



# The Guardian

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Saint Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, NJ

Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022

## Spirit Week is Back and Better Than Ever!



Photo by Barry Donnelly '21

*The freshman team exhibited extreme school spirit during the volleyball game.*

**By Michael Mainelli '24**

Spirit Week, one of the most cherished events at St. Joe's, occurred from February 28th to March 4th. Spirit Week is a time where the SJR community can come together and celebrate the brotherhood with competition and service. SJR's student council planned special activities and donations for each day of Spirit Week. Students were also allowed to pay to dress down at school for the whole week at the price of \$10. The money raised from the dress down went to one of four charities that each grade selected. The total amount of money that went to each charity was decided by the collections and events that took place during the week.

On Monday, there was the collection for the week-long dress down day and a collection of cereal boxes. St. Joe's students came together to raise a total \$3,400 for the dress down day. They also successfully donated 132 boxes of cereal, with the sophomores bringing in the most with 51 boxes.

On Tuesday, a collection for baby wipes and diapers took place, along with the school-wide handball tournament. SJR collected 129 units of diapers and baby wipes, with the seniors having the most with 51 units. At 1:00, the students

and faculty gathered in the gym to watch some of the student body compete in a handball tournament. The seniors defeated the sophomores in the semifinals, and the juniors beat the freshman. The seniors ended up winning the tournament against the juniors in the finals.

On Wednesday, the SJR community came together to celebrate the start of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Mass. A drive to collect winter coats also took place. Collectively, SJR received 50 winter coats, with the seniors bringing in the most with 21.

On Thursday, St. Joe's held a baby toy collection, as well as the much-anticipated volleyball tournament. The students collected 73 baby toys, and the sophomores brought in the most with 26 donations. At 1:00, SJR hosted the volleyball tournament, which turned out to be extremely entertaining. In the semi-finals, the sophomores beat the seniors, and the juniors defeated the freshman. Unlike handball, the volleyball tournament also had a loser's bracket, in which the seniors won against the freshman to take third place. The juniors ended up defeating the sophomores in the finals, making them the winners of the tournament. This volleyball tournament, along with the handball tournament, was easily one of the most fun components of Spirit Week, and the SJR students look forward to doing it next year!

With each collection and competition, every grade played for a specific charity that they voted for, and the results for each charity were revealed on Friday. The seniors chose to donate to Esopus (SJR's Marist Center), the juniors chose to donate to Wounded Veterans Project, the sophomores chose to donate to Single Mothers Outreach, and the freshman chose to donate to Voices of Children (providing aid to children in Ukraine). Based on the combined total from the sports competitions and donations, the sophomores won the most points for their charity, with the seniors, juniors, and freshmen following respectively. This meant that the Single Mothers Outreach would receive the most money compared to the other charities that SJR donated to.

Spirit Week was an amazing opportunity for the school to come together as a community and have some fun, while also raising money for a good cause! Both the students and faculty had a great time, and they are looking forward to it next year!

## Feature

# 60 Years, 60 Things About St. Joe's



*The parking lot at SJR, next to a riding stable, used to be the field where gym classes were held.*

**By Barry Donnelly '71**

SJR will be completing its sixtieth year of excellence in Catholic education this June (1962-2022). Here are thirty things you might not have known about the first six decades of SJR's history.

1. St. Joe's was originally supposed to be built in Ho-Ho-Kus, about a mile from IHA. Zoning regulations in the township necessitated the move to Montvale.
2. When the school year opened in September 1962, 40 Chestnut Ridge Road was still under construction, so the 144 freshmen attended classes in Our Lady of Mercy School in Park Ridge.
3. SJR was formally opened and dedicated on September 4, 1963, in ceremonies presided over by Archbishop Thomas Boland.
4. The Xaverian Brothers administered the school from 1962 to 1997.
5. Five Xaverians served as principal of St. Joe's: Brother Sylvere, Brother William Shepard, Brother Joseph Smithers, Brother Peter Russell, and Brother William Cushing.
6. SJR's first lay principal was John Job (1997-2007).
7. SJR's first alumni principal was Barry Donnelly '71 (2007-2016).
8. SJR's eighth and current principal is Michael Bruno '05 (2016 to the present).
9. In 2016, SJR switched to a President-Principal leadership model. Barry Donnelly '71 was named the school's first

President in 2016; he was succeeded by Kevin McNulty '78 in 2019.

