

We at the Cupola pride ourselves on delivering an accurate and entertaining newspaper to the Hilltop. The Cupola follows the truth and respects it, wherever it may be found.

THE CUPOLA

“LET THERE BE LIGHT!”

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From TikTok to the Quad: Hacky Sack Returns

By Jordan Rittenberg

In the summer of 1972 in Oregon, two men created a brilliant invention: a handcrafted beanbag that they could kick around with astonishing control. They called this invention the “Hacky Sack.” Now, 54 years later, it has made an incredible comeback among students at prep schools.

Salisbury is no different from the crowd, with Hacky Sack seemingly coming out of nowhere. Walking around the quad, it has become a normal sight to see a group of 6–8 students circled up kicking around the small sack. It has cemented itself as one of the hottest activities this spring.

Instructor in Mathematics Mr. Adam Mayer remembers Hacky Sack being very popular when he was in college. “It was wicked popular; everyone loved a little hacky sack. We would play a lot of music, blasting out of the dorm windows, a lot of Birkenstocks, and a lot of people playing hacky sack out in the quads. It was a big deal,” he said.

Mr. Mayer mentioned his sophomore-year college roommate, remembering how much he loved to play Hacky Sack. “He loved Bob Marley, loved to play hack, and I loved to play hacky sack with him. Lucky was his nickname. He was a great guy,” Mr. Mayer said.

Now many years later, it has been brought back, and it all seems to be from one person: Jake Acosta ’27, a star varsity baseball player. “I originally saw it on TikTok, and I ordered some because I thought they were pretty cool. I brought them down

to practice one day, and all the boys just kind of fell in love with it,” Acosta said.

While some think it’s just a trend, Acosta believes otherwise. “Summer’s coming up. Everybody’s got their rainbow slides and their hacky sacks. I think it’s going to live on for a while,” he said. “It’s going to be a little hard to sack in the winter, but that’s why we have our indoor turf.”

Instructor in French Mrs. Julia Barbato has a different opinion on the matter. “I think it’s just like every 20 years, this cycle happens again. I’m not surprised that it’s come back. But I wouldn’t be shocked if it doesn’t last long because it will just get so overplayed and then we’ll be on to the next thing,” she said.

Although Mrs. Barbato believes the trend may eventually fade out, she still understands that there is a positive impact it is currently having on the community. “I love that guys are outside, not on their computers, not on devices, not playing video games, not cooped up in their rooms, and I enjoy the fact that it seems to be bringing people from different campus groups together,” she said.

With one of the main reasons Hacky Sack is popular at the school being Acosta’s experience on TikTok, it is safe to say that social media has played a huge role in the resurgence of “sack.” “I think when kids see other kids playing hacky sack on their TikTok feed, it sparks a passion. It’s becoming more of a trend now; it’s also a flex if you’re a good sacker in your school,” Acosta said.

Here on the Hilltop, it has become

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The Best and Worst of Senior Pranks

By Burke Cameron

As another great year on the Hilltop comes to a close, it is natural to reflect on one’s past—both the good and bad. So, with that in mind, here are a few stories of the old Sarum that, before this publication, existed only in the hearts and minds of seasoned faculty and distant graduates.

Pranks, specifically senior pranks, used to be a staple of Salisbury culture and tradition. In these acts of rebellion, Salisbury’s finest made sure to show that their application of creativity, passion, and determination was not limited to the classroom.

Philosophy and English teacher Mr. Richard Curtis offered multiple recollections of mischief that went down over his nearly 45 years on the Hilltop. “They [the seniors] put a car in the dining hall... they put a car up on the senior steps,” Mr. Curtis said about the class of ’81’s prank. He explained that “the doors at the end of the dining hall have a dividing line that comes down. Take that out, and it’s wide enough to get a small car in.”

Reflecting on the fallout, Mr. Curtis said, “Those were two that the faculty did not like a whole lot, but they actually didn’t do any damage, and there was something ingenious about them.”

Jim Bates ’75, who grew up as a faculty kid on the Hilltop, attended Salisbury, and whose father was nicknamed “Mr. Salis-

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What a Winning Culture Looks Like on the Hilltop

By Pierce Baskin

The Hilltop has seen plenty of great teams over the years, but ask almost anyone on campus what really makes the athletics program different, and the answer usually comes back to one thing: coaching. The banners and championships matter, sure, but it's the relationships between coaches and players that people remember long after graduation.

Mr. Tim Sinclair '91 has seen that firsthand. After spending 26 years as Salisbury's athletic director, he believes the best coaches all share one thing in common: the ability to genuinely connect with their players.

"There's a major attribute to all of the great coaches that have been here," Mr. Sinclair said.

You can see it across generations of Salisbury athletics. Whether it's legendary rowing coach Tote Smith leading Salisbury to back-to-back Scholastic National Championships in 2015 and 2016, or hockey coach Andrew Will building one of the top prep hockey programs in New England with six championships and counting, the success goes deeper than talent alone. According to Mr. Sinclair, "they all have a unique way and ability to connect with kids in a different way."

That idea of connection is something that has defined Salisbury athletics for de-



cedes. Winning teams usually have talent, but the teams people still talk about years later are the ones that were genuinely close with each other. Few teams fit that description better than Salisbury basketball's 2012 New England Championship team.

Longtime coach Mr. Jeff Ruskin shared that the team's success was more about the way the group meshed on and off the court than having standout players and top recruits.

"What made that team so special was not how good they were, but how well they played together," Ruskin said. "The maturity, the leadership, starting with captain Ryan Frazier '12."

Ruskin coached for more than 40 years, including 20 in the NEPSAC, so he has seen plenty of talented players come through the program. What stood out about that 2012 team was how connected everyone was. Nobody cared about standing out individually.

"We were all equal," Ruskin said. "The guys wore the same color sneakers."

That impact isn't just found on varsity championship teams, either. Four-year student Charlie Putnam '26 pointed to JV lacrosse coach and statistics teacher Mr. Bobby Nichols as another example of the kind of coach players never forget.

"No matter how poorly the team is doing, he always pushes us to get better," Putnam said. He added that even during "five-game losing stretches," Coach Nichols "still never gives up on us."

A lot of coaches can stay positive when things are going well, but Putnam said Coach Nichols keeps the same energy even when the team is struggling. That consistency builds trust between players and coaches, which is something you see across Salisbury athletics. Players know their coaches care about more than just wins and losses, and that's what keeps so many of these teams connected long after their seasons on the Hilltop end.

Hacky Sack (cont. from page 1)

quite popular on social media as well, with features on the @SarumKnight Instagram account and several "Bury Sack" accounts being created on social media. It has played a major role in the resurgence of Hacky Sack.

These accounts are not just by school, either. Some rank the "best" schools and players in the country. In terms of Salisbury's rankings, the Knights have been as high as No. 11 in New England on the TikTok account MYSackRankings, which has thousands of followers.

Some enjoy looking at these rankings and see benefit in following along, but Mrs. Barbato thinks that these rankings could be ruining the true joy of the activity. "Why does it have to be something that we have to be better at than Avon? Why does there need to be a Nepsack ranking for a pastime that gets boys out of their room and hanging out with their friends?" she said.

Mrs. Barbato believes that it's great to have fun with this pastime, but at a certain point trying to get "clips" is over the top. "The other day, there was a group out in front of Payson, and someone was like legit, straight up filming it with a tripod and a camera," she said.

On the other side of things, Mr. Mayer thinks this is the best thing to get us away from social media as long as we enjoy the realism of the pastime. "I think being outside and playing hacky sack together, without a screen, is like the anti-social media outlet. You get the same kind of dopamine rush as you're outside in nature, you're enjoying something with people," he said.

Whether Hacky Sack remains popular for years or fades as the next trend comes around, its impact on the Salisbury community is already clear. In a world where screens and social media are so dominant, Hacky Sack has given students a reason to step outside and connect with each other.



