

3 championship teams?

This winter promises to be the most exciting season in history for local sports fans. If all goes well, the administration of Donegal High School may have to reinforce the floor under the trophy case.

Following hot on the heels of an autumn which featured the first undefeated football team in

DHS history, comes a winter in which DHS teams may win section championships in each of the major high school spectator sports.

That's right, folks; the basketball team, the wrestling team, and the girls' basketball team are all likely to win first place trophies this year.

It is a bit early to announce victory, of course. Some formidable opposition stands between the Indian athletes and this incredible three-way sweep. The intoxicating possibility exists, however, and it should create plenty of excitement as the season progresses.

Wrestlers win

The wrestling team is, as always, a top contender for the section championship this year. An unusually brutal football season left quite a few Indian wrestlers with nagging aches and pains, which may hurt the team early in the season. But time and the schedule are on the

Indians' side. The kids are healing fast, and the toughest opponent on the schedule—Columbia—is also the last.

Last Saturday, the Indians crushed a formidable Lancaster Catholic team 29-22. Now that Catholic is out of the way, the remaining section contenders appear to be

Cocalico and Penn Manor, as well as Columbia's mighty Tide.

The win over Lancaster Catholic was a result of pins by Greiner and (K.) Sweigart, plus decisions won by Davis, Bell, both Mummaus (Leonard and Arlen) and Hershey.

Girls win

In spite of the fact that playmaker Sherri Kinsey is sitting on the bench, nursing a badly sprained ankle, the girls' basketball team appears to be headed for a section championship this year.

After losing the first game which Kinsey was forced to sit out, the team seems to have adjusted to its loss, and has begun winning handily over tough opposition.

Last week, in the league opener, the girls totally outclassed a formidable Columbia team. Sharon Hershey led the Indians in scoring. In addition to her shooting accuracy, Hershey makes some incredibly good moves on offense and is an aggressive rebounder.

She gets a lot of help under the boards from Tanya Merchant and Beth Keffer, a graceful 5'-10" junior, who shoots well from the outside in addition to using her height under the boards.

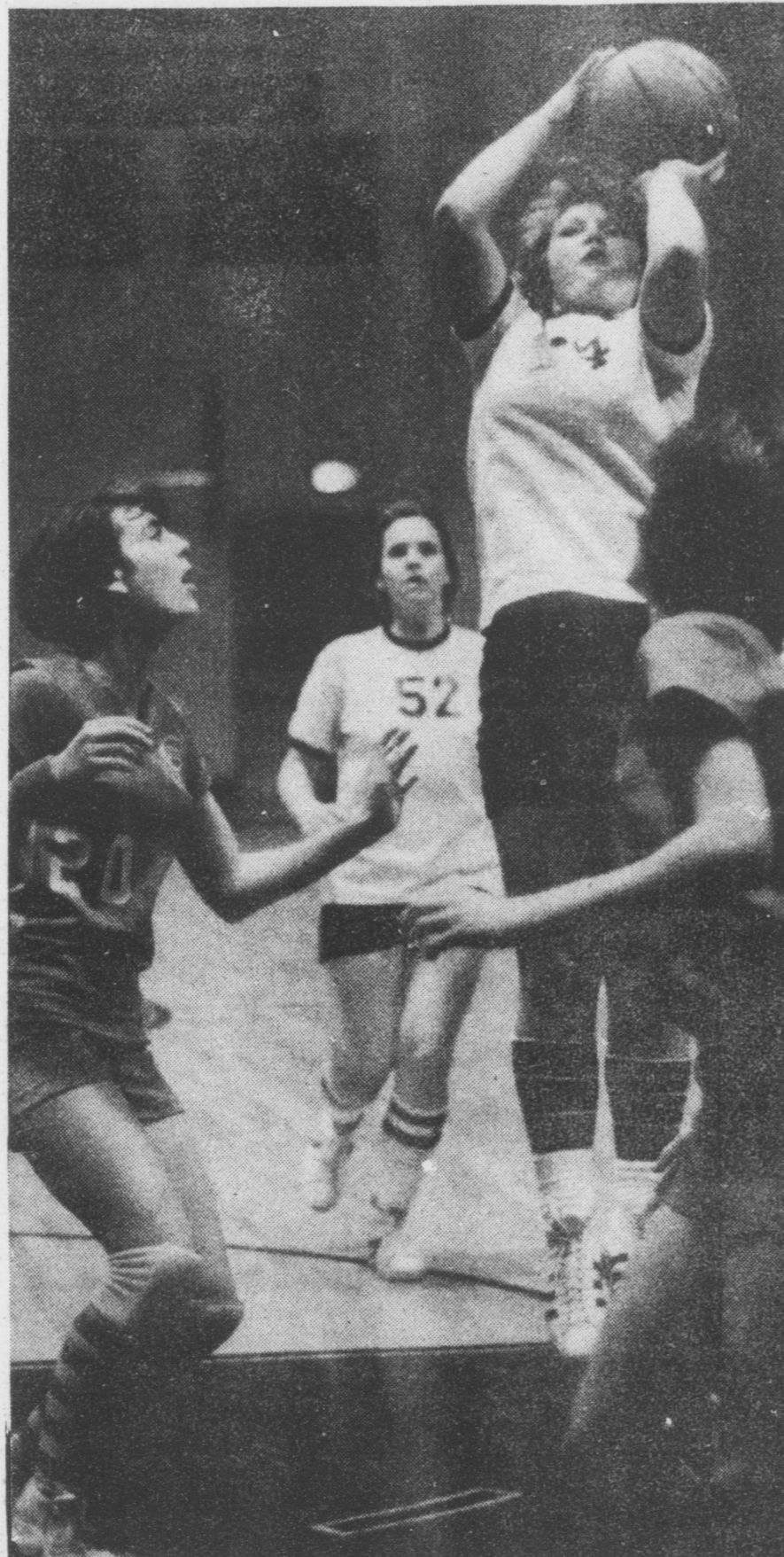
Sherry Derr is gaining confidence in Miss Kinsey's slot; she is good at bringing the ball up-court, and she passes well when she arrives with it.

