

Tumbling Into A Brighter Future

By: Lauren Duche
Opinions co-editor

Senior, Jessica Hatcher, senior and two time competitor at cheerleading state finals, has just been offered an academic and athletic scholarship in the amount of \$16,000 a year to Alma College.

Hatcher didn't always envision herself as a cheerleader, especially not one competing at a collegiate level. For most of her life, she played soccer.

"I started playing soccer when I was little and then my sophomore year at Richmond I played on the JV team, but I just began to get bored with it. I lost my competitive edge, so I thought I should try something new," she said.

Hatcher had tried out for the cheer team at her old high school in California, Vanden High school, her freshman year and failed to make their Junior varsity team.

"I was disappointed, of course, so I decided to stick with soccer going into my sophomore year at Richmond but the rejection from Vanden

struck with me and I decided it was time to prove them wrong," she said.

In the winter of her sophomore year, she tried out for cheer and made the team.

"I was happy, but I was terrible. I could hardly do anything, but that only motivated me to work harder," she said.

And it did.

Her junior year of high school, she managed to work her way into every round to finally get discovered at State Finals by Alma College.

"I was recruited after states. A couple of the girls on the team had come up to me and said that I would be a good addition to their team. Plus, we had competed at Alma once before so I was familiar with the campus and the team," she said.

At the time, Hatcher didn't expect to look into Alma College, but with this being the first college that approached her, she decided to gain more information.

"I looked them up online and got into contact with their head and assistant coaches. They were really nice and invited me to go to a clinic

and I had an instant connection with the team and coaches," she said.

From here, she had looked into other colleges, but for some reason, Alma stuck.

"I always had Alma in the back of my mind when looking at other colleges. It was the school I would always compare other schools to, and that's when I realized that's where I wanted to go," she said.

Hatcher has decided to commit to Alma, and is signing sometime in early spring.

"It feels good to finally commit and know that I'm about to become a part of their team and school," she said.

Hatcher is a First Team All BWAC, All District, All Region, and All State athlete. As a sophomore, she was a part of the fourth place state team, and her junior year she was a member of the runner up team.

Although she is being recruited for her athleticism, she's no ordinary athlete.

Hatcher has been on the honor roll for all four years of high

school, and I had an instant connection with the team and coaches," she said.

school, is a four time All Academic BWAC athlete, a three time RHS scholar athlete, a two time athlete of the month, and has a GPA of 3.4.

"My academics are very important to me. I take cheer very seriously, but my education always comes first," she said.

This intelligent athlete plans to sign to commit to Alma in early spring after her last competitive cheer season.

"College is important and I can't wait to finally commit to Alma, but right now, my biggest goal is to help lead my team to a state title this March and go into my collegiate career with a state championship ring."

Hatcher wishes to pursue a career in Early Childhood Development and one day wishes to go back to the sport she fell in love with and become a high school cheerleading coach.

Hatcher said, "I can't imagine giving this sport up completely, so I hope that one day I can coach so I'll never have to."

Fantasy Football

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"When Le'Veon went down I knew it wasn't good, the way his leg went. I knew I was in trouble, especially since he missed the first two games. I only got six weeks out of my top draft pick," said senior Andrew Hamel.

Along with the Charles and Bell, Patriots rising star Dion Lewis, a sleeper coming into the season, also tore his ACL in week 9.

Many other backs have sustained injuries too this season; however these injuries haven't been season ending but have definitely left their

mark on the Fantasy season; with the likes of LeSean McCoy, Matt Forte and Beast Mode himself, Marshawn Lynch all picking up nocks causing each to miss out on several games.

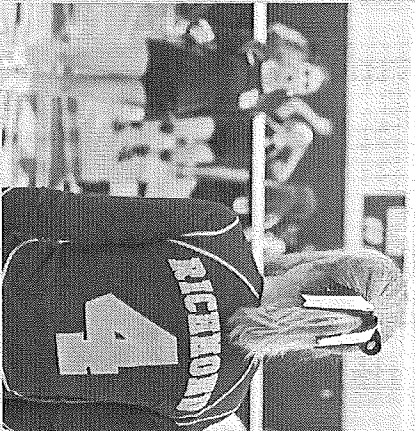
"Niners back Carlos Hyde had also been putting up impressive numbers before a foot injury seemingly ended his season. Along with Ravens' running back Justin Forsett who broke his arm Week 11.

