

Math instructor Pratt named outstanding teacher

The Henzlik Award for the Outstanding High School Teacher of 1979 in the state of Nebraska has been awarded to Central High math department head Miss Virginia Lee Pratt. Miss Pratt was nominated by Central Principal G. E. Moller, Miss Irene Eden, Central Guidance counselor, and several students of Miss Pratt.

Miss Pratt was notified of the decision on April 14. The presentation of the award will be April 29 at the Knolls in Lincoln.

Miss Pratt, a veteran teacher of 38 years, began her career with two years at Benson High School. Since then, she has

continued for 36 years at Central. Miss Pratt does not have a favorite subject to teach. "I like to teach any branch of mathematics. It is not the subject that makes the difference, it is the interest of the students. I enjoy teaching any level of mathematics to students who care about learning and try to do their best," said Miss Pratt.

Work with people

Miss Pratt did not always have aspirations to be a teacher. She graduated from Randolph-Macon and completed her certification requirements at Omaha University. "I became a teacher

because I prefer to work with people rather than with things," said Miss Pratt.

Miss Pratt feels that there should be an understanding between teachers and students. "Students and teachers should have mutual respect for each other and be able to communicate with each other easily," she said.

Teaching methods at Central have changed very little according to Miss Pratt. "In some schools and in some communities individualized instruction as a method of teaching has developed. We have always had a modified version of this be-

cause of the amount of individual help we give," said Miss Pratt. She added, "The general methods at Central have not changed except for the use of many more audio-visual aids which are available now and were not years ago."

Awareness important

Miss Pratt feels that the most important aspect of teaching, along with knowledge of the subject matter, is to be aware of the needs and abilities of the students. In teaching, Miss Pratt stresses to students the necessity of being a good citizen. "This covers just about every-

thing. If they are good citizens they will even do the best school work of which they are capable," said Miss Pratt.

She also feels that the students are less interested in math and the quality of their work now than they were at the beginning of her teaching career. "I think young people mature physically at an earlier age than they used to, and I think there are more who lack respect for age and authority," added Miss Pratt. She continued that while students are less interested in math concepts now, she feels that more girls are interested in the field of math.

central high register

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Stack cleared to make improvements

Many students arrived at school Monday, April 16, to discover a considerably shortened smoke stack surrounded by a pile of rubble.

The smoke stack, which was located on the west side of Cen-

tral's building, was slowly being demolished by a wrecking truck with a 2200 pound "boom," the large ball used to batter away at

the structure. Teachers were forced to raise their voices over the sound of crumbling concrete and students were forced to raise their eyes over the window sills in order to get one last glimpse of

Mr. Nick Stolzer, Director of Buildings and Grounds for Omaha Public Schools, explained the two main reasons for the removal of the smoke stack. The main reason, he said, was that the stack's removal had

The stack's removal had "ties to future campus development."

tral's building, was slowly being demolished by a wrecking truck with a 2200 pound "boom," the large ball used to batter away at

what many considered a landmark and many considered a nuisance — the Central High smoke stack.

"ties to future campus development." In the plans proposed for the land surrounding Central, "parking extends from Dodge to the north side of the lot," Mr. Stolzer said. This includes the area where the smoke stack stood.

The second reason for removing the smoke stack was that it was discovered one month ago that steel retaining bands surrounding the structure were loose and in danger of falling to the ground. The cost to remove the bands would be \$10,000, Mr. Stolzer said, so the OPS staff felt "the best thing to do was to tear the thing down now."

The OPS staff then presented the proposal to the Board of Education. The Board approved the measure and contractor's secured bids for the project. The cost to demolish and remove the smoke stack was set at \$27,500.

The knowledge of the smoke stack's removal brought out many attitudes from many people.

Mr. Al LaGreca, assistant principal, received the news with "mixed emotions." In his office, with one wall covered by pictures of Central's past buildings, many of them containing the smoke stack, Mr. LaGreca explained that "landmarks should be things of beauty." He felt the smoke stack was



photo by Howard K. Marcus

The wrecking time was extended because concrete was discovered instead of brick.

which was over 70 years old, began to be demolished on Saturday, April 14. But Mr. Bob Rock, operator of the wrecking truck, said the smoke stack was made of concrete, when what everyone expected to discover was a brick structure. This lengthened the demolition time to Thursday, April 19, longer by about three days than was expected.

