

BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

March 2017

VOL 3 NO. 2.5



Produced entirely by members of the B.H.S. Community.
Interested? Visit the library on Monday afternoon, or have a
talk with Mr. Scannell any time.

Once Upon A Mattress

by Nadia Hunes
& Carlos Fontes

The newly inaugurated Berlin High auditorium was the site of the show, with over 1100 lucky ticket holders enjoying the humor of "Once Upon A Mattress," a very funny show based on the old tale of "The Princess and the Pea."

The Berlin High Musical offered three performances to large and enthusiastic audiences over the first weekend in March. Additionally, the cast and crew delivered a special partial performance to 4th and 5th graders in the week prior to public opening. All involved in the play devoted two and a half months to preparation and practice, after school and often in the evening. Lead roles in the musical were performed by Caylie Whiteside as Princess Winifred, Theo Reed as Prince Dauntless, Melody Zielke as The Queen, and Joey Leary as The King. A very hard working crew delivered a sensational set for the play, which was a final musical performance for the seniors in the crew and cast.

Ms. Scherer directed the show, with most able assistance from Mr. Sirois and his pit band. All involved benefitted from Ms. Allard's background and expertise in dance and choreography.

Next up dramatically: "Almost Maine," in late spring, a non-musical to be directed by Mr. Recore.



Red Cross Club Activities

by Steve Miano

It's been a very busy winter for the Berlin High Red Cross Club. In early February, we organized and managed a Blood Drive in Gym B, and the Red Cross professionals collected 25 pints of blood, all donated by willing members of the high school community. UpBeat did its share by providing snacks for donors who wished to replenish their energy resources.

As part of the club's on-going volunteer efforts, Steve Miano and Ethan Hilby spent an evening staffing a Hartford Civic Center booth during a Harlem Globetrotters game. (As a bonus, we got to watch some of the game as well!)

Last year, through various fund -raisers, the Red Cross Club raised over \$1,000. A portion of this money is to be donated to the Vaccinate a Village Project. Soon, club members will be selling Red Cross Safety



Tubes - these are convenient kits loaded with the basics for dealing with an unexpected emergency.

In addition to our own fund raising, local businesses, such as Bill's Pizza, The Creative Clay Spot, and Stop and Shop have stepped up with assistance.

The Red Cross Club's advisor is Ms. Cassella, who meets with the club every other Friday to plan future activities. We are always looking for members, so, if you

would like to be part of a most positive extra-curricular activity, check with a member or with Ms. Cassella for the next meeting date, and we'll see you there.

Wicked Big TV Seen in Library

The Berlin High Library has a new 90" television mounted on the Patterson Way wall. The TV will be used for large group presentations. As well, the TV will show a rotating display of school announcements and videos during each day. (And maybe a Red Sox day World Series game next fall.)

Berlin High School Interact Club Receives Funds by Caylie Whiteside

Mr. Fritz Schmalberger, a member of the Lions Club, recently came to an Interact meeting at BHS to present a check of \$1,600 to the club. The money was earned from the recycling collected at the Berlin Fair. Interact club would like to thank the members who helped make this event successful, and the community members who recycled at the fair. Additionally, we would like to thank to Lions Club for allowing us to collect the recycling at the fair and then very generously matching our proceeds. The funds will help to benefit the Berlin High School Interact Club and other local organizations.



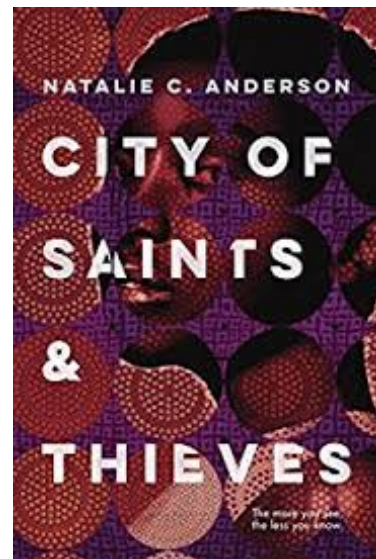
Library News By Ms. Fazzio

For March, the Library Media Center has two new displays, highlighting March as both Red Cross Month and Women's History Month.

The Red Cross is focusing on fundraising for their home fire preparedness program this month, which is one of their most active program. It also currently needs the most monetary assistance. We have some information at the display about this initiative, what it includes, and how they hope to continue funding it. Come check it and our other displays out when you get a chance!