The team's most noticeable defect is a sluggish defense. Bad judgment and slow reactions left some gaping holes in Donegal's aggressive zone defense in the game against Columbia. Experience and the return of the fleet-footed Kinsey (which happy event should occur sometime after the holidays) ought to solve that problem.

Most of this year's starters are veterans of the surprisingly successful '77-'78 team, which lost the section title to Hempfield

after a hard-fought and emotional playoff game.

This year, the Indians should go all the way.



Sharon Hershey, the Indian Annie Oakley, sinks a jumper for Donegal while faked-out Columbia defenders watch flat-footed. The other white jersey in the photo belongs to Tanya Merchant, another top-notch athlete.

Basketball team wins

The section 3 basketball championship is expected to revolve around a battle between Garden Spot and Donegal. Right now, Donegal has the lead.

In spite of a disappointing turnout in the home-court stands at Donegal, the Indians squeezed a 46-44 victory from the Spartans in the first league game of the season last Friday.

As has happened before in preliminary, non-league games, the Indians raced to a commanding 17-6 lead in the first period, then began to lose control of the ballgame. The Spartans outscored the Indians 13-8 in the third period, and the lead bounced around like a loose ball until the final seconds of the game, when Keith Persun connected with an outside jump shot to put the Indians on top.

"We haven't been able to keep up our intensity for a whole game," admitted coach Emil Swift.

Swift introduced a brand new starting lineup for the game, plus a surprising set of tactics. Gone are the man-to-man defenses and fast-breaking offense which were once almost synonymous with Donegal basketball.

This year's Indians are slower than the '75-'76 championship team. They rely on a more formal brand of teamwork, with carefully rehearsed game plans, to put the ball where it belongs.

