



Once again, Sean Ridley and Jessica Haynes were in the spotlight, but not in football and basketball. Sean and Jessica were crowned Homecoming King and Queen at the homecoming dance, Saturday, September 29, at the Airport Ramada Inn.

After being crowned and posing for pictures, they danced to "Purple Rain," by Prince and The Revolution, which inspired the theme of this year's homecoming, "Purple Reign." Homecoming was, as usual, a real success. This year the large attendance filled the dance floor past capacity. According to Mr. Richard Jones, Central administrator, a larger place will have to be found for next year's homecoming.

photo by Jim Hazuka

College application What colleges look for

Stewart Dlemont

It is a time for football, holidays, falling leaves, and, for high school seniors, college applications and applications. What are colleges looking for in an application and an applicant? The answer is not a simple one. Colleges have some determination factors and are not always unanimous in others.

The two major factors in college decisions are standardized tests and grade point averages (GPA), according to Central High School counselor Mr. Stan Maliszewski. Maliszewski led a workshop last spring for juniors and sophomores addressing the topic "What Colleges Are Looking For." He attended a College Board convention two years ago in which a panel of eight admissions directors addressed the same

Standardized tests and GPA

The panel of admissions directors said the ACT, SAT, and Achievement Tests (where applicable) account for 50 percent of decision-making, and GPA accounts for 25 percent. Mr. Maliszewski agreed saying colleges do not like to admit it, but SAT and ACT scores account for most of the decision and GPA ranks second.

College Choices in America, written by Charles F. Manski and David A. Wise, "Test scores help colleges select the students who will most benefit from the education they receive."

Mr. Maliszewski expressed disagreement, saying, "Some people do badly under pressure, and I do not think tests measure creative nor critical thinking, independence, and self-discipline."

The final 25 percent of the decision making, stated the panel, is such things as leadership record, goals, interests, sports participation, family relation to alumni, place of residence, age, sex, and race.

Mr. Maliszewski ranks teacher recommendations as the third most important factor for most schools except the Ivy League. He said that items listed, such as GPA, class rank and leadership record, are important for the "first cut in the Ivies." After the "first cut" recommendations become prominent. Ivy League schools, said Mr. Maliszewski, look for a specific area in which a student excels as the third most important factor.

High school caliber

Other factors also play a role in the total decision. Said Mr. Maliszewski, "A strong indication of the caliber of the high school

which the student attended. He noted Central's worthiness, saying that a majority of the people at the College Board convention of two years ago recognized the name Omaha Central Senior High School and the fact that it is an accredited school.

Principal Dr. G.E. Moller agreed. "We have a good reputation for preparing students for college."

Central is also one of only two high schools in Omaha on the College Board, the organization which designs the SAT. The other school is Burke. To be accepted on the board, a high school must have a high percentage of graduates who attend four-year colleges.

Work experience

Work experience is something more and more colleges are looking at, according to the panel of admissions directors. Mr. Maliszewski said both volunteer and a paying job are considered. Jobs could be anything from being a busboy to counseling camp. "Work experience," he said, "is just a way to show that you did something other than lie around at the pool all summer."

Interviews can also play an important part. Said Mr. Maliszewski, "A good impression in an interview can be important."

Financial background may be something that colleges look at, he said. Colleges are looking for a variety of financial backgrounds.

Quality not quantity

The panel of admissions directors mentioned some other characteristics as not being very important to college admission. Being involved in a great many small community activities is not very important. Colleges are more interested in organized efforts over a long period of time.

Colleges would also much rather see a student hold an office in one club than be a member of several, said Mr. Maliszewski.

The characteristics looked at by colleges are numerous and variant. Tests and GPA are the most dominant qualifications. After these two areas, follow many factors. But, what students will be accepted to what colleges?

According to Mr. Maliszewski, the decision as to whether a student is qualified depends not only on the quality of the student's record but also on how habitually competitive the college is, and, especially in private schools, the size of the enrollment for that specific year. For further information, a student should consult college guides and talk with his guidance counselor.

Graduation requirements raised

by Kari Hulac

As a result of various reports and research triggered by the Reagan administration's National Committee on Excellence in Education, the graduation requirements for Omaha Public School (OPS) were raised from 36 to 45 minimum credits.

Dr. Richard Werkheiser, OPS research official, explained that Dr. Jack Taylor, former OPS superintendent, called together, among other research groups, a Standardization Committee whose job was to look at the eight area high schools and evaluate them. He said, "The schools were all doing different things concerning course requirements, and we felt these practices needed to be standardized."

The committee consisted of about 35 community members, including teachers and high school students. Mr. A.A. LaGrecia, Central assistant principal, was among them. He explained the motivating force behind the decision to raise the credit requirements.

Half credit eliminated

"In order for all schools to have a uniform system, the one-half credit system was eliminated making all classes a full credit. Central was the school which used it the most, and we strongly believed in it." Mr. LaGrecia explained that Central feels that those courses which aren't required or don't consist of daily homework should only be worth one-half credit.

When the half credit courses were changed to full credit courses, it was necessary for the graduation requirements to be raised in compensation for the difference.

The following changes will go into effect for 9th graders in the 1984-85 school year:

- 45 minimum credits over 4 years to graduate
- 24-25 obtained in classes required
- 20-21 obtained in electives (elective meaning a course which isn't required or in which the requirements have already been met)

The current plan requires sophomores to obtain a minimum of 42 credits to graduate instead of 36. It has been proposed that over the four high school years, the following credits be obtained in the designated classes:

- 8 English
- 7 Social Studies
- 4 Math
- 2 Science

Dr. Moller disappointed

According to Mr. LaGrecia, Central will experience little difficulty adjusting to the change. "Schools which didn't have a large number of half credit courses are going to have a tougher time," he said.

Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, expressed disappointment at the change. "I'm not really pleased. I think the old half-credit system was an excellent system."

Dr. Moller did basically agree with the need for increased minimum requirements, however. "I do believe that the requirements were probably too low, but they could have been increased without changing the credit system."

Minority graduate at minimum

Fears of a heavily-loaded schedule are unfounded for incoming freshmen. Both Dr. Werkheiser and Mr. LaGrecia emphasized that 45 credits is the minimum requirement. Dr. Werkheiser said, "A minority of about 5 to 10 percent of the students graduate at the minimum requirement level." Mr. LaGrecia pointed out, "Students aren't satisfied with the minimum grade (70%) in a class, and they shouldn't be satisfied with minimum amount of credits."

Dr. Werkheiser said that also aiding in credit accumulation will be the counting of all ninth grade credits. "Before, some high schools didn't always count all 9 credits."

These credit changes could serve to encourage one to choose the "easy route," that is a student who had reached his or her graduation requirements could choose to lay back and take simpler courses. Mr. LaGrecia, although initially skeptical, feels that the problem is solving itself. "Classes are filling up; you'll always have students who take a class just for the credit, but you'll never be able to stop a student who has the desire and motivation to learn."

Heather Hammans, senior, sums up the effect of the requirement change at Central. "It won't hurt us because those who are here at Central want a good education in the first place."



photo by Lisa Larson

Jeff Frenking, senior, and Chris Peterson, junior, wear safety goggles during a chemistry lab. A new Nebraska law, LB 999, requires students to wear these protective items.

New law requires goggles

Law LB 999, passed last spring by the Nebraska State Legislature, requires all science students to wear protective goggles during laboratory experiments.

