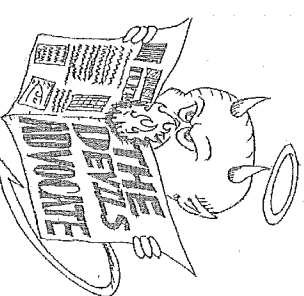


Find out what everyone's doing for Spring Break
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BLUE DEVIL'S

Advocate



Richmond High School
35320 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062

Volume 9, Issue 6

March 26, 2013

The

Bonding with the School

RCS looks at upcoming bond benefits

By: Kyle Soldan and Shelby Stewart
News Editors

On May 7, 2013, voting will begin on a bond proposed to improve the Richmond School District. The major improvements would be to the technology department, improved science labs, new band instruments and buses.

Dr. Olsen, Superintendent, is a big supporter of getting this bond passed. She said that passage of this bond will not only improve existing parts of the school, it will also replace materials that have needed replacement for years.

She adds that it is necessary that the school remain at a higher standard of learning compared to the surrounding districts.

"It's essential for this bond to be passed for the school to stay competitive," Dr. Olsen said.

With the passage of the bond, such improvements from replacing aging school buses to added interactive white boards to classrooms in the district will only add to the possibilities that the district could offer.

"It allows for more creativity," she said.

The bond, however, can only improve on the day to day operations of the school district, including replacing and updating of existing parts of the school.

For example, buses usually only carry a lifespan of about ten years.



Samantha Schafer and James Falconello work on a lab for Anatomy. One of the goals of the bond is to provide more space for the science program. Falconello thinks that this is a good idea.

Wear and tear caused by traveling on the back roads and enduring bad weather diminish the vehicles' uses. The new bond, however, proposes that a chunk of these aging buses be replaced to make the trips safer for the students and the school.

This is only a small percentage of this bond actually proposes to voters and students. The largest changes will be in the technology, science, band, and security departments of the school.

Technology

The bond has quite a bit of improvements listed, but one of the biggest parts is the update of the current Internet system. Dr. Olsen said the current operating system was never designed for where technology is today. Therefore, the system the school uses now is all but obsolete.

"My thoughts are that it's very much needed in the realm of tech and the other districts. A bond only makes logical sense," said Mr. Lamont, Technology Director.

Some possible upgrades that Mr. Lamont is referring to are an upgraded infrastructure, upgrading our servers, handled gig speeds, improving the storage area network, changing our category five cable to category six, and upgrading in phases the teacher/student workstations.

"We would be looking at a possible one-to-one solution, where each student would have some sort of device to work with. We're researching all of the different avenues as to devices. We have a common vision and a common goal in regards to this situation," said Mr. Lamont.

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Getting the message out there

RHS updates Facebook page

By: Olivia Kestler
Features Editor

In the next few weeks, Richmond High School may be...poked.

To keep the district open and informed, the Curriculum Director, Mrs. Gabrbridge, has been working on new ways to increase communication between schools and parents. One method is updating and revising the school's Facebook page.

"We would like some positive publicity for the district, and are hoping to reach people through Facebook," said Mrs. Gabrbridge. "It's a quick way to give everybody information."

Currently, the page allows parents and students to post comments and some comments represented the district in a negative light. While it is good for the schools to know where they can improve, the Facebook page is not supposed to be the center for such conversations.

"We'd be more than happy to talk to the parents about the school," said Principal Mrs. Michon. "But we'd rather have those discussions face-to-face. People would use [the original Facebook page] as a way to channel comments or negative views."

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Case Closed

Mock Trial competes in annual competition

By: Kelsey Williams
Advertising Editor

On Saturday, March 9, the RHS Mock Trial team traveled to the Oakland County Courthouse in Pontiac to compete in the annual mock trial competition.

Sophomore Thomas Biafore is a student that has been in mock trial for two years.

"Overall, the team did really good," Biafore said.

"A mock trial is a competition between schools where each team competes in a fake trial that we have prepared over the course of 4 months," said junior Anna Fraser, a 3-year

veteran who took on the roles of both a lawyer and a witness. When the team first meets at the beginning of the year, the students decide who will be a lawyer, witness, or even both for the year's case. Once the parts are assigned, the team can then start to prepare for the competition.

