

THE SCROLL

NOVEMBER 4, 2022

O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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O'Gorman visited by German exchange students

Hailey Jones
Staff Writer

Every other year, students who are taking German classes at O'Gorman High School are given the opportunity to go on an exchange trip through GAPP (German American Partnership Program). The first part of this year's exchange took place over the summer when O'Gorman students traveled to Germany. O'Gorman is partnered with a school in Potsdam, and their students recently made a trip to South Dakota, completing the second half of the exchange.

From Oct. 9-20, O'Gorman families hosted 21 exchange students from Potsdam, Germany. Students had the opportunity to host one or more exchange students regardless of whether they are involved in German classes or not. These exchange students spent a week at O'Gorman, sitting in on classes and accompanying their host students in their daily before and after school activities. "I really enjoyed the food and seeing the way school works over here. There are lots of differences between the German

schools and the schools here (like the soccer or volleyball game)," one of the exchange students, Emmi, said.

From Oct. 17-19, the exchange students took their trip west to the Black Hills and returned to their host families in Sioux Falls for their final day in America. They spent the trip's final evening bowling at Empire Bowl. Other activities that some students took part in during the visit included a haunted house and watching O'Gorman's fall play.

"We went down to my grandparents' farm and chased cows," junior Eve Nielsen said about her experience hosting an exchange student. Some host families took their students out of state to Minnesota and Nebraska, visiting the Mall of America and experiencing other things common to American culture.

O'Gorman plans to continue going on exchange trips through GAPP in coming years. All O'Gorman students with two or more years of German class are eligible to take part in the exchange during the years that it is offered.



ANIKA RODIG

O'Gorman High School German language students with the German exchange students before they leave.

Football team entered playoffs as second seed after 17-point comeback

Colby Holtz
Editor-in-Chief

The O'Gorman Knights football team secured the second-seed in the state tournament after an outstanding comeback win against the Harrisburg Tigers. Entering the contest, both teams had only lost one regional game, both occasions being to the undefeated Jefferson Cavaliers, so the game had heavy implications for playoff seeding.

It had seemed that all hope was lost entering the fourth quarter. O'Gorman trailed by a sizable deficit of 17 points, but behind a stellar defensive performance, the Knights were able to score 21 unanswered points in the final period to win 24-20. This defensive performance was highlighted by five turnovers. Three interceptions came from junior defensive backs: two from Hayden Groos and one from Sam March which put an end to one of the Tigers' last drives.

Senior linebacker Nate Ratzlaff snagged an interception early on, but his fumble recovery for a touchdown off of sophomore Sullivan Schilngen's sack is what caused the Knights to jump



KAITLYN DOUGHERTY

Payton Hage kicking the ball to the opponent after halftime.

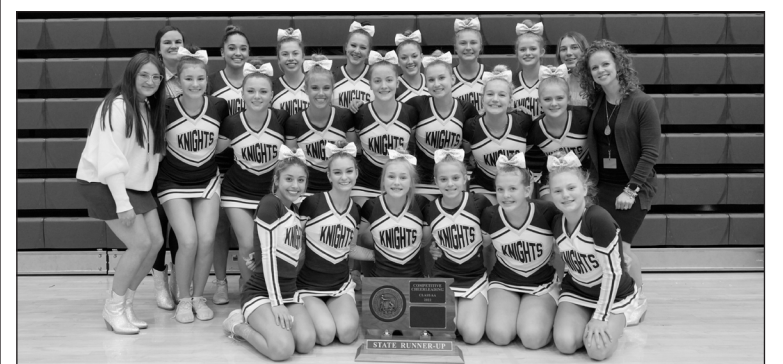
ahead to a lead late in the game. "We knew we needed something big and Sully Schilngen set it up great by forcing the ball out," Ratzlaff said. "When an opportunity presents itself to capitalize on a big play like that you really need to show up."

