

Richmond Stars Moving On

By: Lauren Duche
Staff writer

Football season came to a close months ago but for three athletes at RHS, their season will continue at the collegiate level.

For seniors Jake Schmidt, Nick Macauley and Bret Zihlavsky, they will continue their athletic careers into college.

Schmidt is attending Yale on a partial athletic scholarship. After applying to Ivy League schools like Harvard, he ultimately decided that Yale was where he wanted to go.

"When I found out I was accepted to Yale, I was really excited. I've worked really hard in school and at practice to get where I am and I know that it's all paid off," he said.

Schmidt is playing as a tight end and is looking forward to working with the new coaches in the fall.

"The coaches are really straightforward and respectable. I'm looking forward to playing for them," he said.

Schmidt is having a hard time realizing that he's going to college in less than a year.

"One day I just woke up and it was like, 'Wow I'm going to college in the fall'. It feels like freshman year was yesterday," he said.

As of right now, Schmidt is undecided on what he wants his major to be.

"Hopefully, after I take a few classes I'll have a better idea of what I want to do," he said.

Schmidt is entering college with an open mind and is looking forward to the beginning of his adult life.

Bret Zihlavsky is also going to college to play football

Zihlavsky is attending Northwood University in Midland Michigan. After applying to schools like Ferris State and Sienna Heights, he ultimately decided on Northwood.

"I'm planning on going to school for criminal justice and Northwood has a really good criminal justice program," he said.

Zihlavsky did not receive a scholarship for football but after trying out, he made the team as a walk-on.

"I tried out with low expectations so when I found out I made the team I was really excited," he said.

Zihlavsky is walking onto the team and is hoping to eventually receive an athletic scholarship as time progresses.

"I'm hoping to get some financial aid after playing for a while, but honestly, I'm just happy I can continue my football career into college," he said.

Zihlavsky is also playing as a tight end and is preparing himself for the hard practices that are about to come.

"I've already been to tryouts and their tryouts were as hard as my practices were. It's not going to be easy but I think I'll be okay," he said.

Like Schmidt and Zihlavsky, Nick Macauley is also living out his dream of playing college football.

Macauley is attending Jamestown University in North Dakota on a partial athletic scholarship and his position on the team is defensive tackle. Macauley has been dreaming of playing college football since he was young. Come fall of 2015 his dream will come true.

"When I was little I watched college football every Saturday and I knew that's what I wanted to do," he said.

Every practice had pushed him farther than he thought possible and believes now that he is prepared for the challenge of playing football at the collegiate level.

"This year was the hardest I've ever trained and I'm surprised at how much I've accomplished," he said.

Macauley applied to several schools but finally decided on Jamestown.

"I've lived in a small town my whole life and the fact that this college is in North Dakota seems familiar to me. I didn't want to go to a big city," he said.

Macauley hasn't been to the campus yet but plans to be going within the next month.

"I'm excited to see it. Going to see the campus will make everything real," he said.

As their high school years come to a close, these three athletes are ready to tackle whatever life throws at them.

Puppy Bowl XI Receives A Round of A-Paws

By: Brandon Stein
Staff Writer

The stadium is packed. The tailgates are down. The lush grass is ready.

Scarves are tied tight, plush toys scatter the field and the cheerleaders are bashing each other's heads.

This is Puppy Bowl XI.

Shown on Super Bowl Sunday, Animal Planet's televised Puppy Bowl has been digging up millions of viewers for

the past 11 years. This year's featured matchup was Team Ruff V.S. Team Fluff.

When the puppies take the field, they are greeted by millions of paper mache fans in the stands and toys as far as they can see. The objective is simple: carry one of the many toys into the endzone to score a touchdown. Both teams are locked into an epic battle that can only be won by pure athleticism and charisma.

Scarves are tied around every puppy's neck to distinguish teams. Green for Team Ruff, and yellow for Team Fluff.

The result of the game itself was a blowout with Team Ruff putting up 73 points, and Team Fluff getting 45 points.

Cara, a female 14-week-old Shih Tzu of Team Fluff, put up the first points of the game. Then Bubba, a male 16 week old Chi-

huahua mix of Team Ruff tied it up with an amazing touchdown.

Many fantastic plays were made throughout the full length game, and the players pawed their hearts out as they ran down the field.

Team Fluff proved to be a formidable foe, but Team Ruff took the game by the ears and showed who dominated the field.

Team Fluff played like a bunch of four-week-olds compared to Team Ruff.

