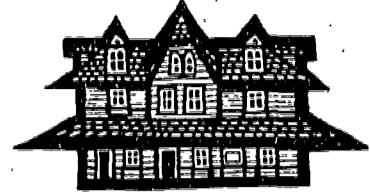


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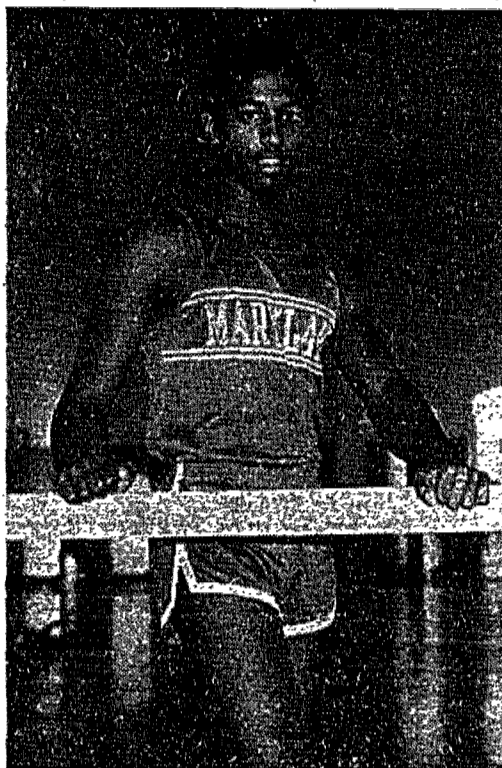
"Skeets" ... tearing up his track records

The sports world focused heavily upon one Skeets Nehemiah over the past week, as the Scotch Plains hurdler broke three world records in eight days. He was acclaimed on television, radio and in every major metropolitan newspaper on Sunday, after what was called an "amazing" performance, running the 55-meter hurdles in world record time of 6:88 seconds on Saturday night at the United States Olympic Invitational meet at Madison Square Garden.

This week, Track and Field Magazine, the bible of the track and field world, came out with its annual rankings, placing Skeets as the top athlete in the world in his hurdles class, and as the No. 6 track and field athlete in the world, in all areas of track and field competition. The magazine rankings were established before the impressive gains made over the past eight days.

Just over a week ago, Nehemiah brought in a 7:02 time. Then, running in Philadelphia last Friday night, he tied with Greg Foster in a dead heat world indoor best of 6:95 seconds. He bested that the following night at the Garden, with a 6:88.

Jean Poquette, who is now Administrative Assistant for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, was Skeets' track coach



RENALDO "SKEETS" NEHEMIAH

during his years at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High; when he broke state records and registered impressive gains in several areas of track and field competition. Poquette retains extremely close ties with the local runner, and was with him before and after his Garden performance Saturday night.

"It was a big thing - most impressive - but not surprising to me. Before the meet, we discussed the upcoming race in his hotel room, and I estimated he'd register a time of somewhere between 6:88 and 6:92," Poquette said.

"While I'm not surprised, I never cease to be amazed at his reactions under pressure and competition. That's the mark of a champion," Poquette said. Poquette felt the tied record of Friday night provided the incentive for an even greater performance on Saturday night. Skeets has great respect for Greg

Foster," Poquette said, but "didn't want to hold hands in the record." He was out to prove himself even further during the Garden event, Poquette said.

Nehemiah's achievements are impressive in themselves, but even more amazing when one considers how far he has come in a very short time. Skeets is only 19 years old now - a sophomore at University of Maryland. According to New York Times sportswriter Neil Amdur, who penned glowing reports of his weekend performance, "Not since Jim Ryun unleashed his sub four-minute mile kick as a high school junior 14 years ago has any young track athlete come so far so fast as the 19-year old Nehemiah. But unlike Ryun, who was a thoroughbred middle-distance runner, Nehemiah's athletic versatility may be his strongest credential as the world's Number One hurdler."

School budget impact on property taxes is outlined

Local taxpayers in Scotch Plains and Fanwood will provide tax dollars to support 81 percent of the revenue required for the tentative 1979-80 school budget of \$15,675,948. Currently, Fanwood taxpayers are paying \$2.93 of their \$4.45 annual rate to support the 1978-79 budget, while Scotch Plains residents are paying \$2.83 of the \$4.16 tax rate for schools. Taxes are not presently being raised to support the portion of the budget which is under appeal before the Commissioner of Education in Trenton. The Commissioner can restore all or none of the \$572,616 in question. His decision could impact current tax rates anywhere from 0 to \$.16 per hundred in Fanwood and 0 to \$.15 in Scotch Plains, depending upon amount of restoration.

