

Tom-Tom

Wednesday, October 31, 2012

Lemont's Food for Thought

by Monique Devitt
News writer

On October 13, Lemont High School Education Foundation (LHSEF) held its largest annual fundraiser, Food for Thought. The event was held at Narnia Estate from 6 p.m. to midnight and featured food, drink, music and a silent auction.

This year's theme was Back to School, giving LHSEF supporters one more chance to attend a college party. Attendees were able to recapture their youth by dressing in college attire ranging from letterman's jackets, a college sweatshirt or even a toga. The food and décor were chosen to reflect that of a college campus.

LHSEF also provided additional excitement to this year's event by having celebrity bouncers. These included Steve "Mongo" McMichael from the Chicago Bear's and Lemont's mayor, Brian Reaves.

This year the silent auction featured golf trips, tickets to Notre Dame Football games, Chicago Bulls tickets and more, all donated by generous citizens and businesses.

Since 2007 LHSEF has been able to provide over \$160,000 in grants to deserving students of Lemont High School as a result of Food for Thought. It has worked as an aid to students' growth both academically and as a citizen.

"The goal of Food for Thought is to partner with the community to make lasting improvements to Lemont High School and this year we were able to do that by raising \$37,500." Said Tony Hamilton.

Since 2007, LHSEF has provided over \$160,000 in grants to deserving students of Lemont High School as a result of Food for Thought. It has worked as an aid to students' growth both academically and as a citizen.

In This Issue:

Pg. 1: Lemont's Food for Thought

Pg. 3: Mock 5

Pg. 4: Who Run the World? Talentless Musicians

Pg. 5: She Doesn't Even Go Here

Pg. 6: Dear Tom-Tom

Pg. 7: Loving You Was Red

Pg. 8: The Big C

Pg. 9: Best Halloween Movies

Pg. 10: Pokemon Black and White Part 2

Pg. 11: ReSpekt for Regina Spektor

Pg. 12: Three Seniors Say Their 'Goodbyes'

Tom-Tom Staff

A black and white photograph of Michael Myers, the iconic horror character, wearing his signature white mask and a dark, heavy coat. He is standing in the center of the frame. The background is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly concrete, which is splattered with numerous red blood droplets and streaks. A large, prominent blood splatter is visible in the lower center, partially obscuring Michael Myers' coat. The overall atmosphere is dark and menacing.

Design Editor:

Ashlee Berner

Head Editor:

Laura Harding

News Editor:

Nicole McKevitt

Editorials Editor:

Laura Harding

Sports Editor:

Adrian Kalata

Features Editor:

Sonia Vavra

Supervisor:

Sean Clark

Design Assistants:

Jordan Gembara

Marisa Mars

Photographer:

Lauren Kowalczyk

News Writers:

Jonathon Clark

Monique Devitt

Editorialists:

Paige Buschman

Madelyn Kulis

Sports Writers:

Adrian Kalata

Kieran Ruane

Erika Truschke

Features Writers:

Maggie Brown

Alyssa Cinatl

Chanelle Fortier

Bridget Lynn

Sonia Vavra



★ ★ Mock 5 ★ ★

by Jonathon Clark
News writer

High school is a designated time for individual discovery and preparation for the future; a time where your opinionated voice begins to earn respect and merit from your peers and elders. Whether politically inclined or not, the LHS Mock election will help progress that voice while stretching our Constitution's 26th amendment.

On Nov. 1, Lemont High School will be running a school-wide mock election for the 2012 presidential election. Although the "real" election succeeds the mock by only five days, surprisingly many students are considering the mock more near and dear. Senior Melissa Bruckner explained that "the Mock Election gives us a voice that otherwise wouldn't be heard. I appreciate it."

We know that the faculty and student body are on board with the importance of the election, but has work gone into the effort? Simply put, an enormous amount has been delegated as senior students are required in their government classes to choose a side and campaign for Mitt Romney or Barack Obama. In their campaigns, the students were to create a power point, poster, mailer and commercial promoting their candidate. These advertisements will be displayed in the commons throughout the mock election period.

