



School News

Kennedy Caperton Behind The Plate

By: Cameron Barrett
Staff writer

Kennedy Caperton is a freshman and has been fortunate enough to make the Varsity softball team. Caperton is a catcher and also occasionally plays third base.

To Caperton, making Varsity was a big accomplishment for her. "Hard work pays off," said Caperton. She was ecstatic about making the cut for varsity her freshman year.

Her older sister Emma Caperton, a junior, is also on Varsity. "My biggest struggle has been being compared to my sister because she has had more experience than me; also because we both made varsity our freshman year," said Caperton.

She enjoys playing with her sister, because she plays with her during the travel season; but when she is compared to Emma it is not the same to her.

The team treats Caperton like she is one of them so it has been easy for her to adjust. Caperton said, "I play with these girls all summer so this transition is not that big of a deal." She enjoys being with the upperclassmen and it is a lot of fun for her.

Being an underclassmen, it can be hard. The upperclassmen have helped Caperton a lot this season. Not only that, but they also made her feel as if she was one of them. It has been an extraordinary experience for Caperton on varsity and she has learned a ton from this chance that she got when accepting the opportunity.

Caperton has faced some tough events through the season. Caperton said, "The toughest thing I have faced this season all season so far is fighting for a starting spot." Getting a starting spot has been a very difficult task. Having practice in the pre-season helped her prepare for the task of fighting for the starting catching position.

"I have learned that there is no I in team," Caperton said. This is a true statement, but also a good concept to take on because on varsity it is never about just one person; it is about the team as a whole. "From all of this I have learned that it is team before self," said Caperton.

Since Caperton was eight she has been playing softball. "Softball to me is like food to people. It means a lot!" Caperton said.

Over those seven years of playing softball she has learned a lot. "Softball has taught me that the team is more important than myself," said Caperton.

She has played with numerous different people many of which are her friends, but Caperton said, "It is not that different without playing with them on varsity. I have very few friends on being with."

Caperton's goal this year is to become a state champ. She plans on becoming a state champ because of hard work and no excuses.

Skoryanc Recognized by Detroit News: Wins Scholarship

By: Brendan Hart
Sports Co-Editor

Hardworking. Driven. Conscientious. Resilient. Committed.

Those are all words used to describe Richmond senior Matt Skoryanc. Skoryanc has been selected for the Detroit News/CATCH Outstanding Graduates Awards in athletics.

The award is presented to those who compete or competed in an MHSAA-sanctioned sport at a varsity level, display a high level of skill throughout their high school career, display leadership and sportsmanship both on and off the field, and exhibit strong academic skills.

"It is an honor to be given this scholarship; I am thankful that my hard work isn't going unnoticed," said Skoryanc.

The scholarship worth \$1,000 is awarded to 24 students. Each winner will also be recognized with a photo and story in the Detroit News along with an awards dinner later this spring.

"Matt gives off a natural leadership sense. Whenever I see him in the hall he always has people around him whether they need help, have questions or just want to be by him,"

said Dr. Ladd, a teacher who has had Matt in classes as well as coached him.

Skoryanc has played sports for as long as he can remember, and now he is a three sport varsity athlete in football, basketball, and baseball. Starting at corner and receiver in the fall, then running the offense as a point guard in the winter and ending his year at second base on the diamond.

"I never really plan on getting better. I just work hard and put in the time whenever and however I can," said Skoryanc.

Matt has grown both academically and sports wise over his high school career, and it has shown to his peers and coaches.

"Freshmen year when I was coaching, Matt he wasn't anything special, but as the season went along he began to separate himself just like he has done the last four years. When he got here he was right with the pack but now he has separated himself through all of his hard work," said Dr. Ladd, Skoryanc's freshmen basketball coach.

Although he doesn't say he is always working, he really is always working, Matt is always trying to get better.

No Paws'n For This Kid in BMX

By: Daniel Seguin
Staff Writer

They say you never forget how to ride a bike- this doesn't apply to anyone more than senior Jack Depauw.

Depauw rides bikes, but not like most people would. His style of riding is known as BMX, which stands for bicycle motocross. It first came about when people started riding traditional bicycles on courses constructed for dirt bikes. Pretty soon people started constructing bikes specifically for this purpose, and with that the sport of BMX was born.

Depauw has been doing it since his "awkward stages of middle school" when he was trying to find a niche. He said, "It's cool to be able to go up to anyone else on a bike and immediately be friends."

BMX can be done in a skate park or on a dirt course, but Depauw's favorite style of riding is street. This is because you can be more creative. He says, "Street is total interpreta-

tion of your environment."

Depauw didn't start out on a BMX bike. Much like the sport itself, he started on a dirt bike. He said, "I was like 11 years old. I used to dirt bike but we lost a lot of that land so I wasn't able to do it anymore. It was a substitute for a dirt bike in suburban America."