In the past five or six years, many states have passed this law. According to Mr. Jerry Doctor, Central chemistry teacher, "When a law to protect kids is brought up, how can you not pass it?"

Mr. Doctor said that the law is very unclear as to what type of labs require the use of the goggles. There is no penalty to the teacher if he doesn't force the students to wear them, unless an injury occurs.

If injury occurs, a lawsuit would be brought against the instructor, his department head, the principal, and the superintendent of schools. Mr. Doctor feels that the students should wear goggles when necessary but that the instructor should make the decision rather than the courts.

The law has been very costly to Central, not because of the \$5 goggles, but because of the ultraviolet cabinets purchased to prevent bacteria on the goggles from being transferred from student to student. Three cabinets were purchased each of which cost \$11,500.

Elective credits lower GPA

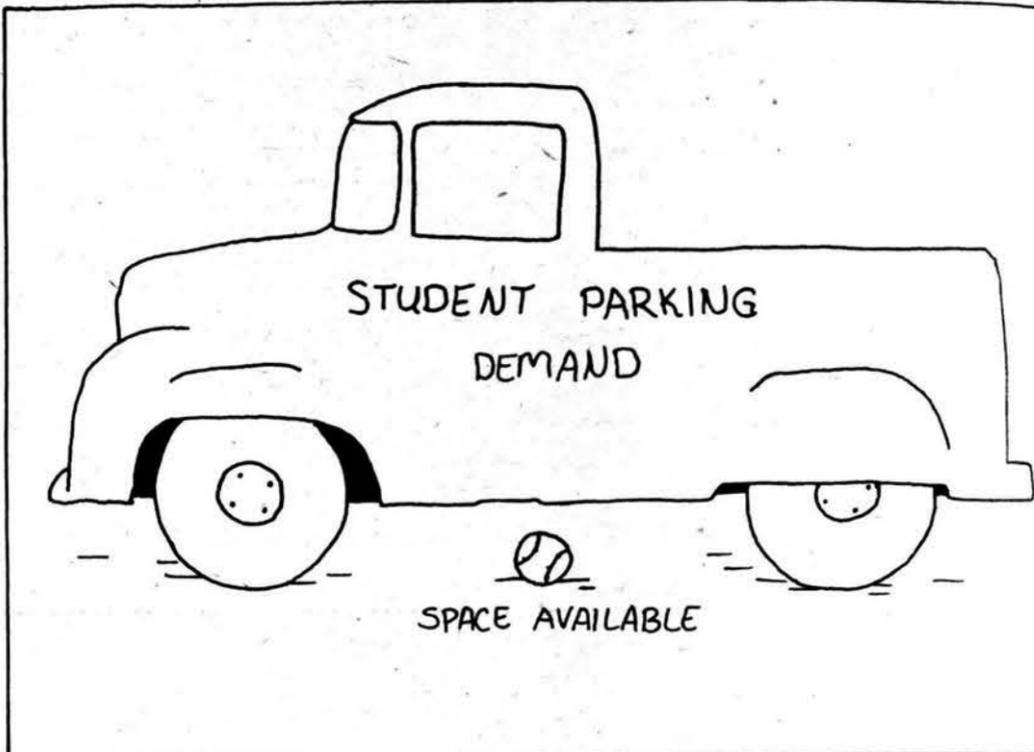
Auditing — attending a class without credit — could be an alternative to Advanced Placement (AP) students taking electives. According to Mr. Stan Maliszewski, Central guidance counselor, auditing is permitted only in select case and requires permission from the teacher involved as well as Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal. Dr. Moller said, "We will not permit any auditing just to raise GPA (grade point average)."

Editorial

"Up until two years ago, I had never thought of auditing as a way to manipulate GPA," Mr. Maliszewski said. A student's GPA is determined by dividing the total number of quality points by the number of credits attempted. Quality points are now 4.0 for a 1, (5.0 in an honors/AP class), 3.0 for a 2, 2.0 for a 3, and so on. A senior who gets 1's in four AP classes will have a higher GPA (and class rank) than a senior in the same classes with the same grades who takes any elective courses.

According to Mr. A.A. LaGreca, Central administrator, the possibility of this situation changing a person's class rank is so small, it's "insignificant." Dr. Moller agreed saying, "The difference is very slight. It might make a difference in a ranked position or two." He added that a committee, in the "near future" would be studying the GPA and Honor Roll processes.

The **Register** believes that students should receive credit only for their work, not for the number of classes they are taking. If the GPA process is not reconstructed, the administration should not in effect penalize students for studying more than regular academics. A difference or two in class rank may seem insignificant, but it is still a difference. Auditing an elective can be an alternative in this situation.



Registered Opinion: Junk food or lunch?

Due to state law, a school cannot sell food in competition with its cafeteria food. In compliance with this law, Central has turned off the vending machines in the courtyard, which sell snack foods, juice, and pop. The pop machines are on before school and after lunch. The food machines are not on until after lunch. Members of Central's student and faculty were asked how they felt about this situation.

Michelle Ebadl (senior): It's just ridiculous. During the lunch periods everyone wants to use the machines. The school could make a lot more money when everyone's down here (in the courtyard) than before school.

Ann Addison (senior): The school food is so bad that people have to eat food from the machines, or they won't eat anything all day. (right)

Cheryl Johnson (senior): I think the vending machines should be on because the kids don't like the food in the cafeteria. By the time they get through the lines in the cafeteria, the bell has rung. So they need the machines. (top)

Mr. Brian Watson (teacher): I think it's a good idea. They shouldn't have vending machines here in the first place. The real problem is the trash and the debris.

Linda Warsocki (sophomore): I don't think it's right. I don't feel like walking up four flights of stairs to eat — and I don't particularly like the food. (bottom)

photos by Scott Hoburg



Letter to the Editor

Dear Ms. Editor:

It totally appalls me when I see that people in high school actually can be so destructively immature and asinine as to totally deface the homecoming decorations on the "C" in the west entry-way. It obviously took the cheerleaders quite an extensive amount of time on a Saturday morning to decorate the school and do the fine job they did. Were I the party responsible for the damage, I would be very much ashamed.

Respectfully,
Jeff Bonenberger

'Ritzy' class has spirit

As I entered my house (we won't mention at what time), took off my corsage and tenderly placed it in the refrigerator, I realized that homecoming had come to an end. Did this also mean an end to the spirit that had risen so high during homecoming week?

From Me to You



LeAnne Lovings

"No, I told myself, "Central will forever have spirit." Students may have different ways of showing their school spirit, though. Some cheery Centralites show their spirit by decorating and making Central an awesome display of crepe paper and balloons, while others (no names mentioned) show their spirit by tearing down the decorations. Still, Central maintains the spirit that other schools try so hard to possess.

So I was thinking, (yes, I actually do that once in awhile). I was thinking of ways Central could use that Spirit to promote recognition. Well, I came up with this: Wouldn't it be neat if we initiated a theme of "Spirit with Class"? Just think, we could all drive to the game in limousines, and each person that entered the gate could be announced like they do at ritzy Beverly Hills parties. Wouldn't that blow the other team's minds away? (Do you think it would be too much to ask the football players to play in tuxedos?)

We could even go a step further and dress up our school a little. Instead of hanging posters, we could add a chandelier or two to the courtyard. Maybe we could even have lunch catered and hire a violinist to play from table to table. Also, we could teach Dr. Moller to smoke a pipe (a legal pipe, of course).