The Women's History Month display features books by and about a variety of famous women, including Serena Williams, Zora Neal Thurston, Malala Youszrazi, and Madeline Albright

We also have a small selection of new fiction and non-fiction on display. New titles include "City of Saints and Thieves," a thriller about a Congolese girl in Kenya seeking revenge for her mother's murder, and "You're Welcome, Universe," about a girl caught in a suburban graffiti war.



Habitat for Humanity Helps by Caitlee McNamara

The Habitat for Humanity group is recently back from Tennessee, where they devoted a week helping to build a house for a needy family. The Berlin group, directed by Ms. Wilcosz, stayed in a church each night, and spent each day drilling, hammering, and generally constructing a single house. The family that would eventually receive the house worked side by side with the Redcoat team, contributing their own efforts to the project. "A hand up, not a hand out" is the program's motto. Each 'build' is a team effort. The B.H.S. Habitat for Humanity group is contemplating an international trip next year, while continuing its bi-yearly efforts at the Tennessee site.

In addition to the 'builds,' the H for H group contributes time at the Restore Center in Cromwell, restoring and retailing items for people to buy and use in their own homes. 16 members go on 'builds,' but there's plenty of work available for new members. The Habitat for Humanity club meets twice a week in Ms. Wilcosz's room. New members always are welcome.



Big Changes

Prior to the re-construction of Berlin High, what is now the English section was three Tech Ed workshops, the main office was art rooms, and the classrooms leading up to the auditorium were the main office.

The track has not been moved.

TV Club Broadcasts by Annalise Gormley

One of the improvements that has resulted from the school reconstruction has been a tremendous upgrading in media equipment, and a surge of students' involvement in using it to televise events. Mr. Wolfe and Mr. LaPlante advise the TV Club, which meets, weather permitting, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You may have noticed the large TV screens installed around the school. The club's plan is to create video content that can be shown during the day on these modern screens. Already recorded is a boys' basketball game, accessible via school utube. A girls' game has also been recorded, but technical issues have gotten in the way of a successful broadcast. Annalise Gormley and Mr. LaPlante recorded speeches and ribbon cutting at last month's public reception to celebrate the new B.H.S. building's completion, and these have been shown on some of the flat screens.

The TV Club plans to expand its recording and broadcasting activities. Members will learn to effectively use the new state of the art video facilities, which include the TV room itself, a tri-casting studio in a separate sound-proof room and a modern green screen. Any student interested in being a part of this dynamic club should contact a member, or see Mr. Wolfe or Mr. LaPlante for more information.



DECA Conference **by Ms. Wischert & Mr. Parisi**

Once again, the Berlin High Business Club has well represented the school at the annual DECA Business Conference. DECA is an international association of marketing students. Individual honorees are: Hannah Smolicz, 3rd Place, Advertising Campaign; Gabby Pattavina and Angelina Perrelli, 4th Place, Sports and Entertainment Event Marketing Team Event; and Brianna Muller, winner of \$500.00 DECA scholarship.

The Berlin students have been invited to attend the International Career DECA Conference in Anaheim, California to compete and to participate in leadership workshops.

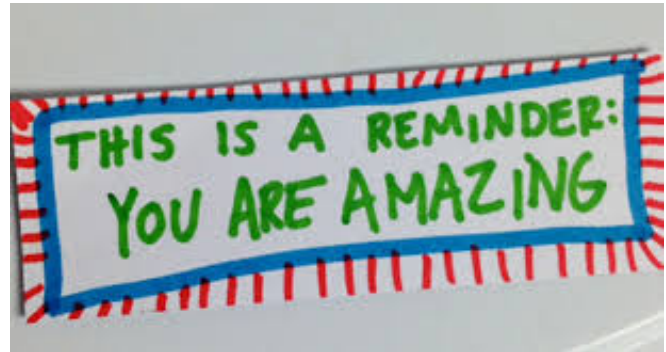


Random Acts of Kindness has a Plan! **by Sania Khan**

Random Acts of Kindness is a new club at Berlin High this year, Directed by Ms. Rodrigue and led by President Sania Khan and Co-President Lauren Nguyen, The club's members strive to create and continue a positive attitude among all facets of the Berlin High community. They are the ones behind the 'Sticky Note' initiative. Anybody is free to take an inspirational sticky note from the board by Room 1204, and pass it along to a friend. These notes often are seen proudly ornamenting a chromebook or backpack. Also evident in

many classrooms are the anonymous notes composed and left in teachers' mailboxes, expressing appreciation for the teachers' various contributions to the school.