10. SJR was accredited by the N.J. Department of Education and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools for the first time in 1967.

11. The first valedictorian of SJR was Charles B. Urnick '66, who was also the first graduate to become a priest.

12. The school's first student council president was Dennis Champion '66, who was also its first salutatorian.

13. In the summer of 1968, Brooklyn Dodger Hall of Famer Roy Campanella conducted a baseball camp at SJR.

14. Under the direction of Coach Bob Murphy, track was SJR's first powerhouse sport. In fact, the 1969 track team was named "Team of the Century" by *The Bergen Record* in 2000.

15. In 1970, the SJR student council hosted a concert at the Stanley Warner movie theater in Paramus, featuring the rock group Mountain. Opening the show was Rod Stewart, then lead vocalist of the group Small Faces.



*Brother Firman drops the puck in an intramural hockey game held on what is now the practice football field.*

Please email letters to the Editor to [sjrguardian@sjrnj.org](mailto:sjrguardian@sjrnj.org)

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# Feature

## 60 Years, 60 Things About St. Joe's



*Archbishop Thomas Boland cements the cornerstone as part of the dedication ceremony on September 4, 1963.*

16. The first sectional title ever won by an SJR athletic team came courtesy of the tennis squad of 1972.

17. In 1973, a fire in the Brother's Residence forced the closing of the school for a week.

18. In 1974, SJR welcomed its first student from Rockland County. Previously, all students had come from Bergen County.

19. In 1975, Harry Chapin, who had two monster hits nation-wide in "Taxi" and "Cat's in the Cradle," played two shows in the SJR gymnasium.

20. In the fall of 1978, the soccer team won the state sectionals and played the state finals at Giants Stadium, dropping a 2-0 game to St. Joe's Metuchen.

21. In 1984, Frank Salvano joined the school faculty. He coached the varsity baseball team from 1984 to 2015, and his 638 victories make him the winning-est coach in Bergen County history.

22. In 1985, Tony Karcich was hired as head football coach. When he retired in 2013, Karcich was the winningest coach in Bergen County history with 338 career victories.

23. In 1985, SJR won 50 Commodore computers in a contest sponsored by WAPP-FM and built its first fully equipped

computer lab.

24. In 1986, Michael Doherty '82 returned to SJR to teach. He has been coaching SJR basketball since that time and has 528 career wins (and counting!).

25. In 1986, Max Middendorf '85 debuted for the Quebec Nordiques and scored against the Edmonton Oilers.

26. On April 29, 1987, New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean landed his helicopter on the football field during the school day. The student body was on hand to greet him.

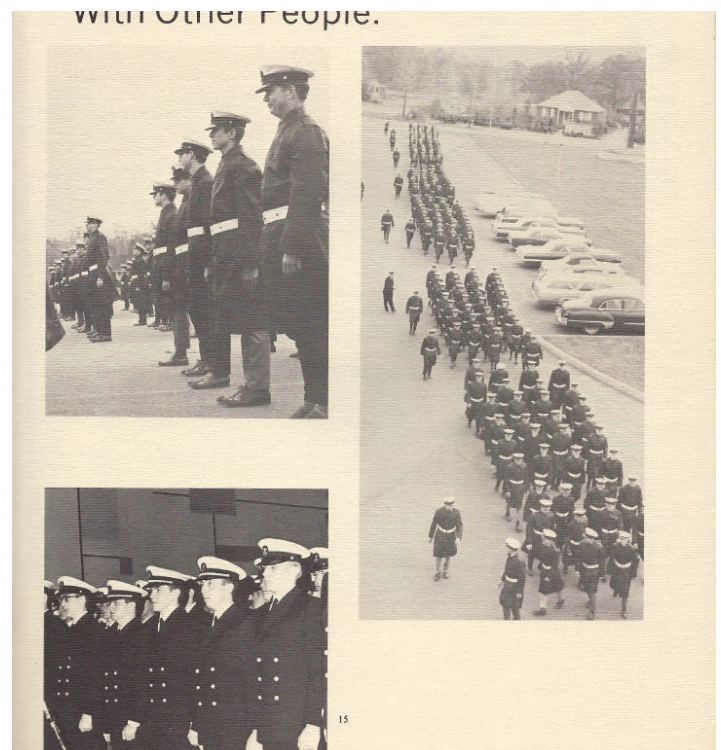
27. In October 1987, SJR celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a Mass for students and 500 guests.

