

# The Blue Devil's Advocate

## Out like a lion, not like a lamb RHS spring sports go out with a bang



By: Anabella Ottenbacher  
News Editor

### Baseball

As summer begins to take over the minds of most students, RHS spring sport athletes have their minds focused on the biggest tournaments of their seasons.

District and BWAC competitions are nearing and they are shortly followed by Regional tournaments.

While RHS athletes of all kinds put forth that extra mile to fine-tune their game, coaches and bystanders assess the competition.

RHS is looking forward to good finishes in all sports, including softball, baseball, track, girl's tennis and golf.

First off, we'll discuss those home-run hitters: the varsity boy's baseball team.

The team will be led to their district tournament by Coach Evans and two members of the top 25 baseball players in the area, junior Mitchell Ward and sophomore Ryan Boyd, as well as a slew of experienced senior team members and underclassmen with raw talent.

Boyd is a second year member of the Varsity team. He said, "I expect our team to win Districts, as well as Regionals, although St. Clair will be tough."

Junior team member Owen Kratt agreed that the team is more than capable of winning Districts, as well as Regionals, as long as they can get through St. Clair. Having fallen to St. Clair earlier in the season by only one run, the teams will both be hungry for the win.

The boys know that winning these two tournaments is not going to be easy, so preparation is key. "As individuals, we can all put in the extra time after practice to better our game," said Kratt.

Boyd added, "Everyone needs to do their job and produce." Both agreed that individual commitment is important, but the win will definitely not happen without a team effort.

"We all need to work together and talk," said Kratt. Boyd added to Kratt's statement saying the team needs to limit their number of errors and focus on making plays.

Junior Captain Mitchell Ward, who is a third year Varsity member, feels the team stands a great chance to take the District title, as well as possibly the Regional title. "St. Clair and Almont will be tough games for us at Regionals," said Ward. "As long as we don't make a lot of errors and we get a couple runs across, our pitching we should win."

Ward continued that there are things he can do personally to help his team with the win. "I can't get down on myself, because the younger kids are looking up to us older guys to control what we do on the field," he said.

"Coach always says: Physical mistakes always happen, but if you can limit the mental mistakes, then you

can win," said Ward.

### Softball

Baseball players aren't the only ones at RHS hitting home plate this spring season; the RHS varsity softball team is looking for a few trophies to come their way as well.

The team is focusing on a win at the District tournament and a good showing at the regional tournament as well.

Senior Kim Boyd, who has been on the team for four years, said, "I expect our team to win all of our games at Districts and move on to Regionals." Boyd added, "I expect them to work as hard as they can. If we win it's a positive but if we lose, it's not a negative on the season."

Boyd has experience, but other girls on the team, like sophomore Haley Schweiger, bring forth new talent and dedication to the lineup.

Schweiger's opinion on the District and Regional tournament is similar to Boyd's. "I want everyone to play as a team and try their best," she said.

Boyd sees the importance of playing as a team. From years of experience, she knows that a strong team bond can make or break their chances at the tournaments. "We all need to stay positive if there is an error, because errors always happen," said Boyd. Schweiger added to Boyd's 'no error' comments by saying, "We need to continue to cheer everyone on even if an error is made. We also need to make sure we stay positive and don't let negative attitudes come out."

The softball team is not only focusing on their own play this spring season, but they are looking ahead to the competition at the District and Regional tournaments. "Our big competition at Districts will be Armada for sure, and at Regionals we usually do pretty well until we get to Ladywood, which is an all-girl, private school," said Boyd.

In order to defeat the tough competition in the upcoming tournaments, Schweiger added the team must work on their communication in the field as well.

One thing is for sure: the softball girls will need to put forth all their effort in order to compete at the district and regional tournaments. "Everyone just needs to be positive and cheer the team on, and if we do that we will be fine," Schweiger noted.

### Girls Tennis

Along with the baseball and softball teams, RHS varsity tennis team is looking forward to a good run through the BWAC and Regional tournaments. The team has won the BWAC tournament for the past two consecutive years

and this year's team is looking to snag the title yet again. Richmond is currently undefeated in the BWAC and the team received 7 out of 8 first seeds in all of their flights.

Senior co-captain Holly Uhl said, "I think we have a huge chance to win. I don't expect to have any losses because we are better than that. Our team was able to win by a landslide last year, and I think we are capable of the same this year." Uhl added she hopes her team will take first place in the majority of the flights, in order to have as many individual winners as possible.

Junior co-captain Courtney Russell said, "I am very confident with our team going into BWAC. We have beat all of the teams already this year, so we should be able to win the tournament." Russell added she believes all the team's flights are capable of taking first place individually.

The majority of the tennis team believes the BWAC tournament is winnable and they're more than confident in their team's abilities. However, the regional tournament is something different altogether.

"I think Regionals will be much different than last year for our team. Last year, we had no problem getting the number of points needed to go to states. However, this year, it will be tough and everyone will need to contribute," said Uhl. Along with Uhl, junior Joanna Fenwick thinks this year's regional is much different than those in the past.

"We all need to go into the regional confident, and we need to keep St. Clair out of our minds until the final matches of the day," said Fenwick. The girls look forward to the regional tournament with a mixture of confidence and nervousness.

"One thing is for sure. We are going to need everyone to contribute. If one person lays an egg and doesn't earn any points, that is a big hole that needs to be filled," said Uhl.

### Track

2012's varsity track team has had a hard but prosperous year. The team is full of new, young athletes who are just beginning to learn the ropes of the team.

Sophomore Katie Szczesniak, a returning runner, said, "We have done pretty good this season considering how young the team is overall."

Szczesniak continued to discuss her lower expectations for the team this year, "I don't expect too much out of the team, except that they try their best. Since we are a young team this year, it's more about building for the future," she said.