Oh, and another thing, I find it very difficult to show spirit all day long when you spend an hour of your morning searching for a parking spot, only to find you have parked a mile and a half away from the school. I think we could solve this easily just by having a parking valet. That way, you could simply drive to the door of your preference, hand your keys to the valet, and leave him with the headache of finding a parking spot.

"This sounds expensive," you're probably saying to yourself. Well, I am one step ahead of you. I have it all figured out. We could simply add a tax on all teachers. We could determine how much each teacher owed by how much homework they gave and by how often they mispronounced your name. (Mr. Festerberg, watch out!)

This is sounding better all the time. I think everyone would recognize Central as a more classy school. In no time at all, every student would want to adopt the "Spirit with Class" program. Heck, we might even make a little money by sending students to other schools to teach them how to rule with class.

Do you think Dr. Moller will go for my idea? He will — as soon as he hears my proposal for adding a jacuzzi to his office.

Parking situation rigid

Judging from student complaints and warnings from neighboring businesses, the parking situation is far from acceptable.

But it has to be. In fact, the following pieces of advice won't help much because A) a lot of people will ignore them, and B) the main problem will probably never be solved.

Until ten years ago, Central didn't have any student parking. We're not likely to get more. "We're in an old area where land is valuable. We're lucky to have what we have," Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, said. He added that it's up to the Board of Education to buy more land if they will.

He and Mr. A.A. LaGreca, Central administrator, offered some advice for those students who didn't get parking permits. Come early and park on the street or rent a space from the OEA (Omaha Educators Association). Better yet, don't drive unless you must or else organize a carpool. To those of you parking illegally and/or without a permit, the warnings will climax with the towing of your car. You must pay the towing fee, which could be \$40 or more.

"Parking downtown is a universal problem. The school can't afford to buy parking," Mr. LaGreca said. Please, see this problem. It's unchangeable — for now. We have to live with it — preferably, gracefully.

CENTRAL Register

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CHS students go to Olympics

With the lighting of the Olympic flame and the athletes' final preparations for the games, came the final preparations of the Centralites for their trips to Los Angeles.

Central seniors, Heide McGee and Dennis Wheeler, and Central counselor, Mr. Stan Maliszewski, are just a few of the millions of people who attended the 1984 Olympic Games.

Planning time differed greatly between students. Heide purchased her tickets a year in advance; Dennis bought his just a month in advance. Mr. Maliszewski lived in Los Angeles over the summer and purchased his tickets only three days before the event he attended.

Heide went to the track and field, basketball, boxing, and part of the marathon. Dennis went only to the women's marathon. Maliszewski also saw some of the track and field.

Everyone seems to have different views on the games. "It was what I expected and more," said Dennis, "really motivating." According to Mr. Maliszewski, it was "electrifying."

But Heide saw things a little differently. "There were a lot more people than I expected. When you were watching, it didn't seem like you were at the Olympics."

She also commented that walking around the Olympic areas and hearing all the different languages as well as seeing people from all different countries was extremely interesting.

All agreed, however, that the games were very well organized. There were maps and signs everywhere.

The major businesses in the area staged their starting times in order to lessen the amount of traffic during the usual rush hour, according to Mr. Maliszewski. "It was the most organized event I've ever witnessed," he said.

The security at all the activities was tight, according to Heide.

Although these Centralites did not experience the same events, they all did have a strong feeling of national spirit. "It was worth being there," said Dennis.

Everyone walked around with flags representing their countries, according to Maliszewski. "I was impressed with the spirit," he said. "It would make Nebraska feel like a high school event."



Joe Russo checks the fuel tank before his flight lesson. Joe is working on attaining his pilot rating.

photo by Steve Berman

Flight training at Eppley Russo takes to the air

by Gwen Oberman

By the ripe age of six, many young women have taken up the art of ballet in addition to making the weekly trek to the infamous piano lesson. Similarly, young men begin breaking in their little league baseball mitts and perfecting their jump shots by the age of eight or nine. Rather than pursuing any of the "normal" extra-curricular activities, Central senior Joe Russo began flight training at Eppley Airfield at a mere 10 years of age.

Joe explained that he noticed an ad in the newspaper for an introductory flight offer which included an hour of flight time with an instructor for \$15, and thus his hobby of flying began.

After his first flight, Joe looked around for a type of flying explorer post. He found just what he wanted at Eppley, a "ground school" which taught everything from navigation to the facts about plane instruments.

Most recently Joe has been taking lessons from a man who is a member of the Air Force. His lessons are at the South Omaha Airport on Old Highway 370. Usually he and his instructor go to a practice area 20 miles southwest of the airport which is on the other side of the Platte River. A normal flying session lasts one hour to an hour and a half.

Simulation exercises

One might ask what one does during flight training. Joe said that "before anything else, you always have to check the airplane out." He said he has a one-page checklist, and it is extremely important "not to skip anything." Items to check include making sure that all the moveable surfaces move in the right direction, checking for fuel in the tank, and making sure that there is no water in the tank.

After the safety check is completed, Joe is prepared for the flight with his instructor. He regularly practices stalls. "A stall occurs when a wing of the aircraft loses its lift. It deals with physics and can happen at any speed and at any altitude," Joe said. Therefore, it is necessary to

simulate such an occurrence in order to be prepared for it in the actual event of it happening.

In simulating a stall "you go up 3,000 feet, pull the throttle back so the RPM's drop. The nose (of the plane) then raises, you hear a warning horn, the plane starts to shutter, and you hang there momentarily. If you hang long enough, the nose drops, and you just ride it down for 200 feet. You pull it back to neutral and go again," Joe said.

According to Joe, a good stall is 500 feet or less from start to finish. His best stall so far is 300 feet.

Joe flies a Cessna 152, single-engine, high-wing airplane. To buy the plane would cost \$27,000. Instead, Joe rents it for \$30 per hour which provides him with both the plane and fuel. His instructor costs him an additional \$10 per hour. Joe commented that these fees are cheaper in Omaha than in many other cities.

From soloing to exam

The first big achievement in flight training comes when one can solo, that is to fly without an instructor. In order to solo, one must be at least 16 years old and be able "to handle a level flight and a smooth landing taking the wind into consideration," Joe said. He made his first solo flight this summer.

After flying solo, the next logical step to take is to work toward obtaining a flying license, which Joe is in the process of doing. A person must be 17 years old to get a license, Joe said.

The flight exam consists of three parts. The first part is a 60-question written test covering material learned in ground school. Joe received an 80 percent on this section. The second part can only be taken if one received a 70 percent or better on the first part. Also, one must arrange to take it with an examiner from the Federal Aviation Administration in Lincoln. The examiner "orally goes over what you missed in Part 1. You get back your answers from the first part in the mail before the second test, so you know what you missed," Joe explained. If one is fortunate enough to get a 100 percent on the first part, one moves directly on to the third section.

The third section is the actual flying part of the exam which Joe took on October 5. One has to have 40 hours of flight experience in order to take it. "By this time you should be proficient," Joe said. He himself has 45 hours of flying time already.

Pilot levels

When Joe passes, he will be receiving his "private" rating. There are four ratings all together. "Private" is first, "instrument" is second, "commercial" is third, and "air transport" is fourth. One needs a commercial rating in order to actually fly people for money. An air transport rating is what pilots of commercial airlines have.