FEATURE

Senior Pranks (cont. from page 1)

bury,” offered his breadth of knowledge and experience. “The Class of ’74 senior prank, they moved Mr. Tappert’s VW Bug and put it into the lobby of Belin Lodge,” said Bates. The son of Mr. Salisbury explained that “Somebody must have commandeered it... and then they had to lift it up, ’cause there were stairways there.”

The trees that once stood in the quad were also repeatedly utilized for tomfoolery. “They [class of ’80] hung bicycles from the old elm tree that was right outside the senior steps. Probably had about 15 bikes hanging there from ropes,” according to Mr. Curtis. “It kind of looked like a Christmas tree with bikes hanging from it,” he remarked.

Even though it fell under the umbrella of misconduct, Mr. Curtis thought, “it was pretty ingenious, and again, I guess the school might worry about kids climbing the tree and falling, but nobody did. So that was fine.”

Another time, the entire floor of the chapel was filled with Dixie cups of water. “They were side by side; there must have been 5,000 of them,” Mr. Curtis said. “You couldn’t walk in there. Chapel was called off that morning, and so the boys got a kick out of that.” On the flip side, Mr. Curtis noted that “the school was not happy about it.”

On the subject of his own endeavors, Mr. Bates recalled: “Our shirts used to come back from the cleaners in plastic bags. We would keep the plastic bags in one of our dresser drawers as ammunition for the spring. I remember having water bomb fights in the middle of the quad. As a matter of fact, I launched one into what’s now the science building as Mr. Tappert was opening up the door and coming out, and it splattered all over the floor.”

Mr. Jim Bates’ younger brother, Jerry Bates ’82, was part of the most rambunctious class of pranksters Salisbury has ever seen. “In the middle of the night, they raided Payson and got a lot of the



kids, and tied them around all the trees, and they couldn’t get out.” Mr. Bates clarified, “That kind of came under hazing. But no one got hurt.” Payson was all sophomores at that time, something worth noting.

“My brother had the senior prank of senior pranks,” said Mr. Bates. His roommate his sophomore year was a fellow named Ben DuPont. “And Ben was of the DuPont Chemical Company. Ben’s father, at the time, was the governor of Delaware and was going to be the graduation speaker,” Mr. Bates continued. “He rigged up the phone system, so no calls could come out and no calls could come in. The school was isolated,” said Mr. Bates.

“They got into the chapel, into the speakers that go up into the steeple, and played a Rolling Stones song—‘Sympathy for the Devil.’ The speakers there reach an exceedingly high volume that can be heard downtown in Salisbury,” said Mr. Curtis. “[Ben] also got on the microphone and said, ‘This is God speaking. I’ve seen what you people are doing down there, and I’m pissed off.’” Mr. Curtis said he and many other faculty members heard it themselves.

Mr. Bates remembered how, afterward, “The phone company came. The phone company couldn’t undo what Ben did. So Ben had to undo what Ben did.”

Going on, he said, “I remember my brother telling me that they put everybody in the chapel.” They were to be rebuked by Mr. Salisbury himself.

On the subject of Ben, Mr. Bates said, “I can’t remember if Ben got suspended or got kicked out, but his dad still made the graduation speech.” Despite the troublemaking, Mr. Curtis remembers Ben as a “nice guy.”

Mr. Bates added that senior pranks can be harmless and fun, even now. “If you short-sheet the bed or put salt in the bed or something like that, that’s pretty harmless,” he said. “Tying guys to a tree and blindfolding guys and putting them in the woods—that’s another thing. When you’re 17, 18, it’s a different story, but when you’re a parent, you put yourself in that perspective, and I wouldn’t want my son either doing that or

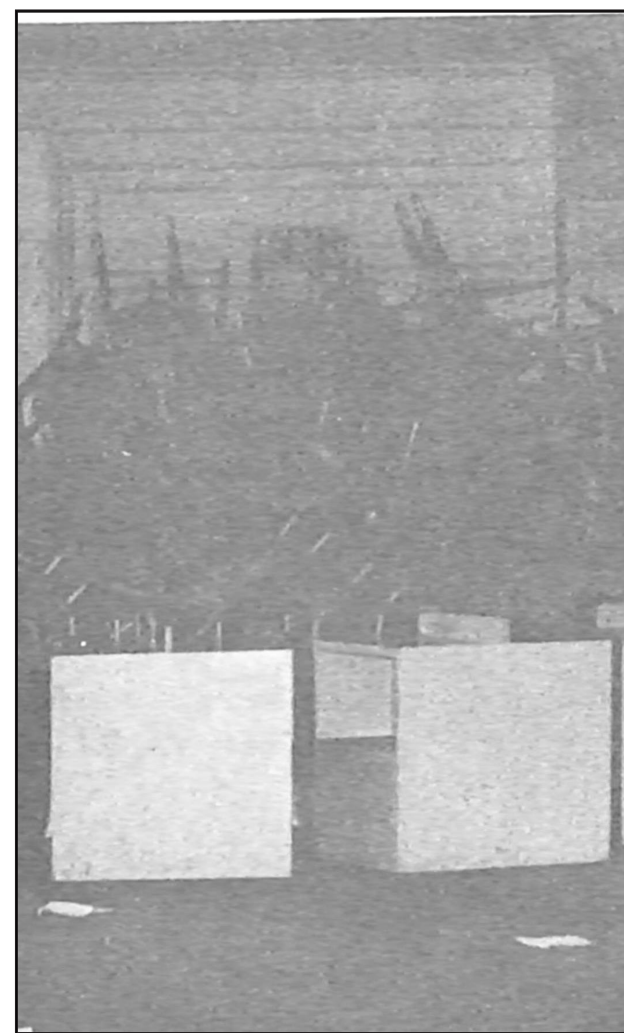
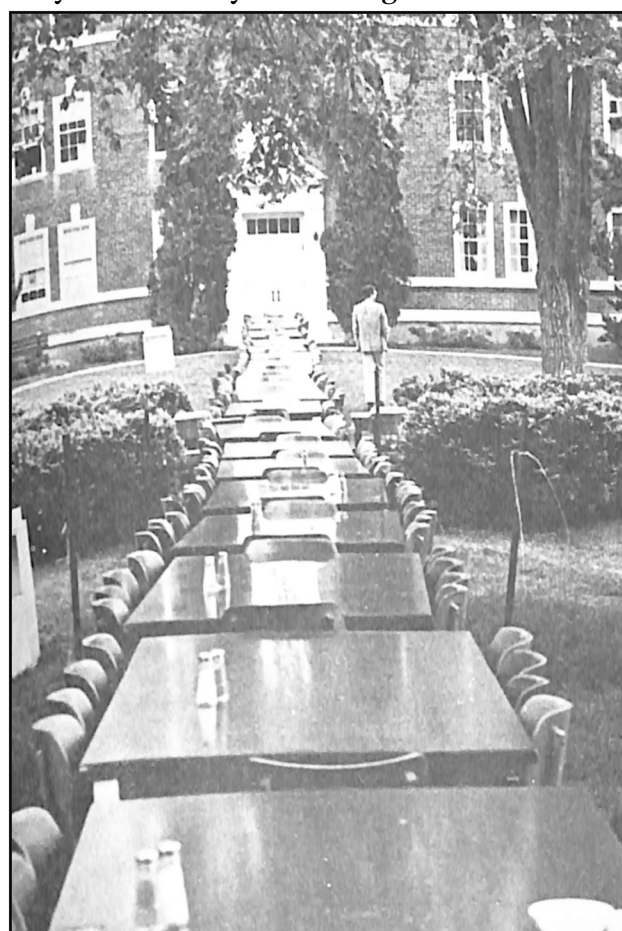
having that done to him,” he concluded.

Long-time faculty member, former head varsity basketball coach, and math teacher Mr. Jeff Ruskin offered his intimate history with Salisbury’s history of senior pranks: “Now... my third year here [2000], I became dean of students. I wanted to put an end to the senior pranks,” Mr. Ruskin said.