The pups are obviously the center of attention; however, they aren't the only animals involved in the game. The dwarf goat cheerleaders also stand on the sidelines spicing up the crowd and teams while they slam heads with each other. Papi the tech parrot keeps the game going with live tweets alongside the game.

Some players stood out more than others during this spectacular event.

Henry, a 12-week-old, Springer Spaniel mix, commanded the field and scored four touchdowns. The earlier mentioned Cara was named MVP for this year. Her furriiness may not have been enough to win the game against Team Ruff, but her long strides of hope kept the team in the game.

Her lone dual touchdowns helped as well.

Team Ruff no doubt won the game on account of their grrrrrrreat passion and ability to stomp their opponents.

Stay tuned next year to see how the new teams will face off against each other in this furried frenzy during Super Bowl Sunday.



Elizabeth Renner

Nickname: Liz

Age: 18

Grade: Senior

Sport(s): Volleyball, Basketball and Softball

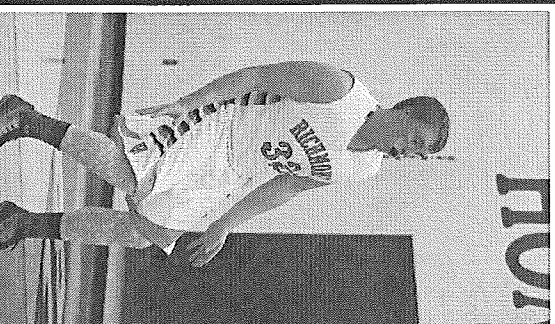
Favorite pump up song: "False Pretense," by The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus

Favorite Quote: "I'm in," or "Suit up."

Favorite class: Sociology with Mr. Delore

Future Goals: Play college softball and pursue a degree in the medical field.

Senior



Dillon McInerney

Nickname: Dill

Age: 18

Grade: Senior

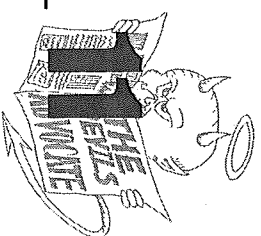
Sport(s): Basketball and Baseball

Professional Comparison: Kevin Love

Future goals: Go to college for baseball and pursue a degree in dentistry.

Favorite class:

Sociology with Mr. Delore



New England Takes Home the Win *Patriots on Top of Thrilling Super Bowl*

By: Christina Thomas
Staff Writer

Down by 4 points, on the goal line, with 26 seconds left on the clock: The Seattle Seahawks only needed a touchdown to win the 2015 Super Bowl.

Surprising the entire crowd and basically everyone in the world, the Seahawks decided to throw the ball.

As the Patriot's defensive back Malcolm Butler intercepted the ball from the Seattle Seahawks on the goal line, the Patriots took home their fourth Super Bowl win.

"Seattle surprised everyone; any other coach would have ran the ball in that situation," said junior Max Fahmney, who is a fan of the Seattle Seahawks.

Fahmney has been a Seahawks fan the past three years and was hoping to see them come out with another win this year.

It's safe to say that this play coast the Seahawks the game.

"I was dumbfounded," said senior Dillon McInerney. "I thought sure they were going to run the ball; it was a shock to everyone."

McInerney was with his friends

Jake Schmidt, Evan Kratt, Dan Fister and Justin Nowak during the time that the game occurred. "You could feel the tension in the room during the last minute of the game," said McInerney. "Everyone was glued to the TV screen."

Sophomore Patrick McCloskey, who plays wide receiver and cornerback for RHS's JV football team, has been involved with football for as long as he can remember.

"I was raised into a football family," said McCloskey. "It's always been a tradition to sit down on Super Bowl Sunday and watch the game together."

Stunned. That was the only word McCloskey could say about the remarkable ending of the game.

"Being a UofM fan I wanted the Patriots to win because of Tom Brady," said McCloskey. "With 26 seconds left on the clock and the Seahawks having possession of the ball on the goal line, I didn't think the outcome was going to be anything like it played out to be."

Before the game, there was really no favorite of either team as of who was going to win. This was the closest game in Super Bowl history

some say.

"The Patriots are a strong team and I think you will see them in the Super Bowl next year as well," said freshman Brennan Dolan.

Although, some say different. "The Steelers are upcoming and has a good chance of getting in the Super Bowl next year as well as the Seahawks do because they are staying strong," said McCloskey.

The Patriots are favored to be seen in the Super Bowl next year as well as the Seahawks are. But many may be surprised when the Detroit Lions appear in the 2016 Super Bowl.

