

Baseball Team Hits Top



Trojan pitcher, Tom Ishii, displays the excellent form which earned him an All-Conference Award last year and MVP this spring. Photo by Anna Vance.

The Zama High School Trojan baseball team held spring try-outs to come up with the 16 players on which hopes were resting for a league championship. There were eight returning lettermen, headed by Tom Ishii, last year's MVP and All Conference, and Mike Testa, also Best Sportsman and All Conference last year. The remaining six were Ken Ashe, Brian Shibata, Jim Northing, Melvin Plew, Glenn McCoy, and Steve Kohr. Newcomers to the squad included Brad Graybeal, John Dumont, Dave Ogg, Mike LaCagnina, Eugene Ribaudou, and Doug Hall.

A rained out game last year cost Zama a possible chance of a tie for the league lead with Johnson, as the 1970 team ended in second place one half game out of first. With this burning incentive firmly etched in everyone's mind, Zama set out to prove last year was no fluke. With an experienced infield, a veteran pitching duo of Ishii and Ashe, coupled with a fine array of power hitters, Zama proved formidable.

They wrapped up the 1971 season by shutting out the Yo-hi Devils, 5-0 and 4-0, and captured the League Championship on May 18 at Zama.

Ken Ashe pitched the first victory of the double header by limiting the Yo-hi squad to three

hits. Glenn McCoy knocked in three runs on three base hits, and Tom Ishii knocked in one run on a double.

Trojan ace pitcher, Tom Ishii, hurled the second game win with the second shutout of the day. His no-hitter bid was spoiled by two Yo-hi hits in the second inning. Outfielder Mike LaCagnina's double drove in one run and catcher Mike Testa followed with a two run single, rounding out the earned runs. Zama's championship was the first time in three years.

An interesting sidelight was that this was the best conditioned team this year for Zama. Thirteen of the fourteen players had participated in at least one other spectator sport, with many out for two and even three. Perhaps more humorous was the simple misconception that many people have of athletes being "all brawn and no brain type." To disprove this it can be noted that the Zama baseball team had five members in the National Honor Society as well as 6 more in Student Council.

The two men responsible for harnessing this brain power and molding it into a team were Mr. John Veltman and Doug Schulte, high school and middle school teachers respectively. Both believed in good hustle, and did much to inspire the team to reach the top.

Zama Athletes Show Versatility

Once an athlete, always an athlete? Not too certain of that adage, the Zama Trojans nevertheless show a poly-enthusiasm for the sports world.

From the varsity and junior varsity football, crosscountry and tennis teams, add the two basketball teams, golf and wrestling, girl's volleyball and basketball to the present baseball and track, and total athletes would be 175. Yet 100 Trojans filled these slots.

Of these 100 Trojans 11 showed the guts and fortitude to stick it out in three different major sports. They include:

Mike Testa—All Conference Honorable Mention Football, All Conference Baseball, MVP, Football and Basketball.

Steve Kohr—All Conference Football, All Conference Honorable Mention Basketball, Varsity Baseball, MVP Basketball.

Jim Northing—All Conference Honorable Mention Football, Varsity Basketball and Baseball.

Tom Ishii—Golf and Varsity Basketball, All Conference Baseball.

Ken Ashe—Varsity Football, All Conference Honorable Mention Basketball, and Baseball.

Craig Suley—Leading Cross Country runner in KPSSAA, JV Basketball, Track, MVP-Cross Country.

Jeff Leslie—J.V. Football, Varsity Basketball, Track, Most Improved, Basketball.

Dan Warner—Varsity Football, Wrestling, Track.

Randy Weigel—J.V. Football, Wrestling, Track.

Dave Garcia—J.V. Football, Wrestling, Track.

John Zavoina—J.V. Football, Wrestling, Track.

Besides the athletes that participated in three major sports, several others participated in two. The two favorite sports were football and basketball. In this category were varsity players Gary Miller and Terry St. Pierre with Junior varsity members, Tyrone Edwards, Leslie Gee, Mark Prawl, Pat Walker, Dennis Britlin, Art Rangel, and Dirk Boyesen.

