

## Two Athletes Pursue Their Future at SC4: Renner and Thueme Continue Career

**By: Hailey Dziegelewski**  
News Co-Editor

In a blink of an eye, the seniors of 2015 are graduating. Many received scholarships to universities, others were accepted to community colleges, some will join the military.

And a few were scouted for their athletic performances.

Liz Renner, softball player, and Carlie Thueme, basketball star, are two incredible athletes who recently signed with Saint Clair Community College.

"I was definitely relieved to have picked my college path, but mainly excited to continue my softball career," said Renner, who officially made the decision to play for the team on April 26 after talking to SC4's coach, Ron Matthews.

Coach Ron comes to several of RHS's softball games to scout players. Renner stood out to him and he approached her about playing for his team at the beginning of April.

"I'll be playing outfield, hopefully center, but I'll take charge wherever he puts me out on the field," said Renner.

Renner will be playing with Richmond's alumnus, Riley Thompson. Thompson graduated in 2014 and began her college career pitching for the SC4 team. Thompson was also scouted by Coach Ron.

"Riley has really taught me to be a good leader not only in the field but overall. She always had a good at bat and is an all-around great player," said Renner.

She also knows Almont player Elita Wiggins. They've played together since travel ball and have also been rivals in the high school league.

Renner is hoping to study the career of nursing and continue furthering her softball skills.

Aside from softball, Carlie Thueme is excited to start off her freshman year of college playing the sport she loves: basketball.

Coach Whymer from SC4 approached Thueme during January, and she officially made her decision to sign after going to a few practices with the team.

"I never really 'tried out' for the team; however, I went to their workouts and got to know a few of the girls, the coaches and the pro-

gram before receiving my scholarship," said Thueme.

Thueme is hoping she will play center and be a dominant post-up player in the paint. She has set several goals for herself to achieve not only on the court but in school.

"I'm planning on studying general education; then I want to transfer to MSU to major in agribusiness management," said Thueme. She is hoping to make new friends and become a better player as well.

Both girls are excited to start new chapters in their lives and couldn't be more thankful for what their high school coaches have taught them.

"Coach Schroudt taught me several post moves that Coach Whymer really liked," said Thueme.

Liz added that her high school coach, Mr. Stuart, taught her how to use her speed to the fullest extent.

RHS's athletic director, Mr. Benoit, would like to wish both girls the best of luck in their future.

"Both are really good examples of a 'student athlete.' Their academics are fantastic and to see people that do well in class and are that successful in a sport is pretty cool," said Mr. Benoit.

## RHS Track Team Runs to the Finish Line

**By: Paige Koehn**  
Features Co-Editor

From sprinting to pole vaulting, the Richmond High School track team has been able to run past the finish line, claiming an extremely successful season.

Every day after school, the teams—boys and girls—practice on the track field. Practices usually run from 3:00 to 5:00. But, they are allowed to stay for as long as they please to complete their daily workouts. Here, they perform various warm ups to make sure they are performing at their highest potential.

The warm ups they partake in are ones that coordinate with their events. But, they do a group warm up as well before every single practice.

First, the whole team runs a lap and does plyometrics. Also, they participate in a hurdle workout. After those are completed, they then split off and do their own skill work.

The meets they participate in are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are either at Richmond or a different school in Macomb County. Occasionally, they will have Saturday Invationals as well.

Beau Brockett, senior, has been running track all through high school. The events he participates in are the one mile run, two mile run, and the 4x800 meter relay. So far, Brockett has been able to

obtain some pretty impressive personal bests. So far, his best time while running one mile was 4:51.

For two miles, his best time was 10:39. For one to achieve these scores, it takes a lot of determination, hard work, and will power.

"My favorite part about track is the feeling at the end of the race when you beat your opponent," said Brockett. "It is so rewarding when you win against someone you've never beaten before. Also, when I achieve a new personal record, I feel as if all of my hard work has paid off."

For the girls' team, junior, Sarah McNichol, and sophomore, Mary Gaffney, are the team captains. They are the ones who motivate and lead the team.

"I love the team so much," said McNichol. "We all get along so well. We push ourselves to be the best we can be. The one thing I specifically love about track is that everyone on the team participates. No one sits on the bench."

The events that McNichol participates in are the one mile run and 4x800 meter relay. Both of these events require lots of speed, strength, and endurance.

McNichol said, "To get prepared for these events, I have to build up my endurance. At practices, I run with the long distance group. We do endurance and speed workouts.

Long endurance runs can last from two to eight miles. It can be difficult at times, but I keep pushing myself

so I can run to my greatest potential."

Because of track, McNichol has learned various life lessons that will benefit her in the future.

"One thing I learned from track is how important perseverance is. If you keep pushing no matter what, you will find success. Because of that, I have improved so much this season," said McNichol.

The RHS track team competed at the MHSAA LP Regional in Algonac on Friday, May 15. Here, they competed with the best teams in the area.

To compete at regionals, one must score in the top two of their event. This means that only the best of the best are able to compete. It is an honor just to make it.

The boys' team ended up 12th overall out of 15 teams. The girls' track team ended up 14th overall out of 15 teams. Both teams were pleased with these results because they were the second smallest team competing that day.

Beau Brockett, senior, is extremely proud of the results he received while competing at the MHSAA regionals. In the one mile run, he finished in 5th out of 27 other competitors. In the two mile run, he finished 11th out of 26.

"Regionals was a really cool experience. It was nice to be able to compete against some amazing runners," said Brockett. "It was an honor to be able to compete this year at regionals with my team."

