

Cover the good news

Your newspaper always writes about the gang fights and all at Trenton High. When they have Sports Night again, I would like to see you write about that in the paper. Stop picking on Trenton High! It is a good school and there is nothing going on there that doesn't happen in any other school.

Miss Disgusted

When the fights stop happening, we'll stop writing about them. And as for your contention that Trenton High is like any other school, would you care to compare your school's dropout and test failure rates to the rest of the state?

— *Ed Note*

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Staff photo by Frank Jacobs III

Senior Marta Santos leads the tap dancers during practice for the upcoming Trenton Central High School Sports Nite '94.

Gearing up for Sports Nite '94

TCHS students practice for expanded 3-night event

By TRACY LENZY
Staff Writer

TRENTON — "Forget the rest, because the Red Team's the best," said Trenton Central High senior Taya Brown.

Brown is captain of the Red Team, which will be competing against the Black Team at this year's Sports Nite '94, scheduled for 7 p.m. March 16, 17 and 18.

About 1,000 juniors and seniors will participate in this year's competition, which has been expanded to include an additional night because of the overwhelming success of last year's competition.

"The Red Team looks good, so I think they are going to win," said Brown. "All the participants look forward to it, and it brings out many people from the community."

Daniel Greh, captain of the Black Team, disagreed with Brown's prediction about the winner. "The Black Team is working hard and is doing a lot of practicing, so I believe we are going to win," he said. "The team is really psyched because more people in the community come out to this

event than any other at the school."

The theme of Sports Nite '94 is "That's Entertainment." It will include competitions in cover design, band, art decoration, marching teams, cheerleading, karate, novelty races, obstacle races, volleyball, modern, tap, aerobic and video dance.

THE EVENT had been a tradition for decades at TCHS, but was stopped after civil rights riots wracked the city, according to Lois Enourato, coordinator of Sports Nite.

Sports Nite was an annual event presented by the girls of Trenton Central High School and the Girls Athletic Department. The competition between the Black and Red teams began in 1935 because of the absence of athletic teams for girls. The girls wore gym suits and paper costumes.

"Some of the residents mentioned the event at Dr. Venable's Superintendent's forums," Enourato said. "They explained how it had been a tradition and was a big deal in the community."

SHE SAID Dr. Venable researched the event and decided it should be reinstated.

"We had to really sell the idea to the students," said Brady. "Once they knew what it was about, they were anxious to participate." Last year's event was considered a great success.

Lisa Brady, senior class adviser, explained that Sports Nite is not only a competition, but an educational experience for students. It develops qualities such as cooperation, teamwork, pride and satisfaction that will carry over to academic and personal achievement. "This carries over to grades, discipline and attendance and teaches the students the value of teamwork," she said.

"Even though they are in competition for three days, they realize there's no Black without the Red and no Red without the Black."

Tickets are \$5 and on sale now for Sports Nite, and there will be reserved seating only. Tickets can be purchased by calling (609) 989 9256 before 3 p.m. Tickets for remaining seats will be sold at the door.

Sports Nite '94 runs this week

Because of last year's success, Trenton Central High School's Sports Nite '94 will run for three evenings this week, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

"That's Entertainment" is this year's theme for the three nights of competition, scheduled for 7 p.m. in the gymnasium of the high school on Chambers Street.

Competitions will include: cover design, band, art decoration, marching teams, cheerleading, novelty races, obstacle races, volleyball, modern dance, tap dance, aerobic dance and video dance.

The team captains this year are Tiffany Carter and Daniel Gueh for the Black Team and Taya Brown and Corey Ingram for the Red Team. Emcee chores will be handled by Nia Brown and Rebecca Yull.

Reserved seat only tickets can be purchased in advance at the high school. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, call the high school at 989-9256 before 3 p.m.

— JIM LABIG

Trentonian,

March 14, 1994



Trentonian Photo/GREGG SLABODA
A Red team members performs a dance routine at Trenton High's Sports' Nite '94.

Every day should be Sports' Nite for Trenton students

Extravaganza sorta fits. Glittery? Kinda. Glitzy? Uh-huh. A spectacle? And then some.

Night One of Trenton High School's Sports' Nite '94 was an event you have to go to sometime to describe, and then, when you think you're there, you go some more. I mean the thing was part Olympics, part Super Bowl halftime show, a little bit "American Gladiators," with maybe some MTV and "Soul Train" tossed in for good measure.

Brian Roldan, the Black Team mascot, who spent the better part of three hours perspiring like mad in



David Leibowitz

a furry black panther costume, hit the proverbial nail on the head.

"It's all that," was how he put it.

What more is there to say about the second annual Sports' Nite, brought back last year after a 22-year hiatus, except this: As you stood there, packed into Tornado Alley with a thousand others watching kids, black and white, Hispanic and Oriental, getting along, rooting each other on, you had to wish that Trenton High could be like that every day.

The Sports' Nite concept pits two teams of juniors and seniors — the Red versus the Black — in a three-day-long ultra-decathlon, comprised of events like cheerleading, aerobics, tug-o-war, art design and an obstacle race.

