

OUR ONE-HUNDREDTH YEAR

Former senior officers organize reunions

Tracy Huey
During the fall, many Central seniors campaign against one another to become class officers. Being a class officer has its responsibilities as well as its payment. The duties of a class president include giving a speech at commencement and organizing class reunions. Other elected officers include vice president, secretary, treasurer, and boys' and girls' sergeant-at-arms. Officers other than president are not required to give speeches.

Female class president
"I thought that I would represent our class well," said Tracy Huey, president of the class of 1982. Tracy's decision to run for office came from encouragement from her friends and the fact that she had not been a female class president for a long time. For Monica Meehan, class secretary of 1981, being a class officer reflected her school spirit. "I wanted to be more involved in school," said Monica. Monica feels that the class officers did not possess much power. "We thought that we would be able to do more," said Monica. "I wanted to be more involved in the school."
For Erin Keenan, girls' sergeant-at-arms for the class of 1982, being an officer was mainly Mr. Dick

Byers. "He told me that it would help me out," said Erin.
Attending meetings and selling t-shirts and senior wills were exactly what Erin expected a girls' sergeant-at-arms to do. She feels that all the officers shared the responsibility and "one person didn't do it all."
Besides being political opponents, the candidates were good friends. "There was no rivalry between us," said Tracy. "I was competing against good friends," added Monica. During the final election, Monica admitted to being "pretty nervous."
Years after graduation, students will find out if they have voted for the right candidates. The class officers are in charge of organizing class reunions.

Locating class members
"It's mainly set up by whoever is in town," commented Mrs. Gerry Zerse, Central counselor. Mrs. Zerse added that the reunions are generally set up by the class president with the help of Central's counselors.
The class president receives a list of all the graduating seniors before they leave school. The list includes the addresses, phone numbers, and names of the students while they attended Central. This list is generally the only record the class president has for locating members of his graduating class.



photo by Phil Berman

Dr. Moller announced senior officers
in a senior auditorium homeroom November 19. Dr. Moller declared Bart Lovgren, president; Mike Meehan, vice president; Doug Mousel, treasurer; Val Spittler, secretary; Sam Rizzuto, boys' sergeant-at-arms; and Kris Ortmeyer, girls' sergeant-at-arms. Senior officers are in charge of organizing the senior picnic, distribution of caps and gowns, and class reunions.

Disciplinary problems cause students to drop out

Hubler
Many students find their high school filled with good times, close friends, and everlasting memories. But to others, facing another day at the same building can be too much, so they look for ways out. This can lead to truancy, or disciplinary problems, which may result in withdrawal from school completely. "It is hard to keep statistics on the number of students that leave school before they graduate," said Dr. Irving G. Coordinator of Research with the Omaha Public Schools. "Last year, over 100 students withdrew, but some of them were counted twice because they go back." Central High School principal Dr. G.E. Moller explained some of the reasons students withdraw from school. "They either have a lack of money, need a job, they do not have transportation available to get them to and from school, or they just have no interest in the curriculum," Dr. Moller said. A student may withdraw from school before his 16th birthday with his parent's or guardian's consent, but students can return to school to decide to later. "By law, students cannot be kept out of school if they are under 21," Dr. Moller

continued, "but this does not guarantee that they can return to the school they left."
Jason, Tom, and Eddie (not their real names) are students that left Central for one reason or another. Jason left during the 1984-85 school year, but has returned this semester to finish his senior year and graduate. "I wasn't getting anything done," he said. "I kept skipping classes and felt like I was just taking up space."
Jason attended a chemical rehabilitation clinic when he left Central and told of his experiences on his own. "I was bouncing from friend to friend for a place to stay," he continued. "I had the feeling my life was going to waste, which got me depressed and seriously thinking of suicide, because I set myself back as far as opportunities go when I dropped out."
"Now that I am back, I feel I am getting a lot more accomplished," Jason said. Tom recently withdrew from Central because he had too many absences and decided it would not be worth it to stay for the first semester and fail his classes. "If I could go back, I would not do it again," he remarked, "you do not get anywhere by dropping out of school anyway."
Tom plans to come back to Central at

"In no way is it worth it . . . students should stop and think about dropping out very carefully. You need that education more than anything."

the start of the second semester and finish the year with his sophomore class. "The thing I am sorry about the most," he said, "is now I will have to go to summer school to get credit for the classes I missed earlier this year."
For Eddie, withdrawing from high school was a big decision for him, but he felt it would be easier in the end. "Somehow my records with all the credits got lost because I have been moving from state to state a lot," he said. Eddie explained how he did not have time to make up the lost credits because he serves in the Navy Reserve and recently enlisted with the Navy to study mechanics. "Dropping out has been hard because the job I have now does not pay well, and I do miss going to school," he said. "The only thing I look forward to is spending a little more time with my family."

"We need more support from adults that can work with students while they are very young," Dr. Moller said. "Studies show that it is possible to pinpoint a likely dropout candidate as early as the third grade."
Mr. Jim Wilson, assistant principal, agreed that early detection is crucial but also calls for an awareness on the issues from the general public. "We need to inform the whole community as well as Central High School and the Omaha School Board," he said. Whether the reasons include poverty, being on welfare, or living in a one parent home, every case is different in the eyes of the administration. "In no way is it worth it," Jason said. "Students should stop and think about dropping out very carefully. You need that education more than anything."

Viewpoints

Does the administration provide enough time out of class for activities such as elections, pep rallies, and student matinees?

Andrea Chandler, sophomore

"Yes, they do a pretty good job. A lot of people don't show up for these events anyway. You can't take too much time out of class."



Mary Fairchild, senior

"No, we don't have any school spirit. Pep rallies would get people in the spirit. They should have pep rallies in the middle of the day; no one is here in the morning."



Jo Newbold, junior

"They give us enough time. A lot of pep rallies and matinees are done voluntarily; you shouldn't have to take time out of class."



Mike Hargreaves, junior

"They don't provide enough time for pep rallies. Most schools take time out of class for things like that. In regard to matinees, the administration has been more than lenient."



Letitia Ford, senior

"I think that they give an appropriate enough time for elections. They should have pep rallies in the gym. You can't see anyone when they are in the courtyard."



Mimi Sterett, senior

"I don't think so. We haven't really had any pep rallies. It helps school spirit and class unity. They don't show any effort to have pep rallies or class activities."

