



THE FALCON

REPRESENTING THE SAINT JOSEPH COMMUNITY SINCE 1961

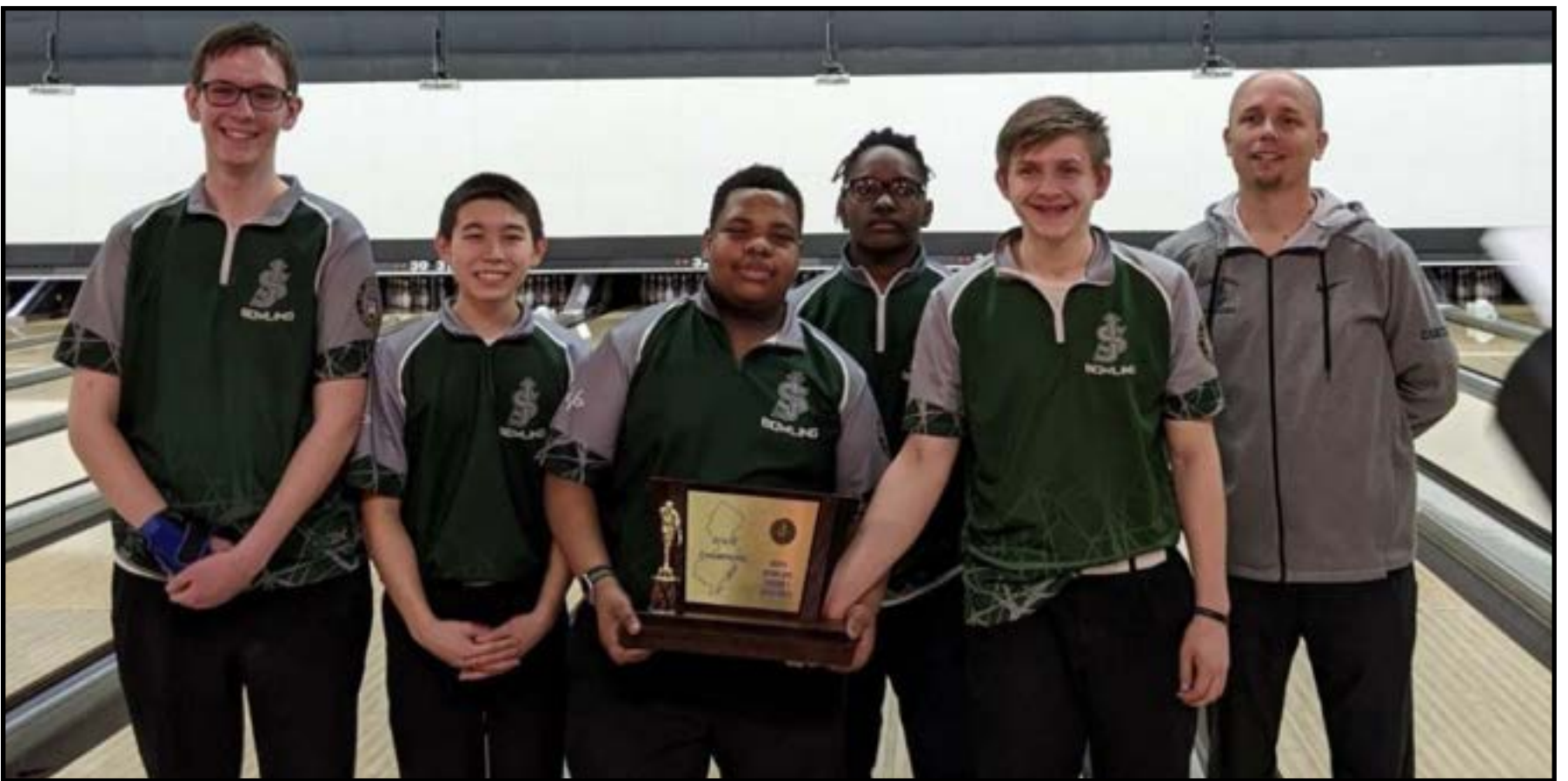
Volume LXII, Issue 3

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February 2023

BOWL-O-RAMA

**Saint Joseph Bowling earns Undisputed State Title;
Kai Strothers '26 wins Individual State Championship**



BY BEN CHADWICK '23
Sports Editor

It's often hard to appreciate all time greatness when you're in the midst of it, but it felt like something magical was going on with Saint Joe's Bowling as soon as the year started. Every match had a unique buzz, and the bowlers themselves carried themselves with the confidence of a team who knew that they had something special.

