

Riot Police Keep Peace at BHS

By Bill Willis

Helmeted policemen Thursday afternoon thwarted attempts for a third clash in 24 hours between black and white students at Bloomington High School.

About 40 policemen stood guard at the high school Friday morning, but students went to class without incident.

No arrests or injuries were reported despite some shoving and kicking Thursday afternoon.

The confrontation occurred at 3 p.m. when about 40 blacks, mostly BHS students who had not been in class Thursday, marched from the west end of the high school to the south doors.

Just prior to that, a few boys urinated on a north exterior wall of the school, school officials said.

At the southwest corner of the school, one of the black group broke a window with his fist at a room filled with students.

The students inside were quickly shuttled to a classroom on the opposite side of the building. One girl cried aloud as she was transferred. She was not hurt.

Toward Police

The blacks then moved toward the police line.

They met 15 riot-equipped city policemen standing in a line under the canopy leading from the school to the gymnasium.

For about 10 minutes, the police just stood.

A few of the blacks heckled them.

They had been led to the police line by Dennis Hawthorne, a black freshman at Illinois State University from Decatur.

He told police he was the leader.

Lt. Sam Thoman ordered his men to move the blacks out.

The officers began walking slowly toward the blacks.

The blacks retreated but then turned and came back, into the police ranks.

Begin Shoving

With riot batons out front, policemen began shoving the blacks back.

Sometimes the blacks refused to move even when shoved. There were times when tempers flared. Police were shoved and kicked. The youths were hit in the stomachs with riot batons.

At the west end of the school, a standoff occurred.

Police Chief Harold Bosshardt

had called for the department's "paddy wagon" to be moved up as if he intended to arrest some of the youths. There were no arrests.

Some of the blacks walked south toward Locust Street, only to return a minute later armed with rocks. But no rocks were thrown.

About 3:25 p.m., the blacks all walked to the south side of Locust.

Police blocked Locust Street at Colton and detoured traffic around the area.

Others Held

All this time, students who

remained in classes after fights Thursday morning were being held inside the school.

Classes normally are excused about 3 p.m. Buses had lined up in the drive.

About 3:40 p.m., one of the blacks yelled to the others to head for Sunnyside Neighborhood Center. All left.

About 60 Bloomington and Normal police and sheriff's deputies lined the high school drives and Locust Street as the buses were finally loaded and moved out.

Students on the buses cheered the helmeted policemen.

By 4 p.m., the high school

was secured. The students were gone.

Fights about 8 a.m. Thursday sent two white BHS students to Twin-City Hospitals, left a police sergeant with an eye injury, and resulted in the suspension of 50 to 75 students, black and white, officials said.

Nose Broken

Meredith Marlette, 16, of 603 W. Walnut, was admitted to Brokaw Hospital with a broken nose. The BHS junior remained in good condition Friday.

Stephen Tudor Jr., 17, of 1109 E. Olive, was treated by a doctor and then X-rayed at St. Joseph's Hospital for a stab

wound in the middle of his back.

The boy's father, Stephen Sr., said the doctor told him that Stephen was stabbed with what appeared to be an ice pick or fork. The BHS wrestler and football player was back at school Friday.

Detective Sgt. Dale Gibson was treated at Gailey Eye Clinic for an injury to his left eye.

He said about 15 black students attacked him when he tried to break up a fight among 75 white and black students in the school lobby.



First a Retreat--Then Defiance

Fifteen riot-equipped Bloomington police squared off against 40 blacks at BHS at about 3 p.m. Thursday. When police

moved toward the group, the black retreated, then turned to defy the officers. Police were kicked and spit on. Some

blacks were smacked in their stomachs with the butts of riot batons. But no injuries reported. (Pantagraph Photos)