

Kevin Driscoll Represents LHS at All-State Show

by Morgan McPartland
Head Editor

LHS senior Kevin Driscoll recently played the role of East in the 2012 Illinois High School Theatre Festival All-State Production titled *Almost, Maine*. The festival took place in early January at Illinois State University.

Lemont was represented for the third straight year at the country's largest statewide theatre festival, and Driscoll was the only LHS student in the play this year. "It would have been cool to have other students from Lemont," he said.

Driscoll auditioned for his role with hundreds of other students from the state, and secured it after making the final comebacks for the production. LHS junior Aubree Tally and sophomore Anne-Marie Alwan also made the final comebacks for the 2012 show.

The All-State production was only one of the many events at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival and it was directed by Ben Stoner from Crystal Lake South High School.

The cast, crew and orchestra of the All-State production is comprised of over 70 of the state's top drama and music students, hence the title. This year, the students and staff involved put together the production in less than 20 rehearsals.

After rehearsing for about six months, the production took place during the first week of January. "[The play] was interesting because almost every character was kind of a lead," said Driscoll. There were eight scenes in the play, with different characters in each one. Since there were so many students from across the state, Driscoll said they became "one big family."

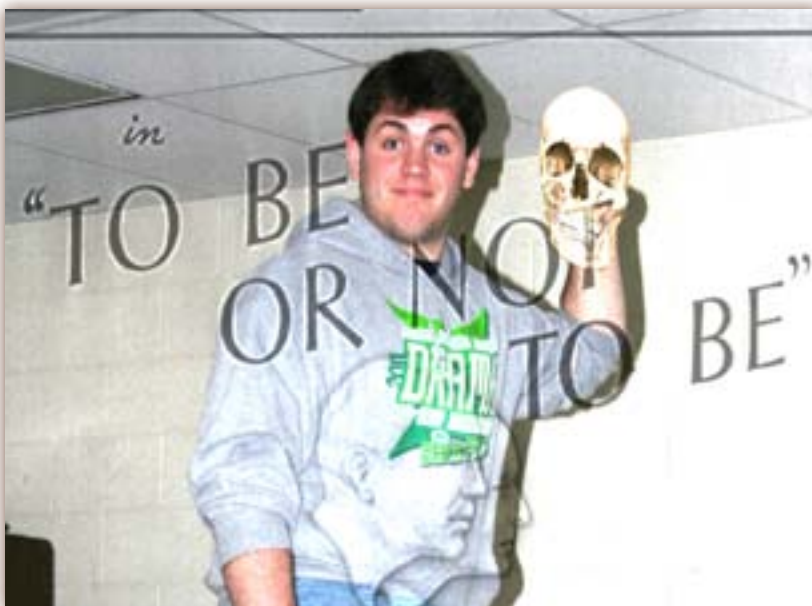


photo by Luke Whittingham

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Maggie Brown Placed in State's TOP BAND

by Nicole McKevitt
News writer

Junior Maggie Brown, Contra Bass Clarinet player, participated in the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) All-State Conference at the Peoria Civic Center from Jan. 25-28. Brown's audition placed her in the Honors Concert Band, the best high school concert band in Illinois.

Brown was one of just two Contra Bass Clarinet players invited to this event.

After she was placed in IMEA Honors Concert Band, Brown spent the IMEA All-State Conference rehearsing with the best musicians in the state. On the final day of the conference, she performed in the IMEA Honors Concert.

At the event, Brown had the opportunity to meet representatives and recruiters from honorable music colleges throughout the state of Illinois.

"It was a great experience," said Brown. "I hope through this opportunity I can get the chance to play in college."

Brown also performed at the IMEA All-District Festival at Downers Grove South on Nov. 19 with juniors Vince Dory, Bass Clarinet, and David Spinelli, Clarinet. Brown, Dory and Spinelli are all first chairs in their respective sections in the LHS Symphonic Band.

In the fall, all three advanced to the IMEA All-District Festival after the IMEA auditions at Sandburg High School with 2,000 other students.



photo by Luke Whittingham



AP Scholars

by Marisa Mars
News writer

29 members of the class of 2011 have been honored with the AP scholar's award. This award is given to students who earn an average of at least 3.5 on all AP exams.