“I spoke with Mr. Flood, then the headmaster,” who shared a dislike for senior pranks with Mr. Ruskin. “I said, let’s make this real simple. If the seniors want to have their senior skip day, there will be no pranks. Okay?”

Mr. Ruskin then spoke with the president of the school at the time. “We made that deal. We shook hands, and then we went away, and I haven’t seen a prank since then,” Mr. Ruskin said.

Considering the absence of senior pranks, Mr. Ruskin concluded, “I think only good has come from it, because I don’t like a prank that punishes one or two people.”





How Teachers Spend Their Summers

By Matt Murphy

When students leave the Hilltop, many are focused on how much fun they are going to have this summer. While caught up in all that, many forget that their teachers are also taking full advantage of the vacation.

Instructor in English Mr. Morgan Moody, who is spending his second summer at Salisbury, is looking forward to the break. Once the school year ends, the first thing on Mr. Moody's plate is vacationing with his wife in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and spending time outdoors. "I'm ready to get some good desert air in the Permian Basin area near White Sands National Park, which is super gorgeous," Mr. Moody said.

While he's excited to travel, he also enjoys staying on campus. "The Hilltop with no students, it's like you live at a resort," he said. Mr. Moody spends a big portion of the day outside, saying, "We go to the lake pretty much every day and hike a lot."

One of his favorite activities in the area is bike riding. "We go on gravel bikes, which is like dirt road biking," he said. "This is one of the best places in the country to do that."

"Then I'm going to a school," Mr. Moody joked. Well, not actually, but pretty similar. "I'm going to a professional development trip with other teachers to learn new teaching methods at Exeter and a new way of teaching called the Harkness Method."

He is going to be living very similarly to the way the students at Salisbury live. "I'll be there for a week, live in the dorms, eat in the dining hall and basically go to class from 8 to 4 o'clock."

Instructor in French Mrs. Julia Barbato, who's been at Salisbury for countless summers, has a different experience due to having kids. Over the years, she has found ways for her family to have a lot of fun and stay active in the community. "The kids will be in summer camps, and we get a pass to the local lake beach called The Grove, where all of our friends are," she said.

Something unique to everyone in the family besides Mr. Barbato (due to football preseason) is that they have a tradition of going to the Goshen Fair to round

the summer out. "All of the football wives and kids at the end of the summer go to Torrington... the kids ride all the rides and play games and go around to the different barns with animals," Mrs. Barbato said.

On the traveling side of things, "We do one big trip to a lake in New Hampshire with all of Mr. Barbato's family, and then we go to visit my parents up there too," she said.

English teacher and Head Basketball Coach Bryce Daley '18 is looking forward to getting off campus to start the summer. "I usually go back home right away to visit my parents in Pittsfield, Mass., and then head up to New Hampshire and Boston, where I spend a lot of time at the beach," Coach Daley said.

When away from home, Coach Daley gets a lot of quality time with his friends and old college teammates. "We go to the beach a lot and bring out the speaker and play some games," he said, as well as "hitting the gym, getting in hoop sessions, shopping, and going out to eat."

Realizing he does a lot of fun stuff, Coach Daley said, "I probably spend too much money in the summer, but I'm able to save a lot while I'm here at Salisbury."

On the basketball and work side of things, Coach Daley will dedicate a chunk of time to coaching, training, and scouting this summer. "I get out to a good number of camps and AAU tournaments where I'm scouting a little for the upcoming school year, but mostly for the following year. I start crafting my new Excel sheet for recruiting where I'll break down what we're losing and what we need to fill," he said. "I also train a lot of guys in the area and work at a camp for younger guys."

When Coach Daley is back on campus, it's just more basketball. "I'll be back for a couple weekends in June where we've got two weekends of prep events for our Salisbury returners and guys coming in, so they can get exposure and coaches can recruit them," he said.

As the summer plans show, many teachers have different things filling up their summers and have different responsibilities, but mainly they get the ability to take time off from work and do what they love.

Salisbury's Escape Club Inspires Students Through Entrepreneurial Connections and Alumni Success

By Kobe Brown

The Escape Club is an entrepreneurial speaker club focused on connecting business owners and entrepreneurs from around the country with students and faculty. Students show up during the COACT block on Saturdays ready to learn and connect. These Zoom meetings are incredibly inspiring to students whether they have thought about entrepreneurship or not.

Another large portion of The Escape Club is the snacks associated with each meeting. The first treat was Trish Thomas' brand, Everybody Eat. Other foods have included locally baked cupcakes from Chicago to Mr. Beast x Jack Link's beef jerky; the snacks provide a small incentive for students to come listen and learn.

One student in particular, Stribling Koster '27, the co-founder of the club, highlighted what the club means to him. "My dad went to business school with some of the speakers... I was excited to learn about people that my dad had been friends with for so long. I was excited to get people's information after the meeting, information you might need in the future," he said.

The club is not only beneficial to students, though; teachers feel the same. "They all have their own personal journey. I learned as well and derived inspiration... hopefully I still have something left in the tank that I would try to be an entrepreneur as well," said Mr. Jeff May, director of the Entrepreneurial Studies Program and instructor in mathematics.

"The goal is to see the passion that some of those entrepreneurs pursued in their careers... and generally to awaken that interest in our students and show them the journey the entrepreneurs have taken," said Mr. May. The range of speakers is vast, many with different professions, but all follow the same theme of believing in themselves and working through adversity.

Mr. May is a very important member of the club. He hosted the last few Zoom meetings of the year in his classroom with his signature Hi-Chews. He gave students a place to listen to Emily Hikade, a woman who created a pajama company using her ties in the CIA. "She worked in the CIA. I thought it was cool how she used the CIA to create a pajama company," Koster shared after the meeting.

Teddy Unruh '27, another co-founder, explained the usefulness of this club and how it resonated with the students who attended: "I saw a lot of kids who would show up one day and then they kept coming back."

A few weekends ago, following

the theme of The Escape Club, Nick Loggethis '06 and Matt Swift '06 spoke about their experiences starting and running a school business called "Sarum Snacks" when they were students here.

Following entrepreneurial speakers, many students were influenced by these talks, including Koster. He voiced his plans for the next academic year with alumni speakers in mind: "I'm hoping to have more Salisbury grads come and talk about how Salisbury helped create their businesses."



Students Share Their Biggest Pet Peeves of Dorm Life

By Alexi de La Giraudiere

For Knights, dorm life is a defining aspect of the Salisbury experience. When students from around the world, who have practiced their own routines, cultures, and habits, come together, friction is inevitable. Dorm life has and will continue to challenge students to live respectfully and considerately with others.

New York native Finlay MacDermott '26 is a four-year student on the Hilltop. He is currently serving as a prefect in Ward, but he has also lived in Carr and Langdon.

When it comes to his pet peeves, MacDermott's are quite standard. "I've recently noticed how dirty people leave the water fountains. When I get water, I don't want to see bits of ramen and trash in there," he said. For MacDermott, this is also one of the most avoidable annoyances of dorm life. "It's simple cleanliness and respect for something that everyone benefits from," he added.

On an individual level for Ward dorm, MacDermott adores the constant noise of a lacrosse ball bouncing from anywhere in the dorm. "It could be literally any time of day, and you'd hear one of them like it was right next to you," he said. According to MacDermott, this is mostly due

to the "boredom" that some of the freshmen may experience without their phones and the walls being made of a much thinner material than some of the other dorms.

Stanley Obeng Ansong '26 has lived in four different dorms during his time here. While he appreciates his valuable social experiences in Carr and the peace and quiet of Langdon, no dorm exists without its annoyances. Obeng Ansong is still surprised that people his age don't flush the toilet after use.

