

“What’s All The Racket?”

By: Brandon Furlaw
Sports Co-Editor

Its match point, she sets up for the serve and puts every last bit of strength into the swing. They’re off, the volley of back and forth, to and fro off the rackets and over the net starts in a fury. However it only takes a matter of seconds before the action to be squashed by the champion with an excellent backhand move.

This is a glimpse into the world of tennis and believe it or not it’s on the rise as a sport thanks to super star players like Serena Williams, Roger Federer and Andy Murray. The most recognizable name out of that bunch should be Williams’. Because she’s pretty darn good and an American.

Obviously Serena Williams doesn’t play here at RHS but there are some athletes that have been playing at a high level through their careers. These are Seniors Jessica Niebauer and Morgan Gaigalas; not only are they the seniors on the team, they are the only seniors on the team.

This allows for tremendous growth to take place throughout this year and the next few years if the current underclassmen stick with the sport. And, speaking of growth Niebauer and Gaigalas have grown a lot in their roles since their freshmen years.

Niebauer, a two time BWAC champ has continued her success through this year and hopes to be going for a third title to finish out her career. But with 16 regular season matches and various tournaments in between it can be hard to stay fresh for a run at the title.

“It can be hard toward the end. [But] I just play like every single match is my last and that keeps my mind right,” Niebauer.

While on the other end, Gaigalas, has been getting a taste of change. From her freshman to junior year she went undefeated individually over that time. This year has served as a kind of role change, getting moved up from third singles to first singles. “It’s been a struggle but it’s also a very big accomplishment,” said Gaigalas.

And, while winning is fun, it isn’t everything. Helping out the team by getting better in your own right can sometimes mean losing to learn what needs some work. It can also mean helping out the younger players and passing down some of your knowledge, as for Gaigalas, she hopes to pass on a little more than knowledge. “I hope to inspire the current girls on the team to continue to play, to keep the tennis program alive and hopefully they can pass down the love for the game to incoming tennis.”

Although Niebauer doesn’t plan on playing tennis in college, Gaigalas has plans to go onto Central Michigan to play in an intramural league with her sister (an RHS alumnus) as her doubles partner.

Signing Day

Brendon Jacques
Sports Co-editor

Over the years Richmond athletes have dominated in their high school sports leading to league, district, regional, and even state championships.

All of this success has allowed many of the top athletes from each sport to receive many different offers to play in college.

This year nine student athletes signed their letter of content to further their athletic and academic careers after RHS.

These nine kids coming from either soccer, football, basketball, cheerleading, or volleyball.

Matthew Schuster, a senior and former all state soccer player at Richmond, committed to Siena Heights University over the winter to continue to play the sport he loves since three years old. “I am very excited to play college soccer in the fall. It’s a huge opportunity for me and I hope to make the best of it,” said Schuster.

The recruiting process began for Schuster when Siena Heights contacted his high school coach after watching him perform at a tournament in Fraser. Schuster said, “They only watched my play for half a game but they must have saw something in me because they were very interested.”

Shortly after, Siena contacted Schuster and scheduled a college visit to see if Schuster had interest in them.

On his visit, Schuster toured the school while also meeting head coach Aldo Zid to talk soccer and scholarships. “The coaches and everyone else there are very friendly. I loved the small school atmosphere from going to Richmond my entire life and right away I knew it was a great fit for me,” said Schuster.

Schuster loves to compete on the biggest stage and looks to fight for a starting spot at center midfield for his freshman year.

Schuster’s best friend and former teammate Allan Szczesniak also appeared at signing day to play college soccer at Siena Heights University.

Szczesniak looks to further his education to get into Siena’s nursing program and one day become a travel nurse. “The biggest reason why I chose Siena Heights is because of their nursing program,” said Szczesniak.

Out of all the schools that were looking at Szczesniak, they were definitely giving him the biggest opportunity. Szczesniak said, “I was able to earn academic and athletic scholarships which gave me the most money out of schools like Northern or Madonna.”

As soon as Szczesniak received that letter he knew he wanted to play college soccer. What really made him fall in love with soccer was playing high school soccer with all his friends. “We were all able to build strong relationships and be successful as a team. I really hope I get the same experience at Siena,” said Szczesniak.

