State Highlights 4/26/1944

Western State High School

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/high-school-news

Part of the Secondary Education Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Michigan University at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Western's high school newspaper by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.
Win State Finals

By virtue of their victory in the Championship Debate of the Michigan High School Forensic Association, State High's debaters came to the close of their season on Friday, April 21, with the highest honors possible. The State Championship was the prize received by the affirmative team, Don Griffith and Bill Shumaker at the Rackham Lecture Hall, University of Michigan, in their defeat of Hazel Park.

The debate, sponsored by the Detroit Free Press, was held in Ann Arbor in connection with the Schoolmasters' Convention there. The Hazel Park team was composed of Archie Carmichael and Noral McNeeley and the decision was 2 to 1 in favor of State High. The judges were Professor G. E. Densmore, Department of Speech, and Professor Carl Brandt, Department of English, both of the University of Michigan, and Dr. Franklin Knowler of the University of Iowa.

The entire debate team has had a very successful year, winning every tournament in which they were entered. The negative team, which won the semi-finals included Bill Gilbert and Paula Harrington, and the second affirmative and negative teams were Dick Barnes, Bob Heath, Mary Dawson, and Jeanne Malthy.

This is the first year at State High for the debating coach Mr. George E. Mills, who very successfully coached the team.

The debaters received gold watches from the Detroit Free Press for their victory. The school is presenting watches to the negative team.

Jeep Set As Goal

After the Bond Boogie, the school's war stamp sales fell off to absolutely nothing. A new and most needed drive is now being pushed along to get State High back in the firing line. It has just come straight from the committee that the school is aiming toward buying a $1,000 'jeep,' and if sales go along well, may make it two or three. The first thing that the students are asked to do is to buy at least one ten cent stamp every Friday in homeroom. If this is not possible, students are urged to buy stamps during the week, giving their homeroom number in order that that homeroom may receive credit. Bill Gilbert, Jim Powell, and Carolyn Mitchell are in charge of the stamps which are being sold in the homerooms and in the halls.

The outcome of the sales on Friday, April 14, found 208A ahead with $14.85 and 2A second with $12.40. Following were 13A with $5.40, 209A with $1.70, 15A with 60c, 210A with 50c.

The Spring Dance on May 19 will be part of the drive. The homeroom which does the most toward the goal will be honored at that time. The dance is to resemble the Student Party and admission will be by War Stamps. June Albertson is in charge of arrangements for the dance which is to be held at Walwood hall.

Orators Win Three Places

In the district forensic contest of the Michigan High School Forensic Association held in Kalamazoo last weekend, Don Griffith won first place in the Dramatic Declamation. Hazel Park took the second place. Jesup won third place and the MHSRA won the Sweepstakes. Oscar Davis was the high speaker and Charles Zhou was the high and first place orator.

Assembly Plans Announced

Several changes have been made in the assembly schedule for the next few weeks. On May 2 the Band, under the direction of Mr. Leonard Wiener, will give the program. Special features will be a vibraharp solo by Kay Hudson, and the Drum Majorettes will do some of their baton twirling.

The Sophomores will present their assembly on May 9.
We Must Begin at Home

“Democracy is an outdated form of doing nothing... The soft and weak democracies of the West will be an easy mark for the superior German race.”

Nazi propaganda? Yes, but if we re-examine our newspapers for the months before Pearl Harbor, we find such words as these: “Wishful thinking will not win the war... Complacency must be eliminated,” almost proving that Dr. Goebbels and his boys were right in their accusations against democracy.

Everyone during those days of blind trust was talking about avoiding complacency. Our government sponsored an extensive propaganda campaign to stamp it out. And all the time England fought our war alone. We knew in those days who was fighting for us and who against us. Americans were just not willing to take upon themselves the responsibility of taking a stand and fighting for a principle which they should have been ready to defend to the death at the first sign of challenge and which they themselves claim to have inaugurated.

Why do governments, and especially democracies, refuse to state their beliefs concerning right and wrong and then defend them? Because any government to long exist must express the will of the people. The place where definite purpose and conviction is lacking, then, is not in government but in the individual personalities that make a nation.

Much is to be said in the realm of psychology about the nature and development of personality, but even the rankest of amateurs among us can observe the lack of definite feeling and conviction among his fellow men.

This is especially true in politics. People vote for a candidate because he belongs to the party and for no other reason. This is the brand of democracy that destroys itself; it is the type of thinking that destroyed what little democracy was left to Germany after the last war. Political parties, as such, are, of course, worthwhile only as long as they each have definite convictions on one side of the fence or the other. Although they must comply with the wishes of the majority, they should also stick to their principles—win, lose, or draw in any election.

If we are to have any success in the world of the future, we must rid ourselves of fence-urching opportunists along with all the other doubtful and shady characters we are planning to dispose of. We must begin now to express our convictions; and to do that, we must begin in the little simple matters of personal faith and personal politics. We must never again make the mistake we made during the dark days when England stood alone; we must begin at home, now, to build a world of definite, democratic, and Christian living for all peoples.

