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COURIER-JOURNAL

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At N.D.H.S.

Digger Was In Town

Elmira—A cheering, standing-room-only crowd in the Notre Dame gym is a common occurrence during the basketball season, and certainly is one of the factors involved in the Crusaders' record there. They haven't lost at home in the past two years.

But on April 6, when a packed house of more than 950 people applauded the players as they were introduced, there was no opposition present. The occasion was a dinner to honor the team on their state championship.

Featured speaker for the event was Richard (Digger) Phelps, the Notre Dame-University basketball coach.

He congratulated the basketball players on their

achievement, but warned them not to allow dust to collect on themselves the way it will on their trophies. He emphasized the need to set goals and then work hard to reach them, but also noted that a person shouldn't let basketball be his entire life.

He explained that when he was young, the experience gained through his father's undertaking business changed his outlook on life. He reported that he saw many men who had died shortly after retirement, after years of hard work, and never had an opportunity to take life easy. Because of that, he promised himself that he would try to enjoy life, he said, noting that twice during the past basketball season he took several days off, once to ski and once to play golf. Other coaches

asked him how he could do it; he said he told them it was easy — "I get on a plane and go."

The four-hour program also included the reading of proclamations and congratulations from many groups and governmental bodies, including the City of Elmira, Chemung County, Governor Hugh Carey, the White House advisor to the president on physical fitness, and the Elmira Free Academy and Southside High School Booster clubs.

Trophies commemorating the state championship were presented to the players, managers, coaches and cheerleaders, and individual awards also were made to several members of the team.



With his name overhead, Digger Phelps speaks to the 950 people who assembled to honor the Notre Dame basketball team. Also on the dais are, from left, Sister Mary Walter Hickey, Notre Dame principal, Martin Harrigan, Elmira Free Academy principal and master of ceremonies, Michael Johnston, Notre Dame High School basketball coach, his wife Margie, James Satalin, St. Bonaventure basketball coach, and John Gough, organizer of the affair.



Cassie Barbara leads youngsters during Confirmation retreat in Corning.

Photo by Martin Toombs

Retreat Adds to Confirmation Rite

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

East Campbell—The 40 members of St. Patrick's, Corning, Confirmation class participated in a retreat at the Watson Homestead here April 6 and 7.

Group discussions, talks by Father Bernard J. Toomey, and movies such as "It Must Be Love Cause I Feel So Dumb," and "The Shopping Bag Lady," kept the retreatants busy at the retreat center in the Steuben County hills.

Father Toomey, pastor of St. Mark's Church, Wheaton, Illionis, led the retreat, and was celebrant for Mass each day. The first day's program, beginning at 2 p.m., lasted until midnight, enabling the 25-hour retreat to include two days' worth of activities.

Alice Marx, who with her husband Paul organized the retreat, noted that several of the class members were apprehensive about the retreat, but that they all seemed to be enjoying the

experience, which she said was important. She also noted that the two-day program could have long-lasting effects because of the concentration of instruction.

The retreat also could be valuable to the students, she said, by helping them develop their socialization skills.

The students displayed an enthusiasm for the activities on Friday morning, applauding both Father Toomey's talk and a movie they viewed. At recreation

time, they rushed outside to the sunny spring day, and got a softball game started.

Friday's activities had begun with discussion

groups, with the effects a person's actions have on others as the topic. Small groups, of five or six students, led by an adult, facilitated discussion.

Retreat May 19-21

Elmira — The annual closed weekend retreat sponsored by the Women's Retreat League is scheduled May 19-21 at Our Lady's Villa in Mt. Pocono, Pa.

Further information and applications are available from Mrs. Marguerite Backes, 312 Webber Place, Elmira, 734-8308, or Mary or Margaret Crane, 222 Dodge Ave., Corning, 936-4095.

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