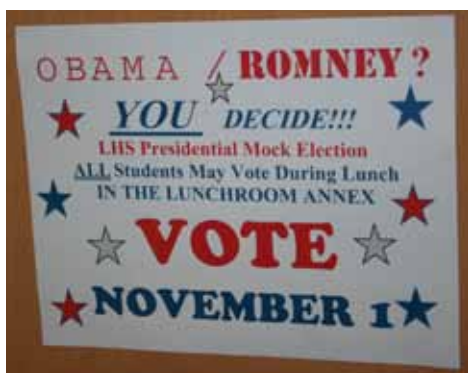
Juniors, sophomores, and freshman play a vital role in the mock election as well. Not only are they allowed to vote, but recommended to join in the festivity of the event. By sharing your opinions and comprehending others', the LHS Mock Election could be an opportunity for a myriad of individual growth and acceptance politically.

At such a young age, it is crucial to be politically inclined. As high school prepares students for the future, the real world will bring about problems. Being knowledgeable on these issues will give one's opinionated voice credibility when questioning and debating with opposing arguments.

Robert Hammerschmidt, a Lemont High School history teacher, is one of the core advocates for the mock election. When asked if LHS has hosted past mock elections, Hammerschmidt said, "Yes, for every presidential election since I've been here." Hammerschmidt went on to explain some of the election's purposes. When asked what seniors would take away from the campaigning experience, Hammerschmidt said: "There are a couple of objectives, the first to understand the nature of polling. Also the mock election is a pathway helping students learn to become more knowledgeable about the voting perspectives around them."

What about the rest of the student body? How does voting benefit you? "Kids understand there is an election, but allowing kids to vote gives them a sense of responsibility," said Hammerschmidt.

Although most students fail to meet the age requirement to vote in this year's presidential election, the LHS mock election gives the youth something often taken for granted: our voice.



Photos courtesy of
Lauren Kowalczyk





Who Run The World? Talentless Musicians

by Paige Buschman
Editorialist

An internet meme has recently sparked a debate among serious music fans. The meme claims that Beyonce's single "Run The World" took six writers and four producers to make, while "Bohemian Rhapsody" was written and produced by one person and is still nationally known and loved.

But why does a meme matter? It reaches hundreds of thousands of people worldwide going to show that while satirical, it can also be influential. The meme is trying to say that music doesn't take talent to make anymore. Compared to top selling artists of the 20th century, today's best sellers don't even have a fraction of the talent.

Fun fact: Pink Floyd's "Another brick in the Wall" was second on Billboard's top 100 of 1980. Also on that list was Queen, Paul McCartney, Elton John, Styx, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson and other brilliant artists who wrote and performed their own songs. Many of them are still known and adored internationally 30 years after their prime.

In comparison, all 2010's list had to show was Ke\$ha tic-toking it to first—you know things have gotten bad when the top artist has a dollar sign in their name—Usher's "OMG" and Katy Perry on more than one occasion. All three artists' songs are about partying, sex and teenage "love." They all claim to at least co-write their music, but it hardly compares to material from decades ago.

Senior Mark Krawiek agrees that today's music is on a decline. "There's too much auto-tune," and, "[Pop artists] have really gotten out of touch with the classic instruments."

Senior Sandra Ivanovska takes that a step further: "[Technology] has ruined pop music." She was very critical of some artists, particularly Rihanna, saying all Rihanna ever sings about is "sex or dancing", and her repetitive choruses lacking "any actual art." Sound familiar? Rihanna isn't the only guilty one.

