



COVID-19: What to Expect and What to Learn

by Kevin Weldon '24

With the news of the vaccine coming out a few months ago, everyone is excited to see the end of the worldwide pandemic, which is one of the deadliest in history and which locked down most of the world for a majority of last year. While we are all thrilled for the world to get back to how it used to be, first let's look at how the vaccine works, why it is taking so long to roll out the vaccine, and why this pandemic should be a cautionary tale for the future.

First, let's take a look at how the vaccine works. According to PBS and the CDC, the most popular design of the COVID-19 vaccine in the US is an enzyme that mimics the spikes on the virus body itself. Typically, the virus enters the body through the lungs by aerial transmission. Then the virus spike latches onto a part of the body and is absorbed into the bloodstream. The vaccine mimics this process with just the spike, which gets absorbed into the body, and then the body designs protections against the spikes, which renders the virus useless since the spike is its only way to initiate its attack on the body.

Most of you may be wondering, why is the vaccine taking so long to be rolled out? There are three main reasons that everyone is not getting the vaccine right now. Number one, the infrastructure for vaccine delivery is

nonexistent right now. Since this is the first time a worldwide pandemic at this scale has happened in almost a century, our government was blindsided and did not have the necessary resources prepared to shut down the country and now to distribute the vaccine quickly. Secondly, the vaccine is still just being produced. The first news of the COVID-19 vaccine came out in November, and manufacturing a surplus of vaccines in such a short period of time is difficult, so while eventually there will be a lot of vaccines, currently it is difficult to come by enough to vaccinate the whole country. Lastly, for most of us students, we are not very high on the priority list for vaccination. Since we are young and in less danger, we are not prioritized when it comes to being vaccinated. Senior citizens and healthcare workers are most important right now when it comes to vaccination, and next will be essential workers, such as teachers and other jobs that must go on during the pandemic.

This pandemic must be a cautionary tale for the future of the human race. Next time a virus that spreads so quickly arrives anywhere in the world, the necessary steps must be taken to make lockdown all across the world as short and efficient as possible. This may mean advanced preparation because even if there is no current news of a virus, people should be more

Careful than how they currently are in proximity to strangers. While humans are social creatures genetically, we must be wary that this, along with our species' success, makes us incredibly susceptible to pandemics, and be careful in the future.



Thoughts on Canvas

by Jack Sheehan '24

This Issue:

Page 1: COVID-19, Canvas Review

Page 2: Milk and Cookies vs Cookies and Granola, Form III Science Elective

Page 3: Gamestop, Review of Old Sports Systems

Page 4: Current Schedule vs Old Schedule

Page 5: NFL Season Review, NHL Power Rankings

Page 6: Deshaun Watson, College Football

Page 7: Top 5 NBA Players Per Position

Page 8: Super Bowl, NHL Season

Page 9: Meme Review

This year Belmont Hill has made the decision to have every class do online scheduling through Canvas, so in this article I will be seeing the class of 2024's reactions to Canvas. Based on the form I sent out, there have been many different reactions to Canvas so far. The first question I asked on the survey was how students were feeling about Canvas so far, and for this question there was a wide variety of responses with most students leaning towards good. For me personally, although I originally had some troubles navigating Canvas, after figuring it out I think that Canvas has been very helpful with keeping all of my work in one place. The second question asked how hard people thought using and navigating Canvas was. This one had a relatively even spread with the most people being neutral or leaning towards good. In my experience, although Canvas was kind of hard to navigate at first, it has gotten a lot easier, and although there are still a few minor problems I think I've gotten a lot better at using it. The last two questions focused on whether anyone had any other thoughts or tips they wanted to share. A lot of people had many positive things to say about their experiences with Canvas though one minor problem that many people

seemed to have was that there were a lot of differences between different classes. Some of these differences include how the screens are set up or where they are putting their assignments. Although nobody really had any tips, one person suggested making sure to look through your settings just in case you were missing anything.



CANVAS

Cookies v. Granola

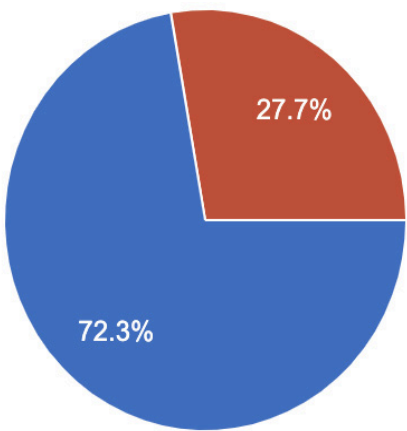
by Sam Scopa '24 and Cord Vallis '24

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the school has taken away the warm, chocolaty, crisp, flavor-loaded, delicious chocolate chip cookies along with the smooth cold, refreshing milk. The traditional bins of cookies in the middle of campus have now been exchanged with bags of cookies in each classroom to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Our school is part of an initiative for the health and wellness of the students and are now supplementing the cookies with granola bars. When we first transitioned into the cookie and granola bar routine, many student's reactions were nebulous. Even the teachers were thrown off by the granola bars since the milk and cookies are a staple of Belmont Hill's tradition. With the granola bars being in place for a couple of months, many people are starting to appre-

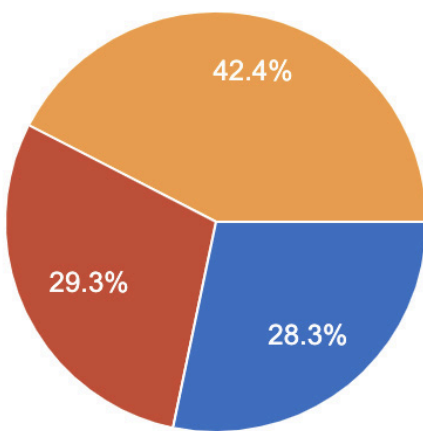
ciate having them twice a week, but they still look forward to having the cookies every other day. Although the new kids in the forms have yet to experience the true milk and cookies tradition, of going outside and collaborating with their peers, they still get to enjoy cookies twice a week in the sealed bags they give to the classrooms along with the granola bars twice a week as well.

