspices of the Welfare Board or 2) the Selectmen's Committee for Youth. In this way, Centre Stone would receive money through the budget for those groups. The reply from the Board of Selectmen will come in April. "We're negotiating for our existence," said Mr. Grimes. "If no money comes, our board of Directors will have to make the decision to shut it down.

Centre Stone telephone have more adult volunteers, which can serve to widen its appeal to parents as well as teenagers. Mr. Grimes emphasized that it is not necessarily used as a last resort.

"People may prefer us as an alternative to a minister, social worker, etc., because of our policy of anonymity.

"I think people should demand a place like this—if not for themselves, then for others in town. It's their right.

"Money troubles plague Centre Stone."
Morale Cut With Budget?

The current budget proposal approved by the Board of Education cuts $30,000 from the proposed High School budget. As planned by the Board, this reduction will include the elimination of 15% teachers from DHS. Some teachers have already been notified that they will not be rehired. Others, including tenured teachers, could receive notice at any time if their position is dropped from the DHS career.

In addition, under the merit pay system, teachers are constantly being evaluated. These evaluations by department heads directly affect teachers’ salaries. We feel that teachers’ insecurity over their jobs and salaries may develop from the elimination of teachers through budget cuts and from the merit pay system. This could be detrimental to the morale of teachers and the school.

Perhaps the merit pay system is producing better teachers. Under this system, teachers are motivated by the realization that a good evaluation by a department chairman will lead to a pay increase. But, in conjunction with the budget cuts, pressures from these systems could have a negative effect on the teachers’ attitudes toward their work.

The amendment proposed by Salvatore Catania, DHS principal, asks that the budget reductions be named in terms of money, not personnel. He and Dr. Porter could then decide if it is possible to lower other expenditures instead of dropping a teacher.

Neird supports this amendment. As the budget stands now the 10% teacher cut will hurt the DHS course offerings and put an end to many teachers “extras,” such as individual help.

Budget cuts, along with the merit pay grading system, could have an ill effect on the morale of the school community. We hope Mr. Catania’s amendment is given a chance as a favorable alternative.

Not For Men Only

It is 1975 and women athletes around the world are gaining greater recognition and earning more prize money. Yet, at DHS, female athletes are still ignored. There can be no doubt that the problem exists. Witness therecord·breaking crowd of one at an away game for the girls’ basketball team.

Would new uniforms for the girls increase game attendance? Something tight and slinky? Or perhaps the attending of girls’ games should be a mandatory requirement for graduation. The speech requirement could be simultaneously fulfilled.

We feel there is the potential for girls’ sports to develop into exciting spectator events. First, old stereotypes about how a girl should act and about what is interesting to watch must be broken down.

Increased game coverage and familiarization with the rules could do much to attract fan support for the team.

More practice facilities and facilities could upgrade the level of play of the girls. There is more pressure on the boys’ teams to excel and therefore they should have more court time for practice is not valid reasoning. Given a chance, the girls’ teams could go far. The time is now.

VIEWSPECTS

Does Darlen Care?

By THE SCHOOL COUNCIL
PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The students of Darien High School and the members of the Darien community should more aware of the serious shortages the world is facing today. There are many problems that affect us, either directly or indirectly; and few are doing anything about them. The food shortage and fuel shortage are two such problems. “But,” one may say, “what can one person like myself do to help the whole world?” The answer is plenty!

One very simple way to help the food shortage is to stop wasting. Buy only what you can eat instead of having to throw away good food. Another way which has been found to be effective is having a fasting day at school and donating the money to help the needy. But why have one year only? This feel is a very direct way students and teachers can help.

We would like to urge everyone to conserve on fuel. The hours spent waiting for gas in the gas lines have been quickly forgotten. Try taking the bus or carpooling with those three or four other kids who drive from your neighborhood. When the weather is nice, try riding a bike to school. What’ve you got to lose but a few pounds?

Stop complaining about the world’s problems and start doing something about them. Let’s show people that Darien is concerned and aware of these problems and is trying to do their part in helping to solve them.