Run the World (Girls)



6 writers
4 producers

Girls, we run this mother (yeah!) x4
Who run the world? Girls (girls)
We run this mother? Girls (girls)
Who run the world? Girls (girls)
Who run the world? Girls (girls)
Girls, we run this mother? Girls
Girls, we run this mother? Girls
Girls, we run this mother? Girls
Girls, we run this mother? Girls
Girls, we run this mother? Girls
We run this mother? Girls (girls)
Who run the world? Girls (girls)
Who run the world? Girls (girls)

Bohemian Rhapsody



1 writer
1 producer

Is this the real life?
Is this just fantasy?
Caught in a landslide,
No escape from reality
Open your eyes,
Look up to the skies and see,
I'm just a poor boy, I need no sympathy,
Because I'm easy come, easy go,
Little high, little low,
Any way the wind blows doesn't really matter to me, to me
Wanna
I just killed a man
Put a gun against his head, pulled my trigger
now he's dead
Mama... we had just begun,
But now I've gone and thrown it all away
Mama...
Don't mean to make you cry

Photos courtesy
of Google

But there is still hope for the world. 2011's top song was "Rolling in the Deep" by the vocally gifted singer, Adele, though she was still followed by LMFAO and two Katy Perry songs. Adele and many other top-spot artists like Lady Gaga claim that rock legends like The Cure inspire them. What a coincidence.

That's only looking at pop music. There are so many trendy genres' that don't exactly make it onto the radio, but are still relevant. What about techno, dubstep and house? It's the Macbook fad—everyone with garage band can become the next Skrillex. Even the "bad music" from the 80's—"Ladie's Night" was not necessarily something to be proud of—took more talent than these 21st century disasters.

Ivanoska sees both sides, though. "I think... vocalists have to be talented - or the vocalists in the samples [techno artists] use... And depending on the software the person is using, it takes some kind of knowledge...to make music."

Junior Bryan Cummings agrees saying that "Skrillex just presses buttons," but "[artists] need a basic knowledge of rhythms and chord structure, along with [having] a very creative mind...and [they must] be very attentive to socioeconomic trends."

What it comes down to is this: auto-tune is not what music is about. Paying other people to write songs for you isn't what music is about. Waking up in the morning apparently feeling like P-Diddy and "Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh my gosh" repeated every 25 seconds in a song is not what music is about.

Music is an art form used to convey messages as a form of self-expression. Teenagers shouldn't be worshipping anything they can thrust to, or whatever hits the airwaves. There needs to be more of an emphasis on real talent—writing music, writing lyrics, playing instruments, and NOT constantly ignoring real musical talent in the name of a million dollar hit for the kids.



by Madelyn Kulis
Editorialist

She Doesn't Even Go Here

"I'm sorry that people are so jealous of me, but I can't help it that I'm so popular."

Almost any American teenage girl can identify this quote from the movie *Mean Girls*; a movie revolving around high school popularity and how society views teenage girls in America.

The movie focuses on a group of teenage girls who run the school. A new girl arrives with the name of Cady (pronounced Katie) and is taken in by two outcasts. The outcasts teach her the ways of the school until Cady gets pulled in by the popular group of girls. Throughout the movie other students praise the girls and say things like, "One time, she punched me in the face. It was awesome." To this girl getting noticed and being affiliated with the populars, is better than just being ignored.

When trying to decide what popular is, the movie makes the obvious choice. Junior, Sarah Lilliwitz said "The popular girls are hot, preppy and mean." The main stereotype of popular teenage girls seems to be designer clothes, a great body and a rude personality. In *Mean Girls*, a viewer gets all three in one clique, the Plastics.

The plastics became so popular that in real life, one can almost identify someone as having the same characteristics. The movie portrayed girls acting in such an evil manner those actions became more prominent in real life. Whether change happened in girls because of the movie or if girls were already changing before is up for debate. Rob Wostratzky believes that, "Girls were already in the process of changing, but the movie accelerated the way girls want to look or how they want to behave."

Not only does the movie show girls acting rude to one another, it brings up the case of insecurity and putting yourself down. Teens today look at and compare themselves to their peers and celebrities. In one scene girls "stand in front of the mirror critiquing their body image." Wostratzky claims this to be the most stereotypical scene out of the whole movie. With the girls worrying about looks, it makes other girls feel like if they aren't pretty enough or skinny enough, that they will never be good enough; they will never fit in with the "populars."