Mr. Elza Tabor, head custodian, knew how solid and difficult to tear down the smoke stack was. The boiler room where he works is located underground, very near the smoke stack. Mr.

and a member of Landmarks, Inc., has an active interest in the preservation of architecturally old and unusual structures. To him, the smoke stack was "aesthetically pleasing. I really saw beauty in it," he said. He felt that it was part of Central's identity and pointed out that it appeared on the cover of the 1977 O-Book.

He defined a landmark as "something identified with a certain area. In that term, it certainly was a landmark," he said. Mr. Rock, however, felt that most people would be "glad to get rid of it." He said he tears

The smoke stack obstructed the view from Central to Joslyn Art Museum, Mr. LaGreca said.

"more of an eyesore. No way around it, it was ugly," he said. Mr. LaGreca noted that the smoke stack obstructed the view from Central to Joslyn Art Museum, and that now that it's gone, "it looks nicer."

The 160 foot smoke stack,

Tabor said that his entire desk shook every time the boom hit the stack. "I hate to see it torn down," Mr. Tabor said, but added that the decision should be weighed against being practical.

Eric Swegle, Central senior

down about two or three such stacks a year.

Dr. G. E. Moller, Central principal, admitted to a little sentimental attachment to such old landmarks, but said, "if it stood in the way of outdoor improvements, I would say go."

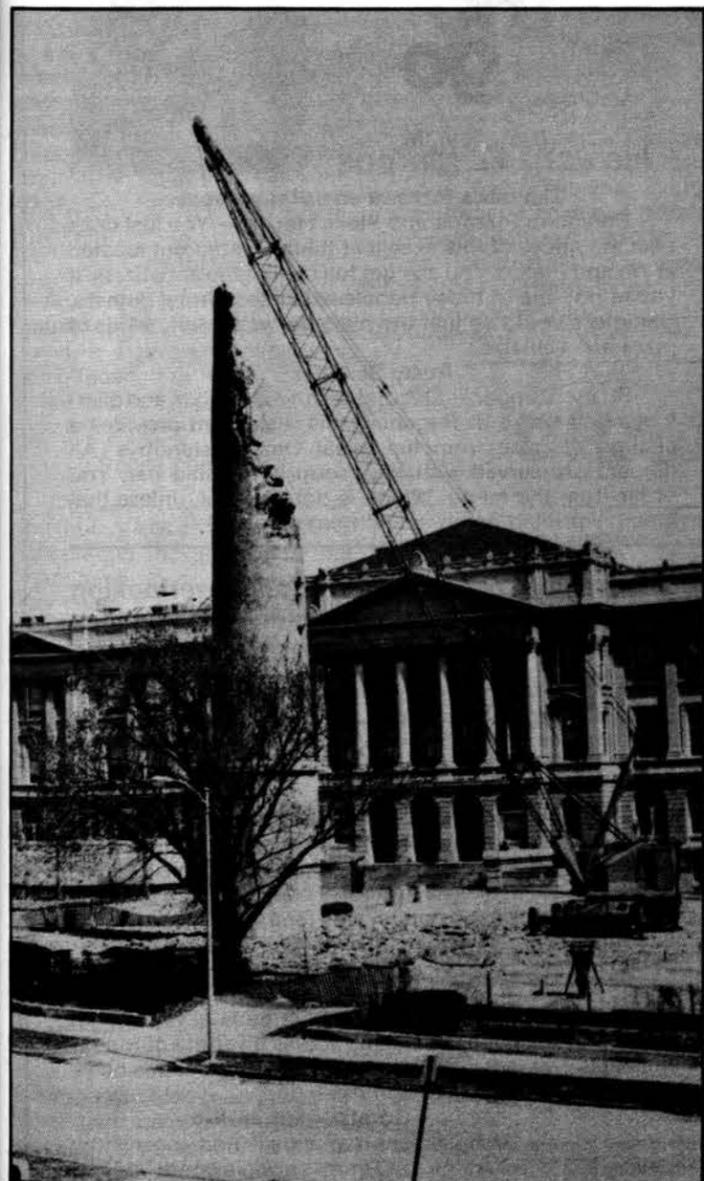


photo by Howard K. Marcus

The 2200 pound boom pounded away at the sturdy stack at a total cost of \$27,500.