28. In December 1987, the Green Knights captured their first state football championship with a 7-0 victory over Bergen Catholic.

29. In 1988, the Green Knights ice hockey team traveled to Switzerland, where they played three games against the hometown Swiss teams and won all three.

30. In 1988, SJR debuted its "youngest" varsity sport, when the Green Knights played their first varsity lacrosse game.

30 More Things About St. Joe's Coming Next Issue!



*SJR had a dynamic Naval ROTC program from 1968 to 1980.*

## Feature

# Bruce Zeman '87 Goes Down in Broadcasting History



*Bruce and Hobbes were inducted into the Vermont Association Broadcaster Hall of Fame on December 4, 2021.*

**By Nicholas Steinhauser '22**

Recently, Bruce Zeman '87 and his dog, Hobbes, were inducted into the Vermont Association Broadcaster Hall of Fame. Hear what he has to say in this interview!

***What was your experience at St. Joe's like? How did it help you for your future career?***

When I got to St. Joe's, I was a shy kid. I was fortunate to meet Barry Donnelly, who became a mentor to me. One of the things he taught me was to connect with people, and speak from the heart. From him, I realized if you connect with people and share your experiences, people will "get" your message. At St. Joe's, I learned to follow my passion and make a difference in the world.

***Where did you meet Hobbes? Why did you adopt him over other dogs?***

I had just moved back from Vermont to New Jersey. I had a lot of things going on in my life. One day, I was at the radio station, and got a call from the Addison County Humane Society, here in Middlebury. At that moment, I did not have time for a dog and had no intention of getting one. When I arrived at the shelter, they introduced me to a tiny dachshund, who had bloody welts all over him and had obviously

been abused. I found out that a man and his three children had done this to him, and I was furious. I knew I had to act, so I adopted him on the spot. I brought him home, and for a few days, we left him alone. Then one day, he peeked out at me from under a chair, and as he looked at me, I quietly said to him, "This is YOUR house, these are YOUR toys, and NO ONE will EVER hurt you again." Not long after that, he ran out from under the chair, jumped on my lap, and let out a huge sigh - almost like he knew he was finally home. From that moment on, we were always together. He never left my side, and I never left his. When he died on July 28, 2020, he left this world in my arms.

***What was your radio experience prior to owning Hobbes?***

I had just started working at WVTM in Middlebury, when I learned about Hobbes. The station was pretty new and was trying to develop a following and make more money. As soon as I rescued Hobbes, I started talking about him on the radio. As the days went by, more and more people wanted to hear about Hobbes. That's when I came up with the idea of doing the show with him - something no one had ever done before. That's when the idea of Bruce & Hobbes was born.

***What radio stations did you work on with Hobbes? What was the experience like?***

The economy in Vermont and New England was challenging during the 2010's. WVTM is, and always will be, our home, but because of the challenging financial environment in New England, we did work at a few other stations. In 2017, we came back for good, and Hobbes and I were never happier. We were home for good.

Having Hobbes at the radio station was crazy and always a lot of fun, with stuff going on. We had politicians, bands, celebrities, and local leaders, which is why we call ourselves, "Addison County's Radio Station."

We decided to name the show, "The Wake-Up Crew with Bruce & Hobbes," and from the time he joined the station, the revenue, ratings, and popularity went through the roof. I talked to him during the show, and he was trained to do commands, so he played a big part. Hobbes was not a marketing gimmick, he was my co-host, and a good one. Around this time, social media just came out, so we started a Facebook Page, which we still have, called "Bruce & Hobbes - Your Two Best Buddies." Between Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, we have over 20,000 followers around the world!



