



EDITORS

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PINE-RICHLAND RAMPAGE

THURSDAY MAY 2ND, 2024 ^{NO} 19

"DELIVERING HIGH SCHOOL NEWS...ONE PAGE AT A TIME."



STAFF

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Pine-Richland Baseball is on a Roll

Baseball team will make a run for the WPIAL Championship

TRISTAN FARRAR STAFF WRITER

The Pine-Richland Rams Varsity baseball team is currently 14-2 overall and 8-1 in section play. The Rams just came off a series win against Butler 2-1 and swept both Seneca Valley and Allerdice. All the photos below are from games so far this season. The photos were taken by Mrs. Farrar, Tristan's mother. Junior Sam Heckert bought a big hat for himself and the team for fun: usually a player who pitches well or a player who hits a home run wears the hat.



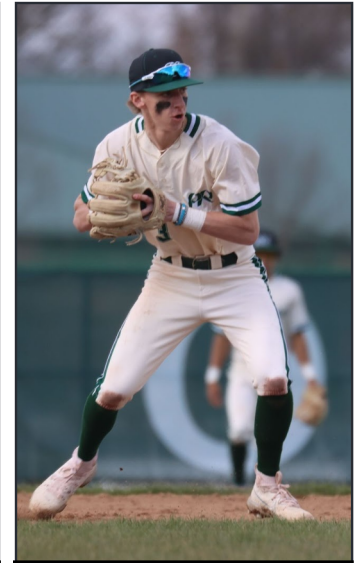
Sophomore Drew Boivin



Junior Jake Waddell



Juniors Sam Heckert and Keegan Diehl



Senior Danny Pederson



Sophomore Logan Plummer, Juniors Thomas Kapanowski, Anthony Mengine, and Coach Wolfe



Junior Anthony Annichine



Junior Tanner Cunningham



Junior Anthony Mengine



Finishing the Last Lap: *Two-Seventy-Five Down, Zero to Go*

ADDISON BARNES DESIGN EDITOR



Junior Addison Barnes with her heat ribbon

At the age of 2, I was signed up for swim lessons; little did I know that would compose the next 11 years of my life. From the ages of 2 to 5, every week I would put on my Disney princess swimsuit and set off for swim class. Lessons started with the basics, which included making sure I knew how to float and swim in an emergency, but then I started to learn the swim "strokes,"

which are butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle. At the age of 5, I was finally able to try out for my gym's swim team.

I remember hopping in and being told to do a fifty freestyle and then a fifty back. Once I was done, I was told that I made the team. One memory that my mom has told me about was the first time I went to practice: that right there, no more once-a-week swim lessons: now I was doing four times a week hour swim team practices. From what I was told, I did my first one-hundred, down and back four times. I guess I was not used to swimming that much and was breathing so heavily that one of the coaches thought I had asthma. Now do not quote me on this, for this is just what I remember being told.

For the next five years, every week, I would come home from school, eat a quick snack, and go straight to practice. I quickly was able to build stamina where I could easily swim for an hour without sounding like I was one lap away from passing out. A typical swim practice consisted of forty-five minutes of straight swimming, and then for the last ten minutes, my group would practice diving because we were the youngest. Then I remember for the last five minutes as a warm-down, we would be told

to swim non-stop until we heard the whistle blow. That was always the worst part of practice because you were tired and just wanted to "play" after practice till your parents told you it was time to go home, but instead, you had to nonstop swim.

However, my favorite part of swimming and what made practice all worth it were swim meets, probably because I would more times than not get a rainbow ribbon telling me I got first place in that heat. When you're on a club team, you have to travel for meets during the winter and summer, and meets would always be an hour or two away. It sounds crazy to me now that my parents were spending their weekend traveling to places like Slippery Rock, for example, just for me to swim for a few heats. Speaking of Slippery Rock, that is one of the few meets I can recall clearly because of how cold it was. Yes, the only reason I remember that meeting was because of how cold I was and the saltwater pool that I strongly disliked. My teammates and I were just cuddling up in cold, soaked towels, patiently waiting for our events to be over so that we could go home. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Oxford when I was younger and will always cherish the memories for as long as I can.

The year is twenty-nineteen, and it is my first year back to swimming after going on hiatus for three years while I was busy taking up tennis. I remember walking back to my second practice



Now Junior Addison Barnes with now sophomore, Kara Wang, Dalisay Quemado, and Ashlyn Anderson.

and not seeing a familiar face, which I will admit I was sad about, but I quickly made friends, and all was forgotten. Practices were held three times a week and lasted for an hour. Slowly building back up the pace that I lost from my vacancy of swimming, COVID decided to show up. Just like everywhere else, the club closed down, and I wasn't about to swim. I'm not going to go into detail about COVID-19 because we all experienced and know what happened. Months later, the club opened up, and so did the swim team, but with restrictions. The swim team was now called the swim clinic, and we were limited on how many people were able to join. Luckily, I got in every time, and so did my friends.

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Though I did have to re-learn to build up my pace because I decided to waste my life away during the "break," the unique swim team swim clinic was three days a week with dryland happening before each time we swam if the weather allowed. I remained in club swimming up until my sophomore year. I planned on doing it freshman year, but there was a misunderstanding, and I thought I could not join the team, but I'm getting ahead of myself. My last summer on Oxford's swim team was one of my favorite summers. Summer meets were the best, and the team was closer than ever. My favorite memory was when we were at an away meet, and my friend Clara and I were in a butterfly relay and were able to lap the other team by fifty. I did not know that at first, and I thought we came in last place, but we came in first, and I had to awkwardly wait till the other team finished.

Now we can talk about the school swim team. Last year, I was on our school's swim team. The practice was held every day after school and lasted for two and a half hours on Monday through Thursday, with dryland being the first thirty minutes, and on Friday, it was two hours of just swimming with no dryland. I will admit I did skip a few practices and solely regret that now, as it is disrespectful. Every week on Thursday, there are swim meets, and I always look forward to it. Away meets we were required to dress in business casual and for home meets we had to wear an article of clothing that said Pine-Richland swim and dive team. Bus rides to away meets were one of my favorite parts, playing music and talking to friends was a great way to end the school day. The team atmosphere was like family and everyone got along. Thus, why cheering on your teammate was the best part. When you place in first you feel this sense

of joy because you know how much effort was put into winning. However, the excitement you feel when your teammates break a school is something you can not explain. Hearing their name over the speaker just filled me with so much joy, because they truly deserved it.