The AP classes offered by the school allow students to take college level courses while still in high school. 1.8 million students across the world took AP exams, Tony Hamilton said, and about 18% of those students performed well enough on the exams to receive a title as an AP Scholar.

Recipients of the AP scholar with Distinction Award include Jake Groselak, Nick Hunt, Rita Kuseliauskas, Arthur Laciak, Aileen McGraw, Vijay Rajendran, Jonathan Remiasz, Clare Rogers, Jim Shupryt, Rob Smierciak and Paige Szymanski. These students scored an average of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and scored 3 or above on five or more exams taken.

Five former students won the AP scholar with Honor Award by scoring 3.25 or higher on all AP exams taken and scored over 3 on four or more exams. These students are Kevin Fritz, Ryan Harding, Magdalena Jazowski, Leslie Kane and Becky Radavich.

"The administration is thrilled that our students' success through the Advanced Placement program continues to grow," said Communications Director Tony Hamilton on the students' success.

Groselak, Hunt, Kuseliauskas, Laciak, Rajendran, Remiasz, Rogers, Shupryt, Smierciak and Taluzek had all received AP Scholar recognition in 2010, according to Hamilton.

Lemont continues to encourage students to do their best, and for these students, it paid off.



photo by Luke Whittingham



Nuclear Family Fallout

by Ryan Kahle
Editorialist

Children think them infallible. Adolescents believe them self-assured and egotistical. Only adults realize their true value.

Parenting can be a trying task; not all are capable.

Recently, an unfortunate fad has been sweeping the child-bearing generation: power couples. Two successful individuals allow cash to rule everything around them, letting liquid assets take precedence over family life and a happy home.

There comes a point where striving to put bread on the \$2400 solid mahogany table is simply redundant. Given, there needs to be one parent figuratively winning the bread, but both should devote the majority of their energy and care to true parenting.

What is this so called "true parenting"? Providing the means to a fulfilling life.

Government does this (for the most part) and educational institutions do this, but upper middle class suburbanites seem incapable. Instead of brimming with encouragement and only providing the gentlest of course corrections, many modern and even postmodern couples seize control of the life they have created early and often.

If two individuals are unhappy in a relationship, it is no longer a relationship and should be ended. However, when children are involved the entire ordeal is complicated. Blame aside, the emotional trauma in itself is enough to destroy a child's life.

Too much exerted control will turn a child into a drone.

A wise man once said that growing up is a journey towards acceptance of one's parents, for they can only be who they are and will never be their offspring's ideal caregiver. Power couples need to embrace this message.

Imperfection is an indelible facet of the human condition; a closed mind fosters unhappiness for both parties. Acceptance is the only remedy.

Blue Thumb

by Josh Shubert
Editorialist

As spring approaches, people start looking lawn-ward at their respective (or perhaps prospective) gardens and start planning on what to grow this year. They might think of growing tomatoes, potatoes, maybe even peppers.

But they're wrong!

There is no longer any reason, besides completing a rainbow of tomatoes, to grow any standard varieties when so many new kinds of produce have been bred in the past few years. Unless of course you're boring, then go right ahead.

For example, growers used to be limited to red, orange and yellow tomatoes, but tomato breeders at Oregon State University have recently bred a blue tomato, called the p20 tomato or the indigo rose.

Why grow a boring red tomato when you can grow a giant blueberry?

To compliment blue tomatoes, enhance your garden by ditching brown potatoes and replacing them with blue ones. Not only do they look cool, but the anthocyanin in their skin is a good antioxidant.

And as for peppers, while blue ones do exist, head for the more reasonably-priced indigo or purple ones, as the blue peppers are only found in one place on earth and have prices comparable to their rarity.

While a normal garden does what it does, a colorful and hopefully blue garden really makes the hobby interesting, while also being a major wow factor to less soil-savvy friends.



photo courtesy of WeHeartIt



Self worth

by Cara Dohse
Editorialist

Self-worth is a value that many individuals lack- this problematic mindset that many portray ranges from teens to adults of any age. The varying levels of mental illnesses do not phase selected amounts of individuals. Self-worth is what gets people by, and having the mindset, “I can do this” goes such a long way. Unfortunately, we live in a world where portraying that mindset isn’t easy for everyone. People lack self-worth and it’s not something that can go away with the snap of a finger.

