

# Union calls off strike; school back in session

The '79 teacher strike has been over for nine days. Pending the outcome of litigation brought on by parents, the 15 days of education that the students lost will not be made up.

The Board of Education and the Niles Township Federation of Teachers (NTFT) reached a tentative agreement early Sept. 25, after the board negotiating team had proposed a substantially higher pay increase than they had before. The increase amounted to a 10 per cent across-the-board pay increase this year and 8.7 per cent increases for each of the next two years.

An East teacher who was paid the average salary last year of \$23,000, according to Supt. Wesley Gibbs, can expect to be paid \$25,600 this year; \$28,200 next year, and more than \$31,000 in 1981-82.

The union also won the following provisions for the 360 teachers it represents:

- A grievance procedure for teachers who feel that an extracurricular assignment, such as coaching soccer, causes them a hardship. The union defended this clause by citing the instance of an East English teacher

with a young child at home who was given two coaching assignments.

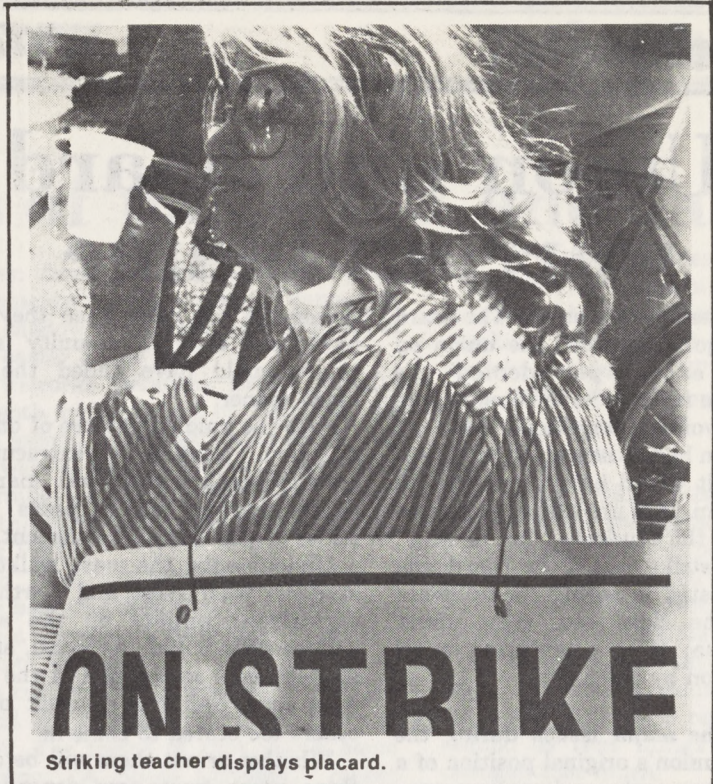
- A five per cent salary bonus over the regular stipend they get for extracurricular duties for the second such duty they take; 10 per cent for the third.

- A provision whereas all extracurricular pay would be tied to the salary schedule so that stipends for these duties would be increased automatically each year.

- A provision which would establish a faculty-administration committee to suggest which hall and cafeteria supervision duties could be eliminated.

The settlement followed student walkouts on Monday and Tuesday.

The teachers ratified the board-union contract early Wednesday morning and then returned to their respective schools to teach.



Striking teacher displays placard.

# NILEHILITE

Volume 42, Number 1

NILES EAST HIGH SCHOOL, SKOKIE, ILL.

Friday, October 5, 1979



Students who walked out of classes rally outside school.

## A brief history <sup>80195V</sup>

### Strike lasts 15 days

by David Eingorn

Late Tuesday night, Sept. 4, the Niles Township Federation of Teachers (NTFT), voted to strike, marking the fourth teacher walkout since 1967.

The union struck after the Board of Education refused to discuss the non-salary items of the contract. During this time period, the board remained firm that it wished to continue with the provisions from the last contract.

"It's only their thinking that they can say that only such items are open to negotiations and that's it. In effect, what they're asking is that we keep the non-salary items of the last contract in perpetuity," Jim Dougherty, president of the NTFT said at the time.

The major issues separating the

board and the union included salary, mandatory supervision of halls, and extracurricular assignments such as coaching, for which the teachers did not receive an additional stipend. As for salary, the original offered seven per cent across the board, and the teachers wanted 19.

