

State Champs: Loria Ends Career on Top

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

If Jacque Loria didn't come out of the womb without a softball bat and glove then she definitely should've. Loria started playing softball 14 years ago and this past July, she ended her career on top as a state champion.

"Going out on top is definitely a great feeling; it makes it a little better being over," said Loria, a senior at Richmond.

On July 28 Loria and her 16u Richmond Blues won the NSA State Championship in Davidsen, by a score of 15-9 against Michigan Outlaws, a team they had already beaten earlier in the tournament.

Loria went 3-for-4 with three singles and 3 runs batted in while holding down second base steadily. Second base isn't her only position as

she played in the outfield and pitched multiple times during the 6 games her team needed to bring home the state title.

Since Loria and her Blues went undefeated during the tournament they earned an easier path to the finals.

"Pitching is probably my best attribute when it comes to softball because of my determination while on the mound along with my ability to control the game while pitching, when I do that it becomes easy," said Loria.

Her team is coached by her dad, who has been coaching her since she first began playing softball.

"Having my dad by my side is always a plus especially since not that many kids don't get to be coached by one of their parents.

However it also adds pressure on me to perform to the best of my abilities

knowing that my coach can critique my game even at home," said Loria.

Loria said that having friends on her team like Richmond senior Kaitlyn Griffith, St. Clair junior Maddie Mead and Memphis senior Ellie Florka gave the team a real family feel to it.

"Since were all so close it makes it easier to go out and grind and give everything you have in order to win because you know that they are all doing the same thing," said Loria.

Loria also said that all of the support she received from both her family and her friends like Richmond seniors Hailey Dziegelski and Emma Gillem helped her.

"It's an awesome feeling knowing how proud my family and friends are of me. It makes it so bitter sweet," said Loria.

"I know how hard she works and how much work she puts in, so it's

so cool to see one of my best friends win a state title especially since I know she's earned it," said Gillem, who is also one of Loria's former teammates.

Loria and her team knew that winning wasn't going to be easy, so they made sure they were always practicing whenever they even could. They even went to a few indoor tournaments during the winter in order to prepare for their run for a state title in the latter year.

"Before the season I would've never guessed that we would be state champs, but once we got started in the tournament, I knew we could make something special happen and we did," said Loria.

"It's never fun knowing that it's the end, but with this team and the way we finished I'm happy that I got to end my career on top of the travel softball world," said Loria.

Boys Tennis Team Serves Up A Grand Slam Of A Season

By: **Hailey Reed**
Staff Writer

What a racket the tennis team made this year

Maxwell Fahmney, Marcel Fenwick, Connor Margosian, Drew Reindel, Devan Hill, Nate Nivison, Lambert Mulzer, and Kurtis Katz ended their season happily this year.

These eight hard-working players made it through a season filled with some challenges: The biggest challenges for the team to overcome was the lack of players and training new freshmen. Fenwick, Reindel and Nivison, all new to high school sports, had tons of support and help from the older players.

"Max Fahmney and Devan Hill helped me. Taught me the rules and how I'm supposed to play," Nivison

said.

Fenwick was new to the tennis world. As he was trying to learn the game, he also had to travel for the game. Traveling for the first time as a freshman is confusing enough.

Having been experienced to traveling, Fahmney wanted to make everybody as comfortable as they could be on the open road. Throughout the season, Fahmney gave advice to the new players.

"He gave me really good tips on how to make it through the season and how to travel," Fenwick said.

With Fahmney's help, the new players felt more confident in taking on the tennis world. He made sure everybody was able to get to practices. He wanted every player to have an opportunity to practice. "I stayed after practicing with

kids, drove them to practices, and gave advice during matches." Fahmney said

When he helped the new freshmen, he also helped Margosian, a determined senior ready to learn a new sport. Margosian had never played tennis until his best friend and tennis player, Dietrich Mulzer, convinced him to join. Since Margosian was completely new to the sport, Fahmney helped Margosian through every step.

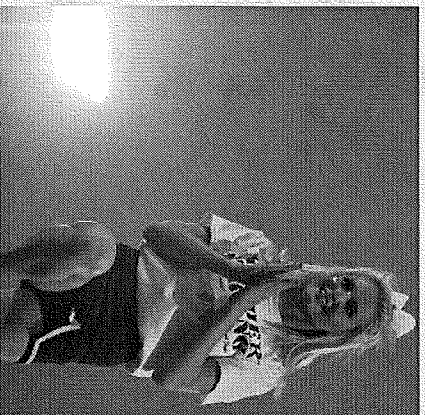
"[He] helped me with my serve.

Taught me the rules. He had so much experience from his past with other teams," Margosian said.

