



# Knighly News

Glen Cove High School's Student Newspaper

Holiday issue, 2022

## Not Just Puffery Masquers Crew Brings Down the House with Earnest Comedy

*Reviews & much more inside!*

By Phoebe Pinder & Grace Guillen



This year, the Glen Cove High School's play was full of magic, charm, and comedy. Puffs, an alternative perspective on the tale of the well-known Harry Potter, recently filled our school's stage with the wonders of the wizarding world. The show starred Phoebe George as Wayne Hopkins, along with Elijah Goldstein and Elle Woska as his best friends, Oliver Rivers and Megan Jones. In the months prior to the show, each time you passed the auditorium, you could see the colorful set on the stage. Students could be heard rehearsing scenes and seen with magic wands that made (magic) noises! When opening night finally arrived, many students and people in the community gathered in the auditorium to watch the satire in person. Thanks to our very own Mr. Barry and the GCTV crew, the show was able to be livestreamed to those who couldn't attend in person. However, nothing could catch the wonder and excitement of the live performance.

The cast was full of many actors that all played amazing parts and added to the overall story. Even the background characters had some jokes to tell. Harry Potter (a background character played by Natalie Macnow) can sometimes be seen walking around with Ron and Hermione. Except they looked a little bit different in this retelling, a bit more mop-like. And it's impossible to forget glancing over your shoulder and seeing the Dark Lord (Luis Barrera) sitting ominously a few rows behind you.

Staring directly at you. Hollow eyes boring into your soul (not cool: turning around and seeing those empty eyes was actually a jumpscare). Anyway, the rest of the supporting characters were mostly the peppy, lovable, "eversso chatty Puffs". Of course, there were a few cast members that played multiple characters, including Christine Calderon and Tristan Soto, who were Puffs as well as an array of different magical teachers and one rather insane mother. The cast interacted very well with the crowd. Some of the Puffs even sat down with the audience for a bit to watch the Triwizard Tournament, while still remaining in character!

The entire cast seemed to work very well together and have lots of fun at the same time. Dakota Rios, who played Ginny Weasley, said "It was really fun. It was different, because I've never been in a play before, I've only been in the In the Heights musical. But it was nice because I feel like I was more involved in this one, and there were a lot of new people, like the freshmen, to make new friends with."

When asked about her experience in the play, another cast member, Trinitee Chambers said, "Working with the cast and directors was a beautiful thing, and this was my first performance, so that made it even more special to me. Everyone put so much work and effort into this play, and it really shows. This will be the last play for mul-

tipple of our seniors and as their lowerclassmen, we did our best to make them proud." Throughout the course of the rehearsals and play itself, the whole cast grew closer together, no matter what grade they were. You can see the sense of community they have.

The tech crew was busy working away behind the scenes. They lit up the auditorium with a rainbow of spotlights and color. The lighting was a big part of what made this show run smoothly. Putting spotlights on specific areas of the stage allowed the focus to be brought to something, instead of having long, dark transitions between scenes. The set was designed so that the same background could be used for many different scenes. The show was smooth and well-paced. The sound design enhanced

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# Not Just Puffery



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scenes and helped tell the story in a much more immersive way.

Of course, the show wouldn't have been possible without the lovely directors, Mrs. Stazzone and Mrs. Makula. They worked with the cast and crew for weeks on end to make the show work out how it did. "Working with the students on the play was an amazing experience. They're a very hard working, dedicated bunch of students- they're very talented and just brought their very best everyday. It was a pleasure to work with them," said Ms. Stazzone.

An overall comedic and heartwarming story, Puffs tells the story of Wayne Hopkins, an ordinary boy who gets sent to wizard school upon finding out he's a wizard. He gets sorted into the Puff's house who are known for being the underdogs. They are nice, and gullible, which means they sometimes get walked all over and get called annoying (to be fair, some of them are a bit... much). Wayne has big dreams though. He wants to be a hero, someone of note and not just a background character in someone else's big adventure. As we travel with him through the seven years of wizarding school, Wayne makes friends and loses some too. He tries as best he can

to be someone people will remember and not get walked all over. Little does he know, he's the protagonist of the story we see unfold before us on the stage. We, the audience, have remembered him, just as he wanted.