We sent out a middle school-wide survey, looking for the answer to the cookie vs granola bar question. Although we thought the cookies would win by a landslide, as you can see in our data, the granola bars actually got a quarter of the votes. Out of the 191 filled out surveys, (81 Form III, 56 Form II, 54 Form I) the cookies

won with 138 votes while the granola bars got 53 votes. Even though some of the teachers prefer the granola bars over the cookies because it seems like a healthier option, they have yet to pursue the majority of the students who seem to always prefer the cookies. Most of the new students seemed to vote for granola because it seems that they have yet to indulge into the outside cookies in the bins, but once they experience the milk and cookies tradition they will never look back. Even though they are now giving out goldfish for snacks and also alternative snacks, the famous cookies and milk will forever stay as a staple for the Belmont Hill community for the forthcoming future.



● Cookies
● Granola



● Form 1
● Form 2
● Form 3

Which Science Is Best?

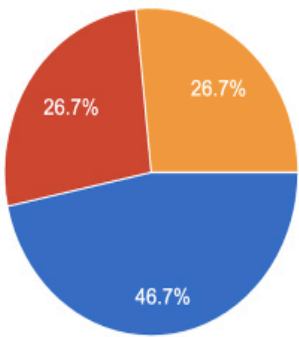
by Jackson Pagán '24

Middle schoolers must choose between a science or history elective to take in Form III, but which class should you choose? The options from which they can choose are: Facing History, Engineering, Conceptual Physics, and Computer Science. This article will help science-focused 2nd Formers decide which of the science elective they would most like to take.

I prefer to let data do the explaining for me, so I sent out a survey to the 3rd Form concerning the science electives they were taking. As shown in the pie chart below, Conceptual Physics happened to be the most popular choice among this year's 9th graders. An individual analysis of each response revealed that 100% of the students who were taking Conceptual Physics said that they

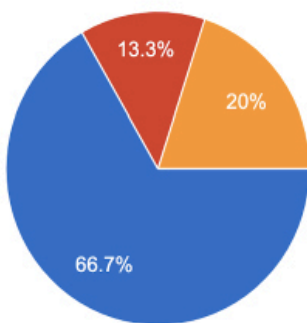
would still take this class if they had the option to switch. Other responses showed that 50% of the students taking Engineering would prefer to take a different class if they had the chance and 25% of students taking Computer Science would, too. These results show that as a whole, 3rd Formers prefer Conceptual Physics as their favorite, Computer Science as its second choice, and Engineering as its 3rd.

Which Science elective are you taking?
15 responses



● Conceptual Physics
● Engeneering
● Computer Science

Which class would you most want to take?
15 responses



● Conceptual Physics
● Engeneering
● Computer Science

Game Stop Stock Market Madness

by Duncan Kilbride '24

Last month, the video game retailer company GameStop made history after a group of amateur online investors shot the price of the company’s stock by 1,900%. During this time, the price of a single share went from \$17.25 to \$347.51 in less than a week. This kind of growth is unprecedented and many believe that it gives these groups unchecked power over the market. The only comparable growth to this was Tesla which has increased by 643% in the past year. Another reason GameStop’s rise was incredible is that the physical gaming industry is declining.

This can be seen as GameStop made 30% less revenue in 2020 than it had in the previous year. Due to all of this, it’s has steadily been lowering. The reason GameStop was able to make such a revolutionary surge was all because of the thousands of online investors who were attempting to outdo the large corporate hedge funds. Hedge funds are invested in by clients and the managers use their money to further invest in other companies growing the clients’ money. The reason the small investors put so much money into the cause was because of one person, Ryan Cohen. Cohen had increased his share in the GameStop company to 10%, in hope of making the tangible retailer more of an online asset to

compete with companies. Many of the amateur investors bought into this idea, which caused such a dramatic development.



Many hedge funds saw this rise as a way to make vast amounts of money by shorting it. Shorting is when the investor makes money from the stock price dropping. The funds borrowed large quantities of the stock and sold it with the intention to buy them back after the price predictably fell. The small investors were angered by the hedge funds and took to many online websites (most famously Reddit) and planned to keep the stock up. By doing this, the investors made something called a “short squeeze,” which is when the companies that had shorted the stock had to sell their borrowed shares soon because the price was rising instead of falling. The buying led to the GameStop price

going even higher. One specific hedge fund involved lost so much money in the GameStop incident that they needed a capital infusion of \$3 billion dollars.

The GameStop price a week later was \$62.70, a 554% decrease. This shows an evident decline as the movement lost much of the original momentum. Neil Wilson, chief market analyst for Markets.com says, “GameStop shares will return to \$10 sooner or later once this mania has subsided.” Jordan Belfort, the author of The Wolf of Wall Street, also says, “If you are looking at this as a way to make your living, you’ll have to catch a falling knife on the way down. I would urge people to take their chips off the table. Be aware of being the last person on the bandwagon, that is really the danger here.”



Changes in Long-Time Sports Systems

by Alex Behn '24

2020 and Covid-19 have been crazy, with the newest school changes affecting the sports systems for this fall and winter, forcing a change to the system that has been in place for so long. This year, the biggest change in the schedule is the removal of the four o’clock study hall and X block after sports. The four o’clock study hall was usually more laid back and last year, the third form leaders tried to make a change so that blazers and ties were not needed after sports. This year, these study halls have been removed and students are dismissed after their practices. No more study hall both means students get home earlier, but also that students with sports outside of school don’t have as much free time because of the removed study halls. There would be more homework that they couldn’t finish during study hall and would have to be finished at home. With more homework at home and the sports outside of school, students’ free time would be severely diminished.



Another change to the sports schedule is that there aren’t sports every day, leading to middle school students going home at 1:30 after classes on ABC school days. This means students go home earlier than they have ever before and are less tired and more well-rested. I believe that more sports can help because it is important for students to get exercise by playing sports rather than only doing schoolwork, and the removal of games as well as practices is difficult. On Tuesdays and Fridays for the middle school, the dress code has been relaxed to the clothes that you wear during sports, a never-heard of change at Belmont Hill. Even the dress code on Mondays and Thursdays has been changed, with students not needing to wear blazers or ties. Last year, the dress code was always strict, and the change to take off blazers and ties at four o’clock was very difficult to try and pass through the middle school senate. This dress code has led to many more Belmont Hill sweatshirts, hats, and shirts appearing on campus. All in all, this change has helped increase school spirit through lighter dress code.

