

Printing A Robot

By: Brandon Furtaw
Sports Co-Editor

The battle of man against machine, or at least the battle of RHS students to make a machine.

That is robotics in a nutshell according to junior Nick Matthes. "The first Saturday in January we get a different 'game'. From that we have to make, design, and fabricate a robot in six weeks that we think will perform best in that specific game," he said.

Although high school robotics could be viewed as a 'game', it does give students the opportunity to explore a legitimate, expanding job field. For Senior Brennan Coffey that's exactly what robotics is, "It prepares students for the real world engineering, jobs, and leadership through problem solving."

RHS is fortunate enough to offer students with this opportunity with no limit to how many people can join; there are endless opportunities. With technology boomin' robotics teams are expected to have and to know how to work multiple types of machines to keep up with the competition.

Right now, that technology is 3D printers. Trying to stay ahead of the curve, the robotics team snatched up a 3D printer donated by a company (Masters Machine) that Superintendent Walmsley got in contact with. That donated printer once cost \$18,000 back in '91.

New printers are no joke with some costing more than a house or as little as \$500.

Even the 'ink', or better known as filament, used to print objects costs a lot for the machines. Currently the

team does not know how much it costs to print but they do know one canister of filament costs \$260.

But that could all change soon, "Cost depends on the price of the filament and the size of the object you want. The new printers are more universal. Like you can get a big canister for only \$20 to use between a bunch of machines," said Coffey.

As of a few weeks ago the Robotics team is in the market for a newer, sleeker, and more advanced 3D printer in the near future to keep up with the competition in not only the state but the world. 3D printers and CNC machines are becoming common place among high school robotics programs. It is normal for schools to have one or two of those machines in their possession.

With the cost for these machines as high as they are, the reality is lower division schools struggle to

support these kind of programs and keep up with the technology curve. While there are ways to raise funds for these kinds of programs, it usually falls to donations and or grants from the State of Michigan.

Regardless, the team is still in it to win it and this time they want something to be remembered by. "Win a banner. When you win a district you get this big blue banner and we've wanted it for a while. Hopefully our hard work pays off," said Matthes.

And while that's a good goal, the ultimate goal is to make the Worlds Competition. Almost three years ago RHS sent a qualifying team to the world stage but this is a new team.

This team wants its own legacy and its own memories. They want to forge their own success and be remembered for years to come.

Opinion: What is Aleppo?

By: Daniel Seguin
Web Editor

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

2016 is the year of "it can't get any worse". So many terrible things happened this year. Zika, Flint, Orlando, a string of celebrity deaths, Brexit, Trump. And every time any of this happened we all collectively went "Okay, now it really can't get any worse."

Well, we were wrong. Because worse it got. There is now an ongoing humanitarian

crisis the likes of which hasn't been seen in a long time. And the rest of 2016 pales in comparison. I am talking about Aleppo.

One of the brighter moments of this awful year was the presidential campaign of Gary Johnson. Re-member him?

He was running on the Libertarian ticket. Now, he never had a chance of winning, so I hate to say there was a moment when he blew his chances, and I don't think anyone who was supporting Johnson before his Aleppo mishap no longer was, but if there was one singular moment that summed up the 2016 election, and the type of candidates we were presented, it was when a reporter asked Johnson what he would do

After the Holocaust, we said that we, as a people, would never let this happen again. We said the same thing after Rwanda and after Darfur.

Aleppo is the capital of Syria. It is the center of the refugee crisis. You know, that thing that fear-mongering politicians made you scared of? Well, Aleppo has fallen. And all of those people that you were told were going to be a "Trojan Horse" if we let

them come here? All those terrorists in disguise who wanted to come here to destroy America? They're being slaughtered in the thousands. All of those children you

didn't want to come here, who Donald Trump doesn't want here, who were going to orchestrate terrorist attacks, those children are dying in the streets.

Men, women, and children alike are being slaughtered. There is a revolution going on in Syria, a civil war. East Aleppo, once controlled by rebel forces, has been sieged by the Syrian government, and they are killing civilians. They are executing them in the streets.

After the Holocaust, we said that we, as a people, as a world, that we would never let this happen again. We said the same thing after Rwanda and after Darfur.

Well, here we are. We, as a people, as a world, are letting it happen. It's the same thing over and over.

