



# Speaking of Sports

By **RAY SAUL**  
**Sports Editor**

On Monday night, a delegation from HHS will attend a meeting of the Big Seven Football Conference and a decision will be made on the admittance of the Mountaineers to the league. Members are Allentown Allen, Allentown Dieruff, Bethlehem Freedom, Bethlehem Liberty, Easton, Neshaminy and Pennsbury. Enrollments (1968 figures) at the member schools are: Allen, 2424; Easton, 2,047; Bethlehem Liberty, 1,965; Dieruff, 1,875; Freedom, 1,666; Neshaminy, 2,300, and Pennsbury, 1,800. HHS 1968 enrollment was 1,875. As the figures show, all of the school's in the conference are large schools. The team that wins a championship in this league really wins something worthwhile. It's big-time scholastic football.



Instead of being by far the largest school in the conference, as it now is in the Eastern Conference, HHS would be about even with most of the teams in enrollment, and smaller than two others, but not small enough to make a vital difference. Most of the schools in the Eastern Conference Southern Division are far behind HHS in enrollment. Only Shikellamy, Berwick and Shamokin are around the 1,000 mark. Pottsville is under 900. Most fans I have talked to are in favor of affiliating with the Big Seven, which will become the Big Eight if and when HHS is admitted.



In addition to providing high-class football, joining the league would also solve the continuous scheduling problem at HHS to a great extent. Seven games would be guaranteed each year. In addition, the annual West Hazleton game would be the eighth game. Only three spots would have to be filled and games with Berwick, Pottsville, Tamaqua, Shamokin or Shikellamy would fill the bill very nicely. Berwick and Pottsville should stay on the schedule for geographical and other reasons and the Tamaqua game has been a good draw in recent years.



HHS Faculty Manager **FRANK PERSICO** has been gradually adding Big Seven teams to the HHS schedule, but there is some determined opposition to affiliating with the conference. The decision is in the hands of the

school board and it is a decision that has to be made soon. Games with large Lehigh Valley schools in recent years (Dieruff, Freedom and Liberty) have indicated the Mountaineers can compete successfully in the Big Seven. They may take a beating now and then, but losing to a school with an enrollment of 2,000 or so is much easier to take than a loss to Old Forge, for example, a school with an enrollment of less than 500. The wins, on the other hand, will be so much more prestigious. The Mountaineers have more than held their own in basketball in the same fast company down through the years. From this corner, it's an experiment that deserves a chance because if it is passed up this time, the opportunity may never come again.



People, places, happenings:



Anyone who would like to take a trip to the North Carolina State-Maryland football game at College Park, Md., Saturday should contact Mr. and Mrs. **JOHN KAPUSCHINSKY**, at 455-0193.



Former St. Gabriel's High basketball coach **JACK CRYAN**, who coaches the Sunbury Mercuries in the Eastern Pro League, signed 6-7 **JEFF CLAYPOOL** of Grove City College and 6-5 **BARRY WHITE** of Hofstra. Jack returned this week after spending three days at the Baltimore Bullets training camp.



Basketball and baseball official **JIM AVILLION** will try his hand at coaching during the 1969-70 season. Jim has been named coach of St. Mary's of Freeland parochial school team. He succeeds highly-successful **RON GERLACH**, who will be handling St. Gabriel's High freshman team . . . **JOHN (HOSS) UHRIN**, who is also a PIAA basketball and baseball official, has been reelected president of St. Mary's Athletic Association.



A scheduled West Hazleton at Crestwood junior varsity football game Oct. 20 has been cancelled.



And the Amazin' Mets have recorded one of the great success stories of all time in baseball. The agony of defeat in Chicago must be nothing less than excruciating.