

SOUTHWEST PIONEER

Southwest High School

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SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63139

October 29, 1971

Buses Under New Sponsor

New sponsors have been found to finance the chartering of buses for football games away from Southwest. Buses will be chartered for the game at Northwest against Vashon, Nov. 6, by the Lettermen's Club.

In the past Student Congress chartered buses for the games, but a recent vote by SC abandoned this practice.

Mr. Pat Meloy, SC sponsor, said, "The motion was made that SC not be responsible for the buses and was unanimously agreed upon. The officers didn't originate the motion; it was made from the floor."

SC made its decision because in the past they have always lost money by chartering the buses. Mr. Meloy confided that in order to break even, tickets for the bus ride would have to be \$1.10 per person.

The Pep Club is going to handle the sale of bus tickets, and if there are two buses filled, the Lettermen will charter them.

Adds Card Section

Pep Club Reorganizes To Boost Spirit

After two years of inactivity, Pep Club has been reorganized by Miss Linda Moran. Miss Moran was a student teacher at Southwest last year and has returned as a full-time English teacher.

When Miss Moran came to SW she wanted to sponsor a club, but none were available. When a group of seniors approached her with the idea of a pep club, she immediately agreed to be the sponsor.

When revitalization was officially okayed, the real organizing began. People were sent to advisories to explain the objectives of the club. Then, the first meeting was set for Tuesday, September 28.

Miss Moran's hopes were surpassed when three hundred joined.

The second meeting



photo by John Dengler

Miss SW

Joann James, recently crowned Miss SW, smiles with joy at last Saturday's homecoming dance. Escort Jim Thomas, Lettermen's Club president, stands at her side.

produced the officers: President Glenn Schmitt, Vice-President Jane Jurgenson, Secretary Kathy Williams, Assistant Secretary Tom Kennedy, Treasurer Miriam Caldwell, and Assistant Treasurer Tina James.

Class Representatives were also chosen. Senior reps include Pam McCrary and Homer Robinson, juniors Linda Benson and Carol Russo, sophomores Jeanne Patterson and Sue Wederman, and freshmen Bev Bono and Peggy O'Brien.

"Pep Club feels that one of the main reasons for lack of school spirit is that organizations do not work together enough," said Miss Moran. So, Pep Club is working together to learn the cheers, so as to produce more spirit in the

stands.

For the first time Pep Club will be a tri-sponsor of the Miss SW Dance. Members will serve on committees and sell SW pennants with the Lettermen's Club to raise money.

Also, the club is working to keep SW's first card section going. Forty-nine members, sitting in seven rows of seven spell out such words as SOUTHWEST, LONGHORNS, and STEERS. The section performed at SW's last two football games.

It is Pep Club's hope that with their help, all SW students will become involved in promoting spirit for this school.

SW Quiz Team Makes TV Debut

Southwest's Scholar Quiz team was impressive in winning its first match of the year. They defeated C.B.C. and Maplewood by the respective scores of 220-46-22.

Seniors John Baltzer, Marie Caras, Tim Decker and team captain Thom Espinola along with alternates Sue Baylard and Becky Vuch, were selected to represent SW in competition with various other high schools in the area. Miss Lucy Funk, counselor, sponsors the group.

The entire team shows its strength in history and science with Thom especially strong in math and Marie excelling in the field of music.

In her fourth year as sponsor, Miss Funk feels that the team shows great promise.

Brigadoon Leads Picked For Operetta, Dec. 2-3

Brigadoon will be this year's operetta at Southwest, to be performed December 2 and 3. Leading roles will include senior Marty Renner as Fiona, junior Greg Shiner as Tommy, sophomore Debbie Timpone as Meg, junior Chris Todd as Jeff, and junior Stuart North as Charlie Dairymple.

The plot of *Brigadoon* deals with two Americans who lose their way while hunting in Scotland. They come upon an enchanted town, *Brigadoon*, which comes to life for one day every hundred years. One of the hunters, Tommy, falls in love with the charming Fiona, and his companion Jeff reluctantly becomes entangled with Meg the milkmaid. Tommy must make a choice between the world he knows and the myth of Fiona and *Brigadoon*.