Another scene that is arguably the most stereotypical is when all the girls dress up for Halloween. Better yet, they dress down. This gives the impression that it is okay for girls to dress inappropriately and that more guys will want to be with them if they do. While in reality, it's demeaning and gives off a feeling that all girls today are easy. An earlier scene sets that feeling up when a jock asks the new girl a question including a sexual innuendo.

As the movie progresses, the teachers try to settle the rivalry between the Plastics and all other girls after the Plastics' let out their childhood Burn Book, which insulted almost everyone. In their attempt to get every girl in the school to be friends, they are apologizing to one another on a stage and then turn into the sea of girls to catch them. At one point as they are all making apologies to someone who they made fun of or did something wrong to, when one of the Plastics turns to fall into the crowd of girls watching and no one catches her. Maybe this is the writer trying to show popularity doesn't mean everything, maybe it's a symbol of her fall from the top. However, is that a good message even, that girls are so unforgiving as to not even catch another girl when they are down? Are girls so vindictive that they jump at the opportunity to see another fail?

The proceeding scene is a mathletes competition where the main character Cady must compete to make up for all the problems caused with the Plastics. On the opposing team, there is one girl who is made out as a nerd. It makes one think that if a girl isn't into shopping and being popular, she is a loser and that's all they will amount to. Until a realization hits, "Calling somebody else fat won't make you any skinnier. Calling someone else dumb won't make you any smarter." The one truth that the whole movie brings, yet no one gets it; they get the laughs and the jokes, but not the story or the moral.

While one can get a laugh and a great new quote, a viewer can also feel put down or feel like he or she doesn't fit in from the movie. The movie creates a division between reality and stereotypes, yet now, those stereotypes are becoming reality. When movies like *Mean Girls* are made, it changes expectations of how teenage girls should act. Popularity is like plastic, it breaks and can never be fixed, and so is it even worth stressing over?



A Letter To the Editor...

Dear Tom-Tom,

I am a junior at Lemont High School and it is hard to say but, everyone in this school including me has bought one too many school lunches. Did you know that Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past thirty years in the United States? Obesity is a medical condition when someone's excess body fat is too high. Major causes of obesity is eating more food than what your body can use, not getting enough exercise or poor nutrition from foods high in fat. Cafeteria food such as pizza, Boscoe sticks and few healthy options lead students down a path of poor nutrition. We need to label the nutritional content of all food in LHS cafeteria as a wakeup-call to make students and staff aware of more nutritional options to avoid the dangers of obesity.

Childhood Obesity has both immediate and long-term effects on health. Youths will first obtain cardiovascular disease like high cholesterol and high blood pressure. Children and teens that become obese will begin to develop joint problems, sleep apnea, social and philological problems like low self-esteem. Obesity will lead to more serious afflictions in life like type 2 diabetes, stroke and cancer. The time is now, and we need to change.

We need to change our diets. An easy way to do this is to add nutrition fact labels on the foods. Nutrition facts will force students and staff members to be mindful of the nutritional values of the food they purchase at school. They would also help kids with certain allergies to lactose, wheat, or gluten. We all have friends that either cannot eat certain foods or are watching their weight, so having the foods labeled would help them make the right choices to avoid both short and long term consequences. Schools play a particular role and responsibility in establishing a safe and supportive environment with policies and customs that support healthy lifestyles.

Obesity is one of the faster growing health problems of the century in this country. By changing small things locally like adding nutrition fact labels in the cafeteria, it will make all the difference. Will LHS take a stand, and fix this nearing problem or will it be a contributor?