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Rowley Rings in New Term

New English teacher at RHS

By: Rosie Urban
Staff Writer

This school year, RHS has undergone many changes. With building improvements, the attendance policy being changed, and electronics now being allowed in certain classes, students have had to adjust to the different changes.

The newest addition to RHS, Ms. Lori Rowley, is the most major change in the English and Social Studies departments.

"Before I came to RHS, I taught High School English at Merritt Academy in New Haven," said Ms. Rowley. "Prior to that, I taught English at Anchor Bay High School and Anchor Bay Middle School North."

While Ms. Rowley has mostly only taught English, she also is teaching a history class here at RHS.

"I'm also teaching U.S. History for 10th graders," said Ms. Rowley.

When Mrs. Gabrbridge became the new Curriculum Director, the position for a 9th and 11th grade English teacher opened up.

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Today's Forecast
Mostly Cloudy
High: 38°
Low: 27°

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Facebook
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The purpose of the new page is to update parents and students about the schools to keep everyone informed.

"It's meant more to be informational," said Mrs. Michon, "not a two-way conversation."

To accomplish this goal, weeks of planning were put behind the idea. Since exams, Mrs. Gabridge has been looking at other districts' Facebook pages, which advertise the schools' games, fundraisers, and other activities.

"You get a sense of what they are all about," said Mrs. Gabridge.

Since viewing these pages, she is working to incorporate these aspects into the Facebook page for the district. She has a newer site she aims to merge with the initial page, but she needs to get the idea approved by the School Board.

"I need permission to combine the

sites before it can go public," she said.

Once the page is approved, Mrs. Gabridge hopes teachers will send her pictures or activities to post on the page, as well as articles and other notifications to update the district about.

"We're showing the family we have between the schools," said Mrs. Gabridge. "Hopefully we can get people more involved and communicate better."

Mrs. Michon also likes the idea of the new page.

"It's a new venue to reach the parents," she said. "We want to reach as many people as possible."

The Facebook page is not the final attempt at effective communication throughout the district, either. Mrs. Gabridge has also established a texting informational system for the district known as Remind 101 Service that she became acquainted with as a teacher.

A parent or student who signs up with the service receives a text mes-

sage update for a school event or announcement. Like Facebook, this is yet another method of communication throughout the district using technology.

With more ways of making communication easier, the district is trying new things.

"We might try Twitter next," said Mrs. Michon. "It would be another way to get information out there."

These multiple efforts at communication are ways for the schools to become more 'transparent', and keep the parents informed about everything they may not have been aware of before.

"Knowledge is important," said Mrs. Michon. "The more knowledge you have, the better off you are about making decisions."

Whether through Facebook, Remind 101 Service or any other method of communication, the goal is to promote awareness about the schools and possibly get the district Richmond Schools as a focused and great environment.

Rowley
Continued from Page 1

"RHS is an innovative school district with superior standards," said Ms. Rowley. "I knew I wanted to be a part of that kind of district, so when the position opened up, I applied."

Starting at a new school is hard for any student, but for a teacher, it is even more so.

"The biggest challenge has been starting in the middle of the school year because everything is already established," said Ms. Rowley. "But, I have enjoyed my experiences at RHS so far. The students are wonderful. Also, I enjoy working with my new colleagues."

While this quarter is almost over, it was cut up quite a bit because of all the snow days. "Another minor challenge has been all the snow days. It took me a couple weeks just to learn my students' names because we had so many days off," said Ms. Rowley.

Ms. Rowley is no stranger to Richmond Community Schools, having gone to the middle school and elementary school, herself. "I graduated from Memphis High School," said Ms. Rowley. "But I went to Will L. Lee Elementary School, and then I went to Richmond Middle School until 6th grade."

After high school, Ms. Rowley went to Saint Clair Community College, and then went to Oakland University. "Richmond is my home and the transition has been positive. I am very happy to be here at RHS," said Ms. Rowley. "The students and staff have been so welcoming."

Omelia rides business skills to State competition

Kathryn Radzwion
Staff Writer

Improving education and career opportunities for students interested in careers in marketing, management and entrepreneurship since 1946. That is what DECA means for senior Lindsay Omelia who represented RHS at DECA States in Grand Rapids March 16.

