

The Oracle

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November 2011

Staff veterans reflect on military service

by Ali Tappe and Julie Rankin

With Veteran's Day still on many people's minds, we take a look at teachers within Shaler who have sacrificed so much for the sake of our country. These staff members include Art teacher/Executive Officer David Boyles, Gym teacher/Sergeant Adam Rosenwald, and History teacher/Navy Captain Peter Hackett.

"It's not all movies and video games," Rosenwald said.

For Rosenwald, joining the army was based on many elements.

"There was 9/11, which was a factor, it wasn't the main reason, but then in March of '03, two and half years after 9/11 we actually invaded Iraq. It was pretty much at that point that I was like, this is going to be an ongoing thing, 'This isn't going to end any time in the near future' so I just felt it was my job to sign up and serve," he said.

Boyles felt a great need to serve his country.

"I felt that I had a sense of duty, a sense of honor. And I owed my country a debt of service for everything that they have given me," Boyles, who is still serving, said.

Hackett joined the Navy because it opened great opportunities for him.

"The policy back then was 'Join the Navy, see the world.' And I really did want to travel, so that is how I chose the Navy," he said.

When a person joins a form of service, it is typically hard on their family. Some families, like Hackett's, traveled with their loved ones to where they were stationed. Others waited patiently to hear news from overseas.

"It was tough... They didn't hear from me for months at a time sometimes... And unfortunately, the unit I was with took casualties, so my parents and my wife were getting updates about people that they knew that were either killed in action or wounded in action," Rosenwald said.

Prior to joining any form of service, the veterans did not completely know what to expect. They faced



Army Sgt. Adam Rosenwald



Navy Cpt. Pete Hackett

many challenges.

"When you're at sea, typically you start around 5:30, 6 in the morning and you go till 10:30, 11 at night. Something breaks down or there's an issue,

you're there. Sleep deprivation was kind of a tough piece there," Hackett said.

Rosenwald faced a different type of physical struggle.

"The hardest stuff to deal with, and it's what you signed up for, but, I was in a combat unit and we conducted combat operations so you name it, we dealt with it, as far as small arms, machine gun fire, rifle fire," Rosenwald said. "Physically the hardest part is we carried so much weight. When we would go out for a couple days I mean we were literally in the 'light infantry.' The lightest we would go out would be about 70 pounds of extra gear and the heaviest we would go out you might be carrying 100-120 pounds more than your actual body weight."

Many of the struggles and experiences that these servicemen faced helped to shape who they are today.

"Everything that I learned through the military has helped me build a system of values and a moral compass," Boyles said.

Hackett observed the work ethic of the men around him.

"I found that people will work, and they'll work beyond expectations if they really feel that that goal is worthy," Hackett said.

While in the service, life-long friendships were created for each of the veterans.

"It's kind of funny the ones that I'm the closest with are the ones that I met on the first tour out in Hawaii," Hackett said.

Any students aspiring to join the service can look to the advice from these men.

"Think it through. Make sure that it is the right move for you. It could be the worst move or the best move, depending on the person," Boyles said.

Also, Hackett emphasizes one must be ready to make the sacrifices.

"It's different. It's 24/7. You're individual freedoms to do what you want when you want to do it go away very quickly," Hackett said.

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Graduation ceremonies still set for Friday June 15

by Ali Tappe

After weeks of discussion and meetings, it has been decided that the date for graduation will not be changed, instead being held on June 15, 2012.

Talk about changing the date started when Superintendent Dr. Shipley announced that his daughter's graduation, at Pine Richland, would be held on the same date.

"When I realized that I had a personal conflict with graduation, I wanted to make every effort to be able to attend our Shaler Area ceremony," Shipley said.

He proposed to the senior class to change the date to either Thursday evening or Saturday morning.

"I asked the seniors to discuss this with their parents and to provide input the following day," he said.

The seniors took a vote. When the vote was tallied, it showed that most students were not opposed to a date change.

Shipley took this information to the October 19 school board meeting. At the meeting, many questions were raised that Shipley was sure to address. He wanted to make sure that all of the parents' concerns were taken into consideration.

Not only would a date change cause problems for families, but also with the high school staff. Employees would have to be at the field late into the evening and then return to work early Friday morning. Also teachers would need to have

"So the bottom line is this: The school calendar will not change and graduation will remain on Friday evening with rain dates and times on Saturday and Sunday."

-- Dr. Shipley, Superintendent

grades finished a day earlier than expected.

"It became clear that to change the date would have far-reaching consequences. Therefore, I asked the board to please excuse me from Friday evening's ceremony," Shipley said.

Although Shipley will

not be able to attend graduation, he is planning on giving a send-off speech to the seniors during graduation practice.

Shipley not being able to attend the graduation does not bother some seniors.

"Honestly, it doesn't matter who's there or who is not. I'm there to get my diploma for me, I've worked for twelve years, I'm done," Brandi Olejarz said.

Kristen Labate shared a similar opinion to Olejarz.

"I think if Dr. Shipley had been with us longer, then I might be disappointed that he won't be able to make it, but that's not the case," Labate said.

Students will not have to worry because the date has not changed.

"So the bottom line is this: The school calendar will not change and graduation will remain on Friday evening with rain dates and times on Saturday and Sunday. I have been excused from graduation to attend my daughter's graduation at a neighboring district," Shipley said.

OPINIONS

Unsanitary bathrooms an issue everyone needs to fix

by Ross Budziszewski and Katie Rees

Besides the fact that Shaler has bathrooms with running water, the high school's bathrooms probably meet the standards of a third world country. The last thing a school full of students needs is dirty and unsanitary bathrooms.

Last time we checked, you shouldn't have to wear a hazmat suit to walk into the bathrooms. Students should not have to prepare themselves to walk into a warzone just to use one of the most basic necessities a school needs to offer.

We're not saying you can't find a clean bathroom at Shaler, you can. You just have to be here before 7:18 in the morning. This isn't because of janitors slacking or refusing to clean the bathrooms. It is not their job to clean up your fecal matter and urine off the floor! It is the student body's responsibility to respect each other enough to not use the toilet like a toddler who is potty training.

