



LHS Ranks Among Top High Schools

by Morgan McPartland
Head Editor

At the end of October, the Illinois State Board of Education released its 2011 Illinois School Report Cards for Illinois' schools and districts. According to the ISBE, the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Lemont High School ranks among the top schools in the Chicagoland area and in the state.

As stated in the school report card, 71.8 percent of the Class of 2012 met or exceeded standards on the PSAE last spring. Because of that, LHS placed 50th out of the 666 high schools across Illinois – a 21 place improvement from its No. 71 ranking last year. Therefore, LHS now ranks among the state's top 7.5 percent of public high schools in the PSAE category.

Aside from high rankings in the PSAE category, LHS' Class of 2011 had an average composite ACT score of 23.0, which ties for 50th among Illinois high schools.

Also, the *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Sun-Times* released the lists of top high schools in their Oct. 31 issues. LHS ranked among the *Chicago Tribune's* "Top 50" schools for the fourth year in a row, placing 41st.

The "Top 50" list ranks all high schools in the Chicagoland area, which is comprised of Cook, Dupage, McHenry, Will, Lake and Kane County. "I'm proud to be going to a school so highly ranked," said senior Jill O'Malley. "It makes all the work worthwhile."

On a slightly different scale, the *Chicago Sun-Times* analyzes the scale score of each student's reading and mathematics test statewide. Then, based on the amount of Illinois students who scored at or worse than the school's average student, the newspaper rates each school.

LHS ranks No. 40 in the six-county Chicagoland area for the second straight year because 66.49 percent of Illinois students would score at or worse than the Class of 2012's average PSAE score. Overall, LHS has consistently received high rankings from official reports and lists, making Lemont proud.

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Inkspot

by Gina Koziel
News writer

Throwing out the old and bringing in the new; this year LHS Inkspot has done exactly that.

Inkspot's purpose is to teach students how to become community leaders and give an introduction to business and new technology. In the past, Inkspot has produced old-fashioned magazines full of articles and artwork.

As well as the articles and artwork which is produced by LHS students and staff, Inkspot also has had experience in the business aspect. According to www.lhsinkspot.com, "Inkspot's vision is to maintain a productive year through increased ad sales, publicity and a profitable dividend return."

However, this year the old magazine idea has been thrown out and replaced with newer ones. According to junior Inkspot president Keaton Wall, "Inkspot is now using a Zine." Inkspot is still using the magazine idea, but a Zine has a different touch to it.

"A Zine is a modern, edgy magazine but with an urban feel," said Wall. "It also has different dimensions in it."

The Zine is expected to come out this winter, either in December or January. For more information on it visit www.lhsinkspot.com.



photos by Tony Hamilton

Walk This Way

by Sarah Newton
News writer

A ten minute walk to a friend's house now has become a two minute drive. A five minute bike ride to get ice cream is now pestering Mom or Dad to drive quickly over and pick up the favorite flavor. With increased laziness comes increased obesity and the Village of Lemont is making a change.

Recently, a \$4 million grant was given to 41 agencies to help fight obesity and prompt wellness. Lemont was one of the lucky few and received \$48,040. The village has decided to partner with Active Transportation Alliance, a not-for-profit organization that "works to improve conditions for bicycling and walking ... and engage people in healthy and active ways to get around" (Active Transportation Alliance Motto).

"It is one step in the fight to make healthier choices the easier choices for our residents," said Chief Operating Officer Stephen Martin.

The goal of the Active Transportation Plan is to not only make others' lives healthier, but to create new trails and improve current ones, making them safer for residents.

It is still undecided where new trails will go, but that decision is based on two things. The first are the citizens of Lemont, who can take a survey online evaluating the safety of our current pathways and putting in where they would like to see new paths (follow link below). The second is with the help of Mark Fenton, Transportation Consultant and expert on walking, who will come up with the best routes in our community along with safety suggestions.

Lemont is making the move to make walking more accessible and safe for residents, so follow along and walk this way.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/LemontActiveTransportationPlan>





What is the Scholastic Bowl for 500?

by Scott Salvatore
News writer

In the South Suburban Conference, the Scholastic Bowl has four meets per season. At each meet, schools compete against three SSC opponents simultaneously.

