

# THS Dress Code Relaxed, Girls May Now Wear Slacks

By LARRY KELLEY  
Staff Writer

For the first time in the history of Trenton High School, girls are allowed to wear slacks to school, thanks to the efforts of THS Student Government Association (SGA).

Dr. Roland Daniels, THS principal, made the announcement Friday, after the SGA presented him with a petition with about 1,500 signatures from students and teachers.

Daniels, who received permission to relax the school dress code from Dr. Ercell I. Watson, school superintendent, said the dress code calls for a "neat, clean and appropriate" appearance and that girls could wear slacks beginning tomorrow.

## Sports Nite Next Goal

The SGA also is working for the revival of Girls' Sports Nite, which was cancelled after school disturbances in the fall of 1968.

Sports Nite, sponsored by the physical education department, consists of games, exhibits and contests for all THS girls.

John F. Tesauro, school board president, and Dr. Watson have given tentative approval for the affair after James Henderson, SGA president, asked for their approval at the October school board meeting.

The SGA had distributed questionnaires to all THS girls and faculty members. The girls voted 10 to 1 in favor of Sports Nite and the faculty voted 1 to 2 against it.

However, the SGA has met with both students and faculty and then formed discipline and planning committees which came up with recommendations.

The recommendations were presented to Daniels, who will take them to the faculty tomorrow. Daniels' decision, which is expected tomorrow, will be based on faculty support.

Henderson said the SGA was working for the revival of Sports Nite because, "our senior class has never seen one."

Sports Nite is usually held in March.

## School Board Considering Sport Nite

The probability that Trenton High School would have Sport Nite this Spring, the first time in three years, loomed large as Trenton School Board members considered reinstating the event into the early hours this morning.

As the Trentonian went to print, the board still was discussing and was expected to approve plans to hold the traditional girls festival this year.

But the board was expected to attach the reservation that the event would be reinstated only if the school was free of student disruptions this year and only if adequate security measures could be instituted the night of the event.

The distaff festival usually involving almost every female student at the high school was discontinued in 1968. An arts festival involving a smaller number of students replaced it last year.

Sport Nite had carried with it a history of fights and disruptions before it was discontinued and cancelled during a Spring when student fights and troubles had been especially heavy.

The board had asked for approval of Sport Nite from the high school faculty and received qualified approval Nov. 4. Some teachers privately denounced the board for requiring faculty approval. They complained that the board was "setting us up as patsies" in case trouble erupted this Spring.

Students at the high school urged reinstatement of the night. "We're seniors and we've never seen a Sport Nite and we want to see one," some student leaders told administration.

The board earlier voted a \$1,500 immediate salary increase to for Junior High School Three Principal Cletus McRae.

The raise marked the first time in several years that the board has raised a principal's salary during the school year.

"It's very unusual," said several board members, "but this is an unusual situation."

School Supt. Dr. Ercell I. Watson, other administrators and the board members agreed that McRae has been doing an exceptional job as principal of Junior Three, a deteriorating school plagued by racial and student troubles last year.

"The man is well worth it," said Vincent A. Halbert, assistant superintendent for personnel, testifying that McRae is working evenings and weekends in the school and the community.

Trenton Times, November 2, 1969

Trentonian,

November 12, 1969

# Sport Nite To Return In Spring

Trenton High School's traditional Sport Nite will return next spring.

"It's in the planning process now," THS Principal Dr. Roland Daniels said yesterday. "Our target date is approximately April 27."

The traditional girls festival will probably be held on three nights — a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday — the principal said.

A distinctive THS tradition since the early 1930's, Sport Nite was cancelled in 1968 after fights and racial disturbances at the high school.

Student leaders this fall asked school board members administrators and teachers to reinstitute Sport Nite.

The board gave tentative approval last month and the school system administration last week asked the high school faculty to approve the reinstatement.

Asking who would be responsible if the customary fierce competition led to trouble, the high school teachers said the decision — and responsibility — belonged to the school board.

After board members last week said they were assuming responsibility and would take steps to see that the events and practices for them will be properly supervised, the THS faculty cabinet told Schools Supt. Dr. Ercell I. Watson that the teachers were pledging "full cooperation."

The school administration is to arrange class adjustments for students and teachers during the weeks of practice for the three-night girls competition.

Traditionally, nearly all of the high school girls participate in Sport Nite. They are divided into two teams for competition in marching, folk dancing, modern dance, obstacle races and so on, in addition to non-competitive events, such as ballet.

