

Tom-Tom

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

Barack Obama is re-elected as President

LHS Performs Fall Play Picnic

by Carly Tucker
News writer

Lemont High School's drama club took center stage last weekend when they performed this year's fall play, Picnic.

The anticipated production premiered in Lemont's Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 1 through Saturday Nov. 3.

"The play was really enjoyable," said junior attendee Liam Purtle. "My favorite part was just the overall chemistry between the characters."

The cast and crew were excited and satisfied with what they hoped to be a successful production. Junior, Robert Rigler, who played Alan Seymour, said "The play went very well in my opinion. Everything really came together at the end. It was such a joy to be a part of."

Picnic is a three-act play written by William Inge, who won the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for the drama. Set in a small town in Kansas, Picnic delivers an insight into the lives of ordinary Americans, from widows and singles to teenagers and wanderers.

Picnic was under the direction of Dan Franke and assistant director Roy Nees. David Lindley was in charge of set construction.

"All the actors took the time to understand the time period, the location, and the culture. Plus, the set was fantastic," said Lindley.



Congratulations to the LHS marching band for its second place finish at the State of Illinois Marching Band Championship.



Photo courtesy of Dan Franke

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NEWS

Joe Goodkin's *Odyssey* Performance

by Nicole McKeivitt
News Editor

The LRC and English Department will present Joe Goodkin's live acoustic performance of *The Odyssey* on Thursday, Nov. 8 in the LRC during all lunch periods.

Joe Goodkin's *Odyssey* is a 30 minute original musical composition that tells the story of Homer's *Odyssey* in a series of 24 short songs. It has been performed over 100 times in varied settings for audiences of all ages.

English teacher Phil Lazzari says that, "This event is not just for freshmen students reading *The Odyssey*. All students are invited to bring their lunches to the LRC and listen as Joe Goodkin brings literature to life."

Goodkin received his Bachelor's Degree in the Classics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. With his experience of writing and performing original rock and acoustic music, Goodkin created a 30 minute long composition that captivates the story of *The Odyssey*, bringing the spirit of the ancient Greek writers who originally brought forth the timeless stories of Odysseus and the heroes of the Trojan War.

The Odyssey was honored in 2003 and 2004 with an American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) Award.

"Even if you have never read *The Odyssey* or don't remember anything, it will be an entertaining way to spend your lunch period," says Lazzari. "Plus, if many students attend, it may encourage faculty and administration to bring in more performers."

Come watch as Goodkin's modern musical interpretation brings a Greek Epic to life, and don't forget to bring your lunch.



NEWS

8th Grade Open House

by Sarika Pal
News writer

Upcoming freshmen will get a chance to sneak peak Lemont High School's campus at the Open House on Nov. 7, at 6:30p.m.

The students will learn about the academic and extra-curricular activities LHS has to offer. According to LHS staff member Matthew Doherty, "Teachers that teach elective classes, coach sports, or sponsor activities will be present."

"This event allows eighth graders and their parents to tour the entire school and visit each sport, academic department, club table, and co-curricular sponsor for questions, informational handouts, or even interactive displays," said Doherty.

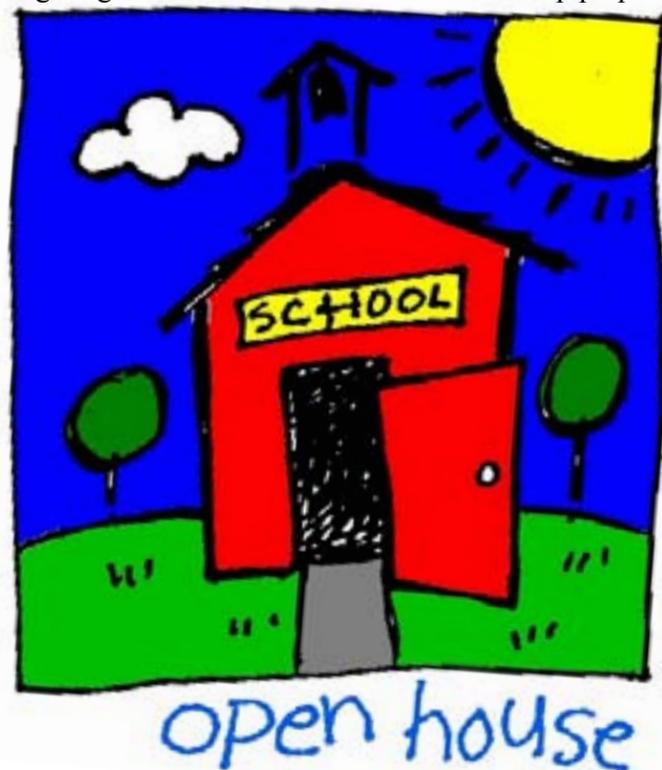
Parents and students will also get to roam around the entire building to learn where classes and other areas in the school are located. The faculty will explain how the transition from middle to high school will be taken place.