Although he started on a dirt bike, Jack said that his heart is definitely in BMX, although he wouldn't mind having a motorcycle when he's older.

As for his future in BMX, Depauw says that he will always use biking as a mode of transport. "I can see more on my bike in a week than most people could in a month. You can get trips paid for, too. People will hook you up with a videographer and you can go to, say, Barcelona and film yourself riding there."

Depauw isn't the only BMX rider in Richmond. Joey Hubbard, junior, also rides BMX.

For him, it was a "pastime that turned into a passion." He and Jack ride together, and Joey says he looks up to him.

Depauw also uses BMX to focus. He says, "I had ADHD like crazy, but once I got on a bike, if I think about anything else besides the physical language I won't land the trick."

Depauw describes BMX as a sensation, a feeling of complete focus. He says that that feeling "transcends language".

Depauw believes that young kids should get into riding BMX. He said, "It's such a social thing. It's kind of like a brotherhood. It's cool because, besides injuries, the health benefits are awesome."

Another thing about BMX that Depauw enjoys is the feeling of accomplishment you get. He says, "The feeling of accomplishing a goal is just so awesome. It is an individual sport. You put in the work, and you land it, and it's all because of you. That stoke you get is amazing."

- Christopher Columbus lands in the island of Jamaica, 1494
- 13th amendment is ratified, abolishing slavery, 1865
- 5th Olympic games begins in Sweden, 1912
- Detroit Tigers 2nd baseman was selected to hall of fame, 1949

On This Day

School News

May 5, 2016



Pistons Finally End Playoff Drought: Begin Path towards Promising Future

By: Brendan Hart
Sports Co-Editor

For the first time since 2009 the Detroit Pistons have reached the post season thanks to the leadership of head coach and president of basketball operations Stan Van Gundy.

Van Gundy is in his second season at the helm of the Pistons after leading the Orlando Magic to the NBA Finals in 2009. During his tenure at Detroit he has completely revamped the Pistons' roster with only two players from his originally inherited roster remaining in Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Andre Drummond. Van Gundy was known in his time in Orlando for his 3-point shooting teams with a big man down in the post in Dwight Howard and so far it seems as if he is doing the same in Detroit surrounding Drummond with shooters.

"Like what Stan is doing with this roster. He is building literally around Andre which is what worked in Orlando so hopefully it will work here in Detroit," said senior Stefan Fenwick.

One of the shooters that Van Gundy has brought to Detroit is point guard Reggie Jackson who is much more than a shooter.

This season, Jackson was top five in the league in drives to the basket with 10.6 drives per game. Jackson, only 26, spent the first four-and-a-half years of his career with the Oklahoma City Thunder backing up MVP candidate Russell Westbrook.

Jackson also led the league in points with 5 minutes or less remaining in the game with 178 points in such scenarios, which was more

than players like James Harden, Kevin Durant and Paul George. Jackson also doesn't seem to be going anywhere for the foreseeable future after inking a five year \$80 million deal last summer.

"Reggie, I think, has a very bright future. He has already proven to be one of the most clutch point guards in the league and I think that after a couple more years under Stan's system and learning the game, he can be a top-five point guard in the league," said Fenwick.

Of course you can't talk about Reggie Jackson without mentioning his running mate Andre Drummond. At 22, Drummond is already securing his position as one of the best big men in the league. Drummond has already won a gold medal in the FIBA World Championships in 2014 and earned his first of hopefully many All-Star Team appearances this season. Drummond has gained a reputation around the NBA as a rebounding maniac, leading the league in rebounds this season with 14.8 per game, he also led the league in double doubles with 66, 12 more than the second place finisher Russell Westbrook.

However, it hasn't been all good for Drummond as he has been on both sides of the spectrum this year. With all of Andre's pluses, he has one minus that has proven to be costly: his free throw shooting. Drummond set the NBA record for the worst single season free throw percentage in NBA history at a miserable 35%.

"Andre has the potential to be the best center in the league but in order to do that he cannot be shooting that

bad," said senior Timo Alvarez.

This season, as many fans know, is hopefully just a stepping stone for even better things to come for the Pistons.

With six of their key players being 26-years-old or younger, the youngest being last year's first round pick Stanley Johnson who is only 19 years old, Johnson had a successful first season in the NBA displaying many promising skills, like his basketball IQ and his ability to lock down the league's best players defensively, that look like will be turned from good to great as he progresses in his career.

"I think everyone knew how good Stanley was as a defender coming into the league but his offensive game seems to be getting better every game," said Alvarez.

Along with Van Gundy drafting well, he has also worked the trade market in ways you have to see to believe. Since last season Van Gundy has acquired three of the Pistons' 5 starters through trade while giving up almost nothing. Acquiring key players like starters Marcus Morris, Tobias Harris and Reggie Jackson and bench players Reggie Bullock and Anthony Tolliver.