Junior veteran runner Jordan VandenBussche said, "I don't expect to win as a team, but I expect that we could have a few individual winners."

They may not have the ability to win it all as a team, but the team members support and look forward to the victories of a few individual runners.

"I think there is definitely a couple people on the team that are capable of

achieving qualifying times and being able to place," said VandenBussche. He continued that it will be easier for individuals to place at BWAC than regionals.

Szczesniak began to discuss her own personal chances of placing at BWAC and Regionals. "I have had a pretty good year but it has been difficult trying to run against all of the upperclassmen on other teams," she said.

"Our coach decides who gets to attend regionals and compete in certain events. I think I will definitely be chosen to run, and I am hoping for the best," she said.

### Soccer

This year's varsity girls soccer team had a rough start to their 2012 season, but things are beginning to look up as the team is on a 4 game winning streak at the moment.

With districts looming ahead, the girls are looking back on their season on a positive note and hoping for the best in what is to come.

Junior Stephanie Lafata said, "I think we'll do really well since we are playing teams that I know we can beat." Lafata continued that she hopes the team can make it through the district tournament to regionals. "We had a rough start to the season, but we began to improve a little bit with every game we played," she said.

Sophomore Alyssa Barton looks to the district tournament with a fresh look, not knowing what to expect. "I hope we pull together and play like I know we can at districts," said Barton.

Lafata and Barton both agreed that Armada and CrosLex would be the big competition at the district tournament.

However, both girls agree that the district title is possible; it will be much harder to compete at the regional tournament.

"I see regionals as being a lot tougher than districts. There are much better teams at regionals, but if we play our hardest I know we can do decent," said Lafata. Lafata added that she will be proud of her team no matter what, as long as they play their hardest throughout all of the tournaments.

### Golf

Similar to the track team, the RHS golf team had a slow start to their season. However, as the season has progressed the team has improved.

Senior Justin Nowak hopes that his team is able to make it through the BWAC tournament to the regional tournament. "At BWAC I expect that everyone does well and we should make it to regionals. I also hope that we can make it to states as a team, if everyone plays good," he said.

Nowak said the team is 14 points behind the first place team in the BWAC, but there is still time to snag the title.

Spring Sports Cont. on page 14

# The Blue Devil's Advocate

## Student Athletes set up for a sports filed summer

By: Melissa Resk  
Advertising Editor

With school finally coming to an end, so do the sports seasons. But, to some, a season never ends.

With the constant conditioning and individual practices, some athletes use to improve their game, some even consider joining another team in the off-season.

Playing bowling and soccer since she was under five-years-old, Heather Bruci is a sophomore that agrees with the idea of summer practices.

Bowling doesn't have summer practices, but Bruci uses every camp available for soccer along with her travel soccer team to get better.

"(Soccer) has a different atmosphere. I have been on the team for seven years," said Heather.

A problem most athletes come across is trying to attend practices while going on vacation.

Later this summer, Bruci will be taking a trip to Maryland for a family vacation and also going to Virginia to visit her brother, Paul, a 2005 graduate of RHS, who is a coast guard. During these vacations, Bruci will be missing some of the practices on her travel soccer team, but she promises to continue to run while on vacation and stay in

shape for the games that follow.

For Jordan VandenBussche, junior, the circumstances are a little bit different.

Vandenbussche, runs track and cross country. In seventh grade, Vandenbussche began to run track. And when he reached high school, he was finally able to run cross country.

At the completion of the school year, and two hour track practices every day, he has very little time off of sports. "Cross country practice starts one week after school gets out and goes until October," said VandenBussche.

According to VandenBussche, summer practices are very beneficial to him and for his sports season.

"They get us in shape because we have to be ready for our meet before school starts," said Vandenbussche. He also said they run in any kind of weather except thunder and lightning.

Like Phineas and Ferb always say, "There's one hundred and four days of summer vacation and school comes along just to end it. But the annual problem for our generation is finding a good way to spend it."

But VandenBussche has a solution to this hypothetical problem.

"I like summer practices because it gives me something to do because there are those days where there's nothing to do," said VandenBussche.

Hatley Schweiger, sophomore, is a three-season sports player. Starting with volleyball in the fall, then to basketball in the winter and softball in the spring. But, what about the summer?

With the volleyball season starting so close to the beginning of school, coaches have no choice but starting the practices in the summer.

But Schweiger is busy with basketball as well. Coach Pearson, girls varsity coach has booked the summer with games and open gyms. From the week school ends till the end of June, Mr. Pearson has every weekend booked with nothin' but net.

According to Schweiger, summer practices help her to prepare for the real season and shows a person's dedication to the team. She also said, "It will show the coaches that you really want to work hard and be a part of the team."

Schweiger recommends that everyone attend the summer practices because of the great benefits that come with it. She also says it gets the players excited and pumped for the real season.



U.S.A.

Continued from page 5

The Olympics is most definitely the biggest stage in the world for an athlete! Most athletes strive to be the best and compete in the Olympics. That's why each country sends there very best athletes and when the very best show up, it brings healthy competition throughout the world.

Omelia said, "It shows which countries are better at different sports"

The point of showing the highs of the Olympics, it can also boost the morale of a down country.

The fastest man in the world Usain Bolt is from the slums of Jamaica and proved to the world and Jamaica that anybody can win the gold if you put your heart to it.

Queen thinks the Olympics are important because it unites the world and shows the best athletes in the world. Former U.S Olympic archer John Williams who competed in the 1969 and 1972 Olympics once said, "The Olympics are a wonderful metaphor for world cooperation, the kind of international competition that's wholesome and healthy, interplay between countries that represents the best in all of us."

## Moving up in the order Richmond baseball/softball score athletes in the top 25

By: Krystal Geisler  
Feature Editor

RHS has athletes recognized individually for their hard work.

