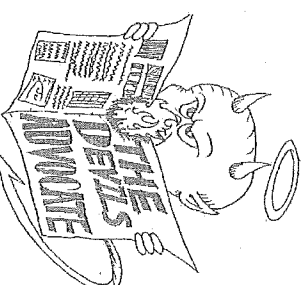


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The BLUE DEVILS

Advocate



Richmond High School
35320 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062

Volume 9, Issue 7

April 26, 2013

An AP-plication for college

AP students prepare for upcoming AP Test in May.

Olivia Kestler
Features Editor

The AP test is almost here and juniors and seniors are starting to prepare themselves for the challenge they have waited for all year.

For seniors in Mr. Applegate's AP Literature and Composition class, the test will be held on May 9th while juniors in Mr. Rineer's AP Language and Composition class, the date is May 10th.

Preparation

All year, students have been learning about what the test entails and how they can best prepare for it.

"You have to be well-read," said Mr. Applegate, who has been giving his students practice tests in the form of decommissioned AP tests from previous years. "It's all about the buildup."

Senior Shelby Stewart, a student in Mr. Applegate's AP class, has benefited from both methods of groundwork for the test.

"The books and essays have really helped me feel confident about the essay portion of the test," she said.

Mr. Rineer agrees that the preparation for the test rests largely on students.

"The teacher is like your guide," he said. "It all comes down to what you bring into it."

Mr. Rineer has also been giving his students practice tests, as well as assigning various essays identical to AP test essays for students to compose in a restricted amount of time.

A student in his AP class, junior Jennifer Merriman, is grateful for the class and how it challenges her.

"It gives me a feel of the college workload, making me better prepared for college," she said.

The Test

The AP Language and Composition test for juniors is composed of a multiple choice section where students read a passage and answer the questions that follow. Students are also tasked with composing three essays: the Synthesis Essay, the Argument Essay, and the Rhetorical Analysis Essay.

This all must be accomplished in three hours and fifteen minutes.

Continued on Page 3

This Is Urinetown!

By: Adam Boyd
Sports Editor

Is it a privilege to pee? Well the people of Urinetown might be able to convince you it is.

The theater program, headed by Mr. Jason Applegate, recently performed the satirical comedy *Urinetown*.

Urinetown is a play where a water shortage plagued the town so a local company took charge and came to the solution that the town's people have to pay to pee.

The various actors and actresses knew their parts on February 22 after auditions, and rehearsals started on the February 25.

Mr. Applegate has wanted to do this play for a long time. He said, "I went to Toronto to see the play done professionally about seven or eight years ago. I just died of laughter and that just encouraged me and made me want to do this play with a local or school theater program ever since."

All the silly jokes and the comedy in general was Mr. Applegate's favorite part of *Urinetown*.

Whether plays are done professionally



Anna Fraser sings "A Privilege to Pee" during a Urinetown rehearsal.

or as amateurs, there are always challenges when one is performing. Mr. Applegate said,

"*Urinetown* challenged the young actors as well as my senior actors. They have been challenged both musically and character-wise.

They have done something they aren't used to doing. All the characters are melodramatic, or over the top. Whenever an actor has a character that is melodramatic there is always a lot of risk to do that."

Continued on Page 2

Live "song" and prosper

RHS's choir department puts on their final concert of the year

By: Lizzie Urban
News Editor

As the school year comes to a close, the choir is preparing for their final concert of the year.

This year's Spring Concert will have a "Pops" theme, with songs like "Fix You," by Coldplay, to a Bruno Mars medley.

Mr. Osadchuk, Choir Director, said, "I like the Spring Choir Concert to have fun music that the students can get into. Plus, by doing Pop mu-

sic, I can feature several soloists throughout the concert, which is always important to do"

The concert will feature approximately 15 soloists. Some of those songs will be with the choir, backing them up. Other songs will be an individual or a small group performing a song they do on their own. They usually use a karaoke track to perform with.

Students in both Concert Choir and Choral learn the songs in three or four part harmony, mean-

ing multiple sections sing at the same time, but each on a different note.

The Concert Choir is made up of four vocal sections, two for girls and two for boys.

The songs selected for the different groups were chosen because they were good arrangements for a group that has grown as much as RHS's Choir Department.

Sarah Budd, freshman, said, "My favorite part about being in Choir is singing, of course, because singing is one of my absolute favorite things to do. But I also really enjoy making new friends there."