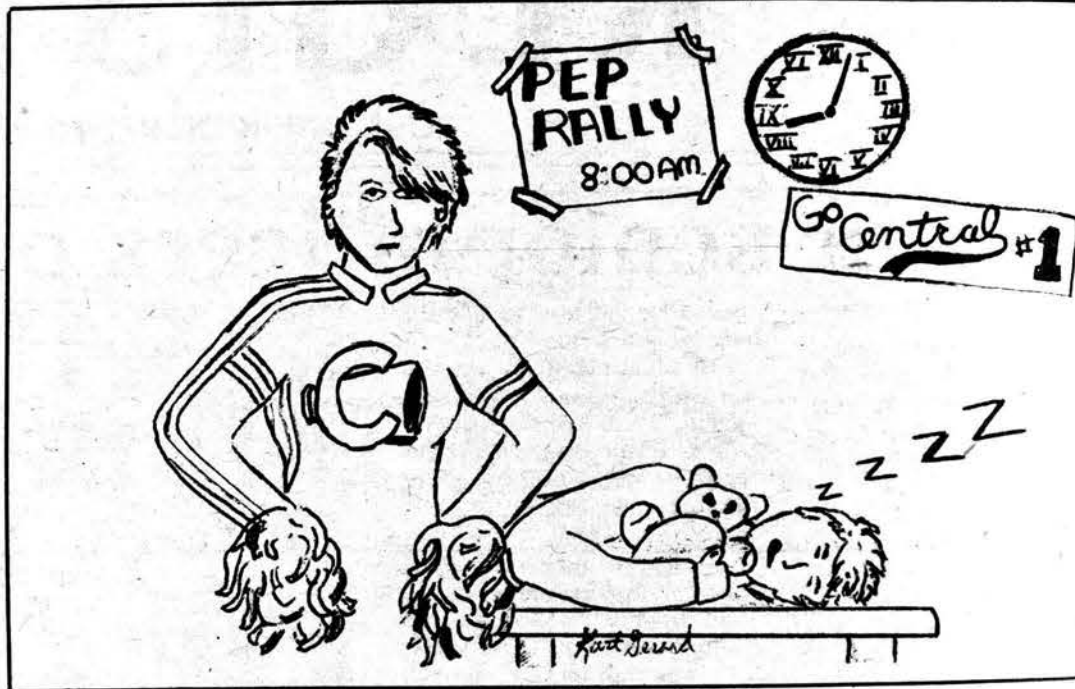


photos by Mary Turco

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Activities vs. academic

School policy provides no time for pep rallies, assemblies

It would be ridiculous to assume that it is a high school's duty to have assemblies, pep rallies, and the like several times a week, as some schools do. It is impossible to learn in that type of environment.

On the other hand, it is also unfortunate that in the best interest of providing as much class time as possible, students are never allowed a chance to support their team before a big game or to attend as an assembly.

Balance

Approximately four years ago, the administration set up a committee to limit the time students spend out of class. According to Mr. Richard Jones, assistant principal, the purpose was to attain a balance between academics and activities during school.

While teachers should be concerned about the time that students spend out of class, it is clear that a balance has not been established.

The administration is too reluctant to let students out of class. In their attempt to provide teachers with as much class time as possible, they have denied students the chance to support their school or learn something outside of a classroom setting.

Spirit

In the first place, events such as pep rallies promote school spirit. While students at Central are known for their pride, they are not known for their spirit.

For example, when Central's football team went to the state championship last year, the only pep rally that was held was before school. It is hard to get excited, even about the state championship, at 8 a.m. Many students are just arriving at school or have morning classes. The students who are in the courtyard can't see or hear what is happening. These pep rallies are too disorganized to serve any purpose.

Motivation

Secondly, well-organized oc-

casional pep rallies assemblies help build unity and motivate students support their school. students are excited about school, it is much easier for teachers to teach and students to learn.

Most importantly, it is the responsibility of all students to show the administration that they deserve time out of class for a while. When people are in a hurry and rude at student matinees or don't show up for playoff games when they sign a petition to get them out of class as happened last year, they shouldn't expect the administration to let them off easily. Both sides need to promise and cooperate to reach their goal.

All-school assemblies

Instead of pep rallies every day, an all-school assembly the new gym at the beginning of a season or before a big game would be a much better alternative.

Students should never have to waste time out of class. An occasional school pep rally is definitely not a waste of

Letters to the editor

I question an editorial policy which gives front page coverage to the theatrical activities of one student, and tenth page coverage to the theatrical activities of over 60 people. Particularly, since the later is a Central High School event. Those outside the Central High community have a high regard for Central's musical productions. It is unfortunate that 'The Register' does not seem to share that regard.

Robert McMeen
 Director of Vocal Music

In response to the Nov. 8 article on 'Language Clubs Clash' I am not condemning the article by columnist Don Benning, but I would like to express the feelings of equal rivalry between all language clubs. I think that if such an article is written on the German and Latin rivalry, the other two clubs (French and Spanish) should at least be mentioned. A pupil's decision to take a certain language is not decided on which languages have the best rivalries but the language which will help them to succeed in life.

John Skoog
 President, Spanish Club.

Final bow brings back memories

That's the Way It Is

by
Todd Peppers



I took what might be my final bow at Central High last week.

It was during the Sunday afternoon performance of "Anything Goes," and during the last few weeks of practice, while standing on stage waiting for instructions, I paced around the auditorium and relived the three years of memories.

The expression is very cliché, but it really seems like only yesterday that I was a sophomore, acting in a musical for the first time and scared out of my mind. The musical was "Carousel" and my character was the Starmaker, a crochety old man who sat in the clouds and painted the stars. My costume was a blue jumpsuit with silver angles on the arms and legs, and the cast called me "Elvis."

Wink Martindale

The spring of my sophomore year the play was "The Clumsy Custard Horror Show," and I played the erratic narrator Archie Boheme. I wore a white tuxedo and held a cane for the part, and a close friend of mine, Margi Shugrue, kept calling me "Wink Martindale;" I prefer "Prom King."

During one of the final dress rehearsals, some of us snuck down to

"McDonalds" and went in to eat even though we were in full costume and makeup. I walked in with my white tux and wearing eyeliner, mascara, and rouge. The girl at the counter took one look at me and screamed something about "the pretty boy." I left before she started a riot.