A last new change is the absence of games with other schools in the middle school, aside from the varsity. Games with Belmont Hill students as

fans are enjoyable to watch and to be at, among your fellow classmates. However, a helpful livestream has been added by Mr. Tahan for students to watch the scrimmages. Sports were swept along in the wave of changes at Belmont Hill this year, and many new, interesting changes were made.



These changes affected many areas of Belmont Hill life, such as the hours and the games at other schools. They have helped to create sports at Belmont Hill where many other places cannot have them, leading to great enjoyment for students and faculty alike.

Breaking Down the Not-So-New Block Schedule

by Aaron Stanger '24 and Brian Lee '24

Belmont Hill New Schedule				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:30-9:45AM A BLOCK M&C	8:30-9:45AM D BLOCK M&C	8:30-9:10AM A BLOCK	8:30-9:45AM A BLOCK M&C	8:30-9:45AM D BLOCK M&C
10:00-11:15AM B BLOCK	10:00-11:15AM E BLOCK	9:20-10:00AM B BLOCK	10:00-11:15AM B BLOCK	10:00-11:15AM E BLOCK
11:20-12:10PM Community Time/ Lunch w/Advisory	11:20-12:10PM Homeroom/Lunch	10:10-10:50AM C BLOCK	11:20-12:10PM DEI/Lunch with Advisory	11:20-12:10PM Virtual Chapel/ Lunch w/ Advisory
12:15-1:30PM C BLOCK	12:15-1:30PM F BLOCK	11:00-11:40AM D BLOCK	12:15-1:30PM C BLOCK	12:15-1:30PM F BLOCK
1:45PM Buses	1:45PM Early Buses	11:40-12:40 LUNCH BREAK	1:45PM Buses	1:45PM Early Buses
2:00-3:30PM US Athletics/Drama	2:00-3:30PM MS Athletics/Drama	12:40-1:20 E BLOCK	2:00-3:30PM US Athletics/Drama	2:00-3:30PM MS Athletics/Drama
3:30-4:15PM MS X Block (virtual)	3:30-4:15PM US X Block (virtual)	1:30-2:10PM F BLOCK	3:30-4:15PM MS X Block (virtual)	
3:45PM Late Buses	3:45PM Buses	2:30PM FACULTY TIME	3:45PM Late Buses	3:45PM Buses
		4:00-4:45 X BLOCK (VIRTUAL)		

As we all know, the schedule has changed ever since Belmont Hill went hybrid in the fall. Instead of having three “normal” class days and two long-block days every week, the current schedule has 3 long-block classes every day except for one virtual class day in which all classes meet for just 40 minutes. This new schedule has certainly come with many advantages but has also posed several challenges. As we are well over halfway through the school year, we have decided to take a deeper look at the pros and cons of the new block schedule.

There are many pros to the new block schedule in comparison to the old pre-COVID schedule. The first benefit has to do with the reasoning behind the new block schedule. Since there are only 3 classes each day in contrast to 5 classes, there is less moving around between classes, which reduces the risk of exposure between students in different classes. Another advantage to the new schedule is the amount of homework each night. Due to classes meeting only three rather than four times a week, and also since classes meet every other day, there is significantly less homework each night. Moreover, the 75-minute blocks allow for much more time in the classroom. Although the long blocks can be a pain, the extra class time

in each in-person class offers additional time to rush less and dive deeper into the topics. In comparison to last year, the amount of times that the bell has stopped teaching is far less. In addition, the remote Wednesday is another pro of the new block schedule. For many students, these days offer a great time for a relaxed midweek day. Getting the extra hour of sleep and having a more relaxed and laidback day has been very beneficial in getting through the week. However, with all these notable advantages in mind, it is worth looking into some of the potential cons.

Although the new block schedule has many advantages, particularly during the on-going pandemic, some might argue that the old or “normal” block schedule was better in some ways. To start off, the 75-minute long blocks can be tough for many students to sit through, especially when classes are long blocks almost every day of the week. Even with breaks in some classes, remaining engaged and focused for the entirety of the 75-minute class can pose a difficult challenge, and transitioning from daily 40-minute classes to almost double can be somewhat uncomfortable. Furthermore, the new block schedule only allows classes to meet

3 times a week, 1 of which is virtual. This means that there are fewer classes per week for test review, and being able to review in person with a teacher is a crucial part of studying at Belmont Hill. In addition, X-blocks are no longer a thing with this new block schedule, which means that in-person club meetings are no longer possible. The majority of clubs must meet virtually through Zoom, and although it is possible to run a club through Zoom, it is simply not up to par with an in-person extracurricular experience. Everyone would agree that online clubs are simply not the same as in person with donuts.

As the year has progressed, opinions of the new block schedule have varied considerably. When comparing the pros and cons, it ultimately comes down to personal preference whether one schedule is better than the other. Looking into the spring, when we may go back in person 5 days a week, adjusting back to the old schedule will make the dynamic of the week very different.

NFL Lookback

by Alex Laidlaw '25

Regular Season: Everyone knew that this season was going to be like none other, and it did not disappoint. From breakout teams to complete busts, this season was unpredictable.

Breakout Teams: Regardless of the fact they suffered a decisive loss against the Packers in the Divisional Round of the playoffs, the Rams showed the league that they are a team for the future. Past stars such as Cooper Kupp and Robert Woods continued to perform, and rookie Cam Akers managed to prove his worth late in the season. The only real issue for this Rams team was a lackluster quarterback, which was solved with the trading for Matthew Stafford in late January. Other breakout teams include the Browns, who have seemed to find a rhythm after years of mediocrity, and the Dolphins, who came just short of making the playoffs and proved what they are made of.