The Random Acts of Kindness group also has decorated the school with 'Ghostly Notes' at Halloween and snowflakes during the holiday season. Meetings are weekly after school in Ms. Rodrigues' room New members always are welcome.



Recycling Club Cleans Up **by Sania Khan**

Can you guess what the Recycling Club does? Right! The club is devoted to continuing the B.H.S. tradition of sensible and environmentally positive re-use of paper, bottles, and cans. Ms. Rodrigue advises this group, led by Sania Khan and Karlina Tyburski, as they manage recycling efforts for the entire school. Working off a plan devised in the fall, the group collects recycling boxes of paper every two weeks, and deposits the material in a specially designated container behind the school.

Occasionally, the group partners with UpBeat to ensure that the task is completed on time. Also, the Recycling Club gathers used beverage containers, contributing them to Ms. Downes' container collection drive. The club's five members have been very busy this year, and hope that an even larger membership will carry on their efforts next year.

Recycle

Student Government by Kara Boninsegna

The Student Government club, advised by Mr. Munoz, is the quiet, secret hand behind many of Berlin High's favorite activities. Every pep rally needs to be carefully planned: coordinated with administrators, games managed, teams coordinated, cleaned up after, and, yes, T shirts rolled and thrown to the cheering crowd. And it's the Student Government that does all these things. In fact, the entire Spirit Week is planned and managed by this group.

Other Student government initiatives include funding help for Homecoming, a 'tea' for staff during Teacher Appreciation Week, Carnations and a Kiss for Valentine's Day, and a Kiddy Carnival in March which, this year, entertained more than three dozen excited children.

Next up: the year's final pep rally, set for April 26.

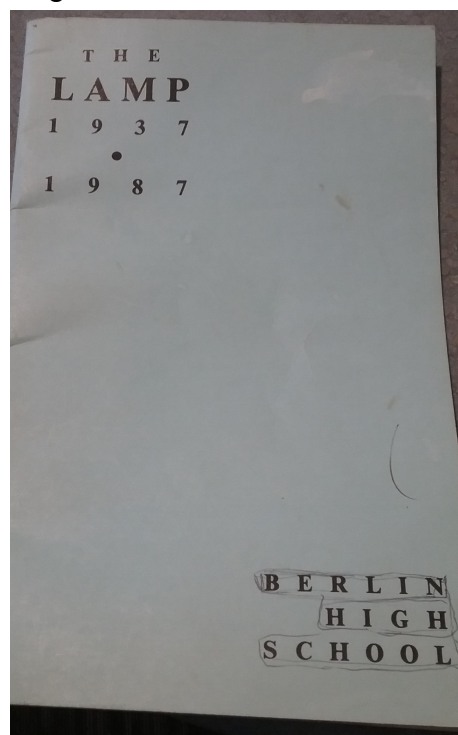


The Lamp Shines On by Kara Boninsegna

"The Lamp," B.H.S.'s yearbook requires a deep field of students to be produced so successfully each year. It all begins with Mr. Wicander's yearbook class, which enrolls underclass students as well as seniors in its single semester sections. This year, editors Kara Boninsegna and Amanda Scalzi, veterans of Mr. Wicander's classes, are

leading the yearbook team. They oversee a breadth of activities. The book needs to be designed with the help of a consulting professional graphic artist. Sales need to be promoted, at a full cost of \$80.00 for this year's edition. Ads must be sold. And, of course, copy has to be written and checked, as well as pictures taken, sorted through, selected, and prepared.

So, in the end, we will have a 2017 "Lamp" that, in future years, we can peruse for accurate and pleasant memories of our time at Berlin High School.



2017 Art from Berlin Public Schools On Display

The New Britain Museum of American Art, 56 Lexington Street, will host a showing of art created by Berlin students. The show will be kicked off with an opening reception on Tuesday, April 18, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and the exhibit will remain at the museum until April 23.

National Honor Society Serves by Caylee Whiteside

Members of the Berlin High National Honor Society provide many important services for their fellow students. The Four Pillars of NHS: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character are clearly exhibited by the group's activities. They collect money regularly to support various charities such as the Food Pantry. The group also runs school-wide drives; this year, they collected warm winter coats for those in need. Some members fulfill their five hours monthly of required service by getting involved in peer tutoring, or helping out as secretaries during parent conferences.

Ms. Raime and Ms. Evans are NHS's faculty advisors. NHS's officers include: Caylee Whiteside, President; Claudia Zovich, Vice President; Samantha Bengiovanni, Secretary; and Hahhah Schultz, Treasurer. Each year, a new group of academically and ethically qualified juniors and seniors is invited to be part of NHS, and, at graduation, each is entitled to wear a special symbol as he or she crosses the Welte stage.



