

The Oracle

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Student Newspaper Of Shaler Area High School

December 2016

Students awarded perfect score for children's book

by Gabrielle Girton & Sarah Hefferin

This past November, three GATE students from Shaler Area High School received a perfect score on a project that they created for the Fairchild Challenge.

The Fairchild Challenge began in 2008 in Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami, and was brought to Pittsburgh through Phipps Conservatory as a partner. Phipps hopes that through this challenge, students will be encouraged to create something for the good of the community and let their creative talents show.

"The Fairchild Challenge is a free, multidisciplinary, standards-based environmental education outreach program designed to give high school and middle school students an opportunity to creatively shine... the Challenge invites students to investigate the thorniest environmental issues, devise imaginative and effective responses to these issues, and take action to address them," the Fairchild Challenge website states.

Juniors Rosie Paras and Allie Evans, along with sophomore Emily Kelly, collaborated and entered their book, "Missy's Rainstorm", into the Fairchild Challenge at Phipps Conservatory.

"Missy's Rainstorm," illustrates a young girl and her adventures through nature in her red rain boots, which took place by the Millvale Trail.

The challenge was to create a children's book no longer than 15 pages that featured a nature site from the author's hometown. The students chose to write their story on the Millvale Trail, and included paintings of Shaler in their book.

"I guess the inspiration came from the Millvale Trail," Kelly said. "We sat down at lunch and we just had a brainstorm day and it was raining...we chose it mainly because Allie and I walk it a lot. Eventually, a friend and I went down to take pictures and it was perfect because it had rained that day too."

Paras, Evans and Kelly were presented with the challenge to inspire children to go outside and spend time away from electronics. They were required to write and illustrate a 15 page children's book that exposed children to the wonders of going out into na-

ture, while making sure they do not focus on environmental issues.

"There are puddles everywhere. She sees water drip from the bridges, she sees frogs," Allie said in a November 28th article written for the Tribune Review. "We were incorporating how nature interacts with the weather and how the trail also interacts with the weather."

The students hoped to encourage children to be active in discovery, and to look a little closer at the environment they live in.

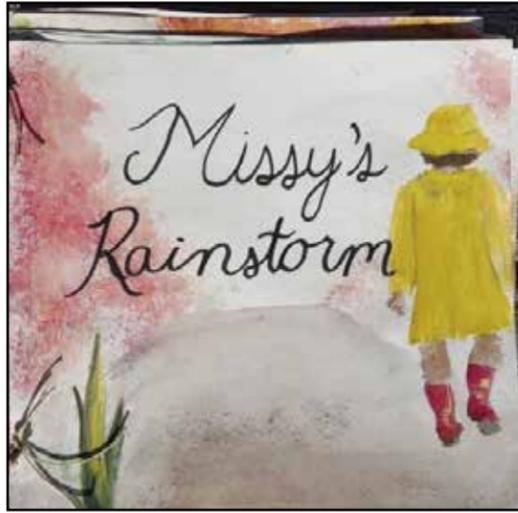
"I hope that they learn to appreciate the little things in nature that we see everyday and don't pay much mind to. There's a lot of intriguing things we don't notice unless we look closer," Paras said.

After developing ideas, the students began to work on the book. Rosie and Allie were able to develop the story, while Emily sketched and painted all of the illustrations. It took countless hours on everyone's parts.

"It took around 30 hours for seventeen pages," Kelly said.

The students were able to achieve a perfect score of 200, an accomplishment that has never been done before by students in the competition. The book was judged by experts from Chatham University, Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse, Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators and Tree Pittsburgh.

"Ms. Paladino has been working on the Fairchild Challenge for longer than I have, but this is my fifth year working with it and I have never seen a per-



Emily Kelly, Allie Evans and Rosie Paras and their book "Missy's Rainstorm".



fect score. We've achieved really good scores; we've won it four out of the last five years, but never a perfect score," GATE teacher Mrs. Kathleen Elder said.

Shaler finished first, North Allegheny second, and Ringgold third for this particular challenge. It was the first perfect score that anyone has seen for a long time. The judges found nothing to criticize.

"Missy's Rainstorm" is a true stunner. The artist is sophisticated with her reflection of the text," one panelist wrote.