This play was truly incredible and represents a culmination of the impact Ratzlaff has. From setting crucial blocks on offense, to interceptions, sacks and fumble recoveries on defense, Ratzlaff has been a model player for the Knights on both sides of the field.

"It helps a lot to have teammates you believe in to get their job done. Our team chemistry goes a long way and enables us to play in close games like that," Ratzlaff said.

After an impressive season with only two losses overall, the second seeded Knights were then set to kick off the first round of the state tournament against the seventh-seeded Rapid City Stevens Raiders with the potential to host a rematch with the Harrisburg Tigers or Roosevelt Rough Riders in the semifinals.

Cheer team takes second at state



SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Cheer team taking a photo with their runner-up trophy at state.

Sydney Anel
Page Editor

The O'Gorman Competitive Cheer team competed in the AA State Competitive Cheer competition at Watertown on Oct. 22. At this competition, they received second place, losing to the Harrisburg cheer team by two points.

As the season progressed, the team became stronger as a whole. Leading up to state, the girls had numerous practices so that their team was confident and knew the routine well. By the time they performed at state, the girls were excited to show off their sharp skills, energy, passion and hard

work.

Once state was over, many of the seniors felt bittersweet emotions about the end of the season. "I had all of the emotions, right before we started," senior Taylor Tobin said. "After we hit our routine, everyone started crying from the overwhelming amount of joy and sadness to leave everyone."

The second place highlights the effective methods of the new coaches and the strength of this year's team. The O'Gorman Competitive Cheer team is looking forward to next year's season where they will hopefully be able to come back and retake the championship.

O’Gorman students take retreat to Inspiration Hills

Raena Manning
Staff Writer

On Sept. 25, 110 students went on a retreat to Inspiration Hills. The retreat hosted students who wanted to enhance their faith. There were many games, activities and faith related talks. The students woke up early on Saturday morning and took buses down to the lodge at Inspiration Hills. Some students may have been apprehensive of what to expect, but by the end of the retreat, it was clear that all students enjoyed the experience.

The leaders on this retreat were made up of staff and students. “I am most excited to be with lots of friends and have the

opportunity to strengthen my relationship with God through things like adoration and praise and worship,” retreat leader Maddy Friedman said beforehand.

Along with praise and worship, there was fun and games as well. Many students also experienced spiritual advancement, which is the true objective behind the retreats. “I am so glad I got the opportunity to be able to experience this retreat,” Friedman said following the retreat.

These retreats are normally offered twice a year and provide an immersive way for students to explore their faith.



Seniors Brooke Harvison, Krystina Stys, Macie Severson, Abigail Moen and Tiegen Crow at the retreat. ABIGAIL MOEN

Weekly Prayer Opportunities

Monday Morning Prayer	Tuesday Morning Prayer Mass 5C Confession 5D	Wednesday Morning Prayer Large Group Mass Open 4&5	Thursday Morning Prayer Mass 4A Confession 4B Open 5	Friday Mass 7:25 Rosary 4A Open 4B Rosary 5C Open 5D
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The Difference Is Here.

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SIoux FALLS

Students for Life celebrates Respect Life Month

Sydney Anel
Page Editor

For several years, O’Gorman High School’s Students for Life club has planned events throughout the month of October to promote the pro-life movement. This year, they implemented numerous ways to educate the students of O’Gorman.

The club organized a different event each week in October to raise awareness for Respect Life Month. For their first event, they had Chalk the Walk where the students wrote positive messages on the sidewalk that lead to the main doors. For this project, the club emphasized the importance of life by writing clever and impactful phrases, such as “Babies feel pain” and “From the womb to the tomb.”

To further celebrate Respect Life Month, Students for Life hosted a Rachel Rosary and tied ribbons on the windshield wipers of cars in the O’Gorman parking lot. In addition to those activities, the club also had a spiritual adoption where O’Gorman students



ANNA HONNER

Students for Life members posing with artwork after Chalk the Walk.

pray for a baby to be born. In this activity, you name and pray for that baby for nine months.