Helms' prayer amendment poor

Just prior to their spring break, the U.S. Senate voted to table a bill containing an amendment allowing for prayer in public schools, which would nullify a 1962 Supreme Court ruling prohibiting such prayer.

However, just before this fortunate event, two Nebraska senators, James Exon and Edward Zorinsky, voted to create a Department of Education allowing for prayer in public schools.

editorial

Part of Senator Jesse Helms' (R-N.C.) "morality" amendment, according to a James Kilpatrick column recently appearing in the *Omaha World-Herald*, specifically stated that the Supreme Court and other federal courts "shall not have jurisdiction to review . . . any case arising out of any state statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, or any part thereof which relates to voluntary prayers in public schools or public buildings," thereby turning control of "voluntary" prayer over completely to many religiously dominated states and local communities.

And, of course, what can be termed voluntary prayer? What happens in the all too common instance where there is an elementary class consisting of 24 Protestants, with the other two or three students being of the Catholic or Jewish faith? Should a standardized prayer be established?

At the present time, any student desir-

ing to pray, who does not have adequate time to take time out to pray at home, can easily do so during a study period with no reprimands from the teacher, principal, or other school officials.

It is the apparent intent of amendments such as this to nullify the 17-year old decision by the Supreme Court prohibiting the saying of an "official" prayer by a class while a teacher is present.

Supreme Court rulings of both past and present have done absolutely nothing to inhibit voluntary prayer in the schools but have merely clarified and removed official sanction from voluntary prayer in the schools. This can be considered a clear case of separation of church from state.

Even President Jimmy Carter himself stated that the government should stay out of the prayer business, but die-hards like Helms and many of his supporters like Nebraska senators James Exon and Edward Zorinsky, are sure to continue their never-ending drive of supporting religion in the public schools, whether we like it or not.

Students today should pay attention to the far-reaching affects of such efforts and should do everything in their power to stop them.

This country's founding and tradition is based on a separation of church and state. Religion has no place in any public institution, and any move to change this court-supported philosophy should not be given our approval.

Writing lab progress successful

The end of the third quarter is an appropriate time to evaluate the writing lab, which is in its first year of operation. Despite the writing lab's infancy, success can be claimed.

The closing of the quarter was the target date for students to have remediated their writing skills.

editorial

According to Mr. Dan Daly, English department head, 161 of 500 sophomores, 191 of 403 juniors, and 268 of 415 seniors had successfully completed 100 percent of their needed work. These figures did not include students who had only remediated part of their deficiencies.

Organizational difficulties precluded Mr. Daly's target of complete remediation by all students. The lack of a definite completion date for student remediation and student procrastination until the last few weeks of the third quarter were major problems preventing the realization of the target.

Although only slightly under half of Central's students had remediated their writing skills at the end of the third quar-

ter, success is evident. Many more students will complete their remediation during the fourth quarter.

These students have taken advantage of the resources the mini-magnet program provides. Writing lab remediation improves students' writing capabilities through individualized instruction and work on writing deficiencies.

