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Catholic High Schools Are Alive and Well . . . and Changed

By JOAN M. SMITH

Not willing to disclose this reporter's age, suffice it to say when she attended Catholic high school things were different — and how! Regimentation was the word; rigid class schedules, formal curriculum, inflexible rules, and mechanical school spirit.

All this has changed. In my recent visits to each of the high schools I have discovered many progressive changes:



SMITH

School newspapers once bland bearers of in-school events are now the voice of students expressing opinions, recommendations, and condemnations.

One such paper is *Aquinas' Maroon & White* which, according to Father Albert Gaelens, principal, "is the most liberal of school papers. As long as it remains in good taste," he says, "the students are given ample freedom."

Aquinas students take their editorial freedom seriously, and zero in on pertinent issues.

concerning faculty, administration, and fellow classmates.

Boredom has been taken out of gym thanks to **Mercy High School's** modern physical education program. Though freshmen and sophomores still have to endure the basics, once they become juniors they can do their own thing — bowling, archery, golf and swimming.

This program introduces students to sporting activities they will continue to enjoy after leaving school which, as **Mercy's** principal, Sister Mary Bryan, maintains, "are the things the students will stay with the rest of their lives."

At one time bells clanged the beginning and ending of 45 minute periods — same subject same time every day. The bells are no longer evident, nor is the repetitive schedule.

An open environment for learning has evolved, and **St. Agnes High School** is quite progressive with its "mod" scheduling. Each mod is 15 minutes long, and classes are usually planned for 2, 3, or 4 mods per meeting. This system lends stimulation to the school

day while resulting in self-disciplined, responsible students.

Back then . . . school spirit was confined to limited school functions. It generated from individual student participation in drama, sports, and literary clubs.

Today, a "total" school spirit has emerged, especially at **Bishop Kearney High School** where everyone from the youngest frosh to administrative officials take pride in their award winning "Marching Kings."

School spirit has crossed inter-community boundaries, and has been projected internationally, because of this world traveling band. **Kearney's** pride, however, is also evidenced in all its musical groups — the pit, stage, and concert bands.

No longer are students confined to a full day of classes. **Notre Dame High School** in Elmira is one of the many schools which has an early dismissal program. Students may leave school after their last class (around 1 p.m.) provided they have a valid reason for doing so such as, community volunteer

work or a job. Parental consent is also required.

In bygone years, student governments interpreted, and enforced, administrative policy. It was a one-way street formulated rules and regulations with no considered input from the students.

Now these governments are not only a strong motivating force behind school policy, but are actively involved with other community school governments.

McQuaid's student organization, as Father Leon C. Hogenkamp, principal, proudly attests, "is very active." Under the leadership of an Executive Council the government is involved in the Inter-High Council which is composed of area high school student government presidents. **McQuaid's** objective is to "share the wealth" of its strong and solidly designed system with other schools.

Religion to the student of yesteryear meant catechized rhetoric or church history. Today's students have made religion a living experience by being a part of their community. They are aware of the need for community services, and devote

time and effort fulfilling this need.

DeSales High School in Geneva boasts two service orientated programs. The "teaching Ministry" sends its members into elementary schools to prepare pupils for Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. Students participating in "Living the Christian Experience" group work at the Happiness House which is a facility for Cerebral Palsy patients.

There was a time when the farthest distance students traveled was from school to school for various events. Now, every year — at Eastertime — hundreds of language club students descend upon Europe.

This year, **Cardinal Mooney** students will experience Spanish culture with a tour of Spain which will include visits to la Alhambra (fort), la Plaza de Toros (the bull ring), and El Prado (an art gallery).

The French Club, not to be outdone, will embark on a study tour of France, March 20. Their itinerary will include Paris, a visit to the famous chateaus in the Loire Valley, then clostirg with a trip to Mont St. Michel.

Mercy, Mooney Split Teams Keep Cool in Rules Dispute

By JOHN DOSER

There was nothing extraordinary about it but the argument.

That lasted about 15 minutes; was conducted in the most genteel mode we've ever observed; and prompted ironic, unexpected remarks from the two opposing coaches.

Our Lady of Mercy played host to Cardinal Mooney last week in a key Catholic-Private Girls' Volleyball League double match.