LHS Scholastic Bowl head coach Dawn Weber said, “The Scholastic Bowl is pretty much like Trivial Pursuit. There are five students per team. Each round, students are asked 20 ‘toss-up’ questions, which are answered individually and based on who answers them correctly the fastest.”

If a team successfully answers a “toss-up” question correctly that team earns a bonus question. On bonus questions, a team must successfully work together to answer, otherwise the other team has a chance to answer and steal the points.

Veteran member senior Ankit Amlani says, “It’s just like jeopardy, with a buzzer and everything.” To get a better idea on the types of questions students will be faced with go to <http://metcalf.illinoisstate.edu/sbowl/questions/index.html>.

The first Scholastic Bowl meeting of the year will be on Nov. 21 after school in room S407. Competitions do not start until January and final rosters will be established on Dec. 15.

Like many of the competitive extra-curricular activities, there is a participation fee of \$25 not due until the Jan 10. There is no obligation to pay unless placed on the final roster once the competitions begin. For any additional information on the activity visit the IHSA website at <http://ihsa.org/SportsActivities/ScholasticBowl.aspx>.



photos courtesy of Google

LHS Speech Team TALKS Their Way to First

by Ryan Kahle
News writer

Speech team offers a flexible practice schedule, a variety of events and a community that can guide one through his/her high school experience.

When Dan Franke took on the head coaching position about six years ago, the team began growing rapidly and initiated a more rigorous performance/competition schedule.

“For the first few years, there were only a handful of students on the team,” said Phil Lazzari, assistant coach of the LHS Speech Team. He continued, saying that getting individuals to join the speech team was often a “tough sell,” for many were involved in other activities.

“So far this season,” said Franke, “we have competed at three competitions: the Streamwood Shindig - 1st place as a team; including ten individual champions, the Homewood Flossmoor Novice - 7th place overall; three individual champions, and the Downers Grove North Mixer - 3rd overall as a team (out of 36 teams); including two individual varsity champions and two novice champions.”

Though the season has just begun, many veteran members are optimistic about the upcoming competitions. Senior Lindsay Simonetta, varsity team member, said her “fingers are crossed” in regards to the team’s performance this season. The speech team sent individuals in three categories to state last year, and the success is only expected to grow.

“The hope is always to improve,” said Franke. Last year, the team placed 11th overall in the state and they are shooting for a top five finish this year. Franke hopes the team will bring home its first individual state championship this year.

“We also have a nice run of two consecutive SSC Blue Division Conference team championships that we hope will become three consecutive titles,” Franke said.

The speech team is quickly building momentum thanks to the support of the LHS administration and the parents of the speech team members.

As the team continues to grow, Franke says that they “are always looking for new and vibrant students to join our ranks,” to help further the tradition of success.



Born to Scavenge?

by Maribeth Van Hecke
Editorials Editor

There is nothing like running around with a checklist in hand, taking pictures with random historical monuments and people and asking anyone you see questions they probably don’t know.

More people should participate in scavenger hunts. Hunts are good, clean fun and can even be educational. Silly as you might think they are, as a senior, I still get as excited about scavenger hunts as much as a... actually I don’t have a comparison for that.

The 30s brought scavenger hunts to the game world. Gossip columnist, author and professional hostess Elsa Maxwell first introduced scavenger hunts, and even treasure hunts to America. Maxwell was known for throwing parties for high-society. Obviously, the parties were rather high-class.

Scavenger hunt participant, Morgan Rex thinks scavenger hunts have “healthy competition” and helps teach you to think before you act. “There’s just so much shouting and laughing and running during scavenger hunts,” Rex remarks. Basically, it’s a good time.

Hunt lists today can range from finding information of an area, taking crazy pictures and even reenacting certain events or scenes. The crazier the list, the crazier the fun.

Hunts can be held around neighborhoods, downtown areas, malls or even around someone’s house (my personal favorite was one at the Zoo). As Maxwell designed, scavenger hunts are perfect for parties, but who needs a reason to run around to collect completely random objects and awkwardly take pictures of people you don’t know?

One way to give back while having your fun is a donation-based scavenger hunt. Instead of gathering Macaroni & Cheese colored crayons and pennies from 1979, groups can gather food for food pantries or simple supplies like toothpaste and shampoo for shelters. Groups could run around neighborhoods, or even have a budget at a local grocery store, and collect items to donate.

