



THREE PEAT

by Ryan Peraino
Sports writer

Another year, another state title. The Lemont High School Varsity Cheerleaders captured another Medium Division state title on Feb. 5, at the U.S. Cellular Coliseum in Bloomington, IL.

The team scored an 88.2 in the First Round on Friday, February 4 and was in third place behind Antioch and Crystal Lake. They didn't have their best round, as they got 1.5 points deducted.

"The deductions hurt our overall score but because of the difficulty of our routine, we still had the possibility of winning," said Head Coach Brittany Glowa. "They just needed the motivation that they could do it with a perfect routine."

In the Final Round, the girls had a near perfect routine with zero deductions and a total score of 91.18. This gave the girls the state title as they beat Antioch's score (91.10) by 0.08!



Top Row: Gianna Turek, Kelsey Tate, Ashley Baldyga, Stephanie Eggers, Stefanie