Additionally, team "bonding" activities are also something I will

**"My favorite part about swimming was feeling free. It's just you and the water."
-Addison Barnes**



Left to right: Junior Addison Barnes, graduate Elizbeth Saffer, and Junior Abby Gregorowicz.

cherish. One of my favorites was when we were having a fundraiser at Stacked, and there was a "special" milkshake that you could get. I made a TikTok about what my other teammates thought of the shake and food and whenever I look back at the video, I get a pang in my heart because you could clearly see how well everyone got along with each other and how it was like one huge family. Team dinners, away/home meetings, and miscellaneous activities with the team are cherished in my camera roll and memories, and I wouldn't change it in any way. A few other of my favorite memories was when we were having our pictures taken and everyone was just fooling around. Senior night was another fond memory and an emotional one, as I am a sentimental person and seeing these seniors finally be done with the sport they have been doing for their whole life was just so sad to me. My most valued memory though was the swim banquet, knowing that the seniors were leaving in a few months and it was the last time the team would be all together, just made me feel a new emotion I never felt nor can explain.

However, paper plate awards did make me feel better because the awards were just so goofy. A month later, I was back in the pool room, swimming for the school's club team.

Once summer hit, swimming and I parted ways for good, and I have been happier ever since. I still will swim for fun whenever I am in the mood. I have been a lifeguard for a year and teach swim lessons to kids. This might sound sappy and stupid but, I am thankful for every moment I spent swimming and wouldn't change it in any way. I hope to fall in love with swimming again like I once was, but as of now, I am on the track team and happier than I was a year ago.



Pine-Richland Crew: *What It Means to Me*

JOSEPH DELIE STAFF WRITER



Crew set up at open house.

I joined the crew in the winter of 7th grade only because my parents wanted me to do something and not just sit around the house the whole day. I stopped playing baseball in fall of 7th grade.

My older brother James, a freshman at this time, was also doing crew so my parents thought that I should give it a try. Looking back I'm so thankful that I did because I made so many memories with teammates, and coaches.

The first memory I ever had at crew was when I was on the water for the first time at practice and I couldn't even do a complete rowing stroke. I just couldn't get it over my legs for some weird reason.

My coaches always tell me it was then that they knew I was going to be a coxswain. What is a coxswain? The role of the coxswain is to steer the boat, as well as be in command of the boat at all times. If you want a simpler definition, I am basically a coach on the water.

I'm blessed to be in the role I am in today because I get to know everyone on the team and it improves my leadership skills. Crew means so much to me. I've been doing it since I was 12 and now I am 18. My whole teenage years I've been doing crew. Do you know how crazy that is! I've grown so much since my first day of practice, not just in crew, but as a person I've got more confident in myself and my abilities.

Pitt Football: *Games Over the Years*

BROOKE DEEGAN STAFF WRITER

@26bdeegan66@prrams.org

Growing up, I would always attend Pitt Football games with my family. They were an incredibly entertaining excursion which I almost always enjoyed. As someone who is not a huge fan of sports, and who does not know a lot about them in general, I figured that sharing these little photos is an adequate way to express my appreciation for events such as these, as well as my wonderful family.





More Than Just A Game: What Softball Means To Me

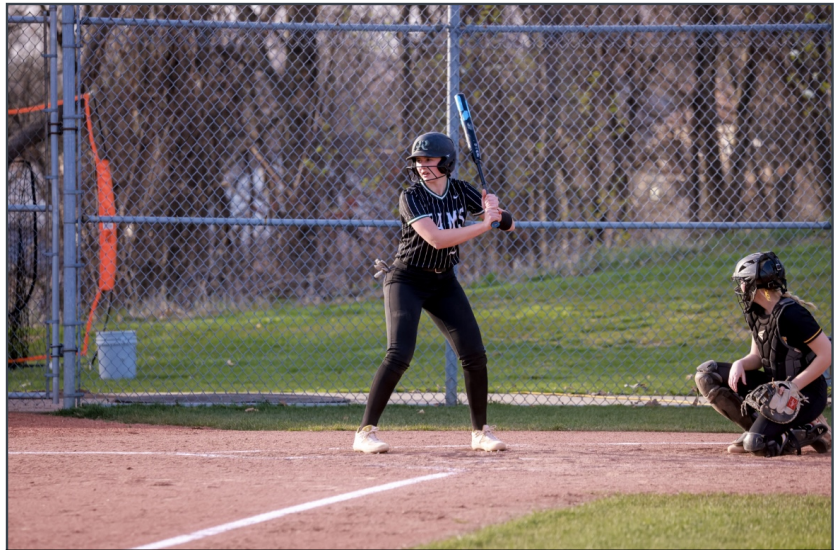
CALLE HENNE STAFF WRITER

There have been multiple times in my life where I have been asked, "Calle, why do you want to play softball in college if there isn't a professional league like the MLB?" I usually say in response, "Only a small percentage of college baseball players make it to the MLB so what's the difference if there is a professional league or not?" I've never been able to give much of an answer to that question because I've never really known why I wanted to play in college; it was just what I have aspired to do for as long as I can remember. But thinking about it now that I have committed to the University of Pittsburgh, my answer is simple- I can't imagine my life without softball because softball isn't just a sport, but it affects every aspect of my life and it is something I cannot imagine my life without. To me, softball is more than just a game. Softball makes me who I am. Not only that but playing softball in college is my way of making the little girl in me who first fell in love with the game proud. Never did she ever think she could have made it this far but here we are, and nothing is more special than



Calle at bat when she first started playing softball

that. I have only ever heard stories about when I first started softball because I was only around 3 years old when I started playing. My family jokes that my older brother Owen's first word was "ball" because of how early in life he fell in love with baseball, and that just carried down to me. Softball has raised me.