The largest scavenger hunt in the world is actually held in Chicago every May. This four-day-event is described by the University of Chicago Scavenger Hunt website as “an intense blend of bliss and chaos.” Founded in 1987 by Chris Straus, the hunt is put on by the University of Chicago and contains of a list of up to 300 items to perform, construct, research and obtain.

So no matter the age, no matter the resources, scavenger hunts are an awesome reason to run around like a crazy person. And like in the University of Chicago Scavenger Hunt bylaws, Article II, Section I “true freedom can only be realized through utter chaos.” Let the scavenging begin.



photos courtesy of Google



Under Pressure

by Cara Dohse
Editorialist

It's that time of the year all upperclassmen dread—the research paper.

As big of a burden as the assignment is seen as, have you ever thought about how beneficial it is for your future? Every single teacher has most likely told you the benefits already, but it's time to take those headphones out of your ears and know the English teachers are speaking only the truth.

Seniors already have one paper under their belt and juniors must get their first experience in a matter of months.

The research paper is stressful and reflects a lot of your grade, but it is a fantastic learning tool. The paper teaches students how to organize several thoughts and be able to pick out which information is useful and what is unnecessary.

There are many deadlines that come with the research paper such as sources, notecards, outlines, and more. These deadlines are great practice for strict college deadlines.

College will throw many obstacles and challenges at students, so what better way to prepare than a research paper in high school? While tackling the pressure of the paper, keep in mind it will all be over soon and will in fact help for later life.



photos courtesy of Google

I Get By With a Little Help From My FRIENDS

by John Brennan
Editorialist

At the end of the day, you are all alone. You're working a dead-end job. Your kid's are ungrateful for everything you've done for them. All the dreams you once had are bitter memories laughing at you from the empty recesses of your mindhole. The only thing you have are friends, comrades, brethren.

Comrades are what make life worth living. When your cold home isn't enough to make you feel content with your life, your friends are who you can turn to make you feel all warm inside. Without them, life would be very boring, dull, nothing.

True comrades are those whose stagnation doesn't bore. Or they are the book you've read a thousand times over but seems to hold some deeper meaning. Friends are those who understand each other or mutually agree not to understand each other.

Real comrades are those who help you out of a bind. Friends that you can trust and love are what keeps life from being a downward spiral of paranoia and anxiety. But you got to have friends. Got to have your friends.

A frightening statistic was shown in a study by the American Sociological Review, which links fewer friendships and psychological regression. So get some friends. You are nothing without friends.

Friends come in all quantities and qualities. It matters not if one has more friends, or one close friend. Friends are still friends.

At the end of the day, you're done. Friends are there to help you when you are in a bind. They pretend to be interested in your stories of overcoming the perilous task of tracking down and buying a copy of a rare, low-budget Japanese role-playing game.



Retribution or Rehabilitation

by Josh Shubert
Editorialist

You wake up on your comfy bed to the sound of your flat screen T.V. After rubbing the sand from your eyes you head out of your room to a homemade breakfast. After eating, you head out to go play some morning soccer with the boys. Later, you pick up your axe to go get some firewood to heat your home. In the evening you wind down by rehearsing some songs you've been working with in your recording studio. Oh yeah, you're also in prison.

Prisons in America do nothing to deter crime. They punish even minor offenders with cramped, horrid conditions that only foster violent behavior rather than correct it. Prison capacity, crime rates, and the number of repeat offenders are directly proportional. So what should be done? Punish the prisoners more?

Nay! Rather, give the prisoners more freedom; give them so much freedom that they barely even know they are in prison.

Surely this wouldn't work though? Prisoners should be punished for their deeds so they're scared straight?

Not so, for prisons in Norway are doing just the opposite with success. Extending freedoms to their incarcerated population, Norway has seen drastically low crime rates, with only 60 per 100,000 people incarcerated compared to 700 per 100,000 in the United States.

Inmates in Halden, just one of Norway's unique prisons, enjoy activities such as hiking, horseback riding, basketball, rock climbing and ski jumping in the winter. The prison also has a recording studio, movie theatre and even tanning beds. Not to mention the inmate-guard soccer games and barbeques.

But do these luxuries, most of which probably weren't enjoyed by the inmates during civilian life, really reform the inmates?

