

Cagers' bubble bursts in finals

by dove wielengo

Bellflower's basketball bubble burst when Dos Pueblos romped to a 49-40 win in the battle for the 3-A title Saturday night.

The Bucs had clawed, scraped and scratched their way thru the playoffs by simply outlasting bigger and more muscular teams. But a Charger team whose front line was taller than Bellflower's by almost three inches per man proved to be too much for the Bucs as they were forced to relinquish the boards before 1,131 fans at the Sports Arena.

In a slow-paced, error-filled game, Bellflower held the Chargers on defense, forcing them to shoot from the outside and making only 18 of 59 from the field for a 31% clip.

Bellflower couldn't match that as it shot a season-high 24 of 30 from the free-throw line. In the first half, Dos Pueblos' 6-7 center, Tom Reference, then, was Dos Pueblos' 6-7 center, Tom Reference, who pumped in a game high 25 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Forward Scott Roberts complemented Coldren with 17 rebounds.

Flu bug hits Bucs

One explanation for Bellflower's seemingly sub-par performance was that many of the players had contracted the flu the week before.

"It killed us," said Coach Jack Bogdanovich. "One day we even had to suspend practice because everyone was sick. We usually get a quick lead and then play a controlled offense, but tonight we couldn't, and I couldn't expect them to run all night. We didn't have the strength."

With both teams beginning play sluggishly and the Chargers ahead 4-0, center John Garland put Bellflower on the scoreboard with 5:38 to play. Two minutes later Jim Hamilton, who finished with six points, tied the score at 5-5. And that was the closest the Bucs came to winning the night.

With Coldren working his way underneath for easy baskets and Bellflower's inability to find the range from either the field or line, the Charger lead ballooned to 10 at the half, 23-13.

After playing evenly for the first three minutes of the third period, Dos Pueblos exploded with a string of five to stretch its advantage to 28-14.

second-half spark

Then Bellflower began showing some life, the kind that propelled them thru the four previous CIF rounds. Sparked by reserve Randy Cox, who scored all of his seven points in the second half, and Hamilton controlling the boards, Bellflower outscored the Santa Barbara County League champs 7-2 to close the gap to only nine points, 30-21.

Then Coldren and Roberts went to work again, pushing the Chargers to a commanding 43-28 lead.

But late in the last quarter guard Phil Weinber, scored a quick three with 2:22 to play, and a minute later added another. Then guards Dan Davidson and Cox scored baskets within six seconds of each other to chop the Dos Pueblos lead to nine again, 45-36. But a Charger jump shot from 20 feet with 0:39 remaining clinched the win.

Davidson was Bellflower's leading scorer with 12 points, although he had a sub-par shooting night, making only four of 12 field goal attempts.

Cox was next with seven points as Bellflower's front line (Hamilton, Garland and Jerry Pabruwee) couldn't unwind and ended up with only 13 points among them.

About Dos Pueblos' dominating height, Coach Bogdanovich remarked, "We knew that it (their height) was going to be a major factor. But our game plan worked. We forced them to shoot from the outside. We just didn't shoot like we usually do."

Even with the loss Saturday night, the 1970-71 season must be considered a highly successful one. For a team that had no "big man" in the line-up and whose starting five had three injuries, the squad accomplished something

Buc students with long hair will not be permitted to play on any athletic team, according to a decision made by the BUSD Board of Education last week. The School Board cited its confidence in the BHS administration and coaching staff as the main reason behind the decision. (See related editorial on page 2.)

(douglas sterna photo)



The Bellflower

BLADE

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Music Festival

Cross-town rivals hold truce

by becky alt

Crosstown rivals BHS and Mayfair will take time out tonight when the choral and instrumental groups join together in their traditional song-fest.

"The concert will feature band, orchestra, the stage band and all of the choral groups from both schools," said Mr. John Merkovsky, head of the instrumental department at BHS.

"It should," he added, "be a colorful event with a tremendous sound. By putting both schools together we get a better sound quality and it gives us a chance to play a better selection of more difficult music."

