

# Sports

## Everyday Equestrian

By Sydney Black  
Staff Writer

*Senior, Ally Oddo, tells about her life outside of the classroom. A passion that runs deeper than just horse shows.*

**15 years ago**  
When it comes to Ally Oddo, she spends a good portion of her time at the stables with her horse, Jake, a Tennessee Walking Horse. At age 2, Oddo began riding. Her mom was the one who influenced her, as well as others in her family, to ride and show.

“Well, we’ve always had horses and basically my mom got us all into it,” said Oddo. Oddo is a third generation in her family for equestrian.

“I want to continue it,” said Oddo. From being so young when she started, Oddo has had a lot of time to work with the game and critic her skills. Starting at a young age is what has made her the rider she is today – her dedication and time that is put into the game are a key factor as well.

### Showing Routine

Showing a horse is tough business. It takes dedication. Wanting to show, and wanting to perfect certain things is primary. When traveling all over the country, competing and showing along with up to hundreds of others, being on point is major. So, in this case, practice really does make perfect.

“You have to work a horse like every day,” began Oddo, “or five to six days a week depending.” Every show is different according to Oddo. No set routine is expected or done. However, there is a routine on what to do with your horse. The obvious bathing your horse, cleaning tack, and cleaning the trailer – but there’s also an inspection.

“Tennessee Walking Horses need to be inspected because there’s two sides to the industry,” Oddo stated. “One side has weights and chains to make the horse look more animated and the side that I’m a part of is more natural. So, on the pads and chains side, they do soaring – which is putting diesel fuel or hot mustard on their [horses] ankles and wrapping them to create open sores. Then putting chains on the sores to cause a flinching – which causes them to lift their legs higher. That’s illegal so we have to go through inspection.”

Oddo has been to over 200 4H, Walking Horse, and Equestrian shows in her life. She participates in Saddleseat, a form of English riding, and Western style during the shows. Oddo doesn’t have a prefer-



**AMANDA GORR**

Age: 17

Grade: Senior

Sport(s): Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field

Favorite Class: Anatomy

Future Goals: Study at Michigan State University and obtain a degree in Neuroscience. Also have a house on the lake.

Favorite Athlete: Miguel Cabrera

ence when it comes to the two types; she loves them both. Oddo has also won awards for all of her shows.

“I’m a multi-national champ, a multi-state champ, I have a Neil Clark Award, Order of Equinas, and I’ve gotten a lot of 4H awards, a lot of high point awards, and reserve high points,” said Oddo.

### From shows to the relationship part

Oddo and Jake have had a relationship for 13 years.

“It’s a love hate relationship. He hates and I love,” Oddo began. “But we are best friends. We spend a lot of time together.”

From spending so much time together, their bond has grown very strong. Her horse, Jake, was born on her farm, and from then they were the best of friends – a best friend doesn’t have to be a human.

“Having a bond with something that isn’t just human. It’s all about building trust – because a horse can do whatever it wants,” said Oddo.

Good friends help each other out – even if one is a horse. To Oddo and her horse, it’s all about companionship and keeping their bond high. It’s kind of like an unconditional love kind of friendship.

“We have a mutual relationship,” Said Oddo, “We both kind of help each other out when we are in a bad mood or whatever it may be. He makes me happy and I make him happy.”

Oddo never hesitates to spend time with Jake; this is what makes them both better as a team. Oddo stresses this every day she’s with him because success isn’t learned unless you put in effort – it’s also something she entirely enjoys.

When riding a horse, whether for fun or show, there needs to be trust followed by a bond. Oddo and her horse have grown a strong bond for 13 years and it continues to grow every day. It can get dangerous when training or riding a horse because anything can go wrong at any minute, Oddo said. However, the love for her horse and the sport is what keeps Oddo around.

“It’s just something that became a big part of my life,” Oddo began. “I hope to continue doing it throughout my whole life because it’s something I just can’t get enough of.”

## SPORTS

### SAM CALDERONE

Age: 18

Grade: Senior

Sport(s): Bowling

Favorite Class: English 12

Future Goals: Making a career out of the army

Favorite Athlete: Chris Barnes



## Future Star

By: Ana Kinkela  
Staff writer

Freshman Adam Verschaeye is already on his start to reaching his goals for soccer. Pushed by his parents, at the age of five he was already on the field kicking the ball around.