Continued on Page 3

Robotics team competes at States

By: Kyle Soldan
News Editor

It is not easy competing in one of the toughest state competitions in the country. For Richmond Robotics, it only made going to the State Competition April 11-13 at Eastern Michigan University a better experience.

"Michigan has one of the largest robotics competitions in the country," sophomore Brandon Potts said. Michigan hosts the largest robotics competition in the U.S., meaning it also has some of its best reach the

State competition. "This competition is the hardest to qualify," Potts added.

Potts is part of the build team who constructed the physical robot for competition. Starting on the first Saturday of January, the team had six weeks to build their robot.

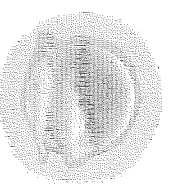
As time winded down, teams began to worry as bag day approaches. Bag day is when all work on the robot must cease and a bag must be literally placed over the robot to prevent continued work. Despite the timeframe the team is

given, Potts said the team is very creative with its building abilities. "Anything is possible," Potts said. "The competition is always a great learning task for us."

Robots are designed to perform a different game every year. This year's new game was known as Ultimate Assent.

In Ultimate Assent, robots must throw Frisbees into goals to score points. Then, each team's machine must climb a pyramid and, depending on how high it climbs, the team scores additional points.

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Today's Forecast
Mostly Cloudy
High: 56°
Low: 40°

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Robotics

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At the State competition, the team finished 47th overall out of the 64 teams competing and 18th in offensive power rating (OPR). OPR is a stat the competition uses to score a robot's offensive capabilities in competition.

The main reason for this high OPR ranking was the goal of the team to make the robot strictly offensive.

"Last year, our robot was purely defensive," Potts said.

An offensive robot is more likely to score over a defensive robot, so the team constructed a new robot based off this idea. The team used parts off of last year's robot to construct a stronger offensive machine.

Last year's robot would control the defensive side of the game by preventing the other team from scoring. The team even managed to disa-

ble a robot completely during one of their competitions last season.

This year, making the robot more offensive made the team more competitive at District competitions.

In order to qualify for States, teams had to receive points in district competitions. A team can get two points for every match won along with additional points for certain categories.

Richmond gained a total of 74 points over two districts competitions in Waterford and Troy. In Waterford, the team earned 25 points, 14 in total match wins and 11 for being fourth in the standings at the competition. Troy saw the team get 49 points for several categories, including 18 for matches, 16 for making the alliance team, 10 for reaching the semi-finals, and 5 for winning the entrepreneurship award.

The more competitions, the more likely the team is to qualify for the

State competition. Despite only attending two District competitions, the team qualified high enough to reach the State competition.

However, the team must fund the parts to build the robot. Thus, a business team was established to help raise money for the team in order to get these parts.

Sophomore Mathew Bauman is part of the team's business group, helping the team raise money through sponsorships and fundraisers. He said the team managed to raise over \$11,000 for this season.

The business team usually spent hours every day planning business strategies for the robot. Some members would even arrange meetings late at night to use their time appropriately.

"Every amount of spare time we had we used to our advantage," he said.

Bauman understands that making States was a huge benefit to the

team.

"For a second year team, we couldn't have hoped for better," Bauman said.

Bauman added quite a bit of work needs to be done next year if the team wants to improve. Testing the robot more often to fix imperfections and gaining more sponsorship for funds will be necessary.

Next year's team will comprise mostly of the same group of people, with the exception of senior Logan Iskra.

His younger brother, sophomore Blake Iskra, has been a crucial part of the team's success. A member of the electrical team which helped program and wire the robot, Blake Iskra wanted the team to be more successful in competition than anything else.

Continued on Page 3

Urinetown

Continued from Page 1

During the week before the play, all the teachers were given *Urinetown* bathroom passes and were asked when a student asked to use the restroom, that they would make a donation. All the collected donations are going to Charity: Water. This charity goes to third-world countries so they can set up a place for the people to have clean water.

"It's for a dual purpose: to promote the charity, and it was a way for us to advertise the play," said Mr. Apple-gate.

Junior Kayde Hanbaum had one of the play's lead roles. "I play the role of Hope; she is the oblivious daughter of Mr. Cladwell," said Hanbaum.

She said, "I was super nervous before the play because I'm just afraid of messing up."

The lyrics were the hardest part for Hanbaum. "All the little parts of the songs were the hardest to memorize. It just took me a while to get the words down with the dances," said Hanbaum.