Calle at bat during her sophomore year, photos provided by Calle Henne

Softball has taught me how to work my way through ups and downs and how to persevere through tough times. Softball has taught me how to work within a team and how to understand my role. Softball has been the greatest teacher that I have ever learned from. A quote by a famous baseball player, Yogi Berra, is "The game is 90% mental and the other half is physical."

Nothing has resonated more to me than this quote. In softball, a batting average reflects the amount of times you have gotten a hit out of all of your at-bats, so a .300 batting average (which is considered a pretty impressive average) means for every 10 at-bats, you only got a hit 3 times. So you have to fail 7 times and still be proud of yourself for the 3 hits you got. I have always had high expectations for myself, so dealing with this failure has been a huge learning process for me. I have hit anywhere from 3rd in the line-up to not making the starting line-up because of being in a hitting slump. Although it is disappointing in the moment, I have grown as a person and as an athlete because of it. I've learned that overcompensating for my failures and trying so hard to succeed, just leads to more failures. But I have also figured out that I can analyze all my strikeouts, groundouts, and flyouts to figure out what I need to work on to become successful. Not only is this a softball skill, but also a life skill. I've applied this to school work, relationships, and various other aspects of my life to make my way one step closer to success with each bit of failure. Another transferable skill I have been introduced to is leadership. I was

CONTINUED...



Calle catching during an 18U softball game

named varsity captain during my sophomore and junior years so far. I was thrown into a new role I had never had before as a sophomore, and I was able to use the two juniors who were my co-captains with me to learn and lead to the best of my ability.

After a rough start, with only 2 wins through the first half of the season, the three of us were able to make the necessary adjustments and we were able to flip a switch and end up making it to the WPIAL semi-finals.

Softball hasn't only been a teacher, but also the only constant in my life. If I had a bad day at school, got a bad test grade, struggled at practice, or am just bored, there is one thing that solves my problems. Hitting. There have been countless nights when I have either gone by myself or with my brother or a teammate to the cages at 9:00 or later to hit softballs. It could be a Tuesday night or a Saturday night, it doesn't matter.

Hitting is a way for me to release my stress in a place where I am comfortable and I know I belong. Softball brings a feeling of comfort and confidence, especially when I am struggling with school because at least I have one thing going for me. Softball is my escape. When I am playing softball, nothing else matters. It is almost like I have a completely different mindset while at softball because there is nothing else in my brain.

Suddenly I realize that I only have one full season left before branching out on my own as I move on to college. Softball has gotten me through high school and will also welcome me into my next chapter of life at Pitt. Although I still have 5 years left, the day that I play my last ever softball game is the day that I lose a piece of me. Suddenly I will miss the bruises from getting hit with the ball. I will miss the automatic bonds that are formed with teammates. I will miss the knee pain from catching 5 games in a week. I will no longer be referred to as "Calle Henne the softball player." I will no longer get to use the excuse "Sorry I can't, I have softball." I will no longer get to bring out my competitive side while out on the dirt. I will no longer have my escape from reality. I will no longer be me because, to me, softball is more than just a game. It makes me who I am.



Calle getting ready to catch during an 8U softball game

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The RAMPAGE is published every week.



PR's Track Team Is Off and Running for the '24 Season

Get to Know These Talented Student-Athletes



ELLA BARKLEY STAFF WRITER

Junior Makailea Harrer

What events do you do?

"I run the 100m, 200m, and the 400m."

What is your favorite thing about track?

"I liked the idea of being able to socialize with friends as well as getting a good workout in."

What is your favorite event?

"My favorite event is the 200m because it's a fun distance to run and you can really push yourself to do better each time."

How long have you been doing track?

"I've been doing track for three years now."

Do you do any other sports outside of track?

"Outside of track, I play soccer as well."

What would you say is your hardest event?

"The hardest event I run is the 400m because you have to know how to pace yourself in order to succeed and halfway through you have to really rely on your arms."

Tell me more about your specific events.

"In order to train for my event, I attend all practices and run outside of school as well."

What do you eat or drink before a big track meet?

"I usually just eat a protein bar before practice and meets and make sure to drink lots of fluids throughout the day."

How are you feeling before you race your event?

"Before each of my events, I'm always nervous, but once it starts and I finish, I'm always glad I did it."

Junior Nicolina Phillips

What events do you do?

"I run the mile, 2 mile and occasionally the 4x800 meter relay."

What is your favorite thing about track?

"My favorite thing about track is cheering on all my friends during meets."

What is your favorite event?

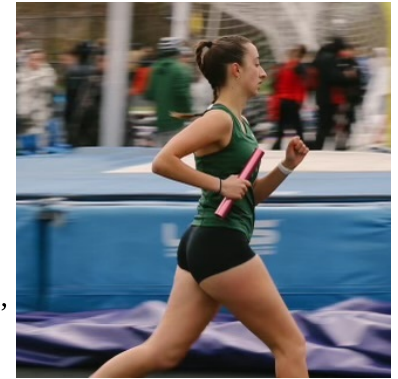
"My favorite event would probably be the mile because you can run slower and 4 laps go by surprisingly fast!"

How long have you been doing track?

"I joined track last spring because a bunch of my friends were doing it and I've loved it ever since."

Do you do any other sports outside of track?

"Along with track, I also figure skate and run cross country in the fall."



What would you say is your hardest event?

"I'd say the 2 mile is the hardest event just because it's so long. You have to stay mentally strong because you have to run fast for 8 laps."

Tell me more about your specific events.

"Throughout the week during practices, we do a combination of speed workouts on the track, hill repeats, and long runs throughout neighborhoods."

What do you eat or drink before a big track meet?

"Before my first cross country race, I ate honey nut cheerios and a GoGo Squeez applesauce and I ran really well, so I've kept it the same since."

How are you feeling before you race your event?

"Before my events, I try to stay calm and remind myself the faster I run, the faster I'm done!"

