



# Gifted Programs on the *Chopping Block* at OQMS

by Sarah Newton  
News writer

The rapid decline in Old Quarry Middle School's (OQMS) fine arts programs, clubs, sports and maintenance has been apparent over the past two years when decisions were made by the Board of Education to start making cuts. Now academic programs, such as the gifted classes, are being removed also.

The gifted programs offered at OQMS allow students to study a year ahead of their classmates or simply challenge the students with harder material. Out of the literature, math and science programs, math is the only one still active.

This year's senior class had the highest ACT scores in LHS history; this could be due to the fact that a large number of these seniors were in the gifted programs.

Sharon Jacobs, Head of the English Department believes "Lemont High School will continue to work with students from any feeder school to reach academic success. As our school mantra has been, 'Failure is not an option' is taken to heart here."

Even with cutting the gifted program, OQMS is still meeting its testing standards in reading, writing and comprehension. "We are grateful that, despite the economics of the district, increased class size and elimination of some programming, Old Quarry teachers are doing a yeoman's job of bringing students to high academic achievement," continued Jacobs.

Carlyn Rohrer, senior and previous gifted literature student, felt that the class helped prepare her for high school. Rohrer said, "I feel [the gifted literature class] helped me reach my full potential and that is an opportunity that the kids won't get."



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## Haiku, Books and Guidelines OH MY!

by Gina Koziel  
*News writer*

With the 2011-12 school year in session, additions have been made by the LHS School Board involving the Learning Resource Center (LRC).

The first addition is the presence of Haiku. All LHS students and staff have access to the Haiku page through the school web site.

Cathy Mayer, the LRC director said "the LRC Haiku page contains information related to databases, ebooks, useful web links, contests and programs and NoodleTools."

Haiku also allows more online interaction between LHS students and staff. According to junior Amanda Kolar, "I like how teachers put worksheets on Haiku, because I always lose mine so I just print them off."

As well as Haiku, the second addition to the LRC is the growing collection of books. With a grant from the Lemont High School Education Foundation, 159 new Manga books have been added, along with over 300 adult fiction and non-fiction titles.

With the new additions come new guidelines that LHS students are expected to follow.

Students visiting the LRC without their scheduled class are required to have a pass that must be displayed upon entrance. Cathy Mayer said "If students fail to follow this guideline and are unaccounted for during the school day, they may receive an after-school detention."

The LRC has been designed to be a place that provides more than just resources and databases. It is a place allowing students to work on assignments with the opportunity to have their questions answered. The LRC is open to all LHS students and staff before, during and after school hours.



*photo by Maddy George*





## LHSEF to Scare up Funds for LHS

by Ryan Kahle  
News writer

It's a Spooktacular; the upcoming LHS fundraiser, presented by Citgo, is set to have another successful year.

The Food for Thought fundraiser will be hosted at the Narnia Estate on Oct. 29, and will take place from 6 p.m. to 12 p.m. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased by calling either Pete Coules at (630)257-2718 or Tricia Gikas at (630)257-9691. Dress for this event is cocktail casual, and attendance is limited to adults only. For the first time the event will feature live music, by way of the local band "Crazy Uncles."

Four of Lemont's new local businesses—The Vault, Sweetwater Deli, Muffins and Jimmy John's—will be coming on board for the event, joining the nine other contributors from past years: 3 Corners Grill and Tap, Starbucks, PC's Pancake Cafe, Nancy's Pizza, Mama D's, La Dolce Vita, Celina's Fresh Market, Bottles and Ali Tucker Artistic Entertaining.

LHSEF has granted over \$130,000 to the school since 2007, in part due to the success of the annual Food for Thought event. Last year, the foundation awarded ten grants yielding \$27,233 for the faculty, staff and students.

"The event has typically been very successful, and there is usually a big turnout upwards of 200 people," said Katie Covalle, director of special events at the Narnia Estate. She has hosted the event three times and expects another big turnout this year. "Everybody has a great time, and they raise a lot of money for the high school," she said. As for the estate itself, "we look forward to it every year."



photo by Ryan Kahle

## College Stressays

by Morgan McPartland  
Head Editor

As college application deadlines approach, seniors have a lot of writing to do. From the senior research paper and regular class work to writing numerous college essays, senior year might not be looking as easy it was expected to be.