Lacking self-worth comes at different levels with every individual. Some are not so serious, whereas others are very serious. These serious cases may include one, many, or all of: depression, eating disorders, anxiety, self-harm, social isolation, and unfortunately even suicide. Some find it hard to understand or grasp these mental illnesses. Any of the situations should never be taken lightly, and every individual who suffers from it deserves help just as much as the next one.

Where Does It All Start?

What leads to such low feelings and where does it all begin? Joan Browning, one of LHS’s social workers said, “The common things found are issues usually starting during puberty-middle school. It is related to anxiety about friends, appearance, changes,

expectations and inevitable comparisons to others.” Things and events happen in life at different times- maybe all at once, sporadically, or not often at all.

The stomach flu really stinks, doesn’t it? When I start puking in the toilet I think, “Why am I sick? I wasn’t around anyone with the stomach flu!” But, there is rarely ever a distinct explanation as to why illnesses happen. Maybe you know

“People lack self-worth and it's not something that can go away with the snap of a finger.”

a family member, neighbor, or friend who lacks self-worth. Has the question, “why?” ever come to your mind? Well sometimes there isn’t an answer. But there are steps and solutions to finding the road to peace and contentment.

Life isn’t perfect, as we all know. Troubles come along and at times they are overwhelming. The person sitting next to you doesn’t have the same home-life as you or had to have gone through things you have. They all may be similar

situations, but none that could compare.

Every Life Is Different

You may have walked in someone’s shoes, but not a soul has ever walked in another’s pair of socks. It is a difficult concept for some to understand, even myself, that as much as we try we don’t know how they feel. As much as we could try and help, we only truly know to an extent how they feel. But, with that in mind, we can always take steps to help them.

Every individual is different, and every path through life could never be 100% comparable. There are plenty of events that could bring an individual to such low parts in his/her life. Why do such extreme, dark feelings happen? “Adolescence brings high hopes, and lots of disappointments that can seem overwhelming without support from friends, family or a professional,” said Browning. Lacking self-worth is a common thing among many, and deeply tears individuals down.

I believe that plenty of people have a difficult time accepting that how they think and what goes on in their minds is never something to be ashamed of. Some feel that they are “freaks” or not right for feeling the way they do, and don’t think anyone feels the same. People all over the world suffer from



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lack of self-worth, and it is more than okay that you feel the way you do.

Ask For Help

Asking for help is always and forever a good thing. Family, friends, adults, teachers, counselors and therapists don’t ever try to pry into your life, but want to help. If you have doubt in your own self-worth, people around you know how vitally important your life is, even if you can’t see it. People all around try to help and struggle every-day with the fear of not being sure that they are offering the best advice or help. Though it may not be what you need, it is something to hold onto, and know that your life is worth it to them.

With lack of self-worth comes embarrassment or shame at times. Individuals become scared to express how they feel and have a hard time having faith that anyone would understand. So, they decide to bottle themselves up which leads to the snowball effect. The snowball effect is when a feeling is felt, and it needs to be expressed but is not. They don’t feel the need to talk it out or accept that that is the way they truly feel. It builds up to make a big

“snowball” with more snow with every thought or feeling that isn’t expressed. It builds up to the point of where it is too big and pops in an unhealthy manner.

People Want To Help

Communication is vital in life, and is especially important when things need to be expressed. Talking and letting things out is nothing but healthy and helpful. “By talking, realization occurs that one is not totally alone in their uncertainty, and that negative thought process deepens neural pathways to circular thoughts to depression and thoughts of never being able to escape those thoughts,” said Browning.

Many are around, welcome and ready to help. Friends should always be willing to be a helping hand, and if they are not, it is a very wonderful idea to turn to family. If family is unreliable, counselors, social workers and therapists always want to help you. At most schools, social workers and counselors are available at all times. These wonderful people have no room to judge and want to do everything in their power to put your mind at ease and help you evaluate your thoughts in the healthiest way possible. Not only

do they communicate in a healthy way with individuals, but they also guide you to solutions. If needed, counselors or therapists are available outside of school that your school counselor may recommend.

“When thoughts and problems start to prevent a person from getting through their daily routine at, it is helpful to seek assistance rather than let things get worse. Friends do help but some problems require an experienced adult with specific training. There should be no more shame in going to a mental health professional than a dentist or doctor. Everyone needs a little help at times” said Browning.