Also, the lack of monitoring by staff/administration and the nonexistent disciplinary actions taken upon those who defile our bathrooms may also be a cause to the grotesque sanitary situation in Shaler's bathrooms.

The school district used to have teachers roam each hallway to check if anyone was walking through the halls or abusing the bathrooms. We feel like this could be easily achieved due to the fact that there are usually three teachers per tutoring center for each subject. These teachers could potentially walk through the hallways and prevent poor behavior in the halls along with controlling the defilement of the bathroom.

There are easily five or six security guards who could help with this issue. They should walk throughout the school to monitor bad behavior in the bathroom like their job description states.

"I walk in to the bathroom, and there is urine everywhere. The bathroom smells horrible, there is chew on the ceilings, and when I need to use the toilet I can't because there is urine and feces on the seats, no toilet paper, and some doors are removed from the stalls," explained junior Sam Fieldhouse.

The girls' bathroom can be just as grimy as the boys' room, and that is saying a lot. At any given time, you can walk into a stall with a used tampon on the toilet seat. This is why there are things called garbage cans available that nobody seems to take into consideration. Not only is the girls' bathroom gross, but it is unsanitary as well.

"In the girls' bathroom, the floors are always dirty with puddles of water everywhere. The mirrors have stains on them and there is always writing on the walls," junior Maggie Terak said.

Because students spend eight hours a day at school, it is unrealistic to think that they can restrain themselves from going to the bathroom all day. Sadly, this is what they are forced to resort to because of dirty bathrooms.

When asked if the dirty bathrooms prevents one from using them during the school day, juniors Sam Fieldhouse and Maggie Terak said that they avoid going to the bathroom at school unless it is an absolute emergency.

The solution seems simple in that the students should be treating the bathrooms here at school with the same respect that they do at their own house. Unfortunately this is not the case. We highly doubt that you urinate all over the floor of your own bathroom at home. Hygiene would be much appreciated.

Overall, Shaler's bathrooms need to change. Students need to be able to have a clean place to go to the bathroom so they can focus in the classroom more. However, the students also need to take responsibility, grow up, and use bathrooms like an adult, not an immature child.

"You shouldn't have to wear a hazmat suit to walk into the bathrooms."

10 Things I Hate About YOU

Twilight Edition

I hate how unrealistic this series is
You really just can't relate
I hate how it's trying to be Harry Potter
'Cause Harry Potter is great
I hate that I read the books
And nobody was killed off at the end
I hate how annoying Bella is,
SHUT UP about Edward and go make some friends
I hate how unoriginal it is
Wooww, 'Forbidden Love' that's new
I hate how Twilight is never ending
Even the last movie is split in two
I hate Kristen Stewarts acting
A rock shows more emotion
I hate the crazy fandom
And their ridiculous devotion
I hate how the books are written
Because my baby sister could write better
I just hate Twilight in general
Disagree? Feel free to write me a letter
-- by Audrey Schreiber

Too much morning traffic at school

by Audrey Schreiber

This year the commute into school seems to have more headaches and take more time than any previous year. The time it takes sitting in line on Wible is as long as Kim Kardashian's marriage was short. This makes one wonder what Mrs. Thiel wondered in the first week of school: Is anyone actually riding the buses?

There are 1,625 high school students registered to ride the bus this year. This means that 1,625 students have to be accounted for because even if they are not on the bus 179 days out of 180, the buses have to plan for their route as if those students had been there every day. This is the reason that the bus routes seem to last forever, especially for the kids that have the last stop. The length of the bus ride seems to scare off some students, along with the earliness of the pickup.

According to Sheila Lubert, Director of Transportation, about 95% of the school district utilizes the bus transportation. However, if anyone has sat in the morning line on Wible, you know that this statistic could not be true for the high school. About 200 back lot and 40 front lot parking passes were given out this year. That means on any given day at least 240 students could be driving, clogging up the lines even more.

This doesn't even account for the students that ride to school to be dropped off by their parents. And, while there isn't an exact estimate for the number of drop offs every day, it's obvious that the number is a significant amount.

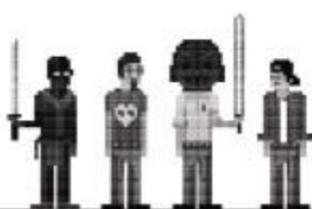
Mr. Roger Depew has the privilege of morning bus duty, and witnesses the chaos every morning. "It's amazing how many high school students get dropped off by their parents. It's just amazing to me," he said.

The district spends about six percent of the budget on the buses, which is about \$4 million. However, even the buses themselves seem like a waste of money. The bus directors try to plan for only 60 high school students on a bus, and, with all of the drop offs and student driving, the buses appear half full.

So what should we do? I'm not saying we need to get rid of all of the buses, it wouldn't be practical. Our school isn't a walkable distance for all of the students that go here. Some schools don't let kids drive, but being a student driver myself, I see how necessary driving is with after-school activities like work, sports, clubs, and meetings.

The school could make restrictions on the amount of parent drop-offs. Or, to cut down on the amount of routes, ask families at the beginning of the school year if they would commit to using or not using the bus. If not, buses have one less empty stop to go to. Eventually this will eliminate buses, thus alleviating some of the morning traffic.

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The Oracle

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Senior and junior girls hit the gridiron to fight cancer



The senior girls working hard at practice. (Casey Rastetter)

by Ross Budziszewski

Shaler Area School District will be hosting another game of Powder-Puff football this coming Tuesday at 7:00 pm. The Powder-Puff game has been an ongoing tradition for many years at Shaler Area High School.

"Shaler used to have the Powder-Puff game in the morning but we feel like more people will show up if it's not at 10 a.m.," said activities director Mrs. Mindy Thiel.

Each year the junior and senior class girls are given the opportunity to battle in an intense gridiron match up supporting a great cause. All of the funds raised by the game benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

This year Mr. Joe Laslavic and Thiel organized and are overseeing the game to make sure everything runs smoothly. The two teams are comprised of 45 players each, ranging from people in marching band to softball players.

Mr. Corey Williams will be coaching the seniors and Mr. Ron McAdams will be coaching the juniors. Along with the two members of faculty that are coaching, six or seven players from the varsity football team will also volunteer to teach the girls the rules of the game.