Students Take Calculated Risk

By TOM GAMMILL

There is a serious epidemic sweeping the country, in which an alarming number of high school students are becoming dependent on pocket calculators. I feel we should go to any expense to stop the addiction to pocket calculators among our youth, even if it means turning the kids towards drugs and alcohol.

The problem began in December when science and math teachers (who are undoubtedly large stockholders in Texas Instruments and similar companies) began encouraging their students to ask for pocket calculators for Christmas. The teachers explained that with pocket calculators, students would not have to spend time with trivial arithmetic but could devote more time to theories and functions. Some teachers even went so far as to imply that those students with pocket calculators would inevitably out up with higher grades at the end of the marking period.

The teachers’ inducement worked. After Christmas vacation almost every student returned to math classes with a pocket calculator he or she had received as a present or borrowed from a friend. Now, after less than two months, there are obvious signs that our nation’s youngsters are becoming addicted to pocket calculators, and the students in Darlen are not exempt.

Pocket calculators have been ruining the minds of even our brightest children. Last week, as an example, my math teacher asked the smartest person in our class, Dot Product, to go to the math lab to get six algebra books. Dot returned ten minutes later without the books and explained that she was being silly to stop the addiction to pocket calculators.

Immediate action must be taken to deter the use of pocket calculators in our schools. If口袋 calculators become very tense and emotional. I have heard of one sophomore student who received professional help after he discovered a hole in his $300 pocket calculator that was leaking numerical and algebraic functions all over the floor. Another DHS student turned fanatic when her calculator became waterlogged while she was commuting to Portable II on a rainy day. Although Post 50 was able to rescue the pocket calculator by administering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, the girl has never been the same since.

My suggestion to Darien is that a pocket calculator should not be attempted by people with bracess.)

It is conceivable that pocket calculators will move on to other machines to satisfy their need to press buttons.

Elevators, automobiles, and phone booths with push-button telephones will become the hang-outs for this disturbed generation.

Students and and all other school community members, including parents, are currently being encouraged to sign up to work on new committees established under the ad-hoc Committee on Options.

Students may sign up on bulletin boards located in the Senior Commons, across the library and along the cafeteria. Students may also contact various members of the Organizing Committee.

Committees are as follows:

- Pre-PPS Final Exams
- Final Exam Policies
- Weighting of Grades, Alternative High School Programs
- Interdisciplinary Programs
- Cooperative and Team Teaching
- Humanities, American Studies, Open-Minded Morning, Tutor-Mentor, Senior Sophomores and New Students, Career Exploration
- Daily Schedule, Registration - Pre-registration, Independent Study
Equality In The Gym: New Law Defines Rights

By MEG McGOLDRICK

"There has been a change in attitude toward girls. Girls used to be told not to participate in sports; only jocks do that," Del Mautte, chairman of the Physical Education Department at DHS, commented.

Title IX of the Educational Amendments, effective July 1, 1972, guarantees girls equal rights in the field of sports, as well as in other areas. The key section of Title IX says, "No person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Charles T. Avedisian, Director of Physical Education, admitted that girls' interscholastic sports programs in the junior high schools need to be upgraded. He says the budget plan for 1975-76 responds to Title IX. He has made a recommendation to the Board of Education for the expansion of girls' interscholastic athletics in the junior highs. Both junior highs already have interscholastic gymnastics and the supportive activity, cheerleading. If the board approves the recommendations, next year they will have two interscholastic sports each season for girls: field hockey and volleyball in the fall, basketball and gymnastics in the winter, and track and softball in the spring.

No Competition

Mr. Avedisian says he doesn't apologise for not implementing the girls' programs earlier, especially since the neighboring schools had interscholastic teams for the girls to compete against until this year.

"One of the rules is funding," said Mr. Avedisian, when commenting on how the new law was working out. He went on, "According to Title IX, a school must pay whatever it costs to equip a team. Many people think the law was created to get more money and some teams will get less.