"It's hard to balance your time between school work and the essays," said senior Mark Marek. "I didn't expect them to be stressful at all. I thought the prompts would be much easier."

Since there are so many essays to write and applications to fill out, why put in the effort to write a quality essay when it's only a portion of the application? "It can make or break a college admission decision for you," said LHS writing center, The Bridge, director Patty Melei. "It can showcase personality traits in a way test scores can't."

Melei advises all seniors to allow a minimum of a two week window to write a college essay because it's going to require a lot of time and editing. She believes students have to make a plan and not simply produce an essay in one sitting.

Many seniors are in the process of filling out college applications and finishing essays because deadlines are rapidly approaching. "[College essays] are stressful," said senior Becky Baker, who is also a tutor in The Bridge. "It's something that's always in the back of my mind."

As a writing center tutor, Baker has reviewed many of her peers' college essays and said "students come in with a lot of different topics and ideas."

LHS seniors can go to The Bridge for help with college essays before, during and after school.



## LHS: Green, Greener...

by Laura Harding  
News writer

From light-switch stickers to Project Infinite Green, LHS has taken many steps to become a greener facility.

Director of School and Community Relations Tony Hamilton has shown interest in LHS' efforts to become a more eco-friendly facility. According to Hamilton, LHS has already taken various steps in this direction, such as installing solar panels and introducing a school-wide recycling program two years ago.

In the future, Hamilton sees LHS furthering its efforts to go green, budget permitting. "I think that the school will continue to do things that are more efficient and more environmentally-conscious," said Hamilton.

Science teachers Tim Leffler and Zach Huber are also involved in the green initiative through Project Infinite Green. Infinite Green is an after-school program offered to seventh and eighth grade students within the town of Lemont in which they explore alternate energy resources.

According to Leffler and Huber, students in Infinite Green are joined by various speakers at their meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays to discuss environmentally-friendly resources. "On the first day I helped get things ready for the kids. I listened to people who work at Citgo with coal energy," said junior Sarah Reaves, an AP Biology student assisting with Infinite Green.

Going entirely green is a coveted, albeit relatively elusive feat for many eco-conscious facilities. By any means, LHS has made noticeable progress throughout the years.



photos courtesy of Google





# The "BIG GIRL" Feeling

by Maribeth Van Hecke  
*Editorials Editor*

I just bought my first pair of heels over two inches for a family party. After feeling fancy in them for a few hours, I was desperately confused as to how women voluntarily wear them every day.

Our society puts a “beautiful woman” tag on anyone wearing a pair of heels. Even though heels have a long history of helping people temporarily grow a few inches, they are linked to various health problems.

The earliest appearances of pumps were found in ancient Egyptian tombs and date back to 4000 BC. It is thought that butchers wore them to avoid the floor’s gore. That’s sure not glorious.

In 1533 Catherine d’Midici was the first to wear the “woman’s heel” for her wedding. At the time she was just 14; the design lengthened her legs and made her a whole two inches taller.

Soon after, the popularity of heels grew in Europe. Heels also became practical men’s shoes that eased stirrup use.

Now, heels are worn mainly for style. Both Marilyn Monroe and Audrey Hepburn showed how beautiful women are when in fancy heels.

“But they’re so painful!” Yes, although heels may have style and class, they also contribute to pain and doctor bills.

High heels have been linked to many foot problems such as bunions (excess bone growth on big toe joint), hammer toes (toe muscles inability to straighten) and Equinus (the shortening of the Achilles tendon), foot surgeon Dr. Neal M. Blitz reports.

Furthermore, heels can also have serious effects on your body. Wearing heels put extra pressure on your back and posture, calves and knees. This effect leads to back problems, the shortening and tightening in muscles and has also been linked to knee osteoarthritis, a painful breakdown of knee cartilage.

So are they really worth it? Maybe to slip on, take Homecoming pictures in and forget about them the rest of the night. The “big girl” feeling might not be worth it.

*photos courtesy of Google*



# *How Will I Take My Coffee?* **Black as the Starless Night**

by John Brennan  
*Editorialist*

There is nothing greater than getting up in the morning and watching the sun rise with a delicious roast in your mug.

