Smile! Zyanya Vapando and Corey Brown pose for a pic before heading back out on the dance floor.

Gabriella Tovar shows that anyone can make a difference and become a super hero.

Not a care in the world! Kendall Burer is lost in the music.

Thumbs up for good luck! Spencer Locke gets strapped in and ready to battle!

So I put my hands up! Erika shoots out her hands claiming her dance space.

He came in like a wrecking ball! These guys nudge until they all fall down!

Let us show you how it is done! These three students lead the school in some final dances.

Dancin' feet thru night

That's a hand off! Tommy Garcia give the mic to Elise Herbert to make an amazing announcement.

Flying solo! Grace Fisher dances it out for the children as she rakes up fun service hours!

The saxophone section smile showing how much fun they have at B and-OH-Rama

That's a hand off!

He came in like a wrecking ball!

Not a care in the world!

Let us show you how it is done!

Dancin' feet thru night

Dancin' feet thru night

Dancin' feet thru night
to defeat illnesses

Grace Fisher and Sarah Hinkley show off their killer dance moves on the dance floor!

Despite the bulk of sumo suit Reiley O’Brien maneuvers in it like a pro.

Square up! Tomas Yarabrough gets ready to sumo himself into victory.

Coming through! This racer used the bouncy house to spring himself further away from the competition.

Are you ready to rumble? Sam Kolb prepares himself for the sumo match.

Shake it off! Jordyn Libelt grooves to the music.

One quick pic? Brianna shines, a vision in pink.

Just taking a breather! These three girls smile for their close up in between dances.

Slipping and sliding! We cannot just slide through life, but we can have fun at a dance-marathon!
Multiple personalities

A little abuse. Angry that she isn’t doing her job, Garrett Wells forces Olivia Leonardi to get back to work.

Deathly decision. A counsel gathers to make a decision that ends up costing them their lives.

Power of Love. Inspired by the companionship of Hyde, Olivia Leonardi’s performance is recharged.

This is the moment. Drinking his concoction, Dr. Jekyll, or Jake Elkins, begins his experiment.

Emma’s choice. Embracing one another, Katie Griswold and Jake Elkins confirm their love for one another.

A night to remember. A group of burlesque dancers perform to commemorate Hyde’s bachelor party.

Where is Hyde? With her fiance nowhere to be found, Katie Griswold asks Ben Patrick for help.

Death by diamonds. Choking her with her own necklace, Jake Elkins successfully “kills” Mackenzie Costanzo.

It’s all a façade. Rich and poor village people gather together to sing about the façade of life.
I feel like a lady. Singing about men, Olivia Leonardi plays the part of a local prostitute.

Good versus evil. Battling himself, Jake Elkins shows the inner turmoil that accompanies Jekyll and Hyde.

Source of inspiration. With the presence of a madman, Jake Elkin’s character finds inspiration for his experiment.

Did you hear the news? Townspeople Crystal Hall, Chloe Eubanks and Mary Currie gather to mourn the death of the bishop.

Multiple talents.

Fatherly embrace. Soon-to-be father-in-law, Fabian Guerro, offers some friendly advice to son-in-law, Jake Elkins about his experiments.

A plea of desperation. Arguing his case, Jake Elkins urges everyone to see the point of his madness.

A town in distress. As murders pile up and no suspect is found, the town grows increasingly worried for its safety.

Friendly advice. With her fiancé late to their engagement party, Jake Ziman urges Katie Griswold to find a new suitor.

Awkward encounter. Ben Patriarch finds himself in an awkward position with the presence of burlesque dancer, Megan Pawlak.
A grand entrance
Smiles plastered on their faces, and dressed to the nines, seniors Katie Griswold and Jake Elkins enter prom.

Prom court
King and Queen Gab Gullien and Jordyn Poppen are joined on the dance floor by the prom court.

Star of the show
Showing off his moves, Gerardo Caballero garners a crowd.

A light show
Moving as fast as he can, Jose Mendez puts on a show.

The saxophone section smiles showing how much fun they have at Band-O-Rama.