Other panelists mentioned the book's use of calligraphy, and style while inspiring children to explore outdoors as one reason it was awarded 1st place.

Paras, Evans, and Kelly were able to share their book by reading it to several groups of children at Phipps Botanical Gardens. They spent the day at the gardens, doing two separate readings to around 30 young children.

From here, the girls hope to publish their book, and share it with as many people as possible.

"Knowing that it was our original work and that we worked on it together was the most rewarding thing to come out of this experience for me. Even though it was stressful, the work paid off," Paras said. "We weren't expecting [to win.]. But overall, [I] was really proud of what we did."

Cafeteria used for filming of upcoming Netflix show

by Kaitlin Parente

Shaler Area High School will be on the big screen now that the upcoming Netflix Series "Mindhunter" finished filming some scenes in the cafeteria.

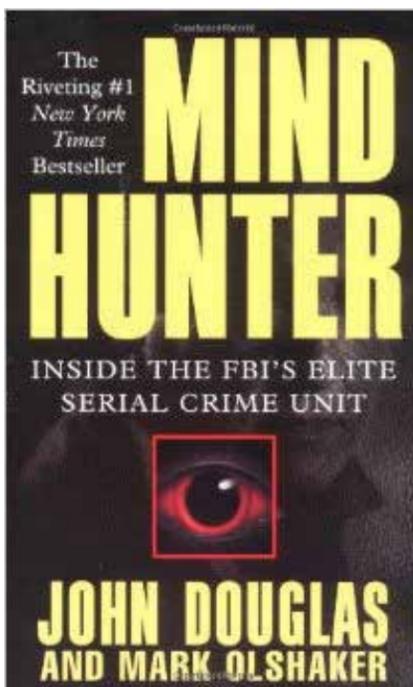
"Mindhunter", a new Netflix series, recently finished filming in the Pittsburgh area. This series, some of which was filmed in the High School's cafeteria, is based upon the novel *Mindhunter* by John E. Douglas and Mark Olshaker.

The overall plot of the series, which deals with the FBI's most elite detectives, revolves around the Serial Killer Crime Unit tracking down serial killers and rapists.

Jonathan Groff, Anna Trov and Holt McCallany were a few stars from the series who were at the high school during filming.

"Initially in the spring some of the Netflix people, producers and location scouts, visited our building a handful of times and they got in touch with the buildings and grounds people to set it up," Shaler Area custodian Mr. Dale Mangold, who also has a minor role in the show, said.

The cafeteria underwent a temporary two-day makeover for the filming to fit the part of a 1970s FBI cafeteria. Some specific construction factors included new walls, covering the security cameras and digital clocks, adding new tables and chairs and bringing in cash registers



and trays to give the setting a look from the '70s time period.

There was also a high demand for extras and for cars from roughly the '60s up until the '80s.

"It was a cafeteria turned into a cafeteria. It's the best way I can describe that. They liked our cafeteria because it resembled the design of an older building, but there are still some modern technology things that exist in the cafeteria now that didn't during the show time period. They still used part of the cafeteria that you would recognize, but the rest was constructed," Mangold said.

The school was only used for filming for about three days, but the overall filming in Pittsburgh lasted about five months with a majority of the filming being done at the Highland Park Veterans Hospital location.

Filming recently finished in the beginning of December. However, it is likely that the "Mindhunter" production will return to Pittsburgh again if the series gets renewed, meaning filming at the high school may continue on in the future.

Mangold himself will appear on screen when "Mindhunters" is released.

"I'm in a handful of episodes, nothing big, just background stuff. I play an FBI staff member in a couple of

scenes," Mangold said.

The debut of the series is set to be released to Netflix around March.

OPINIONS

Positive behavior should be expected, not rewarded

by Bridget Nickel

Rewards for positive behavior are coming back from middle school and being brought to the high school in the form of “bricks”. The positive behavior bricks are being used to recognize students who show positive acts and good behavior in school.

The “bricks” which are actually just pieces of paper, will be displayed in a case on the outside of the athletics office eventually building a wall. If given a positive behavior brick, you get a Titan Buck which can be used in the Titan Shop.

