

Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Issue 29

Lemont High School Competes in “Mock Firm” Competition

by Carly Tucker
News writer

On Thursday, April 25 and Friday, April 26, a group of Lemont High School students of the Advanced CAD III Honors course competed in one of the nation’s top architectural design competitions.

Seniors Brian Dirst, Szymon Krzeptowski-Mucha, Scott Matulik, Bryan Shamasko, Ray Stieber and Justin Stanwyck represented LHS in the National High School Skyscraper Challenge division at the 2013 Mock Firms Architectural Competition where they placed second for best firm and won first place for their skyscraper and model design.

This year’s competition, which took place at Chicago’s Congress Plaza Hotel, required competitors to construct and commercialize a widespread health care ‘supertall’ building in downtown Chicago capable of accommodating several medical segments.

The group designed and modeled a skyscraper that they called “The Sail”.

Senior competitor Stieber said “It [“The Sail”] was comprised of two towers, one having 116 floors and the other having 167 floors, which brought the total height to 3,713 feet. This height, including the antenna would make it the largest skyscraper in Chicago.”

The skyscraper included a hospital, senior or student living, a university, a pharmacy, and a broadcast center.

Projects were judged by architects, professors, graduate students, media and members of the international Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

The boys are regional, state, and now national champions for their skyscraper.

Stieber said “It was a good experience because I’m going to be an engineer, so it was a great stepping stone for me.”

Stieber also added “The team was really happy because this was the fifth year of the competition and we’ve never done this well. We were glad all of our hard work paid off.”

“...this was the fifth year of the competition and we’ve never done this well.”

- Ray Stieber

IN THIS ISSUE

2 It’s Gross.

Not Hiring 3

4 Clothespin

A Day in the Life of Jonathon Clark: More than Just a Pretty Face The Man Behind the Mayhem 5

6 Gone One Way: The Journey to Heaven

Gone the Other: The Descent into Hell 7

8 Because It’s the Cup 9

10 Sprinting to the Top

HEAD EDITOR
Laura Harding

DESIGN EDITOR
Ashlee Berner

DESIGN ASSISTANTS
Jordan Gembara
Emma Houran
Marisa Mars

PHOTOGRAPHER
Alyssa Cinatl

NEWS EDITOR
Nicole McKeivitt

NEWS WRITER
Carly Tucker

EDITORIALS EDITOR
Laura Harding

EDITORIALIST
Sonia Vavra

FEATURES EDITOR
Sonia Vavra

FEATURES WRITERS
Sam Moffett
Alyssa Cinatl

SPORTS EDITOR
Adrian Kalata

SPORTS WRITERS
Erika Truschke

COLUMNIST
Jonathon Clark
Jordan Gembara

SUPERVISOR
Sean Clark

It's Gross.

by Sonia Vavra
Guest editorialist

Sally walks through the halls of LHS every day, minding her own business, not trying to bother anybody else...until she sees it.

There's no one else in the hallway, just Sally and... *them*. Why? Why do they do the same thing in the same spot *every* morning? Why is it necessary to try and swallow each other's faces *in public*?

Sally ducks her head down, revolted by the sight of the couple on the verge of procreation hiding in the corner and walks quickly to her class, trying to shudder off the horrendous sight she just witnessed.

Unfortunately, Sally is not the only sufferer of these ghastrly—and downright disgusting—sights. There are plenty of students at LHS who feel the same way as Sally does: disgusted, sickened, horrified and nauseated, to name a few.

We are the ones whose eyes are offended multiple times a day by these repulsive scenes. We are the ones who walk away in horror and in fury from seeing a dozen too many make-out sessions in much too obvious corners.

We are the victims of Public Displays of Affec-

tion (PDA) means exactly

what it says: couples will display affection towards each other in the form of hugging, kissing or cuddling, in public. Oftentimes, it is right out in the open for everyone to see, whether it is to rub in single people's faces that they are dating or just because the couple "loves" each other.

Now, there are various levels of PDA, some more acceptable than others. For example, it doesn't bother anybody that much if a couple is holding hands, or gives each other a simple hug or a quick peck goodbye.

On the other hand, flat-out groping each other and making audible smacking and moaning sounds is just disgusting and inconsiderate towards other people. These major PDAs are what make it less possible to hold down our lunches in the hallway.