It turns out that all that positivity was well founded, because, for the first time in the history of the school, Saint Joe's has earned an overall bowling NJSIAA State Championship. The Falcons knocked off Donovan Catholic for the Group 1 title by 503 pins in a true group effort. Kai Strothers '26 (726) and Will Cunningham '26 (697) had the second and third best series of the day. Devon Kiessling '24 had the third best game of the day with a 269. EJ Chin '24 had a 586 series and Tim Haklar '23 put up a 539 series to support the Falcon effort.

The Falcons then took place in an unofficial "Tournament of Champions" against other Group champions, in which they also rolled to a victory, knocking off East Brunswick 3-0 and Jackson Memorial 3-1, and solidifying themselves as the state's best.

The Joe's rollers have long been sitting atop the rankings in the state, but championship season has been especially kind to the Falcons. They swept every possible championship they could (GMC, Sectional, Group, "TOC"), but capped the season with some of their best taking on the other top competitors in New Jersey in individual competition.

EJ Chin '24, Devon Kiessling '24, Will Cunningham '26, and Kai Strothers '26 all battled it out, but the season came down to Strothers and Kiessling going one-on-one in an All-Falcon State Final. Strothers earned the hard fought victory, and, in doing so, became Saint Joe's first ever NJSIAA State Individual Bowling Champ.

*** For more on the Bowling team, see Page 7**

Vignette wins First Place in National Competition

BY JACOB ALEXANDER '25
Staff Writer

Saint Joseph High School's annual student writing and art publication was recently recognized by the American Scholastic Press Association. The Vignette received the Top Scoring Magazine award for 2022, and the advisors received First Place with Special Merit.

First Place with Special Merit was given to a publication that scored over 950 points and, in the opinion of the reviewer, was an outstanding overall example of a scholastic publication in format, content, and presentation. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and club moderators Mr. Paul Caruso and Dr. Robert Longhi '81. As the Fine and Performing Arts Chairperson, Mr. Caruso has been promoting art in the form of writing and fine art as an essential aspect of a liberal arts education.

The award is a springboard for the magazine, inspiring the staff and students to continue to improve the publication and maintain the high standards set by their predecessors. The award also comes with suggestions based on the scoring, which the staff and students take to heart and use to improve future publications.

According to Caruso, the magazine is the voice of the experiences of Saint Joseph men and showcases the best artistic expressions of the students, who represent their communities and generation. The Vignette, which spans 61 previous volumes, is an excellent example of what a student-created magazine can achieve in terms of content and design.



In the spirit of the Vignette's success, this is a poem written by Oluwaniademi Ogundana '24 for *The Falcon* newspaper.

The egg

The lanky figure stood desolate and dreary,
Peering at the trees who stood like stern sentinels in comparison.
The wind tried to push it back -
The last warning the uncontainable forest could give, but
The figure took a step forward.

Some trees stood confidently,
Some now logs of wood to tell tales of the
Power that often visited the forest.
The sun spied surreptitiously;
Having empathy for the lanky figure,
As it stepped on crushed bones of the once great warriors
Who dared to invade the forest.
Puddles of iridescent liquids also decorated the floor,
And the smorgasbord of mahogany,
Now noticing the lanky figures presence,
Began to roar.
Leaves flew everywhere, pushing it back,
Vines slithered through the floor, attacking from below,
But the rumors of what lay in the forest had to be confirmed.

It fought through the chaos that danced around,
And made its way to an impenetrable thicket.
The ghastly site shouted at it to turn around,
But the spell binding enigma of the forest pulled it in.
As it got closer...
Something glowed,
Through the spaces in the bark of the trees,
And they began to express color.
The sun had hidden, not wanting to see this part,
But this glowing object seemed to challenge the sun's prowess.

A white ball had come to replace the sun, as
The figure got to the middle, and stood in awe:
On a pedestal lay a golden magniloquent egg,
With layers of precious jewelry, embroidered on it.
At the bottom was a carefully arranged assortment of bones,
But the figure felt as though its life mission were about to be fulfilled.
The egg was transcendent;
It shone through the forest, as its rays danced around the world.
The figure carefully picked it up, and serenity so unrivaled came upon the forest.
The egg's glow mellowed down and he turned around with it,
Ready to step out of the forest,
And into the bright light.

