

Rap Around Rap Around Rap

One Family's Successes An Uplifting Experience

Brothers John and Edward Coniff, a junior and freshman respectively at Bishop Kearney, competed in the weightlifting competition of the AAU-USA Junior Olympics in South Bend, Indiana in August. John brought home a first in the 165 pound weight class of the intermediate division while Ed took second place in the 114 pound scholastic division.

The family success in weightlifting, however, doesn't stop there.

The boys' father, John Sr., a 1963 Aquinas graduate, along with John Jr., competed in the Empire State games in August. John Sr., who finished third in the 1974 Senior National Weightlifting Championship in York, PA., placed third in the 242 pound division at the Empire games. John Jr. finished fourth in the 148 pound division. Ed, who began training five months ago, did not compete in this year's games.

The boys said that it was their father's involvement with the sport



John Sr. and John Jr. watch with a critical eye as Ed works out.

Photo by Joan M. Smith

that motivated their interest. John Jr. was 12 when he became interested in weightlifting and it was June 1980 when he took second place in his first competition in the Niagara District championship. In 1981 he entered his first Junior Olympics and took a first.

The three Coniffs work out at Sampson's Gym on Lyell Ave. and agreed the sport has brought them closer together. John Sr. said that weightlifting is good development for the boys physical well-being and "they should lead a long, happy life because of it."

The brothers are members of BKs JV wrestling team and both have competition goals on the horizon; Ed in Butler PA., in October, and John, the April Teen-age USA Championships in Columbus, Ohio. The Coniffs belong to Holy Trinity parish.

Spirited Day

At right a happy Sister Judith Heberle, Mercy principal, accepts a \$10,000 gift from the Alumnae Association during Field Day ceremonies, Friday, Sept. 23. Rosemary Wilson, class of '62 and vice chairman of the association, is presenting. Freshman showed their spirit during this year's event by winning the scavenger hunt and cheerleading contest. Seniors took the championship softball game, and the juniors outsang everyone in the songfest. Below, songfest co-chairpersons Kathleen



Vergo and Ann Marie Nedimala show the student enthusiasm that reigned during the day.



Keep Sales Coming

The Cardinal Mooney magazine drive is in full swing with the students aiming for a record sales year. Proceeds will be used to double the computer program at the high school and purchase word processors for student use. Psyched for successful sales are Ken Merkey, Angela Battisto, Michelle Hessdoerfer, and Jack Morgan. Drive ends Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Tennis Anyone?

Hanna and Kelly Mattingly won their matches in three sets each.

Mercy's double teams of Sarah Considine/Kris Zeman and Tracey Mattingly/Meg O'Leary won 6-2, 6-2 and 6-2, 6-0 respectively.

The varsity soccer team came away with a win and a loss in their last two games.

Mercy won a league game Thursday, Sept. 22

by beating visiting Aquinas 2-0. Maureen Paonessa assisted Bethany Parrinello for a goal in the second quarter and sophomore Colleen Keegan scored unassisted with four seconds in the second quarter.

Tough Cardinal Mooney defeated Mercy 5-2 at Mooney, Tuesday, Sept. 27. Parrinello and Ann Peacock had the two Mercy scores against Mooney.

Mercian Gains Merit

Tina Carroll, a senior at Our Lady of Mercy High School, is one of three Rochester high school students named a semifinalist in the 20th annual National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students.

These semifinalists will compete for awards financed by grants of \$2 million from 180 program sponsors and by contributions from program donors.



Our Lady of Mercy varsity tennis team improved their undefeated record to 4-0 with a 5-0 win over Bishop Kearney, Monday, Sept. 27 according to school sources.

Mercy's Chise Koyama, a Japanese foreign exchange student this year, beat her opponent 6-3, 6-2. Mercy's Liz

By Michael Mendolia BISHOP KEARNEY

Home. The word usually stirs up pleasant memories of love, safety, security. But for some, home is not such a lovely place. In fact, it can be the setting for nightmarish horrors. Violence in the home is appallingly prevalent, and it becomes even more hideous when inflicted upon a child.

Child abuse is finally being brought into the open. Last year, over 850,000 cases of child abuse were reported, proving it to be a major problem in our country today. Society cannot afford to avoid and ignore this uncomfortable subject.

Child abuse is the ultimate betrayal, the ugliest violation of trust. In the privacy of their homes, many vulnerable and defenseless children are beaten for no apparent

reason. Besides fear and hurt, abused children frequently feel shame, guilt, and humiliation. But sexual child abuse is the most traumatic. In the confusion of facing a parent who can be both loving and sadistic, the child can lose his mental balance and develop multiple personalities. Worst of all, family violence spreads to future generations. Most violent criminals were raised in violent homes and battered children tend to become battering parents.

The theoretical child abuser is immature and impetuous, with no friends or connection to society. He is probably addicted to drugs or alcohol, and his inability to cope with stress turns him to violence at the slightest provocation. His low self-image drives him to abuse defenseless children in order to achieve a brief spurt of power. But, in reality, not all child abusers are unfeeling monsters. Many of them feel guilt, self-loathing, and

horror at their actions. Child abusers are sick people who are addicted to violence. Although one is tempted to simply imprison them, this will not cure them - they need psychological aid.

It is society's duty to correct the problem of child abuse. Centers for abused children and abuse hot-lines such as Parents Anonymous are springing up throughout the nation. But this is not enough. All of us must try to correct the problem. If a child has bruises or broken bones, we must report it. If a child reveals that he is abused, we must believe him and confront the offender or alert the authorities. Children must be taught to seek help if adults hurt them.

Child abuse results in physical and emotional suffering, ruined lives, and future crimes. It must be stopped. Both the victim and the abuser need our help. We have taken the first step - realizing that there is a problem. Now we must correct it.



Show Openers

The Aquinas Institute Marching Band will be featured during the opening ceremonies of the Skate America '83, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 13 at the Rochester War Memorial. Under the direction of David Martin, the band will perform "Moonlight Serenade," "Suncat," and "So Very Hard to Go." Skate '83 will feature international skaters from 16 countries and will include 1983 national champions from 12 countries, former world champion Elaine Zayak, and three-time American pairs champions Caitlin and Peter Carruthers.

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