Vogue
Striking a pose, seniors Jimmy Roggeman, Ryan Golembek, Adam Fitzgerald, Chase Kilmer, and Justin Reynolds ham it up for the camera.

A sea of movement
All together, Blackhawks got together on the dance floor.

Save the last dance

Ride of a lifetime
Fresh off her party bus, Lauren Rieder enters prom.

Prom date
Talking before dinner, Jennifer Aguilar and her handsome date share a warm embrace.

Royalty
Seniors Gab Gullien and Jordyn Poppen were crowned as 2016’s Prom King and Queen.

Finally! After a day of prep, these girls are ready to enjoy their prom.

Cheezy
Having a ball at prom, Daran Minor smiles big.

We’ve got moves
With a packed dance floor, West shows off its dancing.

An gathering of friends
Of course prom wouldn’t be fun without a table full of close friends!

Prince Charming
A Abigail Cather’s date swept her off her feet this prom.

Fit for a queen
Jordyn Poppen is crowned the 2016 Prom queen.

for Prom 2016
for Prom 2016

Fit for a queen Jordyn Poppen is crowned the 2016 Prom queen.
A slide and a win

For most of the members on the varsity baseball team, there is not one, specific reason they can pinpoint as to why they joined the team. For some, it was due to the admiration of a major league player, or the pass down of a family tradition.

“My dad got me into the sport when I was just 8 years old,” Evan Losselyoung said. “I’ve loved it ever since.”

For others, however, deciding what made them join the team isn’t so simple.

“Nothing specific made me want to join. Baseball has always been something I enjoy doing and want to continue to do,” Winn Kipp said of the sport.

Either way, baseball has become a passion for many Blackhawks. This passion helped fuel a successful season for the team. Whether it was in practice or out on the field at a game, each boy gave whatever they were doing their all.

Some of the toughest competitors the team had to face this season included both Glenbard East and Naperville Central. The boys faced these difficult teams head-on, taking lessons from each loss and each success. Each team member had a personal goal, which they conquered over the course of the season.

“My personal goal this year was to win more games than last year,” Kipp said. "That was a goal the entire team had. In the future, I want to continue to play at a high level while in college."

This season the varsity baseball team won the most games in conference play since 2005. Although they spent a bulk of the season battling for 3rd place in the Valley division, their accomplishments have always managed to shine through.

"Overall, we have had a number of players contribute to any success that we have had over the course of the season," said Coach John Reeves.
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Bases loaded

When each boy steps onto their respective base, they rub their helmet lightly -- a good luck ritual for the junior varsity team. Before the game, the boys huddle up as a team and say words of encouragement to one another, another good luck formality. But the success of the team this year extends beyond just luck -- each boy worked hard, as an individual and a team member, to produce an outstanding season.

Throughout the course of the season, the junior varsity team faced some tough competitors, Batavia and South Elgin, to name a few. But for a lot of the boys, the most difficult opponent was not the person on the opposite team, but rather someone much closer to them.

"Our toughest competitor this year was ourselves. Sometimes we go into games with the wrong mindset and attitude," Nicholas Rivera said of the team.

The boys rallied, however, overcoming any obstacle they faced the duration of the season, whether it was within or not. The boys worked diligently to perfect their skill, whether it was putting in long, enduring hours at practice, or giving it their all at each game. The boys determination to make it big this season prevailed.

"I work hard and do everything to the best of my ability in practice. I work hard in school so I can play baseball," Jacob Pavey said.

Baseball for this group of boys is so much more than just a sport, but rather another teaching tool. By being members of this team, each boy was able to procure a new set of skills, a new way of thinking, as well as other, valuable life lessons.

"Baseball gives me a better idea of how to work as a team. I learn how to communicate with others and how to shake off some emotions that may affect my actions," Reed Branom said.

Row 1: Isaiah Dieppa, Dustin Tomas, Jacob Gray, James McCann.
Row 2: Jordan Perez, Kevin Denovellis, Jacob Pavey, Alberto Martinez, Miles Tonielli, Josh Adam.
Row 3: Reed Branom, Jorge Donatlan, Sean Zimmerman, Jorge Soto, Charlie Griswald. Row 4: Cameron Zimmerman, Teddy Hernandez, Kyle McCoy, Alex Marungo
GROUNDBALL. EYES ON THE PRIZE,
ISAIAH DIEPPAFOLLOWS THE BALL TOSHIS MITT.