And no, changing your Facebook profile picture or tweeting "Pray for Aleppo"

On This Day

- On December 21, 1932, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers star in first joint movie together. (*Flying Down to Rio*)
- On December 22, 1941, Winston Churchill arrives in Washington, D.C. for a wartime conference.
- On December 23, 1815, "Emma" by Jane Austen was published by John Murray in London.

<http://www.ontthisday.com/>

Basketball shooting to make school history.

By Matthew Schuster

Opinion editor

This year's Richmond basketball team has high expectations coming into this season with already scrimmaging and competing with teams at a high level. As they move forward with their season they want to win the BWAC and also bring home the hardware with a district trophy.

The last time the basketball team has won a district was in 2006, and the Richmond Blue Devils wants to end this 10 year drought.

Everyone on the team wants this to be the year to end the drought and they are working hard daily at practice and outside of practice as well.

No days off. Richmond also knows winning the BWAC won't be easy as Inlay City is in their way as their toughest team that they have to play. Jackson Allen said, "They have a few re-turners that have some skill but their biggest advantage is their height."

It isn't a secret that Richmond is a small team. Just look at their starting five: They don't have a huge center that's going to destroy everyone in the post and grab every rebound. But one thing they have is speed.

Since they are smaller than everyone else they like to keep the basketball moving and keep the game at a high tempo.

Allen said, "If we can keep the game at a faster pace it will be hard for anyone to beat us, we can get teams on their heels and then drive to the basket."

Their offense is to get those big men out of the paint and defend them on the perimeter. If they can run their offense they know they can win those big games.

Another advantage Richmond has is that they can shoot the ball and they can shoot the ball well. Everyone that is on that court can shoot deep, and they are accurate also when shooting the ball.

Tavano said, "When I am passing the ball, I have full confidence in my team to score anywhere on the court."

To beat Inlay City there are two things that Richmond has to do. "We need to score buckets on every fast break opportunity and also keep the ball moving. If we can keep the ball moving around space will open up for a shot or for someone to drive in," said Allen. But the biggest advantage is just to outrun the other team. They want to grab defensive rebounds and turn and run in transition to get some easy and fast points.

As any other basketball team, they have experienced seniors like D'Sean Hamilton and Anthony Tavano who both played varsity basketball their sophomore year. The three years of varsity can help them guide the young players that are playing their first season on varsity.

When addressing the underclassmen, shooting guard Tavano said, "Let them know what I already know as my third year on varsity, and how to run the offense."

RHS played in scrimmages to help them prepare for the season. Hamilton said, "We played good but we have to improve on running the offense and work harder in games."

One player that is going to have learn this offense fast is Allen, as he will be called upon to play a lot of minutes this year. Allen is a man who always wants to be the best and he is always preparing to do better.

Allen plays point guard and people think why is a sophomore starting on varsity but he is proving those people by leading the team in scoring against Anchor Bay with 16 points. The team beat the Tars 64-57.

When asked what he does to get better and how he does well in games, Allen said, "I work hard in practice with intense drills to work hard in practice with intense drills to prepare me for the season."

These intense drills they do are some shooting drills then go into a 5-on-5 scrimmage where they can run their offense and their plays to see what works effectively when it matters most.

But he doesn't just practice during the sea-

son. He and his teammates will meet in Richmond's gym or Algonac's and practice with a coach named Dion to practice their form when shooting and defensive footwork.

The Blue Devils also know that defense will play a huge part when it comes to this season, as turning steals and turnovers into points will help this team tremendously. One of RHS's best defenders is Hamilton and defense is what is most important to him. It's what he thinks the team needs to improve on this season if they want to exceed expectations.

Hamilton said, "Defense wins games and when you know your teammates abilities you can click as a team and help out at spots where they are weaker."

If Richmond can do this, they'll be very dangerous this year.

A Little Hockeytown in our Hometown

By: Haley Fortuna
Coordinating editor

As his skates slice through the ice, his blood boils with adrenaline as he reaches for the puck. This is it.

This is his opportunity. He steals the puck right from under the opposing player's stick. He's unstoppable. As he races his way down the ice, he never looks back. His mind was focused on one thing: winning this tournament. He lines up, takes the shot, the puck swings against the back of the net.

Goal. With the sound of the buzzer, the Oakland Jr. Grizzlies take home—yet another—first place title.