Well, in a similar Norwegian prison, Bastoy, inmate Haavald Schjerven, imprisoned for taking \$550,000 in bribes while a U.N. department chief, comments that "It's OK here . . . It gives you time to think and reflect."

So could similar programs work in the United States? Absolutely. The problem lies in Americans who see prisons as institutions for retribution rather than rehabilitation.

The closest programs in America to those in Norway are dog and horse rehabilitation projects. Ina Benge, nurse at Green River Correctional Complex in Central City, Kentucky comments on the inmates saying, "They're more friendly toward each other. We haven't had as many fights. You can see the changes in the inmates themselves, being responsible for somebody else has given them a purpose."

Robert Smith, an inmate who participates in the dog training program at Green River says about his dog, Dixie, "She's helped me a lot because she helped me find the man that I was before I came to prison . . . and I like the person that I found. »

And these results are typical. All around the United States, similar programs are causing significant improvements in inmate behavior.

While a prison system identical to Norway's may be a little too much to ask of most Americans, why not at least offer more programs to inmates? Not only would behavior and morale improve, but inmates would be less aggressive meaning less money would need to be spent on security. The better they have it on the inside, the better they act when they are back on the outside.



photos courtesy of Google



Ed.: Throughout the year, the Tom-Tom will occasionally publish letters to the editor discussing issues of concern for the reading public. These letters may be edited for content, grammar and style, and do not necessarily reflect the views of LHS or of the Tom-Tom. Thanks for the submissions and keep them coming!

Late start for a
brighter shine.
You know you want it.

It is a commonly disputed and debated topic of whether or not schools should start later. The people involved with the board of education and other politicians have thought about this topic occasionally, but students discuss this topic every day. In every class I go to, there is always someone I hear say (or yawn), “I’m so tired” or “I need more sleep.” That’s almost the official greeting a student gives to another. I believe that it would be an excellent idea if Lemont High school would be a late-starting school.

There are many benefits to starting later. Benjamin Franklin once said, “Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.” Who can deny that? Health, wealth, and wisdom are certainly what are most important (i.e. getting the right amount of sleep and the ability to pay attention in class to use your wisdom for wealth). You don’t have to have a PhD in philosophy to figure that out. Sleepfoundation.org states that 60% of children under the age of 18 complained of being tired during the day, and 15% of them even fell asleep in class! Perhaps it would be best if those “ZZZ’s” turned to A’s.

Maybe it’s possible to reduce car crashes due to traffic and those who fall asleep as well. Medicalnewstoday.com says that crash rates of teenagers (who go to late-starting schools) decreased in more urban areas as well as state wide. Not only that, but it also improves sleeping habits, helping teens to have a good idea of how sleep is important. Debatewise.com lists the pros: improved concentration, extra time for homework, getting prepared, studying, and waking up to be alert. Who doesn’t want that?

Imagine how you feel every day when you wake up. You never want to leave your nice warm bed, you want to finish that one dream that was like watching a movie, and you want to continue not caring about a thing in the world while being so comfortable. When you do get up, you’re grumpy; the light hurts your eyes and nothing would please you more than to crawl back into bed . . . The reality is that some kids are in such a rush for the bus or to run to school that they cannot eat breakfast. They are basically starving all day on top of being exhausted . . . Not only would their body weight decrease their chance of stomach ulcers, but their grades would most likely plummet. Their problems would almost physically make them deaf to their teacher’s lectures . . . It doesn’t really seem right to reinforce the animosity students normally feel towards going to school.

What could go wrong? After just a small schedule change, not only will the students be happier, but also the teachers. Wouldn’t it feel so good to give someone that privilege of being able to have a non-rushed and easy morning? Who wouldn’t want that? After all, it is such a small thing. I’m sure out of the many requests students have sent to the school for changing something, this could be one of the more cogitated. After all, it exaggerates health with a sufficient amount of sleep so students will be ready for classes at the beginning of the day, furthermore making students more prepared and less likely to fall asleep in class. Students will even have the statistics in their favor by having less of a chance of crashing while driving to school and having better sleeping habits. All students need is just more time in the day to be prepared.

- Marcus Westbrook

photos courtesy of Google



A Play About A Dragon: A Creative Burst

by Mallory Christine
Features Editor

Do you often find yourself asking what vibrant wigs, dragon snot and various British accents have in common? Well, I have your answer—It’s *A Play About A Dragon*.

