

Richmond Wrestling: Back for Another Title

By: Christina Thomas
Advertising Editor

"We are a family," said assistant coach for the RHS wrestling team, Coach Preston Treend. "We aren't a team of individuals. Our kids are tough and they compete for the team not themselves."

That is what Richmond Wrestling is all about: The Team.

Going into the 2015-16 wrestling season, the Blue Devils had some adjustments needed to be made.

Losing 10 seniors, nine of which were starters, leaves a bit of a dent, but it was nothing the team couldn't overcome.

"It's tough losing a big class like that, but we've gone from banging heads at practice and just getting physically ready to slowing down and perfecting our technique," said Coach Treend.

With 15 returners and 15 newcomers, the RHS wrestling team holds 30 athletic and strong individuals.

"We are wrestling good competi-

tion and developing guys for the end of the season," said senior Aaron Kilburn. "We all have one goal and it's to win states and keep our title as division three state champs."

Kilburn will be starting the season weighing in at 125-weight class.

Kilburn has taken 3rd, 1st, and 2nd in individuals for his weight class in the past three years of his high school career.

The wrestlers have 3-4 hour practices that proceed after study hall.

"The practices are tough and sometimes your body wants to just give out on you but part of being a Richmond wrestler is going past your limits and doing everything you possibly can in order to succeed," said sophomore Colton McKiernan.

McKiernan is a starter and will be opening the season wrestling in the 189-weight class.

Eric Barr, a freshman, is a starter for the RHS wrestling team as well, weighing in at 145.

"It's a lot of hard work and dedi-

cation," said Barr. "I have a lot of pressure on me being a freshman starter but I'm capable of that pressure with the hard work I put into it."

Hard work.

Sweat.

Dedication.

And Championships.

All these go into the RHS wrestling program.

"You have to be honest and train hard," said head Coach Brandon Day. "Everyone talks about wanting to win, but only a small percentage of kids are really willing to do what it takes."

There is a great mix of young and old talent on the team this year.

"One of the many goals we have for this year is to develop all our youth kids so that we can not only win the state title this year but the next four because I believe we have the young kids to do it," said Coach Preston.

This requires the motivation from

the coaches and the team to motivate one another.

"You have to find your happy place and block the pain out," said Kilburn. "Pain is part of the sport, if you don't feel pain there's no gain."

Almost every sport team has that one athlete that motivates everyone and pushes them to do their absolute best.

"We don't have a rah-rah guy in the practice room but everyone will get after someone who is not working hard," said Coach Treend.

The team has had a couple tournaments in Ohio to prepare them for their season ahead of them and they all are very excited to see what's in store for the team.

"We are a family," said Kilburn.

"We have the team bond and the talent to succeed and every day is a constant reminder that you can do anything you set your mind to."

Prezzone Gets a Makeover

By: Jacquelyn Loria
Editorial Editor

Richmond's student section left off last year's season better than ever. The big question of all: Can they top it this year?

The Prezzone, Richmond's student section, is growing bigger and better than ever. This includes new themes, free t-shirts, twitter updates, and more, its aim to get more students to be involved in the student section.

Senior Trevor Barrett, is the one who is behind-the-scenes for Coach Presnell's twitter page, @TPrezzone. This twitter page is

tion better."

Coach Presnell also has t-shirts that are free, for each student to wear in the student section to make our Prezzone look better. Senior Olivia VanHove, student assistant for Coach Presnell, said, "I think the t-shirts help a lot of kids to come. We started a trend with a lot of other student sections; it helps us to be louder at games and have fun."

"I think Coach Presnell expects us as a student section to be loud, hype, respectful, and energetic," said Barrett.

The best Prezzone comes out on

rivalry games. The bigger the rivalry between the schools, the bigger the Prezzone gets as a student section.

The players even expect a lot out of the student section this year. They want to see the student section the best it's ever been to help make them look better than they already do.

"I expect the student section to be loud and give us (the players) the momentum," said senior Eddy Beste. "When we play our rivals, they become our best games and the loud student section pumps us up."

New nights (themes) are in the process including silent night, Hawaiian theme, farmers' night, ESPN themed night, and animal night which includes the Prezzone.

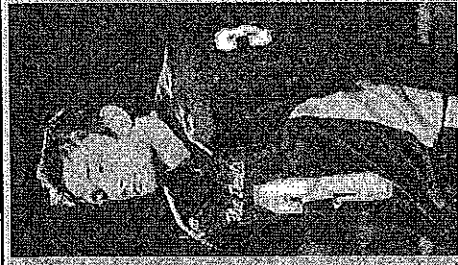
"I would like to see a student section at all the games including home and away," said sophomore Chase Churchill. "Not just any student section, a large amount of students who come to cheer us on, not just sit around to watch and be quiet."