GOING DOWN SWINGING.
WITH A HARD SMACK OF THE BAT, DANIEL MARION SENDS THE BALL FLYING.

READY, SET, CATCH. TO PREPARE FOR A GAME, KEVIN DENOVELLI THROWS A BALL TO HIS TEAMMATE.

ROW 1: ISAIAH DIEPPA, DUSTIN TOMAS, JACOB GRAY, JAMES MCCANN.

ROW 2: JORDAN PEREZ, KEVIN DENOVELLI, JACOB PAVEY, ALBERTO MARTINEZ, MILES TONIELLI, JOSH ADAM.

ROW 3: REED BRANOR, JORGE DONATLAN, SEAN ZIMMERMAN, JORGE SOTO, CHARLIE GRISWOLD.

ROW 4: CAMERON ZIMMERMAN, TEDDY HERNANDEZ, KYLE MCCOY, ALEYZA MARUNGO.

BASES LOADED
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A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH
With grass stains on his pants and a look of determination plastered on his face, Charles Griswald throws the pitch.

HOME STRETCH.
CATCHER READY,
DUSTIN TOMAS TRIES TO OUTRUN THE BALL.
Field of greens

From friends to family, the girls soccer team were closer than the ball is to the grass. No matter what happened throughout the season they always pick each other up and give support.

"We get mad at each other but the end of the day, we keep trying," said Riley O’Brien.

Working through the season, they had some fierce rivals especially Wheaton Academy and Glenbard East. Many of the members believed that playing many of the teams was like a walk in the park.

"To be honest, we were capable of beating most of the teams," said O’Brien. "At times, we just did not show up to play. But if I had to choose, I would say Glenbard East [was the toughest team]."

Being on the soccer team not only helps soccer skills but it improves your skills as a student as well. Growing together as a determined and dynamic group.

Many of the team members play on traveling teams throughout the year, so they were ready for the spring competition in many ways.

"My leadership skills from the team flow into leading in-class discussions. I’ve become very determined," said Mariyah Zeitz.

A great finish for the players on senior night when they won against West Chicago 5-1. For the seniors, it was a great send-off to further play in college.

Stolen! Snatching the ball away from the opposing team Katherine Stevens strives for a goal!


Effortless!
Balancing the ball like a pro, Marlene Sanchez exhibits her confidence.

Professional!
Displaying a new trick, Jocelyn Ferrer finds a way to avoid touching the ball.

Taken back! Catching the opponent’s high speed ball, Mylene Palacios-Ferrer represents the ability and authority of the soccer team.

Chasing down victory! Power running down the field, Riley O’Brien prepares to make a pass.

Goal! Kicking the ball with all her might, Sofia Papoutsis presents goal worthy shots on the field.

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Field of greens From friends to family, the girls soccer team were closer than the ball is to the grass. No matter what happened throughout the season they always picked each other up and gave support.
A power kick for the win

"The highlight of the season would have to be when we won our very first game of the season. This was a big accomplishment knowing we pushed ourselves to win the game. This as an individual made me feel good because we have the drive to win anything," said Peggy Potilechio.

The JV soccer team enjoyed every moment of their season next to their teammates. They worked together and achieved great things.

"Making new friends and experiencing different skills of every player. I enjoy being able to play with players that had different talents and experiences," said Mayra Millan.

Being out on the field helped the girls beyond just athletics.

"Soccer has made me a better student because I try harder in my classes so that I can play," said Yajaira Reynoso.

They faced great challenges including Oswego East, one of their toughest competitors. A few of the girls believed that it was an "off-game" for many of the players, even though Oswego was a better team. However, they never gave up and supported each other through thick and thin.

"My team has its ups and downs but we, as a whole, are very hard working. We shoot for the best and everyone is encouraging one another left and right. If we lose a game, we learn from our mistakes and perform our absolute best," said Potilechio.