A play within a play, *A Play About A Dragon* tells the Medieval story of five lowly actors who lug around a questionable stage at their attempt at fame. The clashing characters come across a disguised princess, a daring prince, a greedy scammer, and many obstacles before running into their biggest problem—the moral responsibility to kill a dragon.

Having always been enthralled with student-run productions, I attended both Friday and Saturday night performances with two different guests. While my Saturday night guest was displeased with the “cheesiness” and “over-acting” of the production, Lemont High School senior Lauren Butkovich said the Friday night performance was “short and sweet.”

And, like my two friends, there seemed to be a mix of opinion among other play viewers; while most attendees laughed and cheered along almost to a cue, others sat quietly in their seats. However, the statuesque customers were few, and excluded myself.

The first element of *A Play About A Dragon* I was drawn to was the hilarious costume design—but when Lemont High School senior Matt Black, wearing a blonde wig and sparkly gown, is seated next to you before the show’s start with no explanation, anyone would be. While I later learned he was to play King Stanley the Stern, it was a speechless moment.

But this memorable first impression was accompanied by many not only humorous, but polished costumes. From the purposefully makeshift-looking costumes of the play within the play, to the overly silky outfit of the less-than-macho Prince Pinky (played by Alex Vjestica in a bright red wig), I have to say the costumes were my favorite part of this play.

Although, a few other elements didn’t follow far behind—like the creative use of lighting and smoke machines to create moments of light heartedness, swampy danger, and a “seeing-red” sort of fear when Sir Smallpart, played by senior Matt Bonfitto, silently fights the well-decorated dragon.

Other play elements worth mentioning include the rather important acting skill. I was pleased with most of the cast members’ ability to act, especially together. The natural likeness between actors was attractive towards viewers like myself.

In specific, a few mistakes were made between both nights, such as when Lady Dottie (played by Victoria Villarreal) drops her belt. However, another actor smoothly picks it up and returns it to her. The fact that these minor errors were easily covered up shows how in-sync the actors were with one another, which impressed me very much.

I also enjoyed the unique mannerisms that each actor went about his/her role with. For example, Kevin Driscoll’s role

“Dragon” continued on page 10



Photo by Tony Hamilton



“Dragon” continued from page 9

as “Players” member Morton added spark to the play. No matter in or out of center stage, one could depend on Driscoll’s facial expressions to be in-character, hilarious, and, frankly, weird—in a good way.

And the impressive performers are abundant. Senior Stephanie Schwartz’s collected portrayal of Folly and sophomore Robert Rigler’s clumsy and spontaneous portrayal of infatuated Grub balanced easily with the more sophisticated characters Lady Gwen and Roland (played by Kristen Molnar and Steve Henson).

As far as the story itself goes, the out-of-nowhere idea seemed to be the element that drew play-goers in, including myself. A plot that fit the audience (both children and adults), the storyline was one that matched the talent-bearing set and backdrops: simple and sensible, yet creative.

Overall, the play did its job—it entertained me, while giving me an extra laugh for seeing my classmates in tights. But what did other PAC-goers think of the play?

“The characters were good,” said Lemont High School senior Alex Drafke. “But it was awkward knowing those people from school and hearing them spout sexual innuendos at each other.”

However, any awkwardness produced wouldn’t likely stunt the good feelings of cast and crew, Driscoll in particular. “I was overwhelmed with the amount of happiness after the first night,” he said. “And [a] mixture of both happiness and sadness after closing night because it was over.”

What Driscoll loved most about his fellow cast mates was “the fact that no matter how everyone’s day went before rehearsal... We could just come into it fun and happy.”

And Driscoll’s favorite part of playing Morton? “The accent. Definitely the accent.”

Whether it was the overall play experience of finding my seat and muffling my laughs, or the deep appreciation for my fellow classmates’ talent and bravery, I’d see *A Play About A Dragon* a third time because of a very special, unidentifiable characteristic the actors brought to it.

Hats off to the directors, crew and cast. Bravo!

“BOREDOM” = ADVENTURES

by Luke Whittingham
Features writer

Are you thinking about the giant bowl of Reese’s Puffs you are going to power through when you get home? Or the hippie movement that you’ve secretly wanted to join? What are you really thinking of when you’re in class?