Williams is confident in the group of senior girls. He predicts a win due to the experience of the players that he has at his arsenal to use.

"I want the seniors to remember it is their senior year and that they will not have another chance to play in a Powder-Puff game. They need to focus

at practice and during the game to be successful," he said.

The seniors have a lot of skill and many players from last year's team coming back. They look to blowout the junior class by a large margin.

"I'm not sure if many people are familiar with the film the Little Giants but that's where the senior team will be getting most of its tips. For instance, a huge factor in the giant's victory against the Cowboys is intimidation. We will be using foam to make it look like we have rabies to scare the junior class girls. Also I am captain of the team and I am promising a victory," senior Casey Rastetter stated.

Although the seniors are predicting themselves to win, the juniors believe they can overcome the adversity and shock the seniors. Even the coaches for the junior class are extremely confident.

When asked how junior coach Justin Botta is going to prepare for the game he said, "I am going to use some of Neil Gordon's coaching techniques and make the juniors are aware of the seriousness of this game. I do predict a win though due to the high powered wildcat offense with Maddie Mulig at quarterback."

The seniors have won the Powder-Puff game for the past 3 years and they look to keep that streak going. For the rest of Shaler Area there will be tickets for \$5 at the gate to help raise more money for the Breast Cancer Foundation. Last year the game raised over an \$1,000 and Shaler hopes to collect even more this year.

Save or Shave?

Junior Josh Lord uses his head (literally) in an attempt to raise funds for Drum Line



Junior Josh Lord and his massive fro. (Katie Rees)

by Katie Rees and Ross Budziszewski

What would you look like if you didn't get a haircut for over a year? Some may look like junior Josh Lord. Many know him by his hair, which is a large afro seen roaming the halls, and not his actual name. Lord started growing his afro in late September of 2010 and has not gotten a haircut since. Although many people hate the fro including Josh's own mother, he likes it because it's different.

Josh's mother, Mrs. Dina Lord, said "I have no comment about my son's hair. It is completely out of control now."

Lord has used many techniques in order to grow his afro to its ridiculous lengths.

"It was all natural but it took a lot of dedication and also a lot of Herbal Essences Orchid and Coconut Milk Conditioner," Josh stated.

He has big plans for his big afro in the near future at Shaler. Lord is a member of the drum line for the Shaler Area High School Marching Band which has been having trouble with its funds. To help, he came up with the idea to raise money for the drum line is titled, "Shave the Fro or Save the Fro."

"Shave the Fro or Save the Fro is a benefit for the drum line. For about two or three weeks there will be two bins to have people throw money into. One bin will be for the people who want me to save the fro and grow it out longer. The other is for those who want me to shave it. Whichever collection raises the most will determine the fate of my hair," Lord said.

The date of this fundraiser is not decided yet, but when Josh has more information about it he will make an announcement to the school. So it is up to the students at Shaler Area to decide the fate of Josh Lord's hair.

Staff veterans reflect on military service

from page 1

Rosenwald brings light to the vulnerability that some face.

"Your job is going to put you in danger. You're not invincible," he said.

Each of the veterans stressed the fact that the nation, high school students in particular, needs to show their support for the troops. Students and staff can volunteer with the Wounded Warriors Program, the VA, or even write letters.

"That PTSD that they talk about, Post Traumatic Stress, the kids (serving now) saw some stuff that's going to affect them for a while and that worries me," Hackett said.

"Kids 18 (or) 19 years old are coming home with maybe a missing leg, or a missing leg and an arm, or trying to recover from wounds or burns I think that those guys make amazing sacrifices and I think that society should take care of those guys," Rosenwald said.

When asked about the teachers in our school who have served/are serving, other teachers weren't short on appreciation for the service of their colleagues.

"I'm proud we have the ability to have heroes and role models working at our schools as my peers and your (student's) teachers," Mr. Scott Krenn said.

"I kind of have a different respect for them, not

just as a collage or as a teacher, but knowing that they had to balance two lives, one as serving the country and one as serving their community. I really think they're positive people to have around and positive people in the building. And can really put a lot of things into perspective here for both students and adults," Mr. Paul Stadelman said.

The decision to sign up for the service takes great courage, and not everyone is capable of that, but those who do take that risk will find it to be rewarding.

"I can honestly say there's nothing that I'm prouder of than having joined and served," Rosenwald said.

Athletes view recruiting process differently

by Anna Porter

Shaler Area High School contains numerous amounts of athletes; however, not all of these athletes will continue their sports careers in college. An even smaller percentage of high school athletes will have the opportunity of playing sports at a Division I college.

At that level, a complete love and appreciation for the game has developed. As glamorous as the idea may seem, there is one drawn-out journey that every Division I athlete has to make: surviving the recruiting process.

Senior Elizabeth Casertano is no stranger to the recruiting process, having entered it early on in her junior year, and ending it this past June by making her commitment to The University of Oregon. The lacrosse star faced a very different process compared to other athletes.

Knowing that club teams draw the attention of more Division I schools than high school teams do, Casertano joined the Maryland United Lacrosse Club. The team, located in Maryland, required Casertano to drive four hours one way to practice twice a week, in addition to the time spent there for tournaments. College scouts attended these games, presenting players with the chance to play in college. With that opportunity came a great deal of pressure.

"It's really stressful. You feel like every time you make a mistake it's magnified. It really takes a lot of mental tax on you, when you see them there

and see them watching you and that's the school you want to go to; automatically it's a lot of pressure," Casertano said. "You have to block it out, because if you don't it's really going to psych you out. I know a lot of girls who start crying after games and stuff because there's so much pressure on them from the coaches that are watching them."

Casertano estimated that anywhere from twenty-five to forty Division I to Division III coaches contacted her about playing for their schools. The spotlight can be enjoyable, but at times she wanted relieved of the pressure.

"I missed going through the recruiting process being able to play the game, having fun with the game, loving the game. When you have all the recruiting pressure on you it takes away from the actual game and you're thinking about that more than you're thinking about having fun and doing the things that you love to do and the reason why you want to play it in college," she said. "It definitely takes a toll on you."

Casertano persevered against scouting pressure, and in the process caught the eye of University of Oregon.