—Bill Shumaker.
By BILL COX

If anyone doubts the integrity of the grammar used herein, D a m o n n run and I will deal with all complaints.

The other evening I am sitting in a pool hall, which for no better name we will call Jim's Joint, watching a game of rotation, which is a very cut-throat game. There is much currying and brandishing of the old equalizers, growing in comes two parties from State High as follows: Dave the Dude Ritsema and Corny the Brute Vander Weele, which in the future we will call Dave the Dude, and the Brute. As I am the only other guy in the Joint, I give them a great big hello as they come over to me. They invite me to have a friendly little game of pool with them and Dave, the Dude, says to me like this:

"The Brute, who is always bragging about his thick board, which he says, and I quote, 'grows like corn in Iowa!' (the place of his birth), has challenged me to a fifty G bet on a beard-growing tourney."

When we finish our game, this is the last I see of the boys for many a week. Then one evening I am again at the same Joint watching a game in which there is more shooting with equalizers than with cues, when in comes two characters, who look like those from the House of David. They say to me as follows:

"I see that you do not recognize us, and because of this allow me to introduce us. I am Dave the Dude, and this is my pal, The Brute."

They explain to me that Dave the Dude won the contest, but the Brute is still saying Dave uses hair grower. The boys are now looking for a barber with the time to shave them.

Grovvert Active in 4H

As an outstanding member of the 4H club, Paul Grofvert, senior, has gained many benefits from his work. Paul started the club work when he was twelve years old. Since that time his chosen projects have been handicraft, beef, swine and corn. In five years time he has raised eight steers or the equivalent of four tons of beef.

Three years ago he started with his first registered sow. Now he has raised 70 pigs whose total weight amounts to six tons. Paul has had displays at the 4H shows at Detroit, Grand Rapids, Michigan State College at Lansing and at the Hartford and Kalamazoo Fairs.

The Kalamazoo County team, of which Paul Grofvert is a member, won first place six times in judging livestock as a team, and he won second place for individual judging work. These contests were held during the state 4H Club Show at Michigan State College in 1943.

Since 1938 this member of the senior class has received prizes for corn, swine, beef and judging.

Weather Delays Tennis Tryouts

By JIM KNAUSS

Prospects for the racketeers of the Cub look more than promising for the 1944 season. Bob Espie, Harold Upjohn, Dick Barnes, George Walker, the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 men respectively, are returning from last year. In addition to these, several new players are out, by name Bill Perrin, Jim Stephenson, Bob Palmatier, Bud Gross, Henry Berry. Harry Parker is expected to try out later. This looks like a good start for a very profitable season.

So far the weather has not been particularly good for tennis matches; however, a few of the try-outs have been played off. In the first try-outs Dick Barnes defeated George Wafer, and also did Bill Perrin. Bob Palmatier beat Bud Gross and then in turn was defeated by Jim Stephenson. Dick Barnes and Harold Upjohn seemed in especially good shape during these first sets.

No positions for this year's team have been definitely determined yet; however, the final play-offs will be held this week. The first meet scheduled is Benton Harbor, to be played here on May 2, so here's hoping for a happy season. Good luck!

**TENNIS SCHEDULE**

May 2 — Benton Harbor, here
May 5-6 — Dowagiac tournament, there
May 10 — Dowagiac, there
May 15 — Allegan, there
May 18 — Elkhart, here
May 20 — Dowagiac, here
May 23 — Benton Harbor, there
May 24 — Allegan, here
May 30 — Howe Military Academy, there (tentative).

June 3 — Elkhart, there.
Date unsettled — Howe, there (tentative).

Baseball Practice Gets Underway

By BOB KISTLER

The State High baseball team is a whole chorus of veterans this year. First base is efficiently handled by tall, dark and handsome Bill Perrin. Next comes Ritsema, an able second baseman. Little Burns is our flashy shortstop with slug Parker as centre. Little Van Pelt is our out-field, Kistler, Chase, Patterson, Peterson, and Miller make up the pitching staff. Miller, a freshman, shows promise to the team. Dick Husteed and freshman, Gordy White are fighting it out for catch and it looks like a draw.

The members of the team all hope to see themselves found out to support them, so "puleesse!" let's have a record attendance at the games. The schedule is not yet complete but here it is with all the open dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Plainwell, here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Otsego, there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Paw Paw, here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Sturgis, there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>South Haven, there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>Paw Paw, there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Otsego, here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Plainwell, there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cubette News**

By MARTHA DE LANO

Subject for the day: Spring Sports.

**Baseball:** Baseball; Tennis; Volleyball; Track.

I. Baseball — Many girls who never thought they cared for baseball are finding it very interesting this year. Due to circumstances beyond Miss McRobert's control, only a few of the girls are playing tennis this year, so the greater part of all classes are playing baseball. What with the sailors sun-bathing on the lawn and Fred Sauers employing his camera to the best of his ability, the classes are really very fascinating. Pitching tryouts are the work of the moment in the Monday-Wednesday 10 o'clock classes.