Additionally, nobody likes to see a dirty, misused sink when they go to wash their faces or brush their teeth. "It's not like I expect it to be perfect or anything, but it's like they think that they are the only ones that will ever use that bathroom. And it's not single-use," he said.

This year, Obeng Ansong is ready to finish up his time on the Hilltop in his Payson single. Recently, he's been having some fun countering his pet peeves.

"People love to come and smack my door handle at any given time. And my only goal at that moment is to race to the door and catch them red-handed. I love to see the look of embarrassment on their faces when they didn't expect to get caught," Obeng Ansong said. His only other complaint was regarding a phase of "apple-smeared" windows every day that he came back to the dorm. Fortunately, enough first-floor residents spoke up that a change was seen after dorm parents had to step in.

Another student, Austin Moore '26, is a third-year student who currently lives in Rennell, but has also lived in Main and Payson. Rennell takes the title of being his favorite dorm during his time here, but he feels "truly blessed to have been surrounded by many other great groups of people in other years."

That being said, he still has his gripes. Like Payson, there was no shortage of noise after hours. "You can't really blame anyone for having a different schedule than you, but there were several nights in Payson that I'd be trying to fall asleep, and the silence was broken by a loud bang or laughing in the hallway," said Moore.

Moore's current roommate, Brandon Williams '26, is a third-year student who has also lived in Quaile and Payson. With similar views as Moore, Williams agrees that Rennell suited him and his values the best.

But Williams, like many others, cares about the well-being of his nose. "There's a problem with leaving trash or athletic gear in the hallway. I feel like people don't realize that just because they don't have to smell or see it anymore doesn't mean no one does. Just take your trash out. Don't leave it in the hallway to sit for hours or days at a time," noted Williams.

Clearly, as Knights, there is a lot to work on in order to live a more harmonious lifestyle on the Hilltop. Ultimately, even if students don't eliminate the problem, what matters more is learning how to live amongst each other with patience, accountability, and mutual respect. These lessons will carry them farther than they realize in life.

Racing Around the Quad: The Origin and Meaning of the Sarum Sprints

By Luke Norman

The Sarum Sprints are one of Salisbury's most anticipated spring traditions, bringing together students and faculty for days that blend competition with school spirit. Inspired by the University of Oxford's tradition, and made popular by the film Chariots of Fire, the idea for Sarum Sprints came to Mr. Dick Curtis in a pretty simple way.

Mr. Curtis watched a scene showing runners racing around the Oxford quad before the chapel bell finished ringing twelve times. He saw how those sessions brought real energy and competition to the school and community.

Mr. Curtis realized this kind of atmosphere could work at Salisbury. "I was standing up at school meeting, looking down, and thought, 'we have a perfect track here,'" he said.

For many students, the Sarum Sprints are less about winning and more about participation. "It's something everyone can be a part of," Mr. Curtis emphasized. "You don't have to be a track athlete to get involved, you just show up and compete."

That accessibility has helped the event grow each year. "Events like this build community," Mr. Curtis noted. "You see students from different teams and grades coming together, which doesn't always happen during the regular school day."

James Caputo '28 remembers his first time running. "Mr. Curtis tells us at a school meeting, and everyone was like, 'James, do it, do it.' I said 'Alright, I'll do it.'"

Caputo loved every second of it. "The atmosphere was electric. It got rowdy," Caputo said. "Everyone was into it. It brought great morale on campus."

For Caputo, the sprints are about more than just performance. "It's about having fun and seeing how people enjoy it," he said. With a current record of four wins and one loss, he's still chasing a championship after losing last year in the finals.

After missing much of their senior lacrosse seasons because of knee injuries, Caden Creech and Jackson Allen explained how Sarum Sprints gave them a chance to feel competitive again. "It felt really great to get back out there and get that W," Creech said. "It brings back this feeling of happiness that you can't really achieve when you're not playing the sport that you love."

Allen shared a similar feeling. "It felt good getting out there again," he said. "To do it with one of my friends that's also injured felt special."

What started as something simple, the Sarum Sprints have turned into a staple of the spring, giving the community the ability to build energy towards the last few weeks of school.



Members of the Class of 2026 Talk Post-Grad Trips

By Paul Shyposh

As graduation approaches, many seniors from the Class of 2026 are preparing for one final adventure with their closest friends before starting the next chapter of their lives. For many students, these trips are a chance to reflect on their high school experience and make lasting memories before college and careers begin.

For Jonathan Chiarenza '26 and his group of friends, their senior trip to Aruba is more than just a vacation. It is a celebration of four years of friendship, hard work, and memories made together throughout high school.

Chiarenza will be traveling to Aruba with his brother Daniel '26, Liam Colley '26, Lincoln Taylor '26, Blake Taylor '27, and Finn Harney '25. Chiarenza said the group had been planning the trip for months, trying to figure out destinations, schedules, budgets, and everyone's different opinions.

"Planning a trip like this is crazy," Chiarenza said. "There are just so many moving parts." The group originally considered places like Cabo, Punta Cana, and Saint Martin before deciding on Aruba after Lincoln Taylor's parents offered help with accommodations.

"We all said, 'Yeah, that's the best option,'" Chiarenza said. "That saves us so much money and so much work planning."

Chiarenza explained that the trip means more than just getting away for vacation. "We just want to spend these last moments together, having fun and making memories before everyone goes off to college," Chiarenza said.

Owen Hellman '26 said his senior trip came together unexpectedly. Originally, Hellman did not plan on taking a graduation trip and expected to spend the summer at home with family before college. However, those plans changed when his friend John Luong '26 invited him to join a trip to Vietnam alongside Gavin Leavy '26 and Finlay MacDermott '26.

"I wasn't really planning on going on

a senior trip," Hellman said. "But then John Luong came up to me and asked if I wanted to come to Vietnam, and I was like, 'Heck yeah.'"

Hellman explained that much of the planning was handled by Luong's sister, who organized flights, activities, and accommodations for the group. Even with that help, the trip still came with challenges, especially coordinating flights and preparing for international travel. "We're talking about an 18-hour flight," Hellman said. "Making sure everyone got there at the same time and figuring out all the details definitely took some work."

For Hellman, the trip is about more than just traveling overseas. "It's one last time to be with my brothers from Salisbury," Hellman said. "We're all going different ways after graduation, so it's nice to have one more memory together."

Hellman also said he hopes the trip becomes one of the defining memories of his high school years. "I'm going to look back at photos from this trip years from now," Hellman said. "These are the friends I've spent four years with, and this trip is something I'll always remember."

Will Duffy '26, meanwhile, will travel to Florida with hometown friends for a fishing trip along the islands off the coast. "Some of my friends love fishing," Duffy said. "I don't get into fishing much, but doing this with my friends convinced me to go."

The trip was planned last summer with two friends who are currently in college. Duffy said the group wanted one final chance to spend time together before busy schedules and distance separated them. "We wanted to do something after my senior year," he said. "It ended up working out perfectly."

After a stressful year of academics and college applications, Duffy said the trip is a chance to recharge and create lasting memories before heading to college in California. "I just want to have a nice time, relax with my friends, and create good memories," Duffy said.

Changes Students Want to See on the Hilltop

By Luke Walkauskas

At Salisbury, students follow the same daily schedule, but their opinions on campus life often depend on the different perspectives they bring to the Hilltop. Despite those differences, similar themes come across grade levels when students are asked what they would change about the school.

For Nikhil Parikh '27, one of his biggest issues is something many students deal with: a lack of sleep. "I think the one thing that I would change at Salisbury is allowing the day to start at nine," he said. "For adolescent kids, sleep is just so important."

He said tiredness is a common issue on campus, caused by academics, athletics, and late nights. "A lot of kids do complain about being tired," he said. Even small schedule changes, he added, could improve how students feel and perform during the day.

Parikh also pointed to dining hall scheduling as another challenge, especially for athletes. "Sometimes it's a little rough having to leave at seven sharp when practice runs late," he said. While he acknowledged that large schedule changes would be difficult, he said student feedback can still influence smaller improvements over time.