Darien High School has no problems as far as Title IX is concerned, Mr. Avedisian feels. There are 24 sports: 14 for boys and 10 for girls. The four extra boys' sports are football, soccer, wrestling, and ice hockey. DHS has all the interscholastic sports other schools in the state have. When asked why there were six coaches for the high school football team while only one for the girls' field hockey team, Mr. Avedisian explained that the extra coaches mainly because the supervision for a contact sport like football is needed for safety. There are no more teams; this year because there weren't enough kids, but the two extra coaches stayed on.

Girls Backed

As long as he's been here Coach Mautte thinks that girls usually received a backing to follow athletic pursuits, if there was enough enthusiasm. He says that equality as far as the use of facilities is fine, when there is enough demand.

"The girls don't get enough spectators here," says Coach Mautte. He feels that one reason for this is that girls' sports used to be considered unnecessary, so people didn't bother attending games. "But that isn't true," he insists. Both girls' physical education teachers, Rebecca Strominger and Deborah Billington, agree that the girls were treated quite well. The only problem seems to be spreading the money around.

Female Monkeys Grease It Up

By MISSY MCMAHON and WINNY WARD

After being assigned a feature story that was to give the female view of power mechanics, we headed toward D-wing, an area with which neither of us was at all familiar. We mentioned grease monkey suits, tied back our hair, and entered a room, not knowing what awaited.

The class was watching a movie which was almost over and we could not determine the subject. Feeling sheepish enough as it was, we tried to make ourselves as inconspicuous as possible and sat on a bench in the back of the room. Out of the front of the room came a loud snicker, and soon the whole class had lost interest in the movie and were staring at us, laughing hysterically. We realized, far too late, that what we had thought in the dark was a seat, was really a greasy, oily work bench.

Bruce Hill was an employee of Hardware Hardware, an area with which neither of us was at all familiar. We donned our grease monkey suits, tied back our hair, and entered a room, not knowing what awaited.

The class was watching a movie which was almost over and we could not determine the subject. Feeling sheepish enough as it was, we tried to make ourselves as inconspicuous as possible and sat on a bench in the back of the room. Out of the front of the room came a loud snicker, and soon the whole class had lost interest in the movie and were staring at us, laughing hysterically. We realized, far too late, that what we had thought in the dark was a seat, was really a greasy, oily work bench.

Bruce Hill

February Clear Campaign Trail

By SUSAN LANE

For Independent Study last semester, Bruce Hill was an employee of two political campaigns, Douglas Harlan's in Texas, and George Hansen's in Idaho. As a youth coordinator Bruce was basically engaged in the organizing or recruiting of student volunteers and the supervision of their work, which included telephoning, door-knocking, mailing campaign materials, and along with some special projects.

Although Bruce was basically involved in organizational work, he sometimes did travel with the candidates, especially at parades or other events which needed a large student crowd. Bruce was paid a salary and given an apartment during each campaign.

In comparing the two campaigns Bruce "didn't feel comfortable with the Texas candidate and didn't enjoy campaigning with him." This is because he felt he was an opportunist due to some of his valiant efforts on issues. Bruce travelled more extensively with George Hansen of Idaho and got to know him and his family quite well. "I liked George Hansen. I considered him honest, capable and intelligent." The Texas candidate lost his election, whereas the other one won.

Special projects were assignments given to youth workers in order to gain more notoriety and votes for the candidates. Some of which included a windshield wash and "Burma Shave Signs." The "Burma Shave Sign" was a means of six or seven workers who would put phrase by phrase a slogan on six or seven signs. Then each person would stand in the correct order in line on a flat, straight stretch of road where people could read it. The workers were to make sure they did these projects in a newspaper office or radio and television stations.

They also put out many press releases and were involved in the discussion of issues through flyers which they produced and distributed.

Reflecting upon the experience, Bruce states he has "ambivalent feelings of cynicism and confidence with respect to our political process. You can elect anyone with the proper campaign organization and financing." However, Bruce also stated that his confidence was inspired by the enthusiasm and ability of volunteers. They were an encouraging sign that political system is still healthy, he feels.