Principal Tom Trengove explains the process during this open house, "The Open House will begin in the PAC and then the attending 8th graders and their parents will be able to tour the entire school building."

"The welcoming and introductions will be at 6:30-6:45 p.m. They will then see the building 6:45-8:00 p.m.," said Doherty. "The event is scheduled to end at 8:00 sharp."

Vice Principal Dave Clark said, "The goal is to have the students and parents experience the wonderful options LHS has to offer."

The annual 8th Grade Open House provides a starting ground for incoming high school students and their parents. It is recommended that all eighth grade students attend this event to help prepare them for their high school experience.



"This event allows eighth graders and their parents to tour the entire school"

Photo courtesy of Google

EDITORIALS

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

by Jordan Gembara
Editorialist

As the weather gets colder, everyone begins to prepare for their favorite end of the year holidays. But as decorations begin to arrive at popular stores, does jolly old Santa Claus try to climb down the chimney far too early?

For some, Christmas doesn't come early enough. The beloved winter holiday is a time for merry-making and cheer—it is a holiday cherished by people of all ages. While little kids eagerly wait for Santa to deliver their presents, adults happily exchange gifts amongst friends.

Flying reindeer, frosty snowmen and hidden mistletoe—what's not to love? The very sight of the bold decorations can only excite shoppers. Art teacher Laina Wing finds herself overjoyed the first time she spots anything Christmas related while out and about.

"Christmas just doesn't come early enough," said Wing. "Let's start preparing for Christmas in September."

This festive holiday is a time to spend with friends and family. People hand out gifts to loved ones and spread Christmas cheer in any way possible. Christmas may impose slightly on holidays like Halloween and Thanksgiving, but the message Christmas spreads is so pure and righteous that many people do not mind the early arrival.

To some, the other holidays are just speed bumps along the way to a fantastic day.

"Thanksgiving is just a prelude to Christmas," said Wing.

But there are also those who oppose the "Christmas in July" theory. Though these people love Christmas just as much as the rest, they do not approve of Christmas overrunning other favorite holidays.

Senior Liz Martinez feels as though Thanksgiving's importance is being overlooked. "Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks," said Martinez. "People seem to forget how important this holiday is because they're too busy getting ready for Christmas."

Because holidays like Thanksgiving and Halloween don't have a beloved mascot to represent them like Christmas does, they become less memorable. People love the atmosphere and message Christmas brings; they love being together to celebrate.



Photo Lauren Kowalczyk

What people forget is that Thanksgiving has a message similar to its rival. Thanksgiving is a time to spend with family and friends. People give thanks and share with those around them. It, like Christmas, is a time to be together.

"Because Christmas is so popular, it steals the thunder away from other holidays," said Martinez.

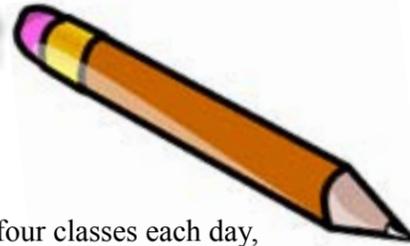
Thanksgiving and Halloween aren't less important than Christmas, they're just underappreciated. People today are so caught up in the stereotypical commercial holiday that they forget to celebrate other days more thoroughly.

What people need is proper balance. If people were to hype up the other two holidays just as much as they did Christmas, Thanksgiving and Halloween wouldn't seem so meaningless. People need to honor each holiday fairly—not just their favorites.

EDITORIALS

DEAR TOM-TOM

Is Homework Necessary?



by Mackenzie O'Shea
Editorialist

The majority of one's time after school is spent doing homework. Even with having only four classes each day, homework can start to pile up quickly. In the end, does the time spent on homework pay off?