If you have had Mr. Brown as a teacher or track coach, you probably heard what DECA is and for those of you who do not, it is a business organization that brings over 3,000 marketing students from all around the state to compete against each other using their innovation, integrity and teamwork skills to earn a trip to DECA Nationals in Anaheim, California.

Omelia started her journey by taking an online test with multiple choice questions. "You go and take

the test that counts as half of your final score at states," said Omelia. "They ask you questions that want your opinion on how you would handle certain business situations."

The test takes about an hour and is done two months prior to States. The high score on her test is what qualified Omelia for the State competition.

Mr. Brown took Omelia to the competition in Grand Rapids along senior Tyler Queen, who accompanied them for the weekend. They stayed at the Amway Grand, which features a 29-story glass tower.

"Being in DECA helped me to improve my people skills and help communicate better with others," - Lindsay Omelia

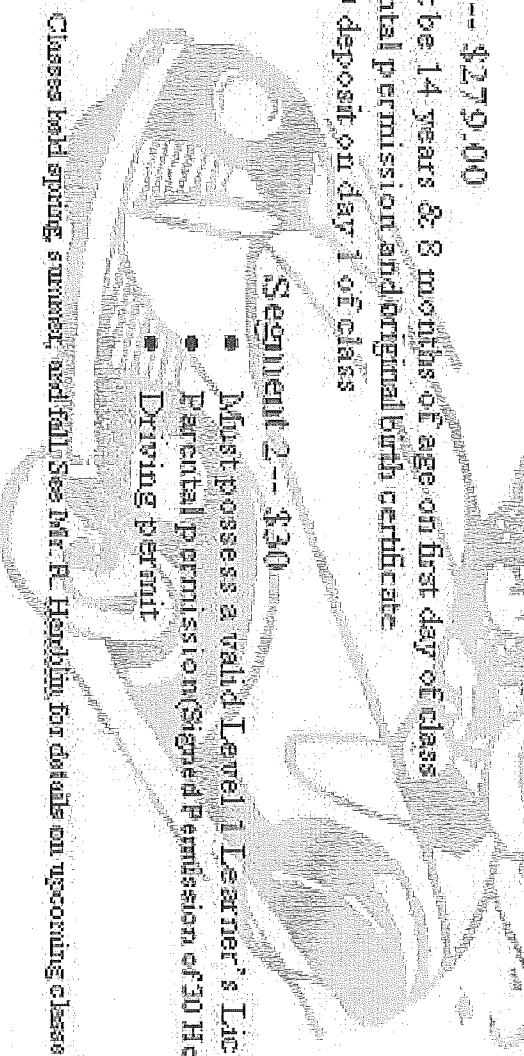
The competition was a formal event and Omelia had to dress up all weekend. "My feet are still killing me, but it was worth it," said Omelia. Everyone competing had to look professional for when they were in front of the judges.

"Being in the judge's room was really nerve-racking," said Omelia. "Once I got over my nerves, I think everything went well and I was able to present my ideas to the judge."

In the judge's room, Omelia presented her ideas on improving safety in the workplace such as maids that work in hotels.

Continued on Page 3

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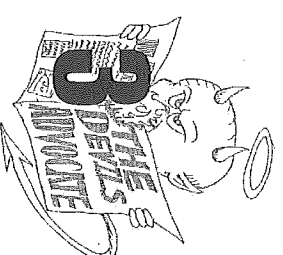
Segment 1 -- \$279.00

- Must be 14 years & 8 months of age on first day of class
- Parental permission and original birth certificate
- \$100 deposit on day 1 of class

Segment 2 -- \$30

- Must possess a valid Level 1 Learner's License for 90 days
- Parental permission (Signed Permission of 30 Hours practice Driving)
- Driving permit

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



Bond
Continued from Page 1

A one-to-one solution would allow staff and students to connect with ease. There will always be issues, but Mr. Lamont's goal is to limit the issues.

"Hopefully, with professional development, this will allow the teachers to connect with the students with little technical problems," said Mr. Lamont.

Science Lab

Chemistry and Anatomy teacher Mr. Schleder thinks the bond is a good idea as well.

"I'd love to see it pass. It is desperately needed. The last major bond that passed was in 1997, so we haven't had a major upgrade since then," said Mr. Schleder.