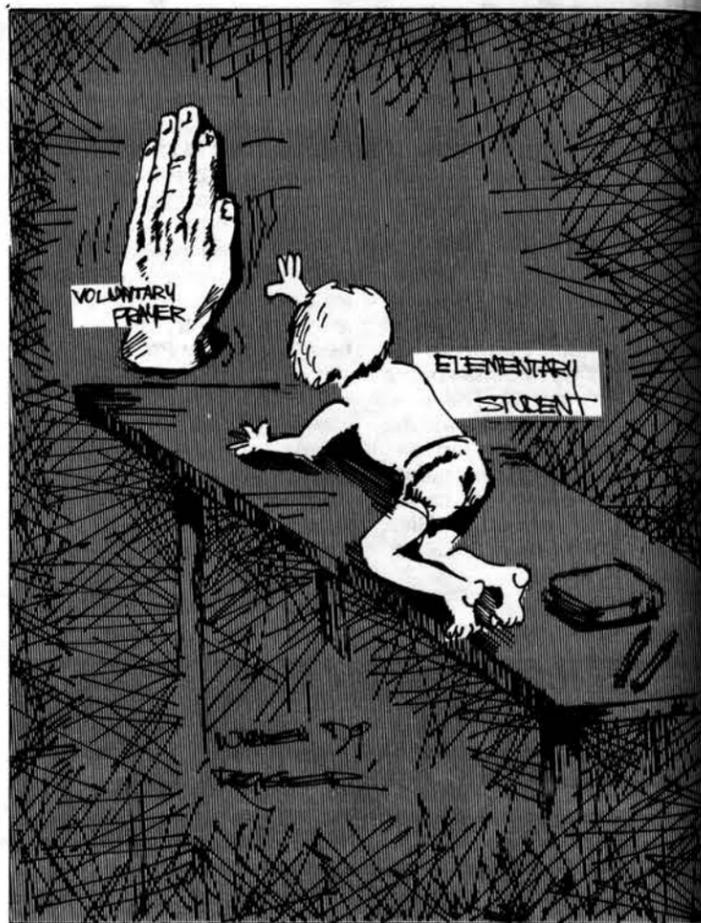
Other less heralded merits of the writing lab include individual help for students who are preparing themes. This type of instruction allows students to apply their writing skills.

Also deserving attention is the use of the writer-in-residence. Mr. Daly calls this resource "marvelous."

In the beginning of the school year we stated, "It would indeed be sad if students did not use the (writing) program to its full extent."

It appears as if many students have chosen to use the program to its full extent and that many more will.

Those responsible for the writing lab can claim success based on the relatively high use of the facility and the learning opportunities it provides for learning to write well.



Wondering where to go for dinner before the prom? You're not alone. Before events like the prom, I'm asked frequently about where to dine.

What follows is a list of what seems to be likely candidates for you before the prom dining pleasure. In almost every case, prepare to spend about \$20.00 per couple.

Ross'

Ross' — Located on the 72nd Street strip, Ross' has proven to be a very popular restaurant with people in the Omaha area. The last time I ate there I had a shrimp dinner which was very good. Although Ross' is noted for its steaks, the restaurant serves some pretty good seafood.

Venice Inn

Eli Caniglia's Venice Inn — This establishment, located at 72nd and Pacific, serves a wide variety of Italian dishes in addition to the usual fare of steaks and seafood. I especially like the lasagna (\$5.95) and an unusual item called tufoli. Tufoli is meat stuffed into rolls of pasta, covered with a layer of cheese.

on
the
go



Howard K. Marcus

Caniglia's Pizzeria and Steak House

Caniglia's Pizzeria and Steak House — You just can't beat the prices of this excellent Italian restaurant located at 7th and Pierce. You can get full on just the appetizers. If you're not one of those people who likes formal dinners, Caniglia's could be just the place for you. Many kinds of pizza are available.

Rusty Scupper

Rusty Scupper — Decorated in a rustic style and overlooking the lake at Regency, this restaurant provides a change of pace from the usual Omaha standbys. All dinners are served with rice, soup, and salad bar. You order from the menu. Which is not unusual, unless that menu is printed on an actual boat oar.

Decorated in a rustic style and overlooking the lake at Regency, this restaurant provides a change of pace from the usual Omaha standbys.

Dinner prices go from \$6.50 on up. The extra money is well spent because of the extra bit of preparation that goes into each meal.

Stuart Anderson's Cattle Company

Stuart Anderson's Cattle Company — For those of you who really aren't into decor, this new franchise restaurant may be just for you. Any cut of beef is \$5.95. This price includes salad, baked potato, and Texas toast. There is no salad bar at Stuart Anderson's which is located at 110th Dodge.

Club 89

Club 89 — Dick Glasford's Club 89 is always good. Located at 89th and H, Club 89 serves a variety of foods. The entertainment varies from time to time, but has been good the few times I've seen it.