"I really wanted to go to Penn State, but I ended up looking at the University of Oregon and I fell in love with it way more than I fell in love with Penn State. My dream school is the school I'm attending," she said, being incredibly gracious for the opportunity.

Like Casertano, fellow Senior Sydney Smyers also braved the Division I recruiting process. The softball player, who has been pitching for the girls Varsity softball team since her freshman

year, knew that she would pursue either softball or golf in college. Deciding that her love resided on the softball field, Smyers focused on finding a college that would fit her athletically and academically.

In the beginning, Smyers emailed many schools, hoping to grab their attention. She not only plays for the school's team, but also for a traveling softball team, called Pittsburgh Spirit, where a majority of scouts saw her play.

After a few showcases where Smyers performed particularly well, she finally saw responses from coaches. However, coaches can be very selective during the recruiting process.

"Every coach is looking for something different," she said. "Coaches are not about to waste their time playing mind games with candidates for scholarships. They can be very direct, but they have to be when it's their job to decide how to spend the money they are allotted."

When it came to recruiting, Smyers actually performed better under pressure and felt that it was an honor to have scouts looking at her. After narrowing down her decision to four main schools, she eventually decided on Niagara University.

"When I was younger I wanted to play for the University of Arizona. I quickly realized that was out of the picture. After that I wanted a school that would give me playing time and would help me afford my education. Niagara is a perfect fit for me. The only thing that will take some getting used to is

the ridiculous amounts of snow every year," Smyers said. "I am extremely happy with how the process turned out for me; I am very lucky to be in this situation."

Another future Division I prospect who found the recruiting process to be an enjoyable one is junior Geno Thorpe.

"I like the recruiting process," the basketball player said. "I think it's bad for you in a way, because you have coaches come see you and it could affect your game, but if you do well it just makes it even better."

Although he still has another year before attending college, Thorpe has been scouted since his freshman year for his domination on the basketball court. Eight Big East, two Big Ten, and two Big Twelve schools have contacted him, hoping to make him an addition to their team.

The attention brings scouts to both Thorpe's practices and games, some days not with him not being told.

"Some days I am, some days I'm not. It's usually a surprise, but if I know in advance it usually calms me down a little," he said. However, Thorpe has heard negative remarks from scouts. "I'm criticized about defense or that I don't play hard or that I don't take things seriously while I'm at practice."

Like Casertano and Smyers, Thorpe also plays for a non-school affiliated team called the New Jersey Players, located in New Jersey. He started playing for the team as a freshman, but was

— Cont. on page 7

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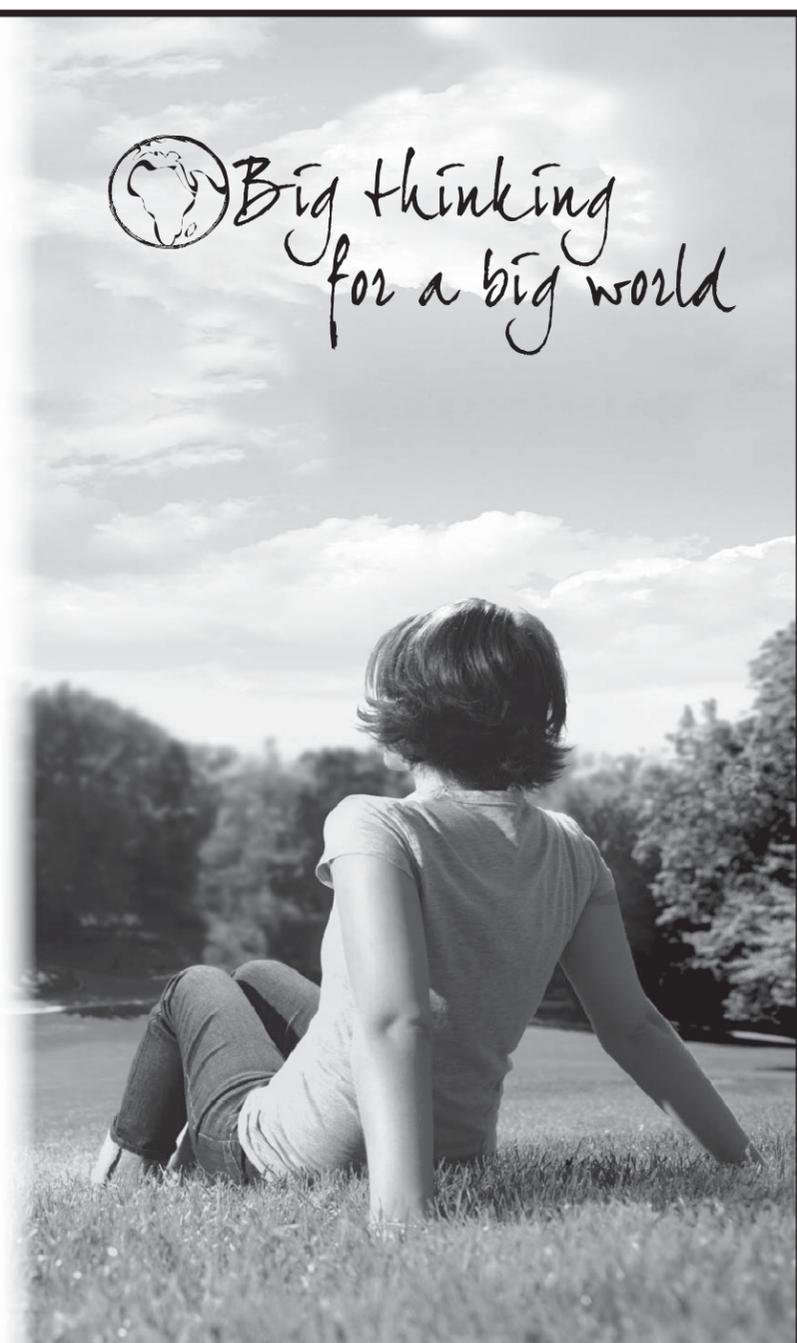
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Potash has found a home in Pittsburgh

Root Sports television personality Dan Potash recently visited the journalism classes at the high school and answered a variety of questions.

Q: Where were you born?