Coffee is the best way to start a day. The smell, the taste, the caffeine, all come together to get you ready for the harsh reality that lies ahead: the day.

Coffee is a very customizable beverage. It can be sweet, bitter, savory or exotic. You can add cream, sugar or seasonal spices to your coffee to perfectly suit your needs. No other beverage allows this variety, and you don’t see anyone adding milk to their Mountain Dew. Except for maybe tea, but tea is not comparable to coffee.

Stinky coffee breath weeds out your true friends. If they can stand it, they truly like you. If your breath stinks and they put up with it, they’ll stick by you ‘til the end. If they catch the stink and run, it was never meant to be. Use coffee breath to weed out the jerks who wouldn’t throw you down a pair of jeans when you are trapped in a bear pit.

Some people say coffee is bad for your health. Wrong. Coffee can help prevent diabetes, lower risks of heart attacks, help prevent strokes and make you pee more. Who wants urine in their bodies anyway?

Next time you go to bed dreading waking up in the morning, you can find comfort in waking up to an inviting roast.



*photos by Michael Gaytan and Courtesy of Google*





## A Play About A Dragon

by Cara Dohse  
Features writer

The very talented students of LHS Drama Club are thrilled to perform their upcoming fall play, *A Play About A Dragon*. The big show will be in a matter of weeks.

“It’s coming together nicely,” said senior Matt Black. “Some of the set still needs to be constructed and some scenes need to be rehearsed, but overall it is coming together.”

The LHS Drama Club has been performing plays for years, but *A Play About A Dragon* will stand out from all the rest. “This show has a lot of diversity and things going on at once, but it’s easy to understand,” said freshman Rebecca Zagorski.

“It’s a really good comedy and we put a lot of work into our shows,” says senior Emma Spoo. “I think it has something for everyone: romance, comedy, and action.”

Directors Sharon Jacobs, Roy Nees and Dan Franke couldn’t be more thrilled about the cast and crew. The performances are Friday Nov. 5 and Saturday Nov. 6, and will start at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 for students with school IDs and senior citizens. All other admission will be \$7.

Be sure to clear your calendar for the fantastic show coming your way.



## David Guetta:

### Nothing but the Beat

by Ashley Murphy  
Features writer

What do you think of raging beats, smooth tones and pop music combined? Think David Guetta, French House DJ.

His three chart-topping albums include: “Just a Little More Love” (2002), “Guetta Blaster” (2004), and “Pop Life” (2007).

A multi-platinum selling artist, Guetta has brought his sweet beats to the U.S. The dance genius has taken over the music industry. While dance fanatics criticize his work for being “too mainstream” or “too commercial,” others believe Guetta has revolutionized the dance scene.

David Guetta’s main idea is to transfuse mainstream American pop and European club beats together. His concerts have wowed the crowds as a giant screen flashes behind him. As Guetta pumps up the crowd with lines like, “Put your hands up!” the audience jumps to the throbbing bassline.

His new album, “Nothing but the Beat,” features artists including Chris Brown, Flo Rida, Ludacris, Akon, Usher, Taio Cruz, Timbaland, Lil Wayne and Will.I.Am. Featured female artists include Nicki Minaj, Sia, Dev, Jennifer Hudson and Jessie J.

The new album adds bouncy pop, and every song is unique in some way. For example, “Titanium,” featuring Sia, has a calm rhythmic beat with a touch of dance. “Where Them Girls At,” featuring Flo Rida and Nicki Minaj, is loud and makes you want to jump and sing along. Every song is different and gives you a great musical experience.

Give credit to David Guetta for making partying easy. Check out his newest work of art, “Nothing but the Beat,” if you’re looking for infused American Pop with European beats. You’ll love it.

*Photos courtesy of Google*

## GALLOP TO GALLOPING GHOST ARCADE

by Mallory Christine  
Features writer

Neo Geo, BurgerTime and Galaga—any of these titles ring a bell?

If you’re a youngster like me, probably not. But if a non-gamer can end up spending hours surrounded by countless classic arcade games, it’s worth the \$15 fee to try a night of unlimited gaming yourself.