Brigadoon was selected by Miss Leontone Meyer, Mr. Robert Nordman, Mr. Barnett Sinnett, and Mr. Dennis Skerik of the music department, and Mr. Robert Lewis, dramatics instructor. It was chosen over at least 50 other possible shows.

Why was *Brigadoon* selected? There are a variety of reasons. The story line is interesting and dramatic; there are many beautiful songs in the score;

and there are enough chorus numbers for all of the vocal music groups to take part, according to the sponsors.

One big factor was the lack of a strong string section in the SW orchestra. *Brigadoon* has a score arrangement specifically for a concert band.

Commenting on what he termed the "extinction of the elementary string program," Mr. Nordman explained that since the elementary schools are not producing good string players, there are fewer at the high school level.

Explaining another problem, Mr. Nordman said, "We couldn't do anything like *Hello Dolly!* or *Mame* because we don't have anyone to play that 'socko' type female lead."

Broadway is turning out fewer and fewer shows each year from which to choose. Some of the newer shows are not producible by a high school because of their story lines.

The judges also avoided shows that many other area high schools did last year or are planning to do this year. *Hello Dolly!* and *Fiddler on the Roof* fit this category.

As Mr. Skerik pointed out, "It just boiled itself down to *Brigadoon*."

SC Originates Aid Committee

Student Congress has recently organized a Student Aid Committee which will receive suggestions and/or complaints from the student body.

The committee will investigate the problems and determine their validity. Frequency and severity will determine when action is to be taken. If a suggestion appears a minimum of ten times, the committee will report this to SC and suggest possible action. SC will take over at this point by discussing the problem and proposing action to correct it.

The Student Aid Committee will handle suggestions dealing with the lunchroom, library, discipline, smoking lounge, faculty unfairness to a class as a whole, audio visual, and sanitary custodial conditions.

The most important work will be in the area of disciplinary differences between students and administration. Individual prejudices or personal conflicts will not be handled by the committee.

Members of Student Aid have printed forms which students are to use when they wish to make suggestions. All SC reps have these forms and will take them to SC meetings.

Heading the Student Aid Committee are seniors Nelson Berra and Jay Torrence. Jay

believes this to be the first concrete attempt of SC to serve the needs of the students in this particular area. He stated, "Students will realize they have an alternative to arbitrary school decisions on all levels."

The effectiveness of this committee will depend largely upon the sincerity and honesty of the student body, according to Jay. He hopes that the committee will prove to be more than merely a sounding board for students. It should become a defender of student rights.

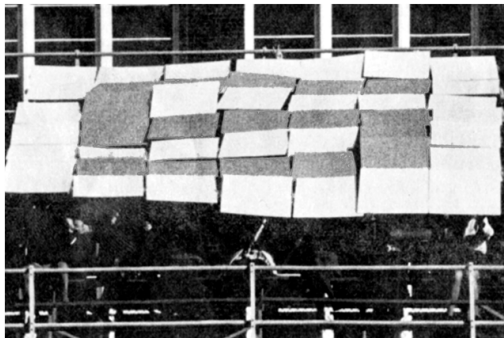


photo by John Dengler

Gimme an S

SW's recently reorganized Pep Club displays its new card section with an 'S' formation. Club Sponsor Miss Linda Moran originated the idea.

Calendar Pioneer

Nov.

- 1 Mid-Semester exams, periods 2, 4
- 2 Mid-Semester exams, periods 3, 6
- 3 Mid-Semester exams, periods 1, 5, 7
- 4,5 Teacher's convention no classes
- 15 ID Pictures taken
- 16 ID Pictures taken
- 18 Report cards issued
- 23 PTA meeting 7:15 p.m.; Open House 7:30 p.m.
- 25,26 Thanksgiving vacation; no classes

Speaker Advocates Open Classroom

By Jane Ash

PIONEER Editorial Writer

With the commencement of the in-service meeting, October 5, it was apparent that St. Louis educators felt a need to explore changes in the method of education in our schools.