Every year the Port Huron Times Herald does a Top 25 Award for the baseball and softball players in the Blue Water Area. This year four students were selected to get this award. Senior Kim Boyd, Junior Mitchell Ward and sophomores Noelle Scheuer and Ryan Boyd were the students from Richmond.

Senior Kim Boyd was picked to be number 5 in the top 25 for the baseball and softball players. Boyd has been playing softball since she was four, and has been on the varsity team for four years. To become the player that she has been, she played travel softball in the summer and practices hard. Boyd plays first base and really enjoys it.

"To help my team, I know that I have to be a good leader and captain by staying positive," said Boyd. She said that the drama is what makes things challenging for the team, but once the drama is over and everyone communicates, things are successful.

As a captain, Boyd hopes the team will win Districts and go to Regionals. Last year, she won the All-State award for first base, which she was excited about. She's excited for this award as well. "I am excited I received this award because it is nice to get recognized for hard work," said Boyd. For this season Boyd has a batting average of .484.

Sophomore Noelle Scheuer has been playing softball since she was 7. This year, Scheuer earned the award

of number 8 in the top 25. This season Scheuer has a high batting average of .523 the best on their team. Scheuer never takes a break from softball and always is practicing hard. In the summer, she plays on Michigan Babusters 16U Elite and during the winter, she does team workouts.

Scheuer plays mostly catcher and sometimes 3<sup>rd</sup> base. "I always have to stay positive and try to be a leader for the rest of my team," said Scheuer.

In the future, Scheuer plans to go to college for softball at either Indiana University or Michigan State University. Whether or not she will play in college, she will be playing her junior and senior year here at school.

"The mental focus isn't always there so it makes things challenging," said Scheuer. She added that everyone is always very encouraging and carries a good attitude.

Scheuer is hoping the team wins another conference title and wants everyone to work hard and try their best. "I am excited that I got this award. It's a very good honor,"

said Scheuer. "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game" is her all-time favorite softball quote because every time she is batting, it runs through her head.

Sophomore Ryan Boyd has been playing baseball since he was five and this year he earned being number 17 out of the top 25 for baseball. This is Boyd's second year on the varsity team and he really enjoys it. This year the varsity

baseball is doing well with a record 15-7. "I always cheer on the team; it is a way to get everyone pumped up," said Boyd.

To get the skills Boyd needs, he practices hard and plays on a summer travel team. Boyd plays shortstop and third base, and has been for many years now.

"I expect that everyone works hard and their best but the challenging part on the team is that not everyone has the dedication that they should," said Boyd.

The team does college-style practices to help get them ready and to have the success that they should during their season. "At practices we're always doing drills with hitting and throwing to help us get better," said Boyd.

Last year Boyd received the All-District Award for the season. "Being in the top 25 was a privilege that made me very excited," said Boyd.

Boyd plans to play on the team his junior and senior and hopefully go to college somewhere for baseball. "5 minutes early is 10 minutes late," is a quote that will always remind him of the baseball team because his coach always says that. Meaning that you have to be fifteen minutes early for everything and then you will be on time.

A little over a week ago there was an incident at their game on the field with Junior Mitchell Ward and Freshman Eyan Kratt. They were both going for a ball and collided causing Ward to have his teeth knocked in and Kratt's elbow busted open requiring stitches. Ward needed to get surgery and wires connecting his teeth for 4 weeks and

root canals at a later date. Eyan had to get stitches on his elbow from the cuts from Ward's teeth.

Despite what happened, Ward is number 11 of the top 25 for the awards. Ward has been playing for 11 years now and this year was his third on varsity. In the summer Ward plays on the travel Blue Water Titans team and has hitting and pitching coaches.

"I am pitcher and first base. I like pitching more but lately I have been playing a lot more of first base," said Ward. He added that he will play any position that the team needs him to.

"To help the team I try my best to lead the younger team members by example and try not to get down on each other," said Ward. He added the team always works really hard to prepare for games.

Last year, Ward was rewarded with all BWAC and all Macomb 1<sup>st</sup> Team honors for his hard work. With him receiving eleventh in the top 25, Ward is very excited.

"Receiving this award shows how hard that I have worked at baseball," said Ward.

Ward expects that the team will take BWAC and Districts, and Regionals is going to be a good competition for them.

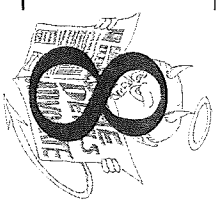
Junior Owen Kratt said Ward is a great teammate and that he hope he gets well and back to playing soon. "Mitchell is an all around good person on and off the field," said Ward. Ward was able to return and played a week after the collision during May 16's game against Almont.

Sports

May 21, 2012



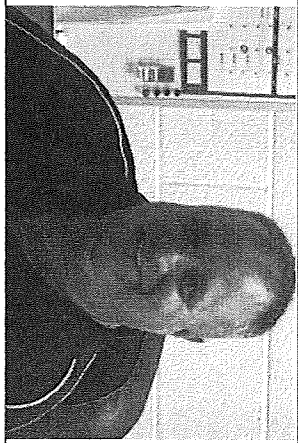
# In Our Opinion



*Blue Devil's Advocate*

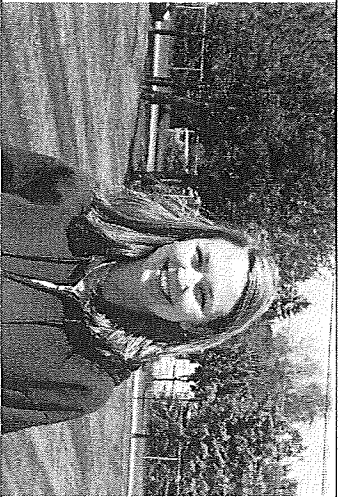
Question of the Month  
**What's your favorite  
 summer treat?**

## Staff



Dr. Muyaert said that he will be chillin' out with blueberry lemonade.