Located in Brookfield, the eccentric arcade features a wide variety of video games, including Asteroids, Terra Cresta, Mortal Kombat, Space Invaders and much more. “We try to bridge the gap between console gamers and arcade gamers,” says the arcade’s co-owner and Ninja Gaiden world record holder Doc Mack.

Mack and fellow co-owner Gerry Cantu opened the arcade just August of last year; however, Mack has owned Galloping Ghost Productions since 1994. Other involvements of Mack’s production company include “web stuff, video production, etc.”

Being someone that knew nothing about video games, I only showed up to see an internet comedian whose tour stopped at Galloping Ghost Arcade. But the moment I stepped through the doors, my ears were delighted with the sound of sweet dings, lasers and concentrated gamers’ fingers precisely tapping buttons.

To my right, a literal maze of classic arcade games. Ahead of me, a lit-up counter selling items from candy and pizza to Manga characters made out of melted beads. The atmosphere was unlike anything I’d ever experienced.

“It’s awesome,” says Mack about the arcade’s energy. “There’s never really any problems [with people].” Continues staff members, the arcade is “unique in the fact that people come solely to play for hours. They’re like-minded.”

Galloping Ghost Arcade’s staff has grown much in its first year, numerically and emotionally. “Our staff is savagely loyal,” says Mack, adding that multiple staff members including himself have a tattoo of the arcade’s logo.

And the staff members contribute in more ways than you’d think. Mack is in the process of making his own video game, Dark Presence—in which *he* is present.

What else does this arcade offer besides long, cheap hours of classic gaming? Lots.

Galloping Ghost offers an “achievement system”—players receive points through high scores and can trade those points for prizes, such as free admission and games.

An idea in the works for Mack, Galloping Ghost Arcade is also thinking of teaching a game-making class. Here, the student would learn graphics, audio, game balancing and more. Students also get to create their own characters in front of a green screen, and if they’re lucky, their games would even be featured on the game floor.

Cantu’s and Mack’s arcade also frequently hosts guests very special to the Galloping Ghost, such as Hector Sanchez (Mortal Kombat producer), Larry Demar (co-creator of Robotron and Funhouse Pinball) and comedian Keith Apicary—who first led me to Galloping Ghost.

Whether you’re preparing to hog your favorite game until closing, or you’re spending the late hours of a school night playing “Skittle toss” with your favorite comedian, of which I got to do both, Mack confirms what I first felt as I left Galloping Ghost: “a day is never the same here.”

For more on the adventure-fulfilling arcade, look into the following information:

Galloping Ghost Arcade  
9415 Ogden Ave  
Brookfield, IL 60513  
(708) 485-4700

<http://www.gallopingghostarcade.com/>

Hours: Sun—Sat 11 a.m.–2 a.m.; Mon-Fri 1 p.m.–2 a.m.

*Photos courtesy of R. Lado*





# The Art of PROCRASTINATION

by Sonia Vavra  
Features writer

Now that this school year is no longer very new, it seems as if students are beginning to slack in their school work.

Procrastination is the act of putting off or delaying something requiring immediate attention. It may not be intentional, but procrastination certainly affects a majority of students once the work begins to pile in.

“I procrastinate most in classes that have the most work that are kind of unnecessary, like the same Physics problems over and over again with different numbers, or 400 math problems.” says senior Mike Fortuna of Oak Forest High School. So, it may be easier to put off work in tedious or more difficult classes.

Along with it being almost unavoidable to slack in schoolwork, sometimes procrastination sets in