As a high school student, you should know how to act appropriately in a school setting without the incentive of getting a reward for doing it. Students should not be rewarded for their good behavior.

Being from a generation where most of the kids feel they are entitled to everything, this just enhances that problem. Students will feel that they deserve a reward for doing what should be expected. This will lead students to believe that they are only doing the right thing for the reward and recognition that a teacher wants them to receive, rather than just doing the right thing because it is right.

The rules given at the high school are not hard to follow whatsoever. I should not be rewarded just because I have respect for my teachers and know not to talk back to them and neither should anyone else. Because I come to class on time and do my work, does not mean I want a reward for it. As a teenager, school is my job. I don’t go to school for enjoyment, I go because it is what I’m supposed to do.

The students who are recognized or nominated for Student of the Month will most likely be the same group of students who will receive the positive behavior bricks. Usually, the same teachers are nominating the same type of students each year, ones who participate more than others in class, do their work, help classmates, and give insightful input to discussions. Students should not continuously be given a tangible reward for doing what is expected of them.

Similar to sports, the positive behavior bricks are just like the participation awards given in sports today. Children should not be awarded in their sport just because they are trying. Everyone should try and give 100% into what they’re doing. In

————— **Cont. on page 3**

Athletic Hall of Fame needs higher standards, should be less inclusive

by Tom Castello

Walking past the Athletic Hall of Fame, you can see that there are numerous athletes that have been honored here at Shaler Area for their accomplishments.

The Athletic Hall of Fame has been inducting athletes and outstanding community members since 2001. Entering the 15th year, the 2016 class had six individuals inducted.

These athletes are selected by an 18-person committee, made up of former athletes, teachers and coaches. Athletes are nominated by individuals who fill out a nomination form and send it in for the committee to review.

Mr. Dave Fortun, one of the first members of the Hall of Fame committee, gave some information on the induction process and athlete qualifications.

“There are no qualifications that are set, like you have to be an all WPIAL player or state champion, but whoever the nominator, and anyone can nominate anyone, has to on the nomination form submit statistics or facts about the persons accomplishments to justify them being put on the ballot for consideration,” Fortun said.

This sort of puzzled me, it made me ask myself, can anyone be in the Hall Of Fame? Take a look at the individuals who are in our HOF right now. Should there really be that many? Yes there are individuals who made it not only to college, but to the professional stage, and those people should be in there. But our Hall of Fame has so many members that are less accomplished and junlyst played in college.

One man in our HOF is partially remembered for being a “Spectator at virtually every Shaler Area sporting competition.”

There should be higher standards to be in our Hall of Fame. Yes the athletes in there did well at Shaler Area and yes they might have played in

————— **Cont. on page 3**

Pine Richland discriminating against its own students

by Kaitlin Parente

On September 12 the Pine-Richland School Board voted on which bathrooms transgender students were allowed to use. The 5-4 vote decided that transgender students must use either their birth-gender bathroom or a unisex bathroom. Additionally, the decision also declared students must use the locker room of their birth gender. In response to this, three openly transgender students affected by this new policy sued the school board in hopes of a reversal of this vote and are currently waiting on a judge’s decision.

Here is my open letter to the Pine-Richland School Board.

Pine-Richland School Board:

Firstly, congratulations on getting sued. You must be very proud of your

ability to mess up so awfully that legal action had to be brought upon you.

Secondly, I’m happy to see that instead of fixing your mistake, you’re continuing to waste tax dollars on a lawsuit that could have been avoided instead of using that money for bettering the quality of your education policies and buildings.

So tell me, why are you forcing boys to go into the girls room and girls to go into the boys room?

In your vote of 5-4 that literally had nothing to do with you, you decided to force transgender students to use either a unisex bathroom or the bathroom of the birth gender.

This mistake of forcing transgender students into their birth gender bathroom and locker room due to a complaint from a student over feelings of discomfort over a transgender girl

using the girl’s bathroom that led to a trail of “what ifs...” has caused outrage not only in your community, but nationally as well.

“The findings make it really crystal clear there is more work to do. The challenges and tragedies that transgender people face every day is unacceptable,” Mara Keisling, the director for the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in an interview with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on December 8.