The musical of my junior year was "Fiddler on the Roof," and what will always stick out in my mind were those *!?!? fake beards we had to wear. We stuck the beards on with what smelled like fish glue, and every night the beards had to be cut off—along with part of my own sideburns.

During the final dress rehearsal of the spring play "Get Smart," there was only one problem, I couldn't talk. I lost my voice the final week of practice, but I drank about a gallon of orange juice a day for vitamin C and croaked my way through the first two performances.

BVD's

And now, with the completion of "Anything Goes," I have had the dubious honor of appearing in front of the school in my B.V.D.'s.

There were a lot of people who went the distance with me: Wendy Novicoff, who played my girlfriend in "Carousel," my dead wife Fruma Sarah in "Fiddler on the Roof," and the object of my affections in "Anything Goes;" Pete Holmes, who survived Central's fog machine with me during "Carousel;" and the trio of Randy Underwood, D.C. Pulliam, and myself — we proved that the three stooges were alive and well at Central High.

The stage is dark now, the sets dismantled, and the crowds are gone.

As Bob Hope's theme song goes, "Thanks for the Memories"

Omaha: Friendly people, size are good points



Afterthought

by
Vina Kay

I love Omaha. Go ahead and laugh. Everybody else does.

The usual response is a burst of laughter followed by a smirk when I explain that I would like to return here someday and raise a family and send my kids to Central. I can't think of a more perfect place to grow up.

It is no small miracle that I ended up living in Omaha. My dad often tells me the story about how he was living in Washington, D.C. and decided to move to Omaha. "I just wanted to go to school here and see the country. I was always going to return to Thailand," he says. "Someone said, 'Go to Omaha. It's a nice city and the people are friendly.'" My dad stayed in Omaha. And I'm glad he did.

I know what many of you are thinking. Small, boring, nothing to do. I guess I can understand your point of view. But really it's not so bad. Just look at it. We don't have hurricanes or earthquakes. We don't have an overwhelming number of tourists,

and we don't live in the dustbowl capital of the world — Soonerville, U.S.A. (Gotcha Travis).

It all depends on how you look at it. Omaha really does have things to do, things to learn, and things to experience. No, this is not always the center of excitement. But if the reason my dad stayed here still holds, life in Omaha is more than satisfying. It is the people that make the difference. No matter where you live it is the people who will make that place special. In Omaha there really are people who care and are willing to help. People are the reason for happiness, not the city itself.

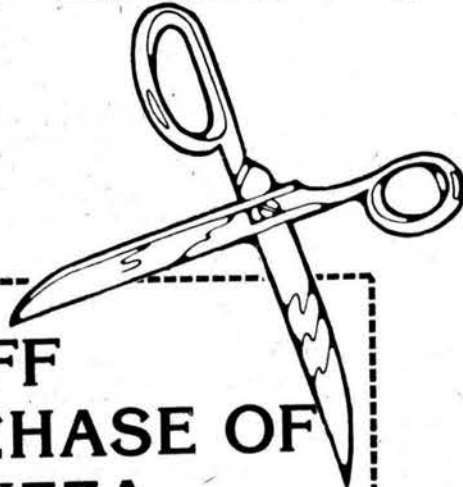
It is the people that make the difference

The beauty of Omaha is also in its size. It's not too small; it leaves us with room to grow. By the same token, Omaha is not so large that it leaves us with no boundaries. We have something to base our beliefs on; we have a limit as to how far we can go.

Maybe I'm not as alone as I think I am in my feelings about Omaha. If we really take a close look at it, it is not hard to see the beauty in this city. Omaha will not always be home to many of us, and it shouldn't be. This is a place where we can grow and explore ourselves before we step out and explore the world.

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Students unaware of Central's hidden areas

Todd Peppers

Hidden passageways guarded by axe-wielding trolls? Lost rooms with a booty of gold and silver?

Central High School doesn't have the exotic secrets of an ancient castle, but the school does contain a number of rooms and tunnels that the average student does not see.

"One thing students might not know is that Central had plans for a swimming pool," Mr. James Merrifield, chief engineer, said. "The concrete shell was poured, but then the school stopped working on the pool for reasons I don't know. The bandroom is now over the pool foundation."

Medieval castles

When asked about the many tunnels rumored to be at Central, Mr. Merrifield replied, "The only really long tunnels were the ones that used to run to the boiler room located near Joslyn Museum. When the boiler room was moved, the tunnels were filled in. There are tunnels running the length of the courtyard, but they are really only fan ducts."

When asked if, like the medieval castles of legend, Central possessed its own ghosts he said, "I don't know, but periodically some of my people have thought they heard footsteps down the hallways late at night. You get the feeling at times, almost a sixth sense, that you were not alone when you should be."

Mr. A.A. LaGreca, former Central assistant principal and currently principal at Beveridge Junior High School, hasn't heard of any ghosts at Central, but he does know of hidden passages used by teachers between classes. "There is a tunnel from the cafeteria to the art room that teachers use as a short cut, and there is another passage running from the art room to the physics room, Mr. LaGreca said.

"It isn't a hidden room, but many students don't know that the cafeteria used to be the gymnasium before it was switched in the early 1920's." LaGreca added, "The cafeteria used to be in the basement on the '2' side; you can still see the white tile that was part of the cafeteria."

Hidden Passages

A radio station was also in the basement at one time, according to Head of Security Mr. George Taylor, before it was switched to Tech High School. Mr. Taylor's favorite room is a passage way tucked away beside the front stairs of the school with a concealed window. "I used to watch for smokers before I caught them, Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor also mentioned an old room in the basement on the west side, "where most of the old trophies Central has won are kept." Mr. Taylor hasn't heard of any ghosts at Central High and said with a laugh, "If there are any, I don't want to know about them."

Mr. LaGreca added, "There may not be any ghosts at Central, but there is a spirit from years gone by that seems to take the teachers and students to a higher level of excellence."



"Only left-handed people are in their right minds."



Left-handers: Trials and tribulations of not using the 'right' hand

Don Benning

Approximately one person in ten is left handed, or 20 million in the United States, according to Dr. Alex Beeman's book, "Lefty."

Dr. Beeman's book states that being left handed has always had negative connotations. In the old English vocabulary, right means "proper or correct and left means weak or worthless."

When it comes to writing, it seems left handers are at a "slight" disadvantage. The English language is written from left to right. Left handers must push across a page to write.