When everybody was practicing hard, Mulzer reminded the team to still have a good time. He reminded his teammates that having a good time was just as memorable as win-



Blue Devils



JESSICA HATCHER

Nickname: J-Hatch
Age: 17
Grade: 12
Sport(s): Cheer
Favorite Athlete: Anna Richey
Favorite class: AP Photo
Future Goals: Win a state title

TREVOR BARRETT

Nickname: T-Bear
Age: 17
Grade: 12
Sport(s): Football and Baseball
Favorite Athlete: Russell Wilson

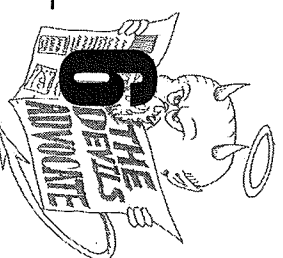


Favorite class:
Physics with Mr. Roodbeen
Future goals:
Make it to Ford Field

Even though the team didn't win Regionals it was still a great season of learning and laughs. All the freshman, especially Fenwick, will never forget how Fahmney helped them through the season. "I looked up to him because he was the only senior to help out with the younger kids," Fenwick stated. Fahmney was very disappointed this was his last year in tennis. The tennis team will never forget his inspiring

impact of never giving up. He didn't want any new player to feel like they couldn't accomplish their goals just because they didn't have any experience. Fahmney said he was disappointed because he will not be playing and he knows he will not be coming back.

Overall it was a good season for the team. Lots of laughs and memorable teaching moments happened. It was a great last season for graduating seniors Fahmney, Mulzer and Margosian.



Never-Ending Apple Harvest

By: Emma Gillem
News editor

Apple releases a new iPhone each year, and each year it just so happens to be the best iPhone Apple has ever made.

It's marketed as having the same frame but with a brilliant new touch screen.

So exciting.

Like every other year, Apple has created another new advice similar to all of the rest: the iPhone 6s.

The company is well aware that the new device is physically identical to the previous iPhone that just came out last year.

Hopefully some new changes have been made.

Maybe this time they will make sure the batteries don't expand or over heat when they plug it in.

Despite the fact that this iPhone is basically the same from every other iPhone made, there have been loads of changes that make this so called "attractive" phone worthy of being upgraded to by everyone.

Worthy of more than the \$10 chargers bought every month that break when it gets plugged into the phone.

With a new iPhone coming out last year in two different sizes, it increased the game of the phone being the best new thing. However, Apples "S" upgrades are supposed to be game changers.

The phone is said to be as powerful as the brand new MacBook models, and also has one of the most impressive smartphone cameras the world has ever seen and a 3D touch. Not to mention all of the new apps are up-to-date and included in the phone.

Other than the updates with the new device, the question is, is it worth the upgrade?

The fact of the phone being the exact same as the most recent ones leaves customers to question if upgrading to the iPhone 6s is actually worth the money.

But of course it's worth the money. Who wouldn't want the newest technology? Even though the iPhone 500 will probably be out by next summer.

Considering websites are already talking about the iPhone 9 million, it's only right to think of all the phone problems that people have had with the latest phones coming out.

Obviously the screens of the iPhones made within the past three years are supposed to have cool effects that pop out at you, but when it comes to the iPhone 5c, it becomes a problem when the screen actually pops out at you.

Considering I now have the iPhone 6s, I already like it more than the iPhone 4 I had, which seems like it was made in the stone ages, along with the iPhone 5c which was my most recent iPhone.

The screen's 3D touch is one of my favorite new aspects I would have to say.

Well, along with the new emojis, which include more food, animals, and faces.

However, the previous iPhones can also be updated and have these new emojis on their phones as well.

But, that update also messed up some phones by exiting out of apps, and deleting some of the data saved on the phone...just another one of iPhones great improvements.

The bottom line is, if you buy a new iPhone within a year of its initial release date, you're buying the best iPhone Apple had ever made... unless it has a "c" in its name.

So far, on day two with my new phone it's still operating how it is supposed to, but I have a 30-day return date if something bad happens. We'll see if the iPhone billion is out there at that time.

Walking Dead Premier

By: Kaitlyn Milliken
Staff Writer

The Walking Dead is one of the most watched television programs to air within the last ten years. It has millions of views weekly, holding up to more than 5 million fans across the globe. On October 12, families got together on a late Sunday evening, dropping their devices, and spending time with each other to watch the beloved show air for its sixth season.

To many, the hour-and-a-half season premier did not disappoint. The title of the episode, "The First Time Again", was meant to symbolize the show returning to its old roots from Season 1. Many critics' reviews say that the episode captured just that. It really felt like the first time again. And it may continue so, one 'bite' at a time.

There are even critics who have said that Season 6's premier is the best that the show has had. Even better than the action-packed, intense, fury brought on by Season 5. The writers and directors of the show (Greg Nicotero and Robert Kirkman) decided to spice things up this time and use Walkers as the main threat again instead of survival-crazed humans, (which Seasons 3-5 used.) People began to feel like the 'human threat' was getting stale. Many are asking, "Where are the walkers?"