You have made the life of the three openly transgender students more difficult and confusing and you have discouraged other students from feeling safe to come out and be who they truly are. Not only have you segregated a group of people, you have made everyone else involved uncomfortable and angry.

Why do you think you have the right to determine who these people are? Why do you think you have the right to bring hellish experiences to transgender students through your segregation?

You are the people that are slammed and shamed when specials on national news sites are released because of your segregation which has caused mental scarring by denying students rights.

This is about more than just a bathroom. This is about inequalities transgender people face.

You have been ignorant. This whole ordeal has shown how little you care about education by focussing on something as miniscule as who uses which bathroom. Get your priorities in check and maybe you won’t get sued again.

-- Kaitlin Parente



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The Oracle

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The Oracle is the official student newspaper of Shaler Area High School. Although it is published by the journalism classes, one does not have to be enrolled in a class to contribute.

Opinions expressed in The Oracle are those of the individual writers. Letters to the Editor are encouraged and welcome. Any letter intended for publication must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request. Articles and letters may be mailed to the high school (ATTN: The Oracle) or emailed to oracle@sas.k12.pa.us.

The Oracle reserves the right to condense or omit any letters or articles unfit for publication.

Volleyball tournament to support miniTHON

by Addeline Devlin

Shaler Area High School will be holding the first ever volleyball winter classic December 22, 2016. The tournament will consist of 24 teams of 7 players each, with all proceeds going towards the miniTHON event in February.

The miniTHON, will also be a first for Shaler. Students will have the opportunity to dance all night, while also making money for The Four Diamonds fund, a charity for childhood cancer. In order for the miniTHON to take place, expenses for food, music and other necessities will need to be covered, which is where the winter classic comes in.

Students participating in the winter classic are required to pay \$10, approximately making \$1,500 for the miniTHON event. The tournament will be held the half day before winter break and students are excused from their classes in order to play.

With the struggle of coming up with fundraising ideas to cover the miniTHON expenses, the idea of a volleyball tournament was brought up at a student government meeting. Students participated in similar event in the past at the middle school and really enjoyed it.

The first place team members will receive a t-shirt, a winter sports pass and a trophy will be awarded to the team as well. The second place team will also receive winter sports passes.

The volleyball winter classic will be a fun incentive for students to raise money for a good cause. If everything runs successfully there are hopes to continue the winter classic and miniTHON annually in the future.

"I hope it goes well enough to become an annual event, I'm really happy about the amount of money we made, and I hope the students enjoy their last day of break playing volleyball for a good cause," senior class president Shannon O'Leary said.

MiniTHON set to raise money to help fight childhood cancer

by Bridget Nickel & Shannon O'Leary

Shaler Area High School is set to hold its very first MiniTHON on February 18, 2016. This event is a fundraiser through Penn State's own IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (THON), an annual event that has raised millions of dollars for the Four Diamonds Fund since its launch in 1977.

Four Diamonds is a charity organization that works to raise money to fight against childhood cancer by providing financial support to affected families, whether it pays for hospital bills, treatments, equipment, and/or insurance. It also has its own cancer research center, which strives to be the best for pediatric cancer care.

Childhood cancers are the number one disease killer of children in the United States. Penn State works to create awareness and action against this horrifying statistic.

Over the years, THON, a dance-all-night fundraiser, has raised more than \$137 million for Four Diamonds at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital as students did not sleep or sit for a 46-hour period. Students were given this opportunity through various donation collections and planning throughout the year leading up to the event.

After seeing how life-impacting THON and its student philanthropy have been, school districts have worked to contribute to the cause by initiating their own official third-party fundraisers. This means they become a small branch of the primary THON and raise money for the same cause through Penn State.

Shaler Area will be among the other

schools now as interested students work to organize its first event. The MiniTHON consists of eight hours dedicated to activity and fun, all while raising money for charity.

The charity aspect comes in to play when students organize teams of 6-10 people. Each individual on the team must raise a minimum of \$25 through donations from friends, families, neighbors, and other community members, although he/she is encouraged to raise as much as possible. All money raised will go to Penn State's THON and ultimately the Four Diamonds Fund.