The school board may formally announced Sport Nite's reinstatement at next Monday night's public meeting in Trenton High.

—STUART ROSE

*Trentonian*,  
November 13, 1969

# Trenton High Extravaganza Set *Sport Nite Revived*

Sport Nite, probably the most popular student activity at Trenton High School for more than 30 years, apparently will be held in April after a two-year absence.

The Trenton school board has given tentative approval for the extravaganza, which will take place on three nights.

Sport Nite which began in the early 1930's, was cancelled after school disturbances in the fall of 1967 and has not been held since that year. Last Spring, a cultural arts festival was held at THS, in place of Sport Nite.

The event consists of games, entertainment and contests for all THS girls, who are divided into Red and Black teams.

James Henderson, president of the THS Student Government Association, approached the school board in October seeking approval of Sport Nite. The board gave

tentative approval based on faculty support.

The SGA had presented the board with the results of a survey taken among THS girls and teachers. The girls voted 10 to 1 in favor of Sport Nite and the faculty voted 1 to 2 against it.

However, the faculty cabinet pledged "full cooperation" after board members said they would assume responsibility for supervision of the event.

Formal approval is expected at the board's public meeting Monday night.

Dr. Roland Daniels, THS principal, said the event is now in the planning stages with a target date set for "approximately April 27."

Sport Nite is sponsored by the THS physical education department.

Henderson said the SGA worked for the revival of Sport Nite because "our senior class has never seen one."

*Trenton Times*, November 13, 1969

## The Return of Sport Nite

Some of the best news that has come out of Trenton High School in many moons is the announcement that the school's traditional Sport Nite will be resumed.

Ruled out for the past three years because of fights and racial disturbances that have plagued the school's social calendar, the resumption of Sport Nite is a promising sign that conditions are returning to near-normalcy.

Originated in the early '30s, Sport Nite had become one of the most enjoyable events of the school year for the students and attracted broad public interest.

The plan to resume Sport Nite is but the latest and most significant sign among several that Trenton High's fever may be

breaking an recovery imminent.

It would be foolish, of course, to rule out the possibility for a new outbreak of trouble, either at the Sport Nite or at any other time, but there are at least signs now that the atmosphere of hostility is clearing.

The young people in the school should take advantage of the high spirit of competition that is manifested in events like Sport Nite and in other school activities to provide a healthy outlet for their normal energies.

We hope that this latest concession will stimulate the student body to a new cohesiveness that will help make it possible to restore Trenton High School as a proud and strong institution.

*Trentonian*, November 14, 1969

# *School Board Votes Money For Sport Nite*

The Trenton school board last night voted to allocate \$5,865 to cover the expenses of Trenton High School's Sports Nite to be held April 22, 23 and 24.

**Board members** Mrs. Barbara Potkay and Anthony Prunetti voted against allocating the funds. The proposal carried by a 6-2 vote.

One board member, Joseph Ganie, was absent from last night's public meeting.

## **Cancelled In 1967**

School board president John F. Tesauro said that the \$5,865 stipend was not much more than what was allocated for the last Sports Nite held in 1967.

The event was cancelled after school disturbances in the fall of 1967 and has not been held since. Last year, a cultural arts festival was held at THS in place of Sports Nite.

The funds allocated by the board last night cover stipends for teachers working on the three-day affair, the cost of props and costumes and pay for workers building the props.

Sports Nite, sponsored by the THS physical education department, consists of games, entertainment and contest for all THS girls, who are divided into Red and

Black teams. The event dates back to the early 1930's.

The program was revived this year after a request from the THS Student Government Association.

In other action last night, the board voted to create the new position of administrative assistant at Junior High School No. 2.

Watson said the position was being created to assist Junior 2 administrators in coping with discipline problems at the school.

The board also voted to name Lewis Jones as administrative assistant at the Jefferson School at a salary of \$13,500 and Mrs. Louise Bennet as coordinator of Head Start and Follow Through programs at a 12-month salary of \$13,420.

—Approved \$5,865 extra stipends for 15 Trenton High School personnel working overtime on Sport Nite activities.

# **Sports Nite Returning To THS**

After a three-year lapse, Sports Nite will return to Trenton High School from April 22 through 24 in the school's combined gymnasiums.

The expanded performance area will enable hundreds of participants to appear together in several spectacular numbers. Walter Krichling, head of the school's physical education department, announced yesterday.

