

Watch Out: The "Tas"-manian Devil Is In MCC's Path

By: Brandon VanGorp
Staff Writer

Running is something senior Hannah Tas has done, is doing and will continue to do in her life.

Tas's career in track started in 7th grade. From there, her interest in the sport continued to grow and so did her mentality. "I really liked the team effort, the anticipation of each race and definitely the satisfaction of doing well and improving over the season," said Tas.

Tas runs the 400, 800 and 1600 regularly and switches between the 3200 and 200-meter races. Her favorite event is the 400 and also is her best says Tas. "I'm really hoping to make it to states this year for the 400m," said Tas. "Or any other event I might qualify for."

She wants to improve her mile time coming into the season. She hopes to continue to compete and gain wins.

Tas said, "I want to keep improving and become the best of my ability." Along with track, she also runs cross country. She enjoys them and works hard in both to continue to grow as an athlete.

All of her hard work paid off. Tas was approached by Macomb Community College's head coach for track at the county meet and was given a card and told to meet him at the school to discuss possible scholarships. She made the drive to MCC and talked to the coach. She was offered to have half her classes paid for if she ran cross country for Macomb.

She was unsure if she wanted to attend the school and run for the cross country for them so she had to think long and hard about her options.

"After holding off on a decision and after we talked about me running track, he offered to pay for all my classes," said Tas. "He even offered to pay for my books depending on how well I

do both academically and athletically."

Tas plans on studying law enforcement while at Macomb and then hopes to be able to transfer to possibly Ferris to complete her bachelor's degree.

"I'm not sure on what I want to be but the FBI or criminal investigation interests me," said Tas.

She plans on training and conditioning hard at practice to ensure she can gain the most out of her opportunities. "The practices are pretty laid back, we work really hard and get our workouts in but it's also a time where we are able to talk with our friends and bond as a team," said Tas about her RHS team.

Soon after her high school career is over she will be training and competing at MCC. She already knows multiple girls on the team and is excited to be a part of it. Tas said, "I can't wait to be able to compete in college and hopefully improve so I could possibly run at a national level."

It's Time to Dance: The NCAA Tournament Tips

By: Trevor Barrett
Sports Co-Editor

One of the best times of the year for college hoops fans is March.

Why? One word: madness, and a lot of it. The 2015 NCAA tournament is turning out to be one of the best ones in a while. With upsets, big wins, and so many thrilling games, this year's tournament is worth the name the Big Dance.

Selection Sunday:

The tournament all starts with Selection Sunday. For some teams, they get ready to dance, and for others, their season comes to an end

After finishing up watching all the conference tournaments, I still had a little time to waste, so I went out and shot some baskets on a fine spring day.

Fifteen minutes later I sat my butt back down on the couch to see where everyone was seeded for the big dance.

I, a passionate Michigan State fan, was worried about what seed they would be and who they would play first.

Max Farhney, a junior and Wisconsin fan, on the other hand, was not as scared. About Wisconsin, he said, "I knew what they would get the number one seed. Virginia and

Arizona are not that good."

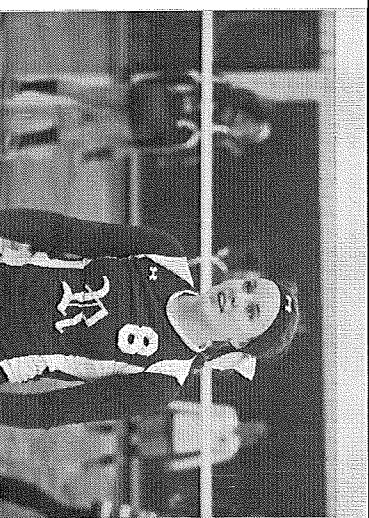
Honestly, one of the best feelings for me is watching the joy on the faces of those teams that were on the bubble; seeing their hard-work payoff is exciting.

The show lasted for about an hour with a few predictions near the end. Soon after it concluded the whole country became filled with Joe Lunardi, the bracketologist.

Bracketology:

One of the greatest parts of the NCAA tournament for fans is filling out brackets, trying to predict the unpredictable games.

There is no better feeling than when you pick an upset or even cor-



Rachel Leach

Nickname: Leach

Age: 17

Grade: 11th

Sport(s): Softball and Volleyball

Favorite class: English 11 with Mr. Ri-

near

Favorite Food: Spaghetti

Future Goals: Win districts in softball and volleyball next year

AT THE TIP OF THE ARROW

Trevor Barrett

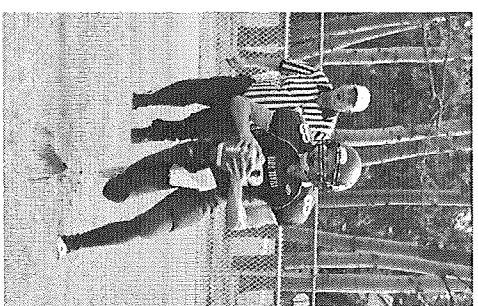
Nickname: T-Bear

Age: 17

Grade: 11th

Sport(s): Football and Baseball

Pro Comparison: Don Kelly



Favorite class:

Government with Dr. Ladd

Future goals:

Go to college

Soccer

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key on conditioning and good communication. During our scrimmages we will call out names before we pass and run sprints every time we miss the net on a shot."