Sincerely,

Kelsey Cetnarowski

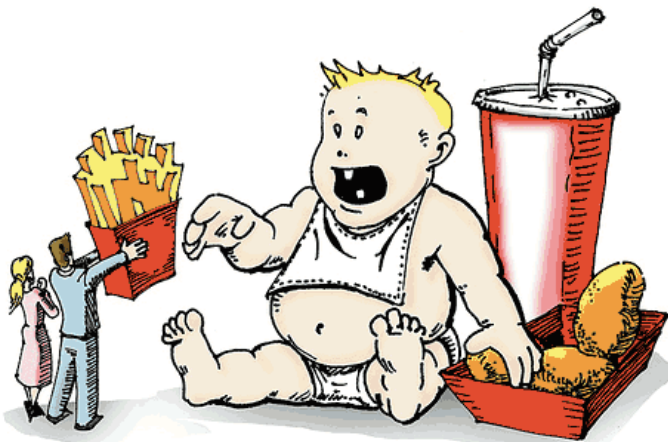


Photo courtesy of Google



Loving You Was Red

by Chanelle Fortier
Features writer

Ladies or gentlemen, are you going through a break up and don't know what to do? Listening to Taylor Swift's meaningful and strong songs on her new album might do the trick.

Taylor Swift released her latest debut album on Oct. 22 and already has a number one hit on the charts. This album *Red* is Swift's fourth studio album in her musical career. Her first single on the album, "We are Never Ever Getting Back Together," has been on the Billboard Top 100 chart for the past three weeks.

With *Red*'s release, the album is expected to have more chart toppers, such as "Ronan," a song about the death of a young boy, and the album title itself: "Red."

In her past years, Swift has impacted the lives of young teenagers through her influential and powerful lyrics. Her previous album, *Speak Now* sold more than 1 million copies in its first week of being released. Sophomore Aubrey Tucker said, "Taylor Swift's album *Speak Now* was definitely my favorite by far. She is definitely one of my favorite female music artists."

Swift's first hit single on the album, "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together," was released on Aug. 13 and reached the No. 1 spot on iTunes Top 10 charts. Mary Kay Clancy said, "Whenever the song 'We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together' comes on the radio, I have to turn the volume all the way up. I love singing out loud in my car when it's on."

Not only are girls fans, but T-Swift captures the hearts of many boys. Her lyrics may be aimed towards boys who have broken her heart but that doesn't stop the guys from listening to her. Senior Ethan Pocic said, "Taylor Swift never ceases to amaze me. Every song always tops the last. I'm not at all embarrassed to say that I love Taylor!"

Taylor Swift produces inspiring songs that many young girls can relate to and enjoy. Taylor Swift ignited a flame five years ago, and it with her popularity continuing to soar, it will be a long time before this fire goes out.



Photos courtesy of Lauren Kowalczyk



The Big C

by Bridget Lynn
Features writer

Diagnosis, tears, pain, suffering, smile, beauty, support: all in the name of cancer. Cancer is a harsh reality for women, children, and men alike. As Breast Cancer Awareness Month nears its end, remember the struggles this diseases poses for its victims.

Breast Cancer doesn't choose whom it affects, but the reality is that millions have been diagnosed with its various stages. According to BreastCancer.org, 1 out of every 8 women will develop the illness in their lifetime due to family history or genetic mutation. Senior, Nayda Cortes shared her opinion of the importance for young women to be cautious of developing breast cancer. She responded with, "Of course it's important," said Cortes. "Displaying that caution will lead to a happier, healthier lifestyle in effort to prevent harm."

However, some students have a family history of Breast Cancer that leads to further concern. Junior, Annie Svitak knows the pain of cancer's development. "My aunt had Breast Cancer but survived, and to this day I am happy for that," said Svitak. "I know that I will take the necessary steps to prevent being its victim." Another junior, Sami Gazafari feels the same as Annie. "It's a shame to think at such a young age we have to worry but knowing there's no cure make it's hard not to."

With growing developmental statistics, young women must take the precautionary steps to rid this disease. Breast Cancer is not once a month, once a year, or even once a lifetime; it's every day of every month.



Photos courtesy of Lauren Kowalczyk



Best Halloween Movies

by Alyssa Cinatl
Features writer

Jack-O-Lanterns, costumes and trick-or-treating are all reminders that Halloween is here. Another way to get into the Halloween spirit is having a movie night with the creepiest, spookiest and sometimes cutest Halloween movies.