Originated in 1936 to display the various athletic skills of the girls' physical education program, Sports Nite grew from one-night performance to a five-night spectacle.

Disturbances at the high school three years ago brought the popular show to a halt, Krichling said. At present, no students in the school have had any experience with a Sports Nite show.

Krichling said yesterday that the break in continuity has encouraged innovation and freshness of approach in this new Sports Nite program.

Constance Burch has been chosen mistress of ceremonies. Serving with her as members of the official family are Arleen Fagiani, Miss THS; Frances Edwards, Red Color Guard and Joanne Cuttre, Black Color Guard.

Other members chosen are Dietra Evans, Black Flag Bearer; Sandra Chiaramonti, Black Color Guard; Violet Sewell, Black Color Guard; Bonnie Boka, Red Flag Bearer; JoAnn Murga, Red Color Guard, and Brenda Highsmith, Red Color Guard.

Joy Baker is captain of the Red Team, and Denise Fitzgerald is heading the Black Team.

*Trenton Times*, February 19, 1970

*Trentonian*,  
April 8, 1970

# Two Area Schools Plan Athletic Events

## Sport Night At Trenton High, Girls' Show At St. Anthony's

Trenton High School and St. Anthony's High School students are planning major athletic events for this month.

After a three-year hiatus, Sport Night is returning to Trenton High School April 29, 30 and May 1 at 8:15 p. m. with some 400 students expected to participate.

At St. Anthony's High School the 5th annual Girls Athletic Association Show is set for April 15, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p. m. involving some 200 girls.

Red and Black team members at Trenton High have been practicing since the end of January for their extravaganza entitled "Age of Aquarius," said Walter Krichling, physical education department head, who is coordinating the show.

Competitive events will include tap, character and modern dance, band and art. Speciality numbers also are being planned at after school practice sessions, he said.

### More Time Needed

Originally the Sport Night dates were set for April 22 to 24, but more practice time was needed, so the new dates were set, Krichling said.

Joy Baker is Red Team

captain and Denise Fitzgerald heads the Black Team. Constance Burch will be mistress of ceremonies.

Originated in 1935 to display various athletic skills of the girls physical education program, Sport Night grew from a one-night performance to a five-night spectacle.

The disturbances at the high school three years ago brought the event to a halt and at present, no pupil has had any previous experience with a Sport Night show, which should give the coming festivities a fresh approach, Krichling said.

"Thank Heaven for Little Girls" will be the theme at St. Anthony's when the Gold Team headed by Barbara Abbott is pitted against the Brown Team headed by Donna Bernocchi.

Among the 20 competitive events planned are jazz dance, vocalists, tap, novelty, interpretive and folk dance, gymnastics and twirling, according to Mrs. Pauline Mains of the physical education department, who is coordinating the effort.

Participation is voluntary and practice sessions take place after school, she added.



Gold Team Captain Barbara Abbott (left) and Brown Team Captain Donna Bernocchi prepare for the fifth annual Girls Athletic Association Show April 15, 16 and 17 at St. Anthony's High School.



Staff Photo By John Pietras

At Trenton High School Joy Baker (seated), Red Team captain, and Rita DeGeorge go over a ballet number for the April 29, 30 and May 1 Sport Night.

# New THS Election Today?

While Trenton's adult politicians scramble for City Hall seats, the younger generation also is discovering the joys of political battle.

Trenton High school student government has conducted its annual election twice so far this month — with much disagreement about who won — and the student leaders may announce a re run this morning.

For several days in a row, supporters of one student presidential candidate have threatened to boycott classes and picket the school.

This political enthusiasm emerged after a four-way race for the student government presidency, in which no one won a majority.

Under rules established before the election, the student government staged a run off this week. The youth who led the field in the first election lost the second time. His supporters claimed that he was president elect anyway, saying the student constitution requires that the candidate who gets the most votes wins, whether or not he gets a majority.

A school official said yesterday that the student government will make an announcement on the subject this morning, and several parents of THS youths said they'd heard that the principal and student government have decided on another election.

Despite picketing threats, one THS junior said he thinks most students won't get carried away by politics, because they don't want the upcoming Sports Nite program cancelled.

*Trentonian,*  
April 17, 1970

## Fresh Start At Trenton High

# Sport Night Comes To Life

By BIRGITTA NYHOLM  
Staff Writer

The final touches are being put on the first Sport Night extravaganza at Trenton High School in three years.