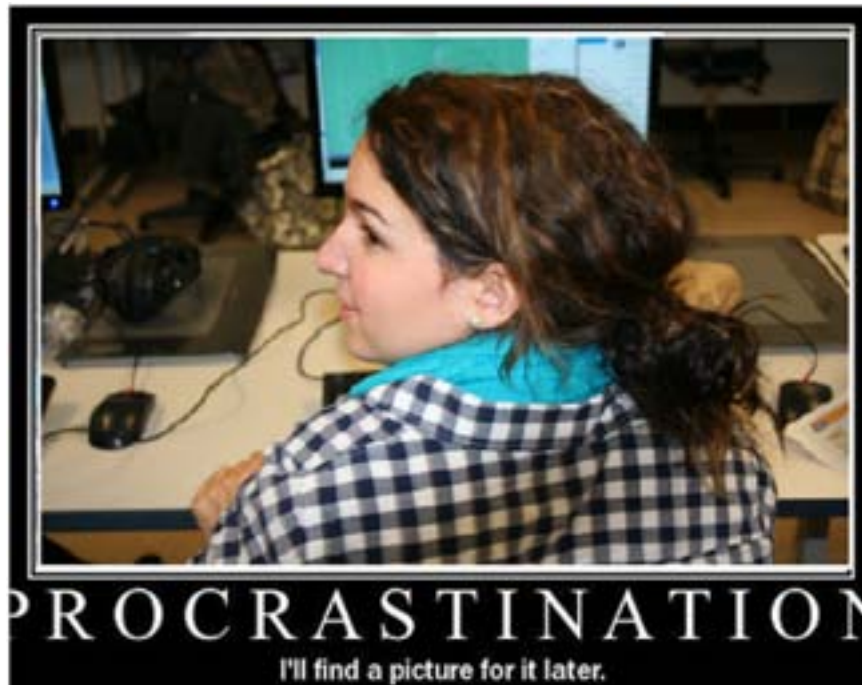
when it is least expected. It seems as if most students start to put off schoolwork around the middle of the school year, when the amount of homework and projects is usually at its peak. Students may find that they simply can’t keep up with the amount of work they’re given, so they unintentionally begin to ignore the task that needs to be fulfilled and allow their mind to wander instead.

“I don’t have a set routine to beat procrastination,” says Fortuna. “Sometimes all it takes is looking at the clock and realizing, ‘I need to get this done.’”

Looking for the cure to procrastination? To try and be on time with a goal, keep in mind what task must be accomplished. If possible, deal with that task immediately to get it over with in one sitting. Besides, imagine how much stress it will cause in the future if it is not accomplished at once.

If not possible, approach it one small section at a time. Next, repeat to yourself every benefit that will come from finishing that task, and think of that every time it seems you might begin to slack off or your mind begins to wander. Try to ignore every distraction around you; turn off the phone, the TV and the music.

Every goal will be accomplished if you simply set your mind to it.



*Photo by Michael Gaytan*

# Truly Mindless Behavior

by Luke Whittingham  
Features writer

Considering the music industry produces a new child star monthly, you may be questioning who is the “next big thing.” Mindless Behavior has proven themselves on countless occasions as an upcoming group. The young group appeals to a broad audience through their mainstream sound and unoriginal appearance.

Starting as a collective idea between major choreographers and songwriters that have worked with artists, such as Ke\$ha, Lady Gaga and Beyoncé. Mindless Behavior has risen to the top of the music charts in the United States. The group members—Prodigy, Roc Royal, Ray Ray and Princeton—were hand-picked from 600 other boys auditioning for their envied positions.

The surprisingly young group individually started in their own careers. Starting off in commercials or rigorously training under renowned choreographers, the boys immediately connected with audiences across the United States.

Today, their second single, “Mrs. Right,” has continued to capture the attention of their fans, gathered massive crowds at shopping malls and stadiums, who in turn are dedicated to their ever-present and responsive icons.

Mindless Behavior’s portrayed message along with their repetitive beats leaves no room for questionable beats or rhythms posed by classical or even rock music. The unoriginal sound of the group is ridiculously predictable and leaves one to question the originality in our generation’s taste in music.

“Mrs. Right” begins with a simple beat as the young stars gloat about travel, wealth and appeal toward girls. And to no one’s surprise, the group adds a celebrity guest rapper, Willow Smith, to their already unoriginal song. The utter lack of originality of Mindless Behavior provokes questions about America’s acts of “mindless behavior” when listening to music.

Their music is repetitive, but the hard work and connection to their fans seems to please the young group. Ranked second behind Lady Gaga in accumulated Facebook fans, Mindless Behavior’s hard work and dedication has certainly paid off in popularity across the country.

Still, the mainstream sound and appearance of Mindless Behavior holds demonstrates the mindless behavior of our generation in regards to music.