## Senior



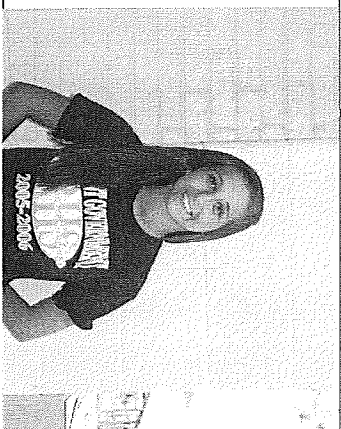
Sarah Maro said definitely icy popsicles.

## Junior



Kurt Misteravich said he will be roasting S'mores by the bonfire.

## Sophomore



Megan Hambaum said sunflower seeds for sure.

## Freshman



Kevin Maas said that his favorite would probably be ice cream.

## Staff Editorial: TO CLASS OR NOT TO CLASS? Yearbook being cut

Memories are a funny thing aren't they? What we choose to remember and what we don't? What we do remember and what we don't?

Isn't it just a superb thing that we are able to capture memories through pictures and videos? We see pictures as a way to look back on the good ol' days, and a way to show those who weren't there, what things were like.

Haven't you ever looked at pictures of your parents when they were young? I'm sure everyone chuckles a little when they think about these old snapshots. Since our parents were the youth of the '70's and '80's, we all think big hair, short shorts, and bell bottoms; and the pictures prove these styles actually existed.

But more importantly, have you ever looked through your parents old yearbooks? Yes, we all have. Through these yearbooks, we get a glimpse into what things were like walking through school hallways when they were. We get to see all of the sports uniforms and the prom dresses, and we get an idea of what everything was really like.

Isn't this important? Isn't it important to preserve the past, in order to show future generations, and even to remember ourselves?

How will we all be able to look back into the halls of good old RHS? Well, with our yearbooks of course, right?

Unfortunately this opportunity is in jeopardy. The truth is the 2012-2013 school year might not be captured by the cameras and persistence of an RHS yearbook class. The class is tentatively scheduled to be cut for next year. So what happens to the yearbook?

Will we not have one at all? No, we'll have one, and it will just be made by a 'yearbook after school club.'

Now, this all seems fine, and even though it's not a class, we are all sure the club will take care of it. But who will join this club? More than likely not any athletes, because after school student athletes have practice and games. Not any other club members, because they'll be busy with their other clubs.

So much will be missing from the yearbook if it is not made by a class. There might not be any senior bios, mock elections, or senior wills. Also, there is absolutely no way a club will be able to take pictures of all the dances, activities, class projects, plays, ceremonies and so on, that take place throughout the school year.

The new yearbook club would be unable to truly capture all the moments and good times at RHS. From spirit days to pep assemblies, covering all of these events without a structured class to take care of it is nearly impossible.

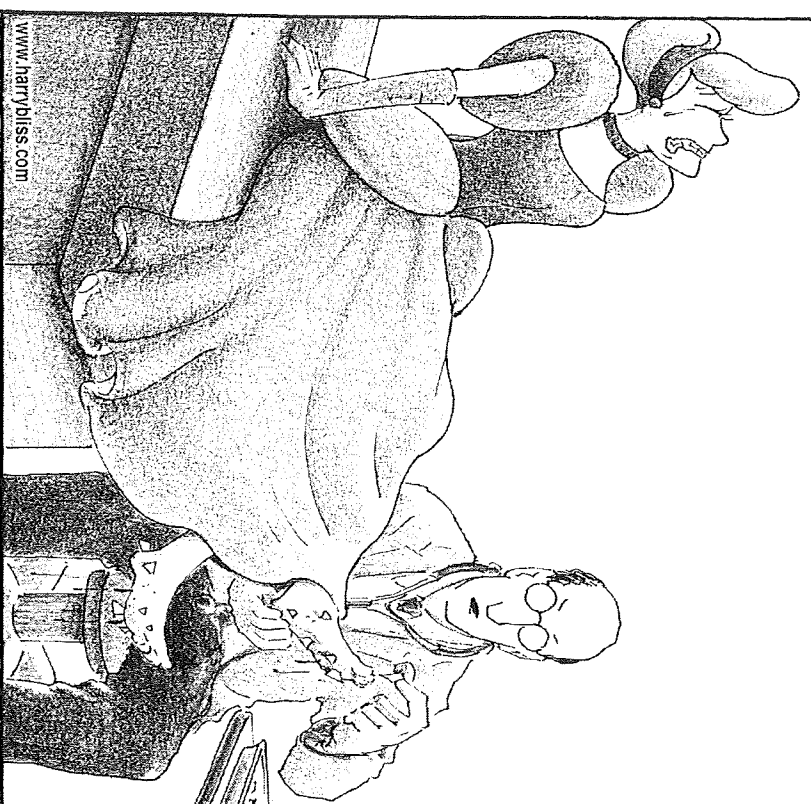
What about the Class of 2013? Next year's seniors are used to having a nice yearbook full of memories that will last a lifetime. But now, they will lack a yearbook that covers the most important year of their career here at RHS: their senior year.

Yes, we have high expectations, but that's because we have learned to expect no less than perfect from our current yearbook class. Unfortunately, what we have grown used to has been replaced by something that won't meet our expectations and capture our memories that we were hoping to share with future generations.

## Comics

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"What the heck did you expect wearing glass slippers?"

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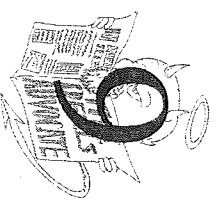
**Mission Statement**  
 Richmond High School's student newspaper, The Blue Devil's Advocate, strives to serve the student body and provide a public forum to make their ideas heard to the school and community. Our goal is to provide both accurate and balanced stories in order to heighten understanding, entertain, and inform.

