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An Open Letter to the Student

An Open Letter (con't.)

Dear Student,

Have you often thought of where the \$15.00 which you pay per year for an Activities fee goes, besides for the dances and other social functions? Well, in view of the fact that the majority of students enrolled here are males, and naturally are more athletically inclined or interested in sports, the subject of sports for the coming year should be of paramount importance on your Activities list.

This year, more than any other year, you, through your Student Council are affected by a situation which is more serious than you might believe it to be. Student Council must decide, in the near future, whether or not Hazleton will be represented in the Pennsylvania Junior College Basketball Conference.

Since the Hucsters first entered competition in the League back in 1946 their brand of ball has been consistently good, and just last year, after virtually being assured of the title, the team was forced to drop out because of the lack of players. This was the first time in the history of the League a team dropped out of competition. Besides the Hazleton Center, the league includes Altoona, Mont Alto, Johnstown, Temple Community College, Keystone, Hershey, and the League champions, York.

This same situation which caused us to forfeit our games had been encountered during the 1952-53 and 1953-54 seasons, however, the Hucsters squeezed by with but seven players. Third semester transfers combined with a lack of reserves took the nucleus out of the Hucsters.

But lack of players is not the only problem involved. Even if there are 20 to 30 candidates, and even if the team does carry 20 men, the question arises, "Will there be enough men to capably finish out the season?" That is what Student Council must decide.

There are other problems involved also, problems of an economical and scholastic nature. Last year, Mr. James Mulligan, Junior High Basketball coach at Hazleton, tutored a fine, championship-bound team, only to see it collapse at the very brink of success. His salary; the fees paid for janitorial duties at the two gyms, A. D. Thomas Gym and Hazleton High School, where the Hucsters practiced three times a week, and where they played their home games, transportation fees on the road games, and equipment all amounted to a staggering sum of approximately \$1000.

More than the financial loss, however, the reputational status of the school was impaired, and the amount of cooperation and personal sacrifice shown by Mr. Peightal, the Director of Athletics last season, and by the remaining players themselves was left un-appreciated.

The scholastic problem enters the picture also. Eligibility is determined by scholastic grades, grades which must be maintained. Practice makes perfect, but a sacrifice is placed on the student-athlete when practice sessions are held at night or when week-end games are scheduled, a sacrifice which threatens to lower the very mark that determines his eligibility.