The Rampage is a student-created publication of Pine-Richland High School, 700 Warrendale Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044. The newsroom is room 221.

The RAMPAGE is available online every Thursday under the High School Resources Tab. It is written by students, for students, and will make every attempt to report all school-related news. We welcome freelance submissions, suggestions, comments, and story ideas from students and staff. Since this is a student publication, we realize we make mistakes. We encourage readers to report mistakes to the staff writers, and you may win a prize if you locate any/all mistakes.

Teacher: Mrs. Harshman



Junior Anna Amato

What events do you do?

“I run the 100m hurdles and the 300m hurdles.”

What is your favorite thing about track?

“My favorite thing about track is that it is a very social sport. I have met so many new people through track and there is always something new and interesting going on.”

What is your favorite event?

“My favorite event would be the 100m hurdles. I prefer the more sprinting based events and to me, the 100m hurdles are fast paced and exciting.”

How long have you been doing track?

“I have been doing track since 8th grade.”

Do you do any other sports outside of track?

“In addition to track, I play soccer.”

What would you say is your hardest event?

“Personally, I feel like one of the hardest events is the 300m hurdles because it takes a lot of energy and requires endurance as well as speed.”



Tell me more about your specific events.

“I train for hurdles by doing workouts that are related to strengthening the muscle groups I am using when jumping hurdles and also by doing speed and endurance workouts which benefit from getting faster times. I train at the track at the high school, but also around my neighborhood.”

What do you eat or drink before a big track meet?

“Before a track meet, I don’t like to eat too much food, but I usually try to grab something that will give me energy for my race. Most of the time it’s fruit or an energy bar and I try to drink a lot of water leading up to meet days.”

How are you feeling before you race your event?

“Before my events, I usually feel very nervous, but once I am on the starting blocks, I just take my time to focus on the event at hand and finishing the race.”

Senior Dinner Dance

Tickets \$40

MAY 31, 2024

GATEWAY CLIPPER FLEET

6:30 PM BOARDING

10:00 PM RETURN TO DOCK

Permission slips available in the library and outside room 210

Tickets available for purchase (exact change or check made payable to PRHS Class of 2024) during the week of May 6-10 in the library before school and during HR.

*Additional \$\$\$ needed to park in Station Square

YEARBOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DURING ALL LUNCHEES ON MAY 21.



We made an Instagram! Scan the QR code or follow us @pinerichlandrampage.

ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY STUDENTS



Capturing Track & Field Moments: *Fun Photos*

FRANCESCA GUZZY STAFF WRITER



Freshmen Eva Bloom and Francesca Guzzy with Kona Ice after distance workout



Back row, left to right: Kona Lair, Ellinor Bowen. Middle row, left to right: Karisha Patel, Eva Bloom, Piper Rios. Front: Francesca Guzzy



Freshmen Francesca Guzzy getting ready to run the 100



Eva Bloom, Ella Davis, and Francesca Guzzy sitting on field



Eva Bloom stretching for Track



Eva Bloom, Ella Davis, and Francesca Guzzy taking a picture at first scrimmage



Track: My Favorite Sport: *Not Just A Team, A Family*

ELLA DAVIS STAFF WRITER

When signing up for track three years ago, I didn't quite know how much it would change my life for the better. After running my first season of cross country the previous fall, I was pretty hesitant to join track because I wanted to run all year round.

I eventually decided to sign up just to try it out. I immediately fell in love with it. I began trying to push myself in ways I never thought possible. I began to consider the travel team, but I still had a long way to go. So I began working. Every day I would show up to practice and push myself. I had always heard a saying about running, "The pain is only temporary."

It's hard to understand from a running perspective, but runners do push themselves beyond the limits at practices and put their bodies through pain to reach their goals. While they may not feel it during the moment, they are getting better each day.

Good running takes good consistency. We run at least 6 days a week whether that be a

track workout or even reaching as far as eight miles, it helps us improve our times and reach our goals. I eventually made the 4x8 relay team and the 800-meter race has been my passion. I even made the high school relay team as a freshman and I also run on the 4x4

relay team sometimes!

However, the friendships that I have made are the most important to me. Without deciding to join the track team, I wouldn't have half of the friends that I have now. It boosted my confidence and helped me understand my limits. Everyone becomes so close and is so supportive of each other. It's just such an amazing place to be. I have truly found myself through running and I hope to continue this journey throughout the rest of my life.

Running has also helped me with my mental health. Running with friends always makes me feel better and I always look forward to seeing them at practice. Whenever I feel stressed, I just go on a run to clear my mind.

I don't know where my life would be without running and I think the track has made me happier throughout the years. I am so excited to make new memories and see the new things that I will be able to accomplish.



Left to right: Freshmen Anya Wickard, Ella Davis, Sophomore Ella Yanni, and Freshman Annabelle Burk

COLOR RUN: Join Peer 2 Peer for the 9th Annual Color Run/Walk on May 19th. Registration is officially open. The cost is 15 dollars through May 15th. Registration forms are located in the Guidance Office. Lastly, if you or a favorite company in the area are interested in sponsoring this event, please consider donating.



Wishing You Had Never Given it Up: *The Regret That Comes With Quitting a Childhood Sport*

LILLY REMBECKI STAFF WRITER

One of the first things parents sometimes do when their child is as young as 3 is put them in a sport, whether it be ballet, karate, or another sport; at least that's what my parents did.

I was signed up for ballet at the ripe age of 2 until I left it for jazz dance at 7, something I never should've done and regret every day.

Now that I'm older, I want nothing more than to go back in time and convince my younger self to not even dare consider quitting.