If the girls are going to win the BWAC title, key player Andra Sechlok is going to have to step up big in the center midfield. "She really controls the whole center of the field. She makes everyone around her even better," said Bullock.

One of Sechlok's best attributes is her quick ball movement and her soft touch on the ball. "She knows exactly what to do with the ball when she receives it, whether its dribble to goal and take a shot or take a quick touch and distribute the ball," said Aiken.

Another key player this season will be goalkeeper, Courtney Davis. "I try to work as hard as I can to do the best for my team, always trying to get better every single day in practice," said Davis.

Going into Davis's third year of high school soccer, this year will be the first time she takes on the responsibility of a starting role. After two seasons of getting the experience behind former goalkeepers Mary Kazmierczak and Rachel Bronkowski, she feels that this is her time.

"I've been working really hard for this moment. I am very excited to be able to start this year and think I'm ready to take on the starting role," said Davis.

rectly pick the Final Four.

Some people fill out one bracket, others fill out 100. No matter how many brackets you fill out, it is still nearly impossible to have a perfect bracket—it has never been done.

For the youth of the nation, long gone are the days of paper brackets. With apps like ESPN Tournament Challenge and the CBS version, kids are now using their phones to fill their brackets out, including myself.

College basketball enthusiast and junior Brendan Hart said, "The apps are so much more convenient. It is a lot easier to tap the screen than it is to print out a bracket and fill it out." Paper brackets are not completely gone though. When in bracket challenges with friends and family, many people still like the paper brackets in order to actually see how your brackets compare.

"It is really cool to see yours compared to other peoples' bracket," said Hart about filling out paper brackets.

No matter how you fill out your brackets, it is still fun and exciting and chances are the kid sitting next to you has a completely different pick.

First Four In:

There is not much to be said about these four games. These ones are often just to see what teams will end up losing in the next round anyway. On Tuesday, March 17, fans saw Hampton move on past Manhattan to play Kentucky and Ole Miss beat Brigham Young University to play Xavier. The 18 saw Dayton beating Boise State and Robert Morris beating North Florida.

Second Round:

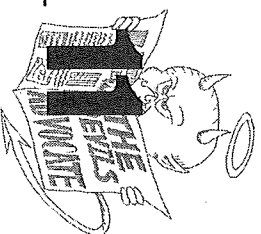
Welcome to March ladies and gents and the second round was full of upsets.

The first day, the 19, saw two number three seeds go down to 14

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Baseball Looking to Bring One Home

By: Emma Gillem
Staff Writer

As the basketballs go away, the baseballs come out. With spring right around the corner not only is everyone excited for the warmer weather, but also all forth spring sports that come with it.

As both seasons approach, from seniors to the freshmen, each cannot wait to be outside and practice.

"We can't do ground balls off a bat or fly balls," senior infielder and pitcher Daniel Fistler said, "Outside is where we are supposed to be, not in a gym."

However, once the team gets out on the field, the boys have many goals and expectations.

"I'm hoping to go undefeated and win a state title this year," senior Evan Kratt, a catcher, said. "Especially being my senior year, to win a state title would be an amazing feeling."

Fistler also feels the same. "We've been state runner ups for the past two years; this year it's our turn."

The Richmond varsity baseball team has been state runner-ups during the 2013 and 2014 seasons. The seniors, many of whom have been on Varsity for a couple years, have very high expectations for the juniors on the team.

"They are all hard workers and know not to take any team for granted," Fistler said, "And they definitely should enjoy it while it lasts, because it goes fast."

However, both seniors know the group of juniors have a lot of talent.

"All of the underclassmen are big contributors for our team this year," Kratt said.

As the beginning of the season approaches, there are many mixed emotions among the seniors.

"I'm excited to see how well we do," Fistler said, "But kind of sad by how fast my four years of high school baseball went by."

The boys have all season to show the community what they are capable of, although, everyone already knows.

"As soon as the season ended last year, we all had one thing in common," Fistler said. "To bring the town home a state championship trophy."

Tigers Looking to End World Series Drought

By: Brendan Hart
Sports Co-Editor

It has been 31 years since a World Series title for the Tigers. However, there have been some seasons in which Detroiters got the champagne ready like 2006 when the Tigers played St. Louis for the title only to lose four games to two.