Verschaeye is a very determined person, and when it comes to soccer, there’s nothing that can stop him. His parents are very supportive with soccer and have instilled in him that he should always try his best, and to always be aggressive on the field. They hope that their son will keep up this triumph and in the end, Verschaeye hopes to earn a scholarship to Oakland University.

“I plan to keep up my training and get enhanced so I can get a soccer scholarship to Oakland University,” said Verschaeye. He trains very hard and always wants to learn more ways to improve himself, and work as a team on the field.

“It’s always good to want to better yourself, and to learn more,” Verschaeye said. Besides his parents keeping him motivated, his teammates do, too. They always keep him on his toes and make sure he’s doing his best. Verschaeye wants to do his greatest and wants to live up to playing on the Varsity team.

Even though he is a freshman, he didn’t let that discourage him from showing off his skills and making the varsity soccer team this year.

“Adam is the best freshman to try out for varsity this year. He did a great job, and he’s also a great team player, always cheering us on,” Senior Brendon Jacques said. Verschaeye loves his team and is very proud of his accomplishments on the field. He has learned a lot from being on the varsity: how to work as one and too always try and stay positive when in a game.

No matter which way the game is going, he keeps going for the ball. But even when he’s not playing, he is always cheering on the team and giving them the support they need.

“My parents have taught me to always be positive. Even if the game isn’t going well, to not let it get to my head and keep cheering my team on,” Verschaeye said. Soccer is easily his favorite sport, and he keeps playing because it keeps him active, and he couldn’t ever give it up.

“In a game I played before, I scored seven goals and we won by eight, it felt amazing to be playing at my best, and knowing that I’m able to play up to the seniors on the team,” Verschaeye said.

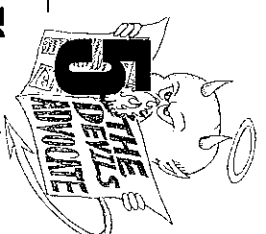
To him, soccer really is his future, and practicing and staying in shape is a lot of hard work but he does it. Travel is also a hard and keeping up with the different work outs for training, but he keeps up with them because of how much soccer means to him. Also his parents are very proud of his accomplishments and that is another thing keeping Verschaeye going on the soccer field, and what he needs to do to advance himself.

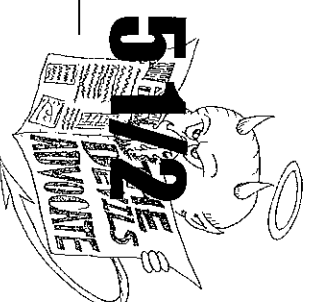
“Working on my footwork, running, core, all these things are only some of the things that we need to do to stay in shape. It’s a lot of work, but I plan to keep up with it,” Verschaeye said. Verschaeye doesn’t know where he got this determination to play soccer, but he’s happy for it and his team.

“Most of my friends play soccer, so we have a really good connection and it makes us a better team when playing,” Verschaeye said. Soccer is his passion and plans to keep playing throughout the rest of his high school years.

# Sports

**March 3, 2017**





## Quigley Rewvs Ups His Game

**Jaret Gil**  
*Opinion Co-Editor*

Skills USA. Hundreds of high school students with a passion for cars and mechanics. Only one winner in each category. For Richmond senior Evan Quigley, cars have been an obsession since a young age. He said, "I just remember watching and memorizing how fast some cars were and how they worked. But eventually, I started to wonder why. That's when I began trying to learn the ins and outs of how cars worked by reading anything I could about cars, and watching Top Gear."

At Skills USA, he would have the chance to showcase what he had learned. The competition tests mechanical inclination of high school students. Hundreds of kids compete in one of three categories: brakes, new car prep, and electrical – there was also a master category, and each Skills USA event has different categories.

Quigley competed in the brakes category. He said, "Brakes are really simple, and it was the first thing that I got the confidence to do on my car."

Three rounds of brake-related challenges later, Evan Quigley was declared the Regional Winner in the brakes category.

Walking into the competition however, Quigley had considered himself a bit of an underdog.

"It was new and a little scary looking around, because everyone else had been working on cars for a long period of time – through their schools and various resources – even with my job," said Quigley.

Over the summer, Quigley worked full-time at Wolverine Harley Davidson as a detailer porter and technician's assistant. And while most of his work was just moving the vehicles in the shop, he did get to work with the other technicians and pick up some new skills. During his time in the summer, Quigley was working as many as 40 hours a week. The RHS senior was forced to cut his hours once school started however, especially with his busy varsity soccer schedule. As a captain of the team, he was responsible

for composing the "captain's practices" in the weeks before the season started.