The three-day happening next week will pit the Red Team against the Black as 400 students compete for honors under an "Age of Aquarius" theme.

Sport Night personnel hope 2,200 spectators will fill the THS gym each night, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:15 p.m., to cheer the teams.

Competitive cheers will be led by the "Visitors from the Red Planet" on the Red Team and by "The Amazing Mets" on the Black.

Walter Krichling, physical education department head who is coordinating Sport Night, listed the following specialty numbers in the contest for team points:

### Contest Features

Character Dance — "The Flower of Aquarius" (Red) "Moon Landing" (Black)

Marching Teams — "The Red Baron" (R) "The Constellation Aquarius" (B)

Modern Exercises — "The Love Generation" (R) "Flower Children" (B)

Modern Dance — "Aquarius the Water Bearer" (R) "In Search of Peace" (B)

Bands — "Hawaii Five-O" (R) "Alfie" (B)

Tap Dance — "The Year of the Dog" (R) "Draft Lottery" (B)

### Decorating Competition

In addition to the specialty and gymnastic contests, there also is a decoration competition for which the teams are painting 12, 20-foot window murals.

The paintings will be put up Monday in the gym depicting dragons, Aquarius, space-ships, the moon walk and the dove of peace.

Non-competitive numbers include the prelude dance, "The Spirit of Aquarius," which sets the spirit of the show. A ballet entitled "Mary Poppins" also will be performed.

Sport Night originated in 1936 as a one-night-stand and through the years developed into a three-day competition.

Following Trenton disturbances three years ago, the events came to a halt, but this year, with none of the students having previous Sport Night experience, a fresh start will be made for for to the traditional THS happening.

Tickets can be purchased every day in room A139 at THS and from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.



Joy Baker, captain of the Red Team, paints murals for Sport Night.

Trenton Times, April 24, 1970

THS Revives Show Wednesday

## Sport Nite Will Need a Break

By Joo Piscione  
Staff Writer

They'll be trying to revive a piece of the past Wednesday night at Trenton High School. They'll pump a little life into a corpse called Sport Nite in the hope that it will rekindle some of the school spirit lost in recent years. They'll need a break.

You've got to go back a few years to see Sport Nite in its glory. You've got to go back to the days when THS students cared. Those were the days when the kids argued for weeks in advance about the relative merits of the Black and Red teams. Those were the days when girls in the Junior high schools couldn't wait to move into that big building on Chambers St.

Sport Nite lasted a week in those days. The running score was a matter of city-wide interest. Tickets were sold out a month in advance, and juvenile scalpers found a rich payday. Decorated cars would stream through the downtown sections after each night's show, and on Friday night there'd be a dozen parties around town for the kids.

In the good years, they sold nearly 11,000 tickets to Sport Nite. The money realized supported the big school's athletic program, the school paper and a host of smaller extra-curricular activities. Sport Nite was king.

But Sport Nite died two years ago in the wake of racial violence in the school. Thirty-four years of glory and tradition were destroyed just

like that. Plans for the 1968 edition of Sport Nite were almost finalized when trouble broke out. The big show was cancelled. Tension in the school forced its cancellation again last year.

The board of education decided that Sport Nite would make a comeback this year. The THS athletic department was against the idea, but many of the students seemed interested. They've put it together in modified form, and they'll give it another try Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The show will run three nights instead of five, and there'll be only half as many students involved as in the peak years.

"The numbers aren't really significant," says Walter Krichling, head of the school's

athletic department. "The kids have been working like crazy and it's going to be a fine show. We've overcome all sorts of problems in putting the show together, and we're hoping that it will be the first step in getting things back on the right track."

One of the problems faced by the more than 400 students and 20 teachers working on the show has been the loss of continuity. "Several parts of the show are traditional," says Krichling. "In the past girls would learn these parts from the girls who preceded them. But the girls who were in the show three years ago are gone, so we've had to start from scratch in many areas."

In case you've forgotten, Sport Nite performers are all girls with the exception of the

bands. The boys involved serve as ushers, stage hands and prop builder. The show includes marches, drills, relay races, dances and specialty numbers, all built around a central theme. This year's theme is "The Age of Aquarius."

It's a well chosen theme in a year when the future of the show is hanging in the balance. Ticket sales have been slow so far, and the last thing the renaissance of Sport Nite needs is a financial loss. "I've told the kids they've done a fine job, and that we're going to put on a great show even if there's nobody there," says Krichling.