"Theater has definitely made high school better for me. Being a part of all the plays showed me a different look at the world. I realized how much everyone judges others. It happens all the time," she said. "Being in theater, it showed me to not just be part of the crowd but to be different, not do something, like judge others, just because others are; it showed me to look for the best part of people."

Junior Krystal Nowak played the role of Mr. Cladwell's secretary.

Nowak said, "I was really excited because it feels good to be back on stage with my theater family. Plus being on stage with all my friends is the best feeling ever," said Nowak.

"Getting to meet new people whom I will be friends with for a long time and doing something that I enjoy is amazing. Theater has given me so much throughout the years. I don't know what I would do without it," said Nowak.

Nowak started her theatrical journey in the beginning of her eighth grade year. "My friend convinced me to help with the stage crew, and I just fell in love. I had so much fun

doing it; I just couldn't not be a part of the plays in high school. I would have missed it too much," she said.

For Nowak, the hardest part was memorizing all the dances. She said, "We have our own choreographer come in and she always makes the dances really cool and fun. She just always does a really nice job. I always enjoy when she works with us."

For some actors and actresses, however, *Urinetown* was their last hurrah. "their last chance to go out with a bang. One of those actresses was Ms. Millennium, played by senior Caitlyn Gordon.

Gordon had a minor part in the play but a major part in the theater department. "I've been in every or have been a part of every musical or play since freshman year," she said. "Kelsey Williams talked me into helping with the stage crew with my freshmen year musical, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, and the atmosphere just drew me in from there."

Theater really helped Gordon "come out of her shell." She said, "It opened me up and helped me branch out to more people and it

helped me make more friends early on which made the transition from middle to high school a lot smoother."

She added, "To see this play come is bittersweet. I am very excited to do *Urinetown* and I'm excited to see how it goes, but at the same time I don't want it to come because it's my last play of my high school career and it'll be the last time I'll be able to be on the RHS stage with all my friends doing something we all love to do."

For all three actresses, their favorite part of the play was the Act One finale. "We got the whole cast on the stage, and it was just cool to have every one dancing on the stage at the same time," said Gordon.

Gordon said, "*Urinetown* was everything I expected it to be. It couldn't have gone any better in my opinion. The whole cast and crew worked so hard to make this as great as it could be, and the fact that we got standing ovations all three nights was just unbelievable. It was the best feeling in the world. I couldn't have asked for a better way to end my RHS theater career."

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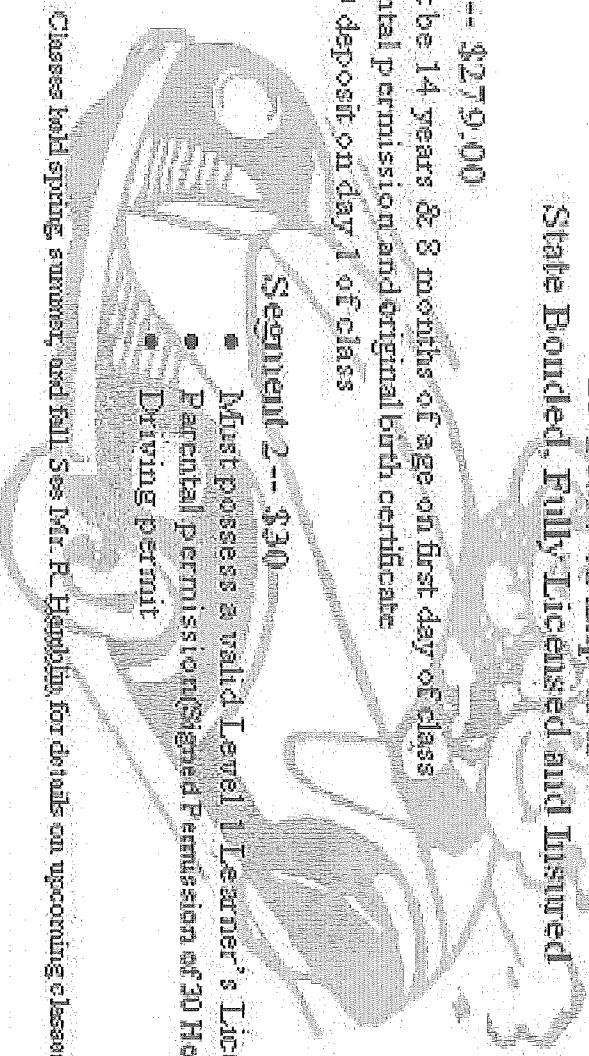
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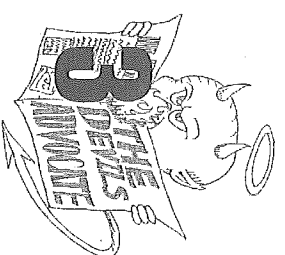
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Classes held spring, summer, and fall. See Mr. R. Hendrix for details on upcoming classes.



