

## Saving Freshman Sports

*Continued from Page 9*

for a caring group of parents and representatives to piece this festival together.

It all started with Mrs. Akerley's concern about the cutting of freshman sports within the next few years. She knew she needed to start a fundraiser but wasn't sure what exactly to do.

"I gathered volunteers and I was very eager to start planning an event so we began meeting once a week starting back in February," said Mrs. Akerley.

The core committee are as follows: Mr. Washme, Mr. Benoit, Mrs. VanHove, Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs.

Bastian and Mrs. Christensen.

"Mr. Wasnley knew we were going to do a fundraiser, but he chose cow chip bingo after hearing it from his brother," said Mr. Benoit.

There are 630 raffle tickets so the turnout is hopefully going to be big. Prizes like free football and volleyball camps will be among the prizes given out.

"We are hoping to make this event annual on the same weekend every year. This is our first year so hopefully with time it will keep getting bigger and better," said Mrs. Akerley.

## Girls' Tennis Is Making a Racket in Early Season Tournaments

**By: Connor Hill**  
Co-Coordinating Editor

The Richmond Girl's Tennis Team has faced many difficulties the past year. They lost their coach as well as more than half of their team.

However, this doesn't mean that they don't stand a chance against other schools in their division. In fact, the girls have a good chance of making it to States this year.

They took first place overall at the first tournament the entire team participated in, which was no easy feat.

"There were a lot of good teams at the tournament," Carolyn Schweiger, senior, said. "We knew it would be hard to come out on top but we played the best we could and let our skills speak for themselves."

Among the teams there were Cousino, Avendale, Chippewa Valley, Anchor Bay, Oxford, Romeo and Stevenson. Just the teams alone -- all D1 schools -- prove that taking first was no easy task.

During this tournament, juniors Dana Schornak and Racheal Campbell moved up from JV in order to

*Continued on Page 11*

## NBA Playoffs Tip Off; Champion Looming

**By: Brendan Hart**  
Sports Co-Editor

This season was definitely one to remember for NBA fans; with several headlines throughout the season, some were predictable but the ones no one saw coming were the best.

Whether it's the Golden State Warriors having the best record in the league with a franchise record 67-15 with a rookie coach in Steve Kerr, whose reputation was as a shooter rather than a coach, or the return of LeBron James to Cleveland, there was a multitude of headlines this year in the NBA.

Another surprise this year was the emergence of the Atlanta Hawks from a team that barely made the playoffs last season with a sub-.500 record. However, last year Atlanta

missed their star center Al Horford for about 65% of the season after suffering a torn pectoral early in the year.

This season though, Horford was healthy and he proved his value as he helped lead his team to the top record in the Eastern Conference with a franchise record 60 wins as well as earning a spot on the All-Star team.

More surprises came with young head coaches leading their teams to the playoffs, and there was more than just Steve Kerr. Jason Kidd, a future Hall of Famer, left his coaching job in Brooklyn to take a job as head coach of the Milwaukee Bucks, a team that finished last season with a league low 15 wins, to the sixth seed in the East.

Brad Stevens came to Boston at the start last season after several

successful seasons with the Butler Bulldogs. Even though Boston made several moves to make the outside world believe they were "tanking"

after they traded their all-star point guard Rajon Rondo to Dallas for three players and most importantly a first round pick in the draft this year. They also traded star forward Jeff Green to Memphis for more draft picks. However, Boston's postseason hopes seem to be fainting as they, the seventh seed play LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in the first round.

Speaking of the Cavs, LeBron James returned to his home state and the team that drafted him. However he is back with two more MVPs along with two championships in four straight NBA Finals appearances with the Miami Heat, who missed

the playoffs, and most importantly maturity and leadership which he lacked when he left Cleveland.

Thankfully, LeBron who is now 30 now knows that a team wins championships not just one player, which is exactly why he brought in on the top players in the league in Kevin Love along with several other key players to team up with him and rising star Kyrie Irving. Cleveland who had the number one overall pick in last year's NBA Draft now has the second best record in the east.

Another team that changed from last season was the Oklahoma City Thunder who missed the playoffs this year mostly thanks to injuries to last year's MVP Kevin Durant, despite the point guard Russell Westbrook's best efforts as he averaged close to a triple-double for the second half of the season.

The team the Thunder lost the West's last playoff spot was the New Orleans Pelicans who clinched their first berth since 2008, thanks mostly to Anthony Davis. Davis was selected first overall in the 2012 NBA draft.