Career Day Allows Alums to Give Back



BY NED ROSSI '24
Contributor

Every year, Career Day is one of the highlights of the academic calendar because of the ability for students and alumni to meet face to face. This year, over 40 alumni came back to the halls of Saint Joseph and spoke to current students about their careers, education, and pathways through life with the intention of inspiring the current students.

The presenters represented a variety of different fields, including Medicine, Law, Business, Marketing, and Sports Media. Students took part in three morning sessions with the presenters with each featuring an extended question and answer session.

After the opening sessions, students gathered with their class level peers to ask questions of larger panels of alums representing a variety of professions to hear different perspectives on what it takes to be successful after high school and how to capitalize on the lessons learned at Saint Joe's.

The success of career day is based on work from a number of people behind the scenes at Saint Joe's to make it happen, as well as the willingness of the presenters to come back and share the wisdom that can only be gained through life experiences.

The Saint Joe's Community thanks all who took the time to be apart of the event, and we look forward to expanding the day in the future.



Falcon Seniors Make College Decisions

Ruiz (Brown) and Algier (Naval Academy) are two of the many Falcons who made their college choices in January



BY TANNER TIGHELAAR '23
Contributing Writer

While many students make their college choices based on the variety of programs that the universities have to offer, there are an exceptional few who are able to parlay their hard work into prestigious programs that will carry them straight into their careers. Alejandro Ruiz '23 is just the latest example of a student achieving this honor, having been accepted into Brown University's elite Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME).

The PLME is an eight year continuum that allows students to continue from their undergraduate studies directly into medical school. The PLME is the only combined baccalaureate-MD program in the Ivy League and, on average, offers admission to less than 100 students each year, despite thousands of the world's best and brightest applying to the program. The students in the program complete their studies at Brown's Warren Alpert Medical School, one of the world's top medical schools.

Alejandro earned this honor thanks in large part due to his diligent work ethic, achieving a GPA of 4.868 while never once receiving a final year grade of less than an A+. He has had this impressive career while taking a course load of Saint Joseph High School's hardest classes, including 10 AP classes in the past two years.

Besides his work in the classroom, Alejandro can be seen on the court for volleyball and on the field for soccer, while also working his way into leadership roles in Math League, Chess Club, and, most visibly, in Campus Ministry.

BY ALEJANDRO RUIZ '23
Staff Writer

After a comprehensive application process, Charles Algier IV '23 was recently accepted to the U.S. Naval Academy.

The USNA was his top choice to continue his education as he wants to pursue a career as a submariner. USNA provides him with a unique opportunity to pursue this occupation as a member of the US military, serving his country.

Charlie will be able to attend the institution for free for the next four years of his education before serving as an officer in his position for a minimum of five years.

Throughout the intensive application process, Charlie was required to pass fitness and medical tests, earn a recommendation from Representative Frank Pallone, and endure several interview rounds. Throughout the entire process he was driven by his love for the school.

Because his father was part of ROTC at Notre Dame, Charlie says he "had always thought of ROTC as an option" for his education, but once he learned more about USNA through research and the summer seminar he "realized the academy was where [he] wanted to go."

Charlie hopes his time at the USNA will allow him to grow intellectually and as a leader. He is seeking a degree in mechanical engineering that will allow him to work with nuclear power in the future.

The SJHS community is extremely proud of him for achieving this feat which only about 8% of applicants achieve.

MUN Success Highlights The New Year at Saint Joe's

BY STEPHEN HORAN '25
Editor

In January, students participated in Model United Nations, a conference held in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Students from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New York gathered to debate current world issues.

Delegates debated these issues from the perspective of, and with the interests of, a specific country in which they were assigned. Debate took place in committees, which are small groups of delegates who write resolutions on topics including International Security and World Health.

Saint Joe's finished the weekend with a collective ten awards for outstanding performance. Jordan Gopez '23 earned the title of "Premier Delegate." This title is awarded to the single best debater in committee. Stephen Horan '25 was named "Premier First Year Delegate," making him the top newcomer in General Assembly B, the largest committee at the conference.