Unfortunately, like Sally, senior Gina Koziel is not alone in her struggle against accidentally vomiting in the hallway from the sight of a major PDA, "It's unnecessary and gross," said Koziel. "By being overly affectionate in public you're just creating an uncomfortable environment for everyone." So what's the reasoning

behind PDA?

The real reason couples grope each other in public has yet to be uncovered.

Perhaps it *is* because the couple wants to show off their newfound love to the world, to make the single kids "jealous." So the two people in this new couple decide to show off how hopelessly in love they are with each other by showing a PDA in one of the school doorways.

Or perhaps a couple really *is* in love now and simply cannot help it when their faces suddenly cannot resist the magnetic pull they obviously both have. They absolutely *must* kiss each other right out in the open. They are in love. Why should anyone else care?

No amount of love a couple has for each other will ever convince Sally, nor any other anti-PDA believers, that it is truly "love" that drives a couple to have a PDA.

And seriously, do you have any self-respect? You're putting your significant other and you *on display* for the rest of the school to see. Basically, you're saying "Hey everyone, watch my boyfriend/girlfriend and me make out!" That's both creepy and weird. Why would you *want* anybody watching you show affection for your boyfriend/girlfriend? That is a private

Photo by Sonia Vavra



matter that is supposed to be only between the two of you. Not for everyone else to experience with you.

Save us our lunch. Save everyone the annoyance. Save yourself from the embarrassment of a teacher yelling at you for making out near the classroom. Save me from getting a slingshot and firing pebbles at the back of your head if you're making out in public.

Just don't do PDA. Just don't do it. It's gross.

Not Hiring

By Alyssa Cinatl
Features writer

Teenage years come with a many responsibilities: maneuvering death traps on highways, deciding the fate of our future and possibly the future of America. And now they want us to get a part-time job on top of it? No wonder Peter Pan never left Neverland.

It seems difficult to find that first job. Whether it's the bad economy or places just aren't hiring, the job hunt is tricky. You need a job to gain experience. But to get a job you need to have prior experience. How are we supposed to get hired?

Forbes said the reason it's difficult to find a job is, "prospective employers

have to invest significant resources to train new workers on the job—resources that may go wasted if the person jumps ship shortly after receiving such training."

Students like Senior Ashley Baldyga are hitting the pavement. "I've applied to about ten places, but they aren't hiring because I don't have experience."

Job opportunities are scarce for teens because of our ages or lack of experience. Yet parents keep nagging that kids find jobs.

But don't be discouraged teens. This is good practice for the real world when you have to find a job out of college. Now *that's* a nightmare for you.

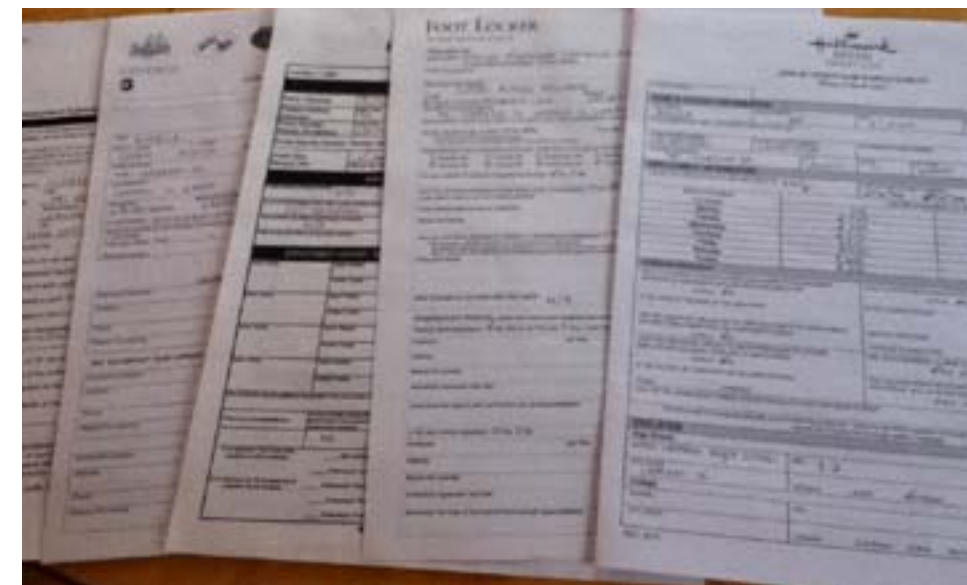


Photo by Alyssa Cinatl

Clothespin

by Jonathon Clark
Columnist

I don't know how it works, but I'm glad it does. Something with such a simplistic makeup provides evidence for the saying "Use as little material as possible, as long as it's effective."