The kids and the teachers have been working after school for the past two months. They deserve better than they'll get.

Trentonian, April 28, 1970



Staff Photo By Mike Steinbacher

Black team members tune up dancing skills for Sports Night. Chris Costanzo, standing, is

surrounded clockwise by Jacqueline Zoladz, Geraldine Brundage and Sherry Kaplan.

# *Sport Night: A Beam Of Sun Through Clouds Of Protest*

At a recent student boycott of Trenton High School, students carried picket signs protesting what they called an "unconstitutional" student government election.

However, one sign stood out over the rest. It read: "This Will Not Affect Sport Night."

The sign was symbolic of the concern students are showing for the extravaganza which begins tonight after a

two-year absence. Even during a protest, students took time out to express their desire to hold Sport Night — cancelled after school disturbances in the fall of 1967 and not held since.

### Popular Event

The three-day event, probably the most popular at the high school for more than 30 years, began in 1936 as a one-night stand.

By this year, however, no student at the high school had ever taken part in a Sport Nite, so the Student Government Association (SGA) led by its president James Henderson, petitioned the school board to bring the event back to life.

The board agreed and voted to allocate \$5,865 to cover expenses for the extravaganza.

Tonight, tomorrow night and Friday night, the Black team will go at it against the Red team in a series of contests featuring dances, marching teams, modern exercises and bands.

The theme of the event is "Age of Aquarius." Even during that recent school boycott, one picket sign showed the students wanted the "Age of Aquarius," at least for three days of Sport Nite.

# There's Joy At THS

## Sports Night Rings Out Cheerfully

By LARRY KELLEY  
Staff Writer

The dove flew high above the Trenton High School gym last night. The lights went out and the music rose from the darkness. Voices sang "Age of Aquarius" and "Let The Sunshine In" and the 34th Trenton High Girls Sports Night began with joyous sounds.

Screaming, shrieking, happy voices filled the gym, lights danced on the walls and colorfully costumed figures danced on the floor.

The Red Team competed against the Black Team for two hours. There were dancing, singing and marching and when it was over, the Black Team won 6-5 but it didn't really matter. More than 1,000

people were feeling too good to worry about who lost.

The competition will continue tonight and tomorrow night but the theme of the event is more important to most of the people involved: "The Age of Aquarius."

### Rooters Divide

Red Team supporters sat on one side of the gym and Black Team supporters on the other. Every few minutes, ear-shattering screams went up to show support and everybody jumped around.

Dr. Roland Daniels, THS principal, sat near the middle and said he wished it always could be like this at the school.

Plainclothes policemen scattered around the gym were a reminder of how it sometimes

is at the school but most people were having too much fun to notice them.

The Red Team received a point for their cover design on the program: a fig-bearing dove surrounded by peace symbols.

The Red Team also won points for decorations, music and tied with the Black Team for songs.

### Points For Blacks

The Black Team won points for tap dancing, modern exercises, marching, characters and finally cheers.

The last category, cheers gave the Black Team its one point edge going into tonight's competition.

Friday night, total points over the three nights will be

*(Continued on Page 6, Col. 1)*



Staff Photo By Herman Laesker

Christine Costanzo as the Dove leads the Black Team's search for peace.



# Sports Night Bursts Joyfully In Trenton

*Continued from Page One.*

added up to decide the winner.

In 33 years of competition, the Red Team has won 16 times and the Black Team 15 times, with two ties.

More than 400 students are taking part in the three-day event, being held for the first time in three years. And it is obvious that no energy or expense was spared for the activity.

The costumes are numerous and colorful and the props large and creative. But the most important contribution to Sports Night is the students, who did most of the work and created most of the acts.

The titles of some of these acts reflect their thinking: "In Search Of Peace," "The Love Generation," "Flower Children" and "The Constellation of Aquarius."

After each act, Walter Kriching, head of the THS physical education department, announced the winning team. Then the team captain, either Joe Baker of the Red Team and Denise Fitzgerald of the

Black Team, carried the team flag around the floor while the students screamed and yelled their approval.

## Lots Of Fun

It was all fun, which is the way Sports Night was supposed to be before being cancelled in the fall of 1967 after school disturbances.

But the THS Student Government Association asked the

school board for Sports Night this year because most of the students wanted it.