Students for Life is a great club for those who wish to further fulfill their desire to advocate for the pro-life movement, connect to the Catholic Church and learn about the meaning of pro-life. Being pro-life not only focuses on the unborn, but also the lives of all people from conception to natural death.

“We find a way to help all ages in all aspects of life,” president Anna Honner said. “You also feel a part of something big and that you will change the world for the better.”

Students for Life plans on taking advantage of a local volunteering opportunity in the upcoming months. The next meeting will be on Dec. 6 at 7:30 a.m. in Sheila McQuade’s room.

Children’s show will feel nostalgic

Hailey Jones
Staff Writer

O’Gorman High School’s production of “James and the Giant Peach” will take place Nov. 18-20. Auditions were held on Oct. 17-18 and cast members have been rehearsing since the last week of October.

Each year, O’Gorman’s theatre prepares a fall show, children’s show, one act play and musical. This year’s children’s show was chosen by two new directors, Jordan Heisler and Charlie Solomon. These two O’Gorman teachers and alumni have experience with coaching oral interpretation.

Both Heisler and Solomon did theater when they attended O’Gorman, but neither has worked with theater production in their careers.

Co-directors, Heisler and Solomon, chose the production “James and the Giant Peach” because the author, Roald Dahl, is nostalgic to them and the show has the right number of cast members. “It’s a fun, off-the-wall thing to be creative with,” Solomon said. This year will be the



OFFICIAL PLAY POSTER

first-ever O’Gorman production of James and the Giant Peach. Set in the United Kingdom, James is a young orphan boy who finds a giant peach, and later ventures across the ocean to New York with his newfound talking insect friends.

Many students in O’Gorman’s theater department are excited about the show. “James and the Giant Peach’ has so much potential in the costume department, and I’m beyond thrilled,” junior Owen Watson said.

Knights for a Cure helps support cancer patients and caregivers

Alexis Lemon
Staff Writer

The Knights for a Cure Club helps the school community get involved in supporting individuals with cancer as well as their families. The club also focuses on bringing joy to local oncology nurses by giving them care packages in addition to handwritten thank you cards.

The club is led by president Kaia Folsom and vice president Cece Bender along with Dr. Lebrun as the head advisor with Mr.

Cleary, Mrs. Bradfield and Mrs. Booth assisting. “I’m most excited to make gift baskets for families and get to know most of our members,” Folsom said.

The officers this year are Maeve Boetel as secretary, Jesse Loving as treasurer, Cade Edwards as historian and Wesley Zimprich as social media coordinator. “This year I am most excited that Señor Lebrun is the advisor and to see what ideas he has cooking!” Loving said.

The club is ready to support patients and caregivers helping

in any way they can. They have a series of activities planned that correlate to the type of cancer awareness represented by different months.

For breast cancer awareness month, Knights for a Cure is planning on selling pink bracelets to raise money to help them execute all of their plans for the year. If interested in getting involved, contact one of the advisors to get more information about future events or attend the next meeting.



KATIE SOWDEN

Knights for a Cure members filling care packages for patients.

Environmental Awareness Club: ‘gOGreen’

Lauren Meyer
Staff Writer

O’Gorman High School constantly strives to better our environment. The Environmental Awareness Club is dedicated to being more sustainable by reducing our environmental impact through educational opportunities at the individual, school and local levels.

This year the club will participate in pumpkin carving, teach students about the proper disposal methods, decorate the

school planters for winter and hopefully have a “thrift swap.” The thrift swap allows students to bring gently worn clothing and have an opportunity to swap it out with other items donated by their peers. The club also has a plan for Earth Day; an end-of-the-year activity in May to plant flowers and succulents in the flower pots by the front doors; and will tour the Sioux Falls recycling center.

Club director Crysta Daly is assisted by co-directors Rhonda Booth and Chad Lebrun. “[I]

hope that all of [O’Gorman] can learn about sustainability, adopt a sense of responsibility, cultivate a strong passion for taking care of our planet and do what we can to reduce our carbon footprint, whether it be through reducing, reusing, and recycling, advocating, cleaning up our community, learning about sustainable solutions, etc.,” Daly said.