Bust Teams: It is hard not to ignore the lackluster season by the San Francisco 49ers. After an impressive Superbowl run, the Jimmy Garapolo lead 49ers were unable to make it back into the playoffs. Most of their troubles came from an endless list of injuries, including the 2019 defensive rookie of the year Nick Bosa and star tight end, George Kittle. It is also important to note that Jimmy Garapolo, Dee Ford, Richard Sherman, and many others also got injured as the season progressed. Regardless, it is hard not to call this season one to forget for 49ers fans. Other teams who did not live up to expectations include the Steelers, who after an impressive 11-0 start went 1-4 to finish the season only to lose in the Wild Card round against the Browns; the Cowboys, who regardless of their powerhouse offense could not get things going after the loss of Dak Prescott in week 5; and the Cardinals, who got off to a hot start at 7-3 only to go 8-8 and miss the playoffs due to special teams mistakes.

Fantasy: Among some of the craziest parts of this NFL season was fantasy football. Truly, it was bizarre. And for most, frustrating. Let's start with this: the usual first round of a 14 man league went McCaffrey, Barkley, Elliot, Cook, Kamara, Thomas, Henry, Edwards-Helaire, Sanders, Drake, Jacobs, Chubb, Ekeler, Mixon. Of that list, not including bye weeks, five players missed six or more games, with players such as Barkley and Mixon missing over ten; two missed four games, and six missed at least one. In fact, only Derrick Henry played in all 16 games, meaning that most fantasy managers were playing at a disadvantage at one point in the season.

However, these injuries did lead to the discovery of new talent. Players like Mike Davis and Giovani

Bernard were only given starting jobs due to injuries but proved to be invaluable fantasy assets, especially during the playoff weeks of the season.

Boom Players: Countless players exceeded expectations this season; here is a look at the players who made the biggest jumps this year. In the running back position, the clearest boom player would be James Robinson. Robinson, who ranked seventh in points among running backs this season with 250 points, went undrafted in most leagues. For most leagues, he would then be picked up by the worst team in week one, considering the workload he was given out of the gate. (16 carries for 62 yards) However, he was a major surprise for the league and offered a set-it-and-forget-it player in a very bleak position. Although drafted in the first or second round in most leagues, it is hard not to call Davante Adams the boom wide receiver for the year. His numbers were sensational. Not including quarterbacks (who in general get more points due to how the ESPN scoring system works), Adams placed second among players behind only Alvin Kamara with 358.4 points. Now, this may not seem that impressive, but it is important to note that Adams missed two games early in the season with a hamstring injury. In fact, among players who played more than five games, Adams averaged the most points per game (25.6). Also, Adams managed to score a touchdown in all but two games when fully healthy. The stats go on and on making it hard to ignore him as one of the biggest booms of the season. Other honorable mentions include Travis Kelce, Jonathan Taylor, Justin Herbert, Stefon Diggs, and Justin Jefferson.

Bust Players: Similar to the countless people who exceeded expectations this year, there were also multiple stars who did not live up to the hype. However, it is important to note that I did not include players who underperformed solely due to injury. Possibly the biggest let down of the season was 2019 MVP Lamar Jackson. After an incredible 2019 campaign in which he almost set the record for the most points by a quarterback in a season (he was unable to break the record only because he missed a game), the pro bowl signal-caller was unable to find his rhythm- especially early in the season. Although he did continue to produce start-worthy numbers, they were nowhere near as good as they were last season, and he was not worth a third-round pick (where he was generally chosen). Another major letdown this season came from Kenyan Drake. Drake, who was usually chosen in the late first-round proved to be a touchdown-or-bust back, and certainly not worth

the pick. Drake averaged a meager 12.8 points, with only one double-digit point week without a touchdown. Due to receiving back Chase Edmonds, Drake was seldomly used in the passing game, and often got touchdowns stolen from him by Kyler Murray through option plays at the goal line. Other bust players include Zach Ertz, Todd Gurley II, Le'Veon Bell, D.J. Moore, and Carson Wentz.

The Super Bowl: Finally, the long-awaited day had arrived. And, as if out of a movie, it was Brady versus Mahomes in the big game. Poetic. The best of all-time against the best of this time. The battle of the old star and the young hotshot. The game started with an exchange of punts, adding to the tension and excitement running through Raymond James Stadium. The Chiefs managed to get on the board first with a 49-yard field goal by Harrison Butker. But then, as poetic as the matchup, Brady connected with Gronkowski for a four-yard touchdown. This pass set the record for the most touchdowns (13) scored by a quarterback-receiver duo in post-season history, adding to the counting accolades Brady has managed to achieve in the later years of his career. Again, to start the second quarter, Brady and Gronkowski connected for a touchdown, this time from 17 yards out. This would be followed by a Chiefs field goal and a last-second touchdown to another ex-Patriot, Antonio Brown, to finish the half. Following a 27-yard touchdown run by Leonard Fournette, it soon became apparent that the game was over. Following a 52-yard field goal by Ryan Succop near the end of the third quarter, no other scoring occurred. The final score: 31-9. It is fair to say that the second half was a letdown, and was not the exciting finish it was hyped up to be. However, this game did settle one thing: Who is the GOAT? Now I should first start off by saying that this is an impossible question, considering Mahomes is only 25. But, this game did say something. Mahomes threw for 270 yards and two interceptions. Brady threw for 201 yards and three touchdowns. Brady has defeated Mahomes in 3 of their 5 meetings, and in all of their postseason clashes. Brady has now won 7 super bowls, giving him more rings than any franchise in the league. Mahomes, (again, in only his fourth year) has won 1. These all point to Brady, but as I mentioned above, this question may not be answered for another twenty years.

(February 10th) NHL Rankings

by Ben Hack '24

1. Toronto Maple Leafs (11-2-1): Auston Matthews is living up to his hype being one of the best goal scorers in the league and the defense has had a great start as well.
2. Boston Bruins (9-1-2): Their first line of Pastrnak Bergeron and Marchand is better than ever this season with great goaltending they should be going far in this year's playoffs.
3. Tampa Bay Lightning (9-2-1): Even without Kucherov the lighting are still a deadly team. Stamkos and Point are leading the team in points. Headman is still playing like a top three defenseman.
4. Vegas Golden Knights (8-2-1): Scoring is no problem with Vegas having one of the best offensive cores in the league, but they should look for defensive help if they want to make the playoffs

A major factor in hockey now is that lots of teams in the US are being delayed for weeks because the team has been exposed to Covid. The players need to do a better job staying away from large crowds and gathering if they want to play the full season. If they do not comply with these protocols then the season will be in jeopardy.