After four years at Salisbury, Owen Hellman '26 focused more on the structure



of the week. He pointed to Saturday classes as one of the biggest concerns. "I think we're one of the last schools to have Saturday classes every single week," Hellman said.

He explained that the schedule often makes it feel like there is no real break. "I feel like we're constantly busy 24/7," he said. "A hard-working student doesn't really have a lot of free time," he added.

Hellman acknowledged that removing Saturday classes entirely may not be realistic, but said the concern reflects a larger issue of student workload and recovery time.

He also pointed to dining hall congestion as a daily frustration. "There's always constant complaints about the lines being super long," he said, suggesting that renovations could help improve efficiency during peak meal times.

Luckily for Hellman, and future Knights, dining hall improvements are already part of broader long-term conversations at the school, making them one of the

more practical concerns.

Instead of changing major parts of the school schedule, Dakota Downs '28 focused more on improving how students use their free time during the day.

"I think something that would be good to change here is giving people the option of someone coming in to talk about topics they're interested in. Something that would benefit them outside the classroom and in the real world," Downs said.

Downs said those opportunities could help students feel more engaged throughout the day and give them a break from the constant academic routine without completely removing the structure of the schedule.

Even though each student focused on different issues, several themes continued to overlap throughout the interviews. While some proposed changes, such as removing Saturday classes, may be unrealistic, students still pointed to smaller adjustments that could improve everyday life on campus.

The Process of Saying Goodbye

By Istvan Szecsei

Graduation is a beautiful tradition and an integral part of Salisbury. For the families coming to campus, the school wants to provide the best experience for each graduating class. What many don't realize, however, is how demanding the process is to make it come to life.

"At any point in time, there are anywhere from 15 to over 100 people working on it, depending on where you are in the process," Head of School Mr. Will Webb said.

Mr. Webb views the day as meaningful not only for the graduates, though, referencing the families and underclassmen. "I want them to be energized and inspired. I want them to remember your graduation, to see your smile, to see your

sense of accomplishment and pride," he said.

Achieving this goal is an uphill battle. Mr. Webb's job in the graduation process is just to "stay out of the way and not screw it up," he said, but there are a lot of major decisions he must make.

Holding graduation earlier, letting underclassmen see the ceremony, and having a Sixth Form Dinner with families the night before were major changes he has made in his four years at Salisbury.

These changes all provide a better and more family-friendly approach for the guests of the school, but they also require more attention and time.

"The process started pretty much once last year's graduation happened," Executive Assistant to the Head of School Mrs. Tina Bunce said. "The next day, we were reaching out for the bagpiper, and we were talking to the photographer."

The summer starts with making a checklist for everything the ceremony will need. This two-inch-thick ream of paper allows the school to keep track of who is available and who is not.

There are two logistics meetings in the Development Conference Office with 15 to 20 people talking about graduation every year. Mrs. Bunce must not only organize and work with these people, but also communicate with the trustees.

One of the first orders of business is finalizing diplomas. To ensure each name is accurate, Mrs. Bunce emails families in January to make sure everything is correct.

In March, things really start to ramp up. "A day doesn't go by [from March on] that I don't talk to someone about graduation," Mrs. Bunce said. It truly takes a village to make sure everything on May 22 is available and ready.

Once the spring weather arrives, "We spend weeks repairing damaged turf, edging walkways, mulching and weed-ing planting beds, trimming landscapes, and making sure every corner of campus



is polished and welcoming," Associate Director of Facilities Mrs. Dawn Marti said.

While making sure the appearance of the living nature on campus is beautiful, the school also puts a huge effort into cleaning the buildings and common places. "We power wash areas throughout campus, especially the quad, hang artwork and the 'Welcome to the Hilltop' banner, install flowers into planters, and make sure all campus spaces are clean, functional, and presentation-ready," Mrs. Marti said.

The weather is always questionable, so the staff must make sure they are ready to hold the ceremony both inside and outside. "If the ceremony is outdoors on the quad, facilities staff set up approximately 1,200 chairs, tables for refreshments and water, the podium, signage, and banner," Mrs. Marti said.

If Mr. Webb calls the graduation inside, first the staff must make sure the basketball court is covered with vinyl floor coverings before bringing everything in. Then, they set everything up perfectly.

This complicated process involves many departments, including Facilities, House-keeping, Dining Services, IT, and Athletics/FAC staff. "We work closely with Mrs. Bunce and many others to make sure every detail comes together seamlessly," Mrs. Marti said.

While it is a really rewarding process, it requires hundreds of people all year round just to pull it off at the end of May. The importance of the ceremony holds a message that the school wants to tell its students.

Mr. Webb says it's important to "take a period of time and put the spotlight on you and say, 'Great job, that was awesome.'"





A Legacy of Brotherhood: Salisbury Celebrates 125 Years

By Woojin Jung

Salisbury marks its 125th anniversary this year, a monumental milestone that will culminate in a major celebration on the Hilltop this coming October. This upcoming weekend serves as a significant time to honor enduring traditions while looking toward the school's future.

Assistant Head of School for Institutional Advancement Mr. Peter Gilbert reflects on the school's journey, having participated in the centennial celebration in 2001. "I know how memorable and important it was for the school, so I'm very honored to be one of the people leading the events for this celebration," Mr. Gilbert noted.

For 125 years, the School has maintained its core values despite an evolving world. The motto, *Esse Quam Videri*, remains a central thread that connects generations of graduates. It emphasizes living an authentic life, where young men are true to themselves rather than merely seeming to be.

Meaningful traditions are preserved through shared cultural moments on the Hilltop that have stood the test of time. "I think that happens during a sit-down meal, that happens during a school meeting, that happens during chapel," Mr. Gilbert shared. "It's all about a shared experience."

This authenticity fosters a life-long brotherhood that extends far beyond a student's four years. "A Salisbury graduate will always take another Salisbury man's phone call," Mr. Gilbert said. "There always will be connection."

Salisbury enters this historic era with its strongest enrollment and most recognized brand in history. "My hope for the future is that we'll perpetuate that and only build on top of it," Mr. Gilbert emphasized.

Ultimately, these enduring, 125-year-

old values provide the foundation for boys as they prepare for their next steps. While Salisbury's traditions firmly root students in the present, they also equip them with the confidence needed for the future. Director of College Advising Mr. Bobby Wynne applies this mindset of authenticity directly to the college search process.

"When we look at things from our authentic selves, that's the perfect platform to start the college process," Mr. Wynne stated.

He encourages students not to present themselves as something they are not during their search. "What's the best fit for me to grow academically, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, just like I have done for the last four years at Salisbury?" Mr. Wynne added.

The core structures and traditions learned on the Hilltop translate directly to college success. "Building a relationship with a professor, going to office hours... all those things are really helpful and beneficial in college," Mr. Wynne noted.

Despite a rapidly changing college admission landscape, the entire Salisbury community remains invested in student success. "This process, the college process, the entire community is invested in," Mr. Wynne said. "It's not just the college office. It's your advisor. It's your teachers."

As the October celebration approaches, the responsibility to carry the torch falls to the upcoming classes. "My greatest wish would be for each and every one of you to make the best out of every single day next year," Mr. Wynne expressed to the Class of 2027.

The 125th anniversary highlights a steadfast mission that continues to grow stronger each day. Leadership and brotherhood remain on display as the school prepares for its highly anticipated celebration in October and its next chapter.

Faculty Fore! Salisbury Teachers Take Their Game to the Links

By Mark Windle

There have been a number of trends that have captivated the Salisbury family this spring and made their mark on campus. One of the largest has been golf. Although much of the golfing population consists of students, the faculty have been heavily involved in the relaxing pastime and have even become competitive with one another.