Educators may not always admit it, but daydreaming is a large part of a student’s day. It may appear that he or she is “staring out into space,” but what truly is he or she thinking about? From fictional to future plans, daydreaming plays an important role in a student’s high school career.

“I’d rather be downtown shopping, eating or sleeping” said Lemont High School senior Gabrielle Zeman. Realistic qualities are a major part in daydreaming, but a student’s imagination takes over, and while “learning” a new math problem they might really be off fighting zombies. “I’d rather be fighting crime,” said senior Steven Tomala when asked on his thoughts during Government class.

Productive daydreaming also occurs in a student’s daily life. “I like to plan my day, know what my homework is and what class I have next,” said senior Saeda Aljazera. “Although I often get yelled at for not paying attention in class.” Junior Courtney Toth adds, “I think of all the things I have to do today and how much more time is left in that class.”

As students at LHS continue to work hard for their grades, the things that motivate them are innumerable. Daydreaming is beneficial because it can relax the mind and actually boost productivity. Plus it’s something almost everyone does, according to WebMD member Christina Frank.

The next time you’re caught “staring off” by your teacher, you can respectfully respond with your newly obtained knowledge. Mapping out the rest of your day or simply fighting crime can help relax you and prepare you for further education.

Photos courtesy of Google

OH, THOSE SUMMER NIGHTS

by Sonia Vavra
Features writer



It’s about that time of year again. We slip on our boots and coats in the morning before school. We walk outside only to be taken by surprise by the gust of cold wind hitting our face. We layer up with jackets and scarves in order to keep ourselves warm in the crisp November air.

How nice it was to be able to stay up until the early hours of the morning, not a thought in your mind about that difficult school assignment due the next day. How wonderful it was to sleep in the next afternoon, not a sign of lack of sleep on your face.

While first semester is nearly halfway over, many LHS students, including myself, still reminisce about the hot days and nights filled with adventure.

“I miss having more time to hang

out with friends,” said junior Mia Vermejan. “A lot of kids are in activities and sports, plus having all the homework. It’s hard to find time to hang out when you have all of that going on. Having time to hang out during the day just lets everyone have more fun.”

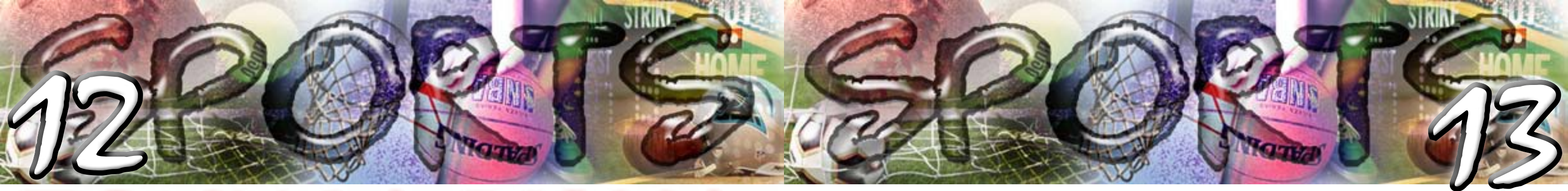
The memories of sunny days and hot weather taunt many of us, especially when the sunshine leaves and gloomy days take its place. It especially affects those, myself included, that walked around Chicago in the sunny weather for three days straight.

“Lollapalooza was the best three days of my life,” said junior Connor Tomaka. “I got to hang out with my really good friends and listen to some of my new favorite bands. We all got body painted up and then covered ourselves in glitter... we regretted that later, but still enjoyed every moment of it.”

For many, Lollapalooza was the end-of-the-summer bang, as it was around only a few weeks before school started again. “Lollapalooza was the icing on my summer cake, and it was a great way to end off the perfect summer,” said Tomaka.

Summer gave us freedom. That is what we miss the most. We miss the ability to sleep in until any hour of the day. We miss walking aimlessly around town, our minds absent of the fear of freezing to death as soon as we walk out the door. Although the unbearable humidity and heat would be enough to make one wish for cold weather again, the memories of summer never leave us. They haunt us all until we begin to count down the moments when sunshine and fresh air greet us again.