**Letters**  
 We invite readers to share their thoughts with us by writing to the Editor. See the drop off box in the library or you may email us at: kshagana@richmond.k12.nj.us. Include your name, address, and grade level.

*Opinion*

*May 21, 2012*

# IM OUR OPINION



## Lesson of a lifetime

**John Gaffney**  
Sports Editor

Walking into the mini gym on the first day of practice I had no idea what to expect. The team was all joking around and having a good time, just waiting for the first practice to start.

Voices echoed out of the locker room. I could not hear all of what they were saying but some of them were complaining about how hard the practice was going to be. I thought I was ready but I do not think I could have been more wrong.

As a freshman first-year wrestler walking into a program full of success and state placers, I was in panic mode. I was so worried about the future and whether or not I would ever be good enough to exist among the ranks of all those on the Wall of Fame and in the newspaper clippings all over the walls. For the first weeks of the season, I managed to just get through practice. I hated going everyday; the only thing I liked about going was that I was better than two of the other first years who joined along with me.

Coming in and having a talented senior and junior class and a hardworking sophomore class, I felt as if I would never catch up.

I was stuck on the junior varsity team while the rest of my classmates were wrestling varsity because they already accrued years upon years of experience in middle school.

My feelings all changed halfway through the season. To this day, I still remember exactly when I reached my turning point that changed my attitude about everything.

It was the first varsity tournament I ever competed at, in Mayville, Michigan. I was so nervous before I wrestled my first match and I went out and got pinned in the second period. It was a crushing defeat.

To lose my first ever varsity match, I was ready to just give up and quit.

Then Coach George Hamblin—dressed in his tournament gear, a T-shirt and the lucky pair of jeans that he wore to every tournament he ever went to—came and talked to me.

I will never forget what he said to me. His words to me were those of pure encouragement and support.

Only two weeks earlier, we had gone over a new set of moves that is notoriously used by Richmond wrestlers: “the legs.” I picked them up rather fast; they became my technique of choice immediately.

Coach Hamblin came over and spoke to me after my loss and told me to not give up.

He saw the potential I had. He saw I had a chance to be a very good wrestler and that “the legs” were going to be majorly helpful in shaping that raw potential.

He told me all I had to do was not give up and that the rest of the perks of being on a good team would all fall into place. He told me he saw lots of potential, and all I needed to do was keep

practicing and clean up my technique. This was the point when I realized I did not need to stress myself out about how successful I was at the time. After he talked to me, I realized he was right in every way. All I needed was to put my heart into everything I did, which made it much more fun.

When you enjoy doing something—even if it is hard work—it doesn’t seem like it. It turns into something that is enjoyable to do rather than work.

Only an hour after that conversation, I got my first varsity win; I pinned my opponent. I went out to wrestle my second match and I thought about what Coach said to me. And rather than go out and worry about whether or not I was going to win or lose, I just went and wrestled to have fun.

Coach Hamblin had assuaged all of my fears in a period of minutes. I went out without worrying, and it turned out way better than when I was stressed. And he was right.

The perks followed as I grew and became a better wrestler over the course of four years, winning three team state titles and becoming one of the State Placers that I so much admired when I was just a freshman.

This lesson—one of importance that I was fortunate enough to learn—came to me early on in my high school career.

To me, it is one of the most important things I learned in the four years of high school, and it is one of the few things I will keep with me for the rest of my life. Over the years I have learned this lesson applies to much more than just wrestling.

This is also a lesson that will be very important for me and my classmates in the future.

The future for us is like a state championship match.

*“To this day, I still remember exactly when I reached my turning point that changed my attitude about everything.”*

—John Gaffney

Sure, you might be nervous for the future. Scared of the unknown future to come. New friends. New places. Practically a whole new life-style. Life as we knew it is changing for us, but we have to remember to embrace it. Of course, it is our future and it is important, but you can’t let the fear that is inside of you keep you from succeeding. If you are always afraid of what you do not know or understand, you will never succeed or take chances. With no risk, there is much less reward.

So as we step out on the mat to face our biggest opponent ever—the future—we need to go out there and remember we can’t make things seem worse that they are; otherwise we will fail.

At the same time we can’t underestimate things or we won’t be prepared.

So as the whistle blows to start the match that is the rest of our lives, let’s go out with the advice from our friends and family, coaches and teachers echoing in our ears much like the echoes from the locker room. Listen to their advice and prepare ourselves for the time ahead as we succeed in getting that final, most important pin.

## Peace I’m Outta Here

**By: Mitchell Smith**  
Staff Editor

Senior year: it is a person’s last chance to make a difference before entering the real world, and for some people, it is the year they decide whether they’re going to join the armed forces, play college sports or just go to college.

For me, senior year meant changing things I wanted to do in my life.

Some very important people made me realize I could play sports in college, and those same very inspiring people helped me with what I needed to do and where I needed to go.

I thank these people everyday.

Those inspiring people were my father and Mr. Strutz, who always looked out for his own son Kurt, James Macpherson, and me in the decisions we made. In my opinion, he and my dad are responsible for the person they molded me into, and those two people have had such a huge impact on me throughout my whole life.

They helped create some of the best football memories because without them pushing me, I probably wouldn’t have played football as I didn’t play that much my junior year. Because I played football due to their inspiration, I had those incredible experiences.

During Senior year, so many things changed the way I thought about sports. My junior year of football was not very good. Not only did those seniors go 1-8 in their senior season, but I didn’t play that much at all.

We, of course, got new coaches, and they really inspired the team to push ourselves. I went from not playing at all to starting right guard. It was a great feeling to be a starter after all the hard work finally paid off.

One of my favorite memories I have is winning our last home game against Algonac. It was the coldest day of the year. Not many people came because of the blistering cold, even though it was Homecoming.