Business/ DECA Club: It's All About the Washingtons by Danielle Skates

First, the important news; in just a few weeks, the business Club will be selling Krispie Kreme donuts as a fundraiser. Start saving now, so you can buy plenty of these succulent treats. The Berlin High School Business Club has already been very busy this year. Advised by Ms. Wischert and Mt. Parisi, the club has spent the year learning and practicing successful business planning and merchandising. Fundraisers, like the K.K. sale, our recent mattress sale, and a Berlin Helping Berlin drive, provide ways to practice these skills as well, and some provide money to help pay for participating in state and national competitions.

The DECA aspect of the Business Club links our B.H.S. students to 18,000 students nationwide. At state meetings, we role-play and take tests to determine just who is the most proficient. At the fall meeting, a 'Shark Tank' design required each team to create and promote a product to a panel of judges and a large audience.

President Claudia Zovich, Vice President Kevin Klotz, and Public Communications Director Danielle Skates serve as Business Club officers. Their roles became much more complicated in February, as the club opened a school store, selling B.H.S. branded apparel, school supplies, and the least expensive bottled water in school. A Berlin Helping Berlin donations box ins in the store for convenient charitable giving.



Cheer! by Caitlee McNamara

One of Berlin High's most successful and least recognized teams is the Cheerleading program, one of only two year-long athletic activities, and a program that has achieved recognition at the very highest level. In the past three years, the Berlin Cheerleaders have been Grand Champs winners for the entire CCC twice, and runners up once. The competitions were scored on routines, technique, execution, and difficulty. Besides, competitions, and football and basketball cheering, the cheerleaders perform routines at school pep rallies. Corinne Blanchette, Madison Naughton, and Caitlee McNamara have led the team as captains this year, under the guidance of Ms. Kailyn Marino.



1949

Next up for the cheer squad will be April try-outs for next year's team. All candidates are welcome and will be auditioned, and everyone who tries out will be offered a place at some level of cheering.

Wrestling Recap by Nicholas Arborio

The high school wrestling season is over, and, once again, Coach Jim Day's grapplers have a lot to be proud of. The team fielded only three seniors, Brad Bednarczyk, Tyler Biaggio, and Nick Arborio. Eighteen completed the season with the squad. Team high points included a third place finish at East Catholic's Eagle Classic tournament and a Senior Night domination of local rival New Britain High. Nick Arborio earned won his weight in three tournaments, and was named Outstanding Wrestler in all three.

In February, two Redcoats, Dan Veleas and Nick Arborio, made the final round at the Class M meet. At the Open, Veleas ended a match away from placing, while Arborio continued his season after that, winning at the State Open and placing fifth at the New England Championships.



1978

Women's Basketball

By Nina D'Amato

The Berlin High Women's Basketball Team has completed its 2016 season with yet another tournament qualifying record (9 and 11), and with high hopes for next season. Captains Gabby Vasi, Haley Hauptfield, and Nina D'Amato led the squad this winter. Freshman Lizzie Litwinko made a major contribution, earning all Conference recognition. An important achievement was twice defeating rival Plainville High.

Forecast for Coach King's and Coach Scoglund's team next year is very positive, with a likely be a young team gelling together for success and regaining its prominent place in the CCC South.



1977

A new Use for the Library?

Although there seem to be, currently, no plans to do so, the Thomas Galvin Library Media Center would be an ideal spot for a third gymnasium. Floor space is ample, and the ceiling is high. Spectators could root on any action from the elevated mezzanine, while dramatic slow motion replays could be broadcast on the library's new wide-screen TV.

Hmmm...

Swim Team Splashes On!

by Steve Miano

Despite the lack of a true home pool, The Berlin Men's Swim Team has enjoyed a most successful season. Coach Dan Thurston's aquanauts have finished a strong second place in the competitive CCC South division, and head into tournament season with high expectations. The team, which practices at the Meriden YMCA, also stages 'home' meets at Platt, Maloney, and Plainville. Coach Thurston, assisted by Team Thurston, emphasizes personal improvement relative to past performance, looking to a team-wide goal of 50% overall improvement at each competition. Having built on a strong base of pre-season conditioning, the team has achieved this goal in most meets, with its nine senior swimmers leading the way.