Daly encourages students to “gOGreen” and to reach out about any questions or concerns about the environmental awareness club.



SKYE BORK

Alex Muncie tries to decide whether to recycle a super glue bottle.

Girls basketball eyeing two-peat



KATIE SOWDEN

2022 Lady Knights basketball team praying before a game.

Margaret Sweetman
Page Editor

The O’Gorman girls basketball season will officially begin with their first practice on Nov. 21. The team’s first game is on Dec. 8 against Brandon Valley at Brandon Valley High School, but until then, the team is working on preseason activities.

With the pressure of being reigning state champions, they are determined to never waver in preparation. “We are really excited for this upcoming season,” Head Coach Kent Kolsrud said. “It was great winning the state championship last year and we can’t wait for this team to show-

case their abilities.”

The toughest competition this season comes from the Metro Conference schools, which includes the four Sioux Falls public high schools along with Brandon Valley and Harrisburg.

“Our team’s strengths include the ability to press, playing in fast transition and strong team chemistry. Rebounding will also be a huge key for this team’s success,” Kolsrud said. The team is full of many talented athletes from all different grades this season. All of the coaches are very excited to see the team come together and succeed. The state championship will be held in Sioux Falls March 9-11.

Gymnasts revved by championship



KATIE SOWDEN

Senior Audrey Meyer dancing through her floor routine during the 2022 Metro Conference tournament.

Kendra Brunz
Staff Writer

The O’Gorman High School gymnastics team won state at the 2021 state championships. This was O’Gorman’s first gymnastics state title since 2005. All eyes are on the team as they work hard for a back-to-back championship this year.

Even with past success, the team plans to push themselves even farther this season to improve as athletes. “Going into this season I know we have to work so much harder so we go into the first meets as good as we ended last season,” junior Raena

Manning said. “I believe that even though we won it is such close competition that we have to still work just as hard as we did last year.” Manning is certain that the team is capable of coming together to win the state title again this season.

A part of the team’s success and motivation came from their connection as a team and shared dedication to the sport. Their friendship as teammates was a large component to their win last season, as it brought them closer and made them work better together as athletes. They continue to carry this team bond into the upcoming season while working

at another state title.

The team’s official 2022-2023 season has started and the gymnasts are more than ready for what’s to come. The team anticipates a significant amount of hard work this year and are prepared to put in the effort.

“Going into this season I will approach it just like I did last season,” senior Audrey Meyer said. “Now I have more confidence, but I know that work still needs to be done and skills still need to be improved.” The team is set to begin the new season, chasing the 2023 state title amidst tough competition from Mitchell and Harrisburg.

Girls soccer sought to ‘be great’

Anna Lent
Staff Writer

This fall, the O’Gorman Lady Knights soccer team had a positive mindset to “be great” during their short two month season. After only losing five seniors, two which were starters last year, head coach Sheila Diercks wanted to prove to the state and themselves that they were no longer the underdogs. “I chose ‘be great’ for this year’s quote because I wanted to have a strong mantra for our season. This is absolutely one of the greatest groups I have had the privilege of coaching. Our players work hard in the off season to fulfill this motto and vocalizing our ability to be great has helped us lean on one another in the turbulence and triumph,” Diercks said.

Coach Diercks also explained that she found the team to have the most success when they were able to work together as a team and strive through adversity. The Lady Knights struggled with many injuries during the season, but they found ways to keep battling even with many different and young players changing within the starting line up.



JOE PICCONI

Macie Severson dribbles the ball up the field against Harrisburg.