"With the way we were as a team, I just had to make sure we didn't get too crazy and keep us organized in training," said Quigley. "I mean, I can't say I was used to it," he said, "but I was comfortable with it. We were working with the same kids we always had, and it was just a mindset thing, staying on task."

Coming off of an amazing season last year (the team won the BWAC, and districts, before losing in the Regional Final), RHS's soccer team was looking to even bigger things – even a state championship. But it didn't quite pan out that way, as the team fell in the closing minutes of the second half of extra time in the Regional Semi-Final to Flint Powers (who finished as State Runner-Ups at the end of the year) 2-1.

After that game, the team was crushed. With 13 seniors in the team, the weight of that defeat was monumental.

"It was a heck of a run, and on a different day we could have made it," said Quigley. "[If I could go back and say anything to the team] I would just have to say, don't be disappointed. Anyone can move on, and on that day it just wasn't the way the cards fell. I was happy to spend my high school career with them."

Being at that game, it was clear how much that loss hurt the team, and Quigley in particular. And it's no wonder he's so competitive with four older brothers to spur him on.

"Having four older brothers, I definitely learned a lot of life lessons before they were necessarily applicable," he said. "But I also had lots of resources available to me that I wouldn't have: with Ehren teaching me about how to use tools and stuff from being a carpenter, and Cody teaching me different things about soccer."

Cody, the closest in age to Evan, and were constantly competing with each other, and raising each others' games. "I attribute a lot of my success in soccer to hanging out with Cody over the summers and stuff. And because he was so good I was able to pick up a lot of stuff, and my growth was exponential. Playing against someone who is better than you just allows you to become better, faster," said Evan. And despite being a four-year varsity starter, Cody, the closest in age to Evan, and were constantly competing with each other, and raising each others' games. "I attribute a lot of my success in soccer to hanging out with Cody over the summers and stuff. And because he was so good I was able to pick up a lot of stuff, and my growth was exponential. Playing against someone who is better than you just allows you to become better, faster," said Evan. And despite being a four-year varsity starter, Cody, the closest in age to Evan, and were constantly competing with each other, and raising each others' games. "I attribute a lot of my success in soccer to hanging out with Cody over the summers and stuff. And because he was so good I was able to pick up a lot of stuff, and my growth was exponential. Playing against someone who is better than you just allows you to become better, faster," said Evan.

Autumn currently has 100 subscribers, and 23 videos, totaling 1,948 views in all at the time this article is being written. And both of those numbers will only grow. "Every time I upload a new video, I gain subscribers. And when I started out, I was averaging around 20 people viewing each video, and now I'm averaging around 60."

Her family makes fun of her for it, but as Autumn says, they "don't see the point." The point, apparently is to meet new people. It's to try new things.

A recurring theme throughout all of her videos, is the idea that one needs to be themselves. She ends her videos by saying,

"Remember, be a freak, stay unique like me, peace out, love you guys." And that phrase really sums up her videos and her filming style.

Autumn's second love is singing. She is in zero-hour chorale, and has been singing her whole life. And she has found a way to blend the two. When she isn't doing a vlog or a skit,

the Richmond captain never played any travel soccer. He said, "Growing up in a house of seven people you learn to work with and appreciate what you have, and work as advantageously as possible."

And being advantageous defines Evan Quigley, in everything he does.

Which explains why Ayrton Senna is his favorite sports icon. The Formula One driver was "the best," Quigley said, "He just knew how to control a car in a way no one else did. He was a very straight forward, simple minded, goal in sight kind of guy – and he would achieve it." Despite Formula One being dominant in Europe, the Brazilian driver was quite successful. "He brought a lot of his success back to his country, and he was very humble," said Quigley.

The RHS senior recently applied for an apprenticeship at Suburban Ford. There he would have the opportunity to learn more about his trade, and make money doing it. "If I get it, I would have my own lube rack and my own lift. With those I could change oil and do other various fluid changes," said Quigley.

And next year, with college, Ford could be a great fit. He said, "I mean if I get the job, UN-OH [University of Northwest Ohio] is still going to happen. So if I have the job at Ford, I'd be able to learn twice as fast attending UN-OH as well. Plus, I would get the experience of playing college soccer, which is a dream of mine."

At the University of Northwestern Ohio, Quigley hopes to get the best out of his college experience. "I plan on walking on to the team. And I am optimistic, despite them finishing second in the nation for NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics)," said Quigley.