Richmond’s soccer program was able to send off another athlete to college as Jarret Gil signed his letter to play for Academy of Art.

What is very unique about this opportunity is that Gil will be traveling 2,000 miles across the country to fulfill his dream. “I’ve had a dream to play college soccer since watching Cristiano Ronaldo as a kid. I remember going out in my back yard and trying to be the soccer player he was. It’s awesome to finally get to the next level and achieve my goal,” said Gil.

Gil’s recruiting process was a little different than the rest since he was talking to schools on the West Coast. Gil said, “It’s very difficult because the coach couldn’t actually come see me play. I had to send a lot

of my game film and have him decide on me that way.”

All of Gil’s communication with the Academy of Art was through email and phone calls but he was still able to earn a small scholarship and a spot on the soccer team. “The best part about the recruiting process is that it was all done by me. Your parents aren’t responsible for the process which makes it a little nerve racking at times but it felt good to have the ability to do it on my own,” said Gil.

The Academy of Art will be a great opportunity for Gil as he looks to further his education. He has always had an artistic and creative mind set where the Academy will help him excel. Soccer will just help his experience there become even better.

D’Sean Hamilton is one of those kids that could have play any collegiate sport he put his mind to. He is an all-state athlete that succeeds in anything that he does because of his raw athleticism and motivation to be the best. Although, his heart has always belong to the game of basketball.

Hamilton was another Richmond athlete to sign his letter and will be taking his talents to St. Clair Community College.

“It will be a good experience for me to see how it is playing at the next level and to also get my grades up,” said Hamilton.

He will be receiving a full ride scholarship and a starting spot on the team.

This opportunity occurred because Hamilton’s coach had connections with SC4 and knew he was good enough to play at that level. Hamilton said, “Coach Prez took me to a few workouts with SC4 and I played well. The coach then took a lot of interested in me and it went from there.”

It was very difficult for Hamilton to decide where he wanted to play college ball for his first year. Schools such as the University of Buffalo and a few others showed interest in him which made the recruiting process even longer for Hamilton. “Every school tells you exactly what you want to hear. So you have to listen closely and really follow your gut on where the best opportunity is for yourself,” said Hamilton.

Swinging a golf club since three years old usually indicates that one day a person will become pretty talented. If you ask a few members on the golf team the first name that will typically pop into their head is Noah Kosal.

“Ever since watching tiger woods I fell in love with the game of golf. My dad started me off really early and I have been playing ever since,” said Kosal.

Kosal has been dominating the competition at Richmond and really wanted to challenge himself by taking it to the next level. Kosal said, “It’s pretty cool to see all that hard work pay off. All the extra training I put in and competing in high school competitions is what led me to get there.”

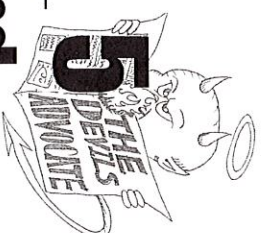
The recruiting process was pretty steady for Kosal as many schools reached out to him through email. Many schools contacted him but the main two were Saginaw and Adrian. “My decision was really based off money. I wanted to get out of college with as less amount of debt as possible,” said Kosal.

His decision was to attend Adrian College to not only play golf but to further his education in business.

“The goal is to play golf while getting my bachelor’s degree in marketing,” said Kosal.

He will be competing for a starting role on the Adrian roster. He hopes to be in one of the top three spots to really challenge himself against other golfers. Kosal said, “My goal is to be a starter here and help my team win a national championship.”

Sports



Pizza Pizza Arena Arena

Daniel Seguin
Co-Web Editor

That old adage is true, you know. All good things must come to an end. It happens every day. Great things come and great things go. One of the most recently gone great things is the Joe Louis Arena.

In operation since 1979, the Joe Louis Arena has been the home of the Red Wings for almost 40 years. It has also hosted concerts and other entertainment events for years.

