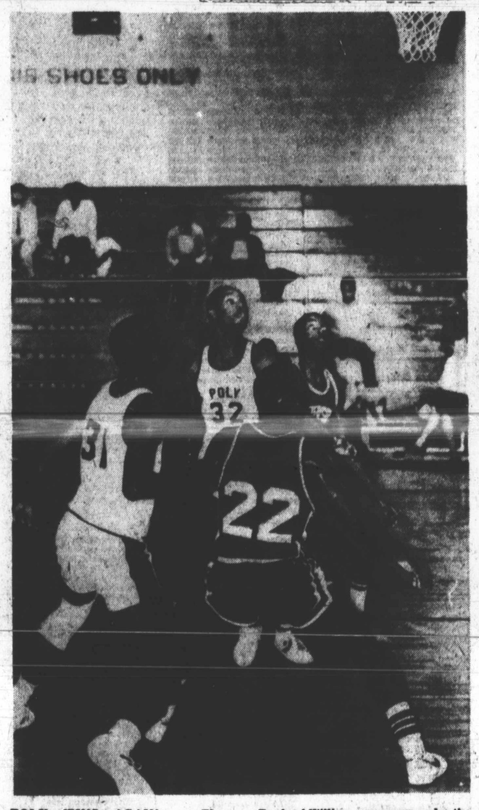
# Scholastic Sports Scene




POLY WINS AGAIN — The Engineers have gotten off to a surprisingly good start so far this year, only losing against Dunbar and Carver. Poly's Ben Morgan and Raphael Williams converge under the basket during the Engineers latest victory, a Tuesday afternoon 80 - 46 win against visiting Patterson.

## Sabers avenge 1982 loss to Mustangs

By Martin Evans
AFRO Staff Writer

It was, as Mergenthaler coach Elmer Dize said, a bout they would all remember.

Southwestern High traveled to Mervo Wednesday to settle a grudge that had hung over the two schools since the two teams clashed in last year's final contest.

Mervo had invaded Southwestern's hilltop gymnasium in last year's meet with both team's season on the line. The Mustangs came away with a hotly contested 3 point victory and the B conference championship.

Some thought last year's thriller could not be bettered for excitement and drama. But they were wrong.

The Sabers and the Mustangs both brought season long 4-0 winning streaks into Wednesday's meet, and with each bout it was clear the boys were determined to keep their respective school's name unblemished.

But it could not be for both of them. When the final horn sounded ending the bouts Southwestern had prevailed by a razor-thin edge, winning 22-21.

The meet was close all afternoon, and was not settled until a tired and sweaty 220 - pound senior Tyrone Parker claimed a 9-8 decision over 235-pound Ricky Pack in the heavyweight battle.

Some spectators were not convinced even then, and thought a referee's decision had cost Mervo the contest. A Pack takedown was disallowed by the referee, who called the play out-of-bounds.

If the takedown had stood Pack would have been credited with an additional two points, and the Saber's bus ride would have been a quiet one. But the win gave the team something to shout about as the bus made its way through the streets on their return to the city's southwest.

A ring of spectators looked on at the Mervo gymnasium during the afternoon contest, growing increasingly vocal as the match progressed. They were deafening by the time the heavyweights met.

Parker, breathing heavily but flashing a broad grin after the match, said he heard the crowd and felt the pressure as his bout began.

"I knew I had to beat him if we were going to win," Parker said as he towled exhaustion from his brow.

"There was pressure," Parker continued. "I just tried not to think about it."

Dize, whose ample paunch, easy grin, and phylosophical attitude imbues the 61 year-old history teacher with a saged, grandfatherly air, praised his Mustangs for a valiant effort in the losing cause.

"I was particularly impressed by my heavyweight," Dize said, referring to Pack, who is only a sophomore.

"He was at Union Memorial Monday with a dislocated finger, but there he was today looking at the score clock with the match on the line, I know that had to hurt," Dize said, with pride ringing in his voice. "That's some kind of cool."

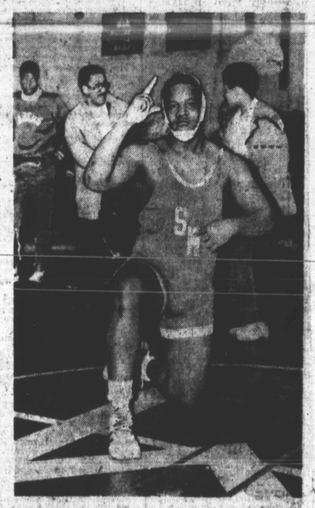
The two teams will meet again Friday and Saturday when the Mergenthaller wrestling tournament gets underway.