"We are not completely satisfied nor can we be complacent," explained Mr. W. R. Schneider, district superintendent. He stressed the need to experiment, not to be satisfied with the present system. Although it once had its merits, now changes must be made.

"No one method is good for everyone," he continued. Each teacher needs to find the method that works best, not only for himself, but for the pupil.

A possible alternative to the present method was presented by Dr. Richard Bouchard, guest lecturer and the director teacher education at Webster College.

One alternative is commonly known as the open classroom, although this term is not universally defined.

As defined by Dr. Bouchard, the open classroom is "giving the learner optimal situations for making decisions. The most important thing is development of self-concept."

He stressed that many fears of the open classroom are actually based on misconceptions. "The open classroom is not open space ...

it is not chaos ... it is not a free school"

Dr. Bouchard explained six major points necessary in having a well organized, workable learning situation. The points, presented in pairs, stress the structure necessary for an open classroom to work.



Dr. Bouchard: "The most important thing is development of self-concept."

"Balance between freedom and control" was the first pair he mentioned. He feels too many teachers equate quiet with learning and noise with non-learning. Next, "balance between challenge and success." This pair points out where the

present system has fallen short by building schools "on the premise that a certain amount (of students) are going to fail" rather than all are going to succeed. This is an important ingredient in the development of a good self-concept.

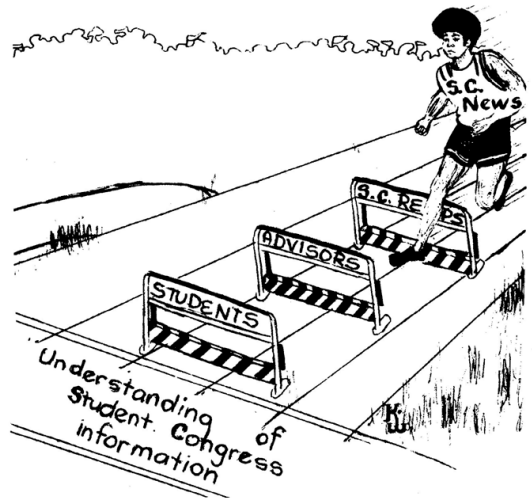
Finally, Dr. Bouchard stated there must be "a balance of warmth and respect." Teachers should always keep this in mind and make every possible effort to humanize their classroom.

He went on to explain that much of a child's creativity is suppressed in the present system. Dr. Bouchard began his talk by saying, "Some of you (the teachers) students will learn more today than they would have had they been in the classroom."

He emphasized that the reason a student does something is important as well as what he does and what he writes.

There is a need for teachers to recognize other forms of communication besides the written word. "If we are real, why can't we use real things?" questioned Dr. Bouchard.

Most firmly, Dr. Bouchard stated his disapproval of the teacher standing at the front of the class, having the students focus on her. "Put the focus on the learner."



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Racism Must Stop Now

There are no aud sessions at Southwest. Most after-school activities have been discontinued because of fear of harm.

There is no free study. All SW dances have been cancelled. The corridors are policed by seven guards.

These could be some of the manifestations of increased racial incidents at SW if black/white problems are not solved now.

It is much easier to accept individuals rather than understand an idea. Unless one is black, it is hard to discern the rough criticism and rebuff of some white students toward the black student. Being exposed to massive hatred and have a buried heritage, makes many black SW students, who have been segregated for so long, sensitive to racial distinctions.

The emotional stress that the black student feels in an overpowering white school occasionally results in super-sensitivity. This protectiveness causes a prejudice of both black and white students against one another.

The answer lies initially in devout discussion. But, too often ideas and proposed programs get bogged with talk. Last year, the Student Relations program was born and died as only a partial communication between black and white students.