And singers are part of that sound featured in the Buc gym at 8 p.m.

"The kids," says Mrs. Marcia Baker, choral director, "have really been working hard. They have spent six weeks on one number alone."

In the instrumental portion of the program the band, under the direction of Merkovsky and Mr. Larry Lowder from Mayfair, will play selections like the "Nutcrackers," and the "Pea-nut Vender." It will then switch to a more contemporary number, "Chorale and Alleluia." The combined orchestras will play three selections, including tunes from Bye Bye Birdie, with a

'Staircase' to open

Teacher hasslers, love-sick girls and a thoroughly confused Sylvia Barrett all constitute elements of Drama Workshop's production of "Up the Down Staircase."

"Staircase," says Drama instructor Robert Newman, "was selected because the students will be able to easily identify with it. The students in the play are typical of any that you could find in any high school."

Besides average students, teachers also can be found adding to the confusion of the play. Sylvia Barrett, a young teacher on her first job, is played by Cathie Crosland, and April Brantovich plays Bea Shachter, a teacher who takes pity on Sylvia and tries to help her out. Chuck Colucci plays a stern J.J. Mc Habe, the school disciplinarian.

Students who befriend Sylvia are Joe Ferone (Robbie Dodson) and Lou Martin (Debra Roy). Harry Bigelow plays Paul Barringer, the glamour boy of the English Department, and Jackie



Cathy Crossland rehearses a scene

Cabinet sits idle; clubs run school

by richard pekelder

Student government at BHS this year proves to be only slightly different from years past.

Although there is much to be proud of, such as a new principal, athletic honors and major campus improvements, much of Bellflower High's potential is being wasted — wasted because of a lack of organization and a failure by its student leaders to literally get something done.

Last year a major part of the Leadership class was taken up writing a new constitution. This year the by-laws were supposed to have been written by a committee set up in the House of Representatives. The committee did a thorough job. Not only did they write the by-laws, they rewrote the entire constitution which they then tried to get ratified. A power struggle arose in which the special committee threatened to impeach the ASB Vice-President. The cabinet set the whole thing straight by sticking with the first constitution, and according to Howard Prouty, "the job of writing the by-laws was sent to the student court."

This year many new ideas were tried during WSF week, such as a single lunch, bands and an after-school assembly. This was good and it reflects the Cabinet's desire to improve. But ask any member of the ASB Cabinet what went into the planning of WSF.

They will tell you of a nightmare rush of last minute planning. Cabinet members assigned specific tasks failed. The whole load was carried by a few student officers who were conscientious enough to care about their obligations. It was sheer luck that WSF week came out as well as it did.

Take a look at campus improvements. The seniors can really appreciate them. The lockers have been painted, trees have been planted, cement benches have been added, and many other improvements have been made. Did any member of student government have anything to do with this? No. It was all the work of special interest groups. Then look at who are making the headlines in local papers. Who is giving Bellflower High the proper name to gain respect from the community? Interact, Key Club, Campus Beautification and CSF.

The Cabinet, of course, can be credited with allocating the money. But who really does the planning and who sees that the job is done? The answer is simple, the special interest groups. They have a better record of accomplishments than the Student Body Government.

Currently, the Cabinet has a list of goals and projects they are working on, such as an ecology week and walk, a PA system in the gym, and a PTA snack shack by the bleachers. Most important, the Cabinet is creating itself a new position called director of publicity. This project has been sitting idle for the last three months.

If the ASB Cabinet gave the dedication and followed through with its responsibilities like many leaders of the special interest groups do, BHS would be the best run high school in Southern California. Unfortunately, however, most of the members just don't care.

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(cartoon by bob evans)

Lenient athletic code necessary

by sarah carr

The Board last week unanimously agreed that short hair is synonymous with the word winning, and as a result, the request that hair length be a matter of individual choice was adamantly refused.

The athletic code in the past has required short hair for football players and wrestlers, understandably, because of health and personal safety, and of course, to maintain that winning ESPRIT DE CORPS. The Board upheld these reasons, and it is not the point here to argue that decision. Rather, it is to look at a possible "new" code.