School authorities have estimated that the tentative '79-80 budget would increase the school portion of the tax rate in Fanwood from the current \$2.93 to \$3.44 per hundred, and from \$2.83 to \$3.27 in Scotch Plains. Fanwood pays 24.74 percent of total school

taxes, Scotch Plains pays 75.26 percent. The figures are based upon equalized assessed valuations in the two communities.

Dr. Robert Rader, Assistant Superintendent for Business, points out that any discussion of tax increases to support the new budget must be based upon assumptions about the resolution of the appeal on the 1978-79 budget. "If one takes the position that the Commissioner will restore no funds to the sion of tax increases to support the new budget per hundred assessed in Fanwood and \$.44 per hundred in Scotch Plains would be correct. An equally valid position could be based on the assumption that the Commissioner fully restores the \$572,616 to the '78-'79 budget. This assumption would reflect an increase of \$.35 per hundred in Fanwood and \$.29 per hundred in Scotch Plains. These examples are taken on both ends of the spectrum and obviously the final outcome could be somewhere between the cited increases," Rader stated.

Board OK's discipline policy

The Board of Education recently approved a revised Discipline Policy to apply to all schools and students in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood district. The policy, which has been under study by the Board policy committee for several months, supercedes the former policy, approved in 1960.

It provides that a "consistent district-wide Discipline Policy and procedures be developed for equitable treatment of all students...regardless of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, social or economic background." The policy requires of all students "proper behavior in and around all school buildings and on all school property, both during school sessions and during school sponsored activities." Appropriate corrective action shall be undertaken by proper authority in cases of violations, the policy states.

The new policy will be implemented by rules and regulations formulated by Superintendent of Schools Robert Howlett:

Specifics included within the rules and regulations follow:

Discipline

Dismissal process may be implemented when a severe or chronic behavioral problem exists. Principal seeks parental cooperation in changing unacceptable behavior, and student may be withdrawn from class or sent home awaiting a parental conference. An extensive procedure for parent-school contact is spelled out within the rules, and specific steps are outlined for suspension procedures in cases wherein a student demonstrates seriously unacceptable behavior, consisting of disobedience, defiance, theft, damage to property or actions causing physical danger to self or others. Permanent expulsion is an action requiring Board of Education action, following review by the Superintendent of Schools, with appropriate provision made for hearings, conferences, etc.

Attendance

A student absent from school without parental permission is considered truant. School disciplinary action is the first step taken. Further incidents result in any or all of the following: referral to child study team for evaluation if there is indication of a potential learning disability; dismissal or suspension; legal action to force parents to send a child to school; formal complaint filed against student for repeated truancy; formal complaint filed against parents for failure to insure schooling; referral to community, county or state agencies.

In the case of cutting classes, guidance counselors and parents are to be informed by the teacher when a pupil is illegally absent, a parent conference is scheduled with principal or designee; administrators, counselors and/or teachers will counsel students having difficulties; and school disciplinary action is administered.

Vandalism

Students who vandalize school or personal property are subjected to school disciplinary action and are subject to suspension under Guidelines for Dismissal, Suspension and Expulsion. Student is subject to payment for all damages.

When injury to any school property is traced to one or more pupils, Administration is authorized to pursue civil remedies on its behalf. After estimates are obtained for repairs, voluntary compensation will be sought from parents; if the initial approach is unsuccessful, it is followed by a "demand letter", and, if necessary, institution of a civil suit is authorized for expenses over \$250.

Weapons

A weapon is any device that may be considered harmful, dangerous, disruptive or destructive. The policy cites knives, tools, walking sticks, bolo balls, clubs and explosive devices. If student in possession and there is reason to believe he or she used it or planned to use it destructively, weapon is confiscated and parents are summoned. The weapon is then turned over to the police. Formal complaint may be filed, and student will be suspended. If a student is considered a continuing danger to self or others or staff, consultation with assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services may follow.

If a student is in possession of a weapon but there is no reason to believe the child intends to use it destructively, weapon is confiscated, parents are summoned, and weapon

Continued on page 4

Scouts take part in Klondike



Fanwood Scout Troop 104 Devils Brigade Sled Team in Colonial District 24th Klondike Derby fire building competition at Surprise Lake Saturday. Left to right are James Sabbagh, Mark Masters, John Denlinger, Mike Triano, Christopher Squashic, Rustin Relkin, Mark Francisco, and Richard Hahn.

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