Hocus Pocus- a movie that everyone remembers watching on Disney Channel; which should make one feel old because it came out in 1993. This family movie is about the Sanderson sisters, three sister witches, who return from the dead on Halloween night. Young Max, Allison and Dani must save the children in their town from the Sanderson sisters sucking their souls.

Halloween- this horror movie shows the story of the infamous Michael Myers, who murdered his sister as a child, breaks free from his institution and stalks Laurie (Jamie Lee Curtis) and her friends on Halloween night. There are four movies in the Halloween series and this movie most likely popularized the idea of Halloween-themed movies.

Scream- a masked killer called Ghostface starts a killing spree surrounding teenager Sidney. Sidney and her friends start to discover the rules to surviving in a scary movie as their lives become one. There are four movies in the *Scream* series as well, and the fourth one was released recently in 2011. The *Scream* movies provide both startling jumps and a few laughs making them perfectly scary, yet lighthearted.

Nightmare Before Christmas- Jack the Pumpkin King of Halloweentown grows tired of celebrating Halloween when he discovers the magic of Christmas, so he decides to combine the two holidays. The combination is disastrous when the Boogeyman decides to kidnap Santa Claus. While Christmas is in this movie, it's mostly Halloween-y. Teens love the songs and directing of Tim Burton.

Halloweentown- Everyone can remember watching the Halloweentown series on Disney Channel too. There are four movies in this series as well. The movies are about young Marnie, Dylan and Sophie who discover they're witches, and there's a whole world full of magical creatures called Halloweentown. With the help of their grandma they learn about witchcraft and save Halloweentown.

For people who like scary movies, or hate scary movies, there are plenty of movies to satisfy your Halloween spirit needs.





Pokémon Black and White Part 2

by Maggie Brown
Features writer

Fans of Nintendo's widely popular Pokémon games will be glad to know that the highly anticipated Pokémon Black and White part 2 is released and quickly gaining acclaim.

According to pokemon.com, part 2 picks up "two years after the events of Pokémon Black Version and Pokémon White Version." Old characters return and new ones are introduced to the story. Fans should also "look forward to uncovering the mystery of Black Kyurem - or White Kyurem" and their "devastating ice-type attack."



Various video game critics love the new game. Nintendolife.com writer Joe Walker enjoys how the story line is continued from the previous game. "This time around, however," Walker said, "the new additions are paired with a story that has you seeing and dealing with the repercussions of the storyline that unfolded in the original Black and White versions." However, Walker did not like how the player must complete the game before Pokémon from the first 4 generations start showing up.

Kat Bailey stated in a review on joystiq.com, "Pokémon Black and White 2 has given me a new perspective on the series. For the first time in years, I'm ready to put aside the steady grind of raising the perfect monster and really delve into what the world of Pokémon has to offer." Bailey also enjoyed how newer aspects of the game were combined with old aspects.

LHS students enjoy the new game as well. Junior Zak Krepps says "I personally love the new part, as it continues the story rather than creating a new one. It is roughly equal to part 1, but presents new areas and Pokémon."

The game has also lived up to the hype it created; "It would be hard for a Pokémon game to fall short..." said Krepps, "Its main attraction is the continuation of the story..."

Although Krepps feels it does not come close to the original Pokémon Red, Blue and Yellow because "...the originals were groundbreaking and blazed a trail for others to follow". He believes it is definitely a game "worth the time and price".

For anyone interested in buying Pokémon Black Version 2 or White Version 2, it can be found at pokemon.com or anywhere video games are sold for \$35.



ReSpekt for Regina Spektor

by Sonia Vavra
Features Editor



Being a piano player has always given me more appreciation for those who have an amazing ability to tickle the ivories. I also have a profound appreciation for those who have an excellent singing voice as well. When I discovered both the musical and vocal talents of Regina Spektor, I couldn't believe my ears.

Regina Spektor has a very distinct and unique sound that cannot be placed into any specific music genre. I can't help but immediately be put into a good mood when I hear her variety of eardrum-pleasing songs.