The major upgrades would be mostly to the science labs, which were built in 1960, over 52 years ago. The facility itself is completely outdated, from wires and plumbing to actual space in the lab.

Mr. Schleder hopes that if the bond passes, the school district will expand the classes that are currently offered. He wants to add classes like AP Chemistry with the addition of four new science labs.

"The problem is space," he said. "Hopefully, it helps to expand the science curriculum."

Currently, the one science lab available to students and teachers can only hold 24 students. The limited space and capacity the room can hold only allows so much to be done for each class. New plumbing, wiring and updated facilities would make the learning experience more modern and enjoyable for teachers and students.

With technology moving faster than ever, it is inevitable that updates happen. Mr. Schleder knows it cannot wait too much longer.

"Times have changed," he said. As times change, though, students still have had to use these labs. Senior anatomy student James Falconer finds that the limited space limits, classes begin to conflict with each other.

He said that a class like anatomy

conflicts with chemistry courses because of dissections that take place in the class. Chemistry classes cannot use the lab when the anatomy class is performing these projects.

The bond would change all this with the inclusion of four new labs in the high school. More space means more science classes can use labs for projects.

"They will be able to have more activities with the new space," Falconello said.

Band Instruments

Along with the possible changes coming to the science department in the school district, the Band Department could see some major updates with the passage of the bond as well. The Band will also greatly benefit from the upcoming bond proposal. Freshman Maryss Thompson understands the importance of getting new instruments for the group.

She said the current instruments, which are rented to most students at a monthly fee or are actually purchased by the student, are not very good. With new instruments from the bond, she knows the band will only improve.

"It will make us better as a band and help us play better," Thompson, who plays clarinet, said.

The groups that need the new instruments the most are the low brass and the percussion groups. Many of the low brass instruments are dented while much of the percussion instruments are quite old and not very practical.

Sophomore Joel Szymanski, who plays bass clarinet, agrees.

"It would be great to have new instruments that don't need fixing and we don't need to worry about," said Szymanski.

The band instruments are quite old, and it is not out of the ordinary for one to break and have to be sent away to get fixed.

"Some kids buy their own instruments, but most of us rent them, so it's annoying when they break. It would be nice to have new ones," said Szymanski.

Security

Another major upgrade would be to

improve security district wide. Not only would the district have a monitoring at every outside door, but more security cameras would be installed as well.

"What we would like to do would be to have a camera at every outside door," said Principal Mrs. Michon. "We would like to have more inside the school, and more in the parking lot. It will hopefully provide more security for the students in the parking lot, and the staff and students in the school as well."

As of right now, the staff cannot be everywhere at once, so more security cameras would help the staff immensely.

"If we get the systems, we will know if someone goes in or out of the doors. And we will know who came in or out. Especially after hours, if someone comes into the school, I will know who and why," said Mrs. Michon.

As of right now, this is all the security that is planned, since the school already had security upgrades last summer, not much is needed.

New cameras would not only allow the school to supervise the students and faculty, the district can see if intruders break in. They would see where they got in through, where they went, what they took, and how fast they did it. All this could be determined if there were more cameras in the school. The end result is a higher end security system that would be designed to protect students and their learning environment.

Spreading the Word

Dr. Olson has been working around the clock to get the word about the bond proposal out to the public. At the NHS Induction Ceremony, she passed out pamphlets to spread the word about the bond.

This coming Wednesday, a crew will be here to film a short piece to show why the district needs the technology that was proposed with this bond.

The goal is to make more people aware about why it is so important that the bond is passed for the district.

DECA
Continued from Page 2

Omelia went on to say that having to think on your feet, although difficult, will help her for future job interviews. "Being in DECA helped me to improve my people skills and help communicating better with others," said Omelia.

Her favorite part of the trip was meeting new people and other teens from different schools all over Michigan. "There were so many teens there, and I loved getting to talk with them and seeing what similar interests we had," said Omelia. "I met other students who could relate to me."

She also met a few kids who will be attending Michigan State with her in the fall.

"I've already been accepted and I have worked so hard to get here," said Omelia. "I'm really excited."

Omelia continues to say how beautiful the campus is and will be living there in the dorms. She plans on graduating with a major in criminal justice and a minor in business and having communication skills learned from DECA will help her achieve her goals. "Being in DECA made me learn how to think on my feet," said Omelia. "That's one quality that someone who wants to participate in DECA must have. Also, having a good teacher like Mr. Brown helps."