On the day of the event, teams will be exposed to a "dance-all-night" with a DJ in one gymnasium, as well as other activities such as volleyball, kickball, dodge ball, corn hole, fun Physical Education games, and more. Food and drinks will

also be provided along with the possibility of a mini talent show in which any students can participate.

Due to the expenses that come with holding such an event at Shaler Area, participating students have worked to create their own fundraisers to raise money for THON. They held their own "Turkey Gram" sale in November and are in the process of planning a Winter Classic Volleyball Tournament for students to participate in on December 22, the day before Winter Break.

Overall, the Shaler Area students who have worked to organize this event have done so in hopes of getting other students involved in charity, or simply so that they can execute an unselfish act, while having fun. Now, it's up to the rest of the student body to get excited, involved and motivated to make a difference.

MiniTHON consists of eight hours dedicated to activity and fun, all while raising money for charity.

Hall of Fame needs less, not more (from page 2)

college, but it is more than that. Someone like Art Howe who not only played professionally but also coached at that level, now that is someone who is worthy of being in a Hall of Fame. Someone like Mr. Howe should be set as sort of a standard for the Hall of Fame.

Art Howe might be too high of a standard because not a lot of people can do what he did, but would more restrictions be so bad?

I get that it looks good when everyone walks in and sees a sea of people showcased as the best, but look at it from the standpoint of those professionals who are honored just the same as someone who may have only played high school sports.

I think what we do here for our Athletic Hall of Fame is great, but maybe we should take a step back and start really looking at what the individuals have accomplished.

There needs to be more specific criteria set to be inducted. Maybe professional is a bit of a stretch for everyone to live up to, but I think there should be something more definitive.

Positive behavior bricks misguided (from page 2)

today's society, everyone wants to be recognized for every little thing he/she does, but that isn't how the real world works. In a child's softball tournament, every team should not be rewarded just for playing. The winners should be rewarded because they were the best and deserve the winning title. Giving everyone a trophy or award takes away from the glory or pride that the winners have. It leads everyone to not really try his/her hardest because everyone is going to get an award anyways.

Although positive behavior bricks are not just handed out left and right like a participation award is in sports, it still is related to that aspect. Once again, no reward should be given to someone because they are doing the right thing or what they are supposed to be doing.

Good behavior and good acts in school should not be rewarded. Students should do the right thing because that is what they are supposed to do. Doing the right thing should be a reward in itself, giving the people who do the right thing self-respect, confidence, and the good feeling of being beneficial to society without needing rewarded.

Backpack Initiative awarded \$25,000 grant

by Gabrielle Girton

Thanks to the votes from the community, the Shaler Area Backpack Initiative was awarded a \$25,000 grant in order to provide children with better meals over the weekends.

The initiative, started by Melissa Matlock and Shelley West in 2014, first found out about the grant when a parent of a former student at Shaler Area, also an employee at State Farm, approached them. Soon, the initiative was entered in a list of community programs to be evaluated by the State Farm Youth Advisory Board, who would score the programs on a rubric.

Following that, the Youth Advisory Board chose the highest scoring 200 causes out of the 2000 applicants. After that, the programs relied on the votes of their respective communities to help them win the grant. People could vote up to 10 times a day for whichever cause they wanted.

The 40 programs with the most votes were each the receivers of a \$25,000 grant. This year, the Shaler Area Backpack Initiative was the only nonprofit in Pennsylvania to receive a Neighborhood Assist grant.

The Backpack Initiative sends food to 200-250 children every weekend. Each family participating in this program receives a paper bag packed with child-friendly, single-serving snacks and easily prepared meals each Friday. The food selections include two breakfast items, two lunch items, and two snacks.

The initiative usually relies on donations from the community to sustain itself. Several teachers, student organizations, and businesses have organized fundraisers, food drives, or donated money. The \$25,000 grant gives the program more flexibility when purchasing items for the backpacks.

"With the grant money, we will purchase healthier food options that are too expensive under our current budget. Along with other community donations, we will be able to make the money last us through the end of next year," West said.

Stadium project complete, open to public

by Ceari Robinson

As of December 1, the newly renovated Titan Stadium is now completed and open to the public.