Coaches apparently want their athletes to look like "all-american boys." And with all the drug abuse and other social problems accredited to high school students in general, maybe that image the coaches want isn't so bad a reason for requiring SHORT hair. But shaven?

Shortly, the coaches must decide what the grooming standards shall be for all athletes for

all sports offered. Granted, members of the athletic department have won the hair issue and obviously have the power behind them to justify denying long hair and sideburns.

Now is the time the coaches can show that they are not totally insensitive to the requests that were given as sincere pleas for change — given honestly and lawfully through the channels — perhaps an abnormal procedure nowadays.

The "establishment" has cried that requests for change and that change itself must be taken through the channels of law and order. Yet, recent history shows that through violence is the only way minority opinion can be heard.

It's time, then, that some member of the "establishment," namely the Bellflower PE Department, stands up and shows that it can have consideration for others' opinions. Athletes can have the "all-american" image and winning spirit with MODERATELY short hair and sideburns but still have their individuality at the same time.

Letters to the Editor

Students argue 'apathetic' label

To the Editor:

Why didn't our only wrestler going to CIF finals (Mike Zarp) even get his name mentioned in the BLADE? Many students may not realize it but he worked terribly hard to get where he is. After all, very few people can claim they were in CIF finals and our school should be proud when one individual does distinguish himself in such a way.

John Kolthoff

(The BLADE had planned on publicizing Mike Zarp's results in CIF finals, but

Blade staff

I do not agree with a word that you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it . . . *Voltaire*

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since he failed to make weight and didn't qualify the article would be rather pointless. — Ed.)

To the Editor:

Recently individualism has been given a lot of attention. Although this trend is rapidly spreading, I still feel the old typical Joe Blow deserves equal attention.

I feel the BLADE should run, as a regular feature, stories on average students at BHS — not just those students who happen to have the talent to be a star quarterback, a great speaker or a whiz in math deserve publicity — but a student who goes to school every day, takes auto shop and has a dog named Clayton.

Arnold Zveit

(There are too many groups and people who have accomplished more interesting and unusual things who deserve recognition and don't get it. — Ed.)

To the Editor:

It appears that the student's side of the matter wasn't looked into in Scott Lansdown's editorial, "Apathy in Students." The representatives I have witnessed either don't bother with a report at all or make a huge joke out of it. How can the House expect to improve when there is apathy amongst the representatives?

Bob Lemen

choose responsible individuals, useless meetings will continue. — Ed.)

To the Editor:

Scott Lansdown's editorial on student government completely missed the reason for apathy. I feel that when the government has to have every law it passes approved by the administration, students will never take an active interest in their government.

Nicholas Southward

To the Editor:

The recent School Board decision to uphold the athletic code shows a total lack of regard for the legally constituted student government of Bellflower High School and its desires.

The House unanimously passed a resolution asking that "An athlete not be compelled to shave or cut his hair unless it directly hinders the performance of the athlete." — Ed.)

Hair has become the last symbol of a flattering philosophy that men are men simply because of the length of their hair, and that at BHS the only persons we want to play on our teams are "men."

Douglas Stern

(The BLADE welcomes expressions of all viewpoints from its readers. Letters should be brief and are subject to condensation. Only signed letters will be published and should be taken



'Dying pepster' not dead; spirit changing emphasis

by phyllis hill

Pep, pep rallies, pepsters! School Spirit! Whatever it's been called, it nevertheless has been hotly debated as to its value, purpose, and place. Most will agree, though, that this "spirit" is declining, but is it really DYING?

"Definitely yes," was the opinion of Head Pepster Sherri Lane. "None of the students seem to care. Spirit is high now because of CIF, but usually at games we just can't get the students to show any life at all."

"That's true," agreed songster Roseanne Hinds-beth. "I've noticed that other schools have a lot more spirit. They really yell at games, but our guys just sit there."