Northern Threat

North Korea continues to make nuclear threats as United States, world prepare for possible conflict.

By: Kyle Soldan
News Editor

The last couple of weeks have shown that tension between the United States and North Korea are at an all-time high despite recent declines in nuclear threats between the two nations. With fear rising amongst several neighboring nations, North Korea's threats have nations and politicians wanting action on behalf of the U.S. government.

Three weeks ago, North Korea made threats to launch nuclear missiles at the United States, citing the country as an enemy and threat to their national security.

U.S. officials, however, have noted that it is not officially known as to whether the North Koreans would be capable of firing such a weapon.

In the past, North Korea has had several failed test launches, so the possibility of the nation being able to successfully launching one this time is unlikely.

In 2006, North Korea announced that it had set off its first nuclear test, a sign that the nation was on the verge of developing nuclear weapons. A second test was launched in May of 2009 and a third in early 2013, but arming a missile with such a device has proved difficult for the country in recent years.

A missile launch in early 2012 by the North failed when it fell apart over the Yellow Sea. Tension only escalated from there when the U.S. withdrew its food aid to the country and the North nullifying its armistice, or fighting, with the South. Despite a calmed playing field, North Korea continues to push for recognition as a nuclear state.

Dr. Ladd, history and government teacher, said it is irrelevant whether the nation is recognized as a nuclear state or not. Instead, he adds it is

Concert
Continued from Page 1

Other songs the choir will perform include Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody." A fan favorite, Budd is excited to be performing this number. "I love all the different parts of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and I really love singing it," she said.

While only being a freshman, Budd has been involved with Choir in the past and was ecstatic to get involved in high school. She had taken a year off from choir, and came back after missing being a part of a singing group.

"Singing also puts me in a better mood, so it's nice to start off the day with choir," said Budd.

Senior Cathlyn Gordon is looking forward to singing, Coldplay's, "Fix You," with the Chorale.

"With my schedule freshman year, I wouldn't have been able to join Concert Choir like I was originally planning, and when Mr. O saw that I wasn't in Choir he suggested I try out for Chorale," she said.

A chorale veteran for four years, Gordon looks back at her years spent in chorale with good thoughts.

This year's senior song will be the classic, "Hallelujah," performed by the Concert Choir and the Chorale at the concert, but by the seniors and the Chorale at graduation. Mr. Osadchuk said, "I like seeing the end product at the concert. I enjoy seeing all of the students' hard work paying off in the end."

The concert starts at 7:30 on Tuesday, May 14. It will be free to the public.

Robotics

Continued from Page 2

He added the team did much better this year despite not reaching Worlds. Last year, the team only reached Worlds based on special awards they won in competition, including the Rookie All-Star Award.

With experience, though, the team grew up quite a bit over last year and became a greater force in one of the country's strongest competitions. Isktra, though, feels the team has realized something other than becoming better competitors.

Isktra said, "Just because you're in high school doesn't mean that you can't do anything."

The Students

Of the 21 students in Mr. Rineer's AP class, 10 are scheduled to take the test in May. In Mr. Applegate's class, four out of 19 students plan to take the test.

"It's an opportunity to save \$1500 or so through a \$90 test," said Mr. Rineer. "You could get out of a composition and get credit for taking it."

Soldan is taking advantage of this opportunity this year when he takes the AP Literature and Composition test, hoping to get a 5—the highest possible score.

"I can receive not only the extra GPA boost, but also take the test and hopefully get college credit," he said.

Both of the benefits appeal to students preparing for the test, despite the challenging class they take to gear up for the test in May.

"It's a college level class," said Stewart. "We don't do busywork like the regular English classes. We read books, analyze them, then write a paper about them. Just like college."

Mr. Applegate is confident in his students like Stewart, as well as the juniors in Mr. Rineer's AP class who are facing their own test in May.

"The tests are meant to be hard," he advised. "They're designed that way, so make sure your timing is good."