When the show ended last night, people came up to Dr. Daniels and told him how nice it was. He said it would be nicer if it could be that way all the time.

"But it shows," he said, "that the students are capable of a lot of good things."



Staff Photo By Herman Laesker

Geralaine Brundage (foreground), a member of the Black Team, waits in wings with other members of her group as girl gymnasts enact a number entitled "In Search Of Peace." The girls were performing in Sport Night opening at Trenton High School last night.



Trentonian Photo

**SPORT NIGHT RETURNS** — Trenton High School girls bring THS's traditional Sport Nite show back on stage last night, with Arleen Fagiani (center), Miss Trenton High School, giving the "ready, set . . ." to Joy Baker (left), Red Team captain, and Denise Fitzgerald, Black Team captain. The Black Team downed the Reds, 6-5, last night.

*Trentonian*, April 30, 1970

## Two-Year Gap Fails To Dim Glamor

Acting Sports Editor Herb Clark covered Sports Night

The Evening Times for many years until it was discontinued in 1967. Last night he returned to the THS gym to see how the new production compares with those of the past.

By **HERBERT S. CLARK**  
Staff Writer

Sports Night at Trenton High resumed this year after a two-year absence, and anyone who saw it in 1967 (the last year) and was away until last night would have noted little difference in the production.

Brightly costumed young ladies, well played music,

boys scurrying around moving scenery and the noise of cheering youngsters were all the same.

There were a few differences though. Not as many participated, there was no clamoring for seats, there were more uniformed policemen around.

C. Walter Benner, Trenton High vice principal in charge of the Sports Night arrangements, said he thinks after last night's successful production, the gym will be almost filled for tonight's show. And, Dr. Roland T. Daniels, THS principal, applauding after each presentation, looks for the usual packed house on Friday.

Sports night is a bit shorter

now, but it lacks none of the glitter it had before. A character dance number replaces the folk dance, and Mrs. Eleanor Pulaski, one of the girl's gym teachers who has arranged the event for many years, said this was done to provide a broader scope for originality.

In the past, Sports Night had been a main source of revenue for the school to support its athletic program. This year some \$5,000 had been allotted to the school board to run the show, and school officials are hoping the annual event will come back into its past glory.

**Needed Parents' Permission**  
"The youngsters wanted it,"

a school official said. "They asked the board, and when it was approved the teachers resumed with as much enthusiasm as in the past. Some of the kids lost some interest then, and there has been a lack of spirit among the general body of students, but those that are participating are doing so with as much pride and hard work as in the past."

This year the girls had to receive permission from their parents to participate. In the past, it was part of the girls gym program. Only about 400 were granted this privilege.

Joy Baker, Red Team cap-

tain, said she watched Sports Night before ever attending Trenton High. Her sister participated, and she was looking forward to it too. But in her sophomore year, 1968, it was cancelled because of racial strife in February and was not scheduled last year.

**'Felt Like Moving'**  
"I'm glad we have it back," Joy said, "if for nothing else than to show the community we do have some unity at Trenton High and can do things together."

Another happy youngster is Lois Muccioli, who had also grown up with the hope of being in Sports Night and almost missed out. "When they

cancelled it two years ago I felt like moving to Ewing," she said.

There's a little different policy in the distribution of tickets, mainly because of the revenue. Bonner said there is no complimentary list as in the past when teachers, board members, the City Council and secretaries were given tickets. Because it is being held only three nights instead of five, Bonner said, "we just couldn't afford to give the tickets away." The price this year is the same as in the past, \$2 and \$1.50. The Trenton High gym seats 1,645 for each performance.

## Red Team Triumphs

The Red Team triumphed, 6-4, last night in Trenton High School's 34th Sport Nite competition.

That gives the Red a one-point edge over the Black Team, which won 6-5 Wednesday, and makes tonight's final Sport Nite show the showdown.

After tonight's performance, total points will be added up to determine the winning team. In 33 years of competition, the Red Team has won 16, the Black Team 15. The two have tied twice.

*Trentonian,*

May 1, 1970

# Sports Night Lead Taken By Red Team

By **JOYCE PERSICO**  
Staff Writer

The Trenton High School Red Team won the second round of Sports Night competition last night, 6 to 4, and now has an 11 to 10 lead over the Black Team.

Music from "Hair" spilled over a colorfully dressed capacity crowd at the school gym as Trenton High girls performed in the annual event that was suspended for the past two years.