Jaylen Dziegelewski, a junior, spends every free moment he has on the ice.

At only 5-years-old, Jaylen found his passion: hockey.

The junior, plays AAA Midget Major Tier I hockey at Troy Sports Center.

"Hockey has completely taken over my life. I work out. I eat healthy. I go to hockey," said Jaylen.

This past summer, he was invited to play with NTDP (National Team Development Program). The junior was honored to get this invitation, considering only 16 players are selected.

"The experience I had playing with NTDP was insane. We [selected 16 players] received free equipment and we had personal trainers," Jaylen said. "It really shaped me into a better hockey player all around."

Being successful in the sport he loves did not always come so easy.

"Sometimes you play bigger, better teams. You just have to get mentally focused and play hard," Jaylen said.

With hopes to play D1 NCAA for the University of South Dakota, Jaylen continues to push himself to be a better player.

Jaylen said, "The University of South Dakota Sioux are the best team is D1."

To accomplish his goals, the sixteen-year-old hockey star must stay on the same track he is on right now.

"You have to continue to work hard. Everyday," Jaylen said.

Playing right wing for the AAA Oakland Jr. Grizzlies—2nd ranked team in the nation—this player knows all about hard work.

However, Jaylen isn't the only hockey player in his family. His younger brother, Kyler, also has a passion for the speed, intensity, and physicality the sport holds.

Kyler, a freshman, plays left wing for Bantam tier 1 AAA Oakland Jr. Grizzlies and he, much like his older brother, is skating his way to success.

His team is currently ranked 5 in the nation for Bantam Tier 1.

Much like Jaylen, Kyler appreciates and understands the importance of hard work and determination.

"My biggest accomplishment in my 9 years of playing hockey is being invited to play on USHL [United States Hockey League]. Scouts pick the best 68 players in the nation to play on this team," Kyler said.

Honored, Kyler played the sport he loves with 67 other athletes from all over the coun-

try. But not just any 67 hockey players his age—the best in the nation.

"Playing with the USHL was a great experience. It gets a lot of different people talking about you and that's always good. We [68 chosen players] were interviewed and overall it just helped build a good reputation," Kyler said.

Filled with ambition, the freshman works hard to skate his way into the NHL (National Hockey League).

Kyler said, "If I keep up on the pace I'm at, I'll be able to make it in the NHL. Right now I'm on three different scouting websites and I only continue to work hard."

Not only has hockey taught him to work hard, but to finish hard.

"It's important to finish hard. You can't ever back down or get tired. You have to keep your pace and fight hard until the end," Kyler said.

With both brothers having such a mentality, success is full-speed ahead, and they don't plan on slowing down anytime soon.

Not a second goes by where either player is not thinking about the sport they love.

Kyler said, "It's school and hockey. It's not just a game. It's our lives."

Wrestling

By: Brianna Maloney

Features Co-Editor

The physically and mentally challenging sport is back—and it is better than ever. Wrestling season has started up once again and the Blue Devil Boys are heading for the top. The goal for the team? To win a state championship, of course.

Practice pays off

A normal practice consists of warm ups, five wrestling, and conditioning/strength. With practices being six days a week for two and a half hours each. The biggest challenge for Coach Day is to make sure the team is positive and healthy. For the students, the biggest challenge is the fact they are the underdogs this year. "No one expects us to be good," student Roy Costello said.

In 2015, the wrestlers won a state title, while last year, they got distract champs. Other schools are not expecting the team to win this upcoming season, but the boys are hungry for the trophy.

Last weekend, the boys proved everyone wrong. They got a third place title and only lost one out of ten matches. The boys did what they set out to do, and they are ready to do it again.

"The feeling of winning is something you can't describe; it's just great," Costello said. Although winning is an overall amazing feeling, the path to get there may be rocky.

Brain vs brawn

To the average person, wrestling may seem like an extremely physical sport, which it is, but any insider will tell you it is more mentally challenging than not. Coach Day said over an email, "Our kids enjoy hard work. Getting a kid to believe they are great and they have greatness in them is the biggest challenge."

It is clear that this sport can leave a long lasting impression on the athletes. Take Coach Day for example. Day had two older brothers who used to wrestle and his uncle was one of his high school coaches. His family inspired him to follow his passion and he hopes to inspire other kids to do the same.