Gorats

Gorats — At this restaurant you'll find mostly the usual steak fare, but the food here is always good. There is no salad bar, but the salads are always fresh.

central high

register

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Mary Kester, artist, works on macrame art project.

photo by Matt Metz

Artist in school program

"My work is heavy and organic in form," said Mary Kester, describing her work.

Mary Kester is working in the program 'Art in Schools', which brings specialists such as artists, poets, and architects into the classrooms.

Mary says its good for the students and the teachers and it is good for the artist to get out into the community to pick up ideas. She feels it's good to get out and see how other people think.

She works mainly with fibers and makes sculptures. She is teaching four art classes how to coil pots out of twine. Outside of Central, she works at her downtown studio.

"I've been a professional here in Omaha for eight and a half years," she said.

She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa, with a Purple and Gold award for an outstanding graduate. She was a co-founding member of the Old Market Craftsman Guild. She worked with four other artists at Joslyn Art Museum, proposing, planning, and doing monumental sculptures. She was assistant to the Director of the Gallery at the Old Market. She's had one-woman shows in Omaha, Lincoln, and Fremont, Nebraska; Sioux City, and Storm Lake, Iowa.

Mary wants her objects to project a presence. She uses

soft material and creates firm shapes. Her colors are dark and are dyed. She works with knotting, netting, crocheting, and basket techniques of twining and coiling.

Mary is sponsored by Central, the Omaha Public Schools, and the Nebraska Arts Council. She finds her students cooperative and says they are "nice people." When she isn't working in the art room she is in the library where she hopes to meet more people and talk about her work.

Central is her last school this year. She has been to others from grade schools to colleges. She arrived at Central Monday, April 16, and will be here until May 2.

Calculator policies differ

Calculators have come a long way in the past ten years and so has the use of calculators by students at Central.

According to Miss Virginia Lee Pratt, Central math department head, policies concerning calculators have gone through many changes in the last few years. "When calculators were first introduced, they were too expensive for most students," she said.

Cost factor

According to Miss Pratt, because calculators were so expensive at the time they were introduced, the math department did not allow students to use calculators on tests.

Policy changes

In the last few years, however, this policy has changed. "Since calculators have become so reasonable in price in the last few years, and since most students own calculators, calculators are now being used on tests."

Miss Pratt said that calculators have also been purchased by the math department for students who do not own calculators so that they can use them on tests. The only concern Miss Pratt expressed about the use of calculators at Central was that students would rely entirely upon calculators for simple arithmetic calculations, allowing their arithmetic skills to become rusty.

Estimate

Miss Pratt also likes students who use calculators in her classes to be able to estimate answers, so that students will know if their calculator is showing the correct answer.

Central's science department

has had no policy concerning the use of calculators in classes, according to Mr. Gary Thompson, Central science department head. "We've left up that decision to the individual teacher."

No restrictions

Mr. John Williams, chemistry teacher, said calculators have always been allowed in the classroom. "I have had no restrictions in the classroom on them (calculators). On tests, students have always been able to borrow one from a neighbor or from me."

Mr. Jerry Doctor, chemistry teacher, has held a similar policy with regard to calculators. "On regular schoolwork, students are free to use calculators. On tests, students either use their own calculators, or they can use calculators we (the science department) own."

Micro-computer

Mr. Williams also said that a new micro-computer that was recently purchased by the science department, can be used to check calculations made by students on their calculators.

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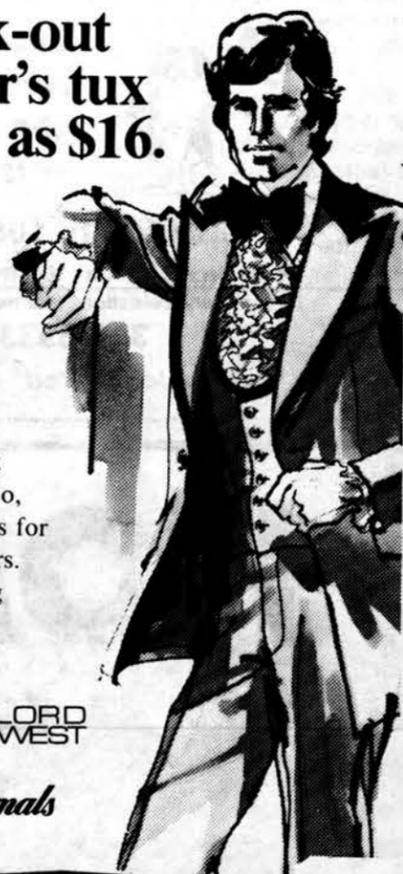
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Girls' track leads state

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Dan Meehan



Spring

Spring is an active time of year when people emerge from the long lifeless months of winter and rediscover the great outdoors.