After meetings in early September between the board and the union failed to make any progress, the board announced on Sept. 11 that school would reopen Monday, September 17, on a temporary basis with non-striking teachers as substitutes.

The "silly school" as the striking teachers called it reduced the total number of classes from 200 to 40 and shortened the regular school day into five 55 minute classes.

During the week in which the board's contingency plan came into effect, the 209 striking teachers received official notice that they were engaged in an illegal strike and faced dismissal unless they returned back to school.

Students angered about the limited number of courses being offered began walking out that week. Some 200 district students did not attend classes that Monday.

The student walkouts plus an uproarious board meeting at which parents yelled pleas for both sides to get together and settle, invariably ended the strike.

## Homecoming celebrates East's past

The kick-off festivities for East's last Homecoming, "Memories, 1939-1979," begins today at 1:30 p.m. with a pep rally and concludes with a dance tomorrow night.

Johnny Morris, channel 2 sportscaster, will be the speaker at the rally. Other entertainment includes the Trojan Marching Band, the school mascot, clowns, and the cheerleading and pom pon squads. The football team will be introduced, as will the Homecoming king, queen, and court.

"Many people have contributed effort and money to help make this the best Homecoming ever," stated Chris Redlin, '80, chairman of the Homecoming committee. "Combined with the effort of our sponsors, Gus Carlson and Alexia Forman, everyone who attends can expect a lot of fun and surprises."

The parade which begins at 9 a.m. will leave East and travel down Lincoln Avenue to Niles Center turning into Main Street. It will continue down Crawford Avenue as it works its way up Oakton to Niles Avenue, eventually ending up in the circle drive back at East.

"The school and Miss Stewart, building manager, have been more than generous," commented Redlin. "Due to

the strike, many clubs did not have time to raise enough money for floats, so the school is donating \$50.00 to each club, and is paying for the chickenwire for those who cannot afford it."

The Homecoming committee has organized a reception for alumni on Saturday, October 6, at 10 a.m. in the Student Lounge. A massive publicity campaign which included articles in the local papers, announcements on T.V. and radio stations, and signs in local stores, are expected to attract alumni.

To raise money for the event, buttons, bumper stickers, hats, mittens and t-shirts were sold, and a

balloon launch was held. Ad books will also be sold at the game and dance.

The dance will be held in the contest gym. The small gym will be used as a hospitality room. Decorations include mini blue and gold banners, party balls dimensional stars, and a disco ball with flowers in the hospitality room. Pastries will be provided by the House of Fine Chocolate and ice cream sundaes by Zips.

Redlin stressed the fact that dances were not needed. "If everyone brings their friends and pitches in, the dance and the weekend will be very successful."



Homecoming Parade 1952.

## Homecoming Schedule

Friday, Oct. 5 — 1:30 p.m. pep rally featuring Johnny Morris.

Sat., October 6 — 9:00 a.m. parade starting from East.

Sat., Oct. 6 — 10:00 a.m. reception for alumni in Student Lounge.

Sat., Oct. 6 — evening, Homecoming dance in the Contest Gym.



# Union and board warrant blame

The teachers had to strike. The board by not negotiating with the union on anything except pay denied the teachers the right to have some say on their own working conditions.

The union had to negotiate outside of school, so it would have a position to bargain from. It is unfortunate that the union held the students "for ransom" during the strike, but if the board was truly interested in seeing the students back in the classroom, they would compromise; thus alleviating such drastic action by the union.

As for the major issues during the strike, the union's original position of a 19 per cent salary increase was ludicrous. This position taken by the union just antagonized parents and infuriated board members. If the union would have started with a more

reasonable pay raise, then they might have had early community support which would have ended the strike much sooner.

Also the union's posture of on-again, off-again stressing of extracurricular activity assignments and mandatory supervision as major issues in the strike helped delay a settlement.

Undoubtedly, the mass walkouts by students from West and North had a significant impact on the strike's ending when it did. As usual, students at East were somewhere in the middle with some deciding to walk out and others too scared to come in.

Whether or not there will be a strike three years from now depends upon whether the board decides to shuck all its predispositions about the evilness of teacher unions and accept that the NTFT exists and is here to stay.

Observer

## Strike ends; no change

by David Eingorn

The 15 day teachers' strike has been over now for nine days, but has anything really changed?