Jim Boyle, senior, explained how in the second grade he had to learn to write "hooked hand"

"... being left handed gives you better perception of detail and better concentration."

so he wouldn't smear the page.

"In eighth grade my teacher told me to write right handed. I just could not do it," said Karen Grush, senior.

Being left handed is not all bad, said Dr. Beeman. Being left handed also has many advantages. Some say left-handed people have the advantage in sports. "They throw their opponents off," said Jim.

"Being left handed is nice. It makes you original and sets you apart from the crowd," said Karen.

In a school setting, there are many problems a lefty must

face. Left-handed scissors work, according to Karen spiral notebooks are uncomfortable to many left handers. Problems for left handers at school are the desks, drinking fountains, and the pencil sharpeners.

"Only left-handed people are in their right mind," said Karen in reference to the physician that says the opposite side of the brain controls whether a person is right or left-handed.

"Supposedly, being left handed gives you better perception of detail and better concentration," said senior Tracy Kunz.



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Psychologists work silently

Matt Pospisil

"I didn't know Central had a school psychologist," said Elissa Wood, sophomore, "but I think it's a good idea that they do because of the problems kids have." Central, like all schools in Omaha Public Schools, has a school psychologist, although most students aren't aware of that fact.

It fulfills the requirement; it does what it is supposed to," said Mrs. Gerry Zerse. Mrs. Zerse refers to a federal law that states schools should provide services for special needs students. OPS's psychologists provide that service.

Special needs students

Currently, 7000 students in the district are in the special program. Special needs students are identified through testing conducted by the school psychologists.

First, when I was a counselor, I was really concerned about seeing kids with problems in class, not having enough time to help them," said Mr. Richard [?], a school psychologist. He explained that school psychologists function different than people might think they

Each psychologist has three schools to visit; with that many students you can't get tied

up with just one student because that would take away from the others," said Mr. Muff.

If the psychologist visits the student more than three times, then the students are referred to another psychologist or psychotherapist who can spend more time with them. "We would definitely like to spend more time with the students, but we just don't have time for counseling," said school psychologist, Mrs. Jane Selk.

Crisis stage

Both Mr. Muff and Mrs. Selk agreed that a disadvantage of their work is the lack of time spent with the students and long term follow ups. Also, Mrs. Selk stated that there was not enough preventive action. "We are only called when problems reach the crisis stage."

"It is never, ever boring," said Mr. Muff. Both Mrs. Selk and Mr. Muff feel that each cause is a little different and challenging.

"Adolescence is a hard time; they understand freedom, but they can't have it. They aren't ready," said Mr. Muff. Mrs. Selk explained that the psychologist's background provides a unique perspective in understanding the adolescent.

"We're the adolescent's advocate; we're not affiliated with

the school or the parents, we're there for the students. The kids just want to talk with someone," said Mrs. Selk.

Economic problems

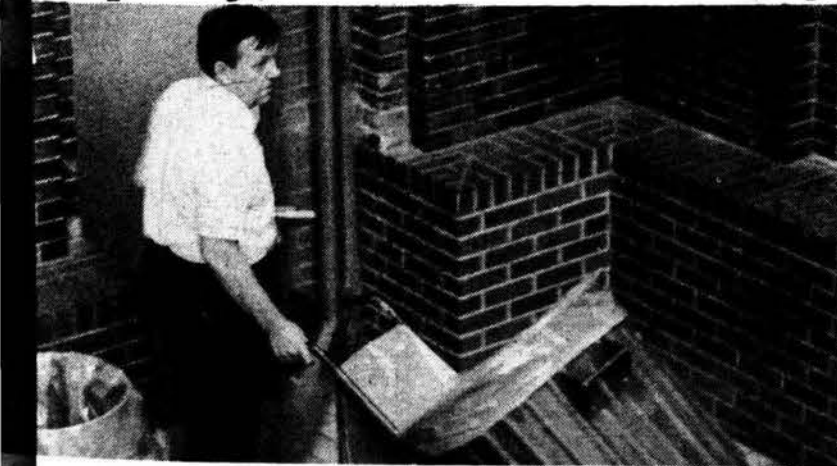
Both Mr. Muff and Mrs. Selk fear that because of economic problems, the special services would be the first to be cut. Mr. Muff said that it was only "nice" to have such programs. "We must show the school and the taxpayers that we are a much greater service than we are thought to be. We have a lot of skills to still tap," said Mrs. Selk.

"Before psychologists were thought to work with 'sick' people, but now we are there to help people learn about themselves and other people. The more they know and understand, the better off they'll be and the better they'll adjust to life's problems," said Mr. Muff.

Jo Krell, senior, said she had no idea that there were school psychologists, "but if more students knew they were there, they could maybe help more people."

Mrs. Selk summed up their problem saying, "We haven't done a real good job of p.r. (public relations). We need to increase our p.r. to secure our future."

Employees have variety of tasks



A member of one of the largest custodial staffs in Omaha Public Schools clears the courtyard of trash.

photo by Shanda Brewer

Most students seldom notice changes in Central's appearance. The building is maintained by Head Engineer James Merrifield and his staff of 18 custodians. Mr. Merrifield, who worked at Central for the past 14 years, says his job entails maintenance, snow removal, and general upkeep.

"Steady" was Merrifield's reply to the question of students' messiness in recent years. Custodian Mr. Edward Krupa stated that he thought that in the "past few years there was a little more to clean."

Both Merrifield and Krupa said Central has had no real trouble with vandalism in the past few years. "The late 70's was a troubled time, but no real trouble now," said Merrifield. Central's size and age requires

one of the largest custodial staffs in the Omaha Public Schools. Mr. Merrifield, who worked at South High in the early 70's, said he "prefers Central over other schools because it is darn well constructed and is better than the modern schools because they are not meant to last."

Mr. Krupa, who has also worked in a number of OPS elementary and high schools, added that Central is "a lot harder to clean because it's stacked, not all of the classes are on one floor like modern schools."

Mr. Merrifield feels that along with the many floors Central has the courtyard which has added "a little more work, but it was a lot of wasted space before."