## Feature

# Bruce Zeman '87 Goes Down in Broadcasting History



*Up until Hobbes's death, Bruce and Hobbes were the hosts of the "Wake-Up Crew with Bruce & Hobbes."*

### *What kind of service did you do with Hobbes?*

Hobbes and I would travel around the country visiting schools, hospitals, businesses, nursing homes, or any other place people wanted to talk about making the world better. Our talks would center on bullying, domestic violence, and kindness. This came about as our show became more and more popular, and people discovered us on social media. My wife, Tami, and I wrote a book, "Hobbes Goes Home," about these topics and visited over 300 schools across the country talking about it. The book became so popular that President Barack Obama wrote us a letter about it, which became the book's forward. As word about the book went viral, several educators called "Hobbes Goes Home," the MOST IMPORTANT children's book ever written, which is quite an honor. We donate almost 100% of the profits from the book's sales to about 200 animal rescue charities around the world. People can still purchase the book at [www.bruceandhobbes.com](http://www.bruceandhobbes.com).

### *How does it feel to be inducted into the Vermont Association Broadcaster Hall of Fame?*

I was shocked and humbled. Due to all that he had accomplished in his life, Hobbes belonged in the Hall of Fame, but my inclusion was a complete surprise. Hobbes was the first canine in American history to be a full-time, morning radio show host. With his induction into the VAB Hall of Fame, he is the first dog in history to be inducted into a broadcasting hall of fame. I am so proud of him, and feel this cements his legacy, as a change agent for animals.

We are forever indebted to Ken Barlow, the Managing Partner of Vox Media, who gave us the chance to do what we do each day. Anyone can sell radio ads, but that's not what we do. We change lives with our work, while promoting what happens where we live. I've worked in a number of other places, and there is NO one I'd rather work for, or with. When we were inducted into the Hall of Fame, three Vermont Governors (Phil Scott, Peter Shumlin and Jim Douglas) took part in our induction ceremony. What meant the most to me was when Ken officially inducted us. There is no way I can ever repay him for that.

### *What is your plan for radio broadcasting going forward?*

I plan to keep Hobbes' legacy alive by doing good. The radio show continues, although it's now "The Wake-Up Crew with Bruce & Friends," and features two other dogs, Zoey and Calvin, who are both dachshunds. Zoey, in particular, has a story that is difficult to tell because of how much it upsets me. Zoey had been locked in an abandoned warehouse in Brooklyn, New York, and was left to starve to death. Fortunately, I learned about and saved her on Christmas Eve, 2017. Since then, Calvin, Zoey, and I do the show each morning from 5-10 AM.

We have two new books coming out, "Hobbes Goes to Work," and "Finding Zoey," and we will donate the sales from them to animal rescue groups. With all the new technology, people can stream our show each morning at [www.921wvtm.com](http://www.921wvtm.com), or see what we're up to by visiting [www.bruceandhobbes.com](http://www.bruceandhobbes.com).



*After Bruce adopted Hobbes from the Addison County Humane Society, they were inseparable.*



# Spirit Week - Handball



*SJR's Spirit Week took place from February 28th to March 4th.*

*Counter-Clockwise from top right;*

*Pierce Kelly '22 making a huge shot against the juniors in the finals;*

*Jake Capozzi '23 excited to play handball in celebration of Spirit Week;*

*Brendan Stapleton '22 going in for the score against the sophomores;*

*Ryan Cunningham '24 passing the ball to one of his teammates after a successful block;*

*Tanner Kurtz '22 and Yasin Willis '24 racing against each other to catch a pass.*

*All photos by Barry Donnelly '71*





# Spirit Week - Volleyball



*SJR's Spirit Week took place from February 28th to March 4th.*

*Clockwise from top left;*

*Michael D'Eletto '22 returning the ball to the opposing side;*

*Brendan Errity '23 performs a no-look volley over the net;*

*Mr. Kintish fitting out his beach attire for Spirit Week;*

*Frankie Panissidi '23 waiting for the next serve from his opponent;*

*Nick Wronski '23 and Charles Wicker '23 were the managers for the junior volleyball team.*

*All photos by Barry Donnelly '71*





## Entertainment

# March Madness is Back Once Again!



*March Madness is, for both players and fans alike, one of the most entertaining events in sports every year.*

**By Aidan Woods '22**

March Madness is back once again, and it is considered to be one of the most exciting times of the year in sports. The league is made up of 68 college basketball teams competing in a single-elimination bracket. One of the main reasons for excitement in March Madness are the upsets; more upsets happen in this event than any other sports tournament. Nothing is more exciting than watching an unheard basketball team beating an absolute powerhouse. From the upsets to the buzzer beaters to the team that is crowned national champions, nothing beats March Madness!