Many of this season's top backs have seemingly come out of nowhere, like former rushing champion Chris Johnson who hadn't had a 1,200 yard season since 2012 seems to have now found his form

again with the Arizona Cardinals. Before fracturing his tibia Johnson was on pace to rush for most likely that, 1,200 yards and taking the crown NFL Comeback Player of the Year.

Another player who has exploded onto the scene this season is Devonta Freeman a second year player for the Atlanta Falcons, who has clinched his position as fantasy beast while leading the league in touchdowns with 9, and just like seemingly every other running back has picked up an injury: a concussion.

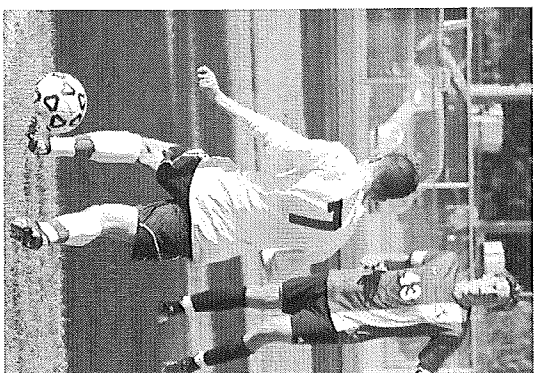
As usual, wide receivers have been easy picking with names like



Rachel McKiernan

Age: 16
Grade: 11
Sport(s): Volleyball and Softball
Favorite class: Chemistry
Future Goals: Play college softball

ARTICLES



Jaret Gil

Age: 16
Grade: 11
Sport(s): Soccer
Favorite Class: AP Art
Future Goals: Make all-state

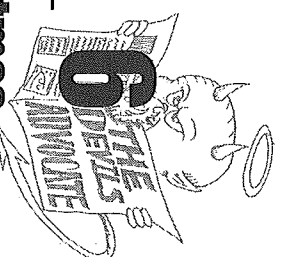
The tight ends have definitely boosted their draft stock for next year with the monster numbers players like Tyler Eifert and Gronk have put up, leading the league in receiving touchdowns and yards respectively.

This season has definitely confirmed that the NFL is in good hands for several years to come with Giants star Odell Beckham Jr. and Raiders draft pick Amari Cooper getting better with every week.

And with the Muscle Hamster, Doug Martin, and Todd Gurley producing more and more yards every week Fantasy Football's coveted running backs are looking to be in good shape moving forward.

The beauty in fantasy football is that going in to the season no one knows who will be good and who won't, which is why we fell in love with it and will continue to be.

In Our Opinion



Likes or Favorites?

By: **Haleigh Beeton**
Features Co-Editor

How could something so minute, affect the world's teens?

Twitter recently released an update that changed some aspects of the site. Some of these changes include being able to view tweet activity (how many people look at your tweet, click on your profile picture, etc.), being able to make polls, and changing the infamous favoriting ability represented by a star, to being able to like a tweet now shown by a heart.

The simple differences between favoriting and liking a tweet has caused a lot of concerns among Twitter users.

Boys say it feels weird liking someone's tweet. They find it odd that a heart pops up when they like a tweet. Most of them resort to just retweeting tweets because they hate "liking" them.

Twitter's claims to have changed the favorite button because some people found it confusing.

When I read that, it made no sense to me. How could someone get confused by a star? Also, how does changing it to a heart make it easier?

The developers of Twitter changed it to the universal symbol that everyone knows the meaning of: a heart.

Before they unleashed the hearts to the public, they did a variety of tests to gather data. The tests showed that users with the heart, rather than the star, were more likely to use the feature. Ultimately, people thought Twitter became more attractive to its users with the heart button. Supposedly,

Who knew this change would resonate as a big issue to everyone?

Why does this affect us? Why does social media impact us the amount it does?

Honestly, I think it's sad.