Seven Berlin swimmers have been named to the 2017 All-Conference team: Tommy Wezda, Steve Miano, Kevin Klotz, Connor Recck, Quin Burns, Joey Leary, and Andrew Leary. At the Class M Meet, the team took 6th place, led by an All-State performance by Connor Recck. Along with Recck, Tom Wejda, Steve Miano, and Kevin Klotz qualified to compete at the State Open Meet



True or False ?

Coach Thurston has, at least once, swum a lap at practice while fully clothed.

Women's Golf looks to the Future by Darby Trowbridge

Last year's Women's Golf Team was dominated by very adept seniors, and their strong influence was rewarded with a conference championship in June. The team went 17 -1, won its conference, and placed 11th in the State Championship

The 2017 team is led by a single senior, Darby Trowbridge, and the outlook is for more of a re-building year, with the younger team members' task being to learn and master the fundamentals of high school golf. This investment in effort should result in a larger and more successful season next year for the school's perennially successful program.



2005

The expected size of this year's squad is fewer than a dozen, which means that a number of athletes will do double duty, competing in both varsity and junior varsity matches. Already, the women have prepared for the spring season with summer and fall play, as well as hitting balls at indoor ranges over the winter.



Women's Tennis By Caylie Whiteside

Last year, the Berlin Women's Tennis Team had to practice and compete off-campus; that's how bad the Patterson Way courts were. The women still managed to win to a 14 -3 record, 10 -0 in the conference. to win both sections in the CCC South Championships, and to qualify for, and to compete in, both individual and team State Championship tournaments. With the brand new school courts now in place, the team is expecting to continue its success in the 2017 season. In 2016, Caylie Whiteside, Maegan Varley, Julia Perrelli, Alyssa Mayer, and Jasmine Nappi led the squad to victory. This year, senior captains Maegan Varley, Alyssa Mayer, Bridget Fox, and Caylie Whiteside, along with Jasmine Nappi hope to repeat the feat, having worked over the winter to up their games.

Coach Berard 's try-outs begin the 18th of March, he is looking to fill out full varsity and JV rosters.



1996

Lacrosse Rocks!

by Maeve McQuillan

The 2016 Women's Lacrosse Team devoted its season to rebuilding, following a conference championship in 2015. This year, following an off season when many team members competed in winter league, and participated in twice weekly conditioning sessions, prospects are good for a very favorable outcome to the new season.

Coach Sheehan, assisted by JV Coach Cassello, expects more than 30 athletes to come out this season, with 10 seniors set to lead the team. The seniors' experience should be very helpful in a tough CCC South division.



Men's Tennis

contributed by **Coach Smith**

The new high school courts will see a lot of use this season, as the B.H.S. Men's Tennis team ramps up for another season. The team is looking forward to continuing the momentum of a winning 2016 season in which they advanced to the Class M Tournament. Repeat captains Ben Kennure and Justin Kemmling will lead the team, providing enthusiasm and experience. Sophomore Jonathan Trevethan, who excelled as a freshman, is expected to continue his drive for excellence on the courts. In its opening week, the Redcoat team will face a potent quartet of perennial CCC powers: Conard, Hall, Glastonbury, and Simsbury. Coach Smith invites all to come on back to the new courts and enjoy the action.

Unified Sports

By Isabella Boisvert

The Unified Sports Team at B.H.S. runs all year, and involves a group of highly dedicated individuals. Ms. Siegal and Ms. Salwocki advise the team, which competes in soccer, basketball, and track. In Unified sports, regular ed. students pair with special ed. peers for practice and competition. Some emphases are accuracy, physical development, and social skills. During the school day, all team members acknowledge and help each other, a dynamic common to any team.

Unified Sports competes in dual competitions against other schools, and also in Olympic style tournaments, when many other Unified teams gather for a day of competition. The tournaments begin with a torch lighting ceremony, and end with well earned medals for all. The Unified Sports motto, which is respected by all involved is: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

My first tournament was at New Britain High, and a Unified soccer athlete from another school scored a goal - it was her first goal ever. Her joy, and that of her mother affected us all deeply, and showed us the central meaning of Unified Sports.

This year, the Berlin team has won a Unified Champ School Award banner, which will be hung in the gym, alongside all the other sports teams' championship banners. This award was presented at a special ceremony



2004

Men's Golf Expects Success by Rick Nappi

The Berlin High Men's Golf Team was extremely well balanced last year. In any match, any one of the varsity players was capable of stepping up and posting a low round. This formula enabled the team to win its conference, and to go on to place 2nd in the State Tournament.