AP Test
Continued from Page 1

"I feel prepared for the writing part," said junior Alajiah Bashi. "The class is helping me write certain essays that I will need."

Just as Mr. Rineer's AP class is helping students like Bashi to prepare for the test, Mr. Applegate's class is preparing seniors for their own AP test.

The AP Literature and Composition test includes a poetry excerpt and a prose excerpt where students must write a responsive essay on

important to know who is actually in control of the North Korean government: the military or the Kim Jung Un.

"As long as we have a good relationship with China we have nothing to worry about," he added.

China has had good, stable relations with their communist ally North Korea for some time now. The nation currently supplies the North with aid in the form of food and other economic resources.

The Chinese government has said North Korea has plans to perform a fourth nuclear test, per ABC News,

each passage. There is also an open prompt that students must respond to using any text on the given list or their own selection.

"It's all about what you want to say and how you're saying it," said Mr. Applegate.

Finally, the test concludes with a set of multiple-choice questions relating to a passage.

Senior Kyle Soldan is ready for the essay, but not so much for the multiple choice portion of the test.

"It's always the hardest section," he said. "The questions are incredibly hard and generally try to confuse you."

though it is not known when the nation will actually do something.

"China's interest is to not let them do anything crazy," Dr. Ladd said.

With concern over what actions North Korea will take next, obvious tension between the nation and the U.S. continues to rise.

Whether war between the nations break out or not, the isolated country will continue to draw national headlines here and across the world.

Only time will give answers as to what will happen next.

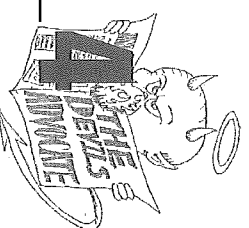
On This Day

April 26, 1986—

The nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in Ukraine occurred, killing 31 people and exposing thousands more to radioactive materials in the process.

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Tips & Toes Nail Spa



Breiling looks to jump into the record books

By: Jacob Thomas
Sports Editor

Breaking a high school record is a feat many cannot accomplish. Senior Victoria Breiling is looking to break the Richmond High School record of five-feet-three inches for high jump, a record she tied last year.

Breiling has been a part of the track team since middle school and has always been a high-jumper for the team.

However, she and the team have other goals in mind as well heading into this season.

“Going to States this year and I would like to break the high school high jump record are my goals,” said Breiling.

Victoria wasn’t always interested in high jumping for the track team, but she was thrown into it during middle school when nobody else would do it.

“I was thrown into it in middle school, and it just kind of stuck with me after that,” said Breiling.

Of course trying to break a high school record takes a hard work ethic to improve, which is why Victoria has various workouts for practicing high jump.

“I practice scissor kicks, over the bar, jump roping and Olympic style weight lifting. Jump roping is important because it keeps my calf muscle be balanced,” said Breiling.

Breiling works on high jump every day during practice, but the weather so far has made it difficult to be outside practicing.

Her original reaction to tying the record last spring was excitement, but the moment didn’t last long as a tornado warning was issued in the middle of the track meet.

The high school record for women’s high jump is held by

Jacquelyn Pietrykowski in 2004.

Coach Ladd

believes that Breiling’s accomplishments are more impressive than Pietrykowski.

“Jacquelyn was taller than Victoria which made it easier for her to do, but Victoria is better for her size,” said Coach Ladd.

However, Coach Ladd believes that the nine-year record will soon be broken.

“Victoria is going to demolish that record. Right now she is reaching close to five feet nine inches in practice,” said Coach Ladd.

Breiling said her personal best is five-feet-seven inches in practice. “It’s harder to reach my personal best in the meets because the envi-

ronment around me is different and there are people watching,” she said.

Along with participating in high jump, Breiling runs the 400-meter relay and the open 400-meter race.

“The open 400 meter is the hardest race for me,” she said.

Victoria said the goal for the team this year is to be more competitive than last year, and to keep a positive morale throughout the season.

Last year, the boys and girls teams struggled finishing with one win apiece. However, this year’s team features many underclassmen who hope to be helpful in the future.

Breiling believes this year’s team is competitive for this season, but has a lot of work to do.

Breiling
(Photo credit: RHS Yearbook)

“Yale and Cros-Lex are the two most competitive teams in the BWAC and will give the toughest competition. Armada is also good because they have a lot of members on their team,” said Breiling.

Breiling enjoys being with her teammates more than anything though and is excited for her senior year with the track and field team.