Or even the 2012 season when the Tigers were swept by the San Francisco Giants four games to none. But nowadays Tigers fans aren't asking whether they'll see a World Series but instead they are asking the question: What will life after Max Scherzer be like?

This past winter, the Tigers lost starting pitcher Max Scherzer, a free agent, to the Washington Nationals. Scherzer turned down a 6-year \$144 million contract last spring, when he felt he was underappreciated and underpaid, to sign a seven-year \$210 million dollar contract with Washington.

However, the Tigers did make steps to improve the roster following Scherzer's departure. The largest and most known transaction made was the trade with Boston as the Tigers acquired outfielder Yoanis Cespedes in exchange for starting pitcher Rick Porcello.

Cespedes is a two-time Home Run Derby Champion who spent the majority of his career in Oakland until he was traded to Boston. Cespedes, 29, possesses power that could help provide run support while Martinez and Cabrera get back into the swing of things.

The outfielder with a cannon for an arm hit around .260 but isn't being paid to get on base; his job this year is to pick up the runs that Miggy and Martinez don't corral.

It is still a question on where Cespedes will hit in the order since the Tigers re-signed J.D. Martinez who came on to the scene with a

bang last year hitting .315 with 23 home runs and 76 RBI.

This isn't the only transaction made by Detroit this offseason; they also acquired All-Star reliever Alfredo Simon from the Cincinnati Reds for backup shortstop Eugenio Suarez and minor league pitcher Jonathan Crawford.

They also acquired outfield speedster Anthony Goose from the Toronto Blue Jays, as well as starting pitcher Shane Greene in a three team trade with the New York Yankees and the Arizona Diamondbacks in exchange for pitcher Robbie Ray and a minor leaguer.

Trades weren't the only transactions made by the Tigers this year; they also re-signed designated hitter Victor Martinez to a pricy 4-year \$68 million dollar contract. Martinez came to Detroit has provided a very protective blanket for arguably the best hitter of the generation, Miguel Cabrera. V-Mart hit .335 with 32 home runs and 103 RBI, forcing teams to pitch to Miggy.

Even though he's 36 and is coming off a torn meniscus, Victor and his fellow teammates and coaches still seem to think he still has something left in the tank and for Tigers fans hopefully it's enough to bring a World Series back to Detroit.

Following a disappointing season (by his standards), and being held down by injury, Cabrera is recovering from ankle surgery from ankle bone spurs and a stress fracture in his foot. Cabrera is thought to be one of the best hitters since Ted Williams.

After hitting just .313, which to most is outstanding, it is Miguel's lowest average since he first came to Detroit in 2008. However his manager, Brad Ausmus feels that the two-time MVP and Triple Crown winner will return to form this year once he's fully recovered from his injury.

Doomed After

Suh? Ngata

Chance

By: Brendan Hart
Sports Co-Editor

Ndamukong Suh is now a Miami Dolphin.
Nick Fairley is now a St. Louis Ram.

The Lions have some work to do. Suh signed a six-year \$114 million dollar contract with Miami. Nick Fairley signed a one year deal with the Rams worth 5 million dollars if he lives up to expectations for the Rams.

However there have been steps taken to try and replace the two Pro-Bowl defensive tackles. The Lions traded for 31-year-old nose tackle Haloti Ngata from Baltimore in exchange for Detroit's fourth and fifth round picks in this year's draft. They also signed free agent tackle Tyrann Walker. The 25-year-old spent the first three years of his career in New Orleans, claims that he is a perfect fit for the defensive scheme the Lions run, and feels he will learn from future Hall of Famer, Haloti Ngata.

The Lions also cut running back Reggie Bush who started off strong with Detroit but as time went on he became plagued with injuries. Another obvious factor that led to the release of Bush was the emergence of running backs Joique Bell and Theo Riddick, who are both younger and cheaper than the former Heisman Winner.

However, it seems to look like the Lions are looking to draft a running back from this year's deep pool of backs which contains Heisman finalist Melvin Gordon who broke former Lion Barry Sanders' collegiate record for rushing yards in a game and only fell short 41 yards of his career rushing record.

The Lions still feel they can win moving forward even without the names like Reggie Bush, Ndamukong Suh, Nick Fairley and even Dominic Riola, the center who was cut after the conclusion of his 14th season in Detroit.

Hopefully a healthy Calvin Johnson and Golden Tate can team up to be the Batman and Robin quarterback Matt Stafford needs, in order to lead the team to their first playoff win in 24 years.

Another player returning from injury this coming season is middle linebacker Stephen Tulloch who famously tore his ACL last season celebrating a sack, to pair with emerging stars DeAndre Levy and Tahir Whitehead.

Even though there are some holes that will hopefully be filled in the draft and by players stepping up, this year will be the one that makes people have to recognize the Lions as a threat to win.

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