What makes a great team? The respect that each player has for each other and the name Blackhawk, but it also the talent, whether developed or on the road to development. These girls helped each during practices and on the field during games. It was a season of scores for all.
Nothing but net! Anya Lehman prepares for the kick to take back control of the ball.

What a steal! Our lady Blackhawk tries her hardest to get the ball back from her opponent.

A spike for the win

"We are a very close-knit team since there are only 11 of us on the team and only 6 on the court at a time. It is very competitive and everything we do is as a team," said Chase Kilmer.

It was a very small team this year, however talent was not hard to find. This team showed off their skill at every game, especially when they went against their biggest competitor, Glenbard West.

"We remember that what is done is done, and we can't do anything to change the outcome now. We focus on the next game," said Kilmer.

Even the teammates on the bench were very supportive and tried their hardest to remain positive.

The boys had many memorable wins, one being their win against Glenbard West.

"We have battled it off with them over the years, and this year we came out on top, not just once but twice," said Tommy Garcia.

For the seniors on the team, this was a long awaited feat.

The small team also won against Bartlett, St. Charles North and Riverside Brookfield.

The 2016 boy's volleyball team really stood out, they demonstrated that it is all about quality and not quantity.

The coaches played a large role in the success of these young men. They encouraged them to be persistent and not to limit themselves.

"The best advice I have heard is that the enemy of progression is satisfaction," said Kilmer.

The coaches constantly pushed the boys and never allowed them to give up.

"I plan to play in college. I love this sport and couldn't imagine not playing it," said Garcia.

For many students, volleyball goes beyond a hobby. For these Blackhawks, it is their passion.
Adam Fitzgerald and Chase Kilmer show their sportsmanship like true Blackhawks.

Victory time! Emmanuel Cháidez goes for an unstoppable and powerful spike.

A leap of confidence! Tommy Garcia reaches up for an attack.

Way to go! Justin Reynolds celebrates with a high-five.
A STROKE of winning

“In volleyball, I have gone from bumping a ball into the ceiling, to bumping it right to the setter and that really shows how my abilities have changed,” said Alec Wahl.

Due to hard work and dedication, many boys saw improvement in their skills during the season. Their strong bond as a team and immense help from their coaches all helped pave the way for a successful season.

“We bring each other’s spirits up so that we can do better,” said Alec Wahl.

Throughout the season, the boys bonded as a team. New friendships were forged each and every day, and together they became great.

“The only other comment I would like to make is that our program has come such a long way and we’ve been very successful this year. It’s great to see our teams doing well since our school is known primarily for basketball,” said Tyler Long.

The JV boys volleyball has made a name for themselves in the world of athletics. Their willpower to be successful in their season has paid off.
1-2-3 go Blackhawks! The JV boys huddle together to talk game strategy against their opponents.

Pass me the ball! Reece Corbin waits for his time to shine.

Row 1 (Back): Joshua Gaytan, Jonathan Santillan, Javier Ortiz, Juan Zepeda, Aiden Price, Jose Aguilera, Jacob Powers Row 2: Alec Wahl, Jeramie Gutierrez, Connor Vrchota, Coach Burke, Coach Marlowe, Tristan Evans, Jacob Rackmyer, Eivher Aponte Row 3: Elian Servin, Jerritt Gutierrez, Everett Westley, Reece Corbin, Joey Winterrowd, Angel Valle, Alex Mayorga
Competitive backyard sport

It's more than a sport; it's a way of life.

With the 2016 varsity girls badminton season at its end, the girls looked back and thought of all the great and fun memories that they shared.

“I loved when Coach Ranallo played with Christine against Coach Lopez and Vita in doubles,” said Logan Christensen. “It was definitely the most entertaining practice ever.”

Hmmm...coaches playing against coaches? Coaches have to have fun, too.

The game of badminton is like tennis whereas the players "rack up" points by themselves or as doubles. But the fun is not just on the gym floor playing.

“The bus rides to the games were always fun just because everyone is always happy and singing along to the songs that come on,” said Emma Wegman.

The girls loved to compete whether it was singles or doubles, or against another school or even against each other.

“I loved to play doubles with my friend Rosa,” said Netty Guzman.