While out of state schools are usually more expensive, that doesn't matter with private institutions. As a whole, he'll be paying about \$8,000 each year. And with States for Skills USA coming up, Quigley may have the chance to decrease that amount even more. In fact, Skills USA sometimes makes the difference between a kid staying home, or going to college.

## YouTube Bringing Brincefield to Limelight

**By Daniel Seguin**  
*Staff Writer*

The best and the worst part of the Internet has got to be Youtube. It is so full of drec and pointless drivrel. But out of all the garbage that Youtube is plagued with, there are a few people that shine through. A few diamonds in the rough.

Autumn Brincefield, a senior here at RHS, is that diamond in the rough.

Autumn has been making videos for Youtube since middle school. But last year is when things really got serious. Or, the opposite. She taught herself to edit, and buckled down to work. She got a better camera, and what was once a 15-minute at a time hobby turned into a week-long process that consumes most, if not all, of her free time.

Her videos consist of her "goofing around and just having fun" along with the occasional video of her singing.

Her videos in a word? Quirky. In a good way. They are just so much fun to watch. Whether she's giving her thoughts on a particular topic, or making people laugh, she's exploring new areas.

Autumn has many influences when making her videos. She is mostly influenced by other Youtubers: Shane Dawson, Dan and Phil, Tf-

fany Alyssa, Miranda Singa. She doesn't rip off them by any means; she just takes inspiration from their filming style, or their writing style. She will get ideas from these Youtubers and "put her own spin on them." This is a common theme among Youtubers: a give-and-take.

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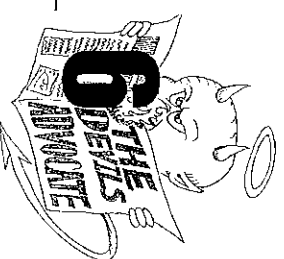
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# Opinions



## Robotics Budgets; is it really fair?

By: Nick Mattes  
Web Co-Editor

In the FIRST Robotics Competition, teams are to design, fabricate and build a robot in six weeks, with a max dollar on the robot of being \$4000. Even though there is a cap on how much you can spend, is it really fair?

On my team, we look at it as motivation.

We may not have the most money nor the most parts nor a water-jet nor a lathe. We're a base team that has barely enough to make it. We take the discouragement as motivation.

We hope to prove society wrong in a way that the team that isn't supposed to come out on top, comes out on top. The team that's just supposed to deteriorate away, not deteriorate away.

The team I am talking about is RHS's FIRST team. FIRST stands for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. It's an organization for people to have fun, and be more involved in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math or also known as STEAM.

FIRST is a great experience, and it really is the hardest fun you will ever have. And we take the issues of having a lower cost cap as motivation.

But with the way the budgets have formed into, it's making it harder and harder every year.

Teams every year have the chance to build their robot, however they want. If that means getting it laser cut, water jetted, or even powder coated, is it fair to the other teams? On average those certain things can have a cumulative price cap of \$5,000. A team with these specific things are pointed out among other teams and almost put in a different category then the teams that don't have these things because these tools further their competition abilities.

FIRST Robotics is an organization that is very expensive to run.

For each team, just to register to be in the organization, it's an annual \$5,000 fee every year that each team has to raise. This price tag doesn't include things such as parts and travel costs and food costs for competitions. If you're to qualify for the state and even the world competition, teams have to pay \$4,000 to register for the State competition in Sagnaw, and \$5,000 to register for

**Gaffney article continued from page 2**

Having two older siblings that went through RHS, who were stellar in their own right, set the example of hard work and involvement.

"It was always a goal of mine [to be elected NHS president] after my older sister was elected. Seeing her with all her duties as President I always thought it would be something I'd be interested in," Gaffney said about becoming NHS president.

Another academic group, BETA club, is offered to students who attend the Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences at Armada High School. The club is community

the world competition in St. Louis, Missouri. These registration costs also don't include housing, travel, and food costs. They all have to come from each team.

With these costs coming into play, that's a \$14,000 fee for registration before any robot parts, and travel costs to those competitions.

All teams raise money from fundraising and sponsorships to fulfill these costs. Teams from bigger

schools, however, have greater opportunities to get the needed money to further their competition abilities.

To be sure, these costs can make it hard for teams to build robots to the price cap that is built, and teams that have \$100,000 budgets can build their robots to that price cap. It's not fair.