Salisbury Head Varsity Golf Coach Mr. Brent Barbato '02 remarked, "The Salisbury faculty are seen very regularly at the range, especially during weekends or summertime. I am out on the course playing frequently during the golf season and summer as well."

Mr. Barbato has found good company on the course with assistant golf coach Mr. Trevor Rees, who has established himself as a premier contender for the best faculty golfer. "The last round I put together was 73. Faculty-wise, I think Coach Rees shot 72 with his new irons, but I didn't witness it, so there's some question marks there," Mr. Barbato said.

Obviously, it's not all fun and games on the course when it comes to these two teachers. "You can talk about righty golfers compared to left-handed golfers, which



I'll get into. But righty golfers, I would say Coach Rees. I think lefty-wise, I'm the best golfer on campus," Mr. Barbato added.

Mr. Rees is an established golfer himself and has a plethora of experience on the course. "I started playing when I was four or five years old in the backyard. I would go get dropped off at the golf course when I was a little kid and call my mom on the pay phone to pick me up when it got dark," said Mr. Rees. "In high school, I was also the captain of the Brunswick golf team."

Mr. Rees has been a leader of the faculty on the links and has brought his love for the game to campus. "I would say I'll play 75

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to 100 rounds a year. We had a Ryder Cup-style competition over spring break on the Salisbury golf trip. We had Team Rees and Team Barbo. Team Rees has won the Ryder Cup the last couple of years, but that was mostly because of the good draft picks I had on my team.” Mr. Rees: talented and humble.

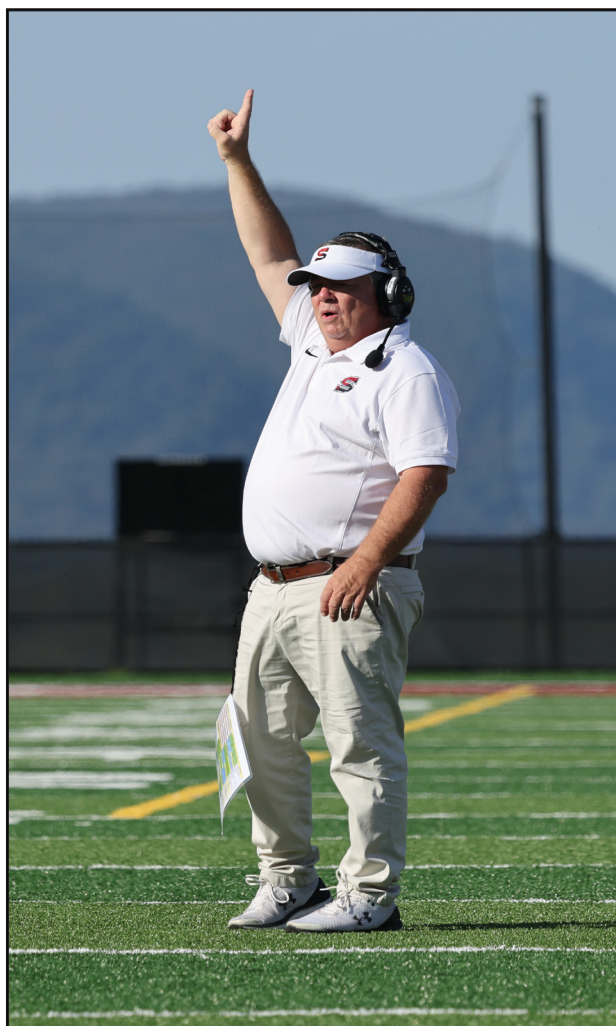
Salisbury Head Athletic Trainer Mr. Jason Pennella is another faculty golfer who has been a consistent presence on the course. “I’m consistently in the mid to high 80s. My best round ever is 75,” he said. Mr. Pennella continued, saying, “During the school year, I play once a week, but in the summer, I’m playing almost every day.”

Mr. P was sure to acknowledge the talent of some of his faculty counterparts, such as Mr. Rees, Mr. Tim Sinclair, and Mr. Charlie Strauss. “Mr. Rees has a really good swing, which is very fluid. He is a great golfer. Mr. Barbato hits it a long, long way. He can get himself in some trouble off the tee but also gets himself out of trouble often,” he said. “Mr. Strauss is the most consistent golfer that I have seen playing day in and day out. He never really gets himself into trouble. I have played lots of rounds with him, and he has impressed me.”

Although many of the Salisbury faculty members are obviously above-average golfers, Mr. P recognizes that Mr. Rees is in a different league when it comes to scoring low on the course. “Shooting in the 60s puts Mr. Rees in a different ballpark. That’s like the top 1% of golfers in the world. I have never played with him, but his scores are legit,” he said.

Mr. P is experienced in the golf scene and has played many of the top courses in the Northeast. “I was able to get out and play Taconic Golf Club a few times and Ballyowen in New Jersey. I have also played a lot of the beautiful courses at the beach in Delaware,” he said.

Mr. Pennella appreciates the challenge of some of the pristine golf courses he has played but also concedes that he will play wherever for the love of the game.



Salisbury Football’s International Recruiting Push

By Rowan Kornylak

For decades, football has been viewed as America’s game. But at Salisbury, more international athletes are crossing oceans to be part of it. This year, Salisbury’s roster featured several players from overseas, many of whom arrived through programs like Gridiron Imports, an organization that helps connect overseas athletes with American prep schools.

Gridiron Imports is the leading organization connecting European athletes to American prep schools all over the East Coast, but its roots trace directly back to Salisbury. Before Head Coach Chris Phelps even arrived (now in his 16th year with the program), a German player named Björn Werner came to Salisbury through a special placement program, went on to Florida State, won ACC Defensive Player of the Year, and became the first German player drafted in the first round of the NFL Draft, selected by the Indianapolis Colts.

After Werner’s career ended due to injuries, he teamed up with former Salisbury football coach Chris Adamson to found Gridiron Imports, wanting other European kids to have the same life-changing opportunity he did. “It started very much in Germany,” Coach Phelps said, “because that’s where Björn was.”

Since then, Salisbury has made international recruiting a priority, typically targeting linemen because of the size you can find overseas and the difficulty of pulling American underclassmen away from their high school teams. Phelps himself has traveled to camps in Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, and Hungary to evaluate players in person.

The biggest challenge for the kids, he stated, is not football, but the language barrier and the culture shock of being so far from home. But more often than not, the players succeed. “It’s not uncommon that when they leave here, they win awards and are very highly respected on campus,” Coach Phelps said, “because they work hard, they play hard, and they appreciate the opportunity.”

One athlete who came to Salisbury through Gridiron Imports is Leon Marquardt ’28, a student from Düsseldorf, Germany, who had never heard of football until his sports teacher encouraged him to try it. “He saw that I’m big at a young age and said to me, ‘You have to play football,’” Marquardt said. “Then I listened to him, I went to practice, and now I’m here.”

After attending camps in Germany, the 6’6”, 305-pound Marquardt caught the attention of Salisbury coaches and said he immediately connected with the program, especially because of its family atmosphere. “Everybody’s welcome,” Marquardt said. “You look out for everybody.”

His decision to move to America surprised many people back home. Marquardt said his family was proud because he became the first person in his family to leave Germany, while his friends were both shocked and supportive. Despite language barriers and cultural adjustments, he has no regrets and continues chasing his dream of reaching the NFL someday.

Another international player who made that same leap is Jacob Roberts ’27, a lineman from Nuremberg, Germany, whose path to Salisbury was a little different from most. Roberts grew up with an American father from North Carolina, so he was no stranger to football culture. He watched college football growing up and even played flag football in Germany before transitioning to tackle.

But it was not until he sent film to Gridiron Imports and connected with former Salisbury coach Chris Adamson that Salisbury came into focus. Roberts had four schools interested in him, including schools in Pennsylvania and Virginia, but ultimately felt Salisbury stood above the rest.

“It was just clear that Salisbury was the best choice, football and development-wise, recruiting-wise,” Roberts said. The adjustment from German football to American football was significant, and not just in terms of physicality.