Some of the best plays of our season happened in that game. Kurt Strutz had a great hit, Cody Quigley kicked a 48-yarder, Michael Szczesniak had a great run, and we really just tied everything together.

To win that game was the best feeling ever.

This is only one of the many great memories we had as a football team.

Another great milestone of our sea-

son was definitely winning the Jug back. Of course, the seniors this year felt bad knowing we lost the jug the year before. We knew we had an objective for our final high school rival game.

Time was counting down during the game and we were ahead.

Then, the Tigers caught up again, but we knew that if we just played hard, we would come out of Armada with a win. Dustin Leach had a few great runs, two for a touchdown. Winning that game was just awesome, and us bringing the Jug back to RHS was even better.

*“Cherish everything you can. Take the good with the bad. Enjoy every minute because everything will change after you graduate.”*

—Mitchell Smith

I should have cherished them for had it not been for those experiences, the memories I made senior year would have never occurred.

To all the underclassmen who want school to end because you think it is boring, your whole perspective will change around this time your senior year.

Cherish everything you can. Take the good with the bad. Enjoy every minute because everything will change after you graduate.

You’ll have to go to college and become a functioning member of society and there’s nothing wrong with that, but you’ll wish you could relive the second week of school all over again because once you near graduation you want it to end because you’re excited about college. But then you realize high school is almost over and you don’t want it to end.

If you’re a fortunate one, you’ll go to the same college as one of your great friends like me. Then, you might keep in touch forever. I’m fortunate enough to go to Olivet College to play football and my roommate will be Eric Boyd, he’s wrestling at Olivet College, and it will be a great time for us. Eric has been my best friend since we were three. So my advice to the underclassmen is to cherish every minute they have left of high school.

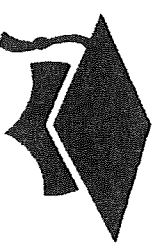
But now it’s going to be weird to know that Kurt is going to Hope College. I’m going to Olivet College and we will be playing each other. Mr. Strutz will be on Hope’s side cheering for Kurt, and my dad will be cheering for me on the Olivet side.

Deep down, I believe both parents will cheer for both of us. I wouldn’t be able to enjoy that moment if it wasn’t for those two.

## Opinion

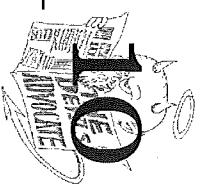
### HATS OFF TO

### THE CLASS OF 2012!



May 21, 2012





## This is real; this is me

By: Samantha Kowalczyk  
Staff Writer

I knew coming into high school I would learn a lot of important life lessons that would carry on with me for the rest of my life. However, I did not know I would learn them early on.

Spring Break of my freshman year, my sister passed away. She was such an important role in all my family and her friends' lives, and life as we know it, would change forever.

She left me in a world of doubt trying to figure out what my purpose was. I never knew the impact she had on me until she left.

After pondering on it over summer vacation during my freshman year, I knew what I needed to do.

My sister left my family at a very young age, unable to accomplish all her dreams she set so high for herself.

So in honor of my sister, I became more determined than ever to follow my dreams for whatever they may be.

I started challenging myself in school. I took classes that were tough at first, but made me become a better learner. I was determined to do my best in every class, not allowing minimal effort to consume me.

I wanted to challenge myself because I knew life after high school was only going to get harder.

I worked hard by doing my homework every night. I always had my homework turned in, on time, every day. I would prepare for tests by making note cards and saving them throughout the semester for exam time.

When projects were due, I would always make sure mine hit every point the teacher was looking for. And when we were given options, I would pick the one that every one else was not doing to make myself stand out.

I knew by doing the harder project, I would get a better understanding of what I was learning, and it would only better prepare me for the test.

Not only has this fire burned inside me through high school, but I plan on feeding it through college and my adult life as well.

In college, my primary focus will be on my classes. I have no doubt I will succeed in whatever I do because I am determined to follow my dreams.

I would not have the dedication I do today to follow my dreams if it was not for my sister molding me into the person I am today.

Not only has she taught me to follow my dreams, but she also gave me a whole new meaning to life as well.

My freshman year, I was really shy and quiet. The transfer from my freshman year to sophomore year was a big change. I started talking to people I would have normally not talked to.

Not only did I talk to other students in my grade, but I was talking to upperclassmen as well.

I had this whole new outlook on life, and I was not afraid to talk to new people anymore. I was not afraid of what people would think of me if I acted like myself.

The accident has also brought me a lot closer to family, which made school life a lot easier.

I was always the one that was distant from the rest of the family because I did not like talking about my

emotions with everyone.

So I always kept to myself.

Now, I have created such strong bonds with my mom and other sister. I would always fight with my sister, and it would affect my school work because it was always on my mind.

Now I am closer to her than ever and I could not be happier.

My mom was such an inspiration to me during this crisis. Despite whatever she was feeling, she would always put her brave face on for my sister and I, and it helped me deal with the situation better. I am so happy I have become a lot closer to her because she is such an amazing person.

These bonds that were created helped me improve my schoolwork and my perspective on life.

I have come to realize that not having strong relationships with my family played a role on limiting how well I did at school.

I still had good grades, but when the teachers would talk, I could not help but think of my relationships with my family.

I had to learn the hard way that being closed off for so long impacted everything I did.

Once you lose someone who is so close to you, you do not want to spend the rest of your life in a slump. I know my sister would not want me to be sad all the time because that is not the kind of person she was.

Despite being gone for three years, she has played such an important role in my life and the things that I do. I know she would be proud of the person I have become.

And it is all thanks to her.