When walking through the cafeteria, one still sees teachers standing around idling their time away. "Mandatory supervision" supposedly was a severe detriment to the student who needed extra help. Instead of his teacher helping him, the teacher would be busy monitoring the lunchroom or an empty hallway. Where are the outcries by the union teachers now?

It seems as though mandatory supervision was never the key issue it seemed to be early in the strike. More likely, it was just a "bargaining chip" for the union.

Now let us consider the post strike relationship between the board and the union. Is the board more willing to recognize the union as the sole bargaining agent for the district's teachers?

"No," says Jim Dougherty, president of the Niles Township Federation of Teachers (NTFT), who will undoubtedly play a major role in the 1982 contract talks when the present

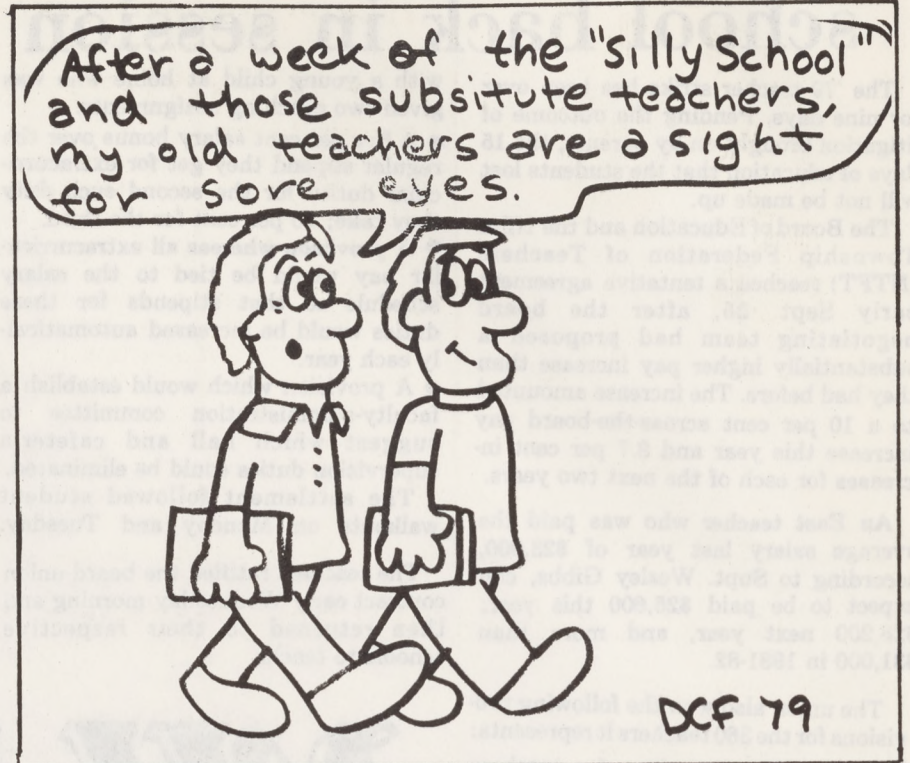
contract is scheduled to expire.

"We have no indication that the board will negotiate with us in 1982," Dougherty said. "As far as we can tell the board still wishes to maintain control over, and dominate all decision making and information in the district."

Have parents and students become more concerned about the quality of education after the strike?

Attitudes toward the quality of education have not changed. Each year the district offers fewer classes, has fewer teachers, and less extracurricular activities. A strike like the one we just had should fuse the community into fighting for the maintenance of a sound education for their children.

It seems as though the only thing that has changed has been teachers' salaries. The teachers received a 10.5 per cent pay raise for this year, plus eight per cent for each of the next two years. By 1982, the average teacher in the district will be making \$31,000 a year.



## Guest Editorial

### Students lose in strike

by Paul Toback

For the past three weeks, Niles Township District 219 has been struck by a majority of the teachers employed in the district. A strike is always unpleasant, but when it occurs in a school system, it can turn into a power struggle. Usually, the students are stuck right in the middle. This is exactly what happened in our district.

The strike became effective on September 5 (which was supposed to be the 1st day of school.) when the board and the union failed to reach a compromise. The union was asking for three things: a pay raise, an end to involuntary extracurricular assignments, and an end to supervision assignments.