One of the hardest things for March Madness is actually guessing every part of the event's bracket and choosing who is going to win the entire tournament. Millions of people across the world create their own brackets, yet they still have great difficulty coming up with the perfect bracket. If a fan makes a perfect bracket, he or she correctly predicts every single game that occurs, without any inaccuracies. However, this almost never happens; very few people expect 15-seed teams to make it as far as the Sweet 16, such as Florida Gulf Coast University and Oral Roberts University. Although these 15-seeded teams beat the 2-seeded teams and break people's brackets, they also win the hearts of many people. This is what makes March Madness so exciting, since upsets are both unexpected and fun to watch!

The NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament does a great job of hosting such a large number of games in such a short amount of time. The first round of March Madness began on March 17th, and the championship game is

planned for April 4th. This means that the NCAA holds 63 in only 18 days, so all fans of college basketball get to enjoy a 3-week commitment to watching the tournament.

March Madness is also entertaining due to the interesting commercials that the NCAA produces, which tend to star basketball legends. These commercials can also capture the interest of people who don't watch sports.

Another very exciting aspect of March Madness is how passionate the fans are to have their alma maters to win the tournament. Every team in division 1 basketball has a chance at making the tournament. Some teams, such as Michigan State, Duke, University of Kansas, and Villanova, are basically guaranteed to participate every year. These teams tend to be fan favorites that consist of popular coaches and players. On the other hand, there are teams like Bryant University, St. Peter's, CSU Fullerton, and University of Delaware that unfortunately do not play in the tournament often. Despite this, for the fans who get to watch their alma mater potentially win the March Madness championship, this tournament is one of the most enjoyable times of the year.

March Madness, just like every year, is expected to be a wild and exciting ride. There will most certainly be many upsets, and players that have the games of their lives may get the opportunity to play in the NBA. March Madness is anticipated by fans and players alike to be one of the greatest events in sports this year!



*In this year's March Madness bracket, Villanova (second seed) faced against University of Delaware (fifteenth seed).*



## Entertainment

# *The Batman* Offers a New, Interesting Take on the Dark Knight



*The Batman* gives the fans a new and darker vision of Gotham City.

By Ashton Samson '23

In a dimly-lit interrogation room, a police commissioner mutters directions under his breath to a man dressed in black. "Through that door. Hallway to the stairs that go to the roof," is what he says in a guttural voice. It soon becomes clear that this commissioner is giving the man in black a way out of the building as a swarm of distrusting cops storm towards him. Soon, the commissioner has been punched in the face by this prisoner, who is trying to buy time. He runs as fast as he can, with a hint of desperation and anxiety in his eyes and ends up on the edge of a roof. This man seems to be afraid of heights; he almost jumps back from the ledge, seemingly having just processed where he is. Donning a wingsuit, he jumps off of the building with some apprehension, gliding through the night sky before taking a vicious tumble onto the streets of...Gotham City!

Reader, if the last thing you ever expected me to say was that this is a description of a scene from *The Batman* and that the prisoner in question is none other than the Dark Knight himself, I would understand. Witnessing the iconic, caped crusader receiving directions on how to leave a building, being petrified of his altitude, and finally landing in a harsh, clumsy crash, is unorthodox for a Batman movie. Although it takes a bit of getting used to, this new interpre-

tation of the iconic superhero is just the kind of revelation that this genre needs!

So how exactly does *The Batman* transcend the stereotypes of the superhero genre? Well, for one, unlike many superhero films, the generic, now entirely overused formula of CGI one dimensional villains is nowhere to be seen. In fact, Matt Reeves, the director, has made it clear that the film shares little with its predecessors, and that he was much more influenced by crime dramas such as *Taxi Driver*, *Seven*, and *The French Connection*.

There are only a few action sequences in the three-hour long film; one car chase in particular might very well rank among the most impressive and suspenseful ones in any superhero film. Certainly, the villains in this film are fully realized, and actors like Colin Farrell, who is nearly unrecognizable as Penguin, take their cues more from films' mob bosses. The grittiness and vision of a corrupt world is at its most fully realized and bleak, with Reeves utilizing his significant runtime to develop the tone and thematic content of this rich film.