The spirit and discipline of the competition was noticeable early in the evening as a young dancer clad in pink leotard and tights started to lose a lavender cellophane skirt that hung from her waist. She never missed a step.

### Winner Tonight

Tonight, after all the points are tallied, either the Red or the Black Team will emerge a winner. In overall scores, the Red Team is ahead, 11-10, after having lost 6-5 to the Black Team on Wednesday.

Stressing love and youth, the theme of the 34th Sports Night at Trenton High is "Age of Aquarius." Costumes range

from red and white Red Baron outfits to psychedelic green mini shifts.

As points for individual categories were announced, the youthful audience screamed its approval in what can only be described as an upsurge of youth power.

### No Losers

The Red Team won its points for cheers, modern exercises, songs, decorations, modern dance and tied with the Black Team for character dance.

The Red Team won its four points for marching, tap dance, band and character dance.

Among audience favorites was "The Year of the Dog." A Red Team tap dance featuring "Flower Drum Song" music and peppy Trenton High mandarins. Another show-stopper was the Black Team's modern dance, "In Search of Peace," which is a poetic dance for world harmony.

Talent, spirit and youthful zest will fill Trenton High's gym tonight and no matter which team wins there'll be no losers.



# Larry Kelley

Staff Writer

## Is THS Any Good? Ask Wayne Davis

**THE DOCTOR TOOK THE** crutches away from Wayne Davis and put them on the floor six feet away. Wayne Davis cannot move too well without some kind of aid. His job was to travel the six feet, somehow, and get up on the crutches.

Wayne Davis got on his stomach and used his powerful arms and chest to drag his limp legs to the crutches. He grabbed them and struggled to his feet.

By traveling 72 inches, Wayne Davis, a senior at Trenton High School, was accepted at the University of Illinois.

The University of Illinois has one of the best programs in the nation for physically handicapped students. To get into it, you have to pass a grueling test of mobility to show the people who run the school that you will not come there as a parasite.

Wayne Davis was born with cerebral palsy. He is paralyzed from the hips down but from the hips up he is extraordinary.

He is an honor student at Trenton High and was recently awarded the \$600 William J. Bickett Scholarship by his teachers. He also was awarded a New Jersey State Scholarship for \$500 a year so it was important to Wayne Davis that he be accepted at the University of Illinois.

"It was the biggest thrill of my life," he was saying at the high school the other day. "It's something you work at for a long time and then when it happens, it's hard to believe."

**WAYNE DAVIS LIVES** at 27 Cleveland Avenue, a good six blocks from Trenton High School. Every morning he rides a bicycle to school and his mother walks beside him.

She takes the bike home and at 3 p.m. comes back to the school with it.

"It's all been worth it," she says. "He got what he wanted."

For three years at Junior High School No. 2, Mrs. Sara Davis took her son to and from school in a wheel chair. She did this in all kinds of weather, every morning and every afternoon.

"What happened when the weather got bad?" Wayne was asked.

"I got wet."

One of Wayne's teachers at Trenton High picks him up for school now when the weather is bad. At the University of Illinois, there will be no one to pick him up in the rain.

That's why he was given those tests at the University of Illinois. The doctor wanted to see if Wayne could make it on his own. There was never any question that he could make it on his own scholastically.

**WAYNE DAVIS IS THE** Trenton High School that nobody talks about.

He is a quiet kid and he's modest. He will not admit that he has had to work extra hard to get into college because of his handicap. He will get embarrassed when you commend him for not turning into a vegetable. He will reluctantly admit that he is the editor of the *Spectator*, the school newspaper.

Instead, he will tell you that everybody has to work hard to get into college — that he was born with cerebral palsy and never could play baseball or football so, he doesn't know what he missed.

He also will tell you what Trenton High School has done for him.

"Before I came here, I had the impression that Trenton High was a cold school that had a lot of trouble," he says. "But most people were willing to help me. Less than 100 kids out of 3,000 are giving the school a bad name."

Wayne Davis is not alone at Trenton High School. He is one of more than 400 kids taking part in Sports Night, trying to make it something the school can be proud of.

He worked all day and a few nights for two weeks on the lighting for the event and he helped paint the props.

"You don't hear much when something good happens at the school," he says. "The protests get all the publicity."

**NEXT YEAR, WAYNE DAVIS** will look back at Trenton High School and be thankful. He will be thankful for his part in the Forum Club, the Latin Club, the Key Club and the Math Club.