Let's not get caught up in logistics, however. Like I was saying, last night was Night One, a total sell-out, and if decibel level and grins per square foot mean anything at all, it went great.

"This brings the whole community together," said Red Teamer Bryan Turner. "Red team, black, what-
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Trenton kids enjoy night of togetherness

(Continued from Page Five)
ever color it is, we're still friends."

Things commenced with the marching competition, which looked a whole bunch like a Busby Berkeley production number circa 1994, then segued quickly into cheerleading, complete with guy acrobats, and moved right into the novelty race, which saw the night's first hero.

That would have been Lamont, the Red Team anchor man, who, in a race that required you to drive a four-wheeled plastic seat at top speed, made a tremendous belly-flop, that took him a good 20 yards to victory.

The screams hadn't yet died down and the kid was giving an interview like he'd been practicing all his life.

"It felt good," was what he said. Modern dance was next, followed by the tug-o-war, where guys donned these body harnesses and tried to pull each other around the gym. The Black Team kind of cruised through, led by Rashawn Davis, who looked like he could have pulled the kid he was up against and the state of Nebraska over into Bucks County.

Rashawn, buddy, did that guy have a chance?

"I don't think so," he said, then went back to hitting bodybuilding poses. Who was going to tell him stop?

Next up, tap dancing, followed by another novelty race, this one involving a dash while wearing outsized pants and an outsized tie. It was going great guns for Team Black until they ran through their

pants.

They held on to win anyway, I think. To be honest, the scoring had me a little confused, but the point was a good time, and that's what I was having.

Talked to Brian Roldan in his panther costume again, the sweat was pouring off the kid and he was smiling madly.

"I'm burning but it's worth it," he said. "This is a chance we get to express ourselves and have a good time with no violence. There's nothing but positivity here."

From there it was on to aerobics, then volleyball and video dancing, which looked like it sounds — MTV stage show all the way. After karate, the obstacle race brought Night One to a close. The score thus far? A tie, eight events apiece.

The crowd was smiling on their way out of the gym, from Superintendent Bernice Venable down to the Trenton cops. Betty Pullen, Red Team, Class of 1960, recalled her Sports Nites with a smile.

"I think it's wonderful for the kids to be active and to participate," she said.

The Owens brothers, Tawuan and Terrell, class of approximately 2008, seconded the motion. What event do they want to be in.

"One of the flippers," they chorused.

They were smiling, these two, not yet 10 years old. Smiling at the thought of one day going to Trenton High School. They'd seen no violence, nothing to be afraid of, just fun and togetherness.

Now why couldn't every day be like that?

Trentonian, March 17, 1994



Staff photo by Cindy DeSau

Members of the Black Team perform a modern dance number.

Students show their talents

Trenton teens shine as they perform for Sports Nite '94

By TRACY LENZY
Staff Writer

TRENTON — The best-kept secret in the city is how talented the average Trenton Central High School student is, said yearbook adviser Karen Moore.

It was standing-room-only last night in the gymnasium of Trenton High as talented youngsters more than proved Moore's point at Night Two of Sports Nite '94. About 1,000 juniors and seniors participated in this year's competition which began Wednesday and ends tonight.

The theme of Sports Nite '94 is "That's Entertainment." The competition pits the Red Team against the Black Team in several categories, including cover design, band, cheerleading, karate, art, novelty races, volleyball and modern, tap, aerobic and video dance.

Screams and yells filled the packed gymnasium as the event commenced with the marching competition, then went into

a cheerleading competition and on to the novelty races. Instead of a DJ, Black and Red Team bands played the music for their respective teams, adding flare to the competition.

Even though they are competing for three days, Black and Red Team members were cheering each other on during their performances, showing the true meaning of sportsmanship.

"The students were assigned teams based on their various gym classes," said Lisa Brady, senior class adviser. "So many of them have friends on the opposite teams. They have all gotten along really well throughout this competition."

STOPPED 22 YEARS ago after a 35-year tradition and reinstated last year, the spirit and energy of Sports Nite has remained the same, according to Pam Bryson. She was a member of the Red Team in 1971, the last year the event was held before the hiatus.

"They are putting their hearts into it the way we did back then," Bryson said.

"The spirit of the event has not changed. I just think the competitions are more modern than they were 23 years ago."

One of the modern competitions in the event was the video dance category. Clad in funky costumes and dancing to the sounds of today's hottest pop artists, such as Janet Jackson and Toni Braxton, performers modeled dance moves found on an MTV video.

But it was good old-fashioned tap dancing that had one audience member enthralled. "Watch this girl go," said Virgil "Desi" Mobley, a 1993 graduate and alumnus of Sports Nite '93. He was referring to senior Marta Santos leading the Red Team tap dancers to the beat of the old Benny Goodman hit, "Sing, Sing, Sing." "She is awesome; she moves like a professional tap dancer."

"I felt like a father tonight," said Mayor Douglas H. Palmer. "I am so proud of all these youngsters. We have such a wealth of talent in the city among our young people."