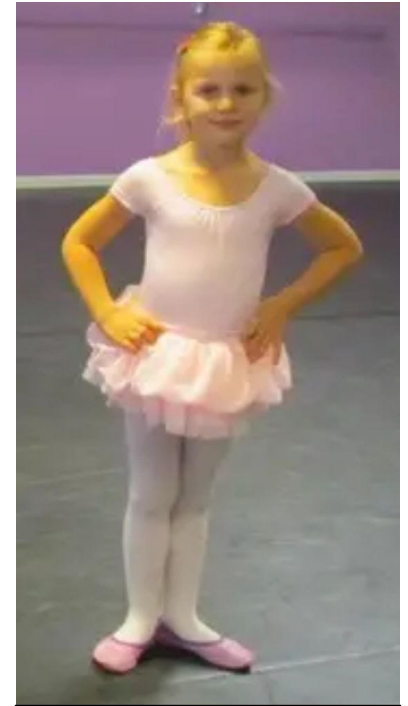
The biggest thing about quitting isn't even that I wanted to become a Prima-ballerina in the French opera house, but because there would've been something that was "my thing" that I would've been good at.

Many teenagers probably know what I mean: the feeling of being made for something.

And just maybe, the hobby I gave up on so long ago was exactly what I was supposed to do with my out-of-school life.

So now I just scroll through different ballet performances and imagine that I could've done that myself in a few years too. I know that technically returning to ballet would be possible, but it's just not the same as a life-long commitment to training and working towards that career.

I really hope that I do gather the courage to one day pursue something similar or at least stop grieving something as silly as a sport I did in kindergarten.



Lilly in 2012

AFJROTC NEWS: Senior AFJROTC cadet James Cerny was presented with the Music Excellence Award and a \$250 scholarship at the annual American Legion Youth Achievement Awards Banquet on April 21st. James was recognized for nearly 800 hours of community service and for his work as a volunteer firefighter. Congratulations James!



Comparing the Big Three of Motorsports



What's the Difference, and Which is the Best?



BLAKE FUCHS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

I'm sure most people have some familiarity with motorsports. There are currently three disciplines which are the most popular and prominent in both the national and international viewpoints, and there are major similarities and differences between them. So let's delve into the similarities and differences between my self-dubbed Big Three-Formula One, NASCAR, and IndyCar, and I'll try to determine which is the best to watch.

Formula One is described by many as "the pinnacle of motorsport." It does make sense, as they are running on the most famous tracks around the world, reaching crazy speeds and doing things millions would dare dream of being able to do behind the steering wheel of a race car. Formula One (or F1 for short) is the European fan's favorite motorsport, with it gaining some popularity in the States over the past few years due to the Netflix docuseries *Formula One: Drive to Survive*, as well as the addition of two new US races to the calendar, bringing the total up to three. But what sets it apart? For starters, F1 is known for its distinct open-wheel cars, where there are no covers over the wheels, leaving them somewhat exposed. This leads to minimal contact between drivers on the track, and relatively fair battles. Some of the more notable races throughout the year include the famous Monaco Grand Prix, which I'll mention again, and the F1 calendar hosts various historic circuits such as England's Silverstone Circuit, Belgium's Spa-Francorchamps, and Italy's Monza Racetrack. But if you are a new fan it's kind of hard to see the interest in F1 as Red Bull driver Max Verstappen has dominated the past three or so years, winning 38 of the most recent 49 races, in which he starts from first place then runs away and isn't seen until he wins. This is so predictable that by the end of the first race this year, a majority of F1 fans were already celebrating Verstappen's fourth consecutive driver's championship, even with 23 races to go. This hasn't changed, and if it wasn't for Verstappen's brakes having issues in Australia, he would still have won every race this year. I'd recommend watching a driver and/or team that isn't Verstappen and Red Bull, though I can't stop anyone. My current favorite driver is the lone American Logan Sargeant, and my favorite team is the Prancing Horses of Ferrari. Also, don't expect to watch every



Max Verstappen leads the F1 field into Turn 1 at the start of the 2024 Japanese Grand Prix.

race live, unless you're staying up at very early times to watch Verstappen run away for three hours.

If Formula One is the sophisticated European open-wheel circuit series, then there has to be the American counterpart that is nothing like it, which is what **NASCAR** is. The National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing is most renowned as being the series where if anyone mentions it at all the response they'll most likely get is "Oh, you mean where they just turn left and go around in circles?" Yes, I am bitter from hearing this so often. Most of the time when one thinks of NASCAR, they think of the large banked triovals where realistic-looking cars race side by side for 500 miles and nothing happens. However, it's not just that. Those are superspeedway races, and there are only about 4 of these large trioval races held throughout the 36-race season. Plus, it's interesting and exciting to watch where the different lines shift as drivers to try to get to the front, as well as pit strategies. In essence, superspeedway races are long, well thought-out chess matches. There are a few mile and mile-and-a-half tracks and some shorter tracks that are even less than half a mile long. NASCAR even has a couple of road courses, with Sonoma Raceway and Circuit of the Americas, which has also held an F1 race since 2012. The reason that the cars look the way they do is that they were originally cars run by bootleggers who souped them up to escape police during Prohibition and then just raced them afterward. That's why they're called "stock cars," because they're meant to look like actual cars you see on a daily basis.

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The field of 40 cars ready to begin the 2024 Daytona 500.

Currently, there are three manufacturers with their own style of car—Ford with their Mustang Dark Horse, Chevrolet with their Camaro ZL1, and Toyota’s Camry. NASCAR has been significantly less popular since its peak in the early 2000s, and gimmicky additions such as the playoffs and stage racing haven’t necessarily helped either. The upside is that there are around 40 drivers that compete regularly, with some teams entering for the Great American Race to kick off the season in February, the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway. NASCAR is one of those motorsports where you either love or hate it, and the push to try to make it more relevant in the past few years has had some success, with Ross Chastain’s video game-like move in 2022, the Garage 56 entry into the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France, where a modified Camaro ZL1 competed alongside prototype cars in a 24-hour long endurance race, the three-wide finish at Atlanta this year where winner Daniel Suarez edged out Ryan Blaney by 0.003 of a second and third place finisher Kyle Busch by 0.007 seconds, and their own Netflix show, *NASCAR: Drive to Survive*. It’s not to say they’re not trying, and I’d recommend checking out a race if it’s on, such as the GEICO 500 at Talladega on April 21st, or the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte, held on the same day as the Monaco Grand Prix but later in the day, on Sunday, May 26th.