5. Montreal Canadiens (8-4-2): Josh Anderson and Nick Suzuki have been on fire to start the season. Also Carey Price is playing like his old self and the Canadiens are looking like a strong team this year.
 6. Colorado Avalanche (7-3-1): Nathan Mackinnon is hurt, which is a bummer, but the Avalanche are still playing great hockey without him. Cale Makar is having himself a great year. They will need better goaltending if they want to make a deep playoff push.
 7. St.Louis Blues (7-4-2): Have lost three straight games in a row. Their power play has been very weak and will need to pick that up to score more goals.
 8. Carolina Hurricanes (8-3-0)
- The top two lines have been excellent this year and Dougie Hamilton is very strong in the back end, being a top candidate for the Norris this year.

Dominant Tide Rolls Over Fields and Buckeyes

by Matthew Flaherty '24

Coming into the 2020 College Football season, there was much uncertainty, but the season finally came to a close. Among this uncertainty were the challenges that COVID-19 brought. Throughout this past College Football Season, there were numerous teams that had to shut down for a brief amount of time or even had to postpone or cancel games. Some teams even opted out of a postseason berth because of the pandemic. The first team to opt out of a bowl game was the Boston College Eagles. After BC, many other major programs followed, such as USC and Stanford, to name a few. However, some teams persisted and managed to pull off playing in the postseason. All of this has led to the end of the 2020 college football season. It is quite fascinating to see that college football actually made it to the National Championship, with many thinking there wouldn't be a season at all.

As the 2020 season came to an end, the culmination of the college football season finally arrived: The College Football Playoff National Championship. The game was played on Monday, January 11, between the Alabama Crimson Tide and the Ohio State Buckeyes. The Crimson Tide came into the game 12-0 on the year, with their previous game being a much-anticipated blowout against Notre Dame in the College Football Playoff Semifinal, 31-14. Alabama had a lot of must-see talent in recent Heisman Trophy Award Winner wide receiver Devonta Smith, Heisman Trophy finalist quarterback Mac Jones, and Doak Walker Award (the most prestigious award for a running back in College Football besides the Heisman Trophy) winner, running back Najee Harris. Devonta Smith is the first wide receiver to win the Heisman Trophy since Desmond Howard of Michigan in 1992. Quarterback Mac Jones had many highs and lows of his college football career. His highs included being a Heisman Trophy finalist and clinching a berth to play in the National Championship. His lows included being a back-up since his freshman year, with his senior year, this year, being the one outlier.

The Buckeyes came into the game seeking their second National Championship in the past decade, with the first coming in the 2014-2015 National Championship, ironically enough, defeating Alabama. Coming into the game on the 11th, many thought the Buckeyes did not deserve to qualify for the College Football Playoff semifinal because of their only playing six games coming into the semifinal. Clemson Head Coach Dabo Swinney even had the Buckeyes ranked 11th in his final Coaches Poll ballot. For context, the Coaches Poll is a ballot of rankings where each coach can give their opinion on their version of the College Football Rankings. However, the main poll that is the only one considered for the determination of playoff teams is the official College Football Playoff Committee Rankings, created by the actual committee from week to week. In the committee's final rankings, which determined who would make the College Football Playoff (the top 4 teams), they had Ohio State ranked 3rd, despite the fact they only had played six games.

In spite of certain critics thinking the Buckeyes did not deserve to make the playoff, quarterback Justin Fields led OSU to a 49-28 blowout victory over Clemson. This was the exact opposite of the anticipated result of the game, as Clemson was favored to win. The three main players on Ohio State were quarterback Justin Fields, running back Trey Sermon, and wide receiver Chris Olave. Fields had bounced around the college football map, as he had originally committed to play for Penn State, proceeded to de-commit, and commit to Georgia. Fields spent one year at Georgia and then transferred to Ohio State in 2019, where he took the reins as the starting quarterback. Fields was slightly fatigued coming into this showdown because of a recent hit to his hip area in the semifinal.



As it turned out, the most highly-anticipated game of the college football season didn't turn out to be much of a game at all. Alabama struck first with a touchdown right out of the gates courtesy of running back Najee Harris. In their first drive, Ohio State's starting running back and key player Trey Sermon came down with an apparent shoulder injury, which led him to not return in this one. Ohio State still looked fierce and drove down with a touchdown of their own by their other running back, Master Teague III. With the first quarter ending in a score of 7-7, many thought that this would be a highly competitive game. The Crimson Tide ran away with this game in the first half, with the score 35-17 at halftime. Alabama went on to win 52-24, which gave head coach Nick Saban his record-setting seventh career national championship victory. Devonta Smith set a record for most receiving yards in a single half since the college football playoff began. Smith had 215 receiving yards and 3 touchdowns with 12 receptions. Despite Smith getting injured and not playing in the second half, he still went on to win offensive player of the game for the Crimson Tide during the award ceremony after the game. As for the future, Alabama's Devonta Smith and Ohio State's Justin Fields have both decided to declare for the upcoming NFL Draft in April. If you think that is going to have an effect on Alabama Football dominance, think again. Alabama has the most successful recruiting class for next year and is once again predicted to be the top team in the nation.



Deshaun Watson Trade Packages

by Noah Farb '24

Deshaun Watson will almost certainly be traded by some point before the beginning of the 2021 season and while every team but five should be willing to trade for him (Bills, Ravens, Chiefs, Packers, Seahawks) only a few teams will be serious contenders. There has been reports that the Texans are looking for two 1st round picks, two 2nd round picks, and two young defensive starters, I believe in the end a team will end up trading more than that as a bidding war begins. The fringe contenders are the New York Giants, New England Patriots, and Chicago Bears. These four teams all would love to get a quarterback like Watson but all of them have things blocking their path. The Patriots and Bears likely won't be willing to give up the assets needed for Watson as neither of their rosters are very deep as they rebuild on at least one side of the ball. I do not think the Giants are ready to move off of Daniel Jones yet, even though they should, but they could put together one of the best offers. The Colts would be one of the favorites for Watson as they would instantly become elite with Watson but the chance that Houston trades him inside the division is almost 0%. The more likely contenders are the Denver Broncos, Carolina Panthers and Washington Football Team. The Panthers I feel are being overhyped as one of the favorites right now to get Watson. They don't have expendable young pieces on the defense to potential trade so anything they do I feel would have to be for picks and maybe CMC, but he's a running back so therefore worth nothing. The Broncos would have one of the best offenses in the league but don't have the top tier pieces or picks the Texans need. Washington I don't think is willing to pull the trigger on Watson as they look to find a cheaper quarterback so they can spend resources on the rest of the team.