This year will display a different dynamic, as Rick Nappi is the only returning varsity player on the squad. Last year's very successful JV players will vie for the remaining five varsity places, hoping to improve their scores. In golf, varsity status is determined by performance, so pre-season and early matches will be very important for these younger players' status. Head Coach Line expects to field six varsity golfers and two practice players, while veteran Assistant Coach Brittingham will be responsible for eight JV golfers, who will compete in their own matches.

Off-season, the golfers continued play during summer and fall, while weight training and indoor driving range work has kept them sharp over the winter. Also, this year's mild winter has allowed for a few rounds since the fall. This solid base projects a most positive season and post-season for the 2017 Redcoat Men's golf team.



1971

If Past Results Promise 2017 Success...

2016 Men's Lacrosse

Won 9

Lost 7

Coach - Mr. Scott Rossi

Coach's Award - Kyle Mahoney

Redcoat Award - Garrett Guite &
Eric DeFrancesco

2016 Men's Track

Won 6

Lost 2

Coach - Mr. Ricardo Hanbury

Coach's Award - Kevin Russell



1969

2016 Baseball

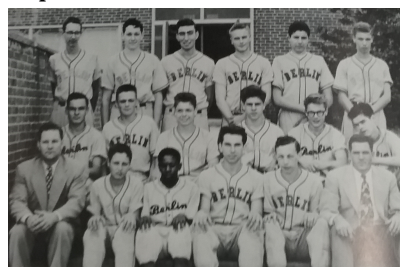
Won 16

Lost 4

Coach - Mr. Leo Veleas

Coach's Award - Alan Guild

Redcoat Award - Jonathan Beckman
& Nick Naples



1961

Softball up Next by Haley Hauptfield

Last year, the Berlin High Softball Team won its way through two rounds of the State Tournament, despite fielding only a single regular duty pitcher, Michelle Cohen. The team's 14 and 6 record was earned by an otherwise deep squad, nine of whom are expected to return this year as seniors. Last year, a pair of Redcoat players Vanessa Reimer and Jackie Arute, earned both All Conference and All State honors.

This year's prospects for the Sage Park based team seem extremely positive, with Michelle Cohen's pitching backed up by the newly acquired skills of at least two previously JV players who have worked in the off season to become proficient pitchers. Also, many players have competed over the winter in league play at Fast Pitch Nation in Bloomfield.

As usual, the rivalry with Maloney should create some very exciting and hard fought competition.



1988

OPPORTUNITY

Be sure to shop the newly re-opened school store for cutting edge Redcoat fashion apparel. School supplies, and B.H.S. branded gear are also on sale. The store is open at convenient hours, and is located in Room D153, right next to the custodians' office.

Women's Track & Field by Nina D'Amato

Women's Track and Field, one of Berlin High's most consistently successful teams. is poised to be a strong CCC South contender again this year. In 2016, the team won the CCC South title, and earned 1st runner up honors in Class M. This year sees a strong group of returning seniors, including Nina D'Amato and Sarah D'Dario, who already have committed to compete next year at the collegiate level.

Captains for the upcoming season will be Hannah Schultz, Sara D'Dario, Nikki Ksaroz, Lexi Kavarski, and Madison Miralda. Mr. Soucy will return as coach, assisted by Mr. Sheridan.

An important factor in the women's team's success has been the continuity of coaching afforded by Mr. Soucy's leadership through cross country and indoor track seasons. In addition to indoor track involvement, many of the athletes have competed in other winter sports, so all should enter the spring season with a high degree of conditioning. Previous women's track teams. have earned a trip to a National Championship meet at season's end. A return to the Nationals would be an excellent final track experience.



1984

Hockey, a Cooperative Effort

Information contributed by Mr. Lavoie

No rink, no problem. The Berlin High Hockey Team has been one of the school's most successful since its inception nine years ago. Operating as a co-op with Newington High, Manchester High, and Cromwell High, the team has skated to a 127 - 69 - 7 record, winning four CCC Divisional Championships and two State Championships.

This past season, despite a weak start, the team went on to three wins in the final five games to once again qualify for state competition. As eleventh seed in the D III tournament, where they lost 4 -3 in an overtime first round thriller, the team acquitted itself well, showing a strong, never say die, effort.

B.H.S. sophomore Matt Lavoie's six goals and sixteen assists led the team this season, and Redcoats Tyler Ralph and Mark Sweitzer each scored a varsity goal. Andrew Graham contributed as a forward. At Awards Night, Coach Harackiewicz presents the Coach's Award to Mike Sweitzer, while Matt Lavoie took home the Redcoat Award.