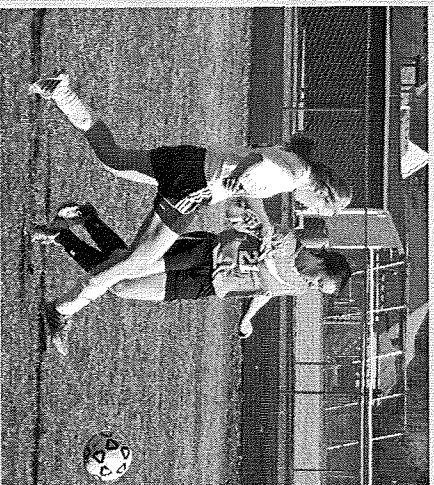
*Continued on Page 11*

Major Sporting Events Results:

- Floyd Mayweather beat Manny Pacquiao by unanimous decision
- American Pharoah wins the 141st Kentucky Derby
- Detroit Tigers split a four game series with the Kansas City Royals

BUY A  
YEAR-  
BOOK!!!

May 5, 2015



**Mikalala Evans**

Nickname: Evans

Age: 15

Grade: 10th

Sport(s): Soccer

Favorite Pump Up Song: "Brass Monkey" by the Beastie Boys

Favorite Athlete: Sydney Leroux

Favorite Class: English or Photo with Mr. Murphy and Mrs. Belf

Goals For The Season: Make it to states

## SPORTS CENTER



## Kurtis Kaltz

Nickname: Special K

Age: 15

Grade: 10th

Sport(s): Baseball

Favorite Athlete: Miguel Cabrera

Pro Comparison: Ian Kinsler

Favorite class:

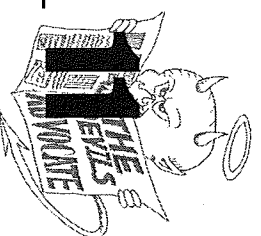
Sports Tech with

Mrs. Volpe

Goals For The

Season: Win

BWAC



## NBA Playoffs

*Continued from Page 10*  
Davis averaged 24 points per game, just over 10 rebounds per game along with a league leading 3 blocks per game. This season, Davis led the Pelicans to the playoffs even with injuries to multiple starters this season. It is obvious that Davis is the future of the NBA. However, some are even considering Davis to be the MVP for this season.

Most people's MVP votes this year are likely going to either Golden State Warriors' guard Steph Curry or Houston Rockets guard James Harden. Curry finished this season in the top 6 this season for points, assists, steals and three pointers made, along with playing on the best team in the league. Harden finished the year second in scoring and

minutes played as well as top 6 in steals all without some may call the best center in the league in Dwight Howard for half the season, along with many other injuries during the regular season.

Injuries have had an impact on the playoffs this year as well. Cavs' forward Kevin Love suffered a dislocated left shoulder in game four against the Celtics, which will sideline him for the whole second round.

Also, Memphis guard Mike Conley received an elbow to the face in game 3 which has caused him to miss the rest of game 3 and game 4 and then it is uncertain about his status for further down the road. The Dallas Mavericks have sustained their fair share of injuries too, with

forward Chandler Parsons going down with a right knee injury and point guard Rajon Rondo suffering a back injury that shut both of them down for the rest of the playoffs which played a key role in Houston's 4-1 series win.

Now being old isn't really an injury but Father Time seems to be coming for the San Antonio Spurs, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker who are 37 and 32 respectively. They have many "miles" on them and look like they're slowing down while their other teammate Tim Duncan looks like he has father time on the ropes, but it is obvious the 39-year-old doesn't have many years left.

Finding an heir for Mr. Fundamentals is quite a task but two rea-

sonable candidates are Marc Gasol and LaMarcus Aldridge who faced off in the first round as the Memphis Grizzlies played and defeated the Portland Trail Blazers in 5 games. Gasol emerged victorious this time but it seems as if the Spurs are looking to win for as long as possible and that seems to help the case of Aldridge who is 29 while Gasol is 30.

The second round will include the Cleveland Cavaliers facing the Chicago Bulls, the Golden State Warriors will play the Memphis Grizzlies. Washington will play Atlanta and the Houston Rockets are still awaiting the winner of San Antonio-Los Angeles series.

## McInerney

*Continued from Page 9*  
pitches and really hitting my spots," said McInerney.