With all the time the boys and the coaches spend together, bonds are created. Day said over an email, "My job is to coach wrestling, but my passion is helping kids reach their potential."

His goal is to leave no stones unturned when it comes to the wrestlers. They have a chiropractor and a massage therapist come weekly to help the boys stay healthy. The school also invested in two cold tubs to help with recoveries.

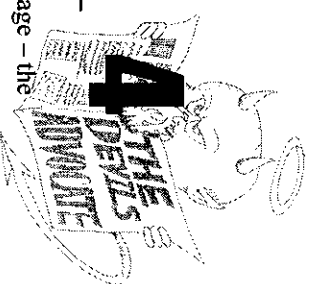
With all this being said, wrestling is more than a sport, it's a way of life. These wrestlers work for hours on end getting shape, preparing themselves mentally, and working hard for the title.

It's a way of life

This labor intensive sport is more than just a sport to some players. Costello said, "I don't play any other sport. It [wrestling] is all I do; it's my life."

There is more to wrestling than the athletes. The stats girls are at every match, writing down what happens, and how each wrestler places.

Senior Kaitlyn Boyd has brothers who used to wrestle. In fact, one of her brothers helps coach the team this year. It is clear that wrestling is a family affair. Day's brothers and uncle inspired him, just how Kaitlyn's brothers inspired her.





Kulman Pirouettes Her Way Through Last Nutcracker Performance

By: Alyssa Gall
Co-News Editor

First it's the music and then it's the lights. Props, sequined costumes and fake snow shine under the spotlights and wait 365 days for this moment to be on stage.

The dancers, who have practiced and perfected their dance, find their mark, awaiting their cue.

Music that they've rehearsed to a thousand times and audiences have heard for generations fills the air. It's their cue. It's their time. It's the Nutcracker.

In the second week in September, dancers from all over Michigan came to audition for the Macomb Ballet Company (MBC) – a pre-professional ballet company – but only 100 made the cut.

And senior, Hannah Kulman, was one of them and has been for the past three seasons.

Kulman, who has dedicated 15 years of her life to dance, participated in MBC's production of the Nutcracker on Friday December 2nd and Saturday December 3rd.

The performance consisted of two shows each day and immersed each audience into the full Nutcracker experience, which was fun for not only the audience to watch, but the dancers to perform. And Kulman knew firsthand the experience from both perspectives.

Before being involved in the MBC, Kulman spent – and still does spend – most of her days at the Leap Of Faith dance studio, where she not only sharpens up her dance skills, but teaches the younger dancers choreographies.

"I like to share my love and knowledge of ballet to kids. I love to see them succeed," said Kulman. Hence, she hopes to continue teach-

ing dance on the side as she goes through college.

Kulman dances and teaches many styles of dance, such as lyrical, jazz and tap, but ballet is her favorite to teach and especially dance.

"I feel like [ballet] is the most sophisticated and technical style of dance," said Kulman. Hence, she participates in two-hour Cecchetti ballet exams, which consist of mastering specific skills, to further her teaching and dancing.

Because of Kulman's dedication to ballet, a teacher at Leap Of Faith, who helps organize the production of the Nutcracker, introduced Kulman to MBC and encouraged her to join.

However, she was hesitant. "It was a big commitment and I was doing competition [for Leap Of Faith at the time]," said Kulman.

In fact, she went and saw the Nutcracker four times before deciding to audition.

And she's glad she did despite the daunting commitment, which entailed being involved in the winter and season shows along with practices that started in September and were up to six to eight hours long.

A typically practice started with an hour and 15 minute warm up, followed by snow core rehearsal for two hours, a 30 minute break, an hour for practicing her fight scene, two hours for the waltz of the flowers, and 45 minutes for her Chinese dance.

Kulman said, "[The week of show] we rehearsed full cast for three hours every day."

The past years she been involved in the company she was a Junior Apprentice, which is one of the different skill levels for the MBC. However, this year, Kulman was an Apprentice, which meant she had advanced in the skill ranking.

The different levels of skill start at Youth members to Intermediate members to Junior Apprentice members and then to Apprentice members followed by Senior Apprentice members to the top skill level. Senior members.

Kulman said, "I was surprised. I didn't think I would move up."