Lacking self-worth is common among many and is something that people struggle with every day. It is something that is very possible to overcome with patience, time and help. There are many steps and solutions that can be taken to help yourself, because you truly matter. Your life is worth fighting for and worth working past mental illnesses. Your life is worth it.



photo courtesy of WeHeartIt

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PUNK ON BROADWAY: Green Day's American Idiot the Musical

by Sonia Vavra
Features writer

There are two things I really, truly and passionately love: the band Green Day and musicals. So as soon as I found out a musical was being made based off of Green Day's album 'American Idiot,' my mind was completely blown.

Once February began, I found myself constantly calculating the exact amount of time until I would finally be able to race to Chicago's Oriental Theatre and enter the gorgeous building. I'd been anxiously awaiting Green Day's American Idiot the Musical for nearly an entire year, and I could hardly contain my excitement during the car ride to Chicago.

When the curtain finally rose and the lights turned off, the crowd fell silent. I was immediately greeted with bright flashing lights and Green Day's song "American Idiot" reaching my ear-



Photo courtesy of Google

drums, sung by an ensemble of ridiculously talented, young singers.

It was really hard for me to contain myself as the musical went on; most of the time I wanted to jump onto the stage and join in on the rage and love expressed by the entire cast.

As the show went on, we found out about three different friends-Johnny, Tunny and Will-who are tired of the lives they live in Jingtowntown. Right in the beginning of the show, these three teen guys express their frustration of living in a town where nothing happens and immediately set out to find a more exciting life.

Will, however, decides to stay behind when he finds out his girlfriend is pregnant and spends the rest of his days planted on a couch while his friends are off finding a new, exciting life.

Almost as soon as they leave for their trip, Johnny's unrest slowly grows as he continues to wait for his great adventure to really begin, while Tunny remains slumped in a bed sleeping all the time. . . Until he abandons the adventure and leaves for the military.

All on his own, Johnny desperately seeks the life full of excitement that supposedly exists outside of suburbia, but has trouble finding it without the help of his friends. That is, until he meets Whatsername - a girl who changes his life forever. All the while, Johnny's alter ego, St. Jimmy, is constantly looming over him, often influencing the choices he makes.

The excellent plot combined with the classic Green Day music constantly kept me thrilled until the finale-the song "Time of Your Life" always gets me-and the upbeat songs sung by the cast stayed in my head long into the week.

Green Day's American Idiot the Musical is definitely a musical I won't soon forget.



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Rolling Deep in Grammys

by Maddy George
Features writer

39 million viewers tuned in on Feb. 12 to music's biggest night on television.

The Grammy Awards featured many celebs taking home their very own golden "Gramophone," but one artist left the Staples Center struggling to take home her awards.

British singer, Adele, stole the show after winning all six categories she was nominated in and earning a standing ovation for performing her hit, "Rolling in the Deep". It was the first time Adele had performed publicly after recovering from throat surgery.

The singer left with the titles of: Best Pop Solo Vocal Performance, Pop Vocal album, Short Form Music Video, Record of the Year, Album of the Year and Song of the Year.

The star herself exclaimed, "This is ridiculous!" after receiving her fifth award. Ridiculous or not, there's no debating, Adele is back!