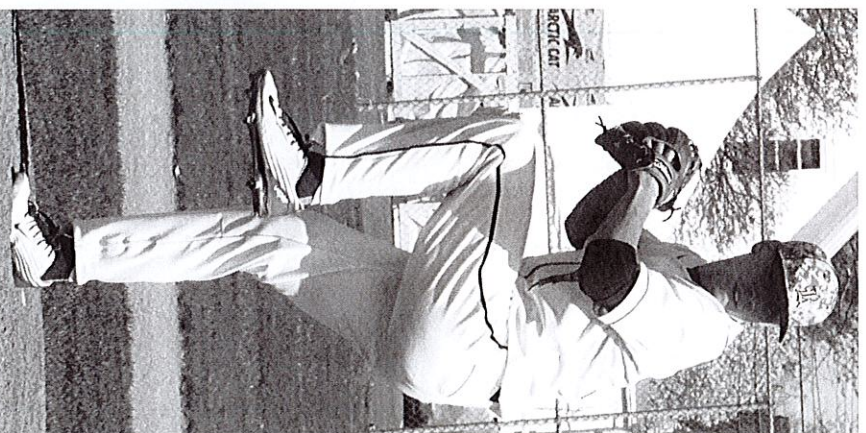
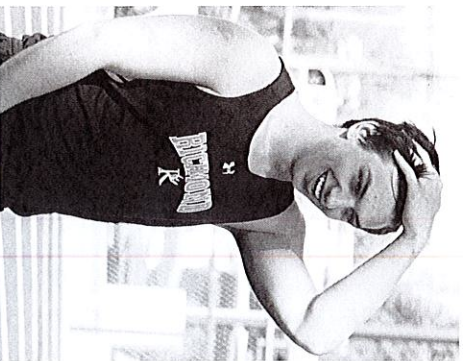
The Palace of Auburn Hills is also going to be closed, but that has not happened yet.

Some people don't care, some people care a whole lot, and some people only care about the name of the new arena.

Jaelyn Dziegelewski, junior, said, "I love the Joe. I go all the time. I'm really gonna miss it."

One of the last ever music acts to perform there was the band Green Day, but hockey is really what the Joe is known for.

With the closing of The Joe comes a new arena. Little Caesar's Arena, where the Red Wings and the Pistons will both play at. And many people are not happy with the new name.



Brandon Saikowski, senior, said, "It's just stupid. Name it after a person, or just give it a random name, but not Little Caesar's arena." He, along with many other people, feel that the new structure should be called Ilitch Arena, in honor of the recently passed Mike Ilitch, the owner of the Red Wings, Tigers, and Little Caesar's.

Ilitch was a man who believed in Detroit. He was nearly synonymous with the city. Once he died, the city of Detroit, and all of the metro area, mourned.

Many people used to believe that Detroit is a garbage dump. That Detroit is a murderous wasteland. But, Ilitch saw the truth of the matter. That Detroit has potential. Once, it was a metropolis comparable to

New York, but ten years ago, people were laughing at it. Thanks to people like Mike Ilitch who saw the potential in the city, the city is now booming again.

Ilitch invested in Detroit. He cared about Detroit. That is why he invested in entertainment, in sports, and in food, all based in Detroit.

Ilitch helped jumpstart something that may change the city forever. Detroit is on the upswing. A new railway system, and a new arena.

That is the true beauty of the Little Caesar's Arena. It represents a new era for Detroit. With new buildings, with new infrastructure. With improved public schools, with improved employment rate.

This new arena is going to bring more traffic into Detroit. It's further into Detroit than the Joe or the Palace. People are going to want to come see this new arena. And Detroit is going to feel the impact of thousands of people flocking to it, even more than they flocked to either of the old stadiums combined. Whether or not you like the name, whether or not you're going to miss the Joe, the Little Caesar's Arena will be great for Detroit. Pizza Pizza.