Mercy entered the games with a 10-1 record; Mooney, 11-1. A Mercy sweep of the two matches would mean the C-P title and its No. 1 sectional berth; a Mooney sweep would mean exactly the same for the Cardinals.

Mercy won two games in a row to win the first best-of-three match and then Mooney took two of three to win the second match. In a sense the split proved futile for the day's work. It made Mercy's record 11-2 and left Mooney at 12-2.

[Editor's Note: Mercy defeated St. Agnes the next day setting a title game between Mercy and Mooney which Mercy won.]

The dispute occurred as Mercy led, 15-14, in the second game of the first match. Mooney coach Joette Abbey signaled for a timeout.

Referee Helga Mephram, wife of Brighton High basketball coach Clarence Mephram, stood atop a small table judging net serves. She turned to official scorer Donna Nichols of Mercy and asked, "How many timeouts for Mooney?"

"Three," was Donna's reply and Helga immediately signaled the players that Mooney exceeded the two penalties allowed per game, and, since Mercy's Aileen Springer was serving, she awarded a penalty point to the serving team — which happened to be the 16th point of the game, giving Mercy a 16-14 victory in the game.

"It was unfortunate," Mooney

coach Abbey explained. "I called one time out very early in the game and a second request was denied," she said.

A Mooney player apparently called a second time out which was recognized by the officials, recorded by the official scorer, but not utilized by Mooney coach Abbey.

"With Mercy one point away from winning, I called what I thought was our second time out," Abbey said. "I know there are only two timeouts per game. It's just unfortunate," she added.

Mercy Coach Sister Cathy Pfleger felt badly about it. "It was a lousy way to win or lose," she said.

The discussion itself lasted 15 minutes while referees Mephram and Jean Lyons searched the rule book.

Abbey and her supporters quietly stood by, never raised their voices, but insisted on seeing the rule where a point is awarded the serving team.

Finally Mrs. Mephram ruled that while the rule book apparently isn't that specific, there is a penalty assessed when two timeouts are exceeded — the penalty being either a point (if the violation is committed by the defensive team) or loss of serve (if the violation is committed by the serving team).

Mercy zipped to a 4-0 lead in the first game of the first set on the strength of serving efforts by senior Judy Peace and sophomores Eileen Smith and Mary Ellen Weber.

Peace, Mercy's most skilled athlete, used a powerful, low sailing overhead serve; Smith delivered a power-packed skimmer from a windmill release which "just about kills you when it hits you," Sister Cathy explained.

Weber used a deliberate, sidearm release with speed.

Mooney's top server is senior Sue Ward who her coach admitted was not having a very

good day. She was caught, for example, standing on the wrong side of a serving line early in the first game as Mercy raced to a 10-4 lead, and had to forfeit her serve.

Bonnie Berardicurti, a dark-haired Mooney senior, scored three points in a row to cut the Mercy margin to 10-9.

Sister Cathy called a timeout with one goal in mind — to "unpsyche" Bonnie by slowing her momentum. And it worked, because Bonnie blew the serve when play resumed.

Sue Ward missed her serve again for Mooney and Peace dropped in a couple of clutch points, Mercy hiked its lead to 14-10.

Diane Agostinelli, a slender Mooney junior, methodically connected for four straight points to tie the score at 14-14.

Smith took over serving for Mercy and with the "personality for the situation," according to her coach, coolly and calmly delivered the 15th and game-winning point.

Ward opened the serving for Mooney in the second match and produced a fast 5-0 lead. Marie DeRosa, a fiery, enthusiastic, constantly-chattering player whose lack of height is not at all a liability, made it 7-2, Mooney, before senior Ellen Hammele reduced the gap to 7-6 for Mercy.

The score changed hands several times before DeRosa slammed two serves across to lock both sides at 14-14.

That's when Aileen Springer scored Mercy's 15th point, followed by Mooney's untimely timeout.

Mooney got back to its usual style of play in the opening game of the second set, grabbing a 9-4 lead. "We were playing our usual style now, when we got a lead, we usually kept it," coach Abbey explained.