There are the only three teams I can legitimately see ending up with Watson because they either have the draft assets or because their team becomes a consensus top three team in the NFL with the addition of Watson.

#3: New York Jets Texans Receive: Sam Darnold Quinnen Williams, 2nd pick, 23rd pick, 22 1st	#2 San Francisco 49ers Texans Receive: 12th pick, 22 1st, 23 1st, 24 1st, Patriots 2021 3rd 49ers Receive: Deshaun Watson	#1 Miami Dolphins Texans Receive: Tua Tagovailoa, Preston Williams 3rd pick, 36th pick, 22 1st, 23 1st
Jets Receive: Deshaun Watson	Patriots Receive: Jimmy Garoppolo	Dolphins Receive: Deshaun Watson

The Prime Pandemic Players of the NBA

by Sean Horkan '24, Derek Potamis '24, Mike Powers '24

If you are a fan of basketball, you must watch the NBA a lot, and with Covid-19 and a bunch of other factors, the top 5 players of each position can be very debatable during these times. So far in the NBA 2020-2021 season, these are our thoughts on the top 5 players of each position.

PG

1. Damian Lillard - Lillard has been and will continue to be the best point guard in the league. Lillard and Curry are very close in comparison, but the reason why Lillard is over Curry is because Dame has better defense, finishing, and slightly worse handles. Although Curry is an insane shooter, Dame isn't far behind with his shooting skills. Also, with McCollum out, expect Dame to heat up even more this season. (28.1 PPG, 4.7 REB, 6.7 AST)
 2. Stephen Curry - Self explanatory. Curry is known for his lights out shooting and good ball movement. Has single handedly been carrying the Warriors with Klay Thompson out. (28.2 PPG, 5.5 REB, 6.1 AST)
 3. Luka Doncic - Luka Doncic is a new superstar. With his record breaking stats last season, Luka Doncic is a major threat to any team he faces. Insane shooting, IQ, and playmaking. (26.1 PPG, 10.1 REB, 9.5 AST)
 4. Kyrie Irving - Kyrie is a shifty guard that can attack the rim and consistently hit mid range. Kyrie was out for a few games due to personal issues, but if he turns it around and heats up again on the Brooklyn Super Team we could very well see him moving up to a top 3 PG position. (28.4 PPG, 4.9 REB, 5.8 AST)
 5. Trae Young - Even though Trae Young has been off to a rough start, he is still a top 5 point guard in the league. Great shooting, playmaking, and handles have given Trae the number 5 spot. Trae Young will 100% without a doubt start to do better as the season goes on. The only reason Trae is here as of right now is because Westbrook has been hurt, and Brogdon is having a breakout season so we have to wait and see if he stays consistent. (24.0 PPG, 4.4 REB, 9.0 AST)
- HM: Russell Westbrook, Malcolm Brogdon

SG

1. Bradley Beal - With Westbrook out, Beal has been single handedly carrying the Wizards. Arguably the best shooting guard in the league right now, Beal has been dominating with his shooting and playmaking abilities. (34.9 PPG, 5.3 REB, 5.0 AST)
 2. James Harden - Harden is a consistent threat from the 3-point line and this season he has been lighting it up. His shifty moves along with his shooting and driving capability makes him an all around valid player. His lack of ball movement though, being an iso player, is why he is not ranked number 1. Seeing him on the Nets should be interesting and I'm not sure how well the 3 superstars will gel. (25.9 PPG, 6.3 REB, 11 AST)
 3. CJ McCollum - CJ has been having the best season of his career, only to have it pestered by a foot injury. CJ will be out for around 6-8 weeks, but once he gets back, will continue to be one of the best offensive players in the league. (26.7 PPG, 3.9 REB, 5.0 AST, 1.3 STL)
 4. Zach LaVine - LaVine has kicked off his 2020-2021 season with a bang. Zach has put up career highs in points, assists and rebounds all this year. His already freakish dunking ability with his new and improved 3pt shooting are league (26.8 PPG, 5.2 REB, 5.4 AST, 1.4 STL)
 5. Jalen Brown- Jalen Brown is an athletic phenomenon that can guard close to everyone. It is only his 3rd year in the league and I feel he will only improve within the upcoming years. Mixed with Jaysum Tatum, these two fresh Celtics are two to look out for. (25.8 PPG, 5.8 REB, 3.8 AST)
- HM: DeMar DeRozan, Victor Oladipo, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander

SF

1. Kevin Durant- Kevin Durant is an all-around fundamentally strong guy. Although he isn't too flashy, he has the ability to make his teammates around him better. He has great knowledge of the game and can play almost any position and strive. You can never go wrong with a guy like Kevin Durant. (31 PPG, 7.5 REB, 6.0 AST)
 2. LeBron James- LeBron James is arguably the second best to ever do it behind Michael Jordan. With 4 rings, LeBron has been successful ever since his entering the league. There is nothing more to be said about LeBron, except for the fact that James could easily surpass Durant as the #1 SF. (23.9 PPG, 7.9 REB, 7.5 AST)
 3. Kawhi Leonard- Leonard has been a force in the NBA since he was with the Clippers. His generational defense along with his great offensive ability put him in the top 10 Nba players category. Kawhi is nearly averaging the most steals in the league. (25.9 PPG, 5.4 REB, 5.7 AST, 2.0 STL)
 4. Paul George- PG13 and Kawhi are the only reason why the Clippers are in a playoff contention. Paul George has been lighting this season up, with his incredible shooting and finishing. (23.9 PPG, 6.2 REB, 5.4 AST)
 5. Brandon Ingram- Ingram has always been a great player, and especially this season has proven himself to be an elite small forward for the Pelicans. He isn't the stat-stuffing player he was last season, but still putting up great numbers. Khris Middleton and Ingram can easily be interchangeable. (23.3 PPG, 5.6 REB, 4.6 AST)
- HM: Khris Middleton, Jerami Grant, Jimmy Butler