SHANNON GAFFNEY

Age: 16

Grade: 10th

Sports: Basketball, volleyball, and track

Favorite class: Ladd, AP government

Future goal: Throwing at the University of Michigan

Favorite athlete: Michelle Carter

Sports

ANDREW BALL

Age: 16

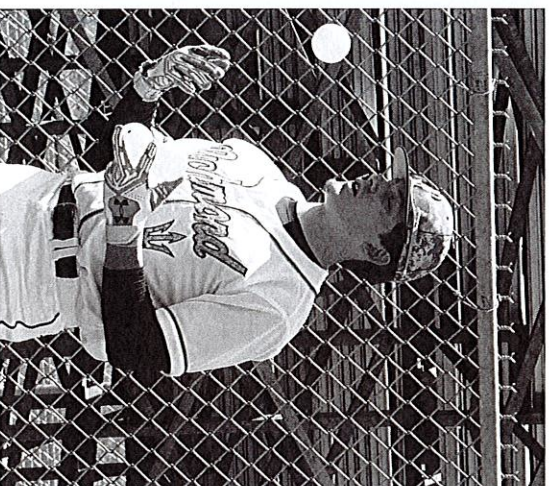
Grade: 10th

Sports: Baseball and football

Favorite class: Biology

Future goal: Play college sports

Favorite Athlete: Luke Kuechly



Richmond To Tiffin

By: Ana Kinkela
Staff writer

Three weeks left. It seems like forever, waiting for our senior's graduation, a ride we all have been dying to get on especially for Roy Costello.

"I think it's kind of sad yet happy just because I will miss all of my friends and people I have went to Richmond with for four years," Costello said.

High school for him has been an experience you only get once and he couldn't change anything about it. For his freshmen year he was nervous and scared to start here with all the bigger kids.

"My first day, it was so different, and such a big school, I wasn't sure if I was ready or not. But now, walking out, after four years, that day didn't seem so scary.

Now I'm not sure I'm ready to walk out either," said Costello. But even though he was scared and nervous leaving seems to be so much more. Freshmen year he had so many more opportunities and activities to do, and now that it's all over, College and making big decisions for himself, even it seemed to sneak up on him, he's ready for it. Costello's had a lot of memorable moments throughout his years here, but only one that feels like it happened only yesterday.

"Taking second in state as a team for wrestling. It was a big accomplishment for me, something that makes me feel proud of myself to look back on," Costello said. Even though wrestling has always been a part of his life, when things got hard he knew his friends would always be there for him. One person in particular.

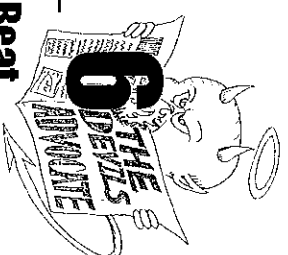
"That person would be Ally Oddo, she's been with me through everything, she's always been there and I know she will once we graduate. It makes you think and realize all my friends might not always been there," said Costello. As much as school for Costello was something he wouldn't want to give up, he wouldn't want to do it all again.

"A one-time-four year experience was enough for me. I don't think I could handle repeating it all. I'm ready to move forward and continue doing what I want in life," Costello said. College will be in fall and Costello is excited to be going to Ohio, where Tiffin University is waiting for him. Costello is majoring in Business.

Sports

May 4, 2017

Opinions



13 Reasons Why: A Difficult Subject

Christina Farkas
News Co-editor

Breathing is hard.

Sometimes pain is so unimaginable.

Spending another day alive seems impossible.

A lot of you care, but not enough.

Sometimes living seems like an act of courage.

Yet, I feel like I'm falling into a black hole.

I don't want to die.

I just want to end the pain I'm feeling.

The second leading cause of death from ages 10 to 24, is suicide. Each day in our nation we are contributing to its effects as we share a technological advance.

We all live in the modern 21st Century where we're established as the generation of technology. We need to be the generation that looks away from the fateful effects of cyberbullying, internet stalking, and peer pressure.

It has its benefits, but with the anonymity of a screen – minds speak freely. Even in a high school setting, things can spread around causing outbreak.

An outbreak of whispers about the failures of others in your community, and the pitiful gossip that spreads around can destroy people. It is bad karma when words are snuck in, and words should be made aware because it could affect an individual in drastic ways.

"13 Reasons Why" is a Netflix series that recently premiered March 31, and is also based on Jay Asher's young adult bestseller, 13 Reasons Why. It pinpoints the effect of what happens when bullying, betrayed friendships, sexting, double-speak conversations, and sheer loneliness of high school gets to be too much for Hannah Baker – the main character – who eventually takes her whole life.

