

Sports

Step Saver THE OBSERVER

Our Athletes

•BC boys overcome Devils...page 26

•Cardiac Kids to be honored...page 26

•City cross country race...page 27

A man of many firsts, Johnie Floyd

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

Recently, former Bristol Eastern teacher and track coach Johnie Floyd passed away at the age of 80 after a 10-year battle with Parkinsonism.

Floyd had the honor of leading the Bristol Eastern cross country team to the State Open title in 1967 and it was a monumental achievement.

It was the first Bristol Public high school championship since the boys basketball team won the state tournament in 1934.

But what was more significant was the fact that it was the first championship since Bristol High was split into two separate schools in 1959 into Central and Eastern high schools. Plus, the fact St. Paul joined the mix seven short years later, the town's talent was clearly divided between multiple entities.

It was harder than ever to win at the state level and Eastern's 1967 Open title is certainly a fine tribute to what "Coach Floyd" meant for the Lancers

Floyd was a standout in football and track at Bristol High, graduating in 1945 and then moved on to Morehouse College.

During his time at Morehouse, Floyd was a SIAC Collegiate record holder in the 400 meters and was the anchor of the champion mile relay team.

Floyd was drafted in 1946 and after his stint in the Army, he returned to Morehouse and graduated in 1950.

He became a teacher in Bristol in 1954 and eventually came to Eastern as a science teacher. Floyd also



Johnie Floyd

mentored both the boys track and cross country teams.

Floyd was named Coach of the Year in 1967, which capped an undefeated cross country campaign in which Eastern surprised everyone and came home as State Open Champs.

The Lancers were loaded with talent on the course for cross country as led by Scott Carter, Willie Yopp, Tom Silvia, Richard Atwell, Robert Castonguay and Robert Gagnon. The group proved to be a tough bunch to beat and went undefeated in the regular season with a 10-0 ledger.

The biggest win of the regular season came on Friday, Oct. 20 as Eastern hung on to clip Central 27-28.

Central's Steve Cooke was the Rams' fastest runner but no one really got close to Carter as he set new course records just about every time out.

Against the Rams, he ran the 2.5 mile course in a record 12:57.4 to lead Eastern to the victory.

Floyd also guided Eastern to the CCIL Harrier crown and was awarded the CCIL Field Day champions

(Eastern defeated second place Central 35-53) while Carter gained top individual honors.

Eastern finished third in the Class L state championships (124) as Carter finished second in the field and Atwell took fifth. New Britain (91) and Norwich (118) came in first and second in front of the Lancers in the state finals.

But Floyd had his squad more than ready for the State Open on Nov. 7, 1967 and in the 12-team challenge, Eastern (107) upset New Britain (115) to take the top prize and the championship.

Eastern placed four runners in the top 25 as Carter (15:10, 4th), Atwell (16th), Yopp (19th) and Silvia (22nd) led the way for the champions.

In the New England's, Connecticut did not send a team but sent several area runners as Carter qualified for the event and finished 5th in the highly anticipated race.

Connecticut won the New England's and if the Nutmeg State was able to send either Eastern or New Britain to the event, it would have been very possible one of the two schools would have won the entire event with the other taking the runner-up.

Later, Floyd was appointed the Assistant Director of Admissions at Central Connecticut State University and eventually became the director before retiring in 1989.

Floyd is also a member of the Bristol Hall of Fame and was inducted with the Class of 2001.

Comments? Email mletendre@BristolObserver.com

21-point blitz sinks BE in Windsor

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

WINDSOR – A 21-point second period blitzing by the Windsor football squad led to Bristol Eastern's demise Friday night as the Warriors held on for a 27-14 CCC Interdivisional victory in Windsor.

Football

Down 27-0 midway through the fourth period, the Lancers staged a furious comeback bid and had the ball late in the game down only 27-14 and in Windsor

territory before finally stalling with under one minute left to play.

Even with the score seemingly out of reach, the Lancers remained in the game and certainly made the Windsor squad squirm at the end.