Last April, Bruce attended a seminar for youth coordinators in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Committee for Responsible Young Politics (C.R.Y.P.), which is a conservative organization responsible for placing Bruce and other students in campaigns.

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THE SOURCE

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Students 'Taking Care Of Business'

By SUSAN LANE and MISSY MCMAHON

Neirad recently conducted a survey in selected homerooms to determine approximate percentages of the students in each grade with respect to how much they are paid, and what kind of jobs they hold or have held.

"I need the money" is the overwhelming response as to the reason students work, and many cite this as the only reason. Although the majority of the students are happy with their jobs, most wouldn't work if they didn't need the money.

The most common job is that of a salesclerk, or a counter attendant. Many students also have had summer jobs as caddies, lifeguards, doing general yard-work, painting houses or being a mother's helper. Several unusual jobs included working in a kennel, being an accountant, and writing for a Darien weekly paper.

The majority of sophomores do not work at all, as many say that many are not, or have recently turned 16.

The average wage for those sophomores who work is $2.15 an hour, and they work an average of 14.6 hours per week.

Miss Stone, In Retirement, Goodwill Ambassador

By MARTHA CONSTABLE

Although Winifred Stone retired from teaching Latin at Darien High School in 1973, she said that she will always be a part of me. I honestly don't feel I'm retired — I feel like I'm on vacation all the time. The thing is, I don't have to hurry back for Labor Day.

She continued, "I loved teaching. It was fun — that's the way I looked at it. I had so much to tell. If I had been bored, it would have been hard on everyone."

Miss Stone came to Darien from Vermont, two years before the present high school was built. "Roman and Greek Culture" Along with Latin grammar and etymology, Miss Stone made it a point to include a great deal of Roman and Greek culture study in her teaching method.

"Today, with people being so much and making the world smaller, you may need to know something about, for instance, the history of Roman civilization. But, with all due respect to the Latin language, it simply unlikely that anyone will ask you to decline a fifth declaration noun." An extensive traveler, Miss Stone has visited 110 countries. Among her most recent trips was one to the Canadian provinces of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia last fall. She also toured several Central American countries last February and March, including Panama, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. While she was in Nicaragua, an earth quake occurred one evening at dinner time. "We were sitting at the dinner table, and the waiter told everyone to quit. Then he got under the door frame, which is the safest place to be in that situation.

"My philosophy on traveling is that you should always realize that you are an ambassador for your country. You are a guest and should treat the people with respect. I always learn how to say ‘thank you’ in the language of the country I'm visiting, and people are so appreciative."

Winifred Stone relates her travel experiences. (Photo by Jim Clark)

308 Cards To Create ‘Wonderland’

By BRIAN DONOFREE

DHS kiddies will be pleased to know that The White Rabbit will be hopping about long past Easter to appear in Theatre 308’s spring production, Alice In Wonderland, scheduled for April 11-12 in the DHS auditorium.

A cast of over 60 trouper will sing and dance as assorted frogs, cats and caterpillars in the magical fantasy-world of Lewis Carroll. "This is 308’s first attempt at this sort of entertainment in several seasons," Mr. Matthews remarked. "In the past, we’ve limited ourselves to more or less traditional theater pieces. With Alice we plan to spend a great deal of time, enthusiasm and money to create a potpourri of stories, running the gamut from slapstick humor to sophisticated avant-garde."

The majority of juniors surveyed have jobs, and generally enjoy working, although there are more complaints about wages and/or hours than sophomores have. Many are searching for jobs — and once again all are encountering difficulties. The average wage is $2.50 an hour, higher for seniors, probably due to the fact that since they can also hold more experience. The average work week is 19.6 hours. A slim majority of seniors do have jobs — the average wage is again higher for seniors, $3.30 per hour. However, some have tutoring jobs which pay anywhere from $5.00 to $7.50 an hour; not including these jobs, the wages were still higher at an average of $2.51. Not many seniors are looking for jobs. The average work week for seniors is 16.8 hours.

Many high school students are also working as volunteers for nonprofit organizations. There are a number of services in this area which depend on high school volunteers for their existence.