In thinking of the future, Joe already knows that he isn't keen on joining the Air Force simply because he wears glasses. Wearing glasses is a hindrance in this field, and, therefore, the only available flying jobs would be that of a navigator or a flight engineer. Joe could not be a command pilot, the person who sits in the forward left seat of the cockpit, either.

So, if piano lessons or little league don't provide enough challenge, one could take a hint from Joe and try flight training.



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4 of Central importance



photo by Steve Berman

Semi-finalists climb on a sculpture at Joslyn Art Museum. They are from left to right James Keene, Anneliese Festersen, Kristina Lawson, Arthur Kosowsky, and Daniel Mirvish.

Centralites make National Merit semi-finals

On September 13, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of the 15,000 semi-finalists nationwide.

The six Central semi-finalists are Anneliese Festersen, James Keene, Arthur Kosowsky, Kristina Lawson, Daniel Mirvish, and William Montague. (William recently moved to Denver but is still considered one of Central's semi-finalists.)

Anyone who takes the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and wishes to be considered as a competitor is eligible, with the exception of seniors. Scores from over one million tests are compared each year with the semi-finalists being drawn from those. Only two-tenths of one

percent of those who compete score high enough to remain in competition. A cut-off point for scores is decided on a state to state basis.

Students who score above the cut-off point or in the upper three percent become semi-finalists. Students who score below the cut-off point but rank in the upper fifty percent of the whole are honored as Commended Students for their time and effort in the competition.

Of all the commended students nationwide, twelve are from Central. They are Harold Adcock, Stewart Diemont, Jacques Fasan, Gene Huey, Orest Lechnowsky, Jon Lexau, Brenda McCann, Richard Ryan, Dan Schinzel, Jeff Thoreson, and Peter Widhalm.

All-state try-outs

Every year there are many Central students who audition for the All-State Music Clinics. The clinics are a conglomeration of students from all over the state of Nebraska. Central's band, orchestra and A Cappella choir are all participants in these clinics.

There are a total of eighteen Central choir members auditioning under the supervision of Mr. Stan Schmidt, assistant choral director. Twenty-four Central band and orchestra members are auditioning with the aid of Mr. Warren Ferrel, instrumental director.

The auditions will be held at the UNO Performing Arts Center. Voice auditions are September 29, and instrumental auditions are October 13. Results become available within one week of the auditions.

For the past several years, Central has had representatives in all of the categories.

Drills promote safety

State and federal laws now require bus safety drills similar to fire and tornado drill requirements. Officials conducted the first evacuation drills on all buses Friday morning, October 5.

The law does not include vans and small buses, said Mr. Allan Williams, Transportation Director.

Students exit through the rear emergency door. Officials told students never to evacuate a bus involved in an accident unless they are told to do so, or if a danger exists, such as fire.

OPS currently contracts 140 buses from R.W. Harmon and Sons, according to Mr. Williams. Added to this are 265 vans run by the district. Approximately 13,000 students ride to school for purposes of desegregation, special education, or because they live more than four miles from school.

Senior wins NCTE

Central senior, Arthur Kosowsky, won the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Award. Mr. Dan Daly, Central English department chairman, received the results September 20.

According to Mr. Daly, each high school in the country with an enrollment exceeding 1500 is allowed to nominate four outstanding students for the award. The nominees were Arthur, Gwen Oberman, Jacques Fason, and Harold Adcock. The nominees were required to be juniors; the students are presently seniors.

Each nominee was asked to submit a sample of his best writing and to write a one hour impromptu essay.

Every state may select a specific number of winners for the award. This number is determined by multiplying the number of Congressional delegates the state has by two. Nebraska has three delegates, so it is allowed six winners.

Mr. Daly said, "It is a highly individual honor. It's the highest award that one can win in the field of English. I'm really not surprised, after seeing samples of Arthur's writing. He is an excellent writer."

State coordinators graded the essays. Arthur's essay was graded by Dr. Joy Ritchie, a member of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln staff.

The instructor for the impromptu essay was to describe the kind of "American dream" you would like to see come true using two works of literature.

Mr. Daly said that he is happy to have at least one winner of the award again this year. Last year, he had two winners, Thad Ware and Andrea Tkach.

Senior leadership represents Central

Six Central seniors represented Central High School in the Greater Omaha Youth Leadership Salute. The Central counselors selected the nominees last spring. They included Harold Adcock, Evangelos Argyrakis, Lisa Curry, Anneliese Festersen, Gwen Oberman, and Dan Schinzel.

After being chosen, each nominee had to fill out a form detailing the extra-curricular and leadership activities in which he or she participated in order to be eligible for a National Council on Youth Leadership (NCYL) Scholarship. The next order of business was a photo session at the Lisle Ramsey Photo Studio.

At alternating times during the summer, each student had his or her pictures displayed for a week at one of five participating banks. According to Ms. Pauline Schutte, local NCYL organizer, they were the Southwest Bank, the Packers National Bank, the First National Bank in Council Bluffs, the American National Bank and the Northside Bank. In addition, KEFM 96 saluted each student throughout the summer.

One hundred and fifty-three students from 29 schools participated in this Greater

Senior Ray Johns debuts at Playhouse

Ray Johnson, senior, recently took a step toward his goal of becoming a professional entertainer by auditioning for and cast in the Omaha Community Playhouse production of the musical "Guys and Dolls."

In the musical, which runs September 13 to October 14, Ray plays parts that include both singing and dancing.

This is Ray's first production at the Playhouse; however, he has performed in many Central shows, including: "Guys and Dolls," "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," "Carousel," and "The Clumsy Clown Show." He is also in the upcoming musical, "Fiddler on the Roof."

Ray credits some of his success at the Central drama department. "I've learned a lot from Ms. Stommes (Central drama teacher) about creating character, projection, and also cooperating with other people, fan Ray."

Ray noted that there are some differences between being in shows at Central and being in shows at the Playhouse. "Working at the Playhouse, there is a lot of emphasis placed on deadline — in that it is a shorter time to get the show together," he commented.

Now that he has experienced performing at the Playhouse, Ray said that he would like to try-out for more plays at the Playhouse, as well as at local children's and dinner theaters.

Ray recommends that any student interested in the field of dramatics first audition for shows at Central because they are "easier to get into and give experience" and then move on to community theater.

Omaha Youth Leadership Salute. All 153 students' pictures were on display at the Westroads Shopping Center during the first week of September.

Ms. Schutte said this was the third year that the Greater Omaha branch has been part of the NCYL which has its headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose of the group is "to bring out the outstanding students and tomorrow's leaders," she said.

The final ceremony announcing the winners took place September 18. Dr. Robert Roskens, president of the University of Nebraska system, addressed the nominees and their parents.

All of the students received certificates of recognition, and the five top winners had been selected by an awards committee. The regional Youth Leadership Award of the Year was Nancy Trumble of Papillion-LaVista. She received a \$1,000 scholarship and an all-expense paid trip to St. Louis for the National Youth Leadership Conference whose theme this year is the Future of Tomorrow's Students.

The other four winners received certificates and savings bonds, according to Ms. Schutte.

Writing lab changes due to enrollment

Central students may notice some significant changes in the writing lab this year. Due to Central's increased enrollment, an extra room for English classes was needed. The writing lab, formerly room 229, has been moved to room 147. But this was not the only change.

"Each year we reexamine our procedures," said Mr. Daniel Daly, Central English Department chairman. According to Mr. Daly, the record filing system has been simplified, relieving the burden of test-giving and grade record-keeping for the teachers. Seven English teachers will work in the lab for one period each day, dealing with about five students each hour for three weeks. After administering an all-around grammar exam, the writing lab teacher decides the weakest grammar skills of each student. With this information, the teacher designs a program on which the student is to work for the remaining weeks.