Fun Fact: when asked her favorite part of the story, lead Phoebe George had this to say, "My favorite part of Puffs was absolutely the audience interaction of the first task scene. I had so much fun interacting with the people around me. Especially because my family intentionally sat there [in the front row] so I didn't have any anxiety about being super into it." Nice to know Phoebe!

An interesting thing about this show is that it does not really have a conventional happy ending. There isn't really a "happily ever after" more of a "so life went on." (Huge spoilers ahead by the way.) Wayne doesn't get any big crowd or fanfare when his story ends. When he dies, the battle continues on around him. He doesn't get resurrected. There isn't a magical moment where he comes back and they all ride off into the sunset and save the world. His friends grieve quietly. Time doesn't stop for anyone, so everyone else keeps going and the world still turns. Ultimately, he is just another Puff. Another



student lost to the cause. In the end, that's what all of us are. Just regular people, who, though there are billions of other humans on this earth, and so many brilliant minds and talented people, want to be remembered. It is the reason why even on ancient Roman archways, there is graffiti that merely says "I was here" just like kids tagging graffiti desks to this day. It is the reason why people care about first impressions and what others think of them. It is the legacy we leave behind. All of us are eventually lost to death, but most wish to be found in the memories of others.

Though Wayne may not have been the conventional hero or protagonist, in his story, he was a person who lived. He was here and didn't want to be lost to time and death. His friends knew this, and they allowed him to live on through their children, and through their stories. Through this play, we experience the legacy of Wayne Hopkins, and even if it wasn't anything grand or extravagant, it was enough.

**WANTED**

Greetings from the staff of The Knightly News! We are looking for energetic, dedicated writers and journalists to join our newspaper team! Writing in other languages is a bonus as we are looking to make the newspaper bilingual! Please stop by Room 138 on Tuesday afternoons right after school if you are interested! We look forward to seeing you then!

**WANTED**

Se buscan escritores!

Saludos de las personas de Knightly News! Estamos buscando escritores con mucha energia y muy dedicados que puedan unir se a nuestro equipo de noticias. El poder escribir en otro idioma es un bono, ya que estamos tratando de hacer las noticias bilingue. Nos reunimos por el salon 138, todos los que estan interesados! Te estaremos esperando.

## The KNIGHTLY Staff

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## Film Review

### Spies Like Us

by Colson Martone

Looking for a 1980's screwball comedy that stars some heavyweights from that era, then look no further than *Spies Like Us*, a 1985 film directed by the legendary John Landis about two incompetent government workers who think they are spies, but are actually decoys for a nuclear war between the world's two greatest superpowers. Starring comedy legends Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd, *Spies Like Us* uses the Cold War backdrop and fear of total annihilation for some hearty laughs

In the opening scene, you see a snowy forest somewhere in Russia and a mobile missile launcher appears from the trees. At an under-cover government building disguised as a Tomato company in Washington D.C., a man with a briefcase handcuffed to his wrist is transported to a luxurious house owned by government officials, where two high ranking generals enter the room to discuss elevating the two protagonists to GLG-20 status as Foreign Service Agents and use them as two decoys.

The following day, you see useful idiots in Emmett Fitz-Hume (Chase) and Austin Millbarger (Aykroyd) enter a room to take a high-level Foreign Service exam, but Emmett attempts to make a big

scene to cheat off of the other people. Government officials make Emmett and Austin be under the impression that they are doing real foreign work. After Emmett and Austin go through an “extensive and brutal” training, they are thrown out of a plane in Pakistan disguised as a Tomato shipment where they are then greeted by “U.S. Government officials”, who end up being undercover Russian Spies. Emmett and Austin proceed to steal their Jeep, where they are greeted by Pakistani Freedom Fighters. When they reach the freedom fighters camp, they meet British doctors, where the two lie to the British medical team about being in the same profession.