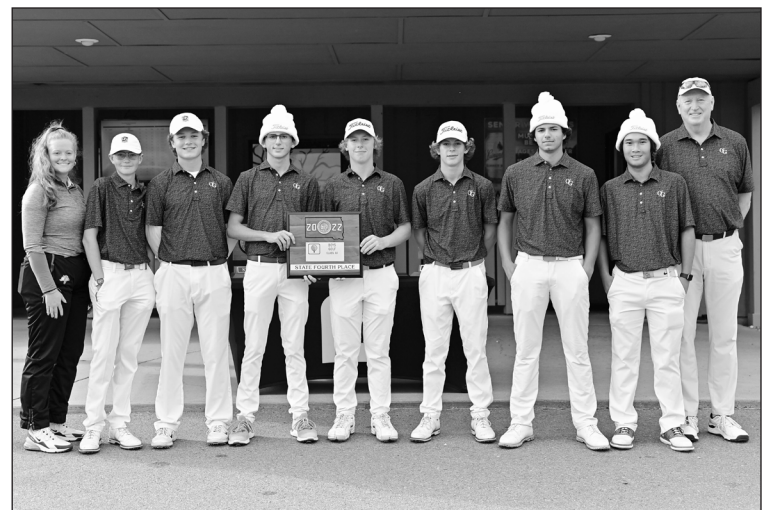
The six seniors wanted to make the most out of their last season as a Knight, so they continued to be role models by modeling “being great” to the underclassmen. Senior captain, Ize North, wanted this season to be the best season possible. “The most successful thing I found for the team was when we bonded at the beginning of the season and then throughout when we did fun games before games. It just helped our chemistry and was positive,” North said. She hopes after she graduates that everyone continues to lead the team to

success and be the best version of themselves.

North also hopes that people step up and avoid negativity before it gets to be too much. She wants them to continue to be positive throughout the season and all come together to lift everyone up and keep negativity out.

Unfortunately, the Lady Knights fell in the first round of playoffs on Oct. 4 in a tough battle against Roosevelt with a score of 3-1. The Lady Knights ended their regular season with a record of 4-7-2.

Boys golf season ends in fourth place



SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Boys golf team with their trophy following the state tournament.

Will Hurd
Page Editor

The O’Gorman Knights golf team played in the State Championship on Oct. 3-4. The Knights were the heavy favorites entering the tournament but came up short to Harrisburg, Pierre and Watertown to claim fourth place.

Both Mac Drake and Radley Mauney finished in the top 6 to earn spots on the All-Tourna-

ment Team and 5 of the 6 players placed in the top 25 to make the All-State Team. But the efforts were not enough as the team state record was broken on the first day by Harrisburg and broken again the next day by Watertown.

Only losing two seniors, Will Hurd and Mauney, the Knights look to improve and build on this performance for the 2023 season.

Cross country finishes season with dual podium appearances

Sydney Anel
Page Editor

Running in Huron on Oct. 22 were O’Gorman’s boys and girls cross country teams. At the state competition, the O’Gorman girls team placed fourth, and the O’Gorman boys team placed sixth. These finishes put both teams on the podium.

Compared to last year, both teams are fairly young. Most of their varsity athletes are underclassmen. However, this has not stopped the teams from excelling. Sophomore Libby Castelli placed 2nd individually and junior Ruth Pardy won 6th. For the boys team, junior Jack Castelli had the fastest time for the O’Gorman boys team with a 16:55.41, receiving 14th place. Not far behind him was Evan Mahrous and Dominic Ripperda at 24th and 26th place respectively.

Before state, the girls and boys teams trained intensely.



AARON STRAND

Boys and girls cross-country teams with their trophies from state.

Although the practices are challenging, Head Coach Aaron Strand provides positivity along with assistant coaches Alex Butterfield and Steve Krier helping him encourage the team.

O’Gorman’s cross country teams had a successful season, and the relationships between the athletes strengthened. Because the O’Gorman girls cross country team won the state

title last year, some of them are already looking to take back their title next year. “I think our season was a success overall, but we definitely have room to improve for next year,” junior Ruth Pardy said.

Both cross country teams performed well throughout the season, but the members who will return next year are already eyeing on the state titles.