*Photo courtesy of Google*





# 12 SENIOR NIGHT AT VARSITY SOCCER GAME

by Adrian Kalata  
*Sports Writer*

Senior Night was held at the Oct. 11 game vs. Reavis, which took place at our own Lemont field. The senior players received a special tribute in advance to the game, which kick-offed at 6:30 p.m. The seniors stood alongside their parents on the field, and then started in the game.

The seniors were honored before the game with roses and medals for the parents, booklets about each individual, picture frames, and refreshments. Roughly 250 people showed to the occasion, ranging from player families to the student fans, or otherwise known as Pranger's Golden Army.

For some seniors, this will be their last years on a soccer team. Senior Kyle Koehler described what the soccer team means to him: "Playing for the LHS Varsity Soccer team was a unique and special opportunity that will be a lasting experience thanks to the dedication of my coaches and my teammates." When asked what he will miss, Kyle stated, "The camaraderie and the competitiveness will be missed the most."

Seniors Dylan Rhodes, Lukas Silunas, Kaspar Jasenauskas, Connor Cunningham, Ryan Peraino, Mike Walus, and Captains Kyle Koehler and Nick Tiedt all had the privilege of starting in the game. The ball found the back of the net when a 40 yd. kick bounced off the cross bar, and was rebounded by Mike Walus. His goal brought LHS to a 1-0 lead 7 minutes into the game. With 15 minutes to go in the half, the team brought their score to 2-0 after another rebound goal by Mike Walus. The third goal was scored from a pass from freshman Roy Delatore to Junior Tom Gasenica.

Junior Tom Gasenica leads the team in goals, with an impressive 16 this season. When asked about him performance, Tom said "I have felt myself improve this season. All the time we spend at practice really shows during the games." Tom also went on the say that he "wouldn't be able to have this many goals if it wasn't for the team. The team works great together."

The Varsity team has earned an impressive 16-3-3 record for this season thus far. With their last regular season game over, the team begins Regionals on Oct. 14-22.



Seniors on LHS Varsity Soccer Team

Photos by Adrian Kalta



# 13 Indians Volleyball 'Setting' Up For The Playoffs

by Kurran Buck  
*Sports writer*

The LHS varsity girls volleyball team is streaking to the finish line, tied for first with Oak Forest for the conference title.

The Lady Indians, led by senior captain and defensive specialist Gabby Alvarez and senior outside hitter/right side hit-ter Emily Brown, have been on fire lately with three wins in their last four games. Currently tied for first place, Brown said that a recent game was a must-win, "because Oak Forest would be ahead of us," thus putting the pressure on the Lady Indians to win the rest of their conference games.

Brown, who is up for the trib-local athlete of the month, said it won't affect her or her team's play. "I think it's good to show that you're a team player, but it doesn't really affect my game," said Brown. In a recent game against Tinley Park, Brown had 11 kills and four service points to lead the Indians to victory, 25-10 and 25-15.

So far in the season, the Lady Indians have kept a rather consistent pace, winning 27 games and losing 11. "Every game we play, we try to play our best two games," said Brown about their consistency. It has been good enough to keep them in first place this season, which puts them in a good position for the playoffs." If they do bring up some sophomores, it will only make them better.

Although the team is fairly young, with many sophomores and juniors making the move up to varsity this season, it may get younger. Brown said that "you never know [if anyone will come up because] we've had a couple practices with them, but usually we will if we need them for tournaments or the playoffs."

Volleyball has always been a popular sport wherever you go and it shows when you go to any of these matches. The Lady Indians put so much time and effort into their game, and it has helped bring them the success they have had this season.

The Lemont Girls Varsity Volleyball team has what it takes to win state this year. All they need is your support in their next game, which is Oct. 20 at T.F. North and state playoffs begin Oct. 26. Will you join them for their race to state finish line?



Photos by Tony Hamilton







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# NBA: No Basketball Association

by Kyle Griffin  
Sports writer

Kobe Bryant is possibly heading to Italy and Chicago Bulls star Carlos Boozer is possibly heading overseas with a handful of other players to play in international leagues. What's wrong with NBA these days?

Actually, a whole lot is wrong with the NBA and the league may not even have one game played this season due to owners and players feuding.

Commissioner David Stern announced Monday that the first two weeks of the regular season have been cancelled and that means no basketball until at least the middle of November.