To prevent Emmett and Austin from being killed, they attempt to perform a surgery. They attempt to stall it, but the patient wakes up and is dead. This angers the freedom fighters, so they begin to chase them. In the next scene, it shows the U.S. Officials from earlier pulling up to an abandoned drive-in movie theater, which appears to be a secret missile silo. Emmett and Austin are given orders to cross the Russian border. As Emmett and Austin cross the Russian border and have to equip an excessive amount of fur, which makes them look ridiculous. Emmett and Austin are caught by Russian highway police, although Austin escapes, leaving Emmett behind. Emmett gets interrogated, but Austin interrupts them and rescues Emmett by horse-back.

Emmett and Austin find their final objective, which is to neutralize a mobile missile launcher. Emmett and Austin make a diversion by pretending to be aliens with tin foil, nets and personal items. The duo pretend to get shot, but they tranquilize the Russian soldiers guarding the mobile missile launcher. They then proceed to accidentally launch the missile that is aimed at the U.S. Austin, however, comes up with an idea to divert the missile, so it would affect the missile's trajectory and it surprisingly works—a feat that thankfully prevents World War III.

All in all, *Spies Like Us* is a worthwhile flick to watch and reminisce about a bygone era with some pioneering comedians who paved the way for future generations.



## Kirby and the Forgotten Land

by Caroline Piszczatowski

Kirby and the Forgotten Land is a platformer video game created by the HAL Laboratory and published by Nintendo for the Nintendo Switch. The game was released on March 25th, 2022 and sold 5.27 million copies in total sales. This game has become the best selling Kirby game of all time. This record is shocking because of which Kirby game was the best seller before Kirby and the Forgotten Land. Before this platformer, Kirby's first game, Kirby's Dream Land was the best selling Kirby game of all time.

The 1992 debut got kicked out of its best seller throne, 30 years after its release by Kirby and the Forgotten Land. The newly best selling Kirby game won Best Family Game at the Game Awards 2022. Kirby and the Forgotten also won an Excellence Award at the Japan Game Awards 2022. The platformer was one of ten games to receive this award. This Kirby game was also nominated for the Nintendo Game of the Year at the Golden Joystick Awards. Overall, the game has been very successful compared to previous Kirby games and has gotten a lot of good reviews. All these achievements are amazing for this game and are signs that this award-winning game is a good one. But is this adorable platformer as good as it is being reviewed? I believe so and I think this platformer is one of the better recent Kirby games. Kirby and the Forgotten land is definitely deserving of its praise and awards, and here's why.

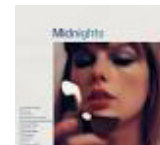
Kirby and the Forgotten Land isn't a very difficult game to where you'll be smashing your switch into a wall. Even the game's 'Wild Mode' isn't overly, but gives just the right amount of wildness where it isn't impossible to beat. But it isn't overly simplistic to where you'll bore yourself out. The game makes levels complex to where you can play multiple times and still find things you missed from the first time you played that level. The game is total eye candy with its design and graphics. This isn't new for Kirby games and they usually are all filled with nice vibrant colors and graphics that are pleasing to play with. I also love the concept of Kirby swallowing things that are way too big for him to swallow, or as it is called in the game, the Mouthful Mode. Since the objects are too big for him to swal-



low, his mouth is just wrapped around the object. A personal favorite example of this is Kirby as a car. I also love that the game makes you use each ability for certain parts and really lets you maximize the use of the limitations of each ability.

I also thoroughly enjoy the level design. Even though I think other Kirby games had more whimsical and fun designs, I still believe this game has some beautiful designs that are very nice to look at and explore.

My only complaints about Kirby and the Forgotten Land are that the two player mode isn't as great in comparison to previous Kirby games. The two player mode is more like a younger sibling mode in my personal opinion. In the multiplayer game mode, the second player can only play as Bandana Waddle Dee. The camera more focuses on Kirby and sometimes even cuts Bandana Waddle Dee out of frame. Furthermore, Bandana Waddle Dee cannot do as much as Kirby, but co-op is still a fun experience. Plus, Bandana Waddle Dee can still do some pretty damaging moves. Bandana Waddle Dee can float, slide tackle, spear jab, spear charge, spear targeting, and mouthful mode help. All in all, I think that Kirby and Forgotten Land is a great game to play. The HAL Laboratory has created a fun platformer that can be played by many. I recommend this game to play if you like Kirby and fun games that aren't super challenging to play. I give Kirby and the Forgotten Land a 4.5 star rating and I would definitely play this game again.