I found this beautiful contraption at lunch. With thirty days left of school I needed something to occupy my time. What some people saw as trash and worthy of a home on the ground, I found as a glorious piece of what man can accomplish.

I've been told that the concept of three is comforting to the human mind. The components consist of two neatly cleansed twigs on a metal spiral fulcrum. The clothespin is made to clamp down on a damp piece of cotton, silk, or essentially any other fabric. My favorite part of this invention is its grasp.

The grasp is comparable to a nurturing panda mother. Not too tight and not too wimpy, the hugging clothespin assures your clothes will be comfortably hung, but if stuck to your finger, will not contort your finger into a different shape.

I found this clothespin, and I will keep it. Its façade consists of slivers discolored by time and the belligerent nature of man has deviated the twigs on separate courses. Yet the clothespin moves on in the holy trinity that it originally consisted of. Chunks have been commandeered by myself and collected, but its skeletal structure remains intact waiting to help the next laundryman complete his task. It's a beautiful clothespin.

by Jordan Gembara
Guest columnist

A Day in the Life of Jonathon Clark: More than Just a Pretty Face The Man Behind the Mayhem

Photos by Jordan Gembara

Of all the faces at Lemont High School, there's one that just can't be forgotten: Jonathon Edward Clark. Yes, that's right—the mystery is finally out. His middle name is in fact Edward.

As you recover from the shock, you may be wondering, "Jon Clark? I love him!" But, why exactly am I writing about him?

Jonathon Clark is an inspiration. This free spirit never hesitates to take a stand and try something different. Clark is constantly setting a good example for those around him and deserves recognition.

This week, everything changes. This editorialist is stepping out of her typical comfort zone and into the shoes of a columnist. And may I add, these shoes are mighty comfy.

I began my journey into the mind of Clark by asking the most natural question anyone can think of: his favorite breakfast food.

"I'm a big cereal fanatic," said Clark. "I like Captain Crunch, Fruity Pebbles,

and Coco Puffs...anything with a lot of sugar in it."

However, this very morning Clark sits before me eating a cucumber. This healthy student is always setting a great example for his fellow classmates, even when it comes to his meals.

Clark also offered a grave warning to other fellow breakfast lovers. Giovanni yogurt: though it may look appealing, the tongue says nay. Clark "doesn't recommend it to anyone".

While not everyone is as lucky enough as I to witness Clark's morning eating habits, many students have probably noticed Clark's passion for music. And if you haven't, you most definitely should look into it. Clark started his musical career with the trombone in 5th grade when he became first chair. As his confidence increased, Clark tried some other instruments. After experimenting with the drums, Clark discovered his one true instrumental love: the guitar.

Clark sounds like a trendier version of Jason Mraz. His voice is upbeat and soothing; all his listeners can't help but to smile and sing along. Clark can be found some

mornings jamming with his fellow musical friends, or just simply playing on his own for anyone who may like to hear. His tone is melodious and easy-going; it would be no surprise to this writer if his name one day appears on the top 50 hits.

Creativity also flows through this young prodigy's veins. Many of you may have noticed that Clark is also a writer...seeing as his article is directly to the left of mine. (Once you finish this, go read his outstanding piece. Seriously.)

Clark grew up in a liberal household with the freedom to basically do whatever he desired. "It's really dangerous when you let me do whatever I want, because I don't even know what I'm going to do sometimes," said Clark.

Just the other day Clark found himself wondering: why do we have mucus? Furthermore, what is baby powder made of? While many may not understand his way of thinking, it cannot be denied that Clark truly is one of a kind. My fellow columnist indulges in that brain of his each week and ultimately ends up yanking out an article that always makes me laugh and leaves me very impressed.

While Clark clearly is a lovable guy who is always making others laugh, he is also a role model for the entire school. As NHS president, Clark motivates others on a daily basis.

"[NHS] is the best thing I did during

high school," said Clark. "It was by far the most rewarding."

Clark worked with his vice president Eddy Sinovich to get the word out about NHS as much as possible. They did a ton of advertising this year and made some huge changes.

While NHS gives Clark plenty of opportunities to be a leader, this doesn't limit him from continuing his good example elsewhere.

Clark offers a welcoming smile to every person he comes in contact with. He is always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need and works hard to keep up his cheerful persona.