PF

1. Giannis Antetokounmpo- This one goes without saying. Giannis is the most dominant player in the NBA. His 6-11 big man size, along with his guard quickness allows for him to easily get to the rim. His mid-range game has improved massively from last year. His freak athleticism itself puts him at the best power forward and maybe the best player in the NBA. (27.0 PPG, 10.5 REB, 5.3 AST, 1.1 STL)
 2. Anthony Davis - No explanation needed, a top 10 player in the league in general combined with a top 2 player of all time is making a beast of a Lakers team. Coming off a 2020 Bubble Championship win, Davis hasn't slowed down his insane production in the paint and beyond the arc. (22.1 PPG, 8.8 REB, 3.5 AST, 1.3 STL)
 3. Jayson Tatum- Throughout the season Tatum has shown that he is and will be great in the NBA. Although Jayson Tatum was out for 2 weeks with COVID he is still a superstar in the power forward position. On top of his great stats he has had 2 buzzer beaters. He is definitely deserving of the 3rd spot. (26.9 PPG, 7.1 REB, 3.8 AST)
 4. Domantas Sabonis (Interchangeable) - Sabonis has proven himself to be one of the best PF's in the league because of his dominance on the court. One of the best rebounders in the league currently He has recorded a double double every single game this season besides one triple double in the second game of the season. He is definitely a major key piece to the Pacers success so far this season. (20.9 PPG, 12.9 REB, 5.8 AST)
 5. Julius Randle (Interchangeable) - The New York Knicks is a very underrated team this season, and people sleep on the Knicks because they don't have any "all stars". The Knicks are the best defensive team in the league as of right now, and their success is led by the dominant PF Julius Randle. Very similar to Sabonis, a great rebounder and averages a double double. (22.7 PPG, 11.3 REB, 6.1 AST)
- Honorable Mention: Zion Williamson, Pascal Siakam

C

1. Nikola Jokic- This year so far, Jokic has undeniably the best big in the NBA. His size allows him to get to the rim and finish with ease. This is shown by his 57% fg percentage which is nearly the best he's ever shot in his entire career. On top of all that he's averaging a triple double. Jokic is the best center in the league no question.
 2. Joel Embiid- In the 2020-2021 season, Joel Embiid has proven himself as a top 2 center in the league without a doubt. The 7ft monster dominates in the paint and has a dangerous fadeaway mid range, a very good three pointer on top of that, and averages a double double. (26.4 PPG, 11.3 REB, 2.8 AST)
 3. Christian Wood - Christian Wood has had his best season of his life so far, and is having a tremendous breakout year. Wood and Oladipo are going to be the only reasons why the Rockets might have a positive record this year. Wood has cemented himself as the third best center so far this year, averaging a double double, but he must stay consistent. (23.5 PPG, 10.8 REB, 1.4 AST)
 4. Nikola Vucevic - Vucevic has always been the best player on his team on the Magic, and he has especially shown why this season so far. Putting up 10 double doubles in 15 appearances, Vucevic has been shooting great and carrying the Magic. (23.3 PPG, 10.8 REB, 3.5 AST)
 5. Bam Adebayo - Adebayo could very well be before some of these centers in front of him. He has the most potential to be a lethal bigman, with his insane shooting, elite finishing, and lockdown interior defense. Adebayo has been leading the Heat to victories while Jimmy Butler and Tyler Herro were out. With them back, the Heat will be a dangerous team. (19.0 PPG, 9.4 REB, 5.3 AST)
- Honorable Mention: Karl Anthony Towns, Andre Drummond, Myles Turner

In conclusion, all of these players listed above dominate and lead the league in many different categories currently. Many of the players listed above must stay consistent in order to keep their top 5 position rank, and also a lot of players who weren't on this list could definitely be up here further into the season. Keep an eye out for these top 5 guards, forwards, and centers as they make and keep the NBA entertaining during these tough times.



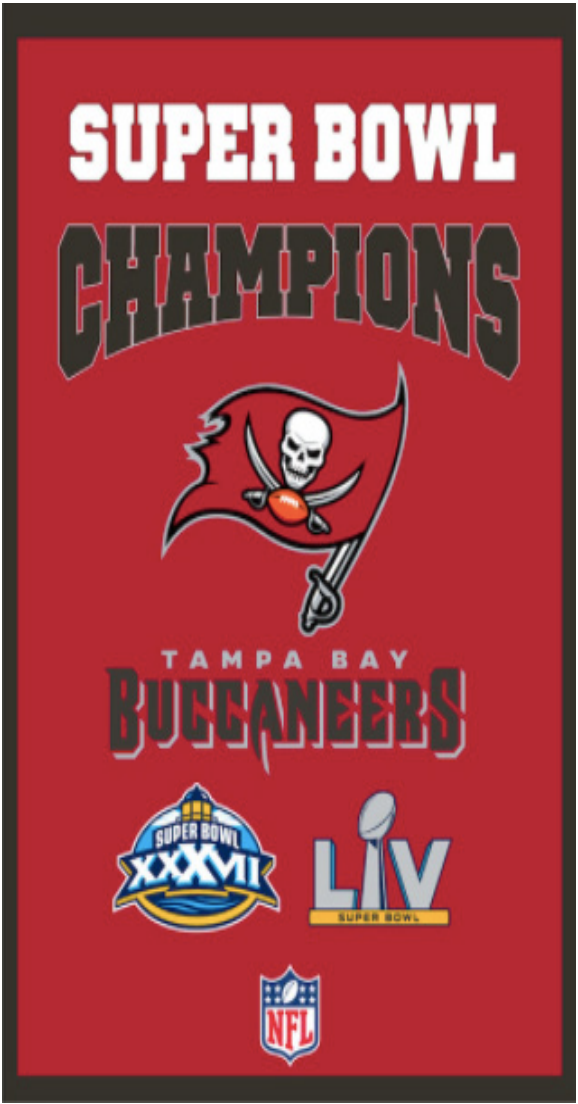
Brady and Bucs Bring Bowl to Bay

By Matthew Flaherty '24

On Sunday, February 7, 2021, The Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Kansas City Chiefs faced off in Super Bowl LV. These two teams met previously this year when the Chiefs defeated the Buccaneers 27-24. Coming into this Super Bowl, Kansas City held a record of 16-2. Tampa Bay held a record of 14-5. This whole season, the main storyline has been whether Tom Brady can win in any other place than New England. Well, he obviously proved he can, as at the age of 43 he led the Buccaneers to their first playoff appearance since 2007 and their first Super Bowl victory since 2002. The Chiefs were favored by three coming into this one, with many predictions of the victor going either way.