“The guys are more passionate about what they do,” Roberts said. “There are a lot of guys that want to play college football. It’s not like that in Germany.” And for Roberts, the goal is clear: play at the highest level he can, and he sees every day at Salisbury as a step toward it. Looking ahead, Salisbury has two Gridiron Imports players joining the program, a German lineman and a Swedish running back who will both have multiple years with the team. Given that Salisbury essentially helped build Gridiron Imports from the ground up, it is hard to imagine that connection slowing down anytime soon.





Coach Estes Reflects on 90 Years of Baseball, Life, and Brotherhood

By Matthew Chirumbolo

Being on the Hilltop for 26 years as a baseball coach, former Chaplain Duane Estes continues to come back year after year. Coach Estes has seen it all over the last quarter century-plus, both highs and lows.

When Coach Estes came to the Hilltop in 2000 after coaching at Loomis Chaffee, the program wasn't what it is now. He recalls playing Salisbury in 1999, saying, "We were up 13-0 after three innings, and the coach at the time took the starters out and put some of the subs in. So, the starters went down the left-field line and took their jerseys off to sunbathe."

Since then, he and his many teams have tallied 11 league championships for the Knights. But it's not the winning that keeps him coming back; it's the students and faculty.

"With Salisbury, I couldn't have asked for a better place to be in retirement," Coach Estes said. He notes the many "angels" he has at Salisbury. Those include, but are not limited to, Mr. Brent Barbatto '02, Mr. James Simboli, Mr. Christopher Phelps, and the late Mr. Kevin Huber.

Coach Estes said that they always want the best for him and always go above and beyond for him.

Out of all the strong teams Coach Estes has coached, he notes the 2008 squad as his favorite and the 2018 team as a close second.

He expanded on the 2008 team, saying, "It was the first year that we had the league along with division playoffs... we went undefeated." He added that "We had a pitcher, Chris Dwyer, who was going to Clemson, who eventually was drafted by the Kansas City Royals and played in the MLB... we also had this guy, Anthony Huett, who was a first-round draft pick by the Reds."

These were the players that led the team to an undefeated season along with "a lot of other good ball players" that made a very special first year in the WNEPBL.

Coach Dylan Sanchez '18, a former player under Coach Estes' second favorite

team and now a coach alongside him, shared his own thoughts on the long-time coach: "I think what makes him so great as a coach is just his overall experience. I mean, there are very few coaches you come across that have been coaching for 60 to 70 years plus."

Coach Sanchez continued by saying, "I think his knowledge of going through different eras of baseball, different coaches, different timelines, just all that combined together, I think it really gives the players a different perspective that not everybody is able to experience elsewhere."

Coach Sanchez noted that Coach Estes' coaching multiple sports over the years has also had a great impact on Estes' leadership skills. "He's been around great football players, great football coaches, basketball, track, and I think that all kind of combines into a kind of different knowledge among athletes," Coach Sanchez said. "He really uses it with his baseball players, and I think it really helps us be successful down the road."

A three-year player under Estes, Jackson Pettid '27 described Coach Estes' impact on him. "Coming here as a freshman, I was pretty small, and he helped me out a lot with working on pitch grips and creating a better arsenal because I didn't throw hard then, and like Coach says, having good movement is really important to a good pitcher," Pettid said.

He continued to elaborate on Coach Estes' teachings by saying, "His three ones in baseball are to get the first-pitch strike, first-pitch out, and a clean first inning. So, I've always taken that to heart. I'll remember that forever."

Over Pettid's time with Coach Estes, one thing has stayed consistent: his old-school pitcher workouts. Pettid notes, "The new guys at first will think the workouts are a little weird and think, why am I doing this? But they eventually join and see the reason why they've been around for so long," Pettid said.

Coach Sanchez explained what it's like coaching alongside Coach Estes and seeing the famous workouts still going on: "He's got

this 100-year-old can and med ball that he swears by, and it's cool to watch players on the team now do those exact workouts that I did when I was a player," he said. "It just shows how consistent he is and how dedicated he is, along with how much that stuff works."

Even the best players to come out of this program have gone through his workouts. "It's crazy, guys like Emmett Sheehan '18, a World Series pitcher, were doing those exact workouts that the players are still doing today," Coach Sanchez said.

It's no question that Coach Duane Estes has made a lasting impact on the program here on the Hilltop.

The Stories Behind Salisbury's Coaches

By Brayden Belski

Salisbury has built a reputation for having some of the best coaches at any school in America. Every coach at Salisbury has years of high-level experience, including collegiate or professional experience. But what many students don't know is where their coaches played and gained their experience.

Football Coach Jonathan Siff is among them and has coached the Knights for more than 10 years. Football was Coach Siff's favorite sport, as he played tight end at Williams College, became a captain in his senior year, and finished first-team all-conference that same year. His experience at the collegiate level has helped shape his coaching style.

"I was at Williams from 2001-2005 playing football and lacrosse... football for me was more than a sport. It taught me discipline, work ethic, and how to manage my time. This has made my professional life so much easier," said Coach Siff. "I miss playing, I miss catching, because all that stuff was fun, but it was something about those 11 guys together before each play that I miss the most."

One of Coach Siff's biggest influences was Coach Dick Farley, who once held the record for the longest win streak in Division III football history (23). "Coach Farley had a very simple approach. He preached hard work and humility; he never let us get big heads," Coach Siff said. "He would make fun of us in his own loving way, saying things like, 'you guys are here because there is no Division IV.' This was to knock us down a couple pegs to keep us humble." This is the basis of the coaching style Siff uses today.

English Instructor and Head Squash Coach Trevor Rees also has tons of experience at the collegiate level. Coach Rees found an early love for squash, starting his career at Brunswick School and ultimately playing at Yale from 2002-2006. Coach Rees was a member of two championship teams, as well as an intercollegiate doubles championship alongside partner Julian Illingworth.

"I have three wise men in my squash life. My coach Dan Talbott taught me how to be a team player and was my mentor, Coach Briggs taught me technically how to

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play, and Coach Stevens taught me how to compete. These three coaches had a big influence on the person I am today, teaching me the roots and technicality of the game,” said Coach Rees. “I miss playing squash, but I honestly miss college. The learning aspect is what I miss the most.” Coach Rees still carries the lessons and traditions from his college days into the way he coaches today.

Salisbury Squash is moving in the right direction after its second-place finish in the New England Class C division, its highest finish in the past 10 years.

Head Basketball Coach Bryce Daley '18 just finished his second season as leader of the Knights. Coach Daley played for UMass Lowell from 2018–2021 and led the team in assists during the 2020–2021 season. In that year, Daley and the River Hawks were just one game short of making the March Madness tournament.

“I’ve been playing basketball from such a young age. It really taught me how to get through the highs and lows in life,” said Coach Daley. “The play that sticks out the most was early in the season my freshman year when I was trying to carve out a role as a point guard. I threw a behind-the-back pass on a fast break instinctively, which, looking back, wasn’t a great idea for a freshman who was trying to prove himself.”

Luckily for him, the risky pass worked perfectly. “The pass landed, and it will be a clip I cherish for the rest of my life.” Daley learned a lot from his colleagues. “As a coach, I really mirror the way my head coach, Pat Duquette, coached me at UMass: the accountability, consistency, and leadership.” Daley brings all these values to Salisbury’s program, and success has started to come as a result.

Going into Coach Daley’s third season with the Knights, Salisbury basketball has already seen noticeable improvement. Coach Daley has tripled the number of wins in only two years as head coach.

While Salisbury has some of the best coaches in the country, it is evident that Coach Siff, Coach Rees, Coach Daley, and others are more than just coaches. They are mentors for students on and off the court or field. Their college experiences have shaped the way they coach, lead, and encourage their athletes.