Is yelling at games really necessary to show spirit? Many don't think so. "I don't feel like hollering all those silly cheers every time the ball changes hands," said Buccaneer Dave Wielen-ga. "I just want to sit and enjoy the game." It would be easy to answer all accusations of indifference with this statement, but there are other bits of evidence that can't be ignored.

The trash piled high all over the campus can't be ignored, nor the assemblies that turn into small-scale riots. Campus walls are covered with spray-can graffiti, and the number of students turning out for student elections is dwindling yearly. Isn't this proof enough of student indifference? Most people would say yes, but Principal Arthur Townley disagrees.

"No, I don't think pep is dying at BHS," he

said. "But I do think that the emphasis is shifting. Students are becoming more sophisticated. They aren't as concerned with the rah-rah of pep rallies, but it doesn't mean they don't show their concern in other ways."

Dr. Townley cited the many clubs on campus as examples. Interact and Leo put redwood headers in all the gardens around the school. Campus Beautification has planted over a \$1,000 worth of trees on campus. The Ecology Committee is planning an ecology week and the Home Ec club has started a reclamation project.

Student government had been talking about "Raise the Roof" and "Spirit Walk" for years, but only in the last two years was any action taken to accomplish them.

"Students are more idealistic today," Dr. Townley continued. "And I can see why. With all the problems there are in the world today, it's kind of silly to attach all the importance of school life to pep rallies and sports."

So perhaps there is more to school spirit and "pep" than meets the eye. Students obviously are involved and concerned with the school even if they never see a football or basketball game in all four years of attendance. But the debators, in turn, will say that it's the same student who does it all.

Nevertheless, Bellflower students aren't as apathetic as the cheering section at games would have them appear. Sometimes with a little digging below the surface, the concern of Buc students shines through.



(douglas stern photos)

Five candidates to fill two Board vacancies

Voters within the Bellflower Unified School District will choose from five candidates for the two School Board seats that come up for election April 20.

Elections for the five-member Board are held every two years with three members being elected on one election and two the next. The candidates this election are present Board members Dr. Charles Ozanian and Mr. Clyde Bower. New candidates are Mr. Al Caldwell, Mrs. Ruby Heyle and Mr. Jerold Swenson.

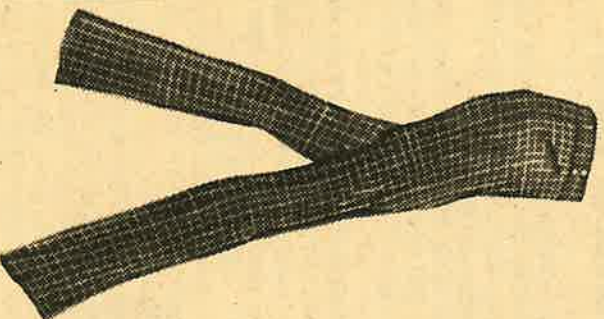
There are no definite "issues" as yet in the campaign, according to Mr. Bower, although he did say that he would continue to encourage such programs as "Project Read," which he originated. He also indicated he would continue to stress "decision making at the lowest possible level," with the teachers and principals given a major portion of the responsibility for running the school, "as long as policy is followed."

Dr. Ozanian concurred when he said that he would "continue to respect the rights and judgement of our teachers, principals, administrators and classified personnel in their respective positions." He added that he would "continue to use wisdom and responsibility in the management of school finances."

Mr. Caldwell is current president of the Buc Booster Club. He is running because he feels that "it's a job that has to be done," and that it is his "civic duty" to do it.

According to Mr. Swenson, he feels that more practical and functional education is needed and that "students today are being

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Bellflower forward Jim Hamilton attempts basket with a straight-away hook in picture right while, left, center John Garland unsuccessfully fights for rebound in the Bucs loss to Dos Pueblos.



los at Sports Arena. In center picture, jubilant Bucs attempt to tear down net after win over Righetti in the Semi-Finals. Net went down, but was lost in the scuffle. (Douglas Stern photos)



Strategy key to success

How can a basketball team that lacks height (average — 6'11"), a dominating player (like Ev Fopina) or experience (seven Juniors) hope to make the finals of the CIF playoffs before finally bowing out?