Being one of the stars on the team, McInerney faces a lot of pressure as he steps onto the mound. "One of the most challenging things for me is facing the pressure of going out there and pitching good for my team. I try to deal with the pressure by just getting relaxed and slowing the game down," said McInerney. What makes McInerney such a great pitcher is that he's always looking for what he can improve on. "I feel like my off speed pitches can definitely improve. I've been working with Coach Rick [Radzinski] on

how I can make those pitches more effective and I'll also play catch with an off speed grip to improve the way I hold the ball," said McInerney.

Not only does McInerney prepare during the season, but he trains in the off-season as well. "I do a lot of weight lifting along with strength training in the off-season. I also will go to a pitching coach to improve my off speed stuff as well," said McInerney.

McInerney brings the Blue Devils all the talent they need to win a state championship but what might be his most important asset is his leadership. "A lot of kids look up to me

for being on varsity all four years," he said.

As a starting pitcher, McInerney has the skillset of playing at the collegiate level.

Over the past couple years McInerney has been to a variety of different college showcases to display his talents to scouts.

At these showcases, they give pitchers the opportunity to pitch in the bullpen of a real game as they hold a radar gun, while observing their off speed pitches. "I think I did pretty good at the showcases, always believe I can do better though," said McInerney. Many different colleges such as

Oakland, Northwood, Albany, St. Clair Community College, and Lake Erie have been recruiting McInerney to be a starting pitcher in their program. "The recruiting process is really stressful. The hardest part is trying to make the best decision for yourself and seeing what program you fit best in," said McInerney.

Undecided on where to go, McInerney is still searching for better opportunities. When asked what it takes to play baseball at a collegiate level, McInerney said, "You really have to love baseball. To play at a college level you have to be able to outwork your opponents and do whatever it takes to be the best."

## Girls' Tennis

*Continued from Page 10*  
play fourth doubles for varsity. It was here that they took first place in their flight.

"It felt good to take first at the tournament," Campbell said. "Best of all, that's the first time I've ever taken first place, so it was good to do that."

Cobi Gaigalas, head coach, is very pleased with how well the girls have done so far.

"The girls have gone far beyond my expectations so far," Coach Gaigalas said. "I am very proud of all of them. They knew that this was going to be my first time coaching so they were patient with me and looked past any mistakes I made."

Coach Gaigalas has put her all into the team in order to ensure they do the best they possibly can.

"It's a little difficult when I have to go back and forth in between work and tennis, but I know that in the end it will be worth it," Mrs. Gaigalas, who is a teacher in another school district, said. "As long as the girls are pleased with how they

perform this year, then I am happy." Many girls on the team are seniors this year and are sad to have to leave their team behind.

"I'm sad that I have to leave the team," Schweiger said, "but at the same time I'm happy that I was able to spend four great years growing better with my friends."

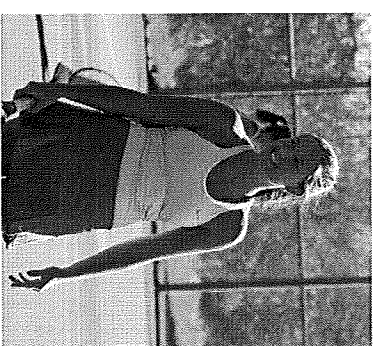
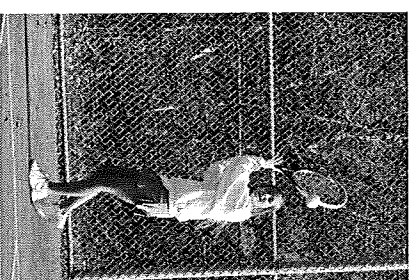
Although many of them are sad to be leaving, they are excited for the end of the season. At first, one might find this odd, but the girls know that as the end of the season approaches, so does States.

"Being a senior, my main goal for this season is to make it to States," Beth Beindit, senior, said. "I feel that our team can do it. We are all motivated and hard working, which makes the possibility of achieving this goal that much better. I honestly couldn't think of a better way to end my senior season of tennis other than going out Richmond style; with a bang."

Dave Schroudt, assistant coach, has great faith in the team and fully believes they can make it to States.

"They have a lot of talent," Coach Schroudt said, "and they can easily adapt to the people they play. We've already beaten most of the schools in our region, so saying the girls could make it to States wouldn't be that far out there."

**Thanks for reading!!!**



Left: Melissa Leduc returns a ball over the net during warmups. Right: Carolyn Schwieger smiles as she takes a break in between sets. (Photos courtesy of RHS Yearbook)

## The Blue Devil's Advocate

**May 5, 2015**