

# Section VI Alignment Has New 4-A Category



The athletic realignment of high schools in Section VI has finally become a reality.

Long overdue, the new alignment, made possible by the entry of Buffalo schools into the section, provides a realistic grouping of schools of similar size.

For years there has been talk of schools, ie. Tonawanda, being dropped from AAA classification because of enrollment.

The new classifications do not drop any of the Tonawanda schools to a lower group. Rather, three of the four schools in the Tonawandas are advanced to a new quadruple A category.

Kenmore West, Kenmore East and North Tonawanda join 10 other high schools in the new AAAA classification. Tonawanda remains an AAA school for athletic purposes, while Niagara-Wheatfield remains in the AA status.

What this means is that post-season play in all athletics, where sectional titles are contended for, schools such as Tonawanda will not be forced to

bang heads with the likes of West, East and NT.

Football is one of the few varsity sports in which there are no post-season playoffs. It will now be possible for schools in the Niagara Frontier League to contend for titles in four classifications, from A to AAAA.

The NFL has five of its 10 schools in quadruple A. They are Kenmore West, the largest school according to male enrollment in Section VI; Kenmore East, second largest; NT, Niagara Falls and LaSalle.

Lockport and Tonawanda remain in AAA, while Lewiston-Porter and Niagara-Wheatfield are AA and Trott in A category.

There also has been some thought given to a possible break-up of the NFL. However, this could not be confirmed. It was learned that consideration has been given to drawing up leagues in which schools of like size and classification would play against one another. No action will be taken on this at the present time for many reasons. One of the uppermost is that NFL schools are

reluctant to break up what is considered one of the finest high school athletic leagues in New York State. The NFL contains many natural rivalries which would pass by the boards should such a plan be put into effect.

Buffalo schools will participate in post season play in Section VI in basketball, swimming, wrestling, baseball, track and tennis this year.

The following are the classifications, schools and male enrollment as adopted by Section VI through 1971.

## AAAA

Kenmore West — 1,344; Kenmore East — 1,149; Seneca — 950; Jamestown — 944; North Tonawanda — 874; Niagara Falls — 834; Bennett — 830; Hutch Tech — 820; Amherst — 798; LaSalle — 727; Frontier — 708; South Park — 700; Burgard — 686.

## AAA

Maryvale — 682; Lancaster — 632; Lockport — 625; Tonawanda — 624; West Seneca East — 610; Hamburg — 601; McKinley — 597; East — 594; Kensington — 577; Sweet Home — 571; Lackawanna — 565; Orchard Park — 560; West Seneca West — 550.

## AA

Lewiston Porter — 519; Niagara Wheatfield — 504; Riverside — 499; Clarence — 492; Olean — 485; Lafayette — 466; Williamsville North — 461; Williamsville — 452; Emerson — 430; Dunkirk — 397; Iroquois — 397; East Aurora — 393; Cleveland Hill — 389.

## A

Lake Shore — 373; Trott — 363; Grand Island — 358; Grover Cleveland — 349; Southwestern — 344; Griffith Inst. — 329; Fredonia — 315; J. F. Kennedy — 308; Alden — 299; Cheektowaga — 297; Newfane — 295; Pioneer — 293; Eden — 293.

## BBB

Depew — 282; Medina — 278; Starpoint — 278; Albion — 273; Salamanca — 261; Gowanda — 238; Royalton-Hartland — 224; Wilson — 207; Falconer — 200; Akron — 194; Allegheny — 191; Cassadaga Valley — 171.

## BB

Maple Grove — 167; Westfield — 157; Silver Creek — 152; Holland — 151; Portville — 144; Randolph — 135; North Collins — 115; Franklinville — 107; Cattaraugus — 104; Brocton — 104; Forestville — 103; Ellicottville — 96.

## B

Panama — 85; Clymer — 85; Pine Valley — 83; Mayville — 82; Frewsburg — 79; Hinsdale — 69; Ripley — 69; Sherman — 68; Chautauqua — 67; Little Valley — 53; West Valley — 50; Limestone — 41.

## Milt Richman's Sports Parade

NEW YORK (UPI)—Lew Alcindor has arrived.

That's like jumping the gun when you stop and consider he has played only two games professionally so far. He's only 22 and he simply sat there and said, "Sorry, that's not enough," when one ABA owner put a check for \$1-million on the table for him last spring.

But it's not jumping at anything if you happened to catch Alcindor in his professional debut with the Milwaukee Bucks Saturday. He looked and acted like a pro the moment he stepped out on the floor.

Moreover, he got the opening jump from Detroit's Walt Bellamy, then went on to score 29 points and grab 12 rebounds in a 119-110 victory over the Pistons. By the time the contest ended, few who watched him either on national television or in person had any reasonable

Typically, Alcindor found fault with himself after the opener against the Pistons.

"I made too many mistakes, missed too many shots," he said.

He wasn't being modest, he was simply stating a fact because it was obvious he had made a mistake early in the game when he left himself stranded up court on one of the Bucks' fast breaks. But in spite of that lapse and a few others Alcindor's debut was a tremendous success.

### Coach Is Convinced

No coach likes getting overly enthusiastic too early, but Alcindor's coach, Larry Costello, already is convinced the former UCLA superstar is destined to become one of the NBA's all-time greats.

Of course, it's somewhat early in the day, yet, as a man says, but Costello and Alcindor