As the strike was implemented by the union, intense negotiations began to take place. It is my opinion that these are negotiations that should have taken place in May and June instead of waiting until September to begin.

Nevertheless, the strike continued. With each day came more propaganda to us, the students. This propaganda came from both union and board, taking many forms. Both the board and the union had its own hotline which you could call at anytime to get

contradictory information from each side.

Both the union and the board distributed flyers presenting their view of the strike, and of course both sides had representatives talking to students.

Student support was something that was very important to both sides. In this strike, whoever had student support, was in a stronger position. For this reason both the board and the union tried to convince the students that they were correct and ultimately had the students' welfare in mind. The result was one to be expected. Students were caught in the middle of the adult conflict.

And as the strike wore on, both sides continued to talk to the students. There was a split in student opinion which resulted in a split of the student body.

The result of the strike is already history. The teachers won because they got their pay raise; the board won because it did not give up control of the schools to the union.

So who are the losers in this strike? The students.

We have lost three weeks of school — three weeks that are vital to a school whose days are already limited.

And the students, what did we gain from the strike? Perhaps nothing more than an insight into what happens when adults get involved in education, and forget to concern themselves with the welfare of the students they are trying to educate.

## To the Editor Students give views on Strike '79

Dear Editor:

I am a sophomore at Niles East High School, and I am appalled at the school board for using the students as bait to get the striking teachers back.

I have to hand it to them. Only Niles Township High Schools would refuse to

negotiate with the teachers.

The contingency plan was ridiculous. The only thing the students learned was how intractable the school board was. Actually, the board seemed to want the students back just so they could say, "The kids are in school. Now

we can have our football games." That was how they pressured the students into coming back. They said, "Support your school. Go to these games!" Sure, I'd like my school's football team to have a winning season, but my education comes first. When I went to school to receive my revised schedule, there were six speakers pushing extracurricular activities, such as the Booster Club and the Homecoming Committee. This was the major emphasis. The speakers didn't mention our education, because there was none. They had hired substitutes, condensed 200 classes into forty, turned an eight hour-nine period day into a five hour-five period day, and that threatened students into coming to school. The administrators said that if we didn't go, we would be suspended.

The contingency plan wasn't a way to educate students but a way for the board to stall for time.

Lee Kantz '82

Dear Editor:

Do teachers really care about students more than they care about getting paid? The answer is obvious. One might find a wealthy teacher who teaches because he really cares about the students. But most teachers teach because it's a job, and they need money. If the students were important, the teachers would not have kept us out of school for three weeks, and then wanted us to make up the days.

This strike has shown how students can easily be used as pawns. When it comes to money, teachers forget about

the students altogether, go on an illegal strike, and then "demand" that they get paid for striking. And who loses? The students do, by having needed days of vacation taken away from them. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying the strike was right or wrong, or that I hate teachers, but I am saying that I don't like to be taken advantage of.

If the teachers' number one priority was the students, they would make up days without pay, just for the students' benefit.

Erich Massat, '82

### **NILEHILITE**

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Homecoming Dance, 1946

## Homecoming traditions

# Remembrances of past — fad and fashion

by Linda Burstyn

Homecoming has been an annual event for many years, but at East traditions have certainly changed.

In 1948, after the usual cheers, yells, and speeches, the school's population of nine hundred and twenty-six would begin to weave in and out of Skokie in the Homecoming snake dance. After returning to the school, a huge bonfire would be built to symbolize the upcoming Trojan victory.

There has always been a Homecoming dance, but in 1954, tickets were half the price that they are now. The dance, called the Huddle Up, was graced by

music from one of the neighboring orchestras, as the students danced in the shadow of the enormous football in the center of the gym.

Fireworks heralded East's twenty-seventh homecoming in 1963. At the pep assembly a huge junior-senior tug of war contest was held. The next morning was an Alumni tea, followed by the game which was played against Oak Park.

In 1965, the gym where the dance was held was decorated in Op-Art, and ticket prices were up to \$2.50. By 1967, tickets were \$3.

A twilight pep assembly replaced the usual one held during school hours in 1969. The theme of that year's homecoming, "A Space Odyssey," reflect-

ed the changing times.

In 1967, Homecoming Chairman, Rochelle Apple, stressed that "all smoking, drinking and loitering will be strictly forbidden . . .!"