Photo courtesy of Google and edited by Maddy George

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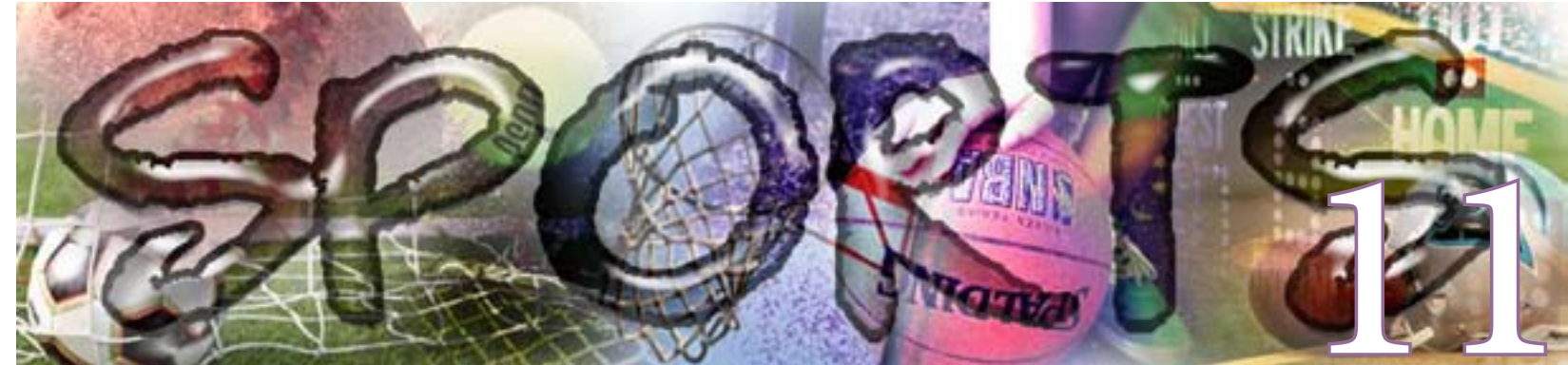
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IT'S JUST LIKE A GARAGE SALE, BUT IT'S ILLEGAL

by Ryan Peraino
Sports Editor

It's the day of the big game and you're lucky enough to land four tickets to the game. You're on the way to the game and you're meeting your three best friends there. On your way there, you get a call from one of your friends saying he can't make it to the game because a problem has come up at work. It's too late to call someone else to take his place but you don't want to just give away the ticket. You decide you'll just sell it outside of the stadium. There is just one problem: you're breaking the law.

The debate of whether ticket scalping should be legal has been a topic of much debate for many years.

WHAT IS IT?

Ticket scalping is the act of reselling tickets for admission to events. Ticket scalpers work outside of stadiums or venues and sell the tickets for cash.

Some scalpers will sell their extra tickets while others will buy tickets from one scalper and try to scalp them for more money.

It is estimated that around 10% of tickets are acquired through scalping.

HISTORY

Ticket scalping has been going on for hundreds of years and can be dated all the way back to the Romans. Seats near the emperor were highly coveted tickets and they were sold for good money.

"Tickets to these events were regularly resold or bartered for a better view of the emperor," said Ticketmaster co-founder Albert Leffler.

The first legislation that was associated with ticket scalping appeared in 1918.

Since then, online scalping sites have popped up giving customers a legal way to buy resale tickets.

In 1995, Ebay gave customers the chance to bid for tickets online and the biggest online ticket resale site out there, Stubhub, was founded in 2000. Since then, many online ticket brokers like Tickets Now and Gold Coast Tickets have been giving fans the opportunity to purchase tickets online.

Throughout the whole internet scalping craze, street scalpers have been selling tickets outside venues for years.

LAWS

The big debate in scalping has stemmed off of the government making laws against the resale of tickets. Each state has different laws for ticket scalping.

The state of Illinois allows ticket resale by registered ticket brokers, internet auction houses and internet websites. Registered ticket brokers must maintain a permanent office in state, pay an annual \$100 registration fee, disclose their refund policy and maintain \$100,000 in an account to satisfy valid consumer complaints.

The law also prohibits brokers from selling tickets near the stadium, but if you walk around Wrigley Field, you'll see plenty of registered brokers legally selling tickets.

As for other states, 16 out of the 50 states have laws that prohibit ticket scalping. Seven states, including Illinois, require a special license to scalp tickets and four states leave the issue up to state municipalities.

"It's Just Like" continued on page 12



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“It’s Just Like” continued from page 11

Since scalping is a non-violent crime police are often hesitant to get involved. It is a crime with no victim and in fact both parties agree to the transaction.

Therefore punishment rarely happens or a simple ticket is issued but it is rarely more than that.

PROBLEMS

There are some reasons that the government has made scalping illegal.

There are some scalpers that travel from city to city selling counterfeit tickets to buyers.

Another problem is that some scalpers resell tickets that have already been scanned in. Therefore the tickets are invalid because they’re already used.

“I always worry about receiving fake tickets from a scalper,” said junior Justin Brady. “But you can usually get good deals from scalpers so I continue to buy from them.”

Counterfeit money is another reason that scalping is illegal. People buy tickets from scalpers with counterfeit money and there is no way to track them after that.

Scalping can be a shady business.

RESPONSE

The fact that ticket scalping is illegal irks many people. They believe that this is the government overstepping their boundary.