The Pistons seem to have a promising future with promising players and a promising future. After one of the most competitive sweeps in NBA history, the Pistons showed that they are on the right track toward bringing another championship to the D.

Speed! Intensity! Aggression!

By: Haley Fortuna
Features Co-editor

There are three words the Richmond Varsity Girls' Soccer Team lives by: speed, intensity, aggression.

Speed
This season, the Lady Devils are on fire and they wouldn't be there if it wasn't for their speed.

Sophia Kesler, a sophomore, who plays stopper said, "As stopper, you have to be both a defender and an offender so you have to run the whole field."

Her improvement, as well as, everyone else's this season has really helped their team advance.

"Speed is crucial on the soccer field. It goes hand-in-hand with intensity and aggression because you have to have the intensity to be the fastest and once you get there you have to be aggressive," Kesler said.

Not only does the stopper need to be quick but every position does as well.

Intensity

Without intensity, the team would not have the strong drive they currently have. The reason the ladies are so successful this season is due to their motivation to be their best.

Alyssa Gall, a junior, said, "Intensity is something that really applies to me. I always try to give it my all and leave everything out on the field."

Gall plays defense and she is always sure to bring her intensity to the field and win every ball that comes her way.

"Having so much intensity helps me to always do my best. If everyone else on the field feels the same way, our team is bound to be successful," she said.

Gall is correct. The team's record so far this season is 5-3-2. They're performing very well on the field due to their intensity and motivation to be the absolute best they can be.

Aggression

The lady devils know that in order to have a strong defense, they must have aggression.

Tessmer said, "The most aggressive team will usually win. That means going to the ball first and not being afraid to make contact. To be successful we can't back down."

As striker, Tessmer is the last offensive player and in order to score she must win balls. In addition to aggression being important to her specific position, it is crucial to the team as a whole.

"Having so much aggression has helped the entire team because when we show our aggression as a team, we tend to win more games. We always aim to be aggressive in a game situation," Tessmer said.

With aggressive playing, the team can almost guarantee themselves the ball.

Grace Alken, a sophomore, said, "Being aggressive is one of the most important parts of the game. If we aren't aggressive, we can't win."

So far the team has kicked off their season well.
Tessmer said, "This season has been great so far. Everyone is working for the same goal in with the same things in mind and that's speed, intensity and aggression."

Nettles Steps Up to the Plate

By: Haleigh Beedon
Features Co-Editor

"I was so shocked at first," Nettles said. "Then, I got really excited and nervous for what was to come."

Freshman Devon Nettles is swinging up to the top. Nettles got a huge surprise when he found out he made the varsity baseball team as a freshman.

Baseball being his favorite sport, Nettles takes a lot of pride in his baseball accomplishments. He's been playing for 11 years.

Nettles didn't originally try out for varsity, but during try-outs, the Varsity Coach, Scott Evans, told him he wanted him to try out for the team.

And to his surprise, he made it.

Even before the season started, since October, Nettles has been hitting and doing workouts to help him succeed more in his baseball abilities.

Baseball is basically Nettles' whole entire life. "My summers have always been filled with games every weekend," Nettles said.

He loves the sport, but he's learned that it can get tiring. Nettles, typically, plays third base,

although sometimes, he pitches. Recently, he got moved back down to the freshman team for one game so he could pitch for them.

He said playing with his fellow classmates was fun because he was playing with people his own age and he didn't feel so small. Overall, being with the upperclassmen has gone well.

Nettles said, "The transition to varsity has been way easier than I ever thought it would be."

The team gets along very well and Nettles was surprised when the team was actually very accepting of him and welcomed him with open arms.

Nettles said the team is really fun to play for. "The team is super loud and obnoxious during games," Nettles said. "It's, honestly, just a really good time."

Along with the team's crazy personality, Nettles thinks he can bring a lot of enthusiasm to the team. He said he feels like he's always yelling and trying to keep the team worked up.

Despite being away from the boys in his grade that he's always played with, he still goes to some of their games to support his friends. Last

weekend, he went to their double header.

Although the transition has been easy, Nettles has struggled with some things. He said that he gets way too nervous.

"Sometimes I feel like I have to show off and prove why I'm on varsity because I'm only a freshman," Nettles said.

Nettles has noticed that he's been quieter around the team. He feels like he has to act more mature in order to fit in or else he'll feel out of place.

Being on a team with upperclassmen has its benefits.

Nettles said he feels like the boys have helped him become more mature. The experience of playing with them will help him when he's a senior on varsity.

He'll know how to help underclassmen if they're on the team when he's on varsity. Nettles can use the techniques they used to help him.

"The experience of moving up to varsity will rub off on my other teammates in the future," Nettles said. "I feel like I'll be able to give them more perspective in the game because I've been in their shoes."