Her form of closure is left within audio recordings, in which she accounts what and who led her to the fall of absolute hopelessness. The accused eventually find each other forming alliances, and friends turn on each other.

One character, Clay Jensen is a typical teenage boy lacking the social awareness to find out why Hannah did what she did. He is eventually given the tapes and is the slowest and most unaware of what he could have done to the girl he liked. Clay becomes a defender to the girl he was too late to rescue, striving to understand her in his best of ways.

The moment this show was released, I was already hearing good things about it. So, I lost my will and sat down to watch this highly talked about show.

It is a very easy to lose yourself in a drama of a typical, coming of age story. 13 Reasons Why, however, is much as it holds a lesson each and every one of us can learn a lesson from.

The message of 13 Reasons Why is that everyone, no matter if they were on the tapes or not, had a chance to save Hannah from herself, even the adults. As they were going through their own struggles, they never saw their Hannah's signs. In the outcome of her suicide, parents and teachers are too busy questioning how they didn't see this coming or believing that their families are above such anguish to see what's looming among the remaining students.

Parents should not have to find their children's lifeless bodies being left wondering what could've brought their child to do this. Wondering what could've been done to stop this horrific incident from occurring.

I could never fathom the fear and absolute sorrow when someone finds a person lying unconscious, and you can do nothing but hold them in your arms screaming for them to stay there because everything is going to be okay.

In 13 Reasons Why, Kate Walsh portrays Hannah's mother who find Hannah lying in the bathtub after she had cut herself, eventually bleeding to death. I was filled with many emotions as I saw this because it was so real, and so believable.

Water floods from the bathroom floor, and out the door leaving the mother in a parental rage wondering what could pos-

sibly be happening in there. She opens the door and takes in the scene. She runs to her daughter almost slipping to the floor as she grabs Hannah into her arms, tearing her from the tub and screaming for her husband to call 911.

I was sitting on my bed, but mentally I was wishing I was there. I wished that she lived so everything could be better. I wish I could have stopped the bleeding, and somehow saved her life. I couldn't, as I can't save others on screen.

The one setting where Hannah Baker felt isolated from her peers. The one place where she was stunned on a daily basis is a place teens know very well: High school.

High school is hard enough without the viciousness of people who you expect are your friends dragging you down when you need them the most. Everyone tends to pass judgement on people they don't even know and the more that people hide behind their friends and the masks they formulate, the harder it is to see who our peers really are.

There are kids out there who are going through what these characters experienced with no idea how to reach out, or rather, they have reached out but felt like they were losing nerve or told to quit being so dramatic. They think they're alone in all of this.

The fact of the matter is, some of the signs of suicide are right in front of us but people tend to look the other way because it makes them uncomfortable. Why can't we seem to stop it?

I remember a lesson on cancer I was taught in my freshmen year and how people didn't want to talk about it, and how people really didn't want to know anything about it decades ago. People were scared and didn't seem to understand that it can be medically assisted with. Suicide seems to be the same way today.

Must we wait a few decades until suicide is viewed as a national problem? Youth suicide is an important topic. Many teenagers will be attracted to watching this show. Given the vulnerability of teens, it is important for the producers of 13 Reasons Why to show what leads to suicide.

I believe it was portrayed well in the point of letting people understand, because suicide truly is a shout for help in society. According to The National Mental Health Association, between 500,000 to 1 million young people attempt suicide each year. In Michigan, 100,000 teens take their lives every year. Such numbers should not be a reality.

Hannah Baker is a character that symbolizes not one imagined and fictional character. She represents teens who've taken their lives and young people who are currently in a dark place.

As for her peers, they represent the adolescent person whose vulnerable thoughts may not be thought out in the way of a more mature adult mind of 25 and up. Where decisions are really not as clearly thought out, which is reliable to any individual teen.

Vulnerability is a strong quality that people can hold. Yet, it can easily open more wounds since a vulnerable person can open up their heart more towards. This is brought to attention since many teens most often are validated as a vulnerable type, as they are susceptible to peer pressure, crudeness, and so on. People just need to realize the words they speak can end in a positive way, or have drastic effect on others.

Netflix has allowed themselves to present an authentic, uncensored version of high school more than anything we ever see on the news broadcasts or cable. Working with a central mystery, which is the kind of page turner that is perfect for bingeing and keeping an audience interested.