If specific proposals and answers are not found, future racial incidents will occur. The time is now for concerted effort, on the part of each student and the faculty, to solve the problem of racism at SW before it erupts to crumble this school.

Operetta Leads Explained

Because there seems to be a misunderstanding among some students regarding the choice of leads for the operetta, *Brigadoon*, PIONEER asked Miss Leontone Meyer, director of vocal music, to explain the policy involved in choosing parts.

She said that many compromises must be made in order to select the person who best fits the role in a particular operetta. The policy at Southwest has always been to consider the many qualities required to fill a particular part — singing voice, speaking voice, personality, appropriate appearance and others, and then select those students whom they feel will do the best job.

Miss Meyer, Mr. Robert Nordman, director of instrumental music, Mr. Barnett Sinnett, music instructor, Mr. Dennis Skerik, student music teacher, and dramatics instructor Mr. Robert Lewis had to make this difficult decision.

It is not a reflection on the person's ability if he is not accepted for the part for which he tries; it is merely that the judges feel that he or she is not the person who best exemplifies all the characteristics required for that specific role.

Fortunately, at SW, in addition to the operetta, there are many other opportunities for the talented student, such as the senior play, fine arts night, the spring festival, small ensembles and special programs.

PSAT? DAT? ACT?

'What Do All of These Tests Mean?'

What do DAT, SAT, ACT, ACH, NMSQT, or SCAT mean to students?

Students may be confused about the purpose of these tests. An explanation might clear up possible confusion.

The Differential Aptitude Test (DAT) is given to freshmen. The results of this test are used to help the student and school choose the best electives suited to a student's aptitude. It shows his strengths and weaknesses in five areas. His abilities are measured in verbal reasoning, numerical ability, abstract reasoning, space relations, and mechanical

reasoning.

The Ohio Psychological Test is given to every senior in Missouri. It helps determine entrance to the state university system. This test is given free and is one of the determiners of financial aid to students who will attend any of the University of Missouri campuses.

The School and College Test (SCAT) is under the Missouri College Placement Program. This test is taken outside of Southwest. It is given free of charge and is also one of the determiners of entrance and

placement in courses in the state university and the junior college system.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), also known as the CEEB or College Boards, is required or recommended by some colleges for entrance and financial aid determination. There is a fee. This test will be given on December 4 at SW.

The American College Test (ACT) serves the same purpose as the SAT. The only difference is that some colleges might prefer one over the other. It is either recommended or required and there is a fee.

The National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) is given to juniors across the United States. As of this year the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test PSAT has been combined with the NMSQT to form the PSAT-NMSQT.

The semifinals of this test in their senior year take the SAT. If they do well on this too, the Merit Corporation advances the student to consideration for a scholarship.

The Achievement Test (ACH) is a specialty test in certain fields. Some colleges require or recommend in which particular field a student should take the test. Such fields are English, social studies, math, science, or foreign languages. It also requires a fee. This test goes into much detail to find out what a student has learned in school. The other scholastic aptitude tests cover a student's general knowledge in verbal and math areas.

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Juvenile Officer Acts as Counselor

By Rich Hartmann PIONEER Feature Writer

"I'm only here to help you." That is the purpose of Juvenile Officer Milford Eaves, as new counselor to Southwest.

Officer Eaves is part of a new pilot program begun this year in St. Louis.

Officer Eaves talked to PIONEER last week about himself, the program, and Southwest:

First off, could you give us some background about yourself?

"I'm a juvenile police officer and have been a police officer for eight years. Since my transfer to the Juvenile Division in 1969, my primary interest has been in helping young people."

How did this program come into effect?

"This program is a part of a federal grant which came through the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. The grant is for the placement of seven police officers to act as counselors in area high schools."

What type of counseling will this be?

"This can take in a number of items. It doesn't necessarily have to pertain to the law. It doesn't make any difference what a student comes to me about. It could be problems at home, on the street, in school, etc."

The main thing is I am not here for law enforcement, because I'm not here to gather information or make arrests; and I'm not going to. In other words, the school will not use me for any type of security."