It's sad that today's teens are so attached to their devices. I'm not just saying this from the people around me, I'm saying this because I'm guilty of it.

I can't live without phone. Whenever I walk out of the room without it, I feel like I have to rush back to check to see what is going on.

I have a raging case of FoMo (Fear of Missing out).

Why are all of us like this? Why do we get bent out of shape when minor details in the Twitterverse are changed?

My mind ponders this all the time.

None of these changes would have mattered when Twitter first came out. Back then, a lot of people barely knew what it was.

It astonishes me on how the world of technology has changed in such a little amount of time. I am only seventeen years old, but even 10 years makes such a difference.

I'm going to pull out the whole "Now, when I was a kid..." line that we normally get from our parents and even our grandparents. So, when I was a kid we didn't have all the technology we have now.

Flat screens were just being released, we had a landline, neither of my parents had smart phones, and we still had dial-up.

And when these new advances came, everyone was out of their comfort zones. Everyone thought no one would care about social media or cell phones or high-tech TVs.

But look where we are now. Getting defensive about a little update to Twitter.

Who knew we would come to this?

Retweet this article if you like it.

Its Beginning to Sound Like Christmas

By: **Brandon Furlaw**
Staff Writer

Well, it's that time of year again. Time to get out the eggnog, fire up the ovens for all those Christmas cookies, and hunker down cause baby its cold outside... But wait, it's November.

Buckle up ladies and gents cause Santa Claus is coming to town.

It seems now as soon as a leaf falls radio stations, stores, and websites go into a panicked frenzy and start the countdown to Christmas.

We already have visions of sugarpums dancing and the Thanksgiving feast hasn't been devoured yet. But it's not like Christmas music is played outside of December, right?

Shoot, it is, isn't it? It is pretty much mutually assured that you can kiss your favorite radio station goodbye and say hello to nonstop Christmas tunes.

It's played so soon it almost has no relevance anymore to Christmas but is nothing short of a teaser to whet our pallets for the season of giving.

I firmly believe that radio stations and stores are working together to push Christmas upon the average consumer faster and faster each year.

This cruel and unusual tactic to make people think about Christmas is unacceptable and uncalled for. I implore all radio stations and humans alike to cease and desist the playing of Christmas music outside the month of December.

Drastic measures will be used to ensure the satisfaction of this request. We as a people need to rise up against this menace and put a stop to Christmas music being played too early.

There is no logical reason for Christmas to contaminate Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Christmas has escaped the confines of December and we must do everything in our power to contain this outbreak of elven creatures, Mariah Carey, and red nosed

reindeer.

That's right. I said it. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and there's no snow in sight.

But in all seriousness why can't we keep major holidays separated? Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter all get their own separate months to be celebrated.

They all stay away from each other, so why can't the over-commercialization Christmas?

But the real question is why do we move with great haste to ride in a one horse open sleigh? One word: money. And the retail industry loves the idea of an early Christmas, while losing the meaning of it.

Retail industry sales for the Christmas season amassed \$3.19-trillion in 2014 with nearly \$4-trillion projected for the 2015 Holiday season.

Also in 2014, people expected to spend an average of \$720 on average on Christmas gifts. This Christmas season is projected to be \$830.

If those numbers don't make you want Christmas to come sooner as a major retail store then you might as well pack up and quit now.

By pushing holiday items into stores earlier and earlier companies gain more and more revenue. This creates a sense of urgency as if to say "watch out Christmas is coming" when it's October.

This has created a self-centered world of people who have lost the Christmas spirit and the real reason for Christmas. As a whole we spend less time with family, worry about the perfect gift, and worry about getting what we want.

Every year, we become more individualistic and it simply breaks my heart. Christmas time is supposed to be family time and not all about the gifts.

The ghost of Christmas future is coming and I don't think we'll like what he has to say if we continue this trend.

WOULD YOU RATHER...

Fight one horse-size duck or one hundred duck-size horses?

Be Harrison Ford as Indiana Jones or Harrison Ford as Han Solo?

Be lost at sea for a year or be lost on an island for a year?

Eat a whole pear or eat a whole apple?

Opinions

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