## Top 10 summer trips

By: Anna Fraser  
Opinion Editor

10. **The Detroit Zoo** – When's the last time you spent the day at The Detroit Zoo? Don't laugh now; I'm not monkeying around. If the last time you were there was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, you don't know what you've been missing. Recently, The Detroit Zoo has added a 4-D theater to their park, featuring a wide variety of shows from *Dora & Diego's 4-D Adventure to Great Escapes: Life in 4-D*, produced by the maker's of *Planet Earth*. These theaters are unlike any movie theater around here--and cheaper! It will only cost you \$5, whereas it costs you \$7.50 to see a movie at MJR. Not only is the 4-D theater inexpensive, but the admission fee to get into the zoo is, too. It's only \$14. Take a day out of your summer and spend it at The Detroit Zoo; it's worth it. Take your family, take your friends, or take that lady that lives down the street. Go and enjoy a day full of fun. It's the simple trips like these that you will never forget.

9. **Frankenmuth** – C'mon now, you know you can't pass up a good chicken dinner and a few boxes of homemade fudge. Oh, you love shopping, too? Perfect! Located only an hour-and-a-half away, Frankenmuth is a great place to spend the day or weekend. It is best known for the world-famous Zehnder's restaurant, but Frankenmuth also has other great things to offer. After you go out to eat and shop in Little Bavaria, the town's outlet mall, you can waddle your way back to your hotel. But this hotel is not just a hotel. No sir, this hotel is Splash Village; an indoor water park. Ranked as the #1 Family Getaway in Michigan, Splash Village is a great place to spend the weekend with family or friends. With waterslides, a lazy river, a hot tub, Splash landing play areas, and a huge dump bucket, you can't go wrong with going here. In June, a half pass to the water park costs \$25 during the week and \$28 during the weekend. A full day pass costs \$32 during the week and \$35 during the weekend. So while you're packing your bib in your suitcase for the chicken dinner, don't forget to throw in you

bathing suit, too!

8. **Sleeping Bear Dunes** – After a long school year, we all feel like we've been in hibernation. We're all beary excited to get out and enjoy the summer weather. Have you been feeling sluggish and bear-like? Well, now's the time to snap out of it! There are places to be seen! Named the "Most Beautiful Place in America," Sleeping Bear Dunes is located 25 miles west of Traverse City. Not only are the dunes fun to explore, but they are a great spot for camping. The National Park Service offers campsites with electricity, showers and modern restrooms. However, if you like more rustic camp sites without electricity or showers and vault restrooms, they have those available, too. There is also primitive camping available on the mainland and on North and South Manitou Islands. While visiting the magnificent dunes, you can also explore the surrounding areas. Here, you can go biking, boating, canoeing, fishing, golfing, hiking, swimming, and even play tennis! The dunes are a great vacation spot for all ages, and they will take your breath away.

7. **Traverse City** – Carved by glaciers, Traverse City has a beautiful landscape full of wooded hills, crystal-clear lakes, and endless miles of white sandy beaches. It is the world's largest producer of tart cherries. Now, I know that is really exciting and you are freaking out right now, but just try to calm yourself so I can explain. Beginning on the first Saturday in July, the National Cherry Festival is "the granddaddy of Traverse City's celebrations." For eight days there are contests, parades, music performances, games, delicious food, an arts and crafts fair and an annual air show. It's an experience like no other. So pack up your car and take the 4 hour road trip! You won't regret it.

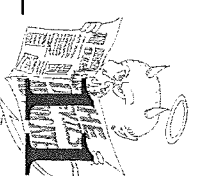
6. **African Safari Wildlife Park** – This park is not your normal petting zoo. Oh no, this park has no cages. It's just you and the animals.... Oh and your car. Yep, at the African Safari Wildlife Park in Port Clinton, Ohio there is a drive-thru safari where you can meet and feed wild animals. It's the coolest zoo around. They even have the endangered white zebra! Aside from the drive-thru safari, this park has pig races, animal shows, and pony rides. There is

also your typical Walk-Thru Safari, which has a more zoo-like setting. Here, you will find the Rare White Alligator, a new member of the safari's family. The summer schedule is from May 26 to September 3. During this time, the park rates are at an amazing deal. A pass is only \$21.95 for 7-years-old and up and \$12.95 for children 4-6. Kids under 3 get in for free! Oh, the memories? Those are priceless.

5. **Kalahari** – It's America's Largest Indoor Water-park-Kalahari! There are only 2 in the nation, and we are lucky enough to live only 3 hours away from the one in Sandusky, Ohio. Kalahari is a great getaway trip to take during the summer. With so many rides and attractions, there is no way for you to get bored! Now, you may be thinking "But it's just a waterpark..." Well, guess what? It's not. Kalahari has more amenities than you think. Aside from the waterpark, there is a spa, an animal park, a pottery class, shopping, a huge arcade, a fitness room, and more! You can get all of this for the price of \$45 per person Monday-Thursday, and for \$49 Friday-Sunday. Live life on the wild side and travel to Kalahari this summer!

4. **Michigan's Adventure** – Did you know that Michigan has its very own Cedar Point? Okay, so maybe it isn't exactly Cedar Point, but it was made by the same company! Located in Muskegon, Michigan's Adventure is Michigan's largest water and amusement park. It's a great place for everyone in your family. There are rollercoasters for the daring, and fun rides for the not-so-daring. The most intense rollercoaster there is the *ThunderHawk*, a suspended steel rollercoaster. It gets up to 50mph and travels to heights of 120ft. Depending on the day of the week, the amusement opens at either 10:30 or 11:00, and the waterpark opens at either 11:00 or 12:00. Want to know the best part? Tickets are only \$28! In fact, they can be found for even less. Some tickets you can purchase with a AAA discount for \$21. This ticket permits you for both the amusement and water parks. So if you don't feel like driving all the way to Ohio for a good amusement park, look no further. Have your adventure at Michigan's Adventure.