Originally scheduled to be opened in September in time for the football season, problems began to arise pushing the deadline back further than expected. While three football games were played on the new turf, the track was still under construction, prohibiting the stadium from being completely open.

The main problem that occurred while finishing up the track was the weather. When the track was being laid down, the fall season was just beginning. Knowing the weather would begin to get cold and unpredictable, finding enough days of continuous good weather was the worker's main issue.

"As we got into October and into November we were very fortunate to have a mild fall and good weather; but some of the challenges we faced towards the end were just some of the weather concerns and making sure that we had enough good days in a row that we could string together to make sure they could come in and do the work," Superintendent Sean Aiken said.

Along with the new turf field and resurfaced track, security cameras were also updated in the stadium. Although they were already in the old stadium, more high-tech cameras were needed to improve the safety of the community and the integrity of the new facilities.

"It's just an update that we made to make sure that we were protecting our investment, we want to make sure that our community can use it. We want people to come walk the track and exercise and take advantage of the new field and the new track; but at the same time we want to make sure that we are very



cautious with the facility and making sure that people are using it appropriately," Aiken said.

New signs have also been put up clearly stating what is allowed and what is prohibited in the stadium. Things such as bikes, pets, strollers, skateboards and rollerblades are forbidden. Tobacco products, alcohol, drugs and weapons are also not allowed.

For the upcoming track season the superintendent is excited for meets to be held at the facility, which have not been held there for several years because of poor track conditions.

Any future renovations have been discussed, but will not be something that is done soon.

"Right now we have to be very careful with our financial standings and make sure that we are doing things that need to be updated and upgraded. I think it's very important that we think strategically about the projects that need to be done like the press box, the field house, concession stand, and new bathrooms. All of those things have been discussed, but there is no commitment to doing it in the short term," Aiken said.

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Lady Titans off to a good start

by Bridget Nickel

The girls' basketball team has high expectations for a successful season which hopes it will end with clinching a playoff spot in WPIAL 6A. Although WPIAL teams have been reclassified into six classes, Section 1 of 6A is almost identical to that of 4A's last year. Shaler Area, North Allegheny, Butler, Seneca Valley, Pine Richland and North Hills are all in Section 1 with Oakland Catholic being moved down to 5A Section 2.

Starting their season in Washington, D.C., the Lady Titans went 2-0, beating Anacostia and St. Mary's Ryken. The Lady Titans then defeated Plum 42-26 and Moon 47-39.

The Lady Titans are returning four starters from last year's team: Rylee Donovan, Allie Graf, Alliya Duritza and Megan Lydon. The team's record last year was 10-12, but there are high hopes of being more successful this year trying to be the first team to win the 6A Section 1 title.

With Donovan and Duritza being the leading scorers last year, both of the girls are taking on a leadership role during their senior season. Seniors Allie Graf, Gabriella Lebakken and Kayla Seidl are also stepping up this year.

"Being one of the captains, I have the responsibility of guiding the freshmen and helping them get more comfortable with the team on and off of the court," Seidl said. "I have to be more helpful offensively since we're the seniors now and have no one to look up to who will get the job done."

Displeased with the results of last year's season, the Lady Titans believe they have the key components of what it takes to be a successful team in the regular and postseason.

"Not making playoffs last year was a big let down so this year we're working a lot harder and have a closer team bond. We have goals to win the first 6A Section 1 title, but also to make a run in the playoffs. We definitely have the right group of girls to do it," Donovan said.

With 6A Section 1 being arguably the best section in the WPIAL, the team acknowledges that this will not give them an easy ride through the season. Although it will be tough for the team, the girls feel that this will be more beneficial to them in the long run.

"6A Section 1 is without a question the best section in the WPIAL. Some of the best girls in the state play in the section so we have a lot to compete with. As a team, we're really motivated to get some key wins over some good teams. Competing in this section will make us stronger as a whole and hopefully more successful for the post-season," Donovan said.

Cornelius Nesbit enters his second year of coaching the Lady Titans and has formed a strong bond with all of his players.

"Nesbit is always pushing us to do our best in practices and games and his intensity keeps the team motivated even if we get down. He has established a strong trust with all of us which really helps us to listen and agree with the decisions he is making for the team that will help us be most successful," Seidl said.