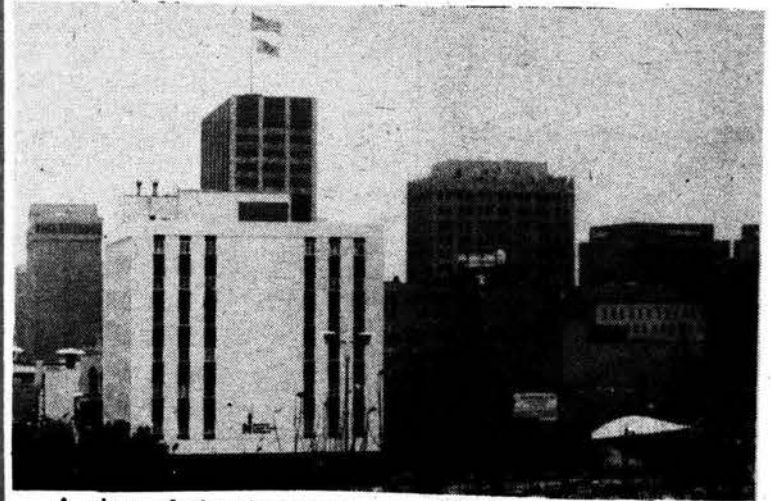
Mr. Krupa stated that the busiest cleaning times were "Christmas, parent-teacher con-

ferences, and the end of school because the kids are getting anxious to get out." He also said that other inschool activities such as campaigning for class offices are "no trouble, I even help the students put up signs by letting them use ladders."

Both Mr. Krupa and Mr. Merrifield agreed that the bathrooms were a "problem" to clean. Lockers they said are also difficult to clean. "Before the kids come back in the fall, we have to clean lockers, and when they put up stickers and stick-ups, it takes the paint off the lockers and they have to be repainted," said Mr. Krupa.

Even though there are problems cleaning up Central, "a lot of kids help me out. Many of the kids are conscious of keeping up the building," stated Mr. Krupa.

Central pleases local merchants



A view of the downtown area where many Central students are employed. photo by Tim Combs

Mike Meehan

"It's great!" claims Mr. Michael Pratt, manager of Homer's Records and Tapes in the Old Market. "A definite advantage!" says Vic's Corn Popper employee, Valerie Moyer. These remarks are just a few of the responses downtown merchants have in reaction to sharing the business community with Central.

According to Mr. Pratt, "It is great having a high school downtown. Businesses are located near the high traffic areas, and the students make up some of that traffic after school."

Neither Mr. Pratt nor Ms. Moyer have experienced any problems with students being in their stores. Ms. Moyer stated that most of Vic's Corn Popper's business with students comes on Saturdays, since the Braiker-Brandeis building closes at 6:30 p.m. on weekdays. "There is a constant flow of people especially on weekends; the kids like to use the market as a place to hang-out."

Student employment

In addition to "hanging out," many Central students have found employment in the downtown community. Seniors Karen Norman and John Fogarty and junior Matt Flick are just a few of the Centralites working downtown. Matt is employed at Spaghetti Works and John works at the Red Lion Inn. Each found their jobs on their own. But Karen gives her office procedures class credit for finding a clerical job for her. Through the class co-op program, Karen was placed in the law office of Schmid, Ford, Mooney and Fredrick.

All three students agreed that Central's location is a benefit in "convenience" of getting to work. "I get out after 7th hour and just walk down there, go to the 18th floor, and go to work," said Karen.

Along with Central being located near downtown shops and students' jobs, the location has many other advantages. According to Central principal Dr. G.E. Moller, "Central is located in an ideal spot for field trips because of the proximity of Joslyn, the courthouse, and many businesses. Also, Central is close to Internorth, Central's sponsor in the Adopt-A-School program."

Mat Bus System

Dr. Moller listed other benefits of Central's location. "We pick up in our enrollment of those students that ride downtown with their parents who are going to work in the downtown area. Central is almost the hub of the MAT bus system because a student can get on almost any bus and get to Central."

Dr. Moller doesn't believe that Central's location contributes to students' temptation to "skip" because downtown is "mostly white collar businesses and there isn't a strong attraction like being near the Westroads." Though Dr. Moller doesn't believe skipping is increased by being downtown, he has handled some student-related business complaints. A few of the problems he mentioned were "shop-lifting and smoking in business doorways before school."

Mr. Kevin Moran, Central counselor, pointed out a different advantage about Central's location. "The school draws kids from all kinds of ethnic, financial, and social backgrounds and gives them a chance to experience and enjoy each other; this is a great learning experience in itself."

Moran stated that the major disadvantages of being downtown are that kids could "get into bigger trouble than suburban kids and could be easy pickings for streetwise people in the area."

Central seniors Jill Parker and Karen Grush and junior Stacy White listed Central's disadvantages in being downtown as "distance, transportation, and parking."

The students said the benefits of Central's location outweigh the disadvantages. "I like the convenience of the library, Joslyn, and Central Park Mall," explained Jill. Karen added that she liked "...the variety of people Central attracts by its location in the community."

In Brief

Traci Timm, junior, won the Uptown Optimist Club's annual recognition for youth award. This recognition is part of the International Optimist Youth Appreciation Week. Traci, along with other students from Omaha schools, will be recognized as a youth who contributes to the betterment of his/her community.

Inga Soder, sophomore, won first place in the senior high division of the Nebraska Music Teachers Association piano competition on November 9. Inga competed among 10 other pianists in her category.

Orchestra All-State members from Central are Phil Lavoie, senior; Tim Stohs, junior; Stephanie Beerling, sophomore; Alissa Lawson, junior; Elizabeth Hazen, junior; and Jenni Lexau, junior. Fourteen Central students tried out and six were accepted.

French Club claimed first place in the bowling tournament sponsored by Spanish club on November 12. Latin club took second place and German and Spanish club finished in third and fourth place, respectively. The top team scorers were Kevin Kathka, junior, 215 for German; Arthur Batten, junior, 212 for Latin; Gene Huey, senior, 201 for French; and Kevin Gatzmeyer, senior, 168 for Spanish.

Students of the Month for November were chosen by a board of National Honor Society members. The winners are Heidi Graverholt, senior; David Vodicka, junior; and Nicholle Capellupo, sophomore. The National Honor Society chose these students because they were students who might not have been recognized in any formal manner and seem deserving to some form of school-wide recognition.

Jill Stommes, senior, won the Omaha Junior Miss Pageant November 11. The pageant, held in the Omaha City Auditorium Music Hall, was sponsored by the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation Department. Her winnings totaled more than \$2,000 including a scholarship to Nancy Bounds Modeling School.