"The Seahawks have a fair chance of making it to the Super Bowl again next year but so do the Lions," said McInerney, who is a Lion's fan. "It would be cool to see a team you root for all season to make it to the Super Bowl."

Talk about the game wasn't all there was.

Talk about Katy Perry's half time performance was also a big topic for the students at RHS.

"I thought the dancing sharks and the palm trees was a good a good combo," said sophomore Keenan Mirad. "I would rather see someone different perform in the years to

come though."

While Mirad was somewhat impressed by Katy Perry's performance, McCloskey was not.

"I wasn't impressed at all by her performance," said McCloskey. "I would like to see Kendrick Lamar appear in a half time show one year for the Super Bowl, a lot of kids like him and he is forthcoming."

Where some people talk a lot about the half time performances, some seem to lack interest.

"I don't normally watch the halftime performances," said McInerney, "The Super Bowl is supposed to be revolved around football, not singing and dancing."

McInerney has a point but the Super Bowl wouldn't be the same without some entertainment during the halftime of the game.

Students are already looking forward to the 2016 Super Bowl and what is to come for the NFL next year.

"I look forward to the Super Bowl all year," said McCloskey. "It's a time where friends and family come together to watch a sport we all know and love and that will always be a tradition to me."

Small Town Cheerleader Chases Big City Dreams

After four years of high school competitive cheer, Jonah Vandenburg is continuing his career at the University of Louisville

By: Katie Brown
Staff Writer

Always dreaming of cheering in college, Jonah Vandenburg, senior, has been working towards this goal since he was little.

Starting off in gymnastics and continuing that for seven years before starting cheerleading Vandenburg has pushed himself from a very young age.

Planning on attending University of Louisville in the fall, Vandenburg is extremely ecstatic to leave Richmond and meet new people. "Louisville is far away from Richmond and very diverse, so I think this is the right college for me," Vandenburg said.

Vandenburg has been cheering for over three years now including, RHS sideline and competitive cheer and also All-Star cheer at Elite Cheer Michigan. Being in All-Star cheer for two years now, Vandenburg has gained partic-

ular skills that put him at par with some of the best cheerleaders in the country.

"Elite has taught me the most important technique in stunting, tumbling, jumping, dancing, and becoming more mature as an individual," Vandenburg said.

To ensure Louisville is the perfect college for him, Vandenburg will be attending the college for a visit March

7. Having already met the coaches due to the close relationship his current coach and the coach at Louisville

share, Vandenburg is more than positive he wants to cheer all four years while he attends college there.

Aside from cheering, Vandenburg will be studying civil rights laws. "I want equal rights for everyone and the same opportunities for all individuals," Vandenburg said.

The difference from All-Star cheer and competition cheer is significant in terms of difficulty.

"The competition is a lot more intense and the there is a lot more pressure," Vandenburg said.

One major setback changing from All-Star cheer to college cheer will be the transition from a spring mat to a dead mat. Vandenburg, having experience on dead mats from high school cheer in the past, will be able to make the transition look flawless.

Not only has Louisville looked at Vandenburg but he has been accepted to three other colleges including

Grand Valley State University, Central Michigan University, and the University of Kentucky.

"The choice wasn't that hard. I knew I wanted to go out of state and Louisville is just the right fit," Vandenburg said.

Having trained with college cheerleaders before at Michigan State University, Vandenburg has a pretty good idea of how college cheerleading works and what the training is going to entail.

College cheerleading has two seasons -- sideline and competitive. Vandenburg plans on cheering for only the competitive

season due to the drastic change. "I'm more of a competitive person, and I won't be able to go from elite to sideline," Vandenburg said.

Hoping to get a scholarship for cheer from Louisville, Vandenburg has been training and competing non-stop to get all the opportunities possible.

Louisville's team being nationally ranked was a huge factor when Vandenburg made his decision. "I want to cheer for a good team and that's why I chose Louisville," Vandenburg said. He will compete with the best of the best in the most intense competitions around the country.

Cheerleading has definitely opened major doors in Vandenburg's life. His career is talking off thanks to the help of his current and previous coaches that continue to push him daily. Coaching and practicing at the gym 18-20 hours a week, Vandenburg devotes most of his life to his team and gym.

Being best at jumping, dancing and tumbling, Vandenburg has been looked at for his skills and his versatility. With a bright future in front of him, he is looking forward to leaving Richmond and getting a new start with new people, a new place, and most importantly, a new team.

"I want to cheer for a good team and that's why I chose Louisville."

- Vandenburg