“We always had a blast whenever we played together.”

They had lots of fun and made great memories together even if it was something like hanging out or just goofing off.

“I’m going to miss everyone, honestly,” said Logan. “They're all amazing, and I couldn't have asked for a better team.”

“I went into badminton with a few friends on the team and I ended up with everyone on the team as my friend,” said Jordyn Liebelt.

Of course, the girls wouldn't have been able to accomplish as much as they did without the coaching of Coach Lopez.

Congratulations girls on an amazing season and we hope that you continue to grow in skill and talent as well as your friendships with your team.

Cristina Valdes gets ready to serve the birdie over the net.

Logan Christensen smacks the birdie back to her opponent.

Taylor Lupas smacks the birdie back to her opponent.


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High flying

With the 2016 badminton season finished, the JV and freshman girls look back on all the good times that they had together.

“I’m going to miss our quirky little badminton inside jokes that no one would understand,” said Nicole Sa’d. “I’ll miss going out to dinner after a tournament and us roasting each other.”

The girls got along and cooperated like one big family.

“I’ll miss the amazing and wonderful friends that I have made during the season,” said Anahi Aguirre.

Even though badminton seems like an easy and laid-back sport, it's actually a lot of hard work and dedication.

“During the season, there were long nights filled with conditioning, drills and techniques,” said Hannah Marquardt, “but it was all worth it in the end.”

“I have learned a lot more strategic placements and got that left arm gain from smashing a lot,” said Sa’d.

To most people’s surprise, some of the girls were actually nervous to join the team. Now that they joined, they are all for anyone that is not sure if they want to join.

“Come to open gyms,” said Kendyll Leifheit. “They do so much for you even though no coaching is available.”

“Join especially if you’re hesitant. I was extremely hesitant on joining but I did, and now I’m so glad because I made the team,” said Elise Herbert.

Congratulations to the 2016 girls JV and freshman badminton teams on a great and successful season.
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Love the game

“I have friends who I can help, laugh and enjoy the game with,” said Evan Castillo.

This season has been an enjoyable one for the boy’s team. They worked very hard in every practice, and it seems to have paid off for the teams.

“They had so many boys come out, they added another coach,” said Coach Bruce Fraiser.

They had a very new team and a lot of new talent. Each person added something new to the team that made it so unique.

“Personally, I don’t do something for luck before a match; however, during a match I do different tricks with my racket to focus,” said William Isiminger.

Luck is a tricky thing to figure out when it comes to sports. Some players may see each play as already set out for them and they are destined to perform a certain way. Others believe that on and off the court they make their own luck and they plan on designing each moment in a way that will help them achieve their goals.

“We have one player going down state this year in singles, junior William Isiminger,” said Coach Bruce Fraiser.

“I have been playing since I was little and I love the atmosphere at practice,” said Evan Castillo.

The vibe you have in practice can make or break how one performs in a match. If the whole team is working hard and doing their best then they can accomplish great things in matches. But, you only get in a game what you put out in practice.

“To get pumped before a match I like to have some time off to the side to think about how I have to play,” said William Isiminger.

Pregame rituals differed much from person to person. Getting “pumped up” could mean listening to music, having some alone time to foreshadow the game, or simply cheering with a team.

Win or lose, the game and the players had much love of the sport.
Love the game

V a r s i t y  T e n n i s .  J a c k  F a r r e l l ,  W i l l i a m  I s i m i n g e r ,  C a d e n  L a F o n d ,  A r i q  Q u a c h ,  J o e y  R e s k o ,  U l i s s e s  R i o s ,  B r i a n  R u n g e ,  P e t e r  S a l e r n o ,  K e n  S o d e t z ,  A u s t i n  W o o d .