But that's exactly what the Bellflower Bucs did with a remarkable team effort as they won four rounds of CIF competition before finally losing to the apparent number one AAA team, Dos Pueblos.

"We played a ball control game," stated head coach Jack Bogdanovich in explaining how his team did so well. "We worked the ball in for the good shot, hoping to make it, since we lacked the size to get a lot of rebounds."

The strategy was especially successful in the quarter-finals against number one-ranked West Covina. It was supposed to be Bellflower's last round and it seemed that way when the Spartans took a 20-9 first quarter lead.

The Bucs came back to get a three point lead at the half and then went into their ball-control game. The strategy worked as it served to dis-

rupt West Covina's dominating, high scoring style of play, and Bellflower won in double overtime, 46-44.

The victory put Bellflower up against another solid team — Righetti from the Santa Maria area.

Once again Bellflower, though considerably smaller, got the key scores and crowded the boards to prevent the Warriors from dominating the rebounding game and the Bucs were victorious in the final seconds, 55-53.

"At the beginning of the year we thought we had a good shot at the league title and were hoping to win at least two CIF games. We would have been very happy with that."

Bogdanovich has every reason to be satisfied with the team since it was he who took charge of it last year after it had been nearly wiped-out by graduation.

Then came the rebuilding — a job that's about as satisfying as serving in the army. But he did it remarkably well — all the way to CIF finals.



Doubles partner Dave Rozzelle looks on as senior Douglas Stern prepares to return ball. Bucs were practicing for Montebello, whom they face today. (rod stern photo)

Golf, track, baseball teams roll

With league competition just under way, Bellflower's track, golf and baseball teams seem confident of capturing the top positions in the San Gabriel Valley League.

In only its second year at Bellflower, the golf team appears to be on the way to an easy league title.

"We should definitely take league this year," states Eric Ziemer, one of Bellflower's top golfers.

One week from today, they will take on Santa Fe at Whittier Narrows in their third league match of the season.

Meanwhile, the Buc track team, after solid victories over Mayfair and St. John Bosco, fell to rugged San Marino High for the first loss of the year.

Despite the defeat, Bellflower captured four first places in the meet as senior Brad Stone tied the school record for the pole vault with a successful leap of 14 feet. Stone had set the record himself in the win over Bosco the previous week. That win, plus the victory over Mayfair, gave Bellflower the city's track championship and

leaves them with a 2-1 record.

The Bee and Cee teams have both done even better with wins over all three of their opponents for city championships and 3-0 records.

The teams travel to the Duarte Invitational this Saturday for their last competition before league begins with a meet against Norwalk at Bellflower on March 25.

Coach Dave Du Fault hopes Bellflower can earn the number one position in league, but he knows that the SGVL is evenly balanced, with Excelsior, Lynwood and Bellflower having a shot at the title.

Meanwhile, the Buc varsity baseball squad played an impressive defensive game as they manhandled rival Mayfair, 6-0.

Rick Bethke held the Monsoons to only four hits as he went all the way in the victory. Mayfair was forced to use four pitchers in the contest as the Bucs ripped them for nine hits.

The win concludes the pre-season for the Bucs as they seek to recapture the San Gabriel Valley League crown, a goal that eluded Bellflower last season for the first time in many years.

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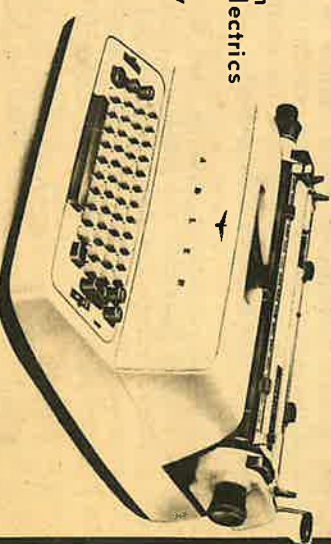


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