There are approximately 20 DHS students who are currently volunteering their energies at Centre Stona, a counseling center. A volunteer normally spends three hours a week on duty at Centre Stona, manning the hotlines and directing people who might personally visit the center.

Catie Lindsey is one of several high school girls who devotes three hours a week as a candy striper at Stamford Hospital. One duty of the candy striper is to deliver patient medication to the nurses at a designated station. According to Catie, one trains for the work as a candy striper by spending some time observing and working with experienced volunteers.

Approximately 65 high school students are members of Post 53, a volunteer organization which runs the ambulance for the town and provides medical supervision at Darien High School football, basketball, and hockey games. A student must complete a 20-hour course on Standard First Aid before he becomes a member of the Post. Courses in Advanced First Aid and training as an Emergency Medical Technician are offered to more experienced members. Every Post 53 member works six hours every other week, plus additional time on the weekends.

Seven volunteer members of the Stratton Ski Patrol come from Darien High School. Bill Holmes, who is a first year member of the patrol, told Neirad that training in advanced first aid is a requirement of every volunteer. Candidates must also take toboggan and skiing tests before they become a member of the patrol. Members of the ski patrol from Darien High School are on duty at Stratton almost every weekend.

Julie Hufferd stars as the world-famous Alice, John Cannon is featured as The White Rabbit, along with Barbara Gray as The White Queen, Frank Venezio as The White Knight, Charlie Warthen as The Mad Hatter, Robin Young as The Red Queen, Tom Gammill as The King Of Hearts, Brian Donofree as Humpty Dumpty, Kathy Kiernan as The Duchess, and Naissy Nichols and Trudy Tenthake as Tweedle-Dum and Tweedle-Dee.

Tickets are now available from any cast member.

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March 11, 1975
Girl Gymnasts End 10-Season, Place Fourth In State Tourney

By BERRY JAMES

The DHS girls' gymnastic team has completed its 1974-75 season at DHS with its top record so far: 10 wins and 1 loss. Up until their last dual meet, the girls had not experienced a loss. Unfortunately, Greenwich proved stronger to beat Darien by 10, a close meet. Darien girls did not have an exceptional day. This, along with Greenwich's over-all depth, was enough for the Greenwich team to pull out ahead. These girls were again led by their consistent performer, Karin Arsenberg, who took first in vaulting, floor exercises, and all around. Junior co-captain Winky Ward placed first in the uneven bars. Other outstanding performers were Liz Hlrinck, who did a fabulous floor routine, co-captain Ellen Francosoni on beam, and Anita Hammer on vaulting. However, the team would not have been close to competing with Greenwich or any of the teams they have met without the talent and effort put forth by the rest of the team all season.

Coach Randy Gibbon commented, "I am really proud of the girls. I love the harmony that this team has, and it is so good to see so many girls work together without bickering or bad feelings. At the beginning of the season, I never honestly thought that we would go this far, but we have and the girls have shown me I was wrong."

The team came in second out of eight teams in the FCIAC meet, again behind Greenwich. Saturday, March 1, the state meet ended the girls hopes of beating Greenwich when they were again defeated by Greenwich, this time by more than three points. Greenwich wasn't too pleased by the end result of the meet for their hopes of placing in the regionals, which were annihilated by a fabulously strong Simsbury team, which dominated most of the meet. The final lineup was Simsbury first, Conard second, Greenwich third, Darien fourth, Jonathan Law fifth and Weathersfield sixth. This was the same order in which the teams entered the meet.

The team season is now over. The only gymnastic competitions left are the regionals, Wed. March 5 at DHS and the individual state meet, Sat., March 6, at Newtonville.

The team has improved tremendously since last year when their record was 4-3. The team is losing four seniors who have helped the girls dominate this year both in team morale and scoring. The graduating seniors are: co-captain E!li Francosoni, Joan Henn, Karen Peruta and Marjorie Davis. The team is going to notice this loss next year.