The story of this game had multiple subplots. Could Tom Brady win a Super Bowl without Bill Belichick? Could the Brady and Gronkowski connection reclaim the spotlight? Will Tom Brady put an end to the debate over whether or not he is the G.O.A.T. (the greatest of all time)? However, the main plot of this game that grabbed the attention of the nation was the matchup of 43-year-old Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady and 25-year-old Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes. For Brady, 43, this was his 10th super bowl appearance and ultimately his 7th Super Bowl victory. For the Chiefs and Mahomes, this was their second year in a row playing in the Super Bowl coming off of a win against the San Fransico 49ers in last year's. While Mahomes, 25, has only been in the league since 2017, he has already secured the league's Most Valuable Player award and a Super Bowl ring. Obviously, with the Chiefs favored to win by only three points, many thought this would be a highly competitive matchup, just like their previous meeting back in the regular season. However, it was anything but that. The Buccaneers came down the field in the first quarter with a connection from Tom Brady to his trusted teammate from nine seasons in New England, Rob Gronkowski. Then, with the Buccaneers leading 7-3 in the second quarter, Brady connected once again with, you guessed it, Gronkowski, giving the Buccaneers a comfortable 14-3 lead.

With the second quarter coming to an end, Brady connected with his other former Patriot teammate Antonio Brown, who had a brief stint with the Patriots back at the beginning of the 2019 season. This game continued with the Buccaneers dominating on both sides of the ball, ultimately securing a 31-9 Super Bowl win, giving them their second Super Bowl win in franchise history and first Super Bowl victory under current head coach Bruce Arians. This game showed football fans all over the world that Tom Brady can win without Bill Belichick, Brady and Gronkowski continue to connect when it counts, and Tom Brady's title as the G.O.A.T. was forever solidified with his seventh Lombardi trophy and fifth Super Bowl M.V.P.



Covid-19 CHEL (Early Season)

by Jake McManus '24

Sports are finally back! The first games of the 2021 NHL season were on January 13, 2021. Those were the first games since the Stanley Cup Finals on September 28, 2020, which was 106 days since the start of the 2021 season! Now that we are farther into the season, we have an idea of what's going on. Not surprising to anybody, the reigning Stanley Cup Champions Tampa Bay Lightning were long undefeated, along with the Vegas Golden Knights, and the Florida Panthers.

Unfortunately, for Chicago fans, the Chicago Blackhawks remain winless 4 games into the 2021 season. The Dallas Stars are the only team that hasn't played a game yet because some of their players have Covid-19. One of the coolest parts about the new season format is that the "Battle of Alberta" will happen 6 times this year! The Calgary Flames and the Edmonton Oilers are both located in the Canadian province of Alberta, so when these two teams play, it is called the "Battle of Alberta." This year is special; because of COVID-19, teams can only play

against teams in their own division. So we will see a lot more rivalry games this year, such as the 2 Pennsylvania teams, the Pittsburgh Penguins and the Philadelphia Flyer, which will play 6 times. Unfortunately, our hometown Bruins and their rival, the Montreal Canadiens, won't be able to play each other because they are in different divisions. Still, the Bruins' season has been jam-packed with great games. Just 4 games into the season, they had gone into overtime 3 times, winning 2 and losing 1. No matter what team you cheer for, everyone can agree that it's great that the 2021 NHL season is able to happen at all, even though the virus rages on.

Meme Review

by James Mullooney '24

Te Ka v.s. Homunculus Loxodontus 9.3/10



This meme was very popular back in December. It includes Te Ka, an enraged and heartless goddess of life, from Disney’s Moana, unleashing her wrath on a superimposed image of Homunculus loxodontus, who is a statue created by Margriet van Breevoort; he is known by many as the one who waits and has become an internet sensation. Personally, I love this fusion of meme formats, and I find it hilarious because this fiery demon god is attacking the one who waits and he just simply does not care.

Steve Buscemi Hulk 7.9/10



This meme format is a portrait of actor Steve Buscemi, filled with regret, photoshopped onto the frame of a raging Incredible Hulk from the Avengers Movies. I find this meme funny because the expression that Buscemi-Hulk wears on his face is very relatable and humorous. This meme has great potential.

Choccy Milk 0.0/10



This meme went viral on TikTok in late January. This meme includes someone pouring chocolate milk powder into a glass of milk so as to make the pain, from losing a match in the well-known game Rocket League, go away. While coping through chocolate milk is a great method, this meme is not funny and it was a lazy way that TikTok creators gained popularity.

Ron and Harry Chased Down by Wild Tom 8.4/10



This meme format is an image of Ron Weasley and Harry Potter in a car stacked upon a picture of the rearview mirror reflection of that car that shows Tom, from the Tom and Jerry cartoon, on a train, pursuing the duo. This meme is used to show how two different people or things are scared and are heavily intimidated by something. This meme is chucklesome because it draws parallels between two people and how one strange thing can fill them with fear.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Kevin Weldon '24

EDITORS
Andrew Bittner '24, Noah Farb '24, Brian Lee '24, Daniel Xie '24

ASSISTANT EDITORS
Thomas Folan '25, Aidan Lee '24

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Daniel Xie '24

STAFF WRITERS
Alex Behn '24, Matthew Flaherty '24, Sean Horkan '24, Duncan Kilbride '24, Alex Laidlaw '25, Jake McManus '24, James Mullooney '24, Jackson Pagán '24, Derek Potamis '24, Mike Powers '24, Sam Scopa '24, Jack Sheehan '24, Aaron Stanger '24, Cord Vallis '24

FACULTY ADVISOR
Dr. Tift