Besides football, baseball drew many athletes. Mike LaCagnina,

Brad Graybeal, Glenn McCoy, Rudy Teshima, and John Dumont fell into this category.

Track and football were also popular combinations with Bill Matheke, Tom Stark, and David Blevins participating.

Many of the long distance runners in Cross Country also joined the Track Team. These athletes were Larry Dewey, Wayne Yamaura, Gary Yamaura, Joe Dobson, and Coley Schnorf, the teams "most improved runner". Lee Uto also ran Cross Country and became a matman in wrestling. Other track members include Wally LaForge, who also wrestled, John Liner, a JV basketball player, Art Beach, member of the Karate Club, and Art Kirk, a tennis team member.

Completing the list of the dual sport athletes are Carlos Garcia, JV football and wrestling, Doug Hall, baseball and tennis, MVP, and Marienetta Porter, MVP for Girl's Basketball and tennis.

Those that received awards while participating in a solo sport include:

Rich Rotenberry—All Conference Honorable Mention, Football.

John Palmer—All Conference Honorable Mention, Football.

Tom Stevens—All Conference Honorable Mention, Football.

Larry Childers—All Conference Football.

Athletes Push Spring Training

The spring sports season has finished and Zama athletes broke their backs to get in top physical condition.

In track, their emphasis was on strenuous running while in baseball, calisthenics was a major conditioner. Besides getting in shape, the boys were taught the fundamentals of their chosen sports. Zama was fortunate to have a fine coaching staff such as they do.

Injury was also a big part of spring training. Shin splits, muscle cramps, and minor abrasions were all common injuries these boys encounter. At the end of the torturous practice, a cold, gratifying shower was their only reward for their effort.

Girls Spark Zama Teams

"Zama American High School has the prettiest baseball managers in the Kanto Area," Mr. John Veltman, baseball coach said at the recent sports banquet.

At the banquet, Anna Vance received a bar for her second year in baseball managing and Sheila Tallman received a baseball pin for assistant manager. Sheila had received her letter in girl's volleyball this year. She also participated in powderpuff football, girl's basketball and the powderpuff basketball. Anna Vance attended almost every football and basketball game as a photographer.

Another girl who lettered on an all boys team was Linda Pinard. Linda received her letter for assistant manager of the track team. She was also a varsity cheer-leader and took part in powderpuff football and powderpuff basketball.



Anna Vance

Booster Club Commends 20

The recent spring sports season ended formally May 22, but the annual Sports Awards Banquet sponsored by the Zama Booster Club. All athletes who participated in any sport's event during the course of the year were invited.

Heading the list of award winners were Mike Testa, MVP football and basketball, Most Inspirational basketball player, Best Sportsman in Baseball, Craig Suley, outstanding Cross Country Runner and Most Improved J.V. Basketball player; football.

Others include Larry Childers all conference lineman, MVP Lineman Varsity football; Tom Stevens, Most Valuable Back Varsity football; John Palmer, Most Valuable Sportsman Varsity football; Andy Lisko, Most Valuable Lineman J.V. football, and Spence Palmer, Most Valuable Sportsman J.V. football.

The Most Valuable Players in Tennis were Doug Hall and Liz Holdrith, while the Most Improved participants in varsity basketball, Cross Country and Baseball were Jeff Leslie, Coley Schnorf and Mike LaCagnina, respectively.

Rounding out the list of outstanding Zama athletes are Steve Kohr, Co-winner MVP Varsity Basketball; Jun Johnson Outstanding Track field runner; Tom Ishii, MVP baseball; Ken Ogg, MVP Golf; Sherry Ragan, MVP girl's volleyball; and Marienetta Porter, MVP girl's basketball.



Zama outfielder Jim Northing cautiously leads off from third base in a recent St. Mary's game. Photo by Anna Vance.



Baseball players Brian Shibata, Jim Northing, Dave Ogg, and Mike LaCagnina, watch intently as their fellow teammates bat in a recent game. Photo by Anna Vance.