## Midnights-Taylor Swift

by Caroline Piszczatowski

Midnights is the tenth studio album and newest body of work from Taylor Swift since the albums Folklore and Evermore from 2020. The album was announced at the 2022 MTV Video Music Awards. Midnights was released in mid-October and has broken many records already. After just one day of Midnights being released, Swift got 228 million streams on Spotify. This helped her become the most streamed female artist in Spotify history and first to have 35 billion streams across her catalog of music. Midnights also broke the single day streaming record with 184.6 million streams on Spotify. Swift also broke vinyl records, selling 575,000 vinyls in the first week of release. Midnights also sold over 1 million albums in one week. This record isn't new for Miss Swift as she has 4 other albums with this achievement, Speak Now, Red, 1989, and Reputation. Taylor also made Billboard Hot 100 history by becoming the first artist to have all of her songs dominate the entire top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100. This is also the first time ever a male artist wasn't on the list. Swift has broken many more records with this album.

But is this record breaking album as good as it appears to be? I believe it to be. Now I might seem biased, considering I am a fan of Taylor Swift and was in her 0.5% of Spotify listeners for 2022, but this album genuinely surprised me with how much I enjoyed it. The album contains 13 tracks on the standard version and 7 bonus one tracks on the 3rd edition of the album. There is also a Target exclusive bonus track called Hits Different, which needs to. The record has a 1970's aesthetic and represents the singer's sleepless nights sprinkled throughout her career. The genre of Midnights is pop, which surprised some fans because her last two albums Folklore and Evermore were alternative and that's sort of the expectation they had for Midnights. But as with previous pop albums like 1989, Lover, and Reputation, Midnights is iconic and has some songs that are pop perfection. Midnights has some fun pop songs like Karma and Lavender Haze but also some hard-hitting songs like Would've Could've Should've and You're On Your Own, Kid. I personally think The Great War is one of the best songs on the album. The tune and sound of it is just wonderful and pleasing to the ear. The lyrics are gorgeous and go together beautifully, which is nothing new for Miss Swift.

This whole album is another amazing pop album from the iconic artist. I think some underrated tracks from the album are Dear Reader and

## For My Kind Rose

By Veronica O'Regan

Roses are red,  
Violets are blue,  
My word is kind,  
And so are you.

Orchids are white,  
Ghost ones are rare,  
My wig is blonde,  
And so is your hair.

Magnolia grows,  
With buds like eggs,  
Cheeks are tanned,  
And so is the sky .

Sunflowers reach,  
Up to the skies,  
Your look is thoughtful,  
And so are your eyes.

Foxgloves in hedges,  
Surround the farms,  
Your haven is safe,  
And so are your arms.

Daisies are pretty,  
Daffies have style,  
The room is warm,  
And so is your smile.

A rose is beautiful,  
Just like you.

Sweet Nothing. I don't hear enough appreciation for either of these tracks. Both are amazing songs and are songs I feel like I could listen to over and over again. There's two music videos that go along with two of the tracks from this album. Anti-Hero and Bejeweled, which are both iconic visual representations of the lyrics and songs. I see a lot of fans dislike Midnight Rain and Vigilante Sh\*t for certain aspects. Midnight Rain's intro turns off a lot of listeners and Vigilante Sh\*t doesn't hold up to the rest of the songs for some fans. I believe this album has no songs that I would skip while listening to the album as a whole. I genuinely like listening to all the songs, therefore I give this album 5 stars. Midnights is now my third favorite Taylor Swift album and I will definitely listen to it again. I recommend you listen to Midnights (3am edition) if you want to hear an amazing pop album.

# Q & A Principal Feature: Mr. Hudson

By Elle Woska



For this issue's Teacher Feature, we have chosen to focus on Mr Hudson as he paves his own path and creates a new start as principal at Glen Cove High School.