A: "I was actually born in Miami Beach. My parents moved to Southern California when I was seven years old, I actually grew up in Beverley Hills, the blue-collar, poor side of Beverly Hills, and yes it does exist."

Q: Did you always want to be a reporter?

A: "I wanted to be a pro-football player. I played high school football and I was a wide receiver, better than average but not good enough to take it to college, so I realized I was gonna have to do something else if I wanted to stay involved in sports and I chose sports broadcasting."

Q: Expectations coming to Pittsburgh?

A: "That no one would hurt me for being a San Diego Chargers fan. That was my first one. The first bumper sticker I saw when I was in town for maybe, maybe two weeks, I saw a bumper sticker that said 'Pittsburgh is a drinking town with a football problem,' so I thought it was very unique and set the bar for what I was coming to and what I was heading in for. There's not many cities where you can talk about football every day of the year. I realized Pittsburgh's a great city. You may think I'm crazy for saying this, but I love the snow cause I didn't grow up with it. Every time it snows I think it's awesome. I decided that this would be home until they let me go, which hopefully they don't."

Q: Most memorable game?

A: I hate to ever say that there's one, for awhile there was Dale Earhart winning the Dayton 500, just because that's like the Super Bowl and he tried to do it for twenty years and never won, and then he finally did. I would have to say the Penguins winning game seven at the Stanley Cup in Detroit.



Dan Potash

Q: Pirates/Penguins, who gives the best interviews?

A: As I'm sure all the ladies in this room miss Max Talbot as much as I do, he was always very entertaining and I never knew what was coming with him. Pascal Dupuis has done a nice job of replacing him with that. They're all pretty good; I can't say there's just one.

Q: Is it hard to understand Malkin's responses to your questions?"

A: "His English was much better behind the scenes than it was on TV and he was just shy, as any of us would be if we went to Russia and were asked by the Russian media to do an interview in Russian. We slowly pushed him along, and said 'Look, you talk so well on the team plane, and in the locker room and so forth, its fine.' He had a big night, he had like 3 goals and 2 assists, I said something like 'How about the

performance you had? Every shot you took seemed to go in the net' and I think his response was 'Yes, uh Sidney shoot, uhh... Talbot shoot, I shoot- shoot everyone.' I didn't expect him to say shoot everyone; but he did. My phone started blowing up shortly after, and it was on the message boards 'Shoot everyone.' Afterwards I went up to him and told him what he said, cause he wants to know what he says incorrectly. So Geno has obviously become so much better, so much that he'll try to use big words and talk too fast and it's hard to understand him. I'm not as worried as I used to be, not after "Shoot everything." (Former coach) Michel Therrien would use a singular tense. Instead of saying "Tonight we're playing the Devils" he'd say "Tonight we play the Devil."

Q: "Any superstitions?"

A: "The players go through some crazy stuff. I'll tell you one player but I won't tell you who it is. At Mellon Arena there was a loading dock where all the players came in and there was a garage door and right next to the garage door there was a regular door, well he would never walk through the garage door. If it was open, he would still go through the door. Every time, just had to go through the door. It did not matter if it was a game night or whatever, he would do it every day. One player won't let go of his stick. Ice or on the bench, practice or game, he has to be touching the stick, the whole time. He has to have the stick in his hand the whole time. I've tried to take it away from him, it didn't go very well but if that's what they need to do to perform better than knock yourself out. I'm the same way if I don't have my makeup."

Q: "You wear makeup?"

A: "Holy hell I wear makeup! Yes, especially now with high-definition TV if I had a zit it would show up a mile away. It's very minimal but white powder to keep the shine off your forehead; the lights

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SPORTS

Season ends with disappointing losing streak

by Ali Tappe

After such a hopeful first half of the season, the Titan football team finished with a record of 5-5, including a loss to Gateway in the first round of playoffs.

With a record of 5-1 and a chance at a section title, the Titans traveled to Seneca Valley to take on the Raiders. It was a close game, but the Raiders scored 21 points in the fourth quarter to win the game by a score of 28-21.

The following week, the Titans hosted their rival, North Allegheny. A win would have put Shaler in a first-place tie with the Tigers. Shaler showed up prepared and ready for a much anticipated battle.

In the first half of the game, both Shaler's offense and defense played well. The team's first scoring drive, consisting of 16 plays, led to Brennan Reynolds' 23-yard field goal, making the score 7-3. Halfway through the second quarter, JP Holtz scored the team's only touchdown of the first half. Then at the start of the second half, Holtz scored another touchdown for the team, which would be the last time Shaler would score. The Titans lost 34-17.

"I think we played a lot better than people had expected. I think we surprised NA. We played hard, but it didn't reflect in the loss," senior Mike Brown said.

For the team's final regular season game, the Titans traveled to Pine Richland looking to wrap up second place in the section and a home playoff game. The Rams showed no mercy. Holtz scored the only touchdown for the team in a game that the Titans were never really in. After a frustrating 51-7 loss, the Titans



JP Holtz carries the ball vs McDowell earlier this season. (Trib-Review)

finished the regular season 5-4.

No one can explain why the team's winning strike ended so abruptly.

"It has been a difficult 3 weeks. I think each loss has its own identity and reasons why it happened," assistant coach James Ryan said after the Pine-Richland game.

Not only were the coaches frustrated, but the players were as well.

"One single event can stop the momentum of the team. And I think that after the Seneca Valley game, it really took us out of the rhythm that we had," Brown said.

Following three losses the team entered the playoffs as the #12 seed hoping that their losing streak would end. Shaler traveled to Gateway for another challenging game. At halftime the Titans were losing 36-0.

The only offense for the Titans came late in the third quarter when quarterback Ryan Mincher passed to Sean Gavin for a touchdown. In the fourth quarter, Alex Conway caught a pass from Mincher, which got the team its second touchdown of the night, but it was not enough to keep up with the Gators who won 52-13.

"That was the hardest thing I ever had to be a part of in all my years of high school football," Brown said.

Key offensive players for the season were Ryan Mincher, JP Holtz, Sean Gavin, and Alex Conway. Mincher had 89 completions for 1,249 yards and 13 touchdown passes. Holtz scored 15 touchdowns and 337 rushing yards and 429 receiving yards. Gavin caught 24 passes for 345 yards. Conway led the team in receptions with 29 catches.