Kellie Paris, senior, was named student representative to the advisory board at the College of Saint Mary. This is the third straight year that a Central student was selected to serve on the advisory board.

Dr. Stan Maliszewski, Central guidance director, has been selected to the Midwest National Committee to assess services for the College Entrance Examination Board. Dr. Maliszewski will be chairman of this committee and will serve on the Executive Committee which meets twice a year. He will study procedures and materials that are used for the SAT, PSAT, AP/CLEP, and Talent Search.

Mayor Boule speaks at installations
DECA initiates board of directors

Laura Murray

Central's chapter of Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) held the installation and initiation of its board of directors and class representatives on November 12.

Former Central students and DECA members, Mary Ann Danielson and Darcy Slavin, introduced and initiated the new board of directors as well as the new DECA members.

Guest speaker Omaha mayor Mike Boyle spoke of the importance of a positive attitude and how one person can make a difference.

Mayor Boyle used examples from different areas of life to persuade students to believe in themselves. He used St. Matthew to show how each individual is able to do anything he wants. He said that young people need to be constantly reminded that they are good, and they "need to let people know they did a good

job, that they're worth something."

Mayor Boyle closed his address by telling students that "your attitude about whether you want to win or lose will make you win or lose." He also restated the importance of a positive attitude and how one person can make a difference.

The Central High marketing program is composed of three areas: classroom instruction, internships, and DECA.

According to Mr. Harry Gaylor, Central marketing instructor and DECA coordinator, the classes offered include beginning marketing, advanced marketing, fashion merchandising, and a marketing laboratory. In these classes, the students learn about the process in which

a product is sold from the manufacturer to the consumer. The students also learn about the economy, business operations, sales, and personnel.



photo by Tim Com

Mayor Boyle encourages students to have a positive attitude about success. He used verses from St. Matthew to remind DECA members that they are each important individuals.

The internship program is for the second year student. "It is in conjunction with the marketing classes. It's a earning while learning process," said Mr. Gaylor. He said about 70 seniors are involved in the program with 56 local businesses.

Mr. Gaylor said that DECA, the student marketing group, is

in addition to the classes. also in conjunction with the "DECA is a co-curricular everybody in marketing is able." Mr. Gaylor explained the purpose of DECA is "for student to develop leaders and become increasingly knowledgeable about career preparation."

Central staff enters computer age

Sean McCann

Many homes have a personal computer. Some students use the computer to print research papers and reports. Other students take one of Central's computer classes to learn how to use the computer. But how do teachers use the computer for their classes?

Several teachers including Mr. Paul Semrad, Dr. Robert Wolff, and Mr. John Waterman use the computer for grading. The "biggest advantage" of the computer, according to Mr. Semrad, is that the computer "can print an immediate report card for the student and it also prints

"The computer is one of the few things that's come along in my 20 years that reduced my workload."

downslips." Mr. Waterman agrees, adding "students can see grades" on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.

But does the computer save time for a teacher? Mr. Waterman doesn't feel it does. Using the computer is "definitely not to save time." Mr. Semrad feels it should, saying "hopefully it saves some time." Dr. Wolff says "now it saves time" but "I don't think it saves time the first year.

The second year it saves time."

All three keep their grades in a gradebook as a safeguard against computer failure. "I keep grades in a gradebook as a record," states Mr. Waterman.

Other uses for the computer abound. Mr. Waterman's enrichment math uses the computer once every week for advanced math problems. Mr. Semrad uses the computer to produce "crossword puzzles as a review of material we may have covered,"

and also does some tests and handouts on the computer.

Dr. Wolff uses the computer for many projects other than grading. Progress reports, procedures, lab groups, and show displays are all produced by the computer. Dr. Wolff uses the computer for "recitation" or, more precisely, to play games."

Is the computer as efficient as traditional grading methods? "As long as I enter data correctly," explains Mr. Waterman. Wolff states, "The computer is one of the few things that's come along in my 20 years that reduced my workload."

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Point system hurts teams



Extra
Point

Travis Feezell

neither the first or third division, are placed in the second division. When a team plays a first division team and wins, it receives 50 points. If it loses it receives 30 points. If a team plays a second division team, it receives 45 or 25 points, depending on the outcome. If a team plays a third division team, it receives 40 or 20 points, also decided by the outcome.

There is one stipulation to this, though. If a Class A school plays a Class B team, three points are deducted from the original point value of the game.

At the end of the season, all teams take their total number of points and divide it by the number of games they have played. This gives a team a point average for the season. Each team is also assigned to a district which is randomly picked. In Class A there are six districts, each consisting of four or five teams. The team with the highest point average in each district receives a berth to the state tournament.

Also, two wildcard spots are awarded to two teams with the next highest point averages who did not win their district. This system then finally completes the eight-team field for the Class A state playoffs.

Central

This year, Central and Burke tied for the last wildcard spot, each having a 7-2 record. Their tie was broken by the fourth tiebreaker rule set up by the NSAA. This rule gives the win to the team which has opponents with a better winning percentage. More easily stated, the won-lost records of the opponents of the two teams are added together and the one with the better winning percentage is awarded the playoff berth. Therefore, Burke was given the final wildcard position, and the Eagles had to stay home.

"I don't think it was fair that we (Central) didn't make the playoffs," says junior John Pavel. "I really think we would

have beaten a lot of other teams like Alliance and Westside."

Problems

In this respect, many coaches feel that problems do exist with the present point system. They feel that the system is an excellent one, but that certain changes need to take place.

Assistant coach Joe McMenemy is one of these advocates. "It is impossible to get the top eight teams in the playoffs with this system," declares McMenemy. "I think a good idea would be to just have the top eight point averages, regardless of the district. That would coincide with another change I think they could make. I think instead of deducting three points for playing a Class B school, you could deduct five points or more. That would make it tougher for teams like Alliance to get in. I remember a few years ago Westside went 7-2 and missed the playoffs. North Platte, who was 5-4, made the playoffs because they won their district. This is where change needs to come in, but I doubt it will happen."

Another problem with the system that has been raised is that teams within a district do not play one another. To remedy this, Coach William Reed has offered a solution.

"I think teams should play at least 3 of 5 teams in their district, if not all of them. If you do that it might take away the chance of someone like Central staying out and Alliance staying in. The problem with this is that schedules are made early and the teams are locked into playing their schedule. Even with this, though, they could abolish the districts and take the top eight. This would make for a very feasible system."