The common excuse "my dog ate my homework" never seemed to cut it for one who did not do his or her homework. As students become older, the amount of work increases. One starts to stress more over homework due the fact that it can affect one's grade in a positive or negative way.

English teacher Marek Dron said, "I attempt to do most work in class as it's the only environment I can guarantee students are responsible for completing their own work." This way teachers can insure students are getting the practice they need rather than not completing a homework assignment.

For students participating in sports and after-school activities, it can be hard to make time for homework. Junior Gia Letezia said, "Depending how long cheerleading practice goes, it can be hard to finish homework if I have a lot."

When it comes to completing a homework assignment verses studying for a test, studying can often be neglected. Junior Gina Gallet said, "I sometimes find myself rushing to complete a study guide since it is for points, rather than taking the time to look over and study for the test itself."

On the other hand, some subjects such as math homework can good for a student. "I definitely think homework is beneficial if it is done for the purpose of practice. I personally put the answers to my homework assignments online in hopes my students will do the homework and check to see if they are doing it correctly. Homework is the most beneficial if you learn from mistakes," said math teacher Ashley Good.

While some see homework as time-consuming, others may see it as an advantage or easy points. Although some night's homework can seem never ending, it is important to balance time for what's important.



Photo by Lauren Kowalczyk

Dear Tom-Tom,

How many times a day do you hear students complaining about how heavy their books are along with the amount of books they have to carry around every day? Supplying every student at the high school with a laptop is a solution to this problem in a variety of ways.

Unlike Lemont, a local school, Mount Assisi Academy, has adopted the use of laptops. This way, students have access to internet for research as well as eliminating the hassle to open student files at home. Each laptop has the capacity to replace all textbooks because students can then in turn use online resources. With given the ability to use laptops, students are no longer limited by the classroom because the laptops give them opportunities they never had before. Though the cost may be more expensive, it results in a more satisfied student population. Teachers could give lessons completely using the laptop and making the students more comfortable with the technology so they could assign future projects using the software installed on their computers.

Not only do students have more opportunities with laptops, they will be more prepared for class. If a student was to forget their books for class, they might fall behind with the day's lesson. In the case that students should be given a laptop, the necessity for books would diminish making coming to class prepared easier. One could not have enough strength to walk from class to class carrying his 800+ page textbooks. Having laptops could prevent a student struggling physically to carry all of his textbooks to class; he would only have to carry one slim laptop. Students desire laptops to remove the amount of books they constantly have to carry around all day. Students want laptops so taking notes will no longer be a hassle. Students deserve laptops for an all around less problematic learning environment. Students need laptops.

Sincerely,
Annie Svitak



Photo courtesy of Google

FEATURES

FEATURES

Six Words

by Sam Moffett
Features writer

He sits across from me. As I wait for him to get comfortable I think about the words he said to Adam, all the childish jeering and the homophobic rumors. Before I found Adam I checked his computer and saw the six words, the words that led my son to lift the razor.

The world doesn't need you anymore.

The name was underneath the six words. I knew the name, the son of an old family friend who according to Adam was now a 'too cool for school kid'. After the funeral I went straight to his house and his father let me in. After some tearful condolences I told him what his son did. Daddy all about screamed for his son to come down.

I tell him that Adam is dead, dead because of him. I tell him about how his constant bullying and lies brought my son to desperate measures to escape the cruel world he lived in. I tell him it's his fault.

He was quiet at first, staring down at his hands. He began to moan and sniffle as the consequence finally washed over him. Tears ran down his face like waterfalls as he cried out "I'M SORRY I'M SO SO SORRY."

I ask him why my son? He replied, "I don't know. He was just there." His continues to scream his apologies as I take him in my arms and hold him like I did my son.

"I don't want to believe you're always like this. You're not a bad person; you've just done a bad thing." The boy cries into my shoulder, his mother clutching her husband's arm as the horrid realization hits her. I coo in his ear, telling him over and over again I forgive him. At first

I didn't want to forgive him: I wanted to scream, to shove down and crush him like he did my son. But would that make me any better than what he did to Adam?

Forgiveness is what Adam would have wanted, a thing we all should learn and treasure.