At the end of this period, the student receives a grade for his work, under three conditions set by Mr. Daly. First, every grade issued by the writing lab must be used by the student's English teacher as part of his English grade. Second, the extra grade is to be used to promote the program. Finally, the grade cannot penalize the student — that is, if the writing lab grade is lower than the student's average in English class, the lab grade cannot pull his English grade down.

Mr. T.M. Gaherty, Central journalism teacher, whom Mr. Daly refers to as the "captain of the writing lab," has made new sign-up forms for the writing lab, which have been given to all English teachers to offer to their students. The lab will be open all periods except for the lunch hours.

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Daub, Cavanaugh visit Central during campaign

by Jay Hinsley

On Thursday and Friday, September 20-21, Congressman Hal Daub (R) and his opponent in the upcoming election, Tom Cavanaugh (D), spoke at Central to express their wishes in becoming the representative from the second Congressional District of Nebraska.

Background

Daub was an Eagle Scout, a valedictorian, and president of his class in both high school and college. He has a wife and three children. He supports groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Boys Club, and the Salvation Army.

Daub stated, "Knowing the value of the dollar gives me the qualification to serve in public office. I have a ninety-percent voting record in Congress."

Daub added, "I have had the pleasure of a lease on a two-year opportunity to serve you."

Various Views

Both Cavanaugh and Daub are opposed to abortion. Daub said, "I wouldn't want to take your tax dollar and let Congress decide on a moral issue like that."

Fellow-Republican, President Ronald Reagan has the support of Daub. The Congressman praises the President for having the courage to choose a woman, Sandra Day O'Connor, for the Supreme Court. He added, "My wife and I were in Cameroon, and an ambassador came up to me and said, 'The best thing that has ever happened to my country was Ronald Reagan.' He said that if he gave his name he would lose his neck."

When asked if he thinks America spends too much on national defense, Daub said, "You can't have a strong defense if you don't have a strong economy. We spend one dollar on defense for every two dollars spent on the economy."

Both candidates are for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Daub, clarifying his view on nuclear disarmament, said, "I support an equal-numbers nuclear freeze. Each super-power should become equal in numbers of weapons so that neither will have an advantage."

Mr. Sink said, "Cavanaugh believes that each side already has the power to destroy the world three times over if they wanted. The objective should be for neither side to have any weapons."

The purpose of the debate was to encourage high school students to register and to vote in November.

Differences

Cavanaugh, according to Mr. Dave Sink, campaign manager for Cavanaugh, is different from Daub in his priorities and values. He gave three examples of the differences between Cavanaugh and Daub; "Tom favors an immediate bilateral halt to the production, testing, and development of nuclear weapons. Daub favors a build-up estimated at \$98 billion over the next five years, which is a figure that the Pentagon underestimated."

"Secondly, Tom is a strong advocate of a commitment to the educational system. He favors legislation to increase the federal support for quality educational programs locally developed and controlled. Daub opposes this idea. Tom also favors support for teachers who have taught in the system more than five years."

"Thirdly, Tom favors a substantial reduction in the budget deficit by doing away with the MX missile and the Norden Dam project. Daub is for both of these. The Norden Dam would cost \$380 million. It would benefit only 300 farms and would cost \$100 million per farm in order to benefit the farms. The dam would be very damaging to the environment also."

Advice

Hal Daub, the incumbent congressman from the second district, urged students to choose a party and register to vote. Daub said, "Make the informed decision and vote... be a player."

Daub told the history students not to vote "straight party," which is voting for all of the candidates in one party, because it is not good practice. He added that he does not do this. Daub said that the United States has a good government "but our goal should be to strive for an even better government."



photo by Lisa Larson

Chris Kavvas, senior, points out Greece on the globe. He plans to return next summer.

Student journeys

Central students travel to many places for family reunions and vacations, but, for Chris Kavvas, the visit lasted a year.

Chris Kavvas, senior, spent a year in Greece when his family moved there in June. His mother, brother and sister still live there, but he came back and now lives with his friends.

Chris said he came back to Central to Central since Greece's school is preferred and has to be started young to get good out of it." He enjoyed his year in Greece, but he is glad to get back to Central.

Their school system," said Chris, "is different. Everyone stays in one class for the teachers move." Chris' studies included Greek history, physics, algebra, geometry, chemistry, biology, and geology, though not all of them at the time.

The biggest problem faced by Chris was learning the Greek language." While he had some difficulties in his Greek class, Chris had fun in his English class. "I got to correct

the teacher and make her mad, but I did get a 1+."

Lifestyles for teenagers are also very different in Greece, according to Chris. "Teenagers have more freedom, but they know how to use it," he said. "They have no drinking or smoking laws, but they don't have the alcoholic problems that we do."

Chris experienced only a few problems being accepted at school and found less peer pressure. "Students acted very different. They were very disrespectful to the teachers. They wouldn't listen to them," he said.

Culture differences were very evident to Chris as well. "Everything is like America, except it's written in Greek." Chris found "quasi-punk" new fashions and more modern music than in the United States.

Maturity levels of the Greek teenagers were also very different. "Girls are less immature than the boys are, and they are very protected by their fathers."

Chris plans on going back to Greece for the summer but will come back for college. He plans to major in law and computers.

NAACP seeks members

This year, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Council recruited many Central students to join its Omaha chapter.

According to current NAACP records, following Central students are active members of the Youth Council: Mark Culliver, senior; Kim Crandell, sophomore; Monica Hart, junior; Jimmy Kight, sophomore; Cory McGruder, sophomore; Tory McGruder, junior; Mia Papas, junior; Tracy Newby, junior; Allen Pappas, senior; LaConda Scott, senior; Lou Jackie Wiggins, senior.

The purpose of NAACP is to educate youths about negro history and to encourage pride in negro heritage," stated Letticia Crowder, a senior at Northwest High School and current president of NAACP's Omaha Chapter.

According to Mia McSwain, junior and secretary of NAACP, the council also tries to get members involved in programs, such as seminars on voter and college education and tutoring sessions.

Mia got involved in the council through a program entitled Academic Cultural Technical/Scientific Olympics (ACT/SO). This, according to Jamesetta, is a sort of "Olympics of the Mind" in which minority students get a chance to display their talents.

Mia won the local competition in the area of dance and went on to the national competition, where students have a chance to win scholarships.

NAACP encourages students of any race to attend the meetings.

"It's a nice organization to get into," said Mia.

Photography by Schall

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photo by Lisa Larson

Despite many demands, band members have quite a bit of fun. On either the football field or in room 048, marching band gets involved with school spirit.

Central's Marching Band

by Anneliese Festersen

Are you the kind of person who's ready for a musically good time and yet prepared to go through hell on the football field at 7:15 a.m. in subzero-degree weather? Are you dedicated enough to place the Septemberfest Parade before your brother's bar mitzvah?

If you are, you should either check into a mental health center or enlist in the Central High Marching Band. Assuming your choice is the latter, you would need dedication, a sense of humor, and, of course, some musical ability.

The 77-piece marching band works very hard from mid-August until the beginning of November along with the 19-person pom pon and flag squad preparing for numerous performances which include parades, such as Septemberfest and River City Roundup, halftime shows at home football games, marching exhibitions and contests. The band also promotes school spirit by participating in pep rallies and playing in the stands during sports events.