When you arrive at competitions you can walk in and just tell by how a team's robot looks, and FIRST wasn't made to be that way.

When teams come and show up to competitions and see the so called "powerhouse" teams that they're going to compete against, it discourages them, and I have been exposed to this myself.

You can just tell that their robot is easily going to compete better against 3/4th of the other competitors. A robot that has so much going on and is power coated and has its name water jetted into the frame is showed above among the rest, and it's unfortunate that this is the way it is.

I, myself have experienced this sense of discouragement, and let me tell you it's not a great feeling. AT ALL.

Something can be done about this situation, and it needs to happen.

Why can't there be a budget cap, or at least divisions?

Why can't we separate the teams based on budget? Let the rich, bigger school teams compete with the other rich, bigger school teams and let the smaller school teams compete in a bracket having the same budget level? It's deteriorating away from the main stream Robotics sport that FIRST wants it to be, and by keeping the budgets the way it is, it's not fair to smaller school like RHS.

It's not fair to the rookie teams and teams that are running off a quarter of what other teams are such as my team. Teams have a rough time finding the inspiration that FIRST was meant to be about, and something needs to be done about it.

## Is Sequin Sharpay?

Daniel Seguin  
Web Editor

For my entire life, I have been heavily involved in theatre.

Since about 5<sup>th</sup> grade, all I have done with my time, for the most part, is theatre. Theatre, at this point, has consumed my life fully and absolutely. I am surrounded by theatre people all day. And when you're surrounded by theatre people, you start to understand what types they come in.

There are the ones who are only just trying it. They're there for something fun to do after school, to be a part of something.

There are the ones who started one or two years ago, who decided they like it and stuck with it.

There are the ones who have been doing theatre for their entire lives, but it has only remained a hobby, it may be all they do, but they know how talented they are.

There are the ones who work hard. Who take it seriously, and do their best, all the time, whether it's set construction, poster hang-up, or rehearsal. They have been there for five months, or five years.

And, finally, there are the ones who think they belong in the last group. In reality, they don't work as hard. They don't put in the extra hours of practice. They don't think they need to. These are the people who think they're the best, and that they know better than everyone else.

This is the group I ascribe to. And this is the group that will not be able to do theatre after high school.

Whether it's theatre, or academics, or athletics, or art, or band—that last group is present. And you know them when you see them. Their confident swagger gives them away almost immediately. If that doesn't, the way that they boss everyone else around will. It's as if they forget that they are just as much of a part of the program as anyone else, not anymore, not any less. The real problem with these

as other cities' courts] travel around to surrounding cities and participate in their parade and festivities to represent the city they are from.

"The opportunity to represent the city I grew up in and to meet a lot of new people from surrounding cities as well as Richmond meant a lot to me," said Gaffney.

After high school Gaffney plans on attending University of Michigan-Flint to be a part of their direct admission nursing program. All of her high school involvement and volunteer work will give her an advantage over other students in the program.

people, besides the only people who like them being the ones who actually venerate and drool over them, is that after high school, there is nowhere else for them to go. Richmond is a small school.

The senior class this year only has a 157 kids.

It isn't hard to rise to the top here. And you aren't special for doing so. In fact, you aren't even unique. There are millions of kids rising to the top of whatever small town school they go to.

When you're the best, when you're on top, and you know it, you probably don't practice.

There is no improvement taking place. No growth, and when you don't grow, you die.

If you expect roles, if you expect wins, if you expect success, it will not happen for you. Especially in theatre, you need to know how to fail. No one, especially no one from Richmond, is too good to fail. I can say this as a

blanket statement for anyone who has ever been a part of our theatre program, or any of our programs. You aren't too good to fail. In fact, you will fail.

And it's going to suck.

But there are two sure-fire ways to make it suck a whole lot less? Don't expect anything to fall into your lap, and don't blame anyone for the fact that you failed.

The world doesn't owe you anything. No one owes you anything. Understand that. And if you fail, it isn't anyone else's problem or fault. Take responsibility for yourself, and work harder. Learn from your mistakes. Nothing is rigged against you, so look inside yourself to find what went wrong. Failure is the best teacher.

Everything takes hard work. And you can always work harder. You can always get better. When you get complacent, you get lazy. And that's when someone surpasses you. I can tell you that if you think you're the best at something, whatever it may be, and you get comfortable, I can promise you that you won't be at the top for much longer.

## Would you

### rather

### fly or

### be a

### underwater?



## Opinions

## March 3, 2017