J V  T e n n i s .  L e o n a r d o  A l b a ,  C a r l o s  A l v a r a d o ,  J a v i e r  E ,  A l v a r e z ,  S a m u e l  A r s e n a u l t ,  R a m e e l  A s h a d ,  A a r o n  A v i l a ,  S i m o n  B a r b e l ,  R o g e l i o  C e r v a n t e s ,  S e b a s t i a n  C o s m a ,  G a l a h a d  D a v i s ,  F e r n a n d o  G a l i c i a ,  G a b r i e l  G u i l l e n ,  C h a r l e s  K r o p p ,  B e n j a m i n  L a u r x ,  O m a r  L i c o n ,  A l a n  M a r c i a l ,  M i c h a e l  N e l s o n ,  S e b a s t i a n  S a n c h e z ,  M a t t h e w  T e t e r ,  L o g a n  W o o d  S u c h  f o c u s !

W i l l i a m  I s i m i n g e r  p r e p a r es  f o r  t h e  m a t c h .

G e t  r e a d y !  J a c o b  C h a u r i z e  g e t s  r e a d y  f o r  a  q u i c k  r e t u r n .

D o  i t  f o r  t h e  s a v e !  E v a n  C a s t i l l o  d a s h e s  t o  t h e  s c e n e  t o  s a v e  t h e  b a l l .

"I  h a v e  f r i e n d s  w h o  I  c a n  h e l p ,  l a u g h  a n d  e n j o y  t h e  g a m e  w i t h , "  s a i d  E v a n  C a s t i l l o .  T h i s  s e a s o n  h a s  b e e n  a n  e n j o y a b l e  o n e  f o r  t h e  b o y ’ s  t e a m .  T h e y  w o r k e d  v e r y  h a r d  i n  e v e r y  p r a c t i c e ,  a n d  i t  s e e m s  t o  h a v e  p a i d  o f f  f o r  t h e  t e a m s .  " T h e y  h a d  s o  m a n y  b o y s  c o m e  o u t ,  t h e y  a d d e d  a  n o t h e r  c o a c h , "  s a i d  C o a c h  B r u c e  F r a i s e r .  T h e y  h a d  a  v e r y  n e w  t e a m  a n d  a  l o t  o f  n e w  t a l e n t .  E a c h  p e r s o n  a d d e d  s o m e t h i n g  n e w  t o  t h e  t e a m  t h a t  m a d e  i t  s o  u n i q u e .  " P e r s o n a l l y ,  I  d o  n ’ t  d o  s o m e t h i n g  f o r  l u c k  b e f o r e  a  m a t c h ;  h o w e v e r ,  d u r i n g  a  m a t c h  I  d o  d i f f e r e n t  t r i c k s  w i t h  m y  r a c k e t  t o  f o c u s , "  s a i d  W i l l i a m  I s i m i n g e r .  L u c k  i s  a  t r i c k y  t h i n g  t o  f i g u r e  o u t  w h e n  i t  c o m e s  t o  s p o r t s .  S o m e  p l a y e r s  m a y  s e e  e a c h  p l a y  a s  a  l r e a d y  s e t  o u t  f o r  t h e m  a n d  t h e y  a r e  d e s t i n e d  t o  p e r f o r m  a  c e r t a i n  w a y .  O t h e r s  b e l i e v e  t h a t  o n  a n d  o f f  t h e  c o u r t  t h e y  m a k e  t h e i r  o w n  l u c k  a n d  t h e y  p l a n  o n  d e s i g n i n g  e a c h  m o m e n t  i n  a  w a y  t h a t  w i l l  h e l p  t h e m  a c h i e v e  t h e i r  g o a l s .  " W e  h a v e  o n e  p l a y e r  g o i n g  d o w n  s t a t e  t h i s  y e a r  i n  s i n g l e s ,  j u n i o r  W i l l i a m  I s i m i n g e r , "  s a i d  C o a c h  B r u c e  F r a i s e r .  " I  h a v e  b e e n  p l a y i n g  s i n c e  I  w a s  l i t t l e  a n d  I  l o v e  t h e  a t m o s p h e r e  a t  p r a c t i c e , "  s a i d  E v a n  C a s t i l l o .  T h e  v i b e  y o u  h a v e  i n  p r a c t i c e  c a n  m a k e  o r  b r e a k  h o w  o n e  p e r f o r m s  i n  a  m a t c h .  " I f  t h e  w h o l e  t e a m  i s  w o r k i n g  h a r d  a n d  d o i n g  t h e i r  b e s t  t h e n  t h e y  c a n  a c c o m p l i s h  g r e a t  t h i n g s  i n  m a t c h e s .  B u t ,  y o u  o n l y  g e t  i n  a  g a m e  w h a t  y o u  p u t  o u t  i n  p r a c t i c e .  " T o  g e t  p u m p e d  b e f o r e  a  m a t c h  I  l i k e  t o  h a v e  s o m e  t i m e  o f f  t o  t h i n k  a b o u t  h o w  I  h a v e  t o  p l a y , "  s a i d  W i l l i a m  I s i m i n g e r .  P r e g a m e  r i t u a l s  d i f f e r e d  m u c h  f r o m  p e r s o n  t o  p e r s o n .  G e t t i n g  " p u m p e d  u p "  c o u l d  m e a n  l i s t e n i n g  t o  m u s i c ,  h a v i n g  s o m e  a l o n e  t i m e  t o  f o r e s h a d o w  t h e  g a m e ,  o r  s i m p l y  c h e e r i n g  w i t h  a  t e a m .  W i n  o r  l o s e ,  t h e  g a m e  a n d  t h e  p l a y e r s  h a d  m u c h  l o v e  o f  t h e  s p o r t .
Setting the record