'Loss of feeling in my toes'

Early morning rehearsals, which begin at 7:15 a.m. on Central's athletic field and continue through first hour, are usually called several times a week in order to learn the shows. Said senior trumpet player Jeff Bonenberger, "Band members have to put in a very extensive amount of work and give 140 percent" during these rehearsals. Kristin Klein, senior clarinet player and band vice-president, said that the only thing she doesn't like about marching band is "the loss of feeling in my toes during early morning practice."

With all this hard work and effort come benefits, according to Mr. Warren Ferrel, instrumental music teacher. He specifically cited the development of student leadership abilities. He said, "The band is a student organization. I depend on the officers, section leaders, and seniors." He also said band requires a lot of responsibility and discipline.

'Social aspects'

Despite many rigorous demands, band members have quite a bit of fun. Sean O'Hara, sophomore sax player, said that he likes band because of its "social aspects." "It gives me a chance to get to know some upperclassmen," he said. Kristin said she enjoys band because of "all the fun folks I get to hand around with."

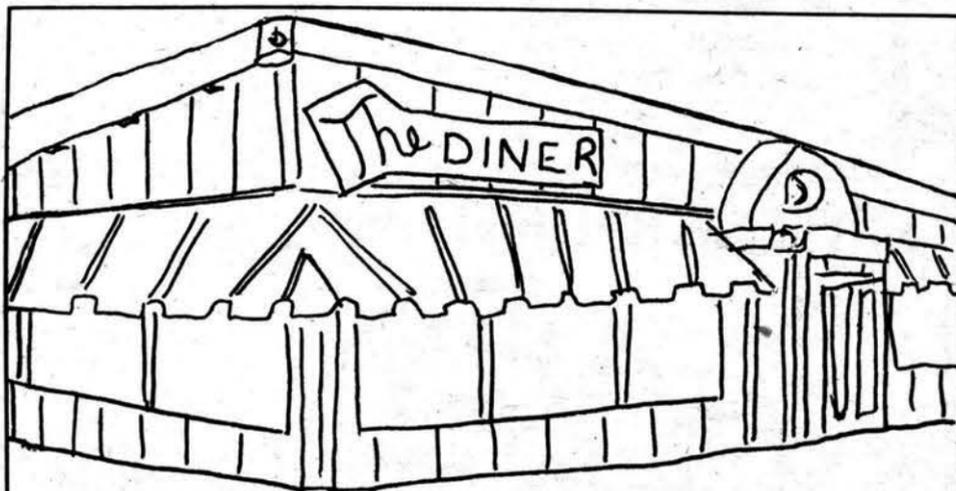
Fred Peterkin, senior sax player, commented, "I like the spirit of the band best." Gregg Hammer, senior trumpet player, stated, "I like pep band the best because everyone gets into it." Heather Short senior and drum major agreed saying, "Band (particularly pep band) gets you involved with school spirit."

Band members did voice a few complaints, however. Stacey Kinnamon, senior French horn player and band treasurer, said, "The band doesn't get enough recognition or financial support for all the hard work it involves."

\$3 for football games

Phil Lavoie, junior clarinet player, said that he wished people would pay more attention to the band during halftime shows. Senior trumpet player and band president James Quigley agreed saying, "If people pay \$3 to go to a football game, that makes \$1 per half and \$1 to see the band." Greg Smith, senior sax player exclaimed, "The true musicians of the school can be found in room 048!"

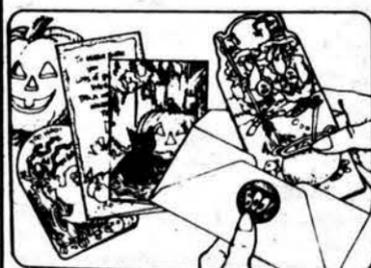
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DECA making buttons

Few students get "hands-on" training in the actual business world, but some Centralites are receiving the experience as well as earning money.

DECA and the marketing department are involved in a button-making business. The students are running the operation from beginning to end. It is used as "an operation for student education and as a business for them to actually run and be involved in," according to Miss Jerrie Harris, DECA sponsor.

The button-making operation has been used in the Omaha Public School system for twelve years and was brought to Central from Tech by Mr. Harry Gaylor, marketing teacher. He is actively involved in the business and serves as its advisor.

Anyone can order the buttons; buyers include community organizations, booster clubs, and different school groups such as

those involved with the musicals, homecomings, proms, and clubs.

Prices depend on quantity and detail, but still remain inexpensive. Quality and a production time make it a good fund-raiser with high profits.

Mr. Jack Martin, photographer for underclassmen and the Central O-Book, ordered 582 buttons with individual pictures of the Kingswood Little League Football players. The pins will be sold as a fund-raiser.

It is an easy process to make the buttons, and the finished product is guaranteed in two days. Anything can be made into a button, and future plans include a "design-your-own-button" campaign.

Also included are one-inch buttons the type used to promote rock shows, medallions, key rings, and compact mirrors.

Entertainment Friday night

by Gia Clummo and Karl Hulac

It's Friday. After a hectic theme, test, and report-filled week, Andy Human, Centralite, rejoices in the arrival of the weekend, only to be faced with the post-football game syndrome... Godfather's.

Why does everyone go to Godfather's? One junior says, "We don't like going there, but we do to see the people." A sophomore said that the "social life" attracted her. She also commented that she gets to see people she might not run into during the week.

Obviously, Central is not the only high school whose students choose Godfather's as a Friday night hangout. At the Godfather's on Pacific, students from Creighton Prep, Westside, and Central seem to dominate the place. And at the Godfather's on Ames Street, Centralites along with Burke, Benson, North, and Northwest students share the hangout.

With such a large number of teenagers gathered together at one time, problems are

bound to arise. Huge groups of kids crowd the parking lot entrance and the restrooms from approximately 9:30 p.m. until closing at the Pacific location.

Mr. Jon Miles, Godfather's Friday night manager, believes that it is "not helpful business." Mr. Miles added, "It's mainly hanging out. All the kids drive prospective customers away. At times I have to turn away authorities, but nothing serious has happened this year, yet."

Mr. Miles also explained that with a large group of teens, there have been several acts of vandalism: plants torn up, thrown on carpets, and bathrooms damaged. "They're childish pranks, but week after week, the costs add up," said Mr. Miles.

If you want to avoid the crunch at Godfather's but still have the craving for a Friday night hangout, there are various other restaurants in Omaha which can satisfy you with fewer crowds and cheaper prices.



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Track and football standout All-American Ridley attracts recruiters

Few Central athletes have ever received the attention that senior Sean Ridley of the football team is enjoying this year. The 6'3", 202-pound defensive end was all-metro and all-state selection as a junior last year. This year several publications such as *Parade*, *Street and Smith*, and *Big* included Sean's name in listings of school all-Americans.



VERTIME Sean Schinzel

Sean has also prompted the interest of several major colleges including Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, UCLA, and Notre Dame. According to Central football coach William Reed, he is at the top of many recruiting lists. "The schools are really serious. He is just at the top choice of most of these schools," Reed said.