She added that having done DECA makes her less nervous about doing future job interviews. "When the judges ask you a question on the spot, like how can you explain your reasoning behind your idea, you're expected to answer within a few seconds, but sounding intelligent while doing so," said Omelia. "Future employers will like that I can answer questions quickly."

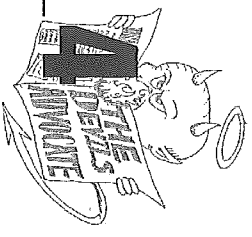
Although Omelia did not win in order to go to Nationals, this is an experience she will never forget. "I'm so happy that I decided to do DECA," said Omelia. "I will have these memories forever, and I can look back on this as something I'm proud of because I didn't even think I could make it to States. This goes to show that kids shouldn't doubt themselves and you can do whatever you set your mind to."

On This Day

March 26, 1972—The National Basketball Association's Los Angeles Lakers set an NBA record by winning 69 of their 82 games that season.

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RHS spring sports back in action

By: Kyle Soldan
News Editor

From hitting off tees to jumping hurdles, the spring sports season is about to take off. Here is what to look for in the upcoming spring sports season:

Baseball

Flowers are blooming, the grass is growing, and the bats are swinging. Baseball is preparing to start the year running out of the gate after ending last year on a sour note.

High school's version of spring training has started as players and coaches have begun tryouts and training for the upcoming season. One such player, senior Mitchell Ward, has been working hard and diligently even before this part of the season started.

"We put in a lot more time during the winter," Ward, a pitcher and first baseman for the team, said.

Ward added that unlike last year where the team lost in the Regional Finals, this year's team is better prepared and now has stronger leadership in the clubhouse. He expects the team to seriously contend for a Regional title and even make a run at States.

"We expect to achieve higher than we did last year," he added.

Junior Varsity coach Mr. Murphy said that parts of the team did weight training to improve their physical skills among other things over the offseason.

"They were hitting on their own,"

and throwing on their own," he said.

He said that Coach Evans, the Varsity coach, wants the team to focus on winning not only the league and Districts, but to win Regionals and States, too. The mentality is that the team needs to expect to win.

Not such a tall order, especially for a team with this much experience.

Softball

After what was a some-

what successful season last year, the softball team is

"It will be a tough season, but I know we can pull through it and bring home another title."
Hailey Holdwick

looking to build upon their success this year. Winning Districts was a huge accomplishment, but after being disappointed in Regionals and the loss of some key players, the team is looking to use their growing talent to improve.

Junior Noelle Scheuer recognizes the accomplishments, but she knows the team needs to grow and have a good season to be competitive

Scheuer, the team's catcher, feels the team can be competitive, but she said nothing is guaranteed since the team lost many experienced players.

Returning with Scheuer is sophomore Hailey Holdwick, who believes the team can win Districts again and hopefully go past Re-

gionals. Like Scheuer, she hopes the team will be competitive and have a winning attitude.

Holdwick, one of the team's outfielders, added the team has already begun working on their defense and hitting throughout practice to work on their offensive skills. Skill development will be a key for a team working to rebuild off of a long offseason and the loss of

experienced seniors.

"It will be a tough season, but I know we can pull through it and bring home another title," said Holdwick.

Track

The cold winter air does not stop athletes from preparing and conditioning. The same can be said for Richmond's track athletes.

After a disappointing season last year, senior Dylan Akerley is looking to help his team become better. In order to do that, he said it is necessary to help young players mature.

Moreover, the team needs to put more focus on not fooling around and improve through paying attention.

Akerley added the team needs time to develop, so he does not

expect the team to contend immediately.

"Probably not, but we're a young team and developing for the future," he said.

Part of that development is junior Anna LaTorre, one of the long distance runners for the girls' team. Her main goal for the team is for the team to stay healthy and work hard to be better. Last year was a disappointment to her and her team.

"We didn't do as well as we wanted to, but it's easy to look back and learn from our mistakes," LaTorre said.

Coach Ladd, however, points out the obvious that the team will be running more in order to prepare better. He adds that, much like what the team will be working on, the goal is obvious as well.