And finally, somewhere in between the styles of F1 and NASCAR is **IndyCar**. IndyCar is what would happen if someone combined the open-wheel car type and track styles of F1 with some of the oval tracks of NASCAR. It’s kind of the middle child in terms of respect currently, with it getting fewer average viewers per race versus NASCAR and F1, but has made advancements to be significantly better over the past 15 years. It has some of the most exciting street course races on a week-to-week basis and even though Alex Palou won five out of the 17 races that year, there were still some

amazing battles for not only the lead of races but throughout the pack. There are multiple former F1 drivers that currently race in the series as well, such as Romain Grosjean, Marcus Ericsson, and Alexander Rossi, so there is no lack of talent in IndyCar. The most famous IndyCar race to be held is the Indianapolis 500, the Greatest Spectacle in Racing. It is also held on the same day as the Monaco Grand Prix and Coca-Cola 600, being in between the former and latter on the date of May 26th this year. Indianapolis Motor Speedway is like no other racetrack; and while it’s a 4-turn oval, this 2.5-mile behemoth can hold more than 250,000 people at one time, topped by nowhere else in the world. The Indy 500 is, like most IndyCar races, incredible to watch, seeing cars hit max speeds of 240 miles per hour in qualifying, an average of around 234 over a whole lap, and around 10 or 20 mph slower during the actual race. But to be able to see the field go three-wide rounding turn four is unbelievable to see even on television, as I have many times. The road course races are still great, but the Indianapolis 500 is unmissable.

So if you’re still looking for a racing series to start watching, which one is the best? The answer is: yes. All three have their pros and cons, and I’d recommend either just going in blind and picking an upcoming race off the calendar and just watching it in full, or seeing some highlight videos that are around 15 or so minutes and deciding if that would be worth watching for more than 12 times that amount of time. There are other racing series which are fantastic as well: The World Endurance Championship, which hosts the 24 Hours of Le Mans, IMSA, its North American counterpart, AMA Supercross, a dirt bike series that races in NFL-size stadiums across the country, or MotoGP, what you’d get if you made special-made motorcycles for circuits that F1 cars race on. The amount of different race series one can check out is numerous, and I’d highly suggest checking out one, if not multiple, of these aforementioned disciplines. Who knows? Maybe I can make a new fan of one or more of these car racing series. At the very least, just know that there’s more to these series than just cars going around in circles.



Scott Dixon entering Turn One to start the 2023 Indianapolis 500.



Lament of A College Football Fan

BLAKE FUCHS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

As many of you may know, April was National Poetry Month. I'm not necessarily a fan of poetry when we have to hyper-analyze it, but sometimes it can be fun to create some. That is exactly what I hopefully did here. Not for at least 5 years has such a monumental shift in the overall landscape of college occurred, and for many, myself included, have disliked what it looks like now. With that being said I bring you, *Lament of A College Football Fan*.

What happened to college football?

Before everything made sense.

It was the big five

and five others, just smaller

in their own little regions of the country

It made sense.

But TV networks gave more money

and more money

and more money

and the amount of cash was now all schools cared about

so they left their little regions

for bigger ones.

The first move would be on July 19, '21.

Less than two years,

but it feels so long ago now.

Texas and Oklahoma, to the Southeastern Conference

and the first two rivalries died.

Battle For the Chancellor's Spurs, Texas v. Tech,

73 games total, 63 in a row

until now.

And Bedlam.

118 meetings between Oklahoma and State,

running since 1910

until now.

Nothing would look the same.

The Big 12 was now 8.

Moves needed to be made.

So to the little leagues they looked.

And on September 10, '21,

they had their answer.

Three from the American Athletic,

and one more they chose.

Cincy, Central Florida, Houston,
and loner Brigham Young would be picked.

As one more rivalry died,

as Central and South Florida's War on I-4

would cease to exist for the time being.

A northeastern, southeastern, midwestern, and west coast school.

This new Big 12 was cross-country.

Texas and Oklahoma was a stretch,

but this was too far.

What had happened?

One month later, the American was fine.

Six to replace them,

UTSA, UAB, Rice,

North Texas, Charlotte, and FAU

joined the now larger little league.

More moves were made

with the Sun Belt and Conference USA,

but for now they're not as important.

For now.

All was calm, for some time.

Then things got worse.

From the Pacific 12 USC and UCLA would leave

for the Big 10, a northeastern conference.

The thought of getting more money

and as Pac-12 TV talks stalled

they jumped ship.

This was worse.

Who could replace them?

And this seemed wrong,

14 northeast teams plus the two west coasters.

Then Colorado left the next year,

followed in suit by Arizona, State, and Utah.

Then it got worse.

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Six became four as Oregon and Washington left
for the Big 10, of all places
killing two more big rivalries.
Oregon vs State,
127 games total, not since 1944
was it not held.
And the Apple Cup,
115 meetings between Washington and State,
1944 was it also last not held.

And finally, four became two
after Cal and Stanford left
to the Atlantic Coast Conference
who also picked up SMU.
Why does an east coast named conference
have one midwestern
and two Pacific coast schools?
Easy: the money.
And with the Pac-12 now just the Pac-2,
the ACC might lose a few too.
What happened to these conferences?

There have been some advancements,
but it seems to come at the expense of
school loyalty, and one's teammates.
With the new and improved Transfer Portal,
Anyone can go anywhere
with no problem
every single year of their career!
And NIL is good, but it feels more obvious
that players are just getting paid big to play at some schools.
What happened to the integrity and loyalty?

What happened to college football?
We went from two championship teams
to four
to twelve
to fourteen
before we even got to see twelve
in about 15 years.
The 12 team playoff is good,
which should be better than the 4 team playoff,
which was better than the BCS,
which was better than having no championship game.

But what is too much?
Is 12 enough? I think so.
But if not, what happened to the best
playing the best?
What is too far?

What happened to college football?
A lot, actually.
Some changes I like,
some I don't.