I wasn't expecting to be this hooked and moved by what seemed to be some sort of dramatic adaptation, but the show is much more than that, and by the end, it feels like one of the most compelling things Netflix has formed in a really long time.

Beauty and the Beast Lacks Beauty in its Beat

Christina Farkas
News Co-editor

The moment a movie trailer comes out we listen to the soundtrack in the back, watch the actors we know and love, and only hope that we can see this movie when it comes out in a good year or two.

But lately all I have seen are live-action remakes that are based on Disney movies as of recent. I grew up watching Disney movies singing along, and loving all the work that was put into them.

One day, my phone started blowing up as my two friends were freaking out about a trailer that came out for the great story of: Beauty and the Beast.

I sat at the kitchen table with my brother thinking about...when I was little only hoping to be the petite, brunette princess wearing the iconic yellow dress. To be the Belle everyone loved at that time. I just wasn't into the fact that I had to find some form of water buffalo to fall in love with.

As I was receiving these messages, I was actually excited to see how it was reflecting this legendary film. The trailer was absolutely fabulous.

When I clicked it- excitement left me and I just knew I had to see it. This is because the trailer was formatted as the original trailer was. Scene by scene they recreated every movement that had happened.

Another reason that I wanted to see Beauty and the Beast is because I realized it was a musical, added with bonus tracks of songs that were going to be new to the public ear. I love music, so it got me in a hold and I had to see it.

So I asked my mother and she was thrilled with the idea. It took a while to see, and I guess people were thinking the same thing I was. This is probably going to be a fantastic film.

It took around 2 weeks to finally purchase tickets with good seats to go with it. Then all we had to do was wait, and have patience.

As we were waiting for our day to come, I was seeing on the internet that Beauty and the Beast was ranked the number one movie- in the world! I only hoped no spoilers were to come my way.

Finally the day had come, and we were off. Surprisingly, Imagine Theater parking lot wasn't as full as I suspected but the moment we entered the screening room it was a full house.

We found our reclining seats, and the show was about to begin.

The lights dimmed down, and I was

breaking those usual movie theater rules as I kept repeating to my mom just how excited I was. She finally got over it and went, "SHH!" So I sat back and heard a very familiar tune come up. I knew it had begun and I was ready for it.

The movie lasted about 2 hours, and all I can say is I have mixed emotions about it. I know- all the excitement and all the fun I had in store ended with me feeling fifty-fifty on the outcome.

First of all, the pros of the movie is it was fantastic and the plot development, and backstory, fill-ins were beneficial to the conversion of the regular plot. It puts an interesting aspect on how today's movie creators think. But, there are a few negatives that came to mind when the movie started and then ended. It was from the part that I concentrated the most on. The soundtrack recording.

As the scene opens, Belle greets the townspeople and they sing, "Belle." The original is an amazing tune sang by Paige O'Hara in the animated feature film that gives such a classic ring to the Disney ring around. It is always something that I can remember, and enjoy every time.

Yet, when Emma Watson [who plays Belle now] walks out of her tiny village cottage, the sound that comes out is a killjoy. You know how all our 'trap gods' today seem to have the famous auto-tune dispersed within their voices? The moment I heard Emma Watson open her mouth I was so sad to realize she was fixed by a computer.

I totally understand though to why the infamous Beast was auto-tuned as they wanted a very deep baritone and monstrous voice to appear upon the animation. But Belle is human, and her fellow cast mates can sing very well. It makes me wonder why Emma Watson was casted when she is the only one who isn't capable of singing 'naturally.' As a music lover, I would really appreciate a singing voice that isn't so fluent with a robot.

Though this may seem harsh in many of ways, it is the opinion I have from all the music I've experienced and loved in my life. It may not stand out to many, but it overall did to me.

Through and through it really was an amazing film given the choreography, production, and singing of other cast members. I do recommend it to anyone, but if you have a good car, watch out for the girl in the iconic yellow dress.

Would you rather...

#There's a bed trapped in an

empty room for 8

hours or trapped on a

rollercoaster for 8

hours?

MAY 4, 2017

Opinions