In 1968, the 'Groovin' Dance was held for "wild, wild East-psychedlic '68" homecoming.

The year 1979. The last homecoming ever will be celebrated within Niles East's walls, and the best. Floats, the parade, the game, the dance; all the basics are there. But instead of a football in the middle of the dance floor, there will be a disco ball hanging from the ceiling. Alumni from past years will be there to reminisce, and to remind us that things really haven't changed that much.

## School opens minus jitters

by Kathy Berry

There were no first day of school jitters this year because the contingency plan involved a highly condensed class curriculum and strange scheduling.

On the second day of Western Civilization, students found themselves watching one substitute's home slide show of his trip to Russia. Another familiar complaint was of teachers handing out the day's assignments as a prelude to a fifty-five minute monologue about their lives.

Combining classes is one thing, but political science students couldn't help but be surprised when they learned that their class had been combined with a Chef's course. In one Spanish class which was a combination of Spanish 5-6 with Spanish 7-8, students were taught how to count up to twenty. "I learned that in seventh grade!" complained one

Spanish student.

Schedules were a different sort of problem. They ranged from nearly correct, to one modified schedule of typing and four English courses.

However, students were not the only ones facing difficulty; substitute teachers had their share of problems teaching the unusual courses.

"Keeping their interest up was the most difficult thing," commented one substitute who was assigned to teach American Lit. to students who had originally signed up for Novels of Escape. She added, "The students were generally cooperative, but they seemed anxious to begin their regular schedules."

One student was in a hurry to start normal classes because she felt that the contingency plan was not working. "I learned nothing," she said, "absolutely nothing."

## CentrEast plans East as cultural arts center

by Leslie Doi

The main objective of CentrEast, a non-profit organization set to manage the East building after it closes, is to raise funds and create interest within the community.

As a first step to using the building later on, National Art Week will be held at East from October 7 to 13. "The Pajama Game" will be performed on October 13 and "Tartuffe" will be performed by the Wisdom Bridge Theater Group. Julia Bienias, student representative of CentrEast commented, "We don't want to close the school, we want to keep it going all the time."

The management organization is searching for theater groups who will rent space. They are looking for small artists and also larger corporations and theater groups.

"It's a beautiful building and should be preserved and kept intact," stated

Miss Rita Stewart, building manager.

CentrEast focuses on converting East into a cultural arts and recreation center for the North Shore, according to Julia Bienias. As a fine arts center, many sections of the building could be incorporated into the production of a play or musical. The print shop could be used for advertisement, the clothing department for costumes, the shop for scenery and props. The gym may be used for health clubs or small conventions.

CentrEast is presently working on a feasibility study on ways to create enough income from the shows to make the school self-sufficient.

"I am very interested in preserving the building because it's brighter, better built, and homier than the other two Niles schools. It's ideal for that type of transition," concluded Bienias.

## Reflections honors East

"The 40 Years of Niles East: A Musical Review" is the title of this year's production of Reflections to be performed November 8, 9 and 10 in the auditorium.

This year's production, under the direction of Jerry Proffit, is dedicated to East. There will be songs dating back to every decade since East first opened. Some popular songs which will be in the show include "American Pie," and "Let the Sun Shine In." A Beatles medley will also be presented. Even the original school hymn from 1938, East's

first year will be performed.

The directors of the program are Eleah Horwitz, '81, and Tim Ortman, '81. The musical director is Ted Hill, '80; the choreographer is Sue Fisch '80; assistant choreographer is Jeff Sumner '82; and technical director is Roger Merel '80.

"It's going to be an excellent 'up' show and I encourage everyone to attend," says Ted Hill. Eleah Horwitz concluded enthusiastically, "I know it's going to be marvelous."



Homecoming Parade 1974.

## 3 achieve merit status

by David Eingorn

National Merit Semi-Finalist status or a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, is one of the highest honors a student can accrue during his high school career. This year East had three Semi-Finalists, and ten students who received Letters of Commendation.

Yearly, students across the country compete for these honors by taking the PSAT/NMSQT test at their respective high schools. Whether or not a student becomes a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist depends upon how high his "selection index" number is.

The selection index number equals two times the verbal score plus the mathematical. The maximum possible score is 240 (2 times 80 verbal + 80 mathematical).