What makes Sean recognizable is his athletic ability, according to Coach Reed. "I think for the things that make the athlete, Sean possesses those talents: speed, height, and size."
'Top prospect'
Coach Reed seems most impressed with the unlimited physical potential that Sean possesses. "The kid is 205 (pounds) and skinny. He is broad enough where he could be a 245-pound kid," said Coach Reed. "He's a shell of a person, and, if you put some weight on him, you have one of the top prospects in all the nation. The way I see Sean Ridley at 245 pounds would be the same thing. I am sure they (college recruiters) would be the same thing."
Sean also thinks that if he adds weight to his frame, he can realize his potential. "If I put on a few pounds I can go anywhere," Sean said.
Injuries have plagued Sean throughout his high school football career. During his

sophomore year, he severely injured his knee. This year Sean missed the first game with a shoulder injury. Because of the shoulder injury, Reed does not believe he has been able "to play to his capabilities."

Team player
All the attention Sean is receiving has not affected his play or his attitude, according to Coach Reed. "Once he read an article and wondered if they were even talking about him," Coach Reed said. "He takes it in stride. I think he is a very fortunate young man to be blessed with his talents. He hasn't become anything but Sean. He plays to prove he is a good player."

Sean believes his role as a team player hasn't been affected by the publicity he receives. "They (his teammates) view me as if I didn't have any honors at all," Sean said. "A regular teammate is how I picture myself and how they (his teammates) picture me."

Paul Flaxbeard, who along with Sean plays defensive end for the Eagles and who is among the Metro leaders in tackles, believes Sean has a positive effect on the way he plays. "He makes me want to play harder. I just feel like I'm doing my job," Paul said. "He was all-state last year, so you know he's going to get recognition. He is a team leader."

Former quarterback
Coach Reed, like Paul, recognizes Sean's leadership capabilities. "He is very much a leader. He leads through action," Coach Reed said. "Sean leads in a fashion that tells everyone to go out and get it. He encourages everyone to work. That is one of his great attributes."

Although Sean is now a defensive end, he has played several positions since he started in football.

"I started playing when I was in sixth grade for the Little Vikes (a local youth team)," Sean said.

"I was kind of skinny and fast, so I played running back."

When Sean was a sophomore at Central, he played quarterback. It wasn't until the following year that he was moved to defensive end.

"He could have been instrumental (at quarterback)," Coach Reed said. "He is 75 percent the quarterback (that he is) defensive end. He is at the right position. For our scheme of things, it is impossible for him to



photo by Steve Berman

Sean prepares for an upcoming game at Central's practice field. As a junior, Sean was an all-metro and all-state selection as a defensive end.

the position), I was thinking of going back out for it," Sean said. "But I thought I should go with what I know best, and that's defensive end."

Track abilities
Sean also participates in track and powerlifting. He took fifth place in the shot put at last year's state track and field meet. "I'm planning on taking the shot put," Sean said. "Losing (at last year's state track and field meet) just pushes me to winning."

Several colleges have expressed interest in Sean's track abilities. "I think I can do both (football and track) in college," Sean said. "Nebraska gave me a track questionnaire and so did Iowa and Iowa State."

Any decision as to which college scholarship to accept will have to wait until after the season, according to Sean.

"I am just playing for this year," Sean said. "After football season I'll turn my attention toward colleges. I'll wait until recruiting trips come around."

Coach Reed also doesn't feel Sean is leaning toward any school and sees the battle for his services as "open."

Sean believes this year's Eagle football team has the chance to be quite successful. "I think we can go all the way," said Sean. "I have a feeling it depends on the attitude of the team."

Calendar

- Football**
Oct. 18 J.V. vs. Bellevue West (H) at 4:30
18 Reserve vs. Bellevue West (A) at 4:30
19 Varsity vs. Millard South (A) at 7:30
23 J.V. vs. South (A) at 4:30
23 Reserve vs. Northwest (A) at 4:30
25 Varsity vs. T.J. (H) at 7:30
- Volleyball**
Oct. 16 Bryan (A) at 6:15
18 South (A) at 6:15
- Gymnastics**
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Tech transfers aid athletics

by Gia Ciummo

Last year upon the closing of Technical High School, many Centralites faced the transfer situation with negative attitudes.

But now that school has been in session for over a month and athletic programs are in full swing, attitudes have changed. Coaches, players, and students alike are now reaping a large benefit: the excellent crop of athletes that transferred to Central.

The varsity football team has been fortunate to receive several Tech athletes. They are senior Frank Christensen, running back; senior Rodney Oathout, quarterback; and junior Mike Whetstone, tackle. All have shown excellent progress with Rodney Oathout leading the charge.

For the first three football games, junior John Finnigan started as quarterback. But for the classic Creighton Prep/Central showdown, Oathout started for the first time. This move proved to be very profitable, for Oathout led the Eagles to their first victory over Prep in 27 years. "Being from Tech, I really was not into the history factor. But I knew how they felt and got out there and played my best," Oathout said.

'Quiet leadership'

"Throughout the practice, Rodney never performed at the level he played in that game," commented coach William Reed. "Someone asked me where I found my quarterback, and I had to tell them that I didn't know. I believe Rodney just found himself," Reed said.

CHS captures Metro tennis title

The Central High Boys' tennis team won the Metro Conference championship for the first time in 15 years last Friday.

Joe Salerno, a freshman at Norris Junior High, won the number one singles title with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Westside's Tim Lindquist, the defending state champion.

Central won the team championship in a tiebreaker over runner-up Westside. After Joe's victory, the Eagles and the Warriors were both tied with 36 points. Central captured the crown by virtue of percentage of sets won. It was Joe's straight set victory over Lindquist which proved to be the difference.

According to Central Coach John Waterman, the doubles team of Travis Feezel and Mike Beasley pulled off a key upset in beating Westside in the semi-finals. "The doubles win set it up — that upset was a key."

Team felt confident

Travis said he was confident that they could beat Westside's doubles team. "We went in feeling confident. We had lost twice. The first time it was close, and the second time we did not play well. We played really intense. That was a key to us (the team) winning Metro."

Joe's victory over Lindquist did not come

Although Oathout is a senior coming from a different high school, he has displayed respectable leadership for the Eagles. "Rodney has a certain 'quiet leadership.' It's the correct-type leadership," said Reed. "He's a good example," he added. "Though he might not be as flashy or as fast as the other stars, his abilities bring all the great players together."

Though the boys' varsity basketball team still has a couple of months before its season starts, Coach Jim Martin cannot help but have high expectations about the transfer athletes.

Experienced basketball fans know that Tech's basketball program was nothing to underestimate. Tech had a history of turning out many greats such as Ron Boone, Bob Boozer, and Bob Gibson to name a few. This fine tradition continues with the transfers of senior Shawn Cotton and juniors Jeff Meyer, Billy Simpson, and Dan Spencer.

All-Metro Cotton

Coach Martin's highest expectation lies with the talent of point guard Shawn Cotton. Shawn's history includes being co-captain his sophomore year and co-captain and All-Metro selection his junior year.

"Shawn is a very experienced and capable guard," said coach Martin. "He has a real assortment of talents." Shawn has shown good shooting ability, speed, quickness, and floor leadership that coach Martin believes will be an asset to the team.

as a great surprise to Coach Waterman. "The way he's been playing, he has really been on top of his game," said Coach Waterman. "Joe has been playing a different level of tennis."

The first set seemed to set the tempo of the match. "Joe had his serve going," said Coach Waterman. "That is a psychological advantage." Joe controlled the set and beat the defending state champion. He held on to his momentum in the second set in order to win 6-1 and thus secure the victory for Central.