**Q:** What was your reaction when you first found out that you would be principal?

**A:** I was excited, I've been Vice Principal for years now and I grew up here. I love this place and I am so excited to get this opportunity as principal. This is something I've always wanted to do. I graduated here a long time ago, 1991, with the vision of really returning here to Glen Cove High School and being in a sort of administrative position, especially as principal.

**Q:** What big plans do you have for this year and the future?

**A:** I think the overall goal of going to Glen Cove Schools and living here is just to increase morale around school. We want students to believe in themselves and to see their own greatness. We also want to enhance the physical attributes of the building. For example, the shelves put in the cafeteria so kids can actually go in and just chill out and go on their phones. Not everyone wants to socialize during lunch everyday. I actually got this idea from Chipotle because I like Chipotle. We would also love to have an outdoor eating area.

There's a bond that we are trying to pass (*Ed:* It did!) which would help us to enhance our cafeterias, fix our science labs, so that we could start to complete things like that. I think we are a really good school, but I also think we have the capability to be

a great school, but that all has to do with the details. We just need to focus on the details here. I want students to be able to see this as a second home.

I want a 100% graduation rate and I know that that is ambitious, but I know that we can do that. I think we can achieve so much more when we all work together. We all combine focus and move towards that goal.

**Q:** What are you most looking forward to this year? (Athletically, Musically, Academically, Events, etc.)

**A:** I am certainly looking forward to the homecoming game. We have a surprise performer, a student, at homecoming and I believe that everyone will enjoy that very much, so excited for that to happen. I'm hopeful for a win but whatever happens we have a wonderful team. Looking forward to the season when the pandemic is over and students can come out and support our teams and hang out and come to events. I'm looking forward to seeing what our new fine art coordinator, Mr. Nadel, is able to bring to our department. I'm really looking forward to, and this is something Mr. Nadel is starting for the first time, an improv group or team where kids could compete in improv competitions. You know, not every student here is an athlete and it's important that they get the activities and recognition they deserve. I think that's just really cool. I actually really want to go to these improv events and see our students perform and compete. I'm just overall really excited. I have a really good feeling about this year.

**Q:** How would it be best for students to communicate with you if they had ideas, comments, questions, or concerns?

**A:** My door always stands open. I'm always around to talk and I am open to any and all new ideas. If you don't have a chance to come to my office, you could also just shoot me an email, I'll always get back to you. But as I said, it's important for me to get feedback and I want to hear from all of my students. Our students here often come up with our best ideas here and I'm always looking for student engagement and involvement.

# DECA Shop: What's New in 2022?

By Will Romeo

The school shop. If you're a student or staff member of Glen Cove High School, you probably know it or have been to it, and if not, then you've definitely walked past it many, many times in the past. Located in the gallery, adjacent to the art rooms, and across from the Cafeteria, the shop has been a staple for many years at GCHS, and continues to see new additions in 2022.

"This year, the DECA shop has an even larger selection of candy, snacks, and beverages for students, teachers and administrators to enjoy," says new DECA head Mr. McKinnon. "Students are able to purchase candy and snacks from our express line and beverages from our two DECA vending machines."

Here is a list of what snacks and candy you can expect being sold next time you're at the shop, and as you can see there's a great variety this year:

- Sour Patch Kids
- Sour Patch Watermelon
- Airhead Extreme Rainbow Strips
- Fruit Gushers
- Haribo Gummy Bears
- Regular Skittles
- Sour Skittles
- Nerds Gummy Cluster Rope (Red Sharepack)
- Nerds Gummy Berry Cluster (Blue Sharepack)
- Toxic Waste Slime Lickers
- Kit Kat
- M&M Plain
- M&M Mini Plain
- Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
- M&M Peanuts
- Cheez-Itz
- Takis Fuego
- Sour Cream & Onion Pringles
- Nutella Pretzel
- Pocky Chocolate Box
- Pocky Cookie Cream Box
- Panda Pouch Chocolate
- Panda Pouch Vanilla

Mr. McKinnon also expressed the potential of the DECA shop having a "relaunch" of sorts this school year. "Students will be able to come inside to purchase items like school merchandise, and possibly enjoy a section in the shop dedicated to circular fashion as well as sustainability of free garments and accessories that are pre-loved."