The parks come alive with the throwing of frisbees, the flying of kites, the movements of the many dozens of joggers and bike riders, and the chatter of active people.

The green grass and bright sun bring out athletes of diverse talents. From the gracefulness of a Master Frisbee Freak, to the desire of a winter-weighted jogger, to the expertise of an ancient kite flyer, all sharing the mutual desire of being outdoors and being active.

With the season of spring come the seasons of baseball, golf, tennis, track, soccer, and motocross.

Baseball

A baseball game is easy enough to locate in the spring time. If you simply want to get out and watch a game, you have your choice of semi-pro triple A ball in the Omaha Royals, college ball in the Creighton Bluejays and UNO Mavericks, high school ball in the Central High Eagles and many other teams, and the countless numbers of softball games.

For those people who are more than just fans, Omaha has the largest number of softball leagues in the world. For those who enjoy baseball, there are many leagues around town such as the Y.M.C.A., C.Y.O. and school-sponsored leagues. Many Little Leagues are in need of coaches and umpires; that sounds like a good idea for the experts among us.

Many nights a week you can view track meets, soccer games and tennis matches. Central's own spring sports program includes boys' and girls' track, girls' tennis, along with baseball.

Track

There are many large track meets that you can attend if interested. The Bellevue Invitational, April 27th and the Metro Meet, May 1 and 2, are just two of the numerous meets. As for the tennis matches, it's a good opportunity to catch some sun while watching a truly fast and exciting sport.

If you are one who needs a sport which is fast, rough, and requires the knowledge of a machine, then your sport is now in season — motocross.

Motocross

Motocross requires a person with a lot of guts, a certain amount of knowledge of the machine and the sport and just a touch of craziness.

For those who would enjoy viewing an afternoon of motocross, many amateur and professional races are held in Nebraska and around the Omaha area. Kawasaki just held its National motocross last Sunday, at Herman, Nebraska. It featured the top riders from across the U.S.A. representing Kawasaki, Honda Suzuki, Yamaha, plus many other Manufacturers.

Spring is now the season, the season of getting outdoors and becoming active. So find a pleasurable activity and get out under the sun.

The Central girls' track team has established itself as the team to beat at the state meet for 1979. At every meet the girls attend, they continue to dominate their competition. The lady Eagles have won all of their track meets this year, including the Bryan, Grand Island, and, last Friday, the Millard Invitational.

At the Millard Invitational, the girls picked up 10 first places, winning 10 of the meet's twelve running events, and scoring a total of ninety-eight points, outdistancing the host second place team Millard by a total of twenty points.

Mrs. Joanne Dusatko, head coach for the Central girls, feels very fortunate about her team's victory at Millard. "We feel really fortunate to win, considering we didn't have one of our best days." What contributed to the lady Eagles not having one of their best days was that Jackie Washington, leading the state in the 100 yard dash with a time of 11.1, false started, which disqualified her from the race.

Nevertheless, sophomore Joi Pulliam won the race for Central with a time of 11.6. Other winners for the Central Eagles included sophomore Wanda Hartso in the 880 yard run and the 440 yard dash, Jackie Washington in the 80 yard hurdles in a record-tying time of 10.13, the Central two mile relay, the Central mile relay, the Central 440 relay, and the Central 880 relay.