II. Tennis — The prospects for a tennis team this year are very good. There are several girls of much experience and others who show great promise. Outstanding among the former is a freshman in the 10 o'clock class, Alice Inling. Alice won the championship at Brym Afon Camp last summer and promises to become one of the stars of the team. Ellen Rood is another freshman who is expected to try out. This looks like a fine tennis player and big things are expected from both.

III. Volley-ball — The best rainy-weather sport we can think of. It is one that requires a great deal of teamwork and agility, so it keeps the girls in shape for their outdoor activities. It is hoped that next year there can be a regular volley-ball team to compete with the teams of other schools.

IV. Track — In passing, we wish to remark that the agitation for track activities of some sort has become increasingly apparent. Every time we meet Judy Ogden, Becky Fuller or Snookie Klein in the hall, they shout something unintelligible about, "When are you going to say something about the track team?" Here it is, girls, is what are you going to do about it?

**Sports Quiz**

It was asked in a previous sports quiz to name games played without the use of a ball. Seeing that you got along all right on that, and since the Highlights box was overcrowded with replies, we'll try you out again. Let's see if you can name more than ten games played with a ball. Don't include games like hockey which is played with something similar.
We Protest

There was a small announcement in the Lowlights last Thursday which asked in a polite way that more things be put into the Highlights box. Well, contributions have pepped up a little since then but not, if we may employ a quainter term which is in common use around the campus, very doggone much. And something has got to be done about it. I know you’ve all been very concerned over the elections—so have we. But gosh, that’s no reason to let your paper go to the dogs. And that’s exactly what will happen if you kids don’t take an interest pretty soon.

How many times do we have to tell you that it’s your paper before it finally sinks in? It is your paper and you’ve got to help write it. What do you think we are? A bunch of human machines capable of turning out an unlimited amount of stuff for you to read—and turning it out any old time of day or night? Kindly remember, if you will, that we have school work to do, too. We’re not in this school simply for the purpose of writing your little paper, and it’s a lot of work. No one can blame us for getting a little tired of pounding out stories week after week with no thanks from anyone. And don’t think that’s exaggeration, it is work—good hard work, and plenty of it.

But if we had some support from the school, if we thought you wanted to help us, if you would contribute, then it would be fun—we’d enjoy it—and the paper would be immeasurably better. So look, kids, how about it? Do we get support and contributions? or don’t you care? Maybe you just as soon not have a paper.

But whom are we kidding? You like the paper and you know it—in fact, we very much doubt that the school could get along without it. So, wake up, State High, for gosh sakes! Get as much life behind your paper as you did behind that election campaign and by golly, we’ll show the world what S.H. can put out if it gets excited over something.

The Highlights Staff.

P.S. Don’t be discouraged, you would-be apprentices. We’re getting to you as fast as we can. Believe us, we haven’t forgotten you.

RECIPE FOR EXAMINATIONS

1 outside seat
1 hard exam
3 or 4 cribs
1 wise expression
Mix expression and exam; add the cribs as necessary. The seat may or may not be used, according to taste.

Mary had a little lamb,
But Mary’s lamb is dead.

You see, it went to school with her Between two hunks of bread.

Victory Is Ours

Well, kids, it was a hard fight but we won! George King’s orchestra will play at the Prom and all because of a few spirited Juniors who attended two Canteen Board meetings before they persuaded the Board to release George King from his Friday night contract.

The Prom is scheduled for June 9 at Woodlawn Hall and through the efforts of Joan Reade, Ida Schuhardt, Pat Fisher and Glen Mellinger, the Canteen will let us have George King for that night on the following conditions: That we secure another orchestra for an overall dance at the Canteen on the night of our Prom; that State High present a half-hour floor show at the Canteen sometime in the next few weeks; and, most important of all, that State High students get behind the Canteen and support it. Up to now, very few of us have done any work for the Canteen and, actually, the board is under the impression that State High has an antagonistic attitude toward it.

To show our appreciation, let’s have a record State High representation at the Canteen this Friday night and keep it up to prove to them that we want to co-operate and help in every way we can.

A Little of Everything

Signs of the Times

Karl trying desperately to explain that face-slapping episode; cotton dresses; increased absence lists; the switch in teachers in the 10 o’clock English classes; nature-lovers trying to think of an off-campus place that’s not too far away, where they can eat their lunches in peace.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED—A quiet secluded place on the campus that no one else has found.

Hank and Adele.

Lost—One Elocution.

Seven Disappointed People

Found—One camera with a shot that seems to be a man attached. Only identifying marks: class pin bearing initials J. B. We’re not choosy. Just so they’re breathing.

The Gala of Old S. H.

RECIPE

2. For A Bluff
1 easy teacher
1 unprepared scholar
4 or 5 smiles
6 replies to make teacher forget his question
Mix all ingredients with unlimited amount of hot air, and stir constantly. Do not allow ingredients to cool.