Sports 'double standard' discussed

Detroit Country Day girls' track coach George Prosperi is trying to erase what he sees as a double standard in athletics.

"While the boys are continuously working out through the middle school years and developing themselves athletically." Prosperi said, "the girls are not taken seriously as competitors or athletes.

"All too often we as coaches wait until senior high to teach them the dif-ferent requirements for the sport. Therefore they are far behind when they reach the upper school."

they reach the upper school."

Prosper's record is hard to argue with After going 0-9 his first season.

DCD has a 18-2 record over the past two seasons, including third place in last year's class C regional. Country Day's Yellow Jackets are looking forward to a good showing in the class D tournaments this year.

His record is especially impressive because there are only 71 girls in the upper school at Country Day. Those girls have a choice of softball, lacrosse or track. Prosperi usually has 18-23 girls on a .team.

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"THE SECRET IS in the junior tight." Prosperi said, "getting them to know what track is about in the middle school years and that is the lift. It is not the school were seen to the track program is in the middle school. What we see in the upper school is just have seen in the foundation that has been taid.

He is director of Detroit. Country Day School's middle school, and in a good position to carry through with its philosophy. Prosper taid, and the special school was a school with the special school with the special school with the special school with the school Prospert said." In notice that the very intangibles regarding attitude are founded in the middle school. Prospert said." In notice that the very intangibles regarding attitude are founded in the middle school, whether it be study skills, or a code of conduct or athetic dedication, it begins at an early age.
"These things just arent created in high school." he added. "When I was teaching in high school I was always amazed at courselors telling kids that the state of the school was the school with the school was always amazed at courselors telling kids that the state working. I thought it was hypocritical and ironic that at student should all of the sudden begin to motivate and dedicate himself to academ-

clear understanding of what it takes to achieve.
"Our middle school program is on that deals with teaching techniques rather than having them continuously compete." Prosperi said. "They become familiar with the track and its distances and face some of the realities of competition. This has worked fantastically for us in that this year we have eight freshmen who are ready to step into the shoes of seniors who have been the backbone of our team." Prosperi has 23 team members this season, including 15 letter-winners

ics when the realities of education begin in kindergarten. Accordingly, Detroit Country Day School's track program starts in the middle school with Prospers himself the teacher, it begins, he said, with two weeks of feebalbility training. After that he teaches the students every event, brings in speakers and shows films.

from last year's 10-1 squad and eight "outstanding" freshmen.

Some of the returning people include Mary Riley in the 880-yard run.

Anita Flynn in the hurdles, Kristine Washington in the sprint events and Washington in the sprint events and the team in the field events.

Promising newcomers include freshman Dee Cook who was all-state in cross country last fall, according to Prosperi, and Michele Ragland.

Prosperi said that Country Day trainer Bill Hornik has put his team on a weight program which has improved performances and cut down on a might program which has improved performances and cut down on injuries

"THE BIG THING here is that we try to point out to our students the phi-

"WHAT WE HAVE FOUND is that individuals who have never succeeded, athletically speaking, have blossomed into great competitors and fine athletes." Prosper said "It's giving these young ladies an opportunity to helieve in themselves with a very clear understanding of what it takes to achieve "THE BIG THING here is that we try to point out to our sudents the philosophy of the school. It's not what try to point out our sudents the philosophy of the school. It's not what it." Prospert said. "As a coach I look for individual improvements. We have individual goals and team goals. We have people who have never gotten a point in a meet and yet have improved, and that is meaningful to our team."

Prospers said that he hopes the Yellow Jackets will do well in their Id outliness. He said that Country Day has always held its own against schools of that size



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