Only four games into the season, Nesbit has already learned enough about the team to see their growth from last year and where they have to improve.

"I have learned that this group has matured from last year and is very capable of winning games when we aren't playing our very best. Last year this group wasn't capable of handling adversity, so far we have found a way to win," Nesbit said. "Our biggest room for improvement is to start the games a little bit better so we don't get behind and improve our rebounding."

Basketball team faces challenges

by Tom Castello

The Shaler Area boys basketball basketball season is underway. The Titans opened this season on December 9 against Perry in a Tip off Tournament at Shaler Area. The team finished 1-1 in the tournament after losing to Kiski in the Championship game.

"In the Perry game we came out a little jittery which is normal for the first game, but once we settled down we executed very well. In the Kiski game, I think every person on our team felt like we were the better team, but the ball didn't roll our way that game," Coach Rob Niederberger said.

The team lost several seniors and a good chunk of its starting lineup from last year, but there are still some high expectations for the boys this season. This year the team is looking to not only the seniors but the younger guys to step up. The team, for the start of the season, will only have two seniors in their starting lineup.

Niederberger, in his second year as Shaler Area head coach, is ready for the season and feels confident coming into it.

"I feel pretty good. I feel like these guys have put in a lot of work throughout the offseason. We started going back to workouts in February, and I feel like the guys who were sophomores last year had a lot of skill they just weren't physically and mentally ready but they are now," Niederberger said.

The basketball team play in arguably the best section of the WPIAL and the schedule is loaded up with tough opponents all year long. Senior Tanner Reinheimer who is closing in on scoring his 1000th point as a Varsity player, is totally ready for the challenges that come in with these teams in the 6A.

"It's the hardest section in the WPIAL. We know what we have to go up against but I am confident that if we shut down a few key players when we play certain teams, we can definitely come out with wins," Reinheimer said.

The team played in numerous offseason games,



Tanner Reinheimer drives to the hoop. (Matt Linemann)

preparing for this year. Niederberger is confident that this got the younger players on the team ready to go when it comes down to true varsity minutes during regular season games.

The team will also have to overcome what could be one of its biggest problems: The Titans are the smallest team in their section by far. The players and coaches are both looking to beat teams with the speed that their team possesses.

"It doesn't faze us. We know the way we need to play in order for us to be successful. This offseason we spent a lot of time shooting because of our size. You can't change who you are but I feel like we can be a tough out for anyone we play," Niederberger said.

Wrestlers look to build on past success

by Davis Deasy

Shaler Area's varsity wrestling season is underway and looking for another successful year, coming off a 5th place WPIAL finish last year.

After an eventful 17-2 season that resulted in a section championship last year, Head Coach Drew D'agostino hopes to continue to build around a program that has been successful for the past few years. However with the loss of vital seniors from last year, the Titans face many tests this season.

Senior Ron D'amico looks to fill in and provide leadership for his teammates. John Harker and Julian Scheibel are the only other seniors on the team.

"Every time I go on the mat I'm going to leave it all out there. It's my final year in high school and by the end of the year I don't want to have any regrets," D'amico said.

D'amico hopes that the underclassmen will follow suit. The team is going to be primarily carried by these underclassmen. Juniors Eric Warren, Garrett Reinsfelder and Dylan Winters look to be big contributors to the team.

Sophomores Ian Scarberry, Ryan Sullivan and Jake Pollak are also returning after gaining plenty of experience as freshmen.

"My personal goal is to finish better in the WPIAL than I did last year, and hopefully make it to states. This season should go well if I perform to my capability," Pollak, who finished with a 25-12 record last year, said.

Scarberry had 27 wins as a freshman, while Reinsfelder has over 50 wins in two years. D'amico finished with a 33-10 record last season. They, along with the rest of the team, have hopes of continuing their success on the mat for individuals.

As for the team, new realignment in Triple A placed some difficult competition ahead. The Titans compete in section 3-B of the WPIAL. They will face some stiff competition in North Hills and North Allegheny.

Despite tough competition, D'agostino hopes for another successful season.

"Our goal is to obviously have a winning record. We want to be in double digit [wins] again for the third straight year," D'agostino said.