Even new chants and new motions including the roller coaster and the bow and arrow are being included in the new and approved student section.

"The chants and motions hype us up. It would be cool to see the student section doing new chants and motions at every single game," junior Anthony Tavano said. "Having the Prezzone at games is so much fun."

The mention of mini events at halftime home games is in the works, also, including the usual half court free throw shot, teachers vs. teachers mini basketball game, and other events that are not planned yet.

Star Athletes

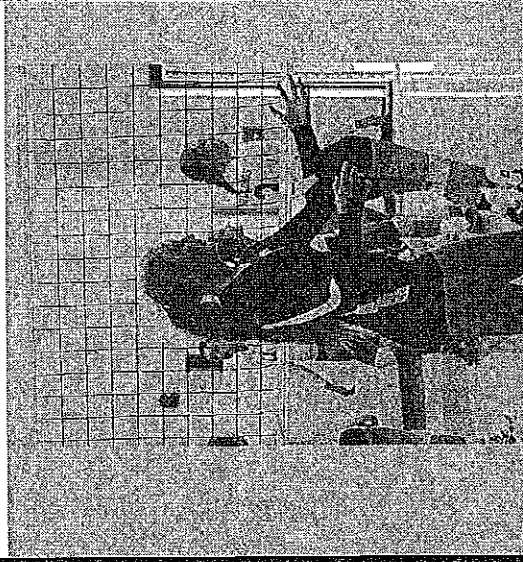


DOMINIC BASTIAN

Nickname: Dom
Age: 16
Grade: 10
Sport(s): Football, Wrestling
Favorite Athlete: Patrick Peterson
Favorite Class: US History
Future Goals: Win a state title

JESSICA WEAVER

Nickname: J-Weave
Age: 16
Grade: 10
Sport(s): Volleyball, Basketball, Track
Favorite Athlete: Stephen Curry
Favorite class: Honors Pre-Cal
Future goals: Attend college for either Medicine or Engineering



Sprint V Verizon

By: Haley Fortuna
Features Co-Editor

Perfect reception, lightening fast LTE, and low prices: These are all qualities we look for in our cell phone service provider. Unfortunately, this perfect company we all dream of doesn't exist.

Instead we are faced with a decision.

There comes a time in everyone's life where they must decide between low prices or quality, and unfortunately when choosing a cell phone provider, this is the decision that must be faced.

On one hand, there's Sprint. Sprint promises to cut that old Verizon bill in half! According to Sprint's website, Verizon charges \$80 for one phone line with 12gb of data. Just as they promised, Sprint slashes that price right in half to \$40. Sounds great right?

Wrong. What Sprint doesn't share with current Verizon customers looking to save a buck, is that when their cell phone bill goes down so does the quality of their service.

Soon after receiving that \$40 cell phone bill, new Sprint customers will experience dropped calls, constant buffering, unsent texts, and no service.

At all.

Ever.

Several students at RHS experience this battle with Sprint everyday of their lives.

Anna Maxwell, a sophomore, said, "I have Sprint and it's awful. My friends will be looking at a video or tweet and I'll go to look at it to but it won't load. I'll be sitting there forever and it just won't load because I have Sprint."

But hey, she saved \$40. "My grandparents have Verizon and they've never had a problem. It's so much better than Sprint. I can actually make a call," said Maxwell.

On the other hand, there's Verizon, which isn't perfect either. "\$80 a month for one phone line and 12gb of data? That's quite expensive for kids who work six hours a week. In the past five years, cell phones have become incredibly popular. Everyone walking down the hall has a cell phone in their hand or pocket. Everyone walking down the street has a cell phone in their hand. I don't know one person who doesn't have a cell phone in their hand.

But not everyone has \$80 in their hand.

That being said, Verizon offers much better service than Sprint.

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That being said, Verizon offers much better service than Sprint.

Brianna Maloney, a junior, said, "I have Verizon and I've never had any problems with it. I've never experienced slow data or dropped calls." Teenagers aren't the only ones who fancy Verizon over Sprint.

Mr. Bourdeau, the Dean of Students, said, "I have had Verizon since I can remember and the only problem I've ever had is running out of data."

This is a problem most people with Verizon encounter quite often. Since Verizon offers faster data they also offer less in their outrageously expensive packages. Every Verizon customer despises the dreaded text from their cell phone service provider telling them they've used 90% of their data for the month.

Cameron Barrett, a sophomore, said, "I have Verizon and I always get the data usage updates. I know it's my older brother's fault so it makes me just want to beat him up for using 95% of our data every month. It makes me really upset."