About 15,000 students from around the nation gain Semi-Finalist status.

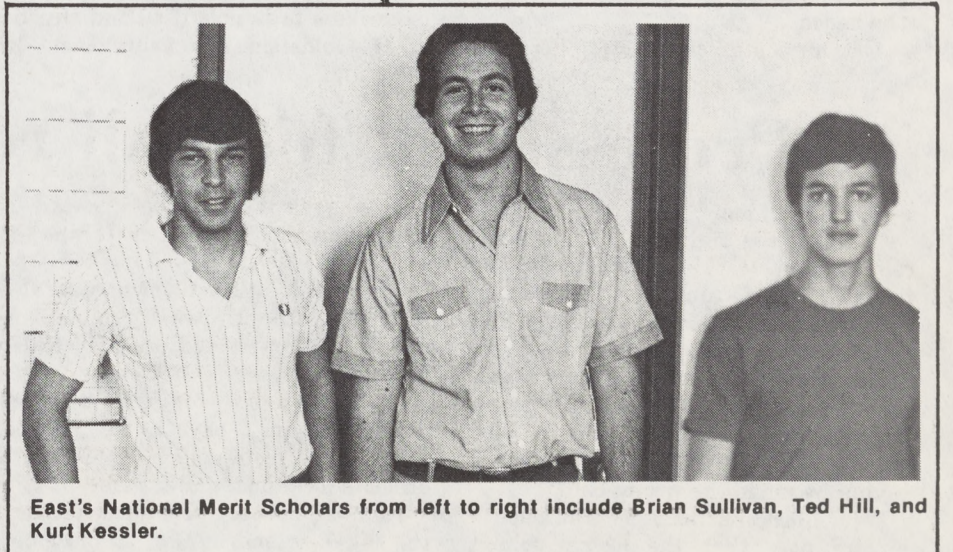
They represent the top half of one percent of each regional selection area.

Once a student becomes a Merit Semi-Finalist, he may then compete for Finalist standing. To qualify as a Finalist, a student must demonstrate high academic standing, be actively applying to a regionally accredited college in the United States, and confirm PSAT/NMSQT scores by an equally high performance on the SAT test.

East's Semi-Finalists include Brian Sullivan, Kurt Kessler, and Ted Hill.

Students who received Letters of Commendation include Stuart Rappaport, Tina Lee, Barry Leb, Larry Siegal, Arthur Rosenson, Karen Sawislak, Steven Meyers, Linda Sugarman, Robert Rotché, and Pam Herbach.

Registration is being held now in the guidance area for 1979 test. The PSAT/NMSQT test alone costs \$3.50.



East's National Merit Scholars from left to right include Brian Sullivan, Ted Hill, and Kurt Kessler.



## Giants upset East

by David Eingorn

It takes more than determination to win a football game. A team needs execution. In the Trojans 15-7 loss to the Highland Park Giants, the varsity football team failed to capitalize on key downs.

During the Trojans' first possession, tail back Barry Leb took a pitch-out from quarterback Steve Cooley and ran 65 yards for an apparent touchdown. But it was to be nullified by a clipping penalty.

Although Highland Park did not score in the first quarter, it did control much of the first half. Paul Barcani, a senior fullback from Highland Park scored the first points of the ballgame on a 2 yard run in the second quarter.