## Small Town Cheerleaders Climb the Summit to Worlds

**By: Katie Brown**  
Staff Writer

720 teams from around the country and only two days to show 12 judges what their team is made of. Senior Jonah Vandebussche and sophomore Jenna Stafford went through this just a couple of weeks ago in Orlando, Florida.

Vandebussche's Senior 5 coed team from Elite Cheer Michigan went to worlds, a competition for all invited level 5 teams. Stafford, traveling to Florida just a week after Vandebussche, competed with her Senior 4.2 coed team from Vizion Allstar Cheer at Summit, a competition for all invited teams levels one through four.

Being the biggest competition, the preparation starts at the beginning of the season for most. Throughout the entire competition, season bids are given to deserving teams all over the country. There are two types of bids and an at large bid which Vandebussche's team received that pays for only competition fees, and a full paid bid which Stafford's team received that pays for everything but food while staying in Disney.

"To get prepared we practiced five to six times a week along with extra conditioning," Vandebussche said.

Both teams were going into a competition with a drive and a goal to make their gym well known. Making it through the first day of competition, Vandebussche's team made it into the semi-finals. From there they were knocked out and ended up taking 26th out of 84 teams.

"I just don't believe we had the experience that the other teams had," Vandebussche said. Stafford, performing a perfect routine two days in a row with no deductions had a locked-in spot to finals. Taking silver champs, they were disappointed because everyone including other teams knew they deserved 1st.

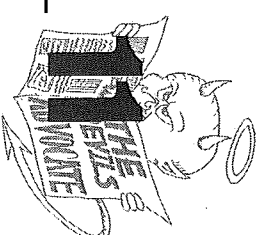
"I wouldn't have traded one thing; we hit both days and that was our goal," Stafford said.

At the beginning of the season both teams started off rough. With 14 people quitting on Stafford's team, it made the rest of team realize that they have to prove those people wrong. There was also a problem with cliques, making it harder to work together and focus on their goal.

"As the season went on, we had a better drive and we all established the same goal, to make it to Summit," Stafford said.

Seeing his team as more of a family than a team, Vandebussche admitted it took a while to get like that. With younger people on the team, it was frustrating for the more

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Follow the Blue Devil's Advocate on YouTube for the latest updates!

Thanks for a great year and have a safe summer!

Make sure to tell us interesting stories for next year's edition!

**Message to Freshman**  
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Take Theatre Arts and AP English even if you can't stand acting and aren't good with grammar. It will only prepare you for college anyway, so why not take them? Don't be driven away from classes because of how hard someone else makes it seem. You don't know exactly how they performed in the class. And who knows?

That class may even become your favorite in all of high school.

Speaking of stepping out of your comfort zone, I recommend participating in extracurricular activities, to an extent obviously. Do only what you physically and mentally can handle. Being a fairly active member of theatre, let me tell you that you will meet a plethora of new people and an immense number of inside jokes will surface. The whole

experience is such a blast.

The same goes for other activities: Track, Jazz Band, Football, Baseball, Student Government, Key Club and many more. Don't be intimidated by trying something new.

With all this advice, you may feel overwhelmed or controlled. Mainly, just keep all of it in mind.

High school is only as hard as you want to make it. That is what it really comes down

to.

Meet some people, try new things, keep your grades up, have a healthy personality, and ultimately have a fun time doing it all.

And within those four short years, you will grow more than you will ever realize.

**Cheerleading**

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experienced people to stay focused and have that drive they needed.

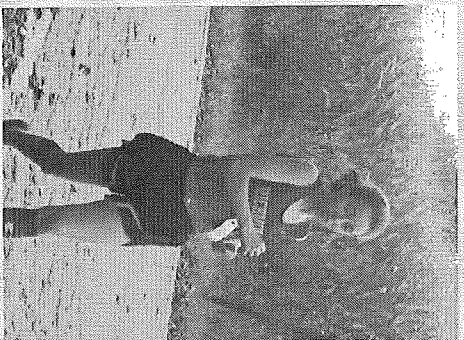
"We started rough because we had younger girls but as the season went on, we became more like a family and worked together," Vandenbusche said.

Coming back for another year of Allstar cheer, Stafford is excited to see what this season holds but is also sad to see such a great season and team go.

Cheering for The University of Louisville next year, Vandenbusche admitted he didn't want to be done.

"I think after Worlds I realized that I didn't want to be finished and I wanted to continue to do what I love," Vandenbusche said.

With both teams starting with struggles, all in all they each had a very successful season and reached their goals, not just as a team but as individuals too.



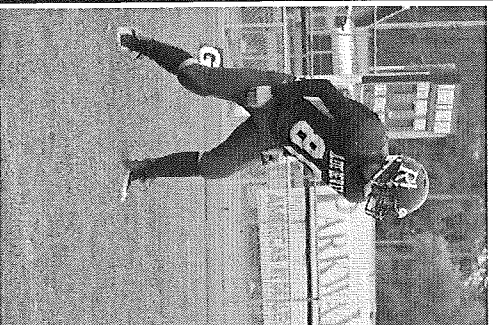
**Madi Yaek**

Nickname: Madi  
Age: 14  
Grade: 9th  
Sport(s): Track and Cross Country  
Favorite pump up song: "Hall of Fame" by The Script  
Favorite Food: Pizza  
Favorite class: History with Dr. Ladd  
Future Goals: Run Cross Country at MSU

**Star Athletes**

**Nate Scheuer**

Nickname: Shower  
Age: 14  
Grade: 9th  
Sport(s): Football, Baseball, Bowling  
Favorite Baseball Player: Miguel Cabrera  
Favorite food: Ribs



Favorite class: Geometry with Mrs. Wolfe  
Goals this Season: Less than 10 strikeouts