Photos courtesy of Google



TONY LA RUSSA: Girls Basketball Preview

A Career in Review

by Kurran Buck
Sports writer

For most people involved in Major League Baseball, they only have a playing career for several teams. But for Tony La Russa, former manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, Oakland Athletics and Chicago White Sox, he's had both a playing career and an illustrious managing career.

La Russa's career began as an infielder for the Kansas City Athletics in 1963. But due to a shoulder injury in his next season for the A's, he would spend most of his professional playing days in the minor leagues.

He would only play five more major league seasons in the major leagues. His final stats were 35 hits in 176 at-bats, which is a .199 batting average, and 7 runs batted in. His final appearance as a major league player came as a player for the Chicago Cubs in 1973, but he continued playing in the minor leagues until 1977.

La Russa began managing in the middle of the 1979 season, when he was hired by the Chicago White Sox. He led them to the 1983 American League West championship title, but was fired by the White Sox after the 1986 season. He was hired three weeks later by the Oakland Athletics, whom he would lead to three American League championships and the 1989 World Series title.

He left the A's in 1995 to manage the St. Louis Cardinals, who were in obvious need of new leadership. He led them to three National League championships and the 2006 and most recently the 2011 World Series titles. He retired on Halloween of this year, after 33 seasons as a major league manager. His total amount of wins, 2,728, is third to only Connie Mack and John McGraw.

"He had a great impact on the game," said LHS baseball head coach Joe Rodeghero, "...he was doing stuff that Theo Epstein is doing now 20, 25 years ago." When asked about La Russa being a potential Hall of Famer, he said "That he is definitely a first ballot Hall of Famer, he has won World Series championships in both leagues, and I think that he has withstood the test of time as far as managing is concerned."

Tony La Russa is considered one of the best managers of all time, and will remain a household name for years to come.



Photos courtesy of Google

by Adrian Kalata
Sports writer

Nov. 9 marked the first practice for the girls' basketball team. With only nine girls trying out for the varsity team, coach William Bozue says he is excited for the season ahead.

With fall basketball underway, the girls began practicing for their '11-'12 season early this month. The team is comprised of eight of the eleven girls who tried out for the team on Oct. 31. The final team postings include returning seniors Gabby Hunt and Natalia Boricich, along with Kim Jerantowski, who has also had some varsity experience.

Also on the team are juniors Sam Fahey, Courtney Toth, Claire O'Leary, Ashley Pulla, and Nicole Krol. Meanwhile, recovering from recent A-C-L surgery is senior Alena Pranckevicius and junior Kelsey Motto. They hope to be on the team later this season.

"The basketball season is definitely my favorite time of the year," explained Toth. "Everything about it is great: the games, the practices, the team; they all make the sport that much better."

To a majority of these girls, the basketball team is a great way to get involved and have fun. But you cannot forget the hard work. Bozue explained, "we have a very young and inexperienced team this year. We will be working on strengthening our fundamentals and learning to work as a team to be as efficient as possible."

With the first game over with, the girls' record heads in the right direction for the season. Let's see if the team can keep it up.



Photos by Tony Hamilton



Basketball Looking Forward To Season

by Eric Gruber
Sports writer

The boys varsity basketball team is poised to have a great season. Returning seniors Joe O'Brien, Matt Lipowski, Mike Lambert and Paul Otruskevicius are all poised for a good season. O'Brien said the team's expectations are, "To put Lemont basketball back on the map."

Junior transfer from St. Joseph's high school Juozas Balciunas is looking to make an immediate impact. Balciunas said, "I transferred back to Lemont because it's closer to home and I feel like I can help Lemont to improve on the record from last year."

O'Brien also talked about his individual goals, saying, "I want to be a key part in the team's success and get better every day."

Lemont had a great summer and fall league and looks to build on that into the regular season. O'Brien said, "During the summer, we really worked on our team chemistry and our team bonded on a whole other level."

The team chemistry has spread throughout the team. Balciunas said, "I am fitting in pretty good, because I am friends with every single kid on the team." He also talked about his goals and the team's and said, "I want to work hard every single day and have a good season."

On Tuesday, Nov. 29, Lemont opens up its season with a matchup against Lincoln Way North. Lemont has a tough schedule because of all the great teams in the conference. Last season, Lemont beat Lincoln Way North both times the teams met. They beat them once at home and once on the road.