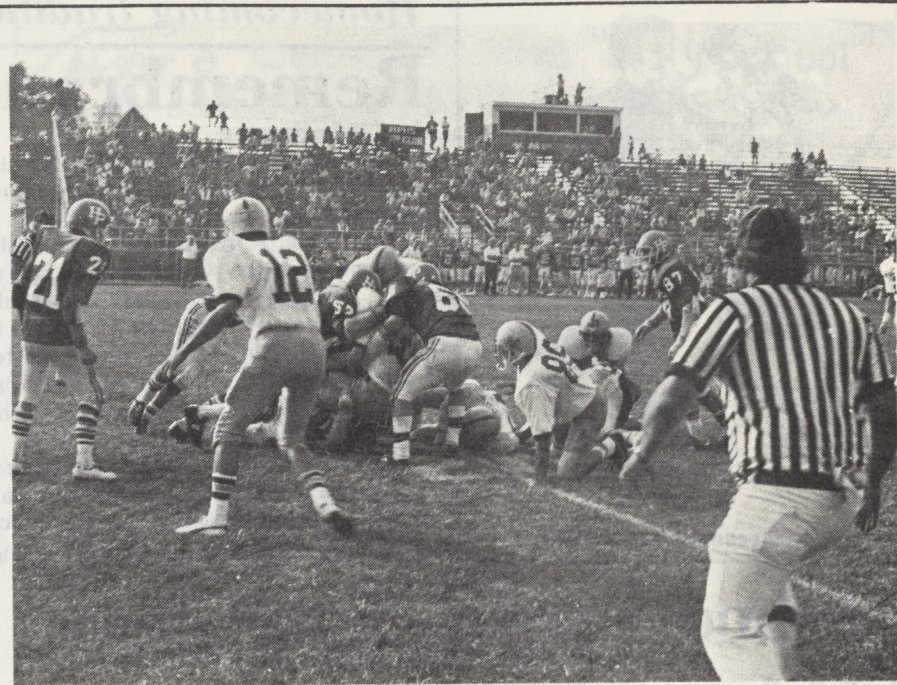
Just before the end of the first half, Highland Park scored again, after recovering a Cooley fumble. The score was on a 33 yard field goal.

At the onset of the third quarter, Hal Nagel, a senior from East, made an interception that brought the ball to the Highland Park 36. But the Trojans hopes were not to materialize. On the next set of downs, the Trojans returned the ball to the Giants when a Cooley pass was picked off.

Again the Trojans rebounded back showing their tenacity. On a drive capped by a 30 yard pass interference call against Highland Park, the Trojans scored their lone touchdown on a half yard plunge by Cooley.

At the end of the fourth quarter, Baracani scored a 70 yard touchdown which proved to be the game winner. "People would get into position but wouldn't come up with the tackle," Dan Patlack, Trojan defensive end said.

"We beat ourselves," concluded Head Coach Gerald Ferguson.



Niles East Trojans and Highland Park Giants clash during Saturday's game Sept. 29 at Highland Park.

## Girls' sports off to slow start

### SWIMMING

by Barb Reich

Since Aug. 20, the Niles East girls varsity swimming team practiced daily to prepare for the Waukegan East meet on Sept. 15.

According to head coach Don Larson, "the defeat had nothing to do with the recent teachers strike." Larson said, "We just don't have enough water enthusiasts to fill up all the competitive events."

Mary Ann Kostyniuk, who placed first in diving competition against Maine West and North, stated that "only nine or ten swimmers show up at the meets. And that could make the difference between a winning and losing team."

Although the girls' team now has an 0-4 record, there have been individual wins by Vicki Heller, Sandy Nehrling, Marcy Locasha, and Nancy Zimmerman.

Heller broke a school record in the 200 meter breaststroke Individual Medley against Niles West. Nehrling's backstroke, Locasha's freestyling, and Zimmerman's first place in diving made the challenge for Main North that much harder.

Even though Larson admits "we already lost against our easier opponents," four school records could be established by the end of the season.

### TENNIS

Like most of the Niles East Sport activities, the girls varsity tennis team

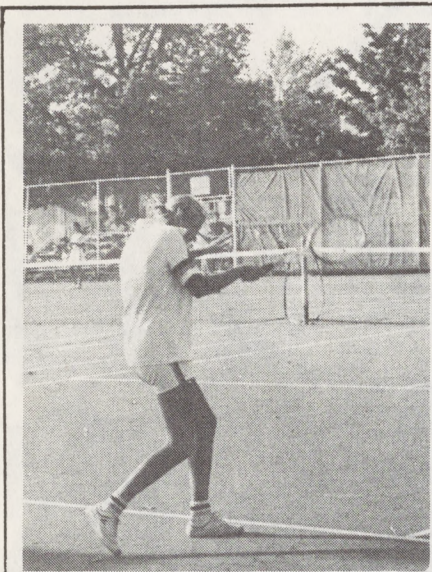
also had a slow start this year. The team's first non-conference game against Highland Park was cancelled, and the Deerfield game was pushed up to Oct. 10.

But when the season officially got underway, the team acquired a 2-3 record. Wins were against Waukegan West and Maine West, while losses were against Evanston, Niles North, and Niles West.