Darren Parham, the Mustang's undefeated champ in the 157-pound class, said his team considers it important to win then.

"(The loss) will put us up more. Because it is our tournament in our school," Parham said.

AFRO Photos By Martin Evans

THE AGONY OF DEFEAT — Mervo's Kenneth Thompson is a picture of despair following his 12 - 2 loss at the hands of Saber wrestler Ricky Westmoreland.



MARGIN OF VICTORY — Southwestern's Tyrone Parker wrested a 9 - 8 decision from Mervo's Ricky Pack in the meet's last bout to give the Sabers a 1 - point victory.

## Just how tough are the Doves?

Western High outscored visiting Dunbar 58-27 Tuesday afternoon as they swept to their ninth victory of the season against no defeats. Just how good is the 1982 - 83 Doves 'cage team? The issue may be answered by the end of next week.

A tough series of games await Western, and by the time next Saturday rolls around the question may be put to rest for good.

Western's Tuesday victory was a major one for the Doves. Dunbar had come into the contest with but a single loss, and remains a potential challenger for the Division I crown.

But Western turned the game into a clinic. They demonstrated the sound defense and balanced scoring attack that has propelled them along so far this season, and put the game out of reach early.

But the Doves are far from out of the woods. The team travels to Dunbar for a Wednesday afternoon rematch, and the Poets are not likely to take last week's loss lying down.

After Dunbar the Doves wing north next Friday to compete in th Towson Invitational tournament. They will face University City of Philadelphia in the opener.

A first round win probably would then match the Doves with Towson Catholic. T.C. stands at the summit of girls high school basketball, and are favored to emerge with the tournament crown.

But a good showing against Towson would establish Western as a basketball power to be taken seriously.

Doves coach Phyllis Mihalas said her team is fundimentally different from last year's city championship runner up, and may do better in post season play as a result.

Last year's team depended heavily on then senior Sauncirae Alexander for its offense. But champion Walbrook collapsed around the talented center in last year's citywide final, stalling the Doves' offense.

This year's team has managed to outscore its opponents by an average 79-30 point bulge, getting balanced scoring from guards Lucky Jones and Gloria Toney, forwards Yvette Ford and Lisa Bradford, and center Dierdre Lambert.

Coach Mihalas acknowledges that the next week will be a rough one, but said it will help the team find out just where it stands.

"It will be a really good indication," Mihalas said.

"Dunbar gave us ourbest best competition so far this year. Maybe it was the psyche, who knows. We will have a strong game on Wednesday and then the tournament. We will see," Mihalas said.

Maybe Wester will really know how well it is doing after the tournament. But some say the Doves don't even have to leave the city to find out just how good they are.

At least the oeople at Walbrook do.

AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

LUCKY LADY — Western senior guard Lucky Jones celebrated her 18th birthday Tuesday with a 13 point scoring spree in a basketball contest against Dunbar. Her teammates helped her celebrate by producing a 58 - 27 win, and later rallied around the birthday cake.

## Next week's highlights

**Tuesday, Jan. 22**
Girls basketball WALBROOK at EDMONDSON 3:30. Walbrook is the heavy favorite, and the heavy. But the game continues an important Westside rivalry, and Walbrook has to be seen to be believed.

**Wednesday, Jan. 23**
Girls basketball WESTERN at DUNBAR 3:30. An important rematch of last week's Western win. Dunbar must win if the poets are to remain in the Division I race

**Thursday, Jan. 24**
Wrestling. Dunbat at Mervo 3:45. A loss to Southwestern put the Mustang's backs to the wall. They have to win this one.

MERVO at DUNBAR. 4:45. Take the chance to see the best team in high school basketball do their thing.

**Friday, Jan. 25**
Girls basketball. TOWSON TOURNAMENT at Towson State University. Eight good high school and college teams will provide quality action and lots of it.

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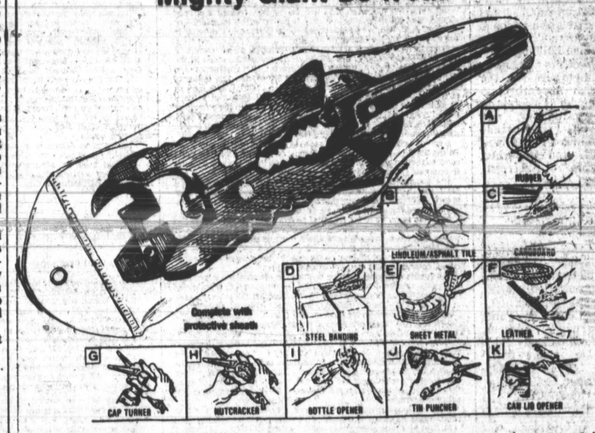


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