Four students, (Cesar Cepeda '23, Solomon Liao '25, Alex Fernandez '23 and Joseph Kickey '26) earned the "Outstanding Country" award, an award based on the collective performance of all delegates who represented a specific nation. Four other students (Howard Askelson '26, Troy Boucher '25, Marcus Justiniani '25, and Jordan Gopez), were awarded the "Outstanding Research Paper" award. This award is given to one delegate per committee based on the research they did about their country prior to the conference.

In addition to these awards, Giovanni Olivetti '24 and Tyler Quesnel '24 were selected to run next year's conference as officers. Olivetti will be leading the International Court of Justice while Quesnel will be the Editor and Chief of the Press Corps. To round out the accomplishments of the Saint Joe's delegation, two students (Gopez and Connor Spinelli '23) were nominated to attend the Conference on National Affairs, an accolade only twenty-four of the 900 delegates received.

It was a remarkably rewarding event for those involved, and with the accomplishments of the young delegates, the members are looking for even more success in the coming years.

Student Panel Meets the Class of 2027

BY GIOVANNI OLIVETTI '24
Managing Editor



On Thursday, January 26, the Saint Joseph High School Community gathered to celebrate the Class of 2027 for their accepted students reception. Members of the National Honor Society welcomed the future Falcons and their families. Over 20 Student Ambassadors participated in the Live Panel, where parents and accepted students could ask our current students about what it means to be a Falcon, as well as how to find their place in the school. The panelists spoke for over an hour about their experiences at Saint Joe's, as well as the Brotherhood and the Falcon Flock.