Former Shaler star in midst of Penn St. drama

by Mr. Eric Schott

Most high school athletes dream of being part of a college team that gets plenty of television coverage. When former Shaler football star Jesse Della Valle decided to go Penn State, he did not envision the kind of media attention his team received over the past couple of weeks.

When allegations of sexual assault of young boys surfaced against former Penn St. assistant coach Jerry Sandusky, Della Valle found himself in the middle of one of the biggest news stories in the country.

"As you know from seeing coverage of the scandal everywhere you might look, campus is pretty hectic right now," Della Valle said. "I stayed away from all the rioting but I watched it on TV. The media stood outside of our football facilities every day to try and get an interview. Emotionally, it does take a toll on you. Photographers were actually climbing into bushes surrounding our practice facilities just to take a picture during practice."

Before the mayhem began, Della Valle was at home enjoying time off during the football team's off week. For Della Valle, it all began with a simple question from his father, "Do you know Jerry Sandusky?"

"The name rang a bell but I just couldn't put a face to him. Later on when I saw a picture of (him) being arrested, I realized that this was a man that I saw numerous times every week. He would always seem to be in the weight room. He wasn't a coach; he didn't help with practice or film study. He was sometimes just kind of around.

I was at a loss for words."

It wasn't the last time Della Valle would find himself speechless. He was a part of the team meeting in which Joe Paterno announced to the team that he was retiring, before he was fired from his position.

"Surely the most emotional event of all was Coach Paterno's final speech to the team when he announced his retirement. Coach Paterno stood in front of everyone and expressed we all will be teammates forever -- not only this year, or the next year, but forever," Della Valle said. "Coach got a bit choked up and many of the coaches and players couldn't stop crying. To be honest, I felt as if I were at a funeral. As Coach Paterno left the room, we all gave him a standing ovation and he said two words through all of the tears: 'Beat Nebraska.'"

It was late that evening that the university announced that Paterno had been fired. While Della Valle did not want to comment on Paterno's removal, he had strong feelings about some of the ways Paterno was being portrayed in the public.

"The thing that I think bothers me the most, aside from the suffering that those young boys had to deal with, is the way that things have been turned onto Coach Paterno. I see a lot of people, some Penn State students and some not, really saying a lot of negative



Jesse Della Valle in 2009. (Trib-Review)

things about Joe and the type of person that he is. The only thing I can say to those people is that if you didn't know Joe Paterno or you weren't around him, you truly just don't understand the kind of man that he was," Della Valle said.

"On Thursday afternoon, the day after Joe had been fired, a group of about 10 former lettermen that had played for Coach Paterno came back to talk to the team (half of them were either All-Americans or All-Big Ten players). Every single one of these grown men stood in front of our entire team with tears in their eyes and expressed how Joe Paterno had impacted their lives and how much Penn State University meant to them. That's why it bothers me to see people talk so neg-

atively of Joe because he had a very positive role in so many people's lives."

After all of that, there was still the issue of a football game to be played against Nebraska. It was not a normal Saturday afternoon at Beaver Stadium.

"As a team, we decided to hold hands and walk out of the tunnel onto the field rather than run out like we typically do. Also, just before the coin toss both teams met in the center of the field for a prayer. It was a real classy act from Nebraska as they led the prayer."

Like the story itself, the game did not have a happy ending. Nebraska beat Penn State 17-14.

"After the game, our coaches just expressed how proud they were that we stuck together

all week and played hard for this entire game. We fell a bit short but I think the day overall was a great showing not only for our football team but for the entire Penn State University."

Despite all the turmoil, Della Valle said the events surrounding the scandal will not be forgotten.

"I feel like the sequence of events has surely taught us something. It's kind of like building a house of cards. You can place every card perfectly but if just one card is the slightest bit slanted, it can all be ruined. Joe Paterno spent more than 60 years building his house of cards doing great things for this university. One situation in which he could have done more can ruin all of that. It is really a shame."

SPORTS

Titans looking forward to success

by Ashley Domachowski

The varsity boys' basketball team had a successful season last year (22-2) with a win over their section and a number one rank going into the WPIAL playoffs. However, an upset loss against Butler in the quarterfinals where the Titans lost 50-47 ended their season sooner than anticipated.

"We had to play Butler three times last year," senior Ryan Mincher said. "Playing a team three times in one season is tough. We knew we could have gone further. I look forward to playing them again this year."

Needing to beat Butler a third time put a lot of pressure on the boys. Junior Geno Thorpe agrees that the game was rough and he knew his team could have made it further in the post season.

"We were very emotional after that game," Thorpe said.

"The next day we were all ready to start the next season because we knew we could do better. That's our goal for this year."



Senior Zack Taylor scores for the Titans last year.

Head coach Paul Holzshu knows that last year's season's success would be hard to top.

"Our goal is to win section, make and win the playoffs, and go onto the state championship," he said.

The boys are starting to prep for their upcoming season. With conditioning four days a week and another day set aside for scrimmaging, the boys

are serious about getting back into the game.

"I think we're going to be good," Thorpe said. "We just have to learn how to finish."

With a lot of strong returning players, the senior line-up this year is the same team that went undefeated as freshmen three years ago.

"Us, Butler, and Central should be the top three," said senior Zack Taylor. "And NA gives us some good games. I always look forward to the two NA games every year."

The Titans are looking at a tough section again this year.

Senior Mike Titterington, though excited about the season, says the section is the competition.

"I was crushed after the Butler loss last season," Titterington said. "We have to bounce back from that though and push for another successful season. We have to come ready to play every game this year."

Girls Basketball aims high

By Audrey Schreiber

The Shaler Girls Basketball team is gearing up for another impressive season. The girls return as last year's section and WPIAL champions. This year they are hoping to bring home another one.

The team welcomes back just two varsity players from last year's winning team, seniors Ashley Domachowski and Cate Potter. However the girls express that they aren't worried about the lack of varsity experience.

"I'm more excited than worried, it's always an experience to play with new talent," Senior Ashley Domachowski said.

Cate Potter agrees, "It's definitely a different level from last year. It's new people so we need to work together to make it click."