*The Batman* has ample time to explore what it truly wants to be. With certain scenes shot in the dark of night, punctuated by highly unnerving music and characters appearing out of the shadows, it feels like a horror film. At others, it is a romance, a coming of age story, and even a mob film.

However, what Reeves ultimately decides is the genre that best fits the character of Bruce Wayne and the world of Gotham City is a political thriller. For years, I have known that Batman had the potential to be told as a man trying with all his might to start a movement of reform in a world of corruption. This story has always been conveyed in the Batman universe, but not to the degree that it is here. This interpretation is more compelling because it adds an additional conflict. Bruce discovers that his father, who he revered all his life, was actually corrupt himself! The conflict of a young man trying to save a city from people who were similar to his father is a very interesting one.

It is difficult to think of a time when Bruce Wayne was not being depicted in the entertainment industry. He has been ever-present, sometimes in more successful films than others. However, he has certainly always represented the era in which movies about him were being made. While I am not an advocate in any way for telling the same story over and over, if Hollywood insists, the best story to revisit is Batman. As long as the filmmaker is responsible and completely reinvents the world of Gotham City to embody our times, I will happily come along for the ride.



## Sports

# Varsity Basketball Turns in Another Successful Year, With Bright Future Ahead



Photo by Karyn Ochiuzzo

*This year's varsity basketball team had an impressive run this year by making it to the Bergen County Quarterfinals.*

### By Timothy Doherty '23

The St. Joe's varsity basketball team produced yet another impressive season, amassing a total of 15 wins. After starting off with a sluggish 2-4 record, the team finished off strong with a 13-5 record before falling to Oratory Prep in the state tournament.

This season was highlighted by non-Big North Conference wins against Newark Arts, Columbia, and Union City, and commanding league wins against tough DePaul and Paramus Catholic teams. The Green Knights also had a perfect record at showcase events over the course of the season. The team made it to the Bergen County quarterfinals and look to improve upon that finish next year.

The varsity squad looks to be an even more dominant force in the Bergen County 2022-23 season, with 8 out of 12 of its players returning. Of these returning members, some of them have received All-League honors, which is great news for the future of the program.

Donovan McKoy '23 was received 1st Team All-League recognition, Christo-

pher Williams '23 and Jahmir Joseph '25 earned 2nd Team recognition, and Mason Piorkowski '23 received an Honorable Mention. McKoy also received 2nd Team All-Bergen County recognition.

Coach Michael Doherty '82 commented on this success, "I'm really proud of this year's squad. They were an extremely hard-working and unselfish group that showed tremendous growth and improvement over the course of the season. Coupled with the success of the JV and Freshman teams, I'm excited for next season."

Next year undoubtedly looks promising for the SJR varsity team. They look to be a powerhouse, not only in the league and county, but in the state as well.

In addition to the varsity team's success, the junior varsity squad finished their season with a 14-7 record, and the freshman team had a record of 15-4. Both teams made it to the semi-final rounds of their county tournaments.



Photo by Karyn Ochiuzzo

*Jahmir Joseph '25 making a layup shot against Tenaflly High School.*



## Sports

# Lacrosse Team Gets Ready for New Season



Photo from SJR Instagram

*Captain Marc Manfredonia '22 is in his new uniform for SJR lacrosse's 2022 season.*

### By Conor Mahoney '22

The 2022 spring season will be an exciting one for the Green Knights, especially for the Lacrosse team. The team comes in with high expectations for this season and has the roster to do extremely well. This year's squad will be led by senior captains Jared Zevzavadjian, Nico Kross, Owen Finetto, and Marc Manfredonia.

The offense will be led by Providence commit Finetto, who scored 16 goals and tallied 11 assists in last year's shortened season. He will have Zevzavadjian (Salve Regina commit), Peter Edmonds '22, and Michael D'Eletto '22 (Kenyon College commit) to assist him. Rutgers commit Duke Richman '23 and Thomas Brennan '24 and Isaac Cruz '24 will also help the team's offense.

