

Speaking of Sports

By RAY SAUL
Sports Editor



"We were outplayed and out hustled," said Allentown Central Catholic basketball coach JOHN DARRAUGH after HHS had dealt the Vikings their second loss in 12 games last night. "We have five players sick or injured, but it probably wouldn't have made that much difference because we didn't hustle."

Darraugh, who was the head coach here last year, said CHRIS PERRY, HHS head coach, and his assistants, JACK KOKINDA and BRUCE LEIB, are doing a great job.

"The school board will make a mistake if all three aren't retained," Darraugh said, "and you can print that."

Darraugh had a closed door meeting with his players after the game that lasted 20 minutes.

It wasn't an entirely lost night for the Vikings. BRIAN RADON, a 6-4 senior, scored his 1,000th career point in the third quarter. His father was one of the Allentown C. C. fans at the game.

"Everybody played well for us," Perry said.

Probably because of the fact that Darraugh coached here last season, the crowd was very spirited. Darraugh received a warm round of applause when he was introduced.

"I hope Hazleton wins everyone of its remaining games except the one with us in the second half," Darraugh said, and added: "Carmen Feola is a super player."

People, places, happenings:

The often-rumored withdrawal of Pottsville High School from the East Penn Basketball Conference will become a reality, possibly next season.

Members of the Pottsville Area School Board voted unanimously Wednesday to withdraw from the East Penn circuit and submit an application to the Schuylkill League.

Reasons for the withdrawal include reduced transportation costs, increased attendance at the games and an opportunity for the players to participate in more games against regional opponents.

DR. BRUCE FELLOWS, a board member, said attendance at home games will be higher against Schuylkill teams. He said teams from the area draw well at Pottsville but attendance at East Penn games is low.

Another board member probably hit the nail on the head relative to attendance, however, when he said: "I think the answer to our attendance problem is a better brand of basketball."

Pottsville should draw well against North Schuylkill, Mahanoy Area and some of the better basketball schools in the Schuylkill League, but it is doubtful if games against some of the consistent losers will be much of an attraction.

Pottsville has been a member of the East Penn League for more than 50 years but has won only three league championships, which could be another reason for the withdrawal. The Crimson Tide won in 1926, the year the league was formed, 1942 and 1964. That's a long time between championships.

"From a spectator standpoint, if you want to watch a better brand of basketball the East Penn Conference is the one to belong to," said JOHN KEATING, Pottsville High principal. The records back up Keating's statement. At this moment, three East Penn teams are rated in the top 20 in the state.

Pottsville's withdrawal could very well cause prob-

lems for HHS. I have an idea that DICK SCHMIDT, Dieruff High athletic director and former coach, for one, would like to see the Mountaineers out of the league.

When Pottsville withdraws, it will reduce the number of East Penn teams to 13, an uneven number, which will result in one team drawing a bye every night a round of games is played.

HHS has had a great deal more success in the league than Pottsville, having won 13 championships, but only two of them have been achieved since 1951 (1960 and 1971). Overall, however, HHS has been much more competitive in the league than Pottsville has.

J. MILO SEWARDS, Allentown Allen High athletic director and former coach, and STAN SUTPHEN, Easton's coach, are in Hazleton's corner. For more than 25 years, HHS and Allen dominated the league.

Members of the Hazleton Area School Board would be wise to do some checking on what the future of the Mountaineers is in the East Penn League because HHS does not have a vote.

All 12 of the other schools are in the Lehigh Valley, and the Lehigh Valley schools compete against each other in all sports. It should be kept in mind that the Lehigh Valley schools virtually kicked Pennsbury and Neshaminy out of their football conference. The fact that Pennsbury was continually winning championships may have had something to do with it.

The reason HHS doesn't have a vote is that it's a member of the East Penn Conference only in basketball.

In this writer's opinion, and I have been covering basketball in this part of the state 27 years, there is no other league within a reasonable distance that provides the high caliber basketball that the East Penn League does.

The guys who make up the betting odds for the bowl games will have to do some juggling as a result of the suspension of three of Arkansas' starting backs by

Coach LOU HOLTZ. Only quarterback RON CALCGNI will play against Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl.

"The players will not play in the football game," Coach LOU HOLTZ said. He would not elaborate, but a spokesman said there were no legal problems or law violations.

The three players suspended, all blacks, are All-Conference running back BEN COWINS, running back MIKE FORREST and wide receiver DONNY BOBO.

At this moment, members of the Orange Bowl committee are probably wishing they had invited Penn State.

The HHS basketball team will play West Hazleton Tuesday night at the St. Joseph gym and Bishop Hafez the following night at the same gym.

Tickets for the Hafez game will be on sale at the West Hazleton game, HHS Faculty Manager JOE D'ANDREA announced. Tickets for both games were sold in the schools yesterday.

MARY and MONICA OSIF of West Hazleton placed in all events they competed in in the Knights of Columbus swim meet at King's College.

Mary, who swims in the 10 and under group, was fourth in the 100-yard individual medley, fifth in the 50-yard freestyle and fifth in the 50-yard breaststroke.

Monica was fourth in the 100-yard backstroke, fifth in the 200-yard individual medley and fifth in the 50-yard freestyle. She swims in the 15 and over group.

CHARLIE NESBITT, Southern Columbia Area High athletic director, announced the school has added Jim Thorpe and Cardinal Brennan to its football schedule and dropped Selinsgrove.

Regional schools on the Southern Columbia 1978 card are Freeland and Weatherly.

And it's my wish that old St. Nick is good to all of the readers of this column tomorrow. Merry Christmas.