Wreckers Ruin Girls' State Basketball Hopes

By SALLY MARTIN

The Darien High School girls' basketball team defeated the Wilton High School girls' team 47-29 on Feb. 4. It only won one or two games all season. With scores for Darien were Mari McCurdy with 14 points, and Allison King with 9. The Wilton girls were lead by Darien Coach George Nelson with 20.

The girls then traveled to New Canaan on Feb. 7. The varsity played a very close game losing 41-47, in a three-minute overtime. Darien Coach George Nelson remarked, "The officiate hurt us, but we should have won. Mari McCurdy got into foul trouble early, which hurt."
Skiers Have Impressive Season, Victorious Over Unbeaten Cards
By WEIRD and GILLY
The Darien High School ski team’s early and mid-season efforts brought about tremendous victories over their decent opponents. The score differentials were consistently and overwhelmingly in the favor of Darien. Supporting the ski team’s wins this season were captains Mark Everman, sensational junior Jeff Armstrong and seniors Matt Handley, Steve Muller, Paul Whiteside, Chase Ashley and Bill Littlefield. Also adding valuable points were sophomores Mark Handley, Randy Jacob, Frank Hammel and Junior Dave Chandler.

It appeared that Darien was on its way to an undefeated season, but a formidable performance by the Staples skiers led to Darien’s first loss of the season. Darien’s places in the meet included third, fourth, fifth and sixth with Armstrong, Muller, and Handley taking the honors respectively. Weston, the third team in the tri-meet, took an eighth place. All others in the top seven were all staples. Everman White side turned in weaker than usual performances with unfortunate spills occurring in the middle of the meet. Captain Mark Everman commented, “I was very displeased about our loss to Staples. We skied poorly, but I suppose every team is entitled to a bad day.”

The next day, Darien faced undefeated Greenwich in another spil lidged meet. Remarkably, Darien came out on top for the first time in many seasons while taking first, second, fourth, fifth and sixth with Armstrong, Everman, Ashley, Dobie and Mark Handley possessing the respective positions.

On the way home from the Greenwich win, Coach Navio Otiavi explained in a memorable statement that this year’s ski team was Darien’s finest ever, on and off the slopes, and one of the most enjoyable to coach.

Hockey Team Completes 12-8-1 Record With State Loss
By ZIGGY STARDUST
The Blue Wave hockey team completed its Fairfield County action on February 19 with a 6-2 win over Ridgefield at the Darien Ice Rink. The victory gave Darien sole possession of third place in the FCIAC eastern division.

The score differential record, Darien encountered Amity on Feb. 21 in the qualifying round of the state tournament and suffered a disappointing 4-1 loss to end the ’74-75 campaign.

Ruck Hough led the Blue Wave against the ridgefield Tigers as he scored two goals in the first period and added a third early in the second stanza for his third hat trick of the season. Darien controlled the game from the opening face-off as Blue Wave had a 3-1 lead after one period. This lead was threatened by only one goal in the last period. Darien was defeated in the game as Darien’s persistent tallies to help rout the Ridgefield end until the final buzzer. Dan Grady, Jeff Taylor, and Pat Cormigs added the other Blue Wave goals to tally the Tigers 0-2 before a small crowd.

Hofstra Middle Income Plan Cuts Cost of a Quality College Education
Hofstra University is doing something about the high cost of a quality college education versus the middle income family. The Hofstra Middle Income Plan of grants and scholarships means:

• To every accepted full-time freshman whose family’s taxable income is between $6,000 and $17,000, Hofstra will grant a $500 tuition award, independent of other financial aid.
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• With this Hofstra assistance, it is possible to reduce Hofstra’s tuition and fees from an average of $5,010 to $4,710 for Darien.

If Hofstra is where you want to be, the Admissions Office can help you to determine the maximum benefits available to you.

Late Defeats Hurt Matmen
By JIM CLARK
Bad luck finally caught up with the Blue Wave grapplers as they finished with a disappointing 6-9 record after one of their best starts in recent years.

In their next to last regular season contest they could only manage to win three weight classes: Scott Tuck, 134 lbs., 7-2 decision; Jim Smith, 114 lbs., pin; and Los Proceci, Unlimited, pin.