### VOLLEYBALL

In addition to causing on and off practice sessions, "the strike effected the volleyball team most severely the day of the student walkout," said the new varsity volleyball coach Jean Wojdula.

Before the walkout the girls had beaten Lake Zurich and Highland Park. But on the day of the walkout, the team was missing three starting players, and lost to Ridgewood.



Claudia Brisk strokes a forehand at Thursday's home meet against Niles West.

## Strike hinders boys' sports

by Barb Reich  
Football

East football fans didn't get the chance to cheer the varsity team in the season-opener against Wheeling because of the teachers' strike, but they surely had the chance the following Saturday against Waukegan East.

On Sept. 15, the Trojans smashed Waukegan East 38-0. In that game, Trojan Barry Leb scored three touchdowns and ran 170 yds.

The following game against Deerfield, resulted in a 26-0 defeat for the Trojans. Ferguson called the Deerfield opposition "our toughest competitors, who may even win the state finals." He said the Trojans were defeated because "it was a day of too many penalties and mental errors for the Blue and Gold."

Injuries also played a role in the loss. A hurt hand for returning letterman Gregg Bolotin, and a knee injury to Fred Fagenholz kept these players on the bench.

On an optimistic note, Ferguson

pointed out that "our defense is the strongest, and with other returning letterman Bob Bernstein, Dan Bartfeld, Steve Cooley, Dave Hoffman, Gary Karhoff, Hal Nagel, Dan Patlak, Kelly Walls, and Alan Weiner, we can beat Evanston in the homecoming game Oct. 6."

### Soccer

During the Niles Township strike, the varsity soccer team underwent training with former East student and soccer player Gene Freed.

"He coaches the way they play soccer in college, without much conditioning during practices," commented Henry Goldenstein.

Captain Noah Ginsburg explains, "we weren't serious at first, and didn't know we'd compete until three days before the meet."

Although the East team lost in squeakers to Loyola (3-0) and Deerfield (2-1) Goldstein complains that "the

opponents scored in the last five minutes."

In view of the team's 0-4 record Noah points out that, "we lack offensive strength, and probably won't score many goals throughout the season." However, he is optimistic, because "our regular, tough-disciplined coach Tex Sanstead is back."

### Golf

The East golf team including Mark McCracken, Dave Gassel, Scott Reicin, Frank McLaughlin, and Ted Theodore, scored a .500 in conference play since the season opened on Sept. 10.

Golf captain Steve Bartelstein said, "We practiced every day during the strike, and so it had no bearing on the golfers."

Bartelstein stresses, "the most serious challenge for us will be the New Trier East tournament. It's the team to beat if we're going to reach the sectional playoffs."



Varsity soccer player kicks the ball in last Thursday's home game against Stevenson.

## Professional football referee talks about career

by Brad Dorfman

"I made the right call," said NFL referee Jerry Markbreit, who ruled the famed forward fumble a touchdown which allowed Oakland to defeat San Diego last season.

Now there is a new rule which states that if a fumble occurs in the last two minutes, only the player who fumbled may recover. Is this the league's way of saying he made the wrong call?

"No, Markbreit said. It was such a bizarre play that the league felt it should be cleared up. There was always

a rule against fumbling forward on fourth-down inside the ten. It was just expanded."

Markbreit played two years of football at the University of Illinois, when an injury forced an early end to his career.

"I wanted to continue in sports without playing," says Jerry, "so when I graduated from college, I started to officiate local intramural games."

In 1965, he became a back judge in the Big Ten, and in 1967 he became a referee in the same league. In his Big

Ten career he officiated many Michigan-Ohio State games and the 1972 Rose Bowl in which Stanford defeated Michigan 13-12.

In 1976 he became an NFL line judge and in 1977 he became a referee. The highlight of his professional career was last season's Pro Bowl Game.

As for travel, Markbreit said, "It is difficult and tedious but it is part of the job. It would be nice if we could stay home and officiate. I leave on Saturday, usually before noon, arrive in

the city of the game, eat dinner, and have a meeting with my crew (in which we see a film of our previous game which has been graded by the league). Sunday we have another meeting, officiate the game, and leave that evening."

In reference to new rules such as the no block below the waist on a kick return, and the rules devised to protect the quarterback, Markbreit said, "They're necessary because they help prevent injury."