Every student at LHS is special in his or her own way. And it's safe to say that Jonathon Clark is no exception.



Gone One Way: The Journey to Heaven

by Sam Moffett
Features writer

It all happened too fast. The booze had kicked in, his vision blurring as he pressed harder on the gas. Simon sat next to him, his eyes closed and the cherry of his cigarette flaring from the blast of the wind. A sound broke the silence, lights blinding him. The screeching of tires, a yell, the blaring of a horn. Before he knew it, Ricktor swerved and they were tumbling downhill. The car he almost hit came to a stop.

As they rolled, Simon looked at his older brother and saw the fear flashing in his eyes. He reached over and clasped Ricktor's hand. They weren't really close, but in their final moments he didn't want him to feel alone as their lives escaped them.

"There is such a stark contrast on the ways to eternity" says Pastor Jim Britton of the First Church of the Nazarene. "The way you live your life affects your eternity and where you go." Simon, unlike his brother Ricktor, had lived his life well. A good man, a regular Joe who paid his taxes, did his duties, gone too soon. He was always quiet, always watching his surroundings. He had done some things wrong: wrestled with alcohol, treated some people poorly, but after rehab he made up for it. Helping the church feed the homeless, clean up the parks.

"A man who atones for his sins can absolutely go

to heaven," states Britton. "By grace and faith alone we have the opportunity to go to heaven, to transform the way we live our day to day life."

Senior Kim Gannon agrees in that. Gannon jokingly calls herself an "agnostic wanna-be Jew", believing in both agnostic views and Jewish beliefs. "The ticket to getting into heaven" she says "is that, first of all, you don't have to belong to any specific creator. It's a place where boundaries break down and the past never happened and you just exist in eternity with God and it's sweet."

Though Simon worked at the church, he had never believed in the Christian's God, or any other God for that matter. He believed that things just happened, that there was something out there, but it just wasn't God. "There are different degrees of separation," explains Gannon, "Think of rings surrounding a core; the core being God. Some are closer; some are farther from the center."

After the crash there was nothing, no noise, no movement. Only silence and a bright light. This light consumed Simon but what came out of it if anything at all?

Britton says that Jesus is the key to open the gate to heaven. "In Romans 6:23 it says *'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*" To spend eternity in

heaven you need to have faith in Jesus."

Gannon sees it differently. "You have visions and experiences that get you into heaven. You get a glimpse, like this is what it's all about."

Seniors Jessica Halper and Sandra Ivanovska also have different views. Halper believes in a 'collective afterlife'. "When you die you go to the same place everyone else goes, a place where everyone just meets. You go there to rest and prepare for your next life, to reincarnate as something else."

Halper also believe in spirit guides. "When you go to heaven, all the good things you've done flash before your eyes. And when that's done, your spirit guide will show you the way to heaven. When you're in the spirit world, which have relationships with other spirits and they carry over while you are living. Your spirit guide will be one of those spirits you've had a relations with – like a friend or lover."

Ivanovska says that she doesn't believe in spirit guides. "I think that there should be someone in charge who would walk you up to heaven. No specific name for that person, but someone who's in charge should help you get there."

Simon has ascended. He's there now, through the gate, the labyrinth to eternity solved. He's among the righteous, the soft-hearted and the graceful. He looks around, taking in what's been debated for so

long, seeing what people have claimed to see in near death experiences and lucid dreams.

Ivanovska and Halper both believe that heaven is your 'happy place'. "If there is a God," states Halper, "then he'd know where you were the happiest and put you there, letting you live in the moment that made you feel the happiest."

Britton has a different understanding of heaven. "The problem with heaven is the look. All the harps and cloud sitting. That's really bizarre. Heaven is beyond our understanding. Heaven is perfect beauty. I don't have a clear view of heaven, but Revelations 21 paints this picture of holiness and harmony. No pain, no sorrow, no death. It's back to genesis, no separation between God and the people. All the brokenness of creation being made into what it's supposed to be."

Finally away from it all. No traffic, no screaming boss or cheating girlfriends. For the first time in his life Simon can breathe. For the first time in a long time he feels whole again. Out with old, in with the new. That's what Ricktor would say. Simon pauses midstep. He looks around, no sign. Not one trace of Ricktor.

Even in Heaven, the one place untouched by sorrow, a cold stone of dread sinks to the bottom of his stomach as his mind slowly puts together the pieces together. There would be nothing he could do. Not anymore.