I'll miss seeing the SEC on CBS
or the Big 10 on ESPN and Fox
or the ACC on ESPN.
I'll miss seeing players on my team
for four or more years.
I'll miss seeing the historic rivalries
that have to end just because.
But the network shuffle
with more money being thrown around
is going to make more changes.
And more traditions will end
and more moves will be made
and it will all be crazy,
like it already has been.
So look out for that.

I love college football,
if it wasn't evident already.
It's my love that wants things to make sense
and for not everything to come down to just money
like it always seemingly does.
But like it or not, things are changing
and they're gonna change again.
But even if we know the inevitable,
we can still ask ourselves the same question:
What happened to college football?



FBLA's New York City Trip

An Incredible Opportunity for FBLA Members

ALEX BYWALSKI FREELANCE REPORTER



Cohort Members: Liam Hillman, Josh Lanyard, AJ Verszyla, Alex Bywalski, Grant Spacciapolli, Brody Rogers, Tyler Schurman, Colin Barrett, Timothy Peng, Mike Tunder

Pine-Richland's FBLA is a very prominent club at the school that has garnered a well-respected reputation due to its monthly speaker sessions and its annual states trip to Hershey, PA. However, for the 2023-2024 school year, the officer team, along with club advisor Ms. Blaze, decided to ditch the Hershey trip and try a whole new experience. This would be an experience like no other offered to FBLA members in the past: a 4-day trip to New York City. Included in this trip would be a multitude of behind-the-scenes activities relating to business operations in the city that the general public couldn't access. We were to be accompanied on the trip for all 4 days by a tour guide named Steven from EF Tours, and he was to guide us through town during the many long walking days.

This trip didn't come as just a vacation, however, as the 26 members of the NYC cohort had to stay after each monthly speaker series for an extra 2 hours to work on their respective topics for research. Each group, comprised of 3-5 students, was assigned a topic to research related to something we would be seeing in New York. My group consisted of 3 members total, including me. It was myself and AJ Verszyla, both general club members, accompanied by club Secretary Mike Tunder. Our topic was the Big 4 Accounting Firms.

Late March came, and after months of preparation, presentation night finally arrived. We were the very first group to present, and it went quite well, as we were able to set the pace for the rest of the groups. With our presentation out of the way, and after learning about the other topics covered, we all felt ready to leave for NYC. On Monday, April 8th, we left very early in the morning for the airport. We flew out around midday and arrived in LaGuardia around 3:00 pm. Upon meeting Steven, we boarded the coach bus en route to Central Park to view the eclipse. After the eclipse viewing, we went to dinner at an authentic NYC pizza restaurant and then went on our way to an all-glass outdoor observatory platform in the newest part of NYC, which was called the Edge at Hudson Yards. The views were immaculate, and tons of photos were taken. Arguably the best part of the whole observatory was the huge glass floor, which was completely see-through to the bustling city streets below us. Although some of the group was freaked out by the glass floor and its extreme height, everyone agreed that the Edge was an amazing experience.

The second day, Tuesday, was a tiring yet amazing day. We did a ton of walking and got to see a multitude of different things that I had never seen before in my many previous trips to New York. We began by taking a behind-the-scenes tour of the United Nations complex. We got to learn all about what goes on in the UN, who and what they are as an organization, and some of the rich history of it. We were able to walk into many different prominent meeting rooms where real-world decisions are made daily, but easily the coolest part of the tour was being able to walk into a room and spectate a live meeting that was happening in front of us. After that, Steven took us to PWC, a Big 4 accounting firm, to speak with a senior partner about her experience, advice, and journey to becoming a partner. That was an experience that absolutely could not be replicated, as it was only possible due to Steven having a connection. Seeing the topic that my group researched in person felt very redeeming. We ate some more authentic NYC pizza during the PWC meeting, and later, we walked to Grand Central Terminal, where we tried more different food from small vendors. After that, we walked to Herald Square, where the massive Macy's department store is located. We took a tour of the

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store, which turned out to be very interesting, attributed to our intriguing tour guide, Todd. Todd was one of the most interesting and different people I think that I have ever met, and although the tour itself wasn't the greatest, his bringing a smile to everybody's face was what we all remembered best. We finished the day with a nice dinner and nighttime shopping in Times Square.

Wednesday, our last full day, was incredible. We began by taking some time to shop in the morning, in which I bought a Carmelo Anthony t-shirt. During that shopping time, a group of about 10 club members decided that we needed to try an authentic NYC bakery before we left. We found one after a bit of walking, and it was amazing and 100% lived up to the hype. After that, we hopped on the bus and embarked on our way to the Statue of Liberty tour boat. The boat ride took us down the Hudson past all of Manhattan and Jersey City, and we got to see Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty from the boat. Seeing those in

person was something that I've only done twice, both being a very long time ago, so it was awesome to see them again. After that, we went for lunch at a market-style place and then went to the captivating 9/11 memorial and museum. The museum was something I'd never done before, and it was extremely emotional even though I didn't live during the event. Seeing how affected some adults were in that museum truly put into perspective how 9/11 had such a massive impact on the country.

We capped off the day by traveling up to the One World Trade Center observatory to see the city at night, which was another astonishing experience. Thursday began with a behind-the-scenes tour of Madison Square Garden. The tour, to be completely honest, was not as enriching as it could've been. I had previously been to MSG in 2022 for a Knicks game, which probably altered my opinion slightly. The reason behind this is that everything that was presented to us on the "behind-the-scenes" tour was stuff I had been able to see through my general admission ticket 2 years prior. Even though MSG was set up for a hockey game (which was disappointing as a basketball fan), and we didn't get to tour the locker rooms, or see any players, the tour was still a cool experience that I'm glad we did. We went back to the market-style lunch place for food, and after that, we took a tour of Wall Street with another very interesting, yet extremely knowledgeable tour guide named Jared. We went back to Oculus, the subway station/mall on the World Trade Center grounds, for some shopping,

and then we headed to the airport. In all, this experience was something that I wish I could relive once again, as the opportunities that we were offered were just so incredible to have been a part of, and the people who were on the trip made it even more enjoyable. My advice for anyone reading this is to join FBLA and take advantage of the opportunities offered within the club.



