

Clarenceville improves girls' athletics

By DENNY COFFMAN

Because of a new athletic program at Clarenceville Junior High School, girls at will be able to participate in sports all year around.

The program includes basketball, softball, volleyball and gymnastics at different periods of the year, four days a week.

"We consulted with the girls," says D. Wayne Nutter, principal, "and we

noted a high interest in athletics. The administration felt it would improve the girls' athletic program."

The idea was discussed with the Clarenceville School Board, which gave its approval near the end of last semester.

BEFORE the program was started, junior high girls usually had to sit out one semester without taking part in athletics every other semester.

Only available activities were Girls Athletic Association (GAA), a once-a-week dance class and softball.

Now, however, there will be girls' sports most of the week.

"We wanted to provide activities related to high school athletics now in effect," says Nutter. By doing that, the junior high offers the younger girls a chance to gain experience in at least four basic areas of high school competitive sports—softball, volleyball, basketball and gymnastics.

Basketball, which got under way in September, will run for eight weeks.

Nutter hopes other schools in the area, undertake the same type of program, so that Clarenceville girls will have teams to compete against.

According to him, Clarenceville girls are ahead of other junior high girls in athletic preparedness.

"I think we're about two years ahead with this type of a program," says Nutter.

THOUGH CO-ED teams composed of both boys and girls' athletics at the junior high level has not really taken effect, Nutter says some girls participated in track last year and competed in meets.

The junior high girls athletic program will require additional coaching help, but several teachers in the school have indicated they would like to handle the coaching duties along with their regular classes.

The school already has some of the necessary athletic equipment, but the biggest expense in the program will be coaches' pay.

Perhaps the only problem the program faces is availability of facilities. The girls now use the gym for 1½ hours after school. But they could have greater difficulty later, when they need to use softball diamonds.

"The girls are really enthusiastic," says Nancy Thelen, a counselor at the junior high school and girls' basketball coach.

"THE BIGGEST problem, though, is getting them to work as a team. We have a lot of stars. I guess it's just because it's new to them and they're just getting the hang of it. This is the first time any of them have ever played basketball," she says.

"Eventually, I hope we can find another school to scrimmage with," she says. "We still have a long way to go before we're ready, but we're working on it."

Originally, 45 girls took part in basketball, but only 30 remain. "They're the hard core ones," she says.

The girls, seventh and eighth graders, are 12-14 years old.

"It's good exercise and it's fun," says Arnie Fermanian, 21428 Jefferson, Farmington Hills.

"We learn a lot of new techniques and it's good exercise," says Chris Olsen, 20214 Brentwood, Livonia. "But I like tennis better."



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'Declaration' in song, dance

The National Theatre Company will present "Declaration," its multi-media tribute to the nation's Bicentennial, Thursday, Nov. 6, at 7:30 p.m. at Seaboard High School, Lincoln and Cranbrook roads, Birmingham, in the Russ A. Wagner Auditorium.

The performance will benefit Common Ground, the youth agency in Birmingham. Five performers sing and dance through the ups and downs of America's first 200 years.

There are comedy routines such as "Split Up: The Divorce Game," satirizing the game shows only the USA knows how to produce as well as singing memories of "Abraham, Martin and John."

Two NTC veterans, Neal Kenyon and William Hoy have written the script with original music by Hoy Kenyon who directed such NTC shows as "The Age of Shaw," "Butterflies Are Free" and "The Miracle Worker."

ROY FIRST collaborated with The National Theatre Company as musical arranger and director of last season's "Feelin' Good."

The action begins with an unprecedented introduction of Uncle Sam who takes on the action in "The Nuts, The

Pinto and the Santa Maria," the show's first production number.

The actors work on a simple set designed by James Tilton who designed Edward Albee's production of "Sea Escape" last season after finishing "The Miracle Worker" and "Come Blow Your Horn" for NTC.

Rear projections are added to simulate any locale from the Lincoln Memorial to the Wild, Wild West.

Winn Morton, head designer at Faves Costume Company in New York City, has provided basic revue costumes. But by adding a Derby here and a jabot there to say nothing of feathers and frills, the Actors can impersonate Betsy Ross one minute and Lady Bird Johnson the next.

TICKETS MAY be obtained from Mrs. Marilyn Schlain at Seaboard, MI 49300, extension 387. Tickets will be held at the door for those who wish to mail their checks to Mrs. Schlain, Seaboard High School, 2346 West Lincoln Road, Birmingham, 48009.

Checks should be made payable to Seaboard High School.

Harrison golfer makes OCC team

Oakland Community College's defending Region XII golf champions completed their fall program last week and announced candidates for the 1976 spring team.

Birmingham Groves' Jim Linklater and Dave Breeden, Southfield's John Morgan, Troy's Mike Petroff and Farmington Harrison's Tom Bradley are among the top linksmen making the squad.

Royal Oak Shrine's Mike Areddy, who had the team's best average at 75.1 for 18 holes, and Ron Harbour round out next year's squad.

Linklater finished three-tenths of a point behind Areddy in the final standings and was followed by Morgan (75.7) and Bradley (77.3).

In its fall program, OCC participated in four tournaments. Linklater and Morgan finished second in the St. Clair best-ball invitational with a 142 on the par-72 Black River Country Club. The Raiders took fourth place in the University of Windsor Invitational, which was captured by the University of Toronto.

In the Lake Michigan Invitational held at Benton Harbor, OCC won the tourney with a 308 score. Areddy led the way with a blistering two under par 70, to take medalist honors.

The Raiders ended their fall program with a first-place finish in the Macaroni Community College Invitational, with a combined total of 311. Coach Premise Ryan's squad is anxious to take defense of its 1975 championship next spring.

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