Record breakers!
At the Kane County meet on May 6, triple jumper DaVion Cross broke a county record at 48' 6.5". During the indoor season, Cross had a “high” of 47' 7.75". Quite a “feat” for this season.
Connor McCue also broke a county record at the same meet in the 800. Running at 1:52.72, he broke the record by .05 seconds. At the same meet, McCue won the 1600 in 4:25.5.
But with everything, there’s always a bumpy road leading up to success.
“Our season started out okay dropping the baton, messing up exchanges etc., but as the season went on, we mastered everything we were having trouble in,” said JaQuan Buchanan.
They went 3rd place in indoor UEC competitions all the way to 1st conference UEC champions.
“I enjoy the atmosphere and developing a more competitive edge in track meets,” said junior Chandler Behrens. "The biggest accomplishment is coming in first and second at the meets that determine seeding times for sectionals."
Competition in many different “fields” of this sport is the best between the neighboring schools.
"It is Geneva and Batavia as the best competition," said Behrens. "Batavia is a bigger competitor in the aspect of placement in bigger competitions."
According to freshman Richard Kendall, "The best runners were at varsity level, but we all were a perfect team to win the UpState 8 conference."
"I loved our team," said JaQuan Buchanan. For me, personally, I went from not placing early in the season in 200 meter dash to becoming the 200 meter champion."
But the Blackhawks had a state winner. Camron Donatlan won the state title of high jump with a clearance of 6 feet, 10 inches.
High flying Blackhawks. Great season.
I can fly now! After releasing the pole and going over the bar, Camron Donatlan sails through the air ready for a safe landing. Way to go to the state winner!
Run to state

“Some of the most unique, rambunctious, caring, hilarious people I’ve ever known [are in track]. I love them all so much. You never feel left out or not good enough there. They take you as you are and support you through everything,” said Catherine Snowdrift.

This spring girls track season has been a (literally) a fast, yet overpowering one. The girls have given all their force to show their school spirit and endurance. They are a true representation of what West is all about: diversity, confidence and triumph.

“There are so many different personalities. I love it. Practices are always super loud and super fun, I wouldn’t change that for the world.” said Marín Munos, a varsity girls track team member.

Track is not just running; there are various other events that everyone can try. Which is why it is such a divergent sport, and the team members encourage anyone wanting to join, to join.

“I would definitely recommend this sport because a common misconception is that we only run. But there are plenty of events that everyone can try, and I would say just go for it. It could be your best decision,” said Jami Fancsali, a junior varsity girls track team member.

“The biggest reward I’ve gotten is being part of a team,” said Fancsali.