Swim Team Takes Talents to VA

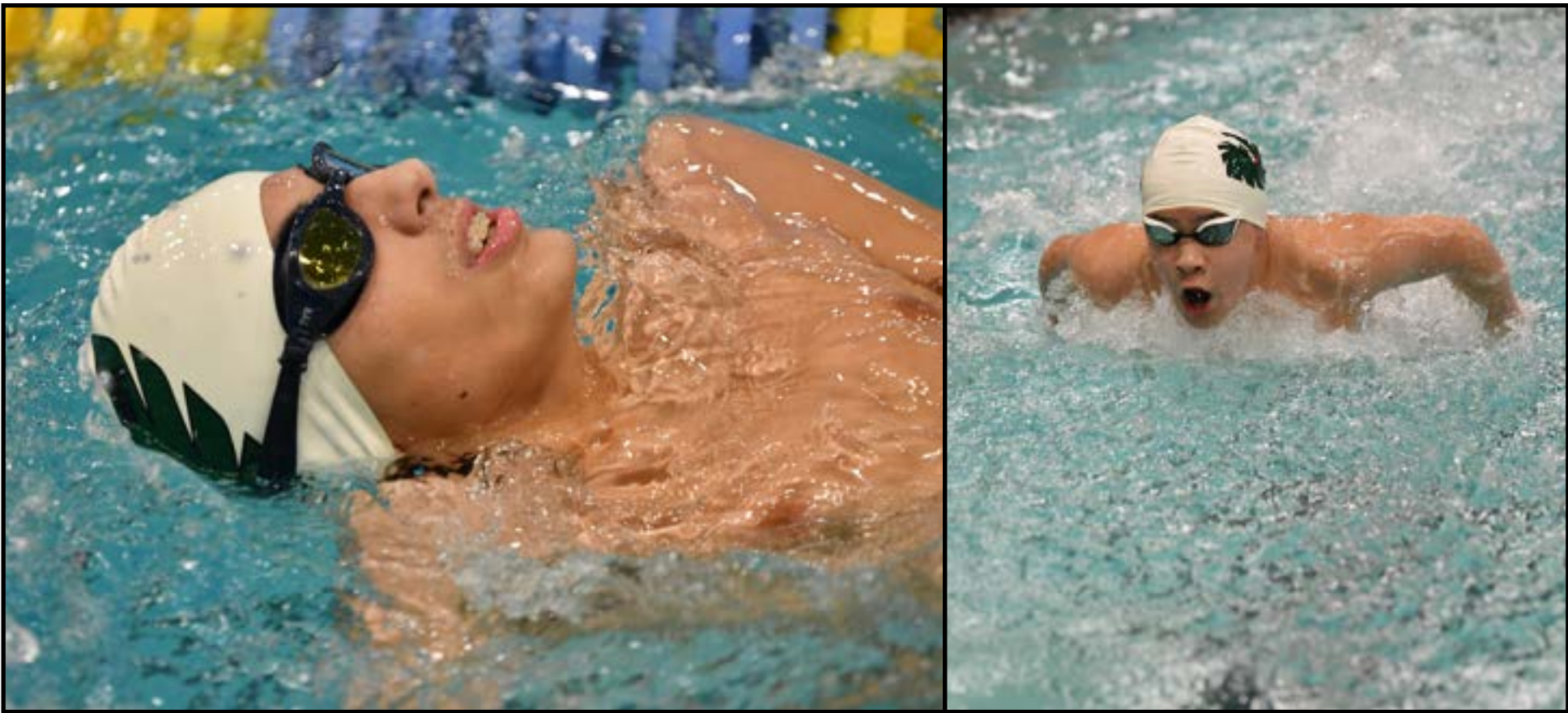
BY TIM KOU '25
Editor

The Saint Joe’s swim team competed at the National Catholic Championships for the second time in fifteen years. Catholic schools from across the country competed at the event at Loyola University in Baltimore, Maryland.

The swim team finished 16th overall out of 47 schools in the whole meet despite having very few swimmers. The team amassed a number of personal bests and high placements across various events from the six members of the swim team who represented Saint Joe's: Kyle Talerico '23, Tanner Tighelaar '23, Brandon Trivino '25, Chris Espiritu '25, Tim Kou '25, and Anthony Vasilov '26.

“It was a great experience and I was glad I got to go on this trip again. This year was my second time and it was just as fun as last year. There is nothing better than spending a four-hour bus ride with your closest friends,” Brandon Trivino '25 said. “This trip was always a good time for the team to bond together and I hope it stays the same for future years.”

Following up on the victory last year, the Falcons sought to keep their streak alive against Woodberry Forest School in Virginia. Facing them this year, the Falcons went into the dual meet knowing nothing about the opponent. Regardless of that, the team put up numerous personal bests during the championship meets. Eventually, the Falcons crept away with the win in a close 89-81 matchup.



NOMINATE A FALCON GREAT

Click the image to the right to nominate a Saint Joe's Athletics Alumnus for the Hall of Fame! Student athletes must have graduated in or before May 2017 to be eligible.



Bowling State Champs: An In-Depth Look



TIM HAKLAR '23

- 201 Average
- 258 High Game
- 695 High Series
- Owns three cats (Polly, Sunny, and Wyatt).



EJ CHIN '24

- 217 Average
- 289 High Game
- 706 High Series
- Above average golfer and decent guitarist



DEVIN KIESSLING '24

- 222 Average
- 300 High Game
- 742 High Series
- Works at Bowlero in North Brunswick and loves his job (does not do shoe rental)



ALEX KOZAK '24

- 175 Average
- 277 High Game
- 589 High Series
- Very good at video games and working with electronics



JASON PARK '24

- 147 Average
- 207 High Game
- 498 High Series
- Favorite band is Radiohead



WILL CUNNINGHAM '26

- 230 Average
- 300 High Game
- 750 High Series
- Would prefer to listen to music while bowling (but can't)



KAI STROTHERS '26

- 230 Average
- 300 High Game
- 802 High Series
- NJSIAA State Champ
- Eats fruit snacks to improve bowling ability

Falcon Wrestling Wins their First GMC Championship

BY GAVIN SZILVASI '24
Managing Editor

Six years ago, in 2017, the Saint Joe’s wrestling program did not exist. Now in 2023, the Falcons are GMC champions. On January 28th, head coach Mike Carbone led the Falcons to victory over Old Bridge, with 299 to 241 team points. In addition to a team championship, the Falcons also crowned five individual champions.

The individual champions included Giovanni Alejandro ‘23, who successfully defended his title. Additionally, Zach Beadling ‘25, Evan Mendez ‘23, Brian Christie ‘24, and Jake Tulli ‘23 all won titles for the very first time. Also, Tyler Whitford '26, Morgan Schwarz '26, and Julian Arango '26 all finished on the podium.

“All year we’ve been saying we wanted to win this tournament,” Alejandro said. “Every day in the room before practice, we’d say ‘GMC Champs.’ That’s been our goal as a team the whole year.”

This winning mentality completely changed the culture of the wrestling program as a whole and led to the amazing success that the team had at the GMC tournament.

This year, the Falcons are graduating eight seniors, but recent additions to the ranks will ensure that the program is in great hands for years to come. With this extraordinary victory this season, the Falcons will look to defend their GMC Championship title next year.



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