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The Blue Devil's Advocate

April 26, 2013

Mitchell Tyler talks golf with the Devils Advocate

What has inspired you to play golf?

My dad because he was always good at golf. Him and his friends are always golfing together and I would watch him while I was growing up.

What is the most enjoyable aspect of the sport?

It's a more laid back and enjoyable sport. The practices are fun and you're playing against yourself. There isn't the aspect of relying on others to win.

Who has taught you how to golf? My dad has taught me how to golf.

What do you expect in your first year with the team? Just to go out and have fun and to be competitive in most of my matches. Focusing on getting better as well.

Who's your professional role model?

Adam Scott is my professional role model. I picked him to win the Masters at the beginning of the tournament and he did.



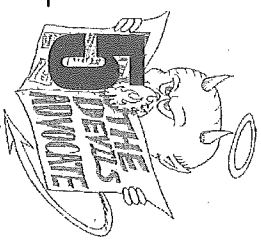
Tyler
(Photo credit: RHS Yearbook)

What is your favorite golf tournament?

The Masters or the U.S. Open are my favorite tournaments.

How has it been to have Coach Parlard?

He is a good coach. I really enjoy having him as the golf coach because he makes the practices fun and we have a good time together.



From MHSAA to NCAA

Ward, Verstraete, and Akerley look to excel in athletics after high school.

By: Adam Boyd
Sports Editor

Most young athletes can only dream of being a college athlete. These gifted individuals of our senior class have been given the opportunity to show their skills to the coaches of their future colleges.

Mitchell Ward, varsity pitcher and first baseman, will be going to Macomb Community College to play baseball. Ward committed to Macomb on March 16.

He said, "I figured it would be a waste of time and talent if I would have passed up this opportunity, and it would have been for nothing. It will be nice to know that I am leaving college debt free."

Ward liked that Macomb was close by: "It's a good school and baseball pays for it so free education to a good school for a couple years can't be beat!" he said.

He expects to see better competition and wants to see the country playing the sport he loves.

"I guess college won't be much different than high school ball. I haven't started college ball yet so I'm not sure what its gonna be like," he said. "It feels good knowing that I'll be at the next level soon."

Ward thinks the hardest part of college ball will be keeping his arm healthy. Last year, he was recognized by Macomb because he was the 2012 Macomb County's Most



Mitchell Ward watching the varsity game. (Photo credit RHS Yearbook)

Valuable Player:

Ward recently sustained a leg injury. "I tore my meniscus in my right leg," Ward said.

He was running and he put all his weight on his right leg to cut back the other way to catch a pass and his knee snapped instantly.

"I'm bummed I have to sit out, but I'm glad it's not the whole season," said Ward.

He said, "I kept playing for a couple minutes after the accident but I had to go home because I really wasn't sure what had happened and if it was going to end my season or not. I wasn't able to go to the doctors all weekend either so I sat home because I couldn't walk and I prayed I didn't tear my ACL."

When Ward received the news, he was relieved the injury wasn't as severe as he thought it was. "I was just unsure how long I would have to sit out," said Ward.

The doctor told Ward he would be

able to start therapy in a week after the incident and after about three weeks of therapy he could continue playing. "I'm still expecting to make a full recovery, so I can be back on the field soon and later hopefully sign with a division 1 college," he said.

Ward said, "It's a good feeling to know that so many coaches from the big schools want you to play for their program. After all of the calls for a couple of weeks you get to a point where you don't want to reply back anymore but it's in your best interest if you do."

Senior Lexy Verstraete will be going to Central Michigan University in the fall to try out for the cheerleading team.

Verstraete committed to CMU in the fall this year. She said, "I committed to Central because they have a good cheer program, and I just love to cheer and I wanted to continue."

Central also has the academic program Verstraete is looking for. "I wanted to be a physician's assistant and Central offered that program for me. It has a beautiful campus and I can just see myself living there," said Verstraete.



Verstraete (Photo credit RHS Yearbook)

Verstraete hopes through college sports she can get involved with the university, find friends right away and just have fun while she is at school.

Unlike Ward, Verstraete had to try out for the cheer team. She attended tryouts on April 19 – April 21.

"I made the cheer team. I am officially a college athlete. I am so happy I got this chance," said Verstraete.

It was a hard three days for Verstraete. She said, "The tryouts were five hour days and just long and hard. We worked on tumbling, stunting, the fight song and chants."

