School Sports Scene

Ducks 'hatch' championship

By Carl Mark Gail

"It's a very pleasant surprise," Douglass girls track Coach Donna Bowers said.

"In the back of my mind, I knew we could do it but I just didn't want to count my chickens before my eggs hatched."

Well they hatched and all of them proved to be winners as Douglass made a clean sweep of it, going 6-0 in the league, 7-1 overall, to take the "B" titl...

"I really didn't know what to expect. We are a young team. There are only five seniors on the squad, so we have a jump on next year," said Bowers.

One of the reasons why the Ducks were so strong this year was because of runners like Janet Williams.

Williams, a senior team captain, can run the 300 hurdles, ¼ mile, a leg of the mile relay, and the high jump. She is a three letter man at Douglass, playing volleyball and basketball just as well. But Coach Bowers believes track is Williams' best sport because of her drive to win.

Junior April Butler is another one of the better quarter milers in the city and also a member of the mile relay squad.

"April is a responsible young lady and sets a good example for the upperclassmen. I m glad that she'll be around bext year," Bowers said.

Douglass has two sophomores with a lot of potential—sprinters Fatina Fassett and Linda Thorn. Fassett runs the 100 and 200 meter dash, while Thorn runs anything from the 200 to the 800 meter.

By taking the championship, Douglass now moves to the "A" conference with the big girls, like Western, Mervo and Lake Clifton. The Ducks have already had a taste of "A" Conference talent, running against Northwestern and winning by 5. But losing to Dunbar, last year's "B" conference champ by 14 points, was their biggest disappointment.

Another problem that will face Douglass next season will be the moving of the school to site 181, located on N. Calhoun St. and the present site of the Houston Woods elementary school.

Coach Bowers is not sure what the move will do to the track program, but is hoping that this year's success will carry over to next year.

TRUE WINNERS — Members of the Douglass track squad top row ... Linda Thorne, Vioree Ricks, Louise White, Sherrie Grisson, and Jackie Phillips. Middle row, Gail Baker, April Butler, Kim Stocks, Janet Williams, Shelia Williams and Gail Linen. On the bottom row, Francene Halsey, Tammy Tyler, Mary Pendleton, Coach Bowers, Linda Robinson, Fatina Fossett and Tracy Stokes. Not pictured, Stephanie Washington.

Lacrosse

Redskins try to beat 'second place'

By Carl Mark Gail
AFRO Staff Writer

There is an old saying that goes "always a bridesmaid, never a bride."

But for the Edmondson lacrosse team, "always an usher, never a groom" would fit better.

For the past seven years, under the guidance of Coach David Mintzer, the Redskin stickmen have come in second place, behind Southern, Southwestern, or, lately, Lake Clifton.

True to form this year, they are back in second place, but Coach Mintzer could not be happier.

"I m very pleased and proud of how far the team has come this year," he said, "because we are basically a young team and at the beginning of the season, I had my doubts."

So far this season, the Redskins have posted an 8-1 record, including three shutouts. The lone loss has come at the hands (and sticks) of Lake Clifton, 7-10, in a grueling match two weeks ago.

One of the main keys to this year's squad is the defense with senior Michael Beasley in the goal, and with veterans Craig Lewis and Phillip Thompson in front of him.

The rest of the defense is made up of first and second year players, but they all have done their jobs, allowing only 18 goals thus far this season.

On Edmondson's attack are co-captain Gerard White, second leading scorer on the team, Derrick Dillard, a loose ball expert, and Dennis Hall, all doing an excellent job, according to the coach.

In the Redskin's midfield is Dwayne Mahammitt, a junior and the leading scorer and play maker for Edmondson, with 17 goals this year.

Along with Mahammitt are Edwardo Simmons, who leads the squad with assists, and Wayne Logan, a master at faceoffs.

Some of the up and coming stickmen for Coach Mintzer are William Massey, a talented ninth grader, Orville Knight, Andrew Smith, and backup goalie John Tiler.

"Even with this talent, Edmondson's lacrosse program and the city's as a whole is hurt by the lack of junior varsity teams," said Mintzer.

"It hurts us a lot. We just can't keep up with "A" or "B" conference schools in this sport."

But despite this, team dedication plays an important role for the Redskins.

"This team is totally dedicated. They know that if they miss a practice that they lose that job and someone else gets it."

Mintzer explained that those players who miss practice are automatically placed on second string, at least for the duration of that practice session, and must "hustle hard" to prove that they want to be a part of the first strong team.