SUMMER TRIPS continued on pg. 14



## Are you ready for some Quiz Bowl?!

By: Jake McKiernan  
Staff Writer

“Ding Ding Ding! That is correct! And the Richmond quiz bowl squad takes the State Championship.”

Within a year, we could be hearing these words.

This coming September, Richmond High School could be upgrading its extra-curricular activities, thus joining the rest of the Blue Water Area Conference in the sport of Quiz Bowl. Quiz bowl is an activity in which students from the same school compete against other schools’ teams in a contest to see which school’s team has more academic knowledge.

“Students will answer basic academic questions,” said Dr. Ladd, who is leading the effort to start a quiz bowl squad. “Questions will cover math, science, history, and etcetera.”

The idea was first presented last year by Assistant Principal Ms. Michon. There was an attempt to start the club last year, but ended up not working out.

“Brett Brincefield mentioned the idea to me again this year,” said Dr. Ladd. Brincefield, a sophomore, said he asked Dr. Ladd about the team in the middle of March, 2012.

“I will definitely join the team if we start a program,” said Brincefield. “It will be a great way to meet new people, learn new things and have fun.”

Dr. Ladd said there will be meetings with Armada and Port Huron this summer to discuss the club’s benefits, and the team could be formed officially as early as September, 2012. “Every school in the BWAC, with the ex-

ception of Richmond, has a quiz bowl squad,” said Dr. Ladd. “Hopefully we can join them this year.”

If the plans are confirmed, then Richmond will join the rest of the BWAC along with many schools throughout the thumb area.

The quiz bowl squad, if formed, will compete with all the schools in the BWAC, and will travel as well, according to Dr. Ladd.

“The team would compete at tournaments throughout the entire thumb area,” Dr. Ladd said.

Some schools that partake in this activity are Macomb Dakota, Port Huron High, Port Huron Northern, and last year’s Class A State Champions, Detroit Catholic Central.

Just one benefit of having a quiz bowl team is that while it is a competitive contest, it also involves great academic improvement.

In order for a quiz bowl team to be successful, all members of the team will need to have extensive knowledge of all the subjects that will be included in contests

They will need to be ready for any question that could be presented in competition.

“When the team is formed, members will get together to have study sessions and make sure that we have a good concept of the knowledge we need,” said Brincefield. “Dr. Ladd and I are going to meet and discuss what these sessions will include.”

It is likely that these practices will be held after school two or three times a week.

With these sessions, members of the squad will improve their knowledge in order to do well in competitions, as well as in class, adding to the benefits of this great activity.

Quiz bowl promises to be a fun and beneficial activity for students here at RHS.

It will be fun to see how it “plays” out.

## Seniors start reflecting on their journey at RHS

By: Regan Blissett  
Feature Editor

As the class of 2012’s journey of high school comes to an end, seniors are starting to look back on their favorite high school memories. It took four years but they finally made it. In just a matter of weeks, they will be Alumni of RHS. Although for many seniors their favorite part of high school were the weekends and breaks, high school made memories that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

### Alana Timmerman’s reflection

Looking back, Alana Timmerman, enjoyed her time in high school.

Out of her four years at RHS, she has been in volleyball and cheerleading.

Her favorite year was sophomore year.

She said, “Sophomore year was my favorite because I got my braces off. I had them on for five years.”

During her high school career, she had three favorite memories. One of them was winning a State Title in cheerleading her senior year.

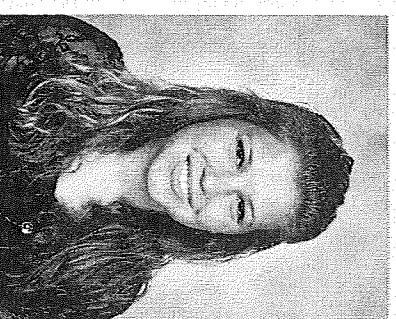
Her favorite moment at States was during Round Three going up to the last sequence knowing her team won.

Timmerman can officially say she will forever be a champion.

Her other favorite memories seem to all happen this year. Spring Break was an all-time favorite for seniors but also especially for Timmerman. She said, “It was the best week of my life.”

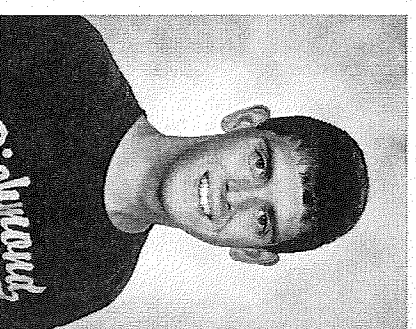
## Student Star

Alex Pinskey



**Favorite Subject?:** Psychology  
**Favorite movie?:** Water for elephants  
**One thing you will miss most about RHS?:** My friends  
**Where are you going to college?:** Central Michigan University

Michael Graham



**Favorite subject?:** Social studies  
**Favorite movie?:** Star Wars  
**One-thing you will miss most about RHS?:** Cross Country  
**Where are you going to college?:** Kettering University

Luke’s favorite memories were pool parties at Cody Schmidt’s house, baseball season, and football season. “Overall, being with my friends. We were all together having fun,” said Malburg.

Malburg’s worst moment throughout high school was hitting his head in Mrs. Duynslager’s health class.

He said, “I was wearing drunk goggles, and I bent down to pick up a book that was thrown at me, and I hit the corner of the table with my forehead.”

He was scarred physically and that moment stuck out as the ultimate worst.

Now after time has passed and the scar on his forehead has healed, Luke is looking forward to graduate.

“Four years is enough of high school for sure,” said Malburg.

He will be taking the next step, and starting next spring, he will attend Michigan State University.

He said, “I’m pretty excited to have a new environment and meet new friends.”

Malburg continued on to say he will miss all his friends together at RHS.

He concluded, “I’ve learned more my senior year than any year at high school. It’s been a great experience.”

Continued on pg. 12