Also sharing my addiction to Regina Spektor, sophomore Kelly Filer stated, "I love how unique [Regina Spektor] is," said Filer. "I like how in the song *Folding Chair* when she would use her voice to make dolphin noises. I've always found that really cool."

Regina Spektor was born in Moscow in 1980 and learned to play piano when she was very young. When she was nine years old, she and her family moved to New York where she studied classical piano at the Manhattan School of Music until she was 17. Spektor has 5 studio albums full of her bizarre yet breathtaking and addictive songs.

On Oct. 17, I was able to witness Spektor's incredible, unexplainable talent live. As soon as I saw the opportunity, I bought tickets right away. Her talent is one that must be witnessed live at least once.

Regina Spektor's show was, unsurprisingly, amazing, like everything she does. I was completely in awe throughout the entire show.

When she walked out on stage, the audience was in total uproar and broke into applause twice before Spektor even began. Throughout the show Spektor played fans' favorites like *Dance Anthem of the 80s*, *On The Radio* and *Better*. Not to mention her fantastic finale, featuring songs such as *Us*, *Fidelity*, *Hotel Song* and *Samson*. I could not have felt more ecstatic throughout the show. I was glad that the audience shared as much enthusiasm as I did, intently listening to every song and then cheering and shouting after each one.

Filer also agreed with me in terms of the excellence of the show. "I enjoyed the concert so much. She is just so incredibly talented and sounds even better live."

Regina Spektor's music continues to inspire and amaze me. I was so grateful to be in her presence and be able to see and hear her amazing musical ability live for the first time.

Photo courtesy of Sonia Vavra



SPORTS



THREE SENIORS SAY THEIR 'GOODBYES'

by Erika Truschke
Sports writer

The girls' tennis team concluded their 2012 season after competing in the IHSA Sectionals; they finished with high remarks. Overall, the girls' record ended with a solid 11-3 season.

Throughout the season, the girls' effort was exceptional. "They really stepped it up for the Conference tournament in Tinley Park, bringing home a win," said head coach Chris Hill. The amount of hard work and effort put into practice paid off in the end, only placing as low as third in any meet or tournament.

This year's team consisted of three seniors: Kelsey Motto, Sam Drafke and Natalia Jezyk. Juniors filled most roster spots, yet the seniors held their own ground, especially at Sectionals.

On Oct. 18, the squad headed out to Sectionals at Downers Grove South High School. Winning the opening match was a "big success," said junior Lisa Gawron. "It was great knowing all our hard work had started to pay off." At the tournament, Motto and Drafke finished first in doubles; Gawron finished first, followed by junior Carli Serpe taking second, in singles. The team lost their second game of the tournament. This loss led to LHS being knocked out completely, missing the opportunity to go to the State Finals.

As three seniors leave the tennis team this year, many memories, laughs and knowledge will be brought with them on their next endeavors. Motto, Drafke and Jezyk don't look to play collegiate tennis even though they participated in the sport all four years at LHS.

All the seniors agreed that tennis was such a positive impact for their high school experience because so many close friendships were made. Jezyk mentioned that, "Playing tennis really made me feel comfortable going into my freshman year because I already had a lot of new friends."

Motto, team captain, stated, "It gave me more leadership qualities being a senior and the chance to teach the underclassmen skill and character."

As these three ladies move on from tennis at the high school level, the memories of the four years played will always be present. Until next season, the returning team members look to focus on their goal: to make it to the State Finals in 2013.