Lemont has a filled schedule of exciting games this year. O'Brien said, "I am really looking forward to playing Hillcrest this season."

Lemont is expecting a great season and definitely has the ability and confidence to pull through.

Valone Commits to Bowling Green State

by Eric Gruber
Sports writer

Lexi Valone has had an exciting and successful softball career at Lemont High School.

Next year she will be moving on to play at a very high college level at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. "The coaches were great at Bowling Green, and the team was very tight like a family. The campus was very pretty and they had the right major for me," said Valone.

Bowling Green will be looking forward to adding Valone next season, but first she must concentrate on her senior season at Lemont this spring. Valone said the team's expectations are to "do the best we can and try to win the conference."

Her sophomore year, Valone batted .412 with four home runs and 33 RBI's. She had nine doubles and five triples. Valone was also perfect in all nine of her stolen base attempts last season. Valone said, "My favorite part of this game is hitting and it is something I work really hard on." Her stats sure do show her passion and hard work towards hitting.

Last season, Valone had another solid year, batting .344 with five home runs and 33 RBI's. Teams were more careful with her last season knowing her recent success in the previous season. Despite teams being more careful with her, she had 16 walks last year as opposed to seven in her sophomore year.

Lemont had an impressive record of 26-8 last season and won the regional championship for the second season in a row. Valone said, "We will be working very hard to win the regional championship for the third year in a row and go even farther this year."



Senior Lexi Valone

Photo by Tony Hamilton



TIEDT WINS ALL STATE HONOR

by Ryan Peraino
Sports Editor



Senior Nick Tiedt

Sorich during Tiedt's freshman year.

"He taught me a lot," said Tiedt. "He's a great leader and taught me skills and how to play on the varsity level."

As a junior Tiedt moved to sweeper and led the team to 14 shutouts. He was awarded a captain's armband midway through the season after showing great leadership and work rate.

"His work rate really impressed us in practice," said Prangen. "Anytime you give a guy the (captains) armband, you want him to work hard at practice and lead by example."

Tiedt's play was recognized as he received all conference and all sectional honorable mention.

As a senior Tiedt played defensive midfield and was awarded a captain's armband for the second straight year.

Tiedt's impressive high school career includes 100 varsity games played, three conference championships, four regional titles, a 75-25-8 record, two goals, numerous assists and three sectional titles.

"Holding midfield is the most important role on our team and he had an exceptionally good senior year [at that position]," said Prangen. Others have said that Tiedt's play was impressive because he had never played the position before this year.

Prangen believes that over the years Tiedt has become more physical, stronger, faster and confident in his game.

Tiedt wants to play in college and is looking at Western Michigan, Lewis and Marquette. "Watching him play, I can't imagine a school that wouldn't want him," said freshman Roy Delatore.

This well-deserved honor of all state is great for Tiedt and the Lemont soccer program.

Photo by Tony Hamilton



Boys Bowling Prepares for Start of New Season

by Kyle Griffin
Sports writer

The Lemont boys bowling team will jump start the new season after a season that took the team down a path of many ups and downs in 2010.

Beginning the season has proven to be tough for the bowling team in the past as they started out 0-6 last year. The team did not find a rhythm until mid-December when they all started producing a bit more.

However, the team's struggles did not last forever.

In January, senior, Jason Jarboe bowled his perfect game, giving the team confidence and ultimately leading to some success for the team.

At the meet where Jarboe bowled his perfect game, the team qualified for state; the first time the Lemont Bowling team has done so.

"After I bowled the 300, the team really got excited and we started to play better against our competitors," said Brandon Jarboe.

Another Lemont bowling record was accomplished last season also when senior, Justin Knoelk became the first in school history to win an IHSA sectional individual title.

Lemont went on to finish in a respectable position at state. But now that is all in the past and it is time for the team to focus on what lies ahead this season.

Top returning seniors, Justin Knoelk, Brandon Jarboe, and Jason Jarboe will all be leading the team this year.

Knoelk was Lemont's top bowler last year averaging a score over 200 and he really stepped his game up against conference teams, which is very important.

"I really want to continue playing well and hopefully that will help us go far like last year," said Knoelk.

The teams' first meet is Nov. 11 at T.F. North where Knoelk says the team will be "looking to get off to a fresh start."



Photo courtesy of Google