"The playoff point system will probably stay the way it is for awhile," explains Mr. Sargent. And so it is to be. Yet, others still think there is room for change. a better year. How can it be done, though?

Girl gymnasts fall short by one-tenth point

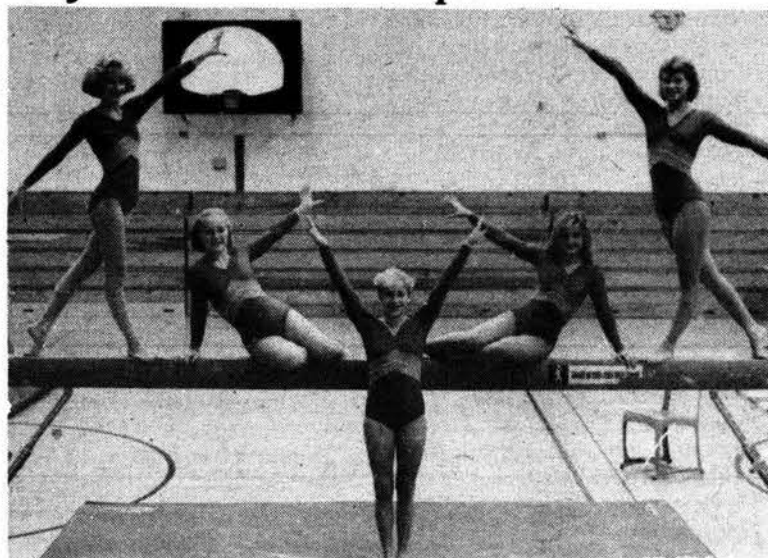


photo by Val Spellman

The 1985 girls' gymnastics team finished their season by placing runner-up in State competition.

Thatcher Davis

The 1985 Central girls' gymnastic team finished off its winning season by placing second in the state finals in Lincoln on November 7 and 8. The team finished only one-tenth of a point behind the number one team:

At the end of Thursday's competition, the Central squad was in first place with a score of 143.25, .35 points ahead of the nearest competitor. The Lady Eagles scored an impressive 144.50 points on Friday giving them a total of 287.75 points in the competition. This score was not enough, however, to win the state title.

"Disappointing"

Junior team member Cindy Hoden said the loss was "very disappointing." She also expressed that it might have been easier to accept a loss by a greater margin. "It's hard to lose by only one-tenth of a point," she said.

Shanen Houston, Central senior, won on the balance beam and came in third in the all-around competition. Shanen said the loss was "depressing," but thought the squad "pulled together as a team" in the competition.

The 1985 state runner-up girls' gymnastics team included Cindy Hoden, Amy Hoffman, Brecke Houston, Shanen Houston, and Jamie Strauss. The girls' coach is Mrs. Debbie Harrison.

"Pulled together"

Although the team did not win the state competition, many team members felt that the squad had performed to the best of its ability. "It was possibly the best we performed all year," reported Cindy. In two previous meetings with the state finalist, the Lady Eagles lost by four points and two points, respectively.

After their first place standing Thursday and their improved score Friday, the Lady Eagles thought the state title was theirs. However, an impressive showing by the finalist toward the end of the competition, diminished those dreams.

"I think we were very supportive of each other," said Cindy. Shanen also felt the team "pulled together" and that this possibly reflected in Central's performance.

Athletes endure pressure and competition in tryouts

Rock

a mist of sweat and silence, tense candidates stand alone in the crowded gym feeling the pressure of the upcoming cuts on the team. This could be the fate of any one of the team members at Central.

The only sports that have tryouts at Central, unlike other sports, are volleyball, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, and baseball. Football does not have tryouts. Mr. William Reed, head basketball coach, said even if 150 candidates came out "under no circumstances would we ever hold tryouts." For other sports it is necessary to get the team to a "workable" size, said Mr. Jim

Martin, head basketball coach.

This places a lot of pressure on athletes to do their best. "There is a lot of pressure, but you can't really think about it if you want to do good," said Alfred Johnson, junior basketball player.

"I think kids hypnotize themselves into thinking that they are going to be a part of the team to get themselves psyched up," said Mr. Martin.

Kids hypnotize themselves

"When you're competing against everyone for a position, the tension is really high," said Shelly Bang, senior volleyball player.

Coaches, when deciding on

their team, find the easiest way to determine the ability of the players is to hold scrimmages. The coaches look for several different qualities in players during these scrimmages: ability, team player, maturity, leadership, aggressiveness, hard worker and a place to fit into the team. Mrs. Sue Gambiana, volleyball coach, said, "I look for a lot more than raw talent in a player; she has to be a thinking player."

In a gym filled with 40 to 60 athletes it is important, but difficult to stand out. "Asking questions and working hard is how to let the coach know you're interested and also let the coach get to know you," said Shelly

Bang.

Notifying the team

In the end, coaches do have to decide who to drop from the squad. Coaches have different ways of informing the athletes of who made the team. For the girls' and boys' basketball teams, the candidates are notified by a posted list. Mrs. Gambiana calls out names of people who made the volleyball team, and they are asked to leave the room. She then talks to the remaining girls. "The list is a cold way to tell a kid he's been cut," Mr. Martin remarks.

Barbara Nance, junior basketball player, said, "It depends on the person whether they handle

being cut well or not."

Being cut can be thought of in a positive sense, though. "There is a great deal to be learned from being cut. It teaches how to take disappointments in life, and it teaches how to lose," said Shelly Bang.

Learn from being cut

"I've had kids come back three years in a row and each year it's harder to cut them. It shows a tremendous amount of courage to come out in the first place," said Mr. Martin.

"I encourage a kid to come out even if he thinks he might get cut. If you like something, you should go for it and accept the challenge," concluded Martin.

Hockey popularity increases at Central

Travis Feezell

With the cold weather months soon approaching, sports minds and activists turn towards basketball, a semi-complicated game with consistent action. But some minds at Central are being turned towards an even more rugged and quick game. No, it's not swimming or wrestling; it's hockey!

Hockey is fast gaining popularity with students as well as older people. One thing which has helped this has been the prominence of cable television. "Cable television has really helped increase the popularity of the sport," said Jason Hiatt, sophomore hockey player. "But it's not only that, I think more people are really starting to take a great interest in the fast pace of the game."