"The goal is running faster," he said.

In order to win, Coach Ladd is right. His athletes need to outrun, out jump, and out throw the competition if the team is to be successful this season.

Girls' Soccer

Nets have appeared on the football field in anticipation for the upcoming soccer year. Fans and players alike are waiting for a new year to begin after a sudden end last year.

Last year, the soccer team lost in the district finals to rival Armada to abruptly end the season.

Wanting to learn from last year, senior Tyler Queen sees the team being able to win districts this year. Not only are they practicing more, she said, but the team is communicating more as well.

In order to achieve that district title, the team needs to improve certain aspects of their game.

"We need to take more shots and more advantages when given," Queen, a defender, said.

Despite the team needing to improve, Queen still enjoys playing the sport. Her favorite part is getting closer to her team and side-tackling opposing players.

New players are part of the development that teams go through. Freshman Olivia VanHove recently tried out for the team for the upcoming season. She said that from tryouts, the team needs to communicate better in order to make the team better.

VanHove added she is passionate about playing for something she loves to do. Not only that, but she enjoys being competitive with other schools.

Such competitiveness and passion is always welcome on a team with big goals.

For more Previews see page 13

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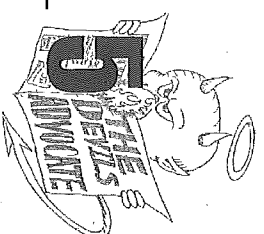
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The Blue Devil's Advocate

March 26, 2013



Skatzka continues wrestling dominance

By: Jacob Thomas
Sports Editor

Most individuals could only dream to achieve a state championship in high school for any sport.

Sophomore Devin Skatzka is already a three-time wrestling state champion. Devin has already won a team state championship and two individual state championships in his early wrestling career.

"It feels great to be a two-time individual state champion. It shows all the hard work that I've put in," said Skatzka.

Along with winning three state championships, Devin has the experiences of wrestling at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek, and The Palace of Auburn Hills.

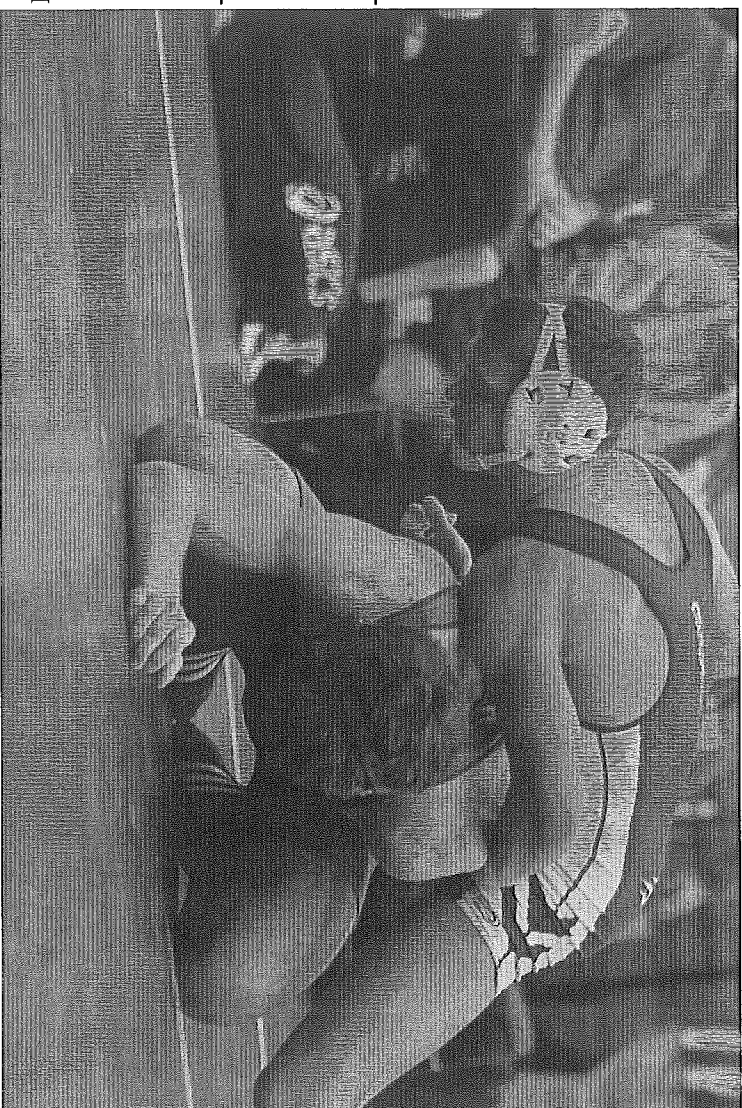
"It was exciting and loud wrestling at the Palace. I was really nervous at first because of the people, but once I got into it, it was fun. Being at the Palace was cool, but being at Battle Creek is better because of the Team," said Skatzka.