Artwork by Sam Moffett

Gone the Other: The Descent into Hell

by Sam Moffett
Features writer

He held on tight. He felt the pull, the tug of the dark clawing at his ankles. Simon's lips move but he can't hear him. There's a ringing in his ears. The dark is crawling up his leg now, gripping his jeans and tugging itself up to his eyes. The ringing fades and he hears the sirens.

The dark is closer now, up to his neck. He's drowning. He looks to his brother. Fading and fast. Simon squeezes his hand. Ricktor looks up and sees the strings of darkness starting to weave over his eyes. A sigh escapes his lips and Ricktor lets himself sink into the dark. Free at last.

"There is a concept in Judaism and sometimes Christianity where the reward for living a decent life by following the tenants of decency is eternal life or some degree of eternal life." Senior Kim Gannon says. "In Christian hell, you still exist but its eternal separation. Christians believe in the fires of hell, and as an explorer of spirituality I see hell as ice, you're separated from God and you don't exist."

Up goes Simon. Down goes Ricktor. Mama called him the bad egg. Never did anything right, never tried, never wanted to be 'the good son'. Out with the old, in with the new. Roll with beat you're given. He left home early in his teens, taking his dad's Harley with him and driving up to drown himself in prostitutes and violence.

He met some guys who had hooked him on many things: women, snuff and the un-

quenchable thirst to beat someone's face in. The top dog, the protector of one of the biggest crime lords. No remorse for whom he's whacked, for those he's maimed and ruined.

Nazarene Pastor Jim Britton questions it all. "Why does God send anyone to hell? God doesn't want you to send you there, but it's just your choice. If you don't believe in God, you've made a clear choice to not be a part of his existence. To quote Romans 2:8, *'But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.'*"

Ricktor plummets. Nothing to grab onto. Something surrounds him, the howling of something unknown to him. What would meet him? The cold icy winds? The demons and fire we've grown to believe delve beneath the earth?

Pastor Britton says, "In Revelation 21:8 it says *'But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.'*"

Gannon says that there is nothing. "Everything stops. Nothing. You're alone. There is only you. There is no eternity. You die. You get sucked into this black hole of nothing and that's it. Bad people just die. There are no fires, no existence at all."

There could be fire, burning

lakes of sulfur that scorch Ricktor for eternity. Or there could be nothing at all, just the loneliness he created for himself by sinning. Or there could be someone to guide you. Senior Sandra Ivanovska believes this. "Someone you've hurt walks you there. Like a spirit of some kind. You feel their remorse the whole time they walk you there."

He's there now. In the nothing. In the pit. In the fire. In the ice.

Ivanovska and senior Jessica Halper both have the same outlook on what hell looks like. "If heaven is the happiest moment of your life," says Halper. "Then hell is the worst moment of your life. You will live it for eternity."

Britton agrees with them. "It's a very valid way to describe hell, but there is no concrete picture of hell. The way you live your life affects your eternity and where you go. A good person can spend an eternity in hell for not placing their faith in Christ. If your faith isn't in Christ, when you're separated from God, you'll go to a place of unhappiness and despair."

Ricktor sits there among his misery. What if he had atoned? Been more like Simon – the perfect prissy boy he was. What he had done only one thing wrong instead of a lot; would that have changed his fate?

"There are so many things

that people say that are bad," says Halper, "so if you only did one thing wrong and that gets you into hell, then everyone would go downstairs. If you were condemned, you'd have to do something bad enough repeatedly in order to get to hell."

The two brothers are gone. Simon is up with the angels, his hard work and atonement paying off to eternity close to the sun. Ricktor is down below, banging against the walls, surrounded by all his mistakes. They chose their paths – whether they knew it or not – and one went up the

escalator and the other down the stairs.

"God is in control of this," says Britton. "By his grace and my faith in him I have life. Sometimes we are living in fullness of life, we get glimpses of heaven and hell, when things are perfect and when things go wrong. There are two options for eternity: perfection and beauty or hopelessness, loneliness and pain. These are realities for us and they are what we must believe and live with for our eternities."



Artwork by Sam Moffett

Because It's the Cup

By Erika Truschke
Sports writer

Kane makes a couple of head fakes and moves towards the net; there's a shot, it's in? Where's the puck? Wait, it's in; it's over. Patrick Kane has scored the game winning goal in overtime to win Lord Stanley's Cup.

Those glorious final seconds was, and still is, one of Chicago's finest sports memories. Winning the Stanley Cup in 2010 broke the 49 year streak without a championship.