Keeping Up with Kendall and Kylie

by Rachel Bogo
Features writer

When a teenage girl says *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, any person would think Kim, Khloe and Kourtney, but watch out because the Jenner girls are stepping into their spotlight. Kendall and Kylie Jenner are seen on the hit show *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* as the other half of the Kardashian clan.



Kendall and Kylie have taken a bigger part in the show and have also modeled for numerous events such as Sherri Hill at New York Fashion Week. Now this pair is being recognized for their fashion sense. At the 2011 style awards the Jenner sisters won the award for the most "Stylish Sisters."

In a video seen on Venus.com the sisters describe their style: Kylie explains how she takes more risks and is usually seen in black, while Kendall says she wears the most color out of all her sisters. Of course who do you think these girls look to for fashion advice? None other than their sisters, but these girls are ready to step into the fashion scene by launching their own teen clothing line.

The line is being produced under Majestic Mills, which has also produced Nicole Richie's House of Harlow 1960 line. Kendall and Kylie tell CBS News, "We think it will reflect our casual chic style that we wear every day and now so can our fans. We're really excited by the entire design process and can't wait to see our creations in stores!"

That's not all: the girls are also working on a jewelry line while working with Seventeen Magazine as West Coast Fashion Contributors. So goodbye to Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, the Jenners have landed. Keep your eyes peeled in spring 2013 for the line to hit stores.

Photos courtesy of Google

Twitter vs. Facebook

by Michelle Awad
Features writer

Twitter and Facebook are the world's two most popular social networks around the world - both worth millions of dollars- but the question must be asked: which one is preferred, and why?

Although Twitter and Facebook are alike in certain ways, there are key elements that set these two social networks apart. While Facebook focuses on a person's pictures and life events through its timeline feature, Twitter focuses on events and thoughts happening minute by minute.

"I like Twitter more because everything is more instant. There are no repeats so you don't end up seeing the same thing over and over again," sophomore Nick Lambrackis said. "It's also better because you get to follow celebrities and the picture sharing aspect is not lost. You can still share pictures with Twitter, it's just that people have the option to view it or not."

However there are still people who are siding with Facebook. Senior Alexis Banks says she would not give up the picture sharing aspect of Facebook. "It's so much easier to keep your pictures organized on Facebook and it's easier for people to view them. It's much easier to see a person's life as a whole rather than their sporadic thoughts throughout the day."

While Facebook gained popularity more quickly, it was not trusted. In fact, a recent CNBC poll found that 59 percent of respondents said they had little to no trust in Facebook to keep their information private.

Greater trust is put in Twitter, with features allowing users to put everything they post on private. Also, Twitter has not changed their privacy policy while Facebook has changed it more than twice.

Some prefer the traditional Facebook picture sharing aspect, while some people prefer instant updates on the people they follow. Like everything in life, different people prefer different things-especially when it comes to social networking.



Photo by Lauren Kowalczyk

Pitch Perfect!

by Kylie Obbish
Features writer

Viewers may think the newly released movie *Pitch Perfect* is a chick flick. While it does have concepts of a chick flick, such as edgy drama and catty competition, it also has themes that can appeal to any person. This musical comedy is full of laughs, spunk, and song.

Pitch Perfect came to theaters on Oct. 5, 2012. This movie is like *Hairspray*, because of the songs, dances and drama. This movie is meant to entertain and the theme is people can do anything if they put their minds to it.

There are a lot of characters because the story-line is based on two different singing groups: the Barden Bellas and the Treble Makers. Outcast freshman Beca (Anna Kendrick) has no interest in anything except for being a DJ but, she is persuaded to join the singing group by Head Bella, Aubrey (Anna Camp). Bellas include Chloe (Brittany Snow), Fat Amy (Rebel Wilson), Stacie (Alexis Knapp), and others.

The Treble Makers are the other main group in the movie, and they are the Barden university students who compete against the Bellas in the acapella finals. This group is more stuck up, and they don't practice as much because they don't think they need it. Members include Bumper (Adam DeVine), Jesse (Skylar Astin), Benji (Ben Platt), and others.

All tied together, this movie basically has all the elements of a good flick. Both critics and viewers gave it good ratings. If people are looking for something to do, seeing this movie is a good way to spend 2 hours.



Photo courtesy of Google

SPORTS

EVERY ROSE HAS ITS THORN

by Ethan Parafink
Sports writer

When former MVP Derrick Rose went down with an injury in last season's playoffs, every Bulls fan cringed. They knew right away it was bad. And they were right.