Devin believes that a team state championship is more significant than an individual state championship.

"Team championships are harder. They are not as easy to win because everybody has to be on the same page. You really have to be a family to win a team state championship," said Skatzka.

Although the wrestling team did not achieve its goal of winning its fourth straight state championship, being in competition year in and year out has been an accomplishment in itself.

"It has been pretty difficult training for a state championship run. It's not something that comes easy; you have



Devin Skatzka during a regional final against Crosswell-Lexington. (Photo courtesy of RHS Yearbook.)

to really work for it," said Skatzka. Devin has wrestled for eleven years now and believes that the Richmond Wrestling program is much more special than any other in the state of Michigan.

"It's been a great opportunity to be a part of the Richmond Wrestling program. It's impossible to not get better being with these guys. I don't see how anyone else could put in more work than us. The amount of work that we put in shows," said Skatzka.

The amount of work Devin has put into becoming a three-time state champion has been unmatched to anybody else. "I work out in the summer. Us-

ally I lift every other day. I stay active by playing other sports like football and baseball as well," said Skatzka.

There will be no question that underclassmen will look up to Devin as a leader starting next year. He recognizes this leadership role he will have.

He said, "It's going to be really important that I'm always on task and working hard because I know underclassmen will be looking up to me."

Coach Day of the Blue Devils stated his opinion towards Devin's leadership by saying, "Devin has been a quiet leader for us. We would like for him to become more

of a vocal leader for the team.

We think that all of our underclassmen look up to the upperclassmen because they all want rings too."

Devin says he wants to be the person people can count on going into next year.

Typically, athletes have a role model in which they follow, but this is not the case for Devin.

"I don't really have an inspiration. The only person I used to look up to was

four-time undefeated state champion Brett Metcalf who wrestled for Davidson," he said.

Not many individuals can say they have wrestled collegiately at the next level, but Devin has set this out as a goal for himself.

"I want to wrestle for a Big Ten college once I graduate from high school. You don't get recruited until your junior year, but I have received letters in the mail from Stanford and I have talked with coaches at Central Michigan, Old Dominion and Wisconsin," said Skatzka.

Brian Peterson is the only other wrestler from Richmond to have wrestled for a Big Ten college. Peterson graduated from Minnesota last year.

Devin says he doesn't have a specific college he is looking to go to, but added that he would like to go somewhere with warm weather.

"I really just want to go to a Big Ten college, but I kind of want to go somewhere warm. Virginia Tech is a good wrestling school and has warm weather. Stanford is warm as well," said Skatzka.

Looking ahead to next year, Skatzka believes that the Blue Devils will have a solid team. They will return a total of twelve starters, five of which will be seniors.

"Yea, I think next year we will be really good and have a chance to win another state championship," said Skatzka.

When asked if he would rather become a four time individual state champion, or win another team state championship Devin responded by saying, "Winning four individual state championships has only been done a couple of times so it would be really cool to be one of the few to ever do that, but it's more exciting being with the team and winning together," said Skatzka.



Noelle Scheuer

Nickname: Wells

Age: 16

Grade: 11

Sport(s): Softball and Bowling

Favorite song: Something About a Truck

By: Kip Moore

Favorite Food: Ribs

Favorite class: Anatomy

Future Goals: Go to college to become a physical therapist.

START HERE

Jake McKiernan

Nickname: J-MAC

Age: 17

Grade: 11

Sport(s): Football, Wrestling, Track

Favorite pump up song: Mamma Said Knock

You Out By: LL Cool J

Favorite food: Jambalaya

Favorite Class: Play college football and study broad casting in journalism.