If a student came to you who used drugs and had them in his possession, what would be the procedure?

"The procedure would be my own. I would try to counsel him the best I could and maybe try to get him to go to some other agency to get help. Again, I am strictly here for help, not to make arrests."

Do you think that many of the students that you will see



Officer Eaves: "I'm not here as a cop but as a counselor to help..."

are young people who have been referred to you by teachers and administrators?

"It's no doubt that some of the teachers or some of the staff will refer students to me; however, this isn't exactly what I have in mind."

Because you're a cop, do you feel that many students will be apprehensive about coming to see you?

"So far it hasn't appeared that way, but it's still too early to say. It will take time. I've never met such a polite and helpful group of students as these at Southwest. I am sure that many students are going to be wary because I'm a police officer. However, I hope to be able to reach out or make them understand that I'm not here as a cop but as a counselor to help them."

I'm sure many people are wondering why Southwest was chosen for this program. Do you have any idea?

"When this program was initiated, seven schools had to be chosen. McKinley was chosen to be the school to take care of the southeastern area of the city, while Southwest seems to have been in the right place to cover the other half of south

St. Louis. Because Southwest was chosen doesn't mean that it's a problem school.

How much in-school authority do you have as far as class changes, etc.?

"I don't know how far I can go, but I'm sure the staff will cooperate with me in many cases."

Do you feel that there is a "generation gap," and if so, do you hope to bridge this "gap"?

"First of all I feel that there is a gap between high school students and what you would call the 'establishment.' Mainly in law enforcement. I feel that this 'gap' is very wide between young people and the law."

I think that by talking to young people with a little give and take the 'gap' can be lessened. One thing that I want to get across to the students is that placement are people and that as people we too have feelings and do care about others."

photo by John Dengler



Despite the soggy weather SW's spirits weren't dampened as the Homecoming Parade, consisting of 28 cars rolled out of the lower parking lot last Saturday.

Grand Prix

News Shorts

Band and Choir To Perform

Southwest Concert Choir and Concert Band have been selected to perform before teachers for the general session of the MSTA convention. At the program, November 4, in Kiel Convention Hall, seniors Homer Robinson and Calvin Talley will sing solos with the choir, and senior Dave Mouldon will be featured in one of the Band's numbers.

The band and the choir will combine in a performance of "Processional Hymn."

Veterans Sponsor Oration Contest

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will sponsor the Voice of Democracy oration scholarship program, offering \$22,500 in national scholarship awards. All 10, 11, and 12 grade students are eligible to enter. The theme for the 1971-72 program is "My Responsibility to Freedom." More information can be obtained from Miss C. Lewis, English department head.

SHA To Establish VD Service

In response to the epidemic proportions of venereal disease in the Greater St. Louis area, the Social Health Association is establishing a new service. Those who call 645-8355 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. may receive answers to any questions they have about symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of VD.

All Saints Eve Stirs Up Devilish Doozies

By Debbie Regan and David Koehn PIONEER Feature Writers

While Greg Feeti is planning to scribble telephone numbers all over himself and go as a wall, Charles Chiquita hopes to plaster bananas on his knees and elbows and creep out as a vine.



Tired of dressing up as the same humdrum bum? Sick of soaping the same teacher's windows?

PIONEER is very disappointed in the lack of ingenuity used by students on Halloween, so we compiled a list of "new look" costumes and new tricks to help maintain the high (disastrous) standards set in the past.

For instance, girls can be inventive by not shaving their legs before Halloween, getting a crew-cut, and going out as a brush.

Tony Flamboyant suggested painting yourself fluorescent yellow, gargling with Lavoris, and going as a lemon.

If your materials are limited, you can dress yourself in basic black, paint a white stripe down the front of you and go as a road.

One more suggestion is to dump pineapple all over your body, put a cherry in your navel, and walk on your hands resembling an upside down cake.

As for tricks, denture wearers could be invited to bob for apples at your party. Of course, attaching the apples to the bottom of the bucket would be more exciting.