"Our kids played their hearts out," said Eastern coach Mike Archangelo. "They didn't quit. We were down by three scores. Again, the big play hurt us a little bit tonight and not taking care of the ball offensively (hurt as well). We had a couple drives where we drove

down and lost it."

Eastern did a credible job stopping the Windsor running game cold as the Warriors only amassed 72 yards of offense.

But Windsor QB Pierre Narcisse gave Eastern fits the entire night as he connected on his first eight passes and ended the game with a 19-of-27 showing for 309 yards and four touchdown strikes.

Receiver Aaron Beradino was Narcisse's favor target as 10 receptions were made by Beradino for See FOOTBALL, page 28



TAMMI KNAPIK

Alexa Zygiel of Bristol Central on the move against Plainville last Tuesday in Plainville.

It was a Devil of a stalemate

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

PLAINVILLE-- The Bristol Central and Plainville girls soccer teams battled for 80-minutes to a 2-2 stalemate last Tuesday night in Plainville and needed two extra overtime sessions to try to determine a victor.

Girls soccer

But after the ten minute extra sessions, the stalemate ultimately turned into a 2-2 tie in a CCC South affair from Alumni Field.

The teams played a battle of "Can you top this?" as Central struck first in the first stanza. But within 35 seconds, Plainville quickly notched a goal to tie the score.

In the second half, Plainville scored late in the game to seize a 2-1 edge with just five minutes to go but the Rams needed just three minutes to tie the score and send things into overtime.

Plainville attacked early and often to open the game and took three good shots at the Central goal over the first three minutes of action, which set the tone of things over the first 40 minutes.

"We knew it was going to be tough when we came over here," said Central coach Tony Carrier. "I told the girls there's no reason to take this team lightly. I knew

Bristol Central 2, Plainville 2 (OT)
At Alumni Field, Plainville

Bristol Central	1	1	0	0-2
Plainville	1	1	0	0-2

First Half – BC, Elise Galipo 17:19; P, Alyssa Martino (Jill Newton) 17:54.

Second Half – P, Newton 74:47; BC, Jen Calhoun 77:44.

Shots – Central 8, Plainville 13. Saves – Sam Webber, Central, 7; Melissa Horan, Plainville, 3. Corner kicks – Central 1; Plainville 4.

Records: Central 7-1-2; Plainville 6-3-1.

we had our work cut out for us and we did not play well in the first half at all."

"We did not play Central soccer. We were kicking and running, we couldn't string two or three passes together (and) it was not a pretty thing to watch in the first half."

But Central drew first blood off a missed shot by Kelly Ziogas. While Ziogas's shot just missed, the rebound came out to Elise Galipo and she jammed in a blast that found the back of the net as the Rams grabbed a 1-0 edge at the 17:19 mark of the first half.

The Blue Devils got it right back as Jill Newton set-up Alyssa Martino on the left side as Martino dropped a shot over keeper Sam Webber for a game tying goal at 1-1.

Plainville's Lexxi Carroll drilled a shot just over the Central goal to end the first-half as the teams were knotted at 1-1.

"We gave them too much space and they've got some skilled players and they exploited that," said Carrier. "Plainville did a good job. They're skilled,

they're aggressive and we need to improve in a few areas."

Coming out with a little fire, Central was much more aggressive in the second half and had several balls down on the Plainville end of things.

And the stalemate continued until Newton made a move on the left side of the Central box, dribbled around and unleashed a shot to the right that fell through as Plainville grabbed a 2-1 cushion.

The Rams grabbed the advantage right back just three minutes later once again to tie the score.

Alexa Zygiel – who was everywhere in the second half – made a pass to Jen Calhoun. After a little scrap, Calhoun took the un-cleared ball and sent it deep to the right side of the net. Just as suddenly, the game was once again at a stalemate.

"In the second half, we played a lot better," said Carrier. "I give the girls a lot of credit for being down 2-1

See GIRLS SOCCER, page 29