Shaler Area's wrestling season is already off to a solid start. So far this season, they were 5-0 at a meet at Carrick High School. They also defeated Hampton soundly at their first home match by a score of 58-12.

At the recent Excalibur wrestling invitational in Wilkes-Barre, D'amico and Sullivan both finished first in their weight classes. Warren and Reinsfelder also placed 6th and 5th, respectively.



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– Danay Rivero '10
Reporter, Univision Network

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Seniors win dramatic Powderpuff game

by Tim Templin

The annual powderpuff game between senior and junior girls had a different dynamic this year as the class of 2017 came into the game as the defending champions. This was the first time since 2003 that a class had the opportunity to win both as juniors and seniors.

“We walked in with such a big win from last year, that gave us the motivation to get another win as seniors, especially knowing we had the chance to make history and win back to back,” Chelsea Hedderman said.

The game began with the juniors getting the ball. They had a three and out then went for it on fourth down. This attempt was unsuccessful and set the seniors up in excellent field position.

On this ensuing possession the seniors capitalized and scored a touchdown for the first points of the night when Bridget Nickel threw a passing touchdown to Rylee Donovan.

As the game progressed both teams were unable to put together any touchdowns or field goals as both defenses were playing well.

The second half junior Natalie Albinger drilled a long field goal giving the juniors three points and making the score 7-3.

Less than four minutes remaining in the game the juniors shocked everyone After getting the ball back and gaining a first down Lily Buckshaw handed the ball off to Albinger who ran past multiple defenders and scored a touchdown.

“Everyone went crazy, I ran up and hugged someone I didn’t even know. By far the best moment of the game,” Junior Alyssa Royer said.

The seniors were worried that they may not win.

“We were terrified that we weren’t going to pull it off,” Ashley Warren said.

But it did not take long for the seniors to reclaim the lead as Warren took a handoff on the first play of



Senior Ashely Schoenian (Matt Lienemann)

the drive and ran past the entire junior defense for over 50 yards for a touchdown

“Scoring the touchdown was a surreal feeling, it really didn’t sink in until later on that night. I couldn’t have done it without the rest of the offense either,” she said

This touchdown was enough for the class of 2017 to hold on and win for the second straight year.

“After the game it was just so amazing to know that you are champions back to back and made history again,” Hedderman said.

But in addition of this great game the school supported a great cause, the Susan G. Komen foundation. Activities director Mindy Thiel was also happy with how the game went.

“Everything ran as it should have we had two great teams and it turned out to be an awesome game. We raised over \$2500 for the Susan G. Komen foundation. Also student government raised \$300 for the Bartsch family,” Thiel said.

Bowlers hope to continue success

by Tanner Nowakowski

The Bowling season has begun and the team has high expectations for the season.

“The top two teams from each section make the postseason. Our goal is to finish in the top 2. We also want some of our individuals to make the postseason in the singles competition as well,” Coach Shawn Pilyih said.

The team looks to have more success by sending more players to play for the WPIBL championship. Last season, bowlers Sami Pilyih and Noah Seelye advanced to the WPIBL and the State Regionals. The team not only wants to succeed as a unit, but also as individuals.

“My goal for this season is to see the team advance to the playoffs and have Shaler represented individually in competition as well.” Coach Samantha Smyers said.

The girls team finished second in its section with an impressive 8-2 record, while the boys finished with a 7-3 record last season.

A very memorable moment for the team is when bowler Noah Seelye fought from behind to make it into the WPIBL finals. He was the underdog at the match, but pulled out a big victory.

“Over the recent past seasons we had two big moments to remember. First, was watching Noah Seelye as an underdog make the finals in the WPIBL Singles Championships,” a proud Coach Pilyih said.

The girls team has a lot to live up to this season as it has had so much success in the past years.

“Our girls team completed an undefeated season two years ago,” Pilyih said.

There are many skilled senior bowlers who have had successful careers on the bowling team.

“We definitely have a lot of potential. Noah Seelye, Lucas Sadlowski, Sami Pilyih, and Sidni Schiebler bring an immense amount of experience to the team. All have competed for 3-4 years. They have all had successful careers and I believe that will continue this year,” Smyers said.

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