Eric Mozzetti will come back to coach the girls this year. As a coach for over 25 years, Mozzetti is very experienced in the dynamics of the sport.

Providing some insight on the upcoming season, he said "It's probably up to them on how well they do, whatever they decide to do. We haven't had our team meeting yet, and we all need to talk and find out what their goals are."

Though the team is young and largely inexperienced, the girls have been preparing since the summer for the upcoming season. Between various summer camps and team practices, the girls have grown as basketball players, and as a team. This year their biggest rival will be Oakland Catholic, whom they lost to once early in the season last year, but came back to beat later in the season. Another big rival for the team is North Allegheny. Last year the girls pulled out two strong wins against NA, and this year they aim to do the same.

Ultimate Frisbee spinning to new heights

by Casey Rastetter

For the past four years, students of Shaler Area have had the opportunity to play the fast paced, yet laid back sport of Ultimate Frisbee. This year, more than anything, would be categorized as an organization year for both the sponsor and the players.

Ultimate Frisbee is a co-ed extracurricular activity that does not necessarily require a coach. Ben Shannon, an English and Drama teacher here at the high school, is also the sponsor of the Ultimate team. With a few years of experience playing the game, he is qualified to be coach if push came to shove.

Shannon said, "I'm familiar with the game, I used to play a summer league and an open club team. I played defense." Mr. Shannon believes that this year will be a rebuilding year because there are only two players coming back this spring season.

Ultimate Frisbee is also very inexpensive for every person that is involved with it. Shannon said, "All you need is a disk and a field. The players schedule games and disputes on the field so there is no referee." These factors were appealing to a lot of the new players stepping up into the world of Ultimate, especially Senior Brian Bittner.

Bittner knows that he must learn all of the aspects of the activity, even though his primary goal is to receive the

frisbee. Bittner said, "The hardest part is throwing. I've got the catching part down pat... but I can't really throw it yet so that's an important part of the game that I need to figure out."

The senior is also promising a game of "High Octane" proportions by saying: "I talked to legendary Connor Kazmierczak and he said we were going to play some high octane frisbee this year. It's going to be exciting, fast, and energetic. What just happened? I don't know. What's happening next? I don't know. That's high octane frisbee."

One of the returning players is Senior Captain Connor Kazmierczak, who has played Ultimate Frisbee for three years as an offensive handler. In the sport, the handler could be related to the quarterback of football, while the cutters receive the frisbee.

After asking Kazmierczak his duty as captain he replied with, "I teach everyone how to play frisbee and the formations."

New-be Bitter has the uppermost confidence in Kazmierczak. Bittner said, "With Connor's leadership as our captain, our team will be propelled to new heights of excellence on the frisbee field and we might just come home with some hardware this year."

Although Kazmierczak, along with his fellow Senior Captain Jon Rankin, have to teach a completely new crop of players, their aspirations are high.

Athletes view recruiting process differently

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not sure how it would go.

"Me and my parents weren't sure about it or how it was going to work, but it just got better and they started flying me out there every other weekend and it worked out," Thorpe said. We'd have games Saturdays and Sundays and I'd take a mega bus back to Pittsburgh."

Because the situation worked out so well, there was a possibility of moving to New Jersey and attending a catholic high school there, called St. Anthony's. In the end, Thorpe chose to stay with the Titans, and act that his coaches and teammates have been more than thankful for.

However, Thorpe has also faced those who aren't so thankful, especially when opposing teams call him "overrated."

"I don't know. It hurts kind of. I don't think about it. I mean you know my name, I must not be that

bad," he said.

Football star J.P. Holtz can relate to the amount of people cheering for his failure, rather than his success.

"There's people out there to get you because you're in the spotlight, and people are jealous. You just have to do your own thing," he said.

Holtz, who has been an important part of the Titan's football team over the past two years, has been in high demand for several football-driven Division I colleges. Recruiting started his freshman year, but picked up significantly after his junior year, which he claims, was his best season.

The senior had a total of 15 athletic scholarship offers. After weighing all his options, he verbally committed to Penn State University. But verbal commitments are not binding and sometimes those commitments don't end recruiting, but only take it to an

other level.

After the child sex scandal that erupted at Penn State, recruiters were sure to check in with Holtz to let him know they were still interested in him if he was not interested in Penn State.

"The day (the scandal news) came out, I started getting calls at 8 o'clock that morning," Holtz said.

Holtz has spent his entire career surrounded by scouts and has grown very use to the attention, and pressure that it brings.

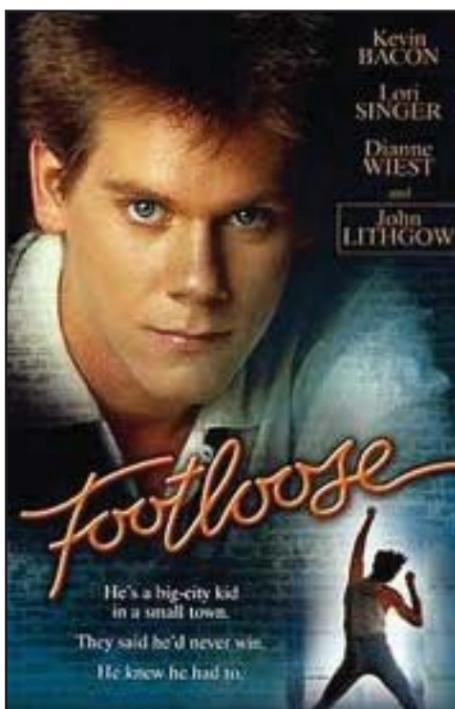
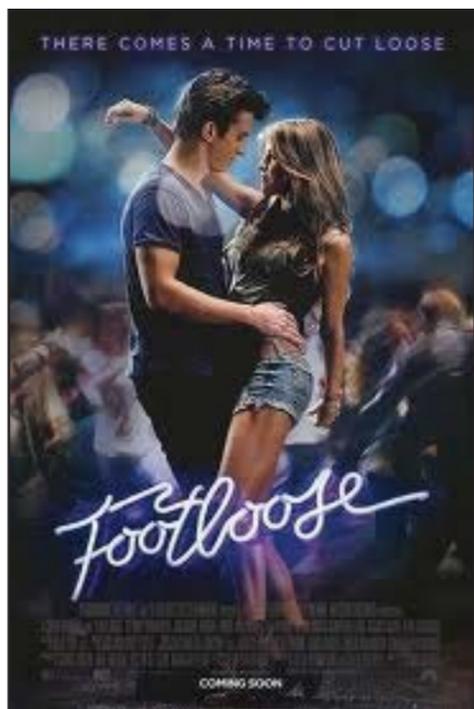
"I don't even realize they're there, it's just like another fan," he said.

Despite his comfort with the recruiting process, Holtz also wishes at times he could be left alone.

"I wish, but I know it's never going to happen," he said. "I always have to watch what I do and say. You can't do anything stupid, or you'll screw up everything."

The Back Page

Footloose sweeps fans off their feet



by Sarah Breen

Footloose, a beloved classic, came into theaters in 1984 starring Kevin Bacon. The remake for this movie came into theatres this October. Grossing \$15.5 million its opening weekend, it started off with a bang. I know what some people may think that nothing is ever as good as the original, however, Footloose the remake has put a new spin on the classic.

Footloose is about a teenage boy named Ren MacCormak played by new actor, Kenny Wormald, who comes to live in a small town called Bomont, but is originally from the city. City boy meets country doesn't always make a good combo for a small town. Tragedy hit the town 3 years before when 5 teenagers got into a car crash after coming home from a dance. The town committee, in order to protect teen's safety, issued many laws. One of the committee members is a preacher, whose son was involved in the accident and passed away. He wants to protect his daughter. His daughter is also a main character, played by Julianne Hough, who enjoys rebellious behaviors ever since the laws were put into effect. The laws consist of an early curfew, no dances unless supervised, and no dancing in public unless you are over the age of 18. Wormald and Hough set out to go against the committee and have these laws taken away. Wormald states that "THIS IS OUR TIME," a time for change and a time for new beginnings in Bomont.

The remake mainly consists of a similar plot to the original. It even kept a lot of the same music for the soundtrack, being just a little bit more remixed and modern, but still very enjoyable.

My opinion on this movie is nothing but good. The acting was very well done. A viewer could feel as if they were in the small town with the characters. The music was fantastic with songs done by current artists such as Blake Shelton and Zac Brown Band.

I felt as if the movie was relatable to teenagers. Maybe not the extreme laws that were put into effect, but what girls and guys go through in relationships such as makeups and breakups, even touching on teenage dating violence. The movie was an inspiring one in the way MacCormak wanted to fight for change and do something for his town. It shows that people should stand up for what they believe in, no matter the odds. I thought that Wormald did a fantastic job delivering his speech to the committee about why the laws must have an end. The remake was great overall, and did the original justice.

WEIRD News

PITTSBURGH, PA (AP)--A pilfered Reuben sandwich and a stolen forklift have a Pittsburgh man in quite a pickle. Ross Township police say 38-year-old Sean Faulkner ordered a sandwich from a bar, then ran out without paying and climbed on a forklift for his getaway. Faulkner allegedly stole the forklift from a construction site on Sunday then drove it two miles to Sieb's Pub. Bartender Karie Donatelli says Faulkner ordered the sandwich then bolted for the door after his food arrived

GEORGIA (AD) — An unhappy Taco Bell customer firebombed a Georgia fast food joint after finding there wasn't enough meat in his XL Chalupas, police say.

After ordering a meal from the drive-thru, a man believed to be the bomber called the Albany eatery and accused the restaurant of skimping on the meat.

The caller demanded that his order be corrected, but an employee explained that nothing could be done because the restaurant was about to close, the report said.

"That's alright, I'll just come and redecorate the place," the man allegedly stated.

Later that night, someone threw a Molotov cocktail that burned the area under the drive-thru.

Dan Potash

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are usually very hot. A small sponge, I guess its foundation, a small coating on. For the most part I don't think I need that much, but I haven't reached that ultimate peak where someone does my makeup for me, but that's okay I'm not too upset about that."

Q: "Do the players feeling comfortable giving you stuff (for your stories)?"

A: "I gotten to know the guys pretty well and a lot of the faces of changed, but once you earn their trust and get to know them, they'll tell you everything about themselves. I could go to them and say 'Hey, are there any pictures of you when you played so and so in wherever city?' 'Oh yeah, here's my mom's number call her up and she'll send them to you.' Now sometimes I get it without them knowing, but I'll tell them about it. We did this a couple years ago, we played on Halloween, so I went around and asked all the players for pictures of them as kids dressed up in costumes. Sidney Crosby gave me several pictures, one of him dressed up as Dracula, the other one dressed up as Peter Pan. They had fun with it, they we're actually okay with me calling their parents and asking them for it and then I did a feature on it. If they didn't want to have fun with it, they wouldn't do it. I have not had one player tell me no."

Q: "What advice do you have for aspiring journalists?"

A: "I will say this, the industry has changed a lot. There was no Internet in 1995, it was just starting. Before there were only jobs through a TV station or a radio station or a newspaper, now the Internet has popped up at all levels, with positions that are full-time paying. I can't say the industry has doubled in job opportunities, but there's a lot more. The opportunities will be endless for you. You guys have the opportunity to go down many different roads, whether it's in high school or college, internships, classes, whatever. I would explore everything you can because there's much more opportunity to succeed in this field than there was before."

SCG SHALER CULTURE GRID		Which Disney Princess are you?	Who is your alter ego?	What is the most absurd pick-up line you've ever heard?	Do you think "Outside the Bun?"
	Sophomore Niko Thorpe	Snow White	The real Barack Obama 	"Are you a parking ticket? 'Cause you've got fine written all over you"	What the heck does that mean?
	Teacher Mr. Taylor	Rapunzel	Whip from The X	"Hey do you have a fork lift? Because I want to pick you up"	I am the bun 
	Senior Roman Bentley	Ariel, I'm really into Mermaids 	Red Man	"You smell warm"	Always
	Teacher Mr. Fisher	Sleeping Beauty, I like to nap	I'm like Robin Hood, I just don't wear tights	"Can I check your tag? Just as I thought, made in Heaven"	Five buck box 