Well, Season 6 is sure to have more than enough. Season 6, Episode 1, has hinted at some interesting things that could happen later on. (Warning: Possible Spoilers in the next paragraph). Things such as the possibility of a character pregnancy, character deaths, and who will continue to lead the group now that Alexandria is under fire.

There are people who were also disappointed with the Season premier. They felt like it didn't have enough 'action'. These people believe that after the intense threat of the Governor and Terminus, dealing

dealing with Walkers is a cake-walk, and that doesn't draw in their attention anymore.

RHS Students Christina Paramo and Sydney Johnson are two of the students who shared their opinion of the episode.

The following questions were asked and then answered by students in an interview (Warning: Spoilers: Do not continue reading if you don't want the show to be spoiled for you.)

What was your opinion of the Season premier?

CP: "To be honest, I didn't like it too much. There wasn't enough action in my opinion."

SJ: "I loved it. Overall, I thought that it was intense and exciting."

Did you like how it started?

CP: "It started pretty good. I liked being able to see how the plot was developing. But I don't really like the Walkers being a threat again. It's not as scary anymore."

SJ: "Yes I did. I like how it started because of the different approach. I felt like it tied itself together. Plus it began with a problem to solve, other than building up to one."

Predictions for the rest of the Season?

CP: "It's likely that there will be more deaths. And I think that Daryl might die."

SJ: "I feel like Carl might get cooler or die. Rick could become the leader again pretty fast, and the 'Wolves' will attempt to be awesome."

Favorite Character?

CP: "Daryl."

SJ: "My favorite character is either Rick or Daryl."

Best part or Worst part of the episode?

CP: "I think that the worst part of the episode was all of the flash backs."

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Kocher Strong

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While the White-Out Game was a great show of support and solidarity, it came with more unfortunate news. Coach Kocher's wife, Carole had been diagnosed with breast cancer. She waited until after the game to break the news.

Barrett said, "It was very difficult to hear this. We as a team care about Coach Kocher and his family."

This reaction is characteristic of the team, as Coach Kocher has a strong relationship with the players on the team.

Coach Kocher said, "I feel like we're really close; they can count on me and I can count on them. They would support any calls that I make and I support them on the field. This is an especially tight group, and maybe it's because I was so sick, but I'll always remember the 2015 year."

This feeling of comradeship is mutual between Coach Kocher and the players.

Barrett said, "I sort of grew up with him, he was my first football coach. And as for the rest of the team: he treats us as if we were his sons. There isn't a person on that team that he wouldn't do anything for."

When playing, the situation motivated the team to play stronger. This is especially true in the games dedicated to Coach Kocher and his fight. Barrett said, "He is fighting a rival far greater than anything we could encounter on the football field."

The team also motivated Coach Kocher to keep fighting. He said, "They've inspired me more than I've inspired them. I want them to focus on football, not things that they can't control."

Things are looking up for Coach Kocher. He had chemo treatments over the summer, and he is on the road to recovery. Mr. Schleder and the other coaches had to step up at the summer workouts. Mr. Schleder said, "He let the staff know he wouldn't be able to attend. It was like 'You get it taken care of, we'll

handle it over here.'"

Coach Kocher gives credit to the other coaches who needed to step up during his absence. He said, "They did a great job getting this team where it is."

The community outreach came as no surprise to Mr. Schleder. He said, "It's awesome. That's how it is in small towns. Everyone comes together. It's what we do in Richmond."

Pat and Shelly Akerly, the football program coordinators, did a lot for these efforts. There was a lot of background work that they were involved in to make sure the games went smoothly. Nearly ten thousand dollars was raised in total.

The job of a varsity football coach is not an easy one. Prior to his diagnosis, and after, both Coach Kocher and Coach Bishop devoted a large amount of their own time and money to coach the team. Mr. Schleder said, "It's phenomenal how these guys do this. They really donate a lot of time. Not to mention, the coaching talent that they bring is

also phenomenal."

His diagnosis changed the way that he felt things such as wins or losses. He said, "I'm more easygoing. A win or a loss doesn't stick with me as long. The boys played hard and we lost to Almont. I was over it 30 seconds after it was done. It was a great football game and I was happy with the effort."

Coach Kocher loves forming relationships with the kids the most about coaching. He said, "I talk to some who are in college even today after two or three years; they see how I'm doing and I see how their grades are."

There are lessons to be learned from this, Barrett said, "Don't take anything for granted. One day, everything could be fine. The next, you get news as horrible as this."

Coach Kocher also learned from this experience. He said, "Handle your adversity. You can control what you can control, and one of those things you can control is a positive attitude."