Rose tore his ACL in the Bulls' first playoff game, a bittersweet moment for fans. The Bulls won the game, but lost Rose for the rest of the playoffs and ended up losing the series to the Philadelphia 76ers.

Rose is still recovering from the severe injury and is expected to be back in the lineup around February. Meanwhile, the rest of the Bulls core players and a whole new bench will try their best to keep the Bulls in playoff contention.

The Rose-less Bulls managed to win their opening game 93-87 over the Sacramento Kings on Oct. 31, led by Joakim Noah who had 23 points and 10 rebounds.

The Bulls had arguably the best bench last year. Known as the "Bench Mob", the players including guards Ronnie Brewer, CJ Watson, John Lucas, Jimmy Butler and Kyle Korver, as well as forwards Taj Gibson and Omer Asik, would come into games for long stretches and play as a unit better than any other bench in the NBA.

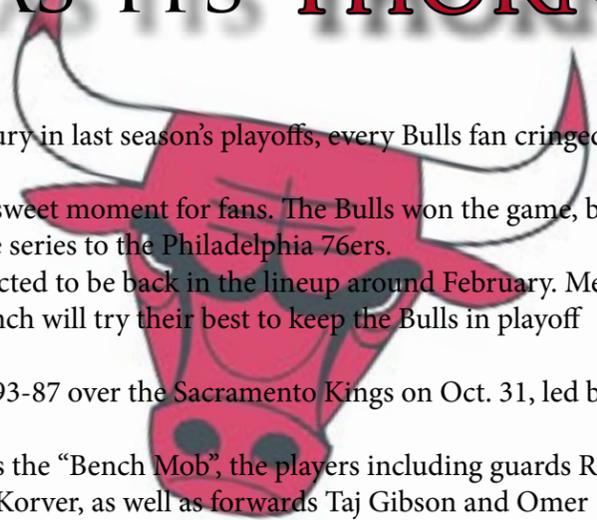
However this offseason, General Manager Gar Forman decided to mix things up and now only Gibson and Butler remain from last year's bench. Replacing the others are guards Nate Robinson, Marco Belinelli and first-round draft pick Marquis Teague along with forwards Nazr Mohammed and Vladimir Radmanovic. Forman also brought back former Bull Kirk Hinrich to take some of the pressure off the return of Rose.

Robinson, a three-time Slam Dunk Champion, is a 5'9" scoring guard who will look to give some energy to the new Bulls bench. Belinelli is essentially a replacement for Korver, as both are good long distance shooters who help spread the floor.

Mohammed will try to replace Asik's strong defense and rebounding at the center position, while Radmanovic and Teague are not expected to play much unless there is another injury. Head coach Tom Thibodeau trusts Butler to take over Brewer's role as a strong defender off the bench.

It will be tough for the Bulls to be a top team without Rose. The loss of the "Bench Mob" will be big, but a solid core of Richard Hamilton, Luol Deng, Carlos Boozer, and Noah should be enough to at least keep the team in contention for the playoffs.

Then they will count on Rose to once again rise above and get them over the top.



Former MVP Derrick Rose tears ACL in the Bulls' first playoff game last season.

"IT WILL BE TOUGH FOR THE BULLS TO BE A TOP TEAM WITHOUT ROSE."

Photos courtesy of Google

SPORTS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL JUST AROUND THE CORNER

by Paul Grossi
Sports writer

Teams are getting set for another season of college basketball.

The Connecticut Huskies took home the national championship last year. However this year the Huskies did not make it on the Top 25 and also will be without their head coach Jim Calhoun, who recently retired.

Senior guard Shabazz Napier said, "We have all formed a bond with Calhoun, it will be tough not having him on the sideline," according to an article on Fox news.

Kevin Ollie will take the coaching position and unlike the calm Calhoun, Ollie is more of an upbeat man, worried about defense and extreme conditioning. Ollie said "We try to play defense all the time; we try to make our free throws and we try to pressure the ball, and we've got to rebound," according to an article on Fox news.

The Huskies are not the favored team this year; instead it's the Indiana Hoosiers. The Hoosiers finished last year with a record of 27-9, falling short after a Sweet Sixteen lost against the Kentucky Wild Cats.