SALISBURY SCHOOL

The Salisbury Athletics Hall of Fame: Big and Shawahl

By Burke Cameron

For the past 125 years, Salisbury has built a reputation for athletic excellence. Countless Olympians, All-Americans, professionals, and champions have sat in our classrooms, eaten at our tables, and competed as Crimson Knights. Despite this, our knowledge is not of their accomplishments on the Hilltop, but of their successes once they left. To fill this void in understanding, here is the Salisbury Hall of Fame, made possible by the coaches, athletes, and the athletic department as a whole.

Some coaches have been asking themselves this question for decades. Head Varsity Football Coach Chris Phelps explained, “Most of our [football] staff came here at the same time back in the fall of 2010... at the 10-year mark, we sat down and made nominations, created a ballot, and picked our top teams. So we had our All-Decade team, football-wise, by position.” He continued, saying, “We’ve had a lot of really good players. At the time of their graduation, you say they’re a Hall of Famer. Then you realize that they’re your honorable mention because other great ones came after.”

Of all the athletes mentioned, the name that came up most frequently is also one that likely popped into the older crowd’s heads when reading this article’s title: Myles Jones '12.

“One of the freakiest athletes that I’ve seen,” said Coach Phelps. Former Head Varsity Basketball Coach Mr. Jeff Ruskin not only agreed with Phelps, but also offered insight encapsulating Jones’ dominance like only he could: “14 years later, the rims in Hotchkiss’ gym are still shaking.”

Due to the league’s rules at the time (2011), the football team was allowed only four post-graduates. When Jones rolled in as a lacrosse recruit, these spots had already been filled. Despite winning the championship that year, Phelps reflected, “He was a 6’5”, 245-pound lacrosse and basketball player... was the key to that New England championship in basketball, and he would have been a First-Team New England football player if we had been allowed to have him.”

It is highly unlikely that Jones loses much sleep over his missed football season, considering his successes elsewhere. After receiving his Salisbury diploma, he headed off to Duke, where he won back-to-back lacrosse national championships in 2013 and 2014. Then, selected as the first overall pick in the Major League Lacrosse draft, he went on to win another championship and became a five-time All-Star as a professional athlete.

People like to generalize, summarize, simplify, and categorize. In life, such framing makes difficult concepts easier to digest. Unfortunately for those boys who faced 5’6”,



130-pound Theo Quartey '17 during his four-year reign over prep school soccer pitches, mercy only came in the form of the final whistle.

The soccer phenom, originally from Ghana, came to Salisbury through the Right to Dream program, which helps underprivileged kids from around the world earn an advanced education while developing their soccer prowess.

Head Varsity Soccer Coach Mr. Scot Beattie described Quartey as an “incredible, small, quick midfielder” who played with a “really dynamic, good tempo and intensity.” College scouts recognized his talent, and from 2017 to 2021, he played at Villanova, one of the top Division I soccer programs in the country.

“The tenacity he played with, the fire he brought to the game, was inspiring to his teammates,” added Beattie. “The captain of the team... he was an incredible leader.” Both Quartey’s leadership and love for the game persist to this day, as he has joined the Right to Dream organization as a manager for players from Spain, Denmark, Ghana, and even Egypt.

The only thing more impressive than earning himself a place in the Salisbury Hall of Fame is paving the way for many others to have the same opportunities to grow and achieve as he did during his four years on the Hilltop.

For the final induction into the Salisbury Hall of Fame, at least for this inaugural class, one must recall the aforementioned profile of Myles Jones: 6’5”, 245 pounds. If he played football, there’d be no getting past him... nobody but Shawahl Abdur-Rahman '13.

Considering Coach Phelps’ account that “he was an outside linebacker, a corner, and one of the toughest kids we ever had,” his comment that “Shawahl was a guy that you wouldn’t have given a shot to” is certainly surprising out of context. Context that includes, among other things, the fact that Shawahl measured in at 5’3”, 155 pounds.

“We’d try to put him at corner, but everybody would just throw jump balls at him,” said Phelps.

After the Knights suffered a potentially season-destroying injury to their starting tailback, Shawahl stepped up and led them in rushing for over 100 yards per game, was voted the New England Player of the Year, fought through an undefeated season, and culminated it all with a massive victory over Exeter to win the New England Championship.

He went on to play at Ithaca College, but never received proper attention from scouts due to his small stature. Despite this, his larger-than-life legacy lives on through both banners and the memories each Varsity football coach holds onto.

CROSSWORD

To The Class of 2026!

By Mr. Rees

ACROSS

- 1. Melting Face or Heart Hands
- 6. Squid
- 10. Lugs
- 14. Yankee Judge
- 15. Pulitzer-winning writer James
- 16. Cream-filled cookie
- 17. OD
- 18. You might need one if you're late to class
- 19. Online source of film facts
- 20. Laud
- 23. Singer Grande
- 26. Title for Mead and Ruiz
- 27. Graduation
- 32. Schemes
- 33. Florida city with the U.S.'s largest equestrian center
- 34. A number of Salisbury hockey players have played in it
- 37. German word for "donkey" (ask Mr. Paninski)
- 38. Egg-producing organ
- 39. Queen of the Nile, informally
- 40. Unit of scoring for MP and Rev. J's players
- 41. Take by force
- 42. War of 1812 treaty locale
- 43. Of 2026's
- 45. Fire remnant
- 48. Town about 15 miles SW of Salisbury, CT
- 49. Graduates, or with 20-, 27-, and 43-Across the theme for this week
- 54. "Decorated," as a house for Halloween
- 55. Egyptian goddess of life
- 56. UnitedHealthcare competitor
- 60. Thomas ___ Edison
- 61. Heavy, spiked club
- 62. Shy
- 63. Fishing rod attachment
- 64. Throw up
- 65. Subway entrance fixture

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
			20		21					22				
23	24	25								26				
27						28	29	30	31					
32						33						34	35	36
37						38						39		
40						38						39		
40						41					42			
			43						44					
45	46	47							48					
49					50	51	52	53						
54					55					56		57	58	59
60					61					62				
63					64					65				

DOWN

- 1. Water, in French
- 2. You can find a large one by the Salisbury Admissions Circle
- 3. Surgery sites, in brief
- 4. Cigarette mascot in sunglasses
- 5. Speaks sonorously
- 6. Surname of six at Salisbury: Ethan, Mac, Edmund, Tim, Danny, and David
- 7. Goalie Shesterkin
- 8. Facebook parent company
- 9. Actress Amanda
- 10. Water closet
- 11. Financial adviser Suze
- 12. Fixated on, as an idea
- 13. On the wagon
- 21. Alternative to Gramma or Granny
- 22. Destination for many Salisbury oarsmen, and Brooks Franklin
- 23. Salisbury's campus has over 700
- 24. What the Deans might do if you don't show up for an exam, with "you"
- 25. "No thanks"
- 28. Yearn for
- 29. Venmo transfer, e.g.
- 30. Salisbury staffer Dawn
- 31. English cathedral city near Cambridge
- 34. "Yond Cassius has ___ and hungry look": Julius Caesar
- 35. This is what the French would call Brizzy Brislin
- 36. Hella
- 38. Hockey legend Bobby
- 39. One of the snacks available in the dining hall
- 41. Gummy candy shape
- 42. 1,500 Club members, possibly
- 43. Like England in the Middle Ages
- 44. ___ Paulo, Brazil
- 45. Basic verb for Senor Barrutia
- 46. Pancake syrup flavor
- 47. Musical equivalent of two whole notes
- 50. One offering intense but unrequited affection, in Gen Z slang
- 51. Biblical figure seen in the sauna?
- 52. Salisbury Senior Feret
- 53. "Oh I get it now"
- 57. Letters said out of embarrassment
- 58. Nothing
- 59. Suffix with Gator or hater

The Cupola Staff, Spring 2026

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Matthew Chirumbolo Alexi de La Giraudiere Rowan Kornylak
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