"I've been blessed with a lot of good teams," Mrs. Dusatko said, "but this year, we have a lot more depth than we've ever had before." Central's depth shows

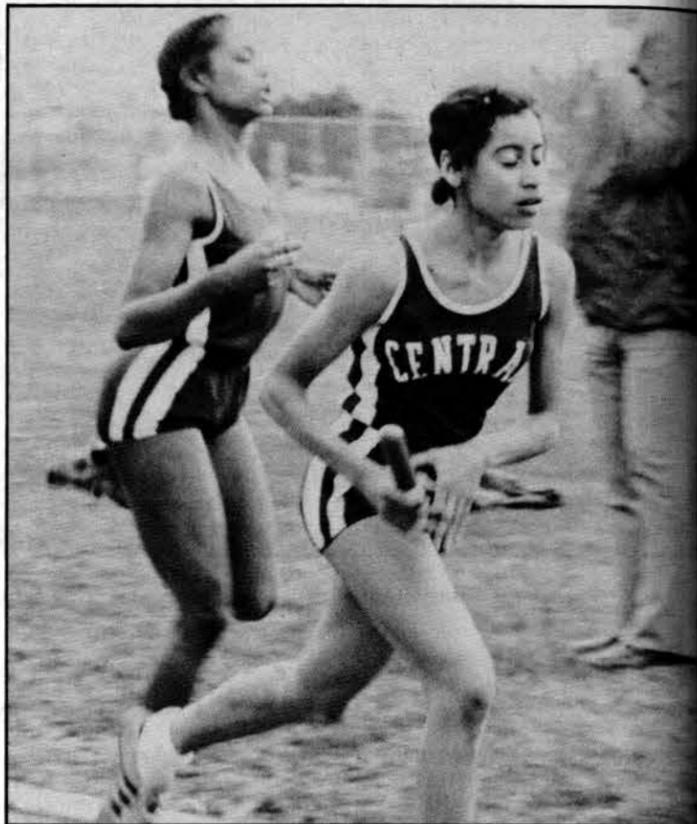


photo by Matt Holland

Jackie Washington, left, hands off the baton to Wanda Hartso.

up on the Omaha *World-Herald* All-Class leader charts. The lady Eagles lead in eight of the categories in track and field.

Wanda Hartso leads the 440 with a time of 58. She also leads in the 880 yard run with a time of 2:22.6. Jackie Washington leads the state with a time of 11.1 in the 100 yard dash and she also leads in the 80 yard hurdles with a time of 10.13.

The lady Eagle mile relay tops the state with a clocking of

4:01.1, while the two mile relay leads in Nebraska with a time of 10.13. The Central 880 yard relay leads the state with a time of 1:47.5, as the 440 relay of Central also tops the state with a time of 49.2.

Others finishing in state at Central are Beverly Pulliam, second in the 220 at 26.4 seconds, and Joi Pulliam, ranked fifth in the 100 yard dash at 11.5 and sixth in the long jump with a leap of 17'3 1/2".

eagle feathers

J.V. baseball

The junior eagles have a record of 3-5 and according to coach Paul Semrad they are hitting the ball very well but are lacking in good defensive play.

The jv's three wins came over Benson 5-4, Bellevue East 11-4, and Lincoln High 11-0. Junior Jim Becker earned two saves in the Benson and Bellevue East games. Sophomore Mike Swoboda was also cited by coach Semrad for an outstanding game against Benson.

Seniors sign

Seniors Mark Rigatuso and Leonard Hawkins recently signed national letters of intent to the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Both Mark and Leonard were stand-out athletes at Central.

Mark was named to the all-state football squad and finished second in the 185

pound weight class at the state wrestling finals. Mark compiled a record of 64-10 during his wrestling career.

Leonard was the state champion at 155 pound weight division, boasting a record of 69-5-1. Leonard also played football, but not for Central, as he was a transfer student from Bryan High school last year.

Both Mark and Leonard plan on playing football this fall and to wrestle this winter for UNO, both our receiving full-ride athletic scholarships.

Boys' track

Last Saturday, the Central Boys' track team finished tied for fourth place in the Dutch White Relays at Burke Stadium. Top finishers for the boys were the Central mile relay which finished first with a time of 3:29, the Central 880 yard relay which finished 1:31.99, Luther Harris who finished second in both the long jump and triple jump, and Clarence Major who finished third in the mile run with a time of 4:38.5.

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