Darien obtained a first ranking in the state tournament and opposed 12th seeded Amity in the first round. In spite of out playing Amity by much of the gap which is reflected in Darien’s 32-29 shot-on-goal advantage, the Blue Wave fell to the Spartans 4-1. Bill Vernon scored the first goal of the game, but before the period ended, Darien was confronted with a 3-1 deficit. The second period presented excellent goal-scoring from both sides as the two goalies combined to stop all 21 shots taken in the stanza.

Darien finished its season with an overall 12-6-1 record which is identical to last year’s. Hught Hough led the team in scoring for the year with 20 points (12 goals, 14 assists), followed by Steve Franklin with 24 points (8 goals, 16 assists), and Bill Vernon with 21 points (16 goals, 5 assists). These three seniors compiled a combined 71 points and were the fourth leading line in Fairfield County. Matt Clinton, Pete Romanos and Craig Sinclair played a key role all year and will all be returning on next year’s squad. Junior goalie Ragan Ashbaugh finished with an impressive 2.76 goals-against average and will be an important factor determining next year’s destiny.

Track Girls Finish Second in Counties
By MARY MCGOLDRICK
This year’s large turnout of girls for Winter Track has proven beneficial to both the team and the girls individually. The girls have fared well in their co-ed meets as well as placing in five out of six events in the County Winter Track Championships held a few weeks back at the Wilton Field House.

The girls wound up the season on Feb. 15, finishing second in the County to Stamford’s girls, losing by only 1.5 pts., and are looking forward to the upcoming spring track season.

A Newark reporter interviewed several of the girls as to how they felt about competing along with the boys and being part of a co-ed team. Some of the girls feel that the boys encouraged the girls to keep going and “work hard.” Another commented that the coaches respected the girls and weren’t at all discouraging.

John Kratky ties up opponent in recent DHS meet. (Photo by Jim Clark)

For a disappointing 34-12 loss to Staples.

Their last match against Wilton was a little closer while winning four weight classes: Joe Lombardo, 107 lbs., 2-2 tie; Tuck, 134 lbs., 65 decision; Doug Simpson, 140 lbs., pin, and Proceci, Unl., pin, but Darien still ended up on the short end of a 27-23 score.

Darien faced slightly better in post season action as they placed five men in the sectionals. Three were John DeCesare, 121 lbs., second; Joe Lombardo, 107 lbs., fourth; Captain Sal Ferrallina, 147 lbs., first, John Stevenson, 187 lbs., third, and Proceci, Unl., third.

Sal, one of the best wrestlers in recent years to compete in DHS, ended up with a 16-1 record. The one loss he suffered was to Jeff Miller, whom he wrestled with a badly swollen knee, but he later defeated him convincingly in the sectionals.

Unfortunately Paul’s bad knee got steadily worse. Though he tried, he was unable to compete in the latter part of the season, which was a major factor in the team’s late season slump. Hoping to save his knee for the states he tried to use it as little as possible, but he hurt it again in a practice the day before the wrest-off, so he was unable to compete despite the fact he was placed number one. He was also chosen all-FCIAC Second Team.

Other standouts were John Stevenson, who led the team in pins with seven, and Sal Ferrallina, both of who led with 15 victories. Lombardo was chosen to the Second Team FCIAC. With Lombardo and Scott Tuck was named the First Team of the FCIAC.

Track Girls Finish Second In Counties

Coach Del Masko has some optimistic comments to add Captain Chris Popov.

“Be a pleasure having them,” said Coach Mautte. “They worked very hard. They were terrific,” he added.

“I thought it was a very good thing,” explained Chris Popov. “It was good having a lot of people out there.” There were more girls than guys at each practice. Certain girls came every day, while others only came when they were asked. Captain, “The only problem,” he added, “was that sometimes the girls were forced to compete against a strong group of boys at some of the meets, making it very difficult for the girls to win. This was due to the lack of girls at competing schools.”

One of the more outstanding runners for the girls, Lynn Ellison, added, “I hope someone sees that the number of girls on the track is growing and we don’t have anybody against boys all of the years to come.”