The defense will be led by two-year starter Manfredonia and Wagner commit Kross. Manfredonia also returns after scooping up 23 ground balls in last year's season. With the help of Patrick Schutz '22, Ryan Collella '23, and Dylan Rummel '23, this year's defense is an absolute powerhouse.

The Green Knights also return two junior all-stars in Kyle Rummel (Lafayette commit) and Cooper Kurtz. Rummel took 226 face offs last season and won 57.9% of face offs, and Kurtz took 46 face offs and won 54.3% percent of faceoffs. In the net, St. Joe's has returning starter Ryan Cunningham '24. Last year, Cunningham recorded 156 saves in 14 games.

Coach Dan Daponte commented on his expectations for

the 2022 season: "We should be back in the mix as one of the prominent teams in New Jersey this year. We had a great 2019 season and would have been exceptional in 2020, but we lost that season due to COVID-19. The 2021 season brought growing pains with our youth movement and unfortunate injuries, especially playing in the Gibbs Division."

"However, that will pay off this year, as we have much needed experience returning to the field. We return 5 of our 6 top defenders (Kross, Manfredonia, Schutz, Rummel, Colella), led by senior long stick middle Nico Kross. Standout sophomore goalie Ryan Cunningham also got much needed experience as a freshman."

"The midfield returns one of the best face off men in New Jersey with Kyle Rummel, who should help us retain the ball more than our opponents. Veterans Jared Zevzavadjian and Peter Edmonds bring leadership to the attack unit, and I think we boast some of the most dangerous midfielders in the state with Owen Finetto, Duke Richman and Isaac Cruz."

"This team reminds me a lot of our 2020 team, with a bunch of offensive players that can create for each other. If the boys continue to play fast and tough, then we should be heading for another good year."

The team opens up the season with an away game at Mountain Lakes on March 30th, and then travels to South Carolina for two games on April 1st and 2nd against top competition from the Palmetto State.



Photo from SJR Instagram

*Captain Owen Finetto '22 posing in his new SJR lacrosse uniform.*





## Sports

# Golf Team Excited to Repeat Success from Last Season



Photo from SJR Instagram

Conor Mahoney '22 on the tee at the Darlington Golf Course.

a great mix of upperclassmen and underclassmen, as well as new and returning players,” said Coach Rooney. “I am excited to see these boys get on the course and really show the other schools in the county and state that we are riding the momentum from 2021.”

It is great to see increased interest in SJR golf, as it will set the team up for greater success in the years to come. This may attract future Green Knights, who may be impressed by the team’s elevated status so much that they will join it when they come to St. Joe’s.

Veteran Conor Mahoney commented on the new season, “I’m very excited for the 2022 season! Coming back this year as defending state sectional champs is a huge deal and means a lot to all of us returning this year. I am expecting the same results as last year, as I and a few others have some big shoes to fill. Starting out in my freshmen year winning only four matches and coming with big expectations in my senior year is very exciting. This really credits our coach, Kevin Rooney, who has turned the program around as he enters only his fourth year at SJR. Without him, none of this success would have been possible!”

### By Rob Egan '22

Spring is here, and the golf courses will begin opening shortly for the 2022 golf season, which just started for the returning state championship golf team here at SJR. The varsity squad finished with a 19-2 regular season record in 2021 and came out on top in the State Sectional Tournament, ahead of rival and #1 team in the county, Bergen Catholic. After all the hard work, the team was rewarded with a #2 ranking in the county and #9 ranking in the state.

The success of the team in 2021 has really increased the interest of golf at the school, as 32 students are now interested in playing golf at St. Joe’s. Tryouts have begun to see who will make the team, as players are taking sessions at the driving range, an indoor golfing simulator, and other golf courses. The first competition for SJR golf will begin on April 1st, against Pascack Hills High School.

SJR is looking poised for another successful golf season in 2022 and with a strong cast of returning players. Coach Kevin Rooney '02 is confident that the 2021 season was not just a one-time success. The team will have to do it with the loss of three key players last year in Liam Krey '21, Tomas Spero '21, and Dominick Mas '21.

The team has six returning players from last year: Robert Egan '22, Conor Mahoney '22, Pierce Kelly '22, Michael Konig '22, Padraig Leahy '23, and John Souva '23. “We have



Photo from SJR Instagram

John Souva '23 in the middle of a fairway during practice.