For the team as a whole, the reward may have been to have a few of the team members go to state on the weekend before graduation. Although none of the members placed high in the finals, Tamia Rayford placed 14th in the prelims in the 400 meters, Rajiāh Andrews placed 17 in the 100 meter hurdles, and in the 4x100 relay, Tayana Skokan, Rashida Naylor, Rajiāh Andrews, and Tamia Rayford placed 14th.
Some of the most unique, random, caring, hilarious people I’ve ever known are in track. I would definitely recommend this sport because a common misconception is that we only run. But there are various other events that everyone can try. Which is why it is such a diverse sport, and the team members said Marín Munos, a varsity girls track team member.

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The biggest reward I’ve gotten is being part of a team,” said Fansali.

There are so many different personalities. I love it. Practice is about: diversity, confidence and triumph.

The last breath! Marcié Williams leaps to a winning dis. Teamwork! Handing the baton to the next runner, Lindsay Muth and her partner took work together for a cause.

Keep your head up high! Persevering in the track field, members of the girls track team overpower their opponent from Oswego East.

Champs again

The road to success begins with a strong arm for pitching and a keen eye for catching the ball.

Although it looked as if the team was on the road to state with so many wins, they were defeated in the end, but not in teamwork.

“I feel that softball really helps in so many ways. It helps build relationships, team work, and responsibility,” said Sarah Hansen.

This season for the varsity softball team had been very successful—they’ve only lost one game and were confident that they would continue to perform well at sectional, and possibly make it to state.

“As a team, our biggest accomplishment [was] beating St. Charles East, because they’re ranked second, and we lost to them last year,” said Jamie McCreedy.

Together the girls have become a strong force that has overcome challenges over the years and have worked hard to maintain their amazing record.

It was amazing spring that the team had 17 shutouts. As Blackhawks, they were the force on the field. Before school officially ended for the school year, it was presumed that the second seeded team would take it all the way to state. Unfortunately, no matter how great a team is, sometimes winning is not to be had.

During the regional, they lost, almost in our own backyard in Batavia, to Bolingbrook.

Even though some of these girls are new to the team, they are not rookies. The average player has been participating in the sport for at least six years.

[It was our] hope we win state this season, that [would have been] awesome,” said Libby Zoppa.

The team’s motivation continued to play a role in their determination on the road to success. The team record speaks for itself: 24-7 with 16 game winning streak.

Row 1 (Back): Victoria Harkless, Corey McCreedy, Coach Herwaldt, Cara Jimenez, Coach Ormond, Libby Zoppa, Grace Hunger
Row 2: Carley Frauenhoff, Kallie Rundle, Coach Zine, Coach Hayeslett, Jamie McCreedy, Sarah Hansen
Row 3: Hannah Beautus, Jessica Vargas, Alexis Faxon, Melissa Fidler, Sophia Delgado
Go Blackhawks! The team prepares for another successful game.

Keep focused! Kallie Rundle stays determined waiting for the oncoming hit.

Ready to swing. In position, Grace Hunger watches the pitch.
"You bond with your team no matter what and it's a learning experience," said Peyton Gibertini.

The 2016 jv and frosh softball team experienced a memorable season filled with laughter and achievements. While on the field, the girls demonstrated their passion for the sport.

Sophomore Melanie Oswald said, "It gives us a chance to make great friends and learn how to depend on others instead of just thinking about ourselves."

Softball taught them to work as a team and maintain sportsmanship even through the rough times.

"Everyone has to try their hardest and do their part in order to be successful," said Sam English.

Relying on their teammates is what kept the team afloat.
"Our toughest competitors were West Chicago and Bartlett because we are very similar in skill set. It was pretty much a matter of errors that made a win or loss," said English.

The team stuck together through thick and thin.
"After a loss, we stayed positive by shaking it off and keeping our heads up towards the next game," said Oswald.

The Frosh team had their great victory against East Aurora 28-0. However, they were challenged by Oswego East, one of their hardest competitors. The girls tried their hardest and gave every game their all!

"[Coaches] aren't afraid to tell us what we have done wrong, and the best advice I’ve [received] is that mistakes are meant to be made. We learn from them," said Oswald.

The girls really felt the encouragement from their coaches and appreciated all the advice and support.
Batter up! Payton Lundberg takes her turn and shows her rivals what she is made of.

Nothing soft about it! Amanda Lasky shows off her girl power and gets in position.