State tournament finals

With a victory in Metro, it would seem natural for Coach Waterman to feel confident going into today's state tournament finals. However, he does have some reservations about the team's chances because of the way players are seeded. "They are basing it strictly on percentage of sets won," said Coach Waterman. "It is an easy way but will create the worst tournament. The coaches voted on it last year."

Coach Waterman is also concerned about Lindquist. Joe has to realize a senior against the wall will be hard to beat," said Coach Waterman. "Lindquist will be at the top of his game. He is a senior, but Joe can beat him."

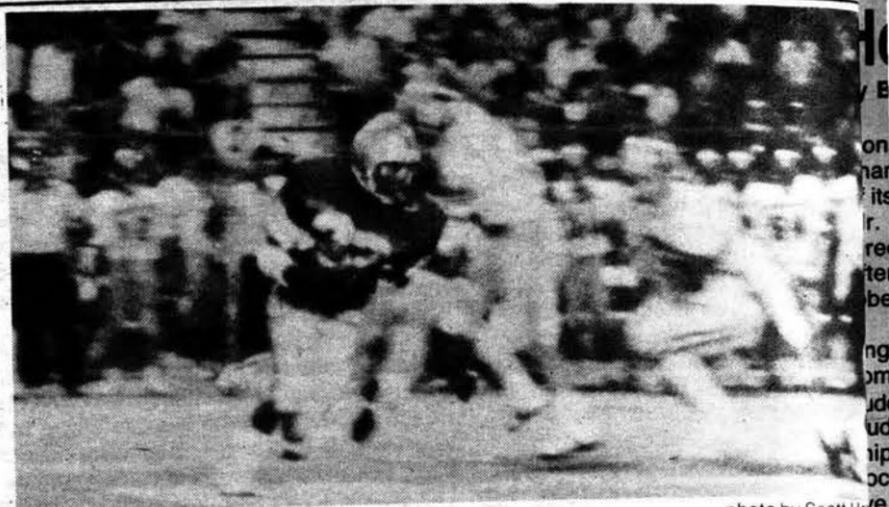


photo by Scott Ho

Bernard cuts up field during the Central-Prep game at UNO. The senior running back is among the state leaders in total rushing yard and points scored.

In the spotlight

Jackson molds to system

by Mark Buckner

For the past five years Central football coach William Reed staked claim to some of the top running backs in Nebraska high school football history. Coach Reed's latest gold mine is 5'8", 160-pound senior, Bernard Jackson.

After five games Bernard is the second leading rusher in Class "A" and metro. He is averaging over 160 yards per game and has amassed fifteen touchdowns, an amazing feat after only five games.

Coach Reed commented that Bernard's success has not altered the Eagles' offensive plan. "The system was there before Bernard. He just happened to possess the talents to fit into it."

Bernard attended ninth grade at McMillian Junior High School. As a ninth grader he led the city in rushing and scoring. "In ninth grade I just took the ball and ran. Now you must understand the system," said Bernard.

During his sophomore year, Bernard was promoted from the sophomore reserve team to the varsity team. Two other players, Jim Lee and Richard Bass, were also promoted to the varsity. All three assumed starting positions on 1982's 4-5 team. "It was scary at first, but I got used to it," said Bernard.

Not knowing the varsity system hurt Bernard, and he had limited success. This year, however, is quite a different story. Area sportswriters and coaches have cited Bernard's elusiveness as his strong point. Bernard has relied on quick cuts and head fakes many times this season simply to follow the offensive plan.

Central's offense is designed so that the I-back (Bernard) has a clear path outside the line of scrimmage. Bernard's job in these situations is to follow outside blocks until a clear path appears.

When asked how Bernard Jackson stacks up to some of the Central backs of the past, Coach Reed made comparisons with

some true high school greats. He mentioned Terry Evans, 1980; Nikki Paul and Gatson, 1981; and Keith Jones. "Bernard possesses a little of all talents," said Coach Reed.

Coach Reed replied that Bernard has more raw talent than any back in the history of Central. However, Coach Reed feels Bernard has worked long enough with the varsity system to achieve his full potential.

Central breaks 27-year jinx against Prep

The Central High football team defeated Creighton Prep 17-9 on September 2, ending a 27-year jinx against the Junior High. Coach William Reed seemed to overcome the Prep roadblock, which for over a century has hampered Centrals at qualifying for the state playoffs. "It's a milestone," said Coach Reed. "We feel we did something."

Seniors Art Thirus and Bruce Collier shared Coach Reed's feelings. "We made history," Art said. "It's the first time in 27 years that Prep has won."

"It was a chance for us to establish a name for ourselves and be remembered as the team that beat Prep," said Bruce.

Coach Reed feels that the Prep win will have a positive effect on the entire season. "It (the Prep win) puts a state of confidence in us," said Reed. "It makes us feel more confident in the game."

Several of the players look at the win as a preview to the team's chances at state. "We guess it opens the door," said Senior Hayes. "It gives us a more positive outlook toward the state playoffs."



photo by Krista Lanphier

Pictured from left to right: Shannon Houston, Breck Houston, Cindy Hoden, Kerry Flynn, Paula Szynski, and Kris Houlton. The girls gymnastics team hopes to finish in the top three at state.

First place finish

Gymnasts look to state

The Central high girls gymnastics team has gotten off to a great start this season with a first place finish at the Spartan Invitational and a second place finish at the Northwest Invitational. Led by seniors Chris Houlton, Paula Szynskie, and sisters Breck and Shannon Houston, team members and the coach are expecting a successful season.

"After our fast start we can carry our momentum right into state and hopefully finish in the top three," said first-year coach Debbie Harrison.

Coach Harrison, a former gymnast herself at the University of Nebraska, is credited by many of the gymnasts for their early season success. "The experience she gained through her own gymnastic competition helps her to prepare us for our meets," said Chris.

Chris credits much of her own success to an early start in gymnastics. "My whole family competed in gymnastics, and starting at such an early age enabled me to learn the fundamentals. Once I learned the fundamentals, I was able to do routines with a higher degree of difficulty and that gave me chances to score higher." Chris, whose older brother Steve took state for Central in gymnastics in 1983, expects a good season for both the team and herself.

"Northwest is the favorite, but, if we all hit our routines, we have a good chance of beating them and finishing in the top three." However, Chris realizes how tough it is for an individual to place at the state tournament. "I would like to finish first in at least one of my routines and place in the top ten in the all-around com-

petition," she said.

Paula, whose routine specialty is the floor exercise, credits her success not only to an early start in gymnastics but also to dance classes which she has been taking since the age of six. "While competing in the floor exercise, you must be able to have a lot of spirit and free-moving. By taking dancing lessons, I have been able to do this effectively," she said.

Paula, Chris, and the rest of their teammates have received valuable points this season from sisters Breck and Shannon.

Breck, only a freshman at Lewis and Clark Junior High School, and Shannon, a junior, started their gymnastics careers eight years ago in Illinois. They now compete on the high school level for Central and for an elite club called the T.N.T.'s who attend competitions over the Midwest.

Both girls practice four days a week for four hours. However, they said they still are able to do the things normal teenagers do.

"Sometimes we have to stay home on a Friday night to prepare for a weekend meet or to practice, but we still have fun and basically can do what we want to do," said Shannon.

The girls, while competing in the all-around competition, also have their own special events. Breck's favorite event is the uneven bar while Shannon prefers the vault. "We both hope to be able to finish high in these events at state and also maybe be able to place in the all-around competition," Shannon said.