If going out isn't your bag, you can operate from your home. To completely exasperate the trick-or-treater, you can hand out 1 1/2 m & m's, a pound of limburger cheese, or two raw sausage links.

This could be regrettable next year when you receive more soap on your windows than knocks on your door.

So you decide: Tricks or treats?

Graduate Returns To Teach Music

By Sue Henderson PIONEER Feature Writer

round to see if you can make it with a professional company. I'm still not sure if I can."

Why did he decide on music as a career?

"I didn't originally decide on music. I was planning on a biology major, but I couldn't take the chemistry. There's just a sort of attraction to music — the old lights, orchestra, greasepaint jazz, I guess. It's hard to explain to anyone who has never had the opening night nerves or the thrill of applause. It's just what I truly enjoy doing."

Music isn't all fun and games though. A routine week for him with the Muni was an eight hour schedule Monday through Friday. Then, on Saturday, in addition to the eight hours, a special dress rehearsal from midnight until 5 a.m. "On Saturdays you ate, thought and breathed music," he recalled.

Of SW's choir he said, "Concert Choir has great

potential, but they don't take music seriously; they don't realize they have talent and just think of music as a fun pastime. It's not their fault; it's just that no one thinks of music as something that requires serious thought."

photo by John Dengler



Mr. Skerik: "There's just a sort of attraction to music—the old lights, orchestra, greasepaint jazz..."

SW To Battle Devils in PHL Play

The Southwest Longhorns will travel to Northwest tomorrow for a 1:30 p.m. PHL contest with the Blue Devils.

As was the case last year, a loss to Northwest will eliminate any SW title hopes. The Blue Devils have an unimpressive won-lost record, but are an improving ball club. They should provide plenty of problems for the Big Green Machine tomorrow afternoon. The Steers put it all together for the second week in a row, crushing the Central Redwings, 45-8, in the homecoming game last Saturday.

A combination of a potent

offense and strong defense enabled SW to pile up 25 points in the first quarter. Even with reserves taking over in the second quarter, the Steers managed a 39-0 halftime lead.

Easy Riders

Last Saturday, a herd of angry Longhorns stampeded over southside rival, Roosevelt, by a score of 26-6. The outcome of the game was never really in doubt, as SW scored in every quarter.

Senior John Whitaker was again in the heroics, scoring twice himself and rifling his seventh TD pass of the season

to sophomore wingback, Tom Bostic. The Steers other score came on a 21-yard gallop by running back Gene Droege, a rapidly improving performer.

Hard hitting by linebackers Barry Brambilla, Rick Winkler, and Gary Rutledge led a SW defense that stymied the Rough Riders until the closing minutes of the game.

Beaumont Tough

On Saturday October 9 a well-drilled Beaumont squad overpowered the Longhorns 21-12. It was a game of opposites. During the first half, the Bluejackets were completely in charge, stacking up a 21-0 lead. In the second half, however, the Steers fought back with two fourth quarter TD's and completely blanked the Beaumont offense.

The huge Beaumont defensive line made the going rough for the Steers all day.

The offense finally broke through with help from a blocked punt and a successful on-side kick. A five-yard pass reception by senior end Paul Lazare accounted for SW's points.

Commenting on the game, Coach Leon Anton stated "I was pleased with our comeback in the second half but it's hard to tell whether it was due to our effort or a Beaumont letdown because of their 21 point lead." He added that once again mental errors accounted for many of the SW mistakes made in the game.

Quarterback John Whitaker threw three touchdown passes and scored one himself, leading SW to a 35-31 victory in the



photo by John Dengler

Junior Wingback Tom Bostic is wrestled to the ground after making a pass reception in last week's game against Roosevelt. SW gained a convincing 26-6 victory.

Takedown

October 2 game against Sumner. Hard running by halfback Derek Cummings and some surprising pass catching by co-captain Barry Brambilla aided the offense.