Boys soccer falls to the Raiders in the semifinals



LOGAN CARTER

Junior Savian Walton defends the ball from the Rapid City Stevens forward during the semifinal game.

Will Hurd
Page Editor

The O’Gorman Knights boys soccer team entered the playoffs as the second overall seed after ending the regular season with a record of 12-2-1. But unfortunately the strong regular season was not enough to propel the Knights to the championship match this year as they lost in the semifinal round to Rapid City Stevens 3-0 after beating Sturgis Brown and

Sioux Falls Washington in the first two rounds.

The quarter-final matchup against Washington went into penalty kicks and was saved by senior Carter Hanson. “I think I did so well under pressure because of the confidence my team and coaches had in me,” Hanson said.

The Knights will lose many key components to their team with seniors Hanson, Rory McManus, and Wesley Zimprich all

graduating. “The importance of collaboration and leadership, and how they lead to success,” McManus said when asked what lessons he learned from the season.

The Knights look forward to next season as they bring up several young players in hopes to compete for a state championship next fall.

The state championship concluded on Oct. 15 with Rapid City Stevens defeating Sioux Falls Lincoln by a score of 4-1.

Dance team places 5th



KATIE SOWDEN

Hip hop dance team competing at the O’Gorman Invitational.

Sydney Anel
Page Editor

On Oct. 22, O’Gorman’s competitive dance competed in the State Competitive Dance Championships. At this competition, the girls competed in pom and hip-hop, and they came back home with a plaque, placing fifth in the state overall. In each of the dances, the team placed third.

In the last few years, dance grew immensely and became more popular. There are 31 athletes on this year’s team, 9 of which were seniors. “The team had steadily improved in its per-

formance and quality and competitiveness in 2020 and 2021, which I believe attracted additional athletes to the tryout process for the season,” Head Coach Erin Arends said.

The group was led by captains Alex Mentele and Olivia Sundvold. Other experienced senior dancers, such as Jenna Krouse, Taylor Holte and Audrey Meyer also provided leadership. “I think we had a great season and the team has gotten stronger every year. We received the highest scores O’Gorman dance has ever received this season!” captain Alex Mentele said.

Girls tennis takes second at state



JOSEPH PICCOINI

Senior Sydney Breit preparing for a forehand hit during her match.

Will Hurd
Page Editor

After a great regular season seeing only one loss, the girls tennis team looked forward to the state championship. With a successful tournament, the Lady Knights edged out Sioux Falls Lincoln by a single point to take second place in the state championship held on Oct. 6-7 at Sioux Park tennis court in Rapid City.

The team will graduate seven seniors at the end of this year, leaving big shoes to fill for those coming on the team. The younger members do however look to be competitive in the coming years.

“I feel like having a team with seven seniors made this season very bittersweet,” senior Cece Bender said.

Bender said the Knights impressive finish came from, “Our ‘Flight 1’ doubles win, and our two second-place titles in seeds three and six.”

This year’s finish was especially significant as Lincoln had won five of the last six state titles. “The team was extremely happy to get second overall, and even happier to beat Lincoln High School for the first time in years,” Bender said when asked about the finish at state.

Suspenseful and worth the watch

Gillian Brennan
Staff Writer

The movie, “All Quiet on the Western Front” was produced by Universal Studios in 1930 and is based on a novel by Erich Maria Remarque.

The movie revolves around a group of German boys who enlist in the military to fight for the German army in World War I. The contrast between the boys, who were initially depicted as joyful because they no longer had to do tedious school assignments, were later displayed with grizzled faces as they committed grotesque acts of violence, emphasizing the gravity of war.

This film is moving by today’s standards, and in 1930, this content was earth-shattering. At the time, society loved the idea and glory of the soldier. However, people didn’t want to think about the destruction of humanity and the menacing nature of warfare itself. “All Quiet on the Western Front” challenges ignorance to war and sends a powerful anti-war message through the loss of

innocence, spirit and life through political conflicts, worlds away from the soldiers. I was moved by the emphasis on the meaninglessness of death in war and this film’s political and cultural significance, as it was unheard of to depict such morbid scenes. I recommend this movie to those who enjoy using cinematography to make politically powerful statements about an issue or those who take an interest in his-



tory and World Wars.