“If I buy a pair of shoes and I don’t want them anymore, I can resell them. How is this any different than re-selling tickets?” said LHS faculty member Mark Hollatz.

Many outraged scalpers believe that this is just part of the free market economy. They aren’t harming anyone and there is no victim in the situation. “How can it be illegal, if there’s no victim,” said senior Ankit Amlani.

Although many don’t agree with scalping laws, senior Naem Mufarreh believes, “Scalping is wrong. The corporations are being cheated out of money. They could be selling those tickets for more money at the box office.”

LEGALIZED SCALPING

The act of selling tickets on the street without a license is illegal but selling tickets online isn’t illegal. Many argue that this isn’t any different. In both places fans are selling unused tickets but one is illegal and one isn’t.

The reason that selling tickets online is legal is because the government can then charge you taxes on your purchases. It seems that everything in life goes back to money and this is no different.

Some online websites to sell tickets are Ebay, Stubhub and Gold Coast Tickets.

The Chicago Cubs are so focused on money that they have their own ticket scalping agency. Their agency is called Wrigley Field Premium Tickets.

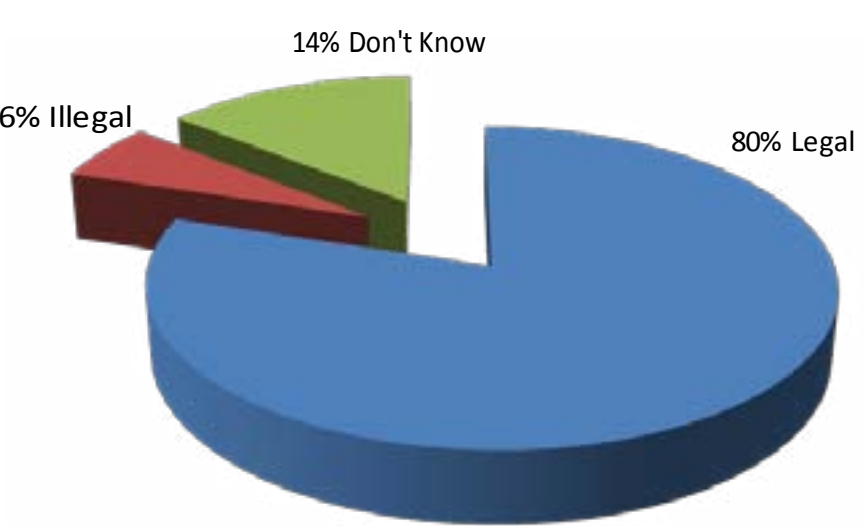
The Cubs give a chunk of their tickets to this agency that doesn’t have to sell the tickets at face value and can alter the prices based on demand.

Sometimes they make money or lose money.

This went to court a few years back but it was deemed legal. The Cubs are doing what many fans do every day except it’s legal for these agencies to participate in scalping because they pay taxes.

Bottom line is ticket scalping is illegal unless you’re paying taxes to the government. Is it fair? That’s for you to decide.

Ticket Scalping Should Be....



Based on a Poll of 100 Lemont High School Students and Faculty

Inside Look: Girls' Track

by Effie Tounas
Sports writer

The sound of the gun-fire before a race is the most stressful moment for a girl on the track team. And as one of those girls, I know the feeling.

The girls’ 2012 track season has begun and that means only one thing: a lot of running. Many new faces have arrived on the team, but returning head coach Tim Plotke is not one of them.

Sprint coach Dave Banner, who recently coached the boys’ football team, is a new addition to the coaching staff. Not only does being a former football coach involve a great amount of work, but Banner has been a supportive coach from the start.

Returning senior sprinter Rebecca Scott said, “So far [the track season] is pretty good. There are a ton of people who have potential and work very hard. We’re all looking forward to the first [indoor] meet.” Scott also commented on the team and said, that they have been bonding well so far.

And when asked what she expected from the team, newcomer freshman Sabina Ponicki stated, “I expect to try new events and get in shape. It feels great to be part of a team.” Ponicki also mentioned on how encouraging the girls were for each and every person on the team.

As an insider, my opinion of the team is that we are meeting many expectations from coach Plotke. This year’s team is very determined, and I believe we can make a lot of the season. Our indoor meets will only help prepare us more for the outdoor season, which is what us runners look forward to.