It upsets me too, Cameron. It upsets me, too.

I for one, have experienced the pain that is both Verizon and Sprint and I have come to the conclusion that cell phone service is a lose-lose situation.

When I used Verizon it was a constant battle with my mother. Consistently on the 5th of every month, I'd be forced to turn off my data because I used 75% of our data that didn't renew for another ten days. Adding more wasn't an option because it would cost an arm and a leg to add more data to our plan.

I currently have Sprint and I can honestly say, I have never run out of data. Because it never works.

But, who am I to determine which cell phone service provider is better?

The bottom line becomes, you get what you pay for.

By: Daniel Seguin
Staff Writer

Jimi Hendrix, 1970.

Jim Morrison, 1971

Bradley Nowell, 1996

Kurt Cobain, 1994.

These names may sound familiar, as they are all big names in the music industry, but they share one more trait in common. One much more sinister. They have all had deaths related to drug abuse.

The year is 1969. The Woodstock music festival is a large success. The Jimi Hendrix Experience is scheduled to perform at midnight. At its largest, the crowd waiting reached 400,000 people. Fearful of playing large shows, Hendrix requested to instead play at 8 AM. By then the crowd thins out to about 40,000 people.

Hendrix plays a rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner". It goes on to be hailed as the greatest performance of all time.

The next year, in 1970, Hendrix died in London by way of asphyxiating himself with his own vomit, which occurred because of an overdose of barbiturates. He was only 27. At 27 years old, Hendrix had been the highest-paid musician of the time and garnered audiences of hundreds of thousands of people. If he had given himself more time, who knows how much further he could have gone.

The year is 1967. Jim Morrison releases his second album, The Doors' "Strange Days". By this time, they are one of the most popular bands in America. Everybody wants to see Morrison live, hoping to get a glimpse of his eclecticism.

The Doors becomes known for LSD usage, their name even being a metaphor for opening the doors into the world of LSD. Four years and three wildly successful albums later, Morrison shaves his beard and starts to dress conservatively. On a holiday in Paris, Morrison accidentally overdoses on LSD. An official autopsy is never performed. He is 27.

The year is 1992. Sublime's debut album "40:oz to Freedom" is released to moderate success. Songs received play on college radio stations, and they become known as party gods who put on insane shows. Fast forward to 1996. Sublime releases their self-titled album to huge success. Its rap strikes a chord with a generation of people coming out of the haze that was early-90's grunge. All of the anger had finally simmered and what was left was cool reggae beats with laid-back lyrics. It was a much needed breath of fresh air after the

the screams and aggression of grunge. Sublime was on an upswing of a lifetime, riding an explosion of popularity. Only, their frontman, Bradley Nowell, wasn't around to experience it. He had died two months prior to the album's release of a heroin overdose. Subsequently, the band broke up. Throughout the entire recording process, Nowell had been heavily using heroin. Much of their music is centered on drug culture.

It's a shame that such a talented person was lost to addiction, and never got to see what an explosion of popularity his music was about to have. If he had, perhaps he would still be here today.

The year is 1990. Nirvana releases their second album, "Nevermind". It is met with a hurricane of popularity. One song in particular, "Smells Like Teen Spirit", is met with much positive reception. It goes on to become a teen anthem for years to come. The album effectively kick starts a new genre, grunge.

Although popularity and respect may be most musicians' dream, the frontman, Kurt Cobain, dreaded being in the limelight. He coped with the stress of being in a world-famous rock band by shooting up copious amounts of heroin.

Four years later, Nirvana records an unplugged album and it goes on to be considered one of the greatest of all time. The performance area is decorated with candles, much like a funeral. Many see this as foreshadowing, as later in the year Cobain kills himself with a shotgun blow to the head. Before delivering the fatal blow, He took a massive hit of heroin. The world stopped that day, as everyone bowed their heads in grief over the loss of a legend.

Cobain is remembered as one of the greatest musicians of all time. "Nevermind" is still praised today as if it were just released. Who knows what would have become of Kurt Cobain, a man who was thrown too quickly into the belly of the beast that is stardom, and was subsequently chewed and thrown up? He went in a young kid and came out a shell of a man.

The year is 2015. The lead singer of Stone Temple Pilots, Scott Weiland, dies in a tour bus. Reports say that found inside was a cornucopia of drugs.

Drug use has been part of the music industry since its inception. "Sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll", that's the old saying. That saying should be updated to read, "Sex, drugs, crippling addiction, ruined relationships, reckless behavior, overdose, and rock-and-death".

Eulogy for a Rock Band