‘FOLKLORE’: Quiet and soothing like nature



OFFICIAL ALBUM COVER: APPLE MUSIC

Gretthel Escalante Portillo
Staff Writer

“FOLKLORE” by Taylor Swift and previous album, “Lover” were both released during the pandemic.

Being a surprise release in 2020, “FOLKLORE” contains no lead singles, and the new era allows for a more magical, fairy, fantasy-like feel. The calming feeling and strong storyline let the listener submerge themselves

into the music. This is the first album that Swift has released in which many of the songs are not based on her real life. The album has a more poetic approach with most of the songs being ballads.

The highlight of the album is “Exile,” containing harmonies from Swift and Bon Iver that evoke feelings of nostalgia due to the vintage, country feel of the song. The plot of the song follows two hopeless romantics who reminisce about what could have been.

Despite the album containing no lead singles, three of the songs on it managed to climb to the top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100, proving to be a successful era for Swift. I would recommend listening to his album while traveling, as the soothing tracks echo that of being in nature.

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What has been your favorite part of first semester thus far?



“Football games.”
- Carra Stencil



“Football.”
- Aiden Thurman



“The soccer season.”
- Alaina Bierema



“Homecoming dodgeball tournament.”
- Jade Anstine



“Creating relationships with new students.”
- Ms. Thaden

What is going on in the NFL?

Colby Holtz
Editor-in-Chief

The start of the NFL season has peculiarly brought up a serious and common topic in football: concussions. It seems that there has been an abnormal amount of head and neck injuries to players to begin this season and that there are safety concerns that need to be addressed.

This discovery most notably brings attention to the injury of Miami Dolphins quarterback, Tua Tagovailoa. Tagovailoa suffered an injury after hitting his head in a game against the Buffalo Bills, and while getting up and trying to return to play, he lost his balance, stumbled and was visibly shaken up. He was evaluated by a team physician and an unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant who believed the incident was caused by a prior back and ankle injury.

It was determined that his temporary loss of balance was not neurologically caused and his back was not examined because they relied on the team doctors’ previous evaluations. After the game an investigation was launched by the NFL’s players’ association and several mistakes were discovered during the ex-

amination and the unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant was terminated.

Tagovailoa was cleared to finish the game at the time and did, which then set him up to start four days later on Thursday Night Football against the Cincinnati Bengals. Concussion protocols continued to be cleared throughout the week, but after one big hit, Tagovailoa was required to be carted off the field with an apparent head injury; a pretty graphic neurological reaction in his extremities was shown on screen. He has since admitted he has no recollection of this after being tackled.

He was immediately diagnosed with a concussion and because of this instance the NFL added “ataxia” to its list of “no-go symptoms.” Ataxia causes deficient coordination and balance caused by a neurological issue, which is what Tagovailoa displayed against the Bills.

Unfortunately, this is not where this issue stopped in the NFL. There have been a surplus of obviously neurological injuries in



Tua Tagovailoa playing before injury.

the first few weeks and people are not sure what to attribute them to. Some say it is the ineffectiveness of the concussion protocols in place currently, and others speculate that it may be due to the constant push for lighter helmets rather than protective helmets. One fact is certain: this issue needs to be addressed and solved to prevent the horrific scenes that have been so common recently.

In & Out:

In	Out
Winter	Summer
Cold weather	Warm weather
Stanley cups	Yetis
Thanksgiving	Halloween
Uggs	Sandals
Coats	Short sleeves
Homework	Free time
Football	Baseball
BeReal	Snapchat
Middle Part	Side Part

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All letters should be short and concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, conventions and length.

Editorial Policy
All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O’Gorman faculty, administration or the Knight Scroll.