Lemont High School
girls tennis players

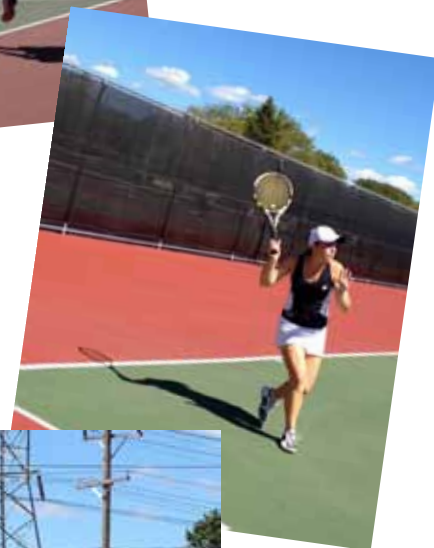


Photo courtesy of Lauren Kowalczyk



SPORTS



HOMETOWN JOURNALIST

Big4Sports

by Adrian Kalata
Sports Editor

[Home](#) [Contact Us](#) [NFL](#) [MLB](#) [NBA](#) [NHL](#) [About](#) [Sitemap](#) [Lists](#)

[Mailbag](#) [Guestbook](#)

Home Page

Big4Sports now has a [Facebook](#) page!

Nationalism



Not being on a sports team makes it hard to be active in the sports world. Sports journalists take the responsibility of delivering a goalie's shutout or a quarterback's seven interceptions through words to the fans at home.

Junior Peter Marzano founded big4sports.com after pursuing his passion for sports journalism with his friends: juniors Lucas Heatherington, Andrew Kramer and Zak Krepps. His passion for sports journalism inspired him to begin a sports website, covering the NFL, MLB, NBA and NHL.

Big4sports.com is an easy-to-understand sports website that covers popular major league sports, an avid sports fan's dream. "If we don't cover all sports, we're not a real sports website," said Marzano. He said that the website looks to target "local people and students at Lemont High School."

Aside from the advertisements and some lacking updates, the website features good quality writing that may surprise a reader. Junior Mike Puzynski said he "frequently visit sports site, and would enjoy adding [big4sports.com] into my routine." Senior Brian Shamasko said "I'm not a big sports guy, but hearing about a hometown sports website makes me want to check it out."

Others, like freshman Marcin Lukanus, said "I'd want to check out [big4sports.com], but it needs to be remodeled and updated."

Lukanus was one of the few complaints that

the website could use some "remodeling" and "reorganization." Students also mentioned that the articles were a month old, which is a long time in the sports world.

"If we know we're having returning readers, that will only motivate us more to stay active on our site," said Kramer. Heatherington also stated that "we are working on staffing and changing our site to benefit the readers."

In the meantime, readers can swing by big4sports.com, check out their favorite sports, learn about the website, and sign the guestbook.

It's good to see students at a local level taking their passion and turning it into reality.

Photo courtesy of Lauren Kowalczyk



THE *ROAD* TO THE PLAYOFFS

by Kieran Ruane
Sports writer

The LHS football program is no stranger to success. With a combined record of 41-5 over the past 4 seasons, the Indians will be looking for a successful post-season run in 2012.

Last season the Indians had a record of 12-1 (6-0 in conference play), and made it to the semi-finals of the IHSA State Finals.

At the end of last season, the seniors had to leave the program, and losing a big senior class can be hard on a team. This year, however, the team is feeling confident that they can come out strong during the playoffs, and played hard for their home fans.

“Yeah, losing a class of seniors that big was tough, but each year you get a new, bigger senior class, and I think that this year’s seniors have really stepped up to fill those roles,” said senior Joe Hehir. “This year we’re heading into playoffs feeling good, and I think that with hard work and a lot of support from our fans, we can make a good run [in the playoffs].”

This year, the Indians went 8-1 (5-1 SSC Blue) in the regular season, a record which boasted wins against top conference opposition such as Oak Forest and Tinley Park. Indians coach Brent Gagnon was pleased with the success of this year’s team.

“We ask the players to get better each day. If I looked at us the first day of the season and the last day of the season, we improved dramatically both individually and as a team,” said Gagnon.

The playoffs are a nerve-wracking, anxious and exciting part of the season; ask any high school athlete. But this year, the Indians are looking to take the playoffs by storm, as they hope to make history and become legends of Lemont football.



The Lemont football team takes on Morgan Park



Photos courtesy of Lauren Kowalczyk