"The kids are always pushing each other to do better," he said.

Mintzer also gives a lot of credit to his assistant, Mike Spurrier.

"We are not overlooking anybody, but we are looking forward to playing Lake Clifton for the championship," Mintzer said.

Hopefully, the team will come away a groom this time

Sports schedule

Friday, May 15

Baseball

Lake Clifton at Edmondson
Northwestern vs. Southern at Pimlico Jr. Hi
Forest Park vs. Northern at Sloman Field
Mervo vs. Martin Spalding at Herring Run Park
Douglass at Southwestern
Carver vs. Dunbar at Druid Hill Park
Lutheran at City College

Lacrosse

Walbrook at Edmondson
Forest Park at Northwestern
Lake Clifton at Northern
Towson Catholic at Poly
Park at Patterson

Tennis

"B" Conference finals at Clifton Park

Softball

Southern vs. Edmondson at Swann Park

Monday, May 18

Baseball

Loyola at Poly
McDonogh at Patterson

Softball

Eastern at Lake Clifton
Western at Northwestern
Walbrook at Northern
Southwestern at Poly
Forest Park at Patterson
Dunbar at Carver
Mervo at City

Tuesday, May 19

Track - Boys

MSA Trials at Poly

Wednesday, May 20

Baseball

Mt. St. Joe at Poly

Track - Boys

MSA Trials at Poly

Thursday, May 21

Lacrosse

"C" Conference Championship at Lake Clifton

Friday, May 22

Track - Boys

MSA Finals at Poly

Track/field

Junior Bears go for it all

By Denise Young
AFRO Student Intern

"Keep on...keep on...until your good gets better and becomes best," says Charlie Moore, junior varsity track coach at Carver VoTech High School.

"For two years straight, we have been 6-0, and 24-1 since 1977. Winning is a tradition for us," he said.

To motivate his athletes this year, the Carver coach will give the Harley Farms Award to the student on the J-V track team who is the most successful this season and obtains the most points.

Taken from the idea of the Holly Farms Award, this prize was created by the staff of Carver's athletic department for students as an incentive for hard work, rewarding them for their achievements.

"Out of 15 events, Carver's Bears are undefeated in seven, including the quarter mile run, one and two mile relays, 400 relay, and the 400 dash and 800 relay," said Moore.

Some of the top runners are the versatile Kenny Hampton, a triple jumper, high jumper and runner, and James "World Class" Cure, who jumps 23'1".

The undefeated runners are Reggie Burton, Alfonso Gusten, Gerald Riley, Curtis Clark, Everette Smith and Calvin Gibson.

Athletes from other areas of track include Kevin Simpons, a discus thrower of 110' and Marvin Daney, a shot putter of 35'.

Carver's track team's strength lies in its runners, while the pole vault is their weakest event.

"To overcome our weakness, we have to practice and study," said the Carver coach. "Many of the pole vaulters fear height, which is more of a mental block than a physical handicap."

Team efforts enable the athletes to strengthen in areas where they lack power.

"Our team and the school, with all of its spirit, are like a family," said Coach Moore.

"We work out over the week-end and the coaches and students alike give the needed support."

"The Bears have already won the division title, and faced Douglass for the J-V "B" conference this week. As a future goal, we would like to go to the MSA "A" conference and play against Poly, Northwestern, Mt. St. Joe and win."

"We are a winning team. We are used to winning and want to continue winning," said Moore. "The team spirit is high. I remember at one game the principal stood in the rain watching the team play. Both the students and coaches were inspired by the enthusiasm."

They believe in themselves, are very confident, yet not overly confirmed. The Bears are just confident enough to instill the capacity to win, Moore said.

Photo by Denise Young

READY ... SET ... — Carver's Junior Varsity Coach Charlie Moore watches as one of his track men prepares to fly down the lanes as the junior Bears look for another unbeaten season.

Stick awards banquet set

The Ensign C. Markland Jr. Annual Lacrosse Banquet, sponsored by the American Legion Memorial Post No. 174, will be held next Wednesday, May 20th at Eudowood Gardens at 6 p.m.

The banquet will honor the Maryland Scholastic Association outstanding lacrosse players from the "A", "B", "BB" and "C" conferences.

The principal speaker for the evening will be Mitch Tullai of St. Paul's School.

For ticket information, call banquet chairman Dyson Eberhardt, Boy's Latin School, at 323-4906, or Charles Gamper, Gilman School, at 323-3800.

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