

CHRONICLES

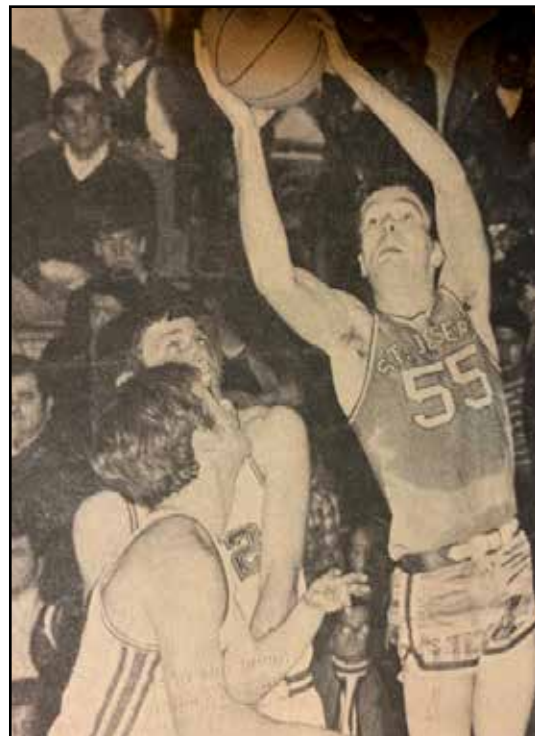
February 22-28, 1970

By Tom Bodle

If any week of the school year epitomized the abundance of activities and wealth of talents at St. Joseph High School, it was the last week of February, 1970.

The week began with a Monday evening sectional basketball contest versus a methodical but determined Mayfield High School. The undersized Wildcats set out to deploy the slow down tactics so often used by Viking opponents throughout the regular season. Coach Bob Straub credited Mayfield in his post game comments with effectively setting the tempo for the game and frustrating his team, which loved to get up and down the court. For a good part of the game Mayfield was methodical and very selective with their shots. On defense, they kept the Vikings outside the paint. St. Joe shot a dismal 32% from the field. Mayfield had forged an early 15-11 lead. By halftime the score was a sleepy 19-19. The Viking faithful were not to be denied. Vocally exploring their hoopsters, the team responded and began to take control of the game. The talented Vikings wore down Mayfield with a 46-33 victory in round two of the sectionals. Pat Lyons' 20 points, aided by Don Blakely's 9 points paced the win.

On Tuesday, the school paper, The Norseman, distributed its eight page February issue. The staff had done a remarkable job over the course of the year of presenting timely topics for discussion on the editorial pages along with the news and sports of an extremely active school community. Two topics filled the editorial columns with presentations by six contributors. Opinions of the Pass-Fail grade policies being enacted in education was one of the topics debated. The second was the concern with vandalism, as a part of human culture and as a concern in the halls of St. Joseph high school. For a school proudly proclaiming "We're Number One" at sporting events, one article challenged us to "where is your pride?" when it came to respect for the teachers, students and the condition of the furniture and hallways in school. The pages offered thoughtful presentations from a variety of students,





DISTRICT WRESTLERS, (Top, left to right) Jeff Myers, Bob Peters, (bottom row) Bill Schreiber, and Bob Calevich. Jeff placed third in the districts.



displaying the depth of thought and writing skills of the staff and contributing students.

In an era of students demanding more involvement in their school environment, the St. Joseph High School administration was very supportive of student leadership in taking ownership of their own activities. A strong student government had developed in our years in the Viking Village. In an effort to maintain and enhance the fabric of student government, the Student Council held a professional style workshop. Class officers, homeroom representatives, committee chairmen and faculty moderators sponsored the "Taking Care of Business" forum. "TCB" was held at the Sheraton Inn on Euclid Avenue in Wickliffe. Attendees were involved in small and large group discussions. Several formal presentations were given. A working lunch split up the morning and afternoon sessions. Coming away from the day, student leaders were filled with ideas to conclude the school year and form a foundation for the underclassmen in their time to come.

The last weekend of February would be jammed packed with important events. The Sectional final in basketball, the wrestling sectionals, the OMEA competition and the opening of the school's musical.

After experiencing "slow ball" against many basketball opponents throughout the season, our Viking hoopsters would take on the up tempo style of Shaw High School for the Eastlake Sectional Championship. What resulted was described by News Herald Sports Editor Bill Theil as "one of the best games of the season." Shaw was quick. It was led by Early Jones, a flashy point guard and Willis Price with his dynamic inside presence. With an overflow crowd in the Eastlake gym and the styles of the two contestants, this game would not be a sleeper. The Vikings got off to a good start with a 21-17 first quarter. Shaw subsequently countered with a very strong second period outscoring the Vikes 29-20 for a 46-41 halftime lead. Intensity in the gym grew as the teams entered the floor in the second half. Shaw set the pace however, stifling the Viking attack and leading by as many as eleven points. St. Joe gathered itself and slowly inched back to within five, when Mike Malovasic got a steal and fed Jim Hill who dunked the ball. The Viking faithful nearly raised the roof in its frenzy as Shaw's lead was at 81-78 with two minutes remaining. The Cardinals decided to stall, forcing St. Joe to foul. The roar of the cheering section was deafening as Shaw hit one of two fouls shots and a Viking basket made the score 84-82. In spite of their schoolmates pleas, the Vikings were unable to score again, while Shaw made three of their last four free throws to ice the championship 87-82. But in defeat, the team and student body proved their class. Plain Dealer Sports Editor Hal Lebovitz in an opinion piece lauded all of the fans at the game for their spirit and sportsmanship. He had written an article in the previous week of how disappointing high school sports had been with too many incidents of poor sportsmanship. He purposely looked for more instances during this high profile game, but gladly acknowledged that



the conduct on both sides was excellent. He further noted “the nicest thing I saw was the way the St. Joseph student body responded to the loss. They remained in their seats and gave Shaw a “big hand.”

The wrestling team entered sectional competition also this week at Brush High School. Four Viking grapplers emerged with qualifying results to move onto the District. John Storey’s team took fourth amongst the sixteen teams in the competition.

In music, state-competition was held this weekend. The Ohio Music Educators Association held its annual event. Our Glee Club entered four octets and soloists Joe Klements, Bob Pestak and Gary Branstein.

Of all of the high level activities of the week, it was the premier of the musical “Funny Girl” on the Viking stage that was the most monumental. Throughout the 1960’s, the St. Joseph Music Department had become renowned throughout Greater Cleveland for its production of Broadway musicals. Jerry Dwyer and Norm Novak had brought together knowledgeable volunteers to mentor very talented St. Joseph students and girls from our partner schools to perform outstanding shows such as “The Sound of Music”, “South Pacific” and “Carousel.” Beginning in mid-December actors, singers, dancers, set creators and musicians prepared to bring the lights from Broadway to the “Purple Palace.” Almost 250 students participated in the creation of “Funny Girl.” Regina junior Carmel Iammarino was cast as Fanny Bryce and did a marvelous job in portraying the vaudeville actress who rose to superstardom. Our classmates who had significant roles were Jerry Cirino, Jerry Hengenius, Max Gorenssek and Steve Angelotti. The production was so respected by northeast Ohio that each area newspaper had feature articles about the play, highlighted by the cover article on the Cleveland Press’ entertainment section for opening night. The musical attracted an average of 1200 theater goers in the six performances held over three weekends.



The shortest month of the year concluded with the demonstration of the depth and breadth of extracurricular events at St. Joseph High School, a legacy filled with memories of talent, leadership, friendship and pride.