"Yeah, I can really see hockey starting to gain attention," says senior hockey player Kevin Gatzmeyer. "There are about twice as many kids playing hockey as when I started. Some are even beginning at age 12 or 13."

Hockey is an excitingly fast game. Ten players race around

the ice trying to put a lump of rubber into the opponent's carefully guarded goal. To many, this would seem to be utter bedlam. But not to a hockey expert.

"Sure it might look like craziness on the ice, but it's not," exclaims Gatzmeyer. "Skating and stickhandling are important, but you've got to be able to know what to do in certain situations. On defense everyone must play a zone or area. If they don't, everything breaks down. It's a team game."

Right now there are "six or seven hockey players at Central" says Gatzmeyer. All of these students play for the Omaha Metropolitan Amateur Hockey Association (OMAHA) league. Most started at a very young age,

somewhere around four or five, but their love of the game has kept them going.

This love certainly helps the players practice from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. two or three times a week. "It's long," explains Hiatt, "but it's all worth it."

Hockey, with its growing popularity, seems to be going nowhere as a sanctioned high school sport in Nebraska, unlike its condition in Minnesota and Wisconsin. "The sanctioning would be very difficult because of ice time for each team," says Mr. Richard Jones, Central athletic director. "There are just not enough hockey rinks around the area to make a sanctioning. I really don't foresee it ever happening."

Gatzmeyer agrees, but for dif-

ferent reasons. "I don't see hockey as a sanctioned sport at all. There are just not enough players at the high school level to have competitive teams. Central, for example, has only six or seven guys. That just won't cut it for a decent team."

Hiatt disagrees. "I see hockey as a high school sport a few years down the road say 10 or 15. The popularity is growing so much that they'll have to make it a sanctioned sport."

Hockey is a sport really loved by players and spectators alike. "I remember when the Omaha Knights (a minor-league hockey club that folded in the early 1970's) were in town, I never missed a game," points out Mr. Jones. "I think Omaha needs another team to get hockey really going again. I love the sport!"

Semrad uses bow to 'get away from the city'

Thatcher Davis

Although bow hunting is a patience wearing and oftentimes unproductive sport, Central teacher Paul Semrad enjoys the time he spends in the outdoors while hunting.

"My main purpose of hunting with a bow is not to bag a deer," he said, "but to be outside and enjoy nature."

Before bow hunting season starts on September 15, Mr. Semrad and some of his friends build blinds in trees along deer trails. The blinds must be big enough for the hunter to have some freedom, and, Mr. Semrad added, "They must have a seat."

Mr. Semrad arrives at his blind about 20 minutes before sun-up, when the deer are returning from their feeding grounds. For the next three hours Mr. Semrad sits and waits for the ever-elusive deer. Oftentimes, when he does see a deer, it is out of the 25-30 yard range of the bow.

Difficulties

Probably the deer's best sense is his sense of smell, and deer pick up the scent of a hunter very easily. Mr. Semrad feels that a deer will smell the hunter 75 per cent of the time before he is in range.

The deer will "snort" when it smells the hunter, according to Mr. Semrad. The deer will then either run away or remain out of accurate bow range. "You just hope the next one doesn't smell you," he said.

Bow hunting is obviously a difficult type of hunting. The bow hunting season lasts from September 15 to December 31 whereas rifle season only lasts for eight days in early November. The average range of a bow is 25 to 30 yards, but a rifle's range is around 250 to 300 yards. Mr. Semrad has been bow hunting for six years, and in that time he has managed to bag only one deer.

Mr. Semrad picked up his love for bow hunting six years ago from a friend who did a lot of bow hunting. His friend taught Mr. Semrad both form and hunting technique. "If you don't have good form, you won't have an accurate shot," said Mr. Semrad.

Knowing the equipment is also very important to Mr. Semrad. "Knowing your equipment and practicing your shot are important for safe hunting," he said.

Over the past six years, Mr. Semrad has learned many things about hunting deer and the deer itself. The placement of a blind and shooting from a tree are areas he has mastered through his own experiences. In observing the deer he has also learned more about their behavior which helps in the tracking of deer.

Technique

To many people the time Mr. Semrad spends idle in the deer blind would seem tiresome, but he enjoys the time he can spend outdoors. From a deer blind Mr. Semrad has seen many other animals than deer. He has seen a rare red fox, wild turkeys, coyotes, and once a bald eagle landed only a few feet from him in the tree.

He also remembers a time when he was on his way to a blind in the early morning and he came face-to-face with a skunk. "I was the one who retreated," commented Mr. Semrad.

"I feel very fortunate that I have a place where I can go when I want to get away from the city," he said. "Many people never have the chance to see nature as I do."

As a sport, archery is increasing in popularity Mr. Semrad feels. This is possibly due to the challenge of the sport and the skill needed to succeed. Mr. Semrad said, "It's a good sport."

Wrestlers anticipate successful season

Dan Rock

With 11 returning letterman, six team members with chances of going to state, and a team ranked in the top ten of the preseason coaches poll, some say Central may have a good wrestling team this year.

Central's wrestling team is returning 11 of 12 lettermen from last year's team. "We are going to have a real strong and experienced team," senior Gerry Hofmann said.

Since September the wrestlers have been running four miles a day in order to prepare themselves for their first meet at North. "It's a miniature state tournament because all the teams who go to state are there,"

explained senior Mark Driscoll.

"Not only are just the good competitors there, but it's the first tournament of the year so nobody knows anybody," said Mr. Gary Kubik, Central wrestling coach.

In order to place well at the first meet and the rest of the season, the team agrees they will have to do some things differently from last year. "Last year our mental attitude wasn't good; this year we are going to be a much closer team and have a great team attitude," said Mark.

"We need to have people more confident. They have to believe they're winners before they can win. If we can do that, we are going to win a lot of duels this year," said Mr. Kubik.

The only thing holding back

the Eagles is the vacancy of the two lower weight divisions. "We need to get some people in those lower weight classes in order to be a complete team," commented Gerry Hofmann.

The team lost four duels last year each by less than 5 points. With three lower weight wrestlers, the team could have won. "We're looking for kids in the halls, but we're in competition with basketball," said Coach Kubik.

The team has the toughest duel schedule that Mr. Kubik can remember. "December will be like war for us," said Mr. Kubik. The Eagles are looking to defeat Abraham Lincoln who has won the metro four years straight.

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