He will be thankful for Sports Night and the *Spectator* and all the things that made him feel like he belonged.

"This is a good school," he says. "There's a good education here for anyone who wants it."

Wayne Davis wanted it and he got it. And next year, when the rain falls, he will make it to school by himself.

# Sport Nite 'Big Success'

The Black Team scored the most points, but both the Black and Red Teams turned out to be winners as the renaissance of Sport Nite at Trenton High wound up as an unqualified success, last night.

Cancelled for two years because of disturbances at the school, Sport Nite returned Wednesday, Thursday and Friday free of incident but packed with excellent en-

tertainment, spirited rivalry and most importantly, avid interest.

After a slow beginning Wednesday, when some 650 spectators turned out, things began to pick up. Nearly 1,000 were on hand for Thursday's competition and the crowning glory occurred last night when school officials had to turn away several hundred late arrivals with the spacious gym already packed to the

rafters.

Trailing, 11-10, after the first two nights of dances, marches, races and games, the Black Team scored a 6-3 victory last night to emerge the overall victor, 16-14.

School administrators were beaming as the huge crowd filed out in orderly fashion at the conclusion of the show. Several termed the show a "big success."

—JOE PISCIONE

## SPORT NITE BOOSTER

Sir: In the April 28 edition of The Trentonian, there appeared an article entitled: Sport Nite Will Need a Break. The general tone of the article was that Trenton High's Sport Nite and the school spirit of THS are things of the past. Neither is fair. The girls in Sport Nite have been working diligently and giving of themselves unselfishly in a sincere effort to revive Sport Nite and they have done just that. The girls are in Sport Nite because they do have school spirit and they do have faith in our fine school, even if many of our citizens do not.

It is about time that the people of our city realized that the riots are over and that THS is one of the finest high schools in our state. This can hardly be seen through the dirt that is dragged up concerning the past. Sport Nite is the present and Sport Nite is good—good for THS and good for our city. It is unity, it is school spirit, it is Trenton's young people at their best. Youth needs encouragement and not reminders of riots or a nostalgic attitude of what Sport Nite was. We all, as citizens, must start somewhere. The girls of Trenton High have made one step. Now it is up to the people of Trenton to take the next step and support the girls of Sport Nite, our high school and the youth of Trenton.

Carolyn C. Mitchell  
Trenton High Student

Trentonian, May 2, 1970

Trentonian,  
May 2, 1970



**FINAL PERFORMANCE** — Red team members go through final act Friday night during

Trenton Times, May 3, 1970

Trenton High School's annual 'Sports Night.'

# Sports Night Return Hailed As Success

In the beginning of January, most of the 400 Trenton High School students who took part in last week's Girl's Sports Night, knew virtually nothing about entertainment.

They had to be taught tap dancing, ballet, singing, modern dancing and modern exercises. That's where the teaching staff stepped in.

Every day after school and during school they worked with the kids bringing to Trenton High one of the most entertaining Sports Nights ever held.

## Ended Friday Night

The three-day event ended Friday night with the Black Team on top 16-14. After 34 years of competition, the Red and Black teams are now tied, 16-16, with two ties.

Last week's affair represented just one of the many accomplishments of the Student Government Association (SGA), which asked the school board to revive Sports Night after a two-year absence. It was cancelled in the Fall of 1967 after student disturbances.

This year, the SGA, led by its president James Henderson, petitioned the students and then came before the board, which agreed to allocate close to \$6,000 for the extravaganza.

"This year's SGA was the most successful the school has ever had," said Dr. Roland Daniels, THS principal.

## 1,000 Attended

Close to 1,000 spectators attended Sports Night on Wednesday and Thursday nights and Friday night, several hundred were turned away as about 1,600 jammed the THS gym.

"Three nights without incident made this a very successful affair," Daniels said. "I'm quite proud of the student body because of that. I'm sure we'll give consideration to continuing the program next year."

Daniels added that many students who did not participate in Sports Night this year "wished they had."

"This leads me to believe they'll be greater participation next year."

*Trenton Times, May 3, 1970*

## Letters TO THE EDITOR

### Sports Night

Sir: On behalf of the staff and student body of Trenton Central High School, I wish to express our appreciation for the very fine publicity given the school in regard to Sports Night presentation.

Such newspaper publicity will go far toward healing very deep wounds which now exist.

**Roland H. Daniels**  
Principal

*Trenton Times, May 11, 1970*