The girls’ first indoor meet will be held on March 3 at Plainfield South. This meet will be the first of the three meets held indoors.

Rolling Into a New Year

by Kurran Buck
Sports writer

A team that doesn’t get a lot of attention lately for their recent success is our very own varsity girls bowling team. Not only did they make an impact in several tournaments, but they have a roster that can potentially top what they did for the 2011-2012 season.

“We overall had a very successful season. We are a very young team but our bond was very strong,” said senior bowler Sarah Mezyk about the team’s success this year. This showed during matches and in tournaments throughout the season. Just take a look at some highlights from this past season.

Seeing as Mezyk was the only senior on the team this year, the juniors had to have a big role in carrying the team far this season. The team took 3rd place in conference competition, but was unable to get far in the state playoffs. They also had great success in tournaments, including a win at the Knights of Fenton tournament and placing third at the Eisenhower tournament. Junior Lizzy Melvin took 8th place individually at Eisenhower for a high game. Junior Nora Collins was considered by her peers as “our best bowler” on the team, taking 4th place all-conference and placing 8th at the Reavis tournament.

“We are a junior-heavy team with so much talent and potential,” said Mezyk on the outlook for the team next year. “It will be a competitive year but they also have the potential to go very far.” It will be a group full of mainly seniors next year, along with a small dose of underclassmen, and returning to the team will be freshman Kyra Udziela. With the team that they will have, these expectations should garner some attention for next season. And why not? Performances from junior bowlers Melvin and Collins have shown that this team could potentially give competition to conference rivals.

Although seniority was amiss with this year’s team, next year will have seniors that have proven themselves before. Success comes from repetition, right?



Photo courtesy of Sarah Mezyk



14 COMEBACK KIDS

by John Fiori
Sports writer

8.1 seconds, the time needed for the Lemont Indians basketball team to make history. It's a true comeback story as the Indians were unheard of in conference play now share a conference title with the 24th consecutive champions Hillcrest Hawks.

Lemont (25-2, 13-1) looked shaky in the first half committing 14 turnovers against Hillcrest's (22-5, 13-1) stingy full court press. Adding to the fact Hillcrest's Javon Mooring's 26 points led the team as they went into the locker room at halftime leading the Indians by 11 points. Being down by a significant amount really sparked the Indians to improve their game.

A collaborate effort by all the Indian shooters was lead by junior Juozas Balciunas. "We're playing together as a team and we've had everyone accept the role that they've been assigned by the coaching staff. There is only one ball and everyone can't be a superstar," said head coach Rick Runaas.

Sophomore Mike Wisz added another great outing with 9 points and 12 rebounds. Since the Hawks

dominated the height and speed, Lemont needed a way to work around it. The Indians looked to ball fake then shoot. The Hawks defenders were as tall as 6'6: shooting over them was not going to cut it. This led the 15-1 run as four different Indian players made 3-point shots.

Hillcrest held the ball with three minutes to go. This seemed to be their demise. "We pointed out their mistakes and we wanted to capitalize on them as best as we could," said senior Matt Lipowski. With the lead diminishing in front of them the Indians hit key shots and free throws. Putting them down by only 1 point with 13 seconds left.

From then on it was the Joey Hehir show. With a pump fake and nice screen from sophomore Jake Terrazas, all Hehir needed to do was lay it up. "I knew he would take the pump fake and with the screen in place I had a clear shot," said Hehir. Even though the Hawks had a significant amount of time on the clock they didn't capitalize. The crowd stormed the court in shock as the Indians beat the hawks 58-57.

The Indians basketball team celebrated their most prestigious win this year. Capping off a 24-2 regular season record. Dreams came true on Friday as goals were met. "I couldn't have asked for anything more this year; it's a dream come true", said Balciunas.

In previous years the Indians were never conference favorites. The Hawks seemed to be unbeatable, winning 24 years in a row. But the Indians never shied away. They knew what they were up against. "I'll tell them how proud I am of them and how happy I am for them that they have been the group that made boys' basketball relevant at Lemont High School," said Runaas. Dreams do come true and for the Lemont Indians seniors it was their last game at home of their high school career.



Lemont's Joe Hehir scores

Photo courtesy of Chicago Tribune