National Merit Scholarship Qualifying

- Taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as a junior automatically enters students into consideration for the scholarship.
- Students must score in the top 1% of their state and be U.S. residents.
- 1.5 million students were tested in 2021.

Semifinalist

- About 16,000 semifinalists nationwide were selected from 50,000 higher scorers.
- Semifinalists must apply to be finalists; the application includes an essay and letter of recommendation.
- About 15,000 finalists will be notified in February 2023.

Commendation

- 34,000 Commended scholars nationwide were selected from 50,000 higher scorers.
- Commended scholars do not continue with application for National Merit, however, they may be eligible for other scholarships.

Jamous earns National Merit Semifinalist status

Isabella Savage
Staff Writer

O’Gorman High School senior Maya Jamous was named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist.

Becoming a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist takes hard work and dedication. A semifinalist must take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as a junior and score in the top 1% of their state. “I needed to have a lot of patience because improving standardized test scores takes lots of time and repetition,” said Jamous. Over 3.5 million students tested in 2021, and only about 16,000 were selected as semifinalists.

Jamous credits her achievements to the academics, teachers and staff of O’Gorman High

School. “At O’Gorman, I have challenged myself by taking various AP courses,” Jamous said. “Each class has helped me develop good study habits and improve my time management, and my teachers have always been supportive and are always open to answer any questions I have.” The O’Gorman community is proud of Jamous and her achievements.

In addition to success in the classroom, Jamous is also involved in varsity tennis, Student Council, Knitting Club and Environmental Awareness Club.

The next step for Jamous is applying to be a finalist. The application includes an ACT score, an essay and a teacher recom-



mendation. Becoming a finalist will open up many scholarship opportunities for Jamous. About 15,000 finalists will be notified in February 2023.

Anel receives commendation

Lauren Meyer
Staff Writer

Senior Sydney Anel recently earned the National Merit Commendation. She achieved this recognition due to scoring in the top two-thirds of the top 50,000 scorers on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, also known as the PSAT.

Anel is very involved in extracurriculars and the community as well. Anel is a page editor for Knight Scroll and vice president of the Environmental Awareness Club while also participating in HOSA, Knights for a Cure and orchestra. Outside of O’Gorman, she is on the Sioux Falls Swim Team and was selected to Mayor Paul TenHaken’s Youth Council this year.

To prepare for the exam, Anel took the practice test and took



the test offered her sophomore year. The practice helped her better understand the format of the test and the types of questions that may be asked. Her hard work paid off as she is eligible to receive special scholarships.

Brown receives commendation and earns perfect ACT score

Trenton Fisher
Staff Writer

O’Gorman High School senior Reagan Brown was named a commended student by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. She is excited about her achievement and worked hard to get to where she is today.

Not only did Brown receive a National Merit commended student recognition, but she also earned a perfect score of 36 on her American College Test. This is a very rare feat for any student,

as only 0.33 percent of test takers achieves such a score.

Brown expresses her hard work and dedication. “It has taken me a lot of trust, patience, and perseverance. It is easy to get lost in the busyness and mundane of school and just do assignments to get them done, but it is important to remember and trust that there is a purpose behind the work you are doing and it is meant to help you learn something and/or prepare you for something,” Brown said.

Brown credits her success to

the classes, teachers and staff at O’Gorman. “I am so grateful for the effort they put into teaching these subjects,” Brown said. “I wouldn’t have known hardly anything on the test without their lessons.”

Along with being successful in the classroom, Brown is also involved in band as a drum major and plays the clarinet. She enjoys being a Student Ambassador and is involved in Campus Ministry.

Brown wanted to give advice to anyone who is taking the PSAT, ACT or any other stan-

dardized test. “Relax. You probably know more than you think you do,” Brown said. “It is already a long test and stressing and freaking out is only going to wear you out faster.”

“National Merit is great and I am extremely honored to be commended, but there are also a lot of other things that define you and make you a great person and applicant, so don’t put too much pressure on yourself when taking the test or getting results,” Brown said.

