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A Milestone

McQuaid's Higher Achievement Program (HAP), under the direction of Father William Poorten, SJ, is in its 10th successful year. The program is geared for city boys, who having completed seventh grade, wish to advance their academic abilities. But aside from the basics of Math, Reading and English, the program offers varied activities such as sports, media communication, gardening, chess and music. The students attend the school five days a week from 9 a.m. to 2 in the afternoon. Four class sessions are held in the morning with an activities period following lunch. This year's enrollment is 52 boys and they are guided by a staff of 11. Above from upper left corner are Scott Naab figuring out a problem; Anthony Ravenell, Paul Lindblom, Steve Annunziata and Lloyd Gala paying attention to instructor; Teacher Daniel Sciarra explaining English skills and then demonstrating the use of video camera while filming Claude Turner (on left) and David Manioci.

Nuns Clinic Aids Girls Basketball

By JOHN DOSER

Sisters Mary Ann Kosakoskii and Sheila Stevenson, a pair of Sisters of Mercy, are less interested in the possible unusual circumstances of their conducting a basketball clinic for elementary school girls, than they are about who's attending says.

The camp they're operating is for seventh and eighth grade girls - an outgrowth from their winter season duties as respective elementary school girls' basketball coaches at Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes, Brighton.

"We found that there was a great interest among these girls to go to camps, but many find them very expensive and they can't afford it.

"So we put the basketball within a framework they camp together, following believed they could Camp Silver Birch," Sister Mary adequately handle.

Camp Silver Birch is a youth crafts and activities camp conducted by the sisters at Mercy High each summer.

"Is it unusual," Sister Mary Ann asks, "to have nuns conduct a clinic?"

"There is a need, so I don't think it's unusual," she adds.

"It's girls' basketball and 1 think women need to come to: the front, at least as far as coaching," she says.

The clinic begins each day with a half hour of exercise including jogging, calisthenics, leg stretches, jumping jacks,

"And then we go into skills and do whistle, dribbling, passing, layup, set shot, and foul shooting drills. Then we break up into teams for the last 45 minutes and have the girls

play team against team so they can actually learn to play the positions.

"Eventually, when they try out for their school teams in the fall, they'll have something to start with and coaches won't be left cold," Sister Mary Ann

The purpose of the campilis to condition the girls and to teach the importance of conditioning; and also to give them a basic understanding of the game and its skills, Sister Sheila explains.

'We're not teaching playmaking or anything eise she says, "we're teaching basics to the girls.

Because both sisters coach only seventh and eighth grade girls, they decided to stay

Classes are limited to 20 gifls per week; to open it to girls of high school age or pre-seventh grade, would probably be more than they are willing to accommodate, Sister Sheila says.

Sister Sheila is herself ia Mercy graduate where she played intramural basketball; Sister Mary Ann was graduated from Corning Northside and was very active in sports including girls' basketball.

Both are familiar with Section 5 and the boys high school tournament which has been held for many years at the Rochester War Memorial.

Both sisters acknowledge that the girls have been behind their male basketball counterparts, but say the gap is closing all the time.

Girls have caught up a lot in all sports, but particularly in basketball," Sister Sheila says.

"Girls have really made a name for themselves in basketball and that's one of the reasons why we're running the camp; because we want to give girls the basics at the junior high school level so they will have an advantage when they go into high school," she ex-

Sister Sheila says it's a good possibility that there will one day be a statewide girls' high school basketball tournament like the boys are supposed to have beginning with this her first year of teaching at coming season.

"That would be terriffic,"

Both had interesting basketball seasons last year at their schools.

Sister Mary Ann's Blessed Sacrament team had a perfect 9-0 season last year; they were third in the Diocese, second in the City, and first in an invitational tournament at Mercy

Sister Sheila, who is an instructor in the Dental Hygiene Department at Monroe Community College, coached her team to fourth in their league with a 5-4 record their first time playing in the league.

Her Lourdes team also played in the Mercy Tournament and lost to Sister Mary Ann's Blessed Sacrament team in the championship finals

Sister Sheila just completed

University graduate school grad who took up dental hygiene three years after she joined the sisterhood.

Sister Mary Ann teaches health at Blessed Sacrament, she's a Nazareth College graduate who is now working on a master's degree in health science at Brockport State.

Sister Sheila also coached junior high girls for three years at St. Michael's Elementary School, Newark.

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