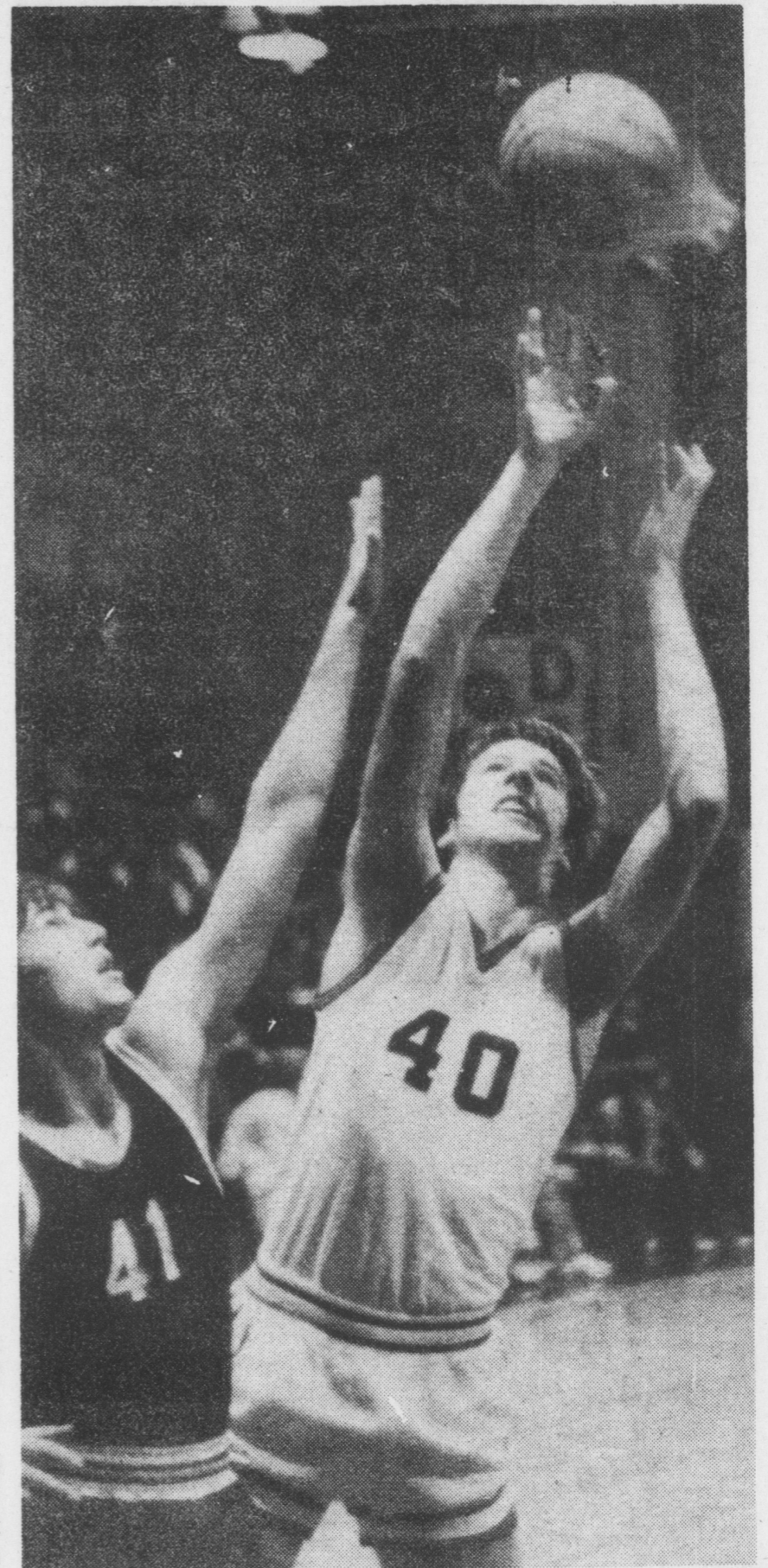
"I think we lost the team concept for a while last Friday," Swift said, "and that's where we got into trouble."

The trouble began when the Spartans unleashed a fierce full-court press on the Indians, making it tougher for Donegal to set up plays, and providing plenty of tempting opportunities for individual moves. "Our kids started playing one-on-one basketball," said Swift. "They were thinking, 'If only I can make this shot, we'll be all right. Of course, it didn't work. But the team didn't fold. They played the right defense, and they took instruction well. I think the game proved that

the team knows how to cope with pressure."

Although Donegal and Garden Spot are the best looking teams in the section, the Indians may not be able to walk away with the rest of the schedule. Lebanon Catholic and Annville Cleona may provide some tough competition, especially on their home territory. As for traditional rival Elizabethtown, Swift says, "When Donegal plays E-town, the record book goes out the window."

Donegal's big men did most of the scoring last Friday. Mitch Johnson (6'-4") led the team with 13 points. Tim Roaten (6'-5") followed with 12. Craig Zink tallied 7 and Keith Persun scored 6. Playmaking guard Jim Shrum sank a couple of field goals from the outside. He also set up a lot of plays with his accurate passing and, considering his height (5'-6") did an amazing job on rebounds. Brian Becker and Terry Frey added 2 points each.



Tim Roaten [#40] fires a lay-up past a Spartan defender. Roaten scored 12 points in the game. Mitch Johnson, the other big inside man, scored 13.

Merchants can help basketball team

Local merchants can make an important contribution to the basketball team's success by posting team schedules in their windows.

Considering the fact that Donegal has the best boy's basketball team since the '75-'76 championship season, the turnout in the stands for last week's

crucial game with Garden Spot was pretty disappointing. There is no doubt that a big, noisy crowd improves a team's performance, and posting the schedules should help make the fans aware of what they are missing.

The team has printed some big (22"X28") posters advertising the schedule. The posters,

which feature a big picture of the team, cost a lot to print. The team is asking for a \$7.50 (tax-deductible) donation to cover their costs.

Any merchant who is interested in buying one of these posters should contact a team member or cheerleader, or call coach Emil Swift at the high school.

DHS basketball tournament

The winners will battle for the championship at 8:15, Weds. A consolation game will be held at 6:15 for the losers.

The annual basketball tournament gets underway on Tues., Dec. 26 at 6:30, when Manheim Central takes on Manheim Township at DHS. Eastern and Donegal will tangle at 8:15.

OTHER ATHLETIC CONTESTS scheduled next week include a road game for the girl's basketball team (Fri., at L-S), a home meet for the wrestlers against Cedar Crest (Thurs., Dec. 21, varsity starts 8PM), plus a non-league contest at Manheim Central (Sat., Dec. 23). The boys' basketball team takes on Norlebo on Fri., Dec. 22 at 8 PM (JV; 6:30) at DHS.