The Hoosiers will have returning powers Cody Zeller, and Christian Watford. A schedule filled with many tough opponents will challenge their number one ranking.

College basketball fan Jack Walsh said, "I've always been an Indiana fan; it will be fun watching them. However I don't know if they will be able to make it all the way."

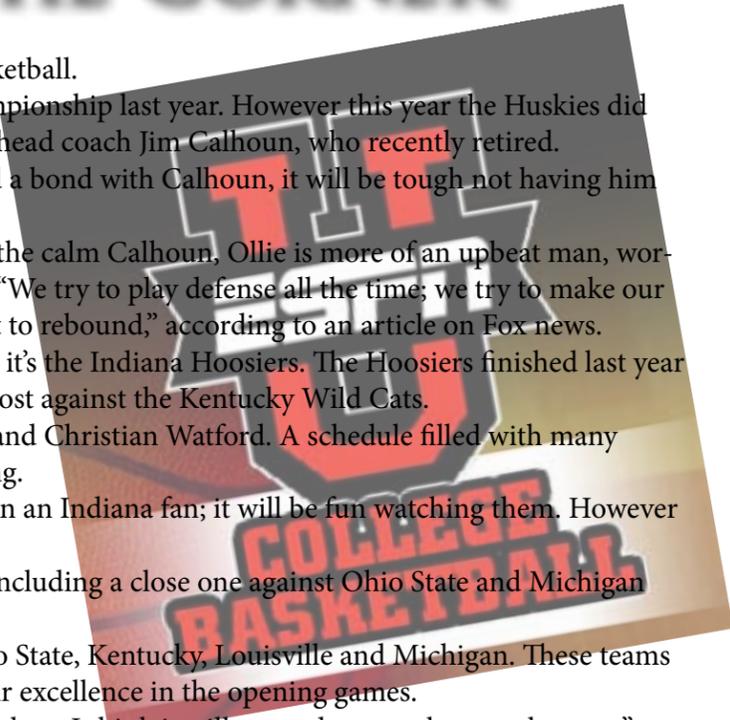
The Hoosiers last year were known for some big wins including a close one against Ohio State and Michigan State.

Some other teams rounding off the top 25 include Ohio State, Kentucky, Louisville and Michigan. These teams are known to be dominant and will once again show their excellence in the opening games.

Walsh said, "I think the pre-rankings are a little out of place, I think it will come down to the actual games," "It will be fun to watch the top teams play, especially because of their tough schedules," said Walsh.

Nov. 9 will be the official start of college basketball. Teams will get in last preparations and begin playing their pre-season exhibition games.

With the season just around the corner, teams have their eyes set on the National Championship.



Indiana Hoosiers logo



Connecticut Huskies logo

"THE HUSKIES ARE NOT THE FAVORED TEAM THIS YEAR; INSTEAD IT'S THE INDIANA HOOSIERS."

Photos courtesy of Google

SPORTS

IS IT TEBOW TIME?

by Cody Caballero
Sports writer

A questionable coaching decision made by Rex Ryan may lead to a losing season for the New York Jets. In previous weeks Ryan has supported starting quarterback Mark Sanchez, but after losing to the New England Patriots, New York has taken steps back and are desperate for a win in week eight against the Miami Dolphins.

After Sanchez threw an interception in Sunday's game against the Dolphins, the boos and chants for Tebow echoed throughout MetLife Stadium.

New York lost the game 30-9 and Rex Ryan said in an interview after the game that he had no intention of switching to Tebow during the game.

Tebow this year has a total of 32 yards, and has a completion percentage of 66.7%.

Tebow is remembered for his come from behind wins last year when he was the starting quarterback for the Denver Broncos.

When in Denver, Tebow attempted 271 passes and completed 126 with a completion percentage of 46.5%. Even though his completion percentage was low Tebow was able to win games for the Broncos which New York needs to keep their fan base and organization happy.

As a backup to Mark Sanchez, Tebow hasn't seen the field much and hasn't been able to use his fourth quarter magic like he did in Denver.

With the trade deadline pushed back until Nov.1 due to Hurricane Sandy, the Jets had some extra time to think about what they wanted to do with Tebow.

Tebow will remain in New York and the Jets, in need of a successful season, will try and execute his abilities more after the bye week.

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