On April 12, the Blackhawks clinched the 15th Central Division title in franchise history after a 3-2 shootout victory, at home, over the Detroit Red Wings. Winning the title ensures home-ice advantage in the first two rounds for the 2013 Stanley Cup playoffs.

"I believe the Hawks have the ability to take home the cup again. Their offense is their strongest asset, and will destroy through the others teams," said junior Alex Keating.

Same as the regular season, a team during the playoffs is only allowed to roster 20 players, 18 skaters and 2 goalies. Head Coach Joel Quenneville has a tough decision to make on who he believes will benefit him most for the run at the Cup.

Keating commented, "Marian Hossa, I believe, will be the Hawks biggest impact during the playoffs because he has six game-winning goals, second in the NHL."

Hossa has not only shined during regulation, he has proved his accuracy during shootouts; he scored on three attempts by a slap shot, which is a highly unlikely move in shootout competition.

"Since 2010, new players have joined the team which adds to their veteran skill set; overall the 2010 and 2013 Blackhawks' performance is outstanding and makes it fun to watch," said senior Amanda Ruban.

One of the Blackhawks' newest additions to their family is 2013 Hobey Baker Memorial Award winner Drew LeBlanc. A player is presented this award for being the most outstanding player in NCAA college hockey. The 23 year old recorded 50 points (13 goals, 37 assists) in 42 games last season for the St. Cloud State Huskies; his outstanding skills helped lead the Huskies to their first Frozen Four appearance in program history.

LeBlanc wore no. 14 in his NHL debut on Wednesday April 24 against the Edmonton Oilers. When asked about his NHL debut, LeBlanc responded, "I'm just gonna try not to screw up too badly," according to a tweet from the Chicago Blackhawks.

As the Hawks keep winning, the points keep racking up as well. The Edmonton game was not only LeBlanc's debut game, but the 4-1 victory awarded the team the President's Cup Trophy.

The President's Cup Trophy

was awarded to the Blackhawks for acquiring the most points during the regular season. This trophy also secures home-ice advantage throughout the 2013 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

The Blackhawks finished the short 48 game regular season on Saturday April 27 with a loss to the St. Louis Blues 3-1; yet they hold a league-high 77 points, recording an outstanding 36-7-5 record.

Playoffs are already here as well; the puck officially dropped on Tuesday April 30 as the first 2013 Stanley Cup Playoff games took place. Since the Blackhawks are seeded no. 1 they face eighth seeded Minnesota Wild in the first round of the playoffs.

On Tuesday the Hawks opened up Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Finals at the United Center with a suspenseful 2-1 overtime victory over the Wild. The two-on-one pass by Viktor Stalberg was fed right onto the tape of Bryan Bickell's stick as he slipped it past Wild goaltender Josh Harding for the win.

The excitement and joy of Game 1 will continue into Game 2 which will be played at the UC again on Friday May 3. From the drop of the puck, history will be made. Will the Chicago Blackhawks win another Stanley Cup?



Sprinting to the Top

by Adrian Kalata
Sports Editor

This year's April showers are no issues for Lemont's track and field team as they progress towards the IHSA State Finals. The boys' team has worked hard to earn their placement thus far as they advance towards the State finals later this year.

Senior Captains Scott Franklin, Justin Stanwyck and Paul Rachwalski lead the team along with Coach Dennis Kennedy. The team has "finished respectably in other invites," says Franklin; including second at the Lemont Invitational indoor meet.

Lemont had many high finishers at the Apr. 12 Invitational, which consisted of six teams.

Among the second place finishers is junior Matt Gagen in the 3200-meter race, senior Scott

Franklin in the 1600-meter race, sophomore Nathan Palermo in the 12-lb. shot put and the 4x800 relay team.

Senior David Janik participated in the 1.6kg shot put and placed seventh overall. Janik said, "I love being a part of the track and field team. I've worked hard over the season and I can see the improvements with the coming meets."

Sophomore Alex Micco, who will be returning to the team for his junior year, said, "I love being part of the team. We count on each other and work to improve not just ourselves, but the team as a whole."

The boys continue to practice under the coaching of Kennedy and hope to qualify for state. Many of the senior athletes, including senior captains Franklin, Stanwyck and Rachwalski, are hoping to finish off their season strong and leave Lemont High School with personal records that will stay as they move on.



Photo courtesy of Tony Hamilton