FBLA watching the solar eclipse



CHAPTER 14



Chaotic Ride

Maddie Hogan, Kiera Moskala, Ana Pena Gonzalez, and Francesca Guzzy

Tony continues driving the group out of DC temporarily so the parents won't find them. They head into Reston, a nearby Virginia town, just a few minutes out of D.C.

"Oh my gosh, guys. My parents are going to kill me—" explained Hudson worried, "They are so mad right now."

"Shut up Hudson, You are acting like you are the only one with problems on this trip. We all have parents on our back trying to punish us." said Rory. "Wait guys who is that?" The group turned around to see Sebastian driving the SUV with Hudson's Mom in the front seat.

"ANTHONY SPEED UP!!!" Rory exclaims calling her best friend by his first name.

"You got it, Ro, hold onto your hats guys," Tony says as he steps on the gas and decides to make a U-turn between the dividers.

"OMG WE ARE GONNA DIE." Ivy screeches

"WEEEE COME ON IVY, LIVE A LITTLE," Tony yells, taking another sharp turn to get the SUV off their tails.

"I think we lost them, for now," says Ivy, fixing her hair after those intense turns.

"Good call Rory, I don't think they can catch up to us now. You seemed to realize so quickly they were following, how could you tell?"

"Guys we have a problem—" Hudson explains, "We don't have money since cards are declined and we are running low on gas."

"I know what to do," Rory says as she reaches into the back to get her guitar from its case. "Pull over Anthony."

Tony parallel parks on the street. Rory runs out with her guitar in hand while the group stands and watches her start to play the song her Dad taught her to play, "Life is a highway".

For a couple of minutes, no one appears, but after some time, Rory gains a multitude of kids and adults watching her play on the guitar. People soon start dropping money in the guitar case for the group.

"Wow! She's really good" Tony exclaimed as he encouraged everyone to keep donating one-dollar bills and coins.

Soon enough the group gained enough money to get the gas desperately needed and continued with their adventure.

Tony started the car and they went on the road looking for the nearest gas station.

Rory starts humming a song when Hudson whispers in her ear.

"I haven't forgotten what you said earlier" His tone shows annoyance and hostility.

"I don't regret it. We all have our own problems and issues, not just you. I feel like you are trying to make this all about you. We went to museums because you were upset and you still complain?" Rory snapped back.

"My problems are worse. My parents followed us all the way to DC and are fuming. You're such a—" Hudson gets cut off.

"Guys calm down—" Ivy explains, "We are here at the gas station. Hudson, go to fill up the gas. I'm going to the restroom."

Rory and Tony decide to enter the gas station for some snacks and water. As they enter, they see a familiar face at the register buying snacks.

"We got to go Anthony." Rory explains as the pair quickly leave.

SENIOR DINNER DANCE: Attention Seniors. The Senior Dinner Dance will be held Friday May, 31st on the Gateway Clipper. Tickets will go on sale the week of May 6th before Homeroom in front of the library for 40 dollars. A permission slip must be turned in at that time. Permission slips are available outside room 210. Be sure to bring extra money to pay for parking in Station Square on May 31st. If anyone has questions they can contact Dr. Sipe or Mr. Pollock.



CHAPTER 15



4 Seasons til' Sunrise

By: Logan Blackwell, Sophia De Jesus, Avery Hoffman, Riley Beck, and Blake Fuchs

Rory's face turns pale and pulls Tony into the snack aisle and ducks down.

"What's wrong? Are you good?" Tony whispers to Rory.

Rory puts her fingers to her lips and widens her eyes.

She fearfully mouths *Emily* while pointing to the register at the front of the store.

They overhear her conversation on the phone as she waits in line to buy her snacks,

"So they lost you a day ago? Sebastian, they're probably miles away by now-"

She pauses for a moment.

"You have to find them please, you know what happened with me and them, please I'm your sister!"

Tony mirrors Rory's nervous expression and softly whispers, "Follow me."

They weave through the aisles of the store, and leave out of the side entrance, making sure that they weren't seen by their unfriendly adversary.

Once they escape to the freedom of the parking lot, the pair sneak around the store's exterior, stealthily hopping into the car. Nothing was stolen and nobody saw the two of them.

"Okay we're heading out!" Tony exclaims, sliding into the driver's seat.

"Wait, weren't you going to get snacks?" Ivy asks.

"We can stop somewhere else. Emily was there."

"Yeah, that's probably a good idea." Ivy says leaning back in her seat to relax.

The group goes silent for a minute, the past few days being some of the most hectic in their lives.

"I can't believe the concert's in two days!" Tony says trying to keep up the mood.

"Oh my gosh I almost forgot how close it is, I'm glad we're already in D.C. at least, I thought we'd never get here." Rory gushes.

"I'm excited to go see the new stadium, called Nationals Park. I think the concert's going to be great. It's crazy that it's being held almost right after opening!" exclaims Ivy.

"Do we know if we're going to a hotel? Would we even be able to get a room?" asks Ivy.

"Obviously," snips Rory. "Do you think I wouldn't have thought of that before?"

"Do we have money for that?" Ivy asks, tilting her head.

"I need to sleep somewhere *good*, not some regular old Hilton hotel." Tony says, rolling his eyes.

Tony's cell phone rings, the NOKIA ringtone startling everyone.

"Speaking of hotels, Grandma's calling!" Tony quips as the loud ringing resonates through the car.

"Wow, how convenient," Hudson deadpans.

"Hey Tony, I heard you were looking for a hotel. I've just booked two rooms at the Four Seasons for tonight, okay honey?"

"The Four Seasons? Woah!" exclaims Ivy.

"Eh, I've been there a few times. My grandma knows one of the managers there. Plus, it's not too expensive," comments Tony.

"Not too expensive? It's \$2,000 a night!" exclaims Rory.

"That's chump change for me. That's the perks of being in the lower upper class, unlike you upper middle class pigs," snarks Tony.

"Well, if you're going to be such a jerk you should just get your own room," jabs Hudson.

TUNE IN NEXT WEEK FOR MORE CHAPTERS!



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