Since she moved up, she was able to be a part of more dances, which ranged from four to almost eight minutes long, due to her skill level. "I was head soldier, in the snow core, Chinese (tea), and waltz of the flowers," said Kulman when asked what dances she was in.

As for the shows, even though they are more tiring and professional than Kulman's typical recitals, she still enjoyed every moment of them. From waiting in her dressing room with other dancers in between dances to performing one of the most renowned ballets in the world before a sold out crowd, Kulman admits that there is no better feeling. Kulman said, "It was a fun, nerve-racking [experience] and it went by really fast."

Although she has enjoyed being a part of the MBC, this will be her last season with the company and performing the Nutcracker.

When asked why this was her last year, Kulman said, "Because I'm graduating and going to college. I'm sad that it's my last year because I've made a lot of friends and it's been a great experience."

Although Kulman is sad to leave, she confessed that there is nothing better than being on stage and doing what she loves.

Kulman said, "It's like a warm feeling [when you step on stage] because of the stage lights and everything. It's what I like to do – it makes me happy."

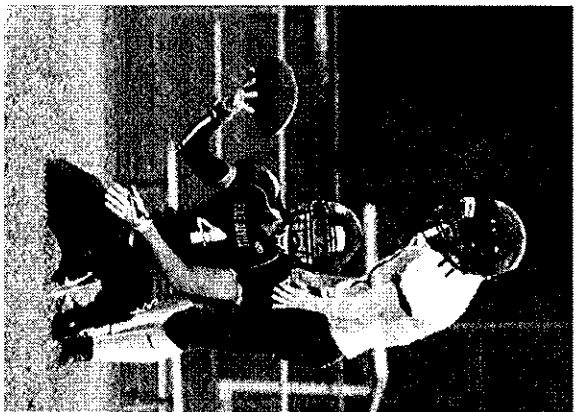


EMILY GORR

Age: 15
Grade: 10
Sports: Volleyball and Basketball
Favorite Class: Spanish 2
Future goals: graduate with a 4.0
Favorite athlete: Shannon Gaffney

Senior Athletes

DANIEL MCNICHOL



Age: 15
Grade: 10
Sports: Wrestling and Football
Favorite class: Basic Design
Future goals: win a team state title
Favorite Athlete: Conor McGregor

Blue Devil Football loses coach; starts process to fill the spot

By: Nick Matthes
Web Co-Editor

Richmond Varsity Football was fortunate to get two great Co Head-Coaches back in 2011, and unfortunately that reign has come to an end. Currently, St. Clair fired their head coach of 13 years for their varsity football program, after falling just short of the playoffs with a 4-5 season. Coach Bishop (Co Head-Coach, Defensive Coordinator @ Richmond) works as a PE teacher at St. Clair's Middle School, and interviewed for the job as the head coach.

After going through the interview process for the position, Bishop was asked to take the position, and that he did.

It's something that he may have not wanted to do, but in most eyes it was the right choice for him. With him being a teacher in the District, most say it was the right choice for him. But some also say, it was also the wrong decision. After being with the Blue Devils for 5 years, you would think that the program that he has established, he would stay and continue the Blue Devils reign in the BWAC, but he has decided to go to the MAC, and we wish him well.

To most players, Bishop was a great coach. He was a very versatile coach, helping in many areas of the team. His specialty was defense, specifically the linebackers. Bishop was on track to be a pro at Wayne State, but a career ending knee injury closed that opportunity for him.

He then wanted to take his skills that he learned in high school and college and be able to inspire kids to love the game of football. Bishop was a great asset to Richmond, and we sure wish him the best in his journey at St. Clair.

With losing Bishop, the school now has to take a process to be able to fill that spot.

The administration offices will now have to take the next step in filling the position for the Blue Devils that have gone 48-15 since the crew started in 2011.

Athletic Director/Dean of Students Mr. Rinehart said, "Since Coach Bishop and Coach Kocher were Co-Head coaches, as far as my concern Coach Kocher is the Head Coach. The support staff will stay the same and we will just have to find someone to fill the spot. The Administrative offices [School Board] will have to take the right steps to find the right coach, to assist Coach Kocher and keep the Blue Devils reign striving." "As far as we stand, it's still Blue Devil Football," Coach John Kocher said.

With the Blue Devils receiving a new coach, they hope to continue the success they have been having and keep striving into the future. And we wish Coach Bishop a successful journey in St. Clair.