According to Mr. McKinnon, this relaunch would be in collaboration with the Art Department



and would allow GCHS academic clubs to submit custom designs to be heat pressed onto garments for school merchandise. "DECA and Art students will gain hard skills in custom design, garment heat pressing and inventory management while offering a lower price point for school merchandise made 'in-house'."

This merchandising opportunity would be a great way for clubs to further promote themselves, and help raise more funds for the school, which is always a good thing. Students can always be seen wearing GCHS merch and it would be great if students are able to represent the clubs they enjoy and are passionate about.

The Knightly News also reached out to some of the students running the shop this year in order to get an insight into their experience working there, and their aspirations for the future of the shop. Co-managers Cameren Staley and Sabrina Backiel both expressed passion about the friendly environment and amazing staff, and stated some of their hopes going forward. "I would like to use the DECA shop to help connect either events happening in the school and community, or activities we are doing in DECA, to the rest of the student body", says Cameren. Sabrina says, "I would like to help get more attention to the shop and gain more people's support." Victoria Baboolal, the Vice President of DECA at GCHS, also shared her experience with the shop. "I started working at the DECA shop in 10th grade when it reopened after the pandemic. When I first heard about the shop I was eager to help out and be involved. I was one of the first set of workers, learning how to run the shop." Victoria, just like Cameren and Sabrina, also expresses how welcoming

the shop is and how much she enjoys working with her co-workers. "I love helping out customers and working with my peers. Everyone at the shop gets along really well, we are able to work efficiently and effectively while getting to know each other better."

If you're someone on the fence about joining DECA and being a part of the shop, let these shared experiences be a push of encouragement. Whether you're an aspiring DECA member, or just someone looking for a snack after school, go over and check out the shop, open every day after ninth period. Be on the lookout for new merchandise as well!



# GC Grapplers Envision a Postseason Within Their “Grasp”

By Ben Brenner

The GC Wrestling team is back and is ready to dominate! The Big Red boast plenty of returning starters, including plenty that competed at the Nassau County Qualifier a year ago. The team is composed of a total of 40 wrestlers for varsity and JV include, 8 seniors, 7 juniors, 10 sophomores, 14 freshman, and one 8th-grader. A few top heavyweights have graduated, but the influx of new blood are ready to grab the torch.

Coach Christopher MacDonald has high hopes for the team. “We are anticipating a very competitive year,” he said. “We are ranked third in our conference, which would place us as a playoff team.”

Looking back at last season, coach MacDonald led the varsity squad to a fourth place finish at the Glen Cove McCullough Tournament, 3rd at Yorktown Duals, 3rd at the Cove Cup and had 4 All-Conference Wrestlers. The team is guided by senior Genalie Prezeau, who was promoted as the main captain after being one of the co-captains last season. Wrestling in the 189-pound weight class, Prezeau is the lone returnee who made counties a year ago. Prezeau, who was All-Conference as well, has personal goals to go along with team goals. “Personally, I would like to get back to the counties and finish sixth or higher,” he said. “If I finish sixth or higher, I am able to get on the Glen Cove Wall.”

For those keeping score at home, the famed Glen Cove Wall is for male and female athletes who reach All-County status. Like coach MacDonald, the quest to make the playoffs is on the team’s radar. “I think we can make it. The team has been



working hard and drilling well and I think we are very determined,” uttered Prezeau.

Co-captain sophomore Giorgio Valenzuela is another one to watch this season. Valenzuela went to a wrestling camp to get him into shape for this season. The sophomore feels wrestling at a club in Syosset will pay dividends regarding results and when it comes to leadership. “I wrestled the best in the state and county as well as wrestling in numerous tournaments,” he said. “I feel like I have a responsibility to be a leader for the team.”

Like Prezeau, Valenzuela has goals of his own like doing well in qualifiers and trying to make counties. Recently he won the Glen Cove Team Award Most Outstanding Wrestler for a recent William Floyd Tournament the team entered. Now with COVID in the rearview and a younger squad getting more

mat-time, the sophomore feels the team will do better over the long haul.

“There is definitely a learning curve personally and teamwise, but I think we will improve as a team,” he said.

