

ED1NA

HOW FAR WILL SUBURBAN PUSH AND MONEY GO?

by Paul Johnson

With the right combination of suburban influence and the "do everything for anything and anything for everything attitude, Edina has built a dynasty.

Never in the history of high school sports in Minnesota has there been such a school with the winning reputation as that Edina has massed in the past five years or so.

They in the past year alone have had the No. 1 ranked football team, No. 1 ranked hockey team (even though they lost the championship, you would still have to say they were the class of the tournament) State Champion track and baseball teams.

sports has the emphasis

Sports has a tremendous emphasis in Edina. So much of an emphasis, in fact, that instead of voting a bond issue in that would have given Edina a new high school and hence split up their wealth of athletic talent, they chose the consequences. The consequences are morning and evening shifts with athletic practice somewhere in between.

What causes this emphasis? It's part of the "suburban attitude." Edina fits the myth of typical "suburbia" more than any other area in the Twin Cities, breathing. Bill Nyrop, a defenseman on their State runner up hockey team summed up Edina's attitude very well in a taped pregame interview during the Hockey Tourney. "We're always won and don't know how to do anything else. When we go out to play we know we're going to win." In that kind of a situation, staying in first place goes hand in hand with eating, sleeping, and breathing.

They will go to any measure to assure themselves of a winning team. They pour a lot of money into the recreational sports feeder programs.

They have every kind of youth sports program imaginable. Teaching the kids to play and win at the early ages produces the boys that win in high school. They boys are taught to "do anything for everthing and every thing for anything" from their year one.

cheating the ethics book

Several years ago there was a "recruiting" scandal where the school district allegedly offered a man a job in the district at a fat salary to get the man's family to move into the district. They did, and Edina's basketball team got their badly needed fifth superstar, the man's son, and went on to win the State Championship.

There have been incidences where Edina has pulled the type of shady tricks where they don't actually cheat the Book of Rules, but do cheat the Book of Ethics. Twisting the Golden Rule (P. J. April 3) is commonplace in Edina.

Nevertheless, Edina does come up with talent and most of the time can win by ethical

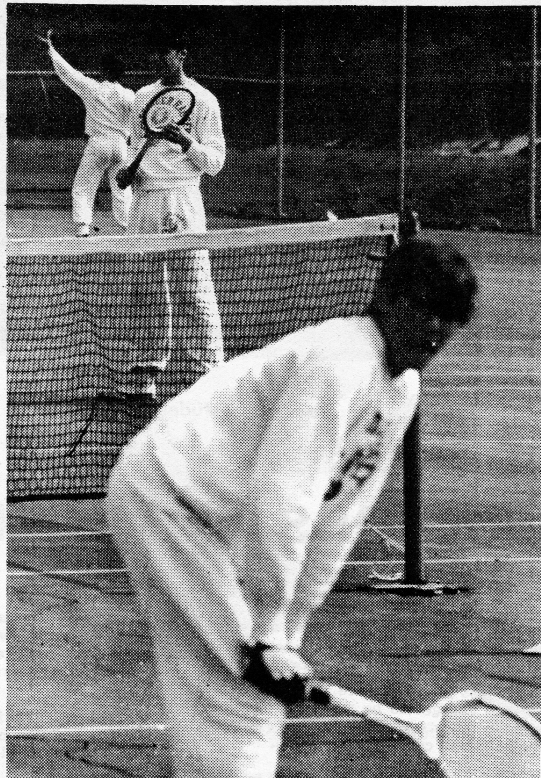


photo bob christensen

Head Coach Duane Nelson's racketeers opened the tennis season with a victory over Murray 5-1. Nelson has hopes for a first division finish this year.

means. They are not afraid to spend their money to get talent.

money reaps power

Edina, however, is a very rich community and can easily af-

ford to spend their money on anything they want to, just so they get the best.

Prestige is what they are after, and it is what they have got. Whether it is a good scene or a healthy situation is another question.

P.J.

by Paul Johnson

Intramurals

After witnessing the success of this year's intramural basketball program and then observing the University of Minnesota's extensive intramural program (everything from soccer to volleyball), I've come to the conclusion that what Ramsey needs is a bigger and better intramural program.

For the past three years, Ramsey has had a successful intramural basketball program. Fifty or sixty boys have turned out each year to play on the teams, which play during the basketball season one or two days a week, whenever the varsity team has a game and doesn't use the gym for practice. These fifty boys would have otherwise spent the long winter season rotting in an O.S.S. room ten hours a week. Intramurals gave them something to do and, if you will, live for during the winter.

The University has a very large program, with 450 intramural basketball teams and 90 or so intramural hockey teams and many teams in other sports such as volleyball.

great potential in intramurals

An intramural program could do great things. First it would give the people who have to sit in O.S.S. rooms an opportunity to, one or two days a week, stay in shape for their sport, whatever it may be. Secondly, it would be more fun than sitting in a study hall five days a week. Thirdly, and best of all, with next year's seventh hour activity period it wouldn't have to benefit just the "sporties," anybody with a little guts could find a place on an intramural team.

It's important to have an intramural program for sports like basketball, hockey, or any other sport where cuts are made, that is, limitations on the size of the team.

coaches don't like them

Most of Ramsey's coaches, however, are in ardent disfavor of intramural programs. The only one who supports intramurals at Ramsey is the basketball coach, Bob Erdman. For the past three years, he has run the intramural program in basketball and has done an excellent job, I might add.

The next question, of course, is why are intramurals looked down upon? Presumably, it's because if intramurals were launched on a full scale, it would affect the turnout for their particular sports, be it wrestling, gymnastics, football, track or any sport where depth is a necessity.

Coaches naturally want a large selection of boys to get the "cream of the crop" so to speak, but to sit third or fourth string on a team, or be cut from the sport they go out for and not be able to play at all can be misery. These may be 75 boys wanting to play basketball but only fifteen can make the team.



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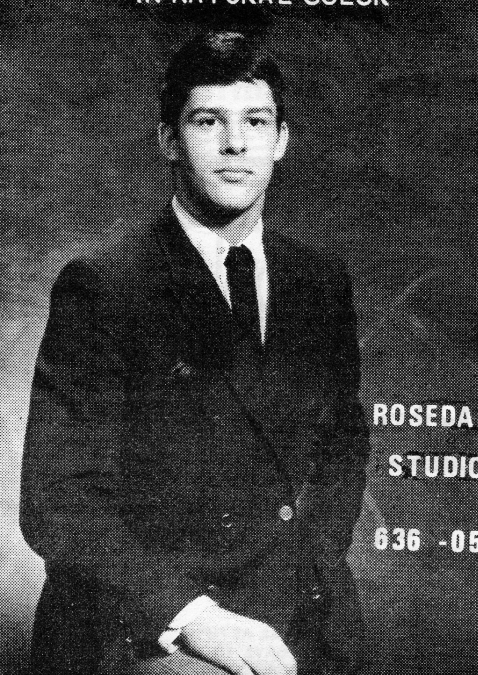
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