Mary Ellen Weber tied the score for Mercy at 11-11, and coach Abbey called upon her

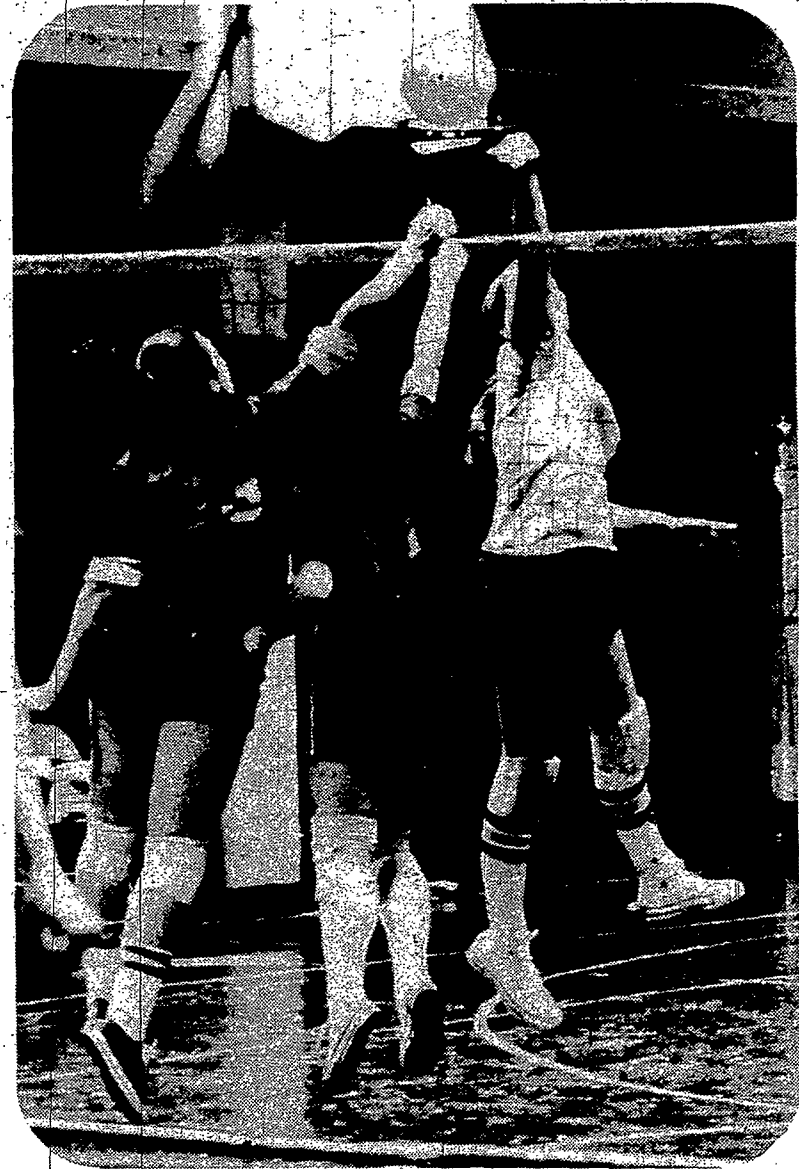


Photo by Bruce Genut

Action at the net as Mooney's Bonnie Berardicurti (33) and Marie DeRosa (11) leap to block spike shot by Mercy player.

troops to calm down. "We were getting sloppy and setting up Mercy's front line for easy returns. I told them to hit the ball harder, and hit it to the back line," Abbey said.

Betsy McFarlane, a senior, put Mooney ahead at 12-11 and Kathy Weeks, another senior, added two more for a 14-11 edge. Ward popped home the game winning point and all Mooney hands felt a little better.

Judy Peace demonstrated precisely why she's Sister Cathy's No. 1 server by jumping Mercy to an 8-0 lead in the next game, leaving Mooney girls sprawling left and right while trying to solve her clothesline serves.

Only a Peace slammer into the net turned the ball over to the Cardinals whose efforts were so minimal they settled on the short end of a 15-8 contest and prepared for the final match of the afternoon.

The score reached 13-13 in the final match.

Mary Jo Mitchell, subbing for Betsy McFarlane, made it 14-13 for Mooney, and freshman Meath missed her serve for Mercy.

Game and match point stared Kathy Weeks right on, and she did the only thing she wanted to do — got her serve over the net and Mercy messed it up for a Mooney win.