Early returns saw the Big Red dispatch Valley Stream on the road in the season opener, 45-28, thanks to big wins by Mark LaRocca, Tyler Goyenechea, Valenzuela, Benaazir Davlatshoev, Anthony Lambert-Watkins and Cameren Staley, who all pinned their opponents. Staley in particular, pinned his opponent in a little over a minute, while Lambert-Watkins, Valenzuela and Davlatshoev all pinned their foes in less than 90 seconds. Jason Downer also won his match via a 10-7 decision.

Let’s hope the season opening win is a good omen of a playoff worthy season.



# Meet the Latest Wheeler to Excel in Glen Cove Sports

By Matt Bailey



When it comes to excelling on the field and on the court, senior Londell Wheeler Jr. knows there are parents and relatives who planted the family flag before him. It wasn't just mom and dad who were the only athletes gracing Glen Cove fields and courts, but grandfathers and uncles as well.

Like his three-sport father (football, basketball and baseball) and two-sport mother (volleyball and basketball), young Londell has dominated the Glen Cove sports scene on the soccer field by leading the Knights to Nassau County title and starring in the GC backcourt at point guard since he was middle school. Mention his name to his coaches and praises quickly come out.

"Simply put, he is everything you want when it comes to a leader and leads by example," said his basketball coach Mr. Falen. "You could easily say he's the best athlete Glen Cove has had in 10 years."

Bold statements or not, Wheeler's soccer performance this season certainly merits those lofty plaudits and the senior boasts a slew of hardware to back it up: All-County, All State, All-Region (Eastern US), All-American, Conference A Player of the Year, Nassau County Finals MVP, the Jim Steen Nassau County Player of the Year and a member of the All-Long Island team would give Messi or Pele's trophy shelf a run for its money. Scoring five goals in the postseason and beating previously undefeated Garden City in the county final will allow you to receive praise. After being eliminated by Garden City last year, Wheeler stated the win felt great and added the team wanted a rematch with the Trojans.

Wheeler's soccer coach Mr. Smith, who has coached him for three years, would echo those sentiments. "He's an incredible leader who is focused and determined. He believes in the mantra 'no pressure, no diamonds' meaning he thrives on pressure," he said.

Mr. Smith points out that Wheeler, who models his game after Polish superstar striker Robert Lewandowski, has "that mentality" of where he's innately connected to every player on the field and has that "we" and not "I" frame of mind.

"He has elite intelligence and game awareness that very few kids his age have," said Smith. That knack for making teammates better and pushing them to be better comes out in hoops as well, where Wheeler, who models his game after Kyrie Irving, thrives on assists rather than scoring. "He's a throwback who you do not see very often with this current generation," remarked Falen.

After coming up a game short in the past, Wheeler is hoping 2022-2023 is the year Glen Cove can end the schneid and head to the postseason. The senior is hoping good team chemistry and the fact that some of the players have been playing with each other for some time will be the difference.

When it comes to how he started in sports, Wheeler started playing soccer when he was 9-years old on his travel team with his friends and cousins and found he had the passion, let alone the physical tools like footwork and agility to excel on the pitch. That same footwork, agility and endurance for that matter, quickly transferred on the basketball court where he started to get training from his father

while in sixth grade. He even caught his dad off-guard a little.

"I think my dad didn't realize that I could play basketball that well, which is when he started training me," he said. "Now I owe them everything in terms of sports, school and life since they've guided me the whole way on my journey."

Not only coaches, but fellow teammates like Kyle Calderon, who has known Wheeler since elementary school, speak highly of him. "He's a hard worker who not only pushes himself, but pushes other players to the limit to get better and succeed," said the fellow senior. Looking ahead to college, Wheeler is eyeing a number of colleges such as Big East power St. John's and Big Ten schools like Rutgers. Even local schools such as Hofstra and LIU are also on the radar. When it comes to academics, Wheeler is looking to major in finance and accounting in college and has always listened to the advice from his parents of saving and investing your money.

With that being said, Wheeler is looking forward to college. "It's life-changing and I'm looking forward to what the future holds and looking forward to meeting new people," he said.

Wherever Wheeler goes, that college should know they're being gifted with one Glen Cove's top athletes