McKinley Forfeits

The Longhorns got a lucky break, September 25, against McKinley. Lineman Willie Norrington was declared ineligible, causing the Goldbugs to forfeit. The forfeit gave SW a total of four wins and one loss in PHL play instead of a 3-2 record.

When asked if he was pleased with the overall performance of the team, Coach Anton replied, "No, we haven't played as well as we can. We haven't played well since Vianney."

Commenting on SW's chances in the PHL race he stated, "There is a chance, but only if we get some consistency and get away from mental errors."

He pointed out that of the 14 TD's scored against SW through the Beaumont game, seven of them could be attributed to mental errors.

Runners Compete in Post-Season Meets

The Southwest Harriers will compete in the District meet at O'Fallon Park today at 4 pm. This meet determines whether or not they will run in the State meet in Columbia, November 6. The top three teams in the District will go to State.

In the Public High meet, on October 22, the harriers finished fourth. Individual medals went to senior Bob Akers for fourth, and junior Adrain West for ninth in the 63-man race.

In a meet on October 19, at O'Fallon, Southwest upset Cleveland and Northwest, in perhaps the team's greatest victory this season.

In the Beaumont Invitational, October 15, at O'Fallon Park, 31 schools participated, entering some 220 runners in the contest. The Longhorn Harriers finished 18 overall, with co-captain Bob Akers taking an individual medal for

finishing 34. Sophomore Ron Haley was the second Southwest runner to break the tape, finishing 82.

In the Southside Invitational, held October 6 at the Jefferson Barracks course, the runners finished third behind Cleveland and St. Mary. There were five schools altogether that competed in the meet.

The team came in a close second behind Sumner in a meet on October 12 at O'Fallon Park. Vashon ran third in the contest. SW finished with 42 points while Sumner had 36.

The day before, the cross country boys took first place decisively in a meet against Roosevelt and Central at Carondelet Park. Senior Bob Akers crossed the finish line first, as junior Adrian West took third. Coach Bud Wallach commented after the race, "We ran them into the ground."

Whitaker Part of Vanishing Breed

By Jim Thomas PIONEER Sports Writer

John Herman Whitaker is the last of a vanishing breed.

Active on the Southwest varsity football, basketball, and baseball teams over the course of the school year, John is one of the few three-sport athletes at SW. What makes his case extra-special is the fact that the 17-year-old senior not only

participates in three varsity-level sports, but excels in all three.

According to Longhorn football coach, Leon Anton, Whitaker is "the best quarterback that I have seen in the league so far." John should be the top guard for Coach Warren Gower's basketball squad come winter.

In the spring, he is being counted on by Baseball Coach Ed Graham to carry most of the team's pitching burden along with senior Bob Downey. John also pitches for two or three different ball clubs each summer.

Why does John Whitaker possess such varied athletic skills? Background, size, and determination all affect his ability. "I've been involved in sports for as long as I can remember, ever since I could walk, I guess," says John.

With two older brothers and an athletic-minded father around the house, John was always involved in some sort of physical activity. At 5'11" and 163 pounds, his physical stature makes him well suited for just about any sport.

The final and perhaps most important factor is John's great dedication, no matter what the sport. "I love sports. Sports are my whole life. I don't know what to do with myself when

I'm not involved in sports," he says. When asked what was his favorite sport, he simply replied, "My favorite sport is whatever sport I happen to be playing." Dedication.



Whitaker returns to the bench after a SW score.

A definite disadvantage to year-round sports is the fact that John cannot give too much time to each sport. While other athletes can specialize in one or even two sports, Whitaker must jump from sport to sport with limited pre-season training."

Consequently, his performances in all three sports suffer. John offers no solution to the problem, except, "I just try to work hard on whatever sport I happen to be playing."

Why aren't there as many three-sport athletes as in the past? "I don't know. Guys aren't as interested in sports; they have other things to do, I guess. Maybe they don't want to sit on the bench in one of the sports or would rather be out driving their car or be over at their girlfriend's house."

Evidently these things are of no concern to John Whitaker, "a man for all seasons."