Plus, this means some highly-anticipated games won't be played this year, such as the Bulls' season opener against the defending champions, the Dallas Mavericks.

However, NBA fans are looking at a bigger

picture here as they may not see a single game played this season due to rich owners and players arguing over money. After two days of meetings, the owners and players are very far apart from agreeing on anything.

"It's a shame that they can't come to an agreement, especially because I was so excited for the Bulls to start the season," said senior and varsity basketball player Mike Lambert.

Also, with no more meetings between the two sides scheduled at the moment, the chances of the season losing more games are high.

But this doesn't mean NBA players are just going to take the year off.

Many NBA athletes under contract are negotiating with professional teams overseas in Europe. You'll have to pack your bags and head to Europe if you want to see your favorite NBA stars play.

However, some fans say they won't even miss the NBA.

"The NBA isn't even that popular and I'm not going to be sad if there is no season," said Lemont senior and varsity basketball player Joe O'Brien.

Well at least there will still some basketball to watch this winter. College hoops will be coming soon and it will give NBA fans something to fall back on.

"College basketball is where the real competition is," said O'Brien.

With the 2011-12 NBA season looking like it won't come, you'll have to find a different sport this winter, or buy yourself a plane ticket for Europe.



*Photos courtesy of Google*

*Photos courtesy of Google*



15

# Do the Conference shuffle

by Ryan Peraino  
Sports Editor

Over the last year, many colleges have left their conference to join the new and improved big conferences. These changes have put some conferences like the Big 12 and the Big East in question. Many are wondering what will happen to these once-premiere conferences.

The NCAA has reported eight conference changes so far and there are possibly more to come.

Last year, Nebraska, Colorado, Boise State and Utah all left their conferences to join bigger conferences.

This year TCU, Texas A&M, Syracuse and Pittsburgh have announced that in the future they are going to leave their conference.

Some other schools including Missouri and UCONN have announced their desire to leave their conference and may leave soon.

All of this conference shake-up is presumably due to the NCAA going to four major conferences. This would enable a playoff between the four major conference winners to decide the national championship of football.

Doing this would eliminate schools like Boise State and other the lower market schools, from competing in the National Championship Playoff.

"I really enjoy watching the lower market schools, like Boise State, beat the bigger schools in the BCS Bowl Games," said senior football player Josh Young. "It would be a shame to eliminate the lower market schools from having a chance."

The playoff system in college football is something fans have been calling for a long time but many of the big six schools (teams in the Pac 12, Big 12, Big 10, Big East, ACC and SEC) don't want to. These conferences and schools



*Photos courtesy of Google*

*"Shuffle" continued on page 16*





*"Shuffle" continued from page 15*

would lose a lot of guaranteed money from each of the BCS Bowl games.

"A playoff system would solve so many problems and would show the true champion each year," said senior football player Andrew Maganello.

Currently there are the big six schools and the fans' proposal is to have a four team playoff. This would mean that two conferences would be eliminated. Currently, the Big East and the Big 12 look to be the odd men out.

Although the Big East has 16 teams in their conference for basketball, they only have eight teams for football and two have already announced their departure. This would mean that the Big East is a likely candidate to be abolished.

The Big 12 has already had three teams leave its conference and there is rumor that more may be on the way. Big schools in the conference like Texas and Oklahoma pledged to do everything they can to help the conference but with the way things are panning out, it looks like the Big 12 will eventually be gone.

"I don't see the Big 12 and Big East lasting more than five years before they go extinct," said senior football player Eric Kirkman.

TV is changing college sports and it's hurting some of these athletes. With some of these new proposed conferences, "student-athletes" will have to fly 900 miles across the country during the week.

When these colleges make these changes, many fans only think about the effect it has on football and basketball, but think about the fencing players or the women soccer players. These athletes have to travel far distances during the school week for games.

The NCAA always says, the student comes before the athlete, but is that really true?

One thing is for sure: the NCAA has a lot of work to do if they want to save conferences like the Big 12 and Big East.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Shane Purtle- Despite windy conditions Shane took third at this weekend's State Tournament shooting a 151 (72-78). He also lead the team to a third place finish. Congratulations Shane and the Boys Golf team on a great season.



*Photos courtesy of Tony Hamilton and Google*