Verstraete likes the people on the team, as well as the stunt team. Verstraete will be a base for the Chips next fall.

"There are more boys on the team and their moves are more dancey, not the robotic motions that we used. Central stunts different too so it will be interesting to see how I do," said Verstraete.

Verstraete went to a Central cheer clinic earlier in the month. "At the clinic, I just had a blast. I liked how I performed and after the clinic, they asked me to come to tryouts," she said.

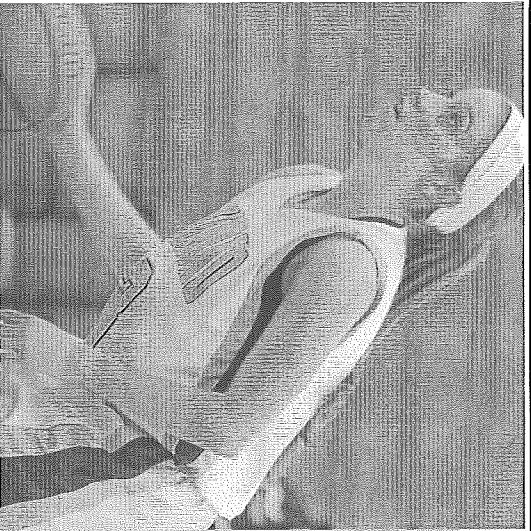
Senior Dylan Akerley is going to Adrian to play football. "It gives me a better chance to succeed," he said. Akerley committed to Adrian College in February.

"The atmosphere around the school is great. If I didn't know it was a Division-Three school, I would have thought it was bigger because of the quality of the school," said Akerley.

Akerley expects bigger, faster and stronger people at the college level. He said, "The biggest thing is all the competition would be a lot more mature."

Akerley is looking forward to the crowd. "The crowd always pumps me up and I'm hoping the bigger the crowd the more I can feed off their energy," he said.

Being a college athlete isn't something the "Average Joe" does. Akerley said, "I feel privileged to play college football. It's an honor. I'm not going to take lightly."



Beth Beindit

Nickname: B

Age: 16

Grade: 10

Sport(s): Volleyball, Basketball, Tennis

Favorite pump up song: Till I Collapse

By: Eminem

Favorite Food: Chicken

Favorite class: Honors U.S. History with Mr. Ladd

Future Goals: College with medical degree.

Senior Athletes

Vince Ottenbacher

Nickname: Big Head

Age: 15

Grade: 10

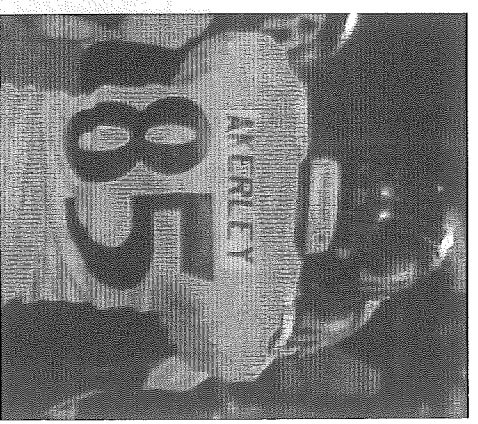
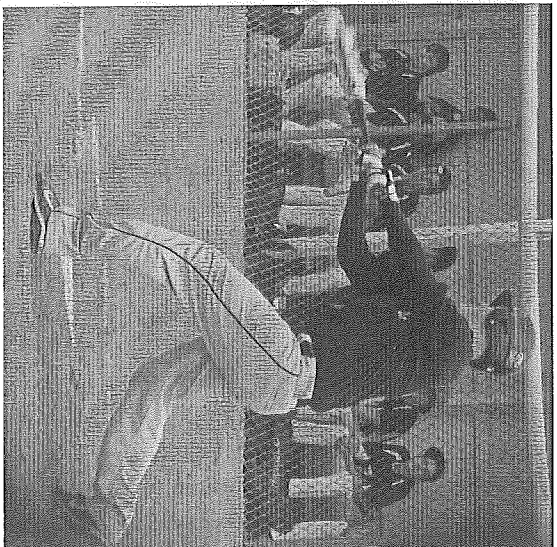
Sport(s): Tennis and baseball

Favorite pump up song: Eye of the Tiger By:

Survivor

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite class: Basic Design



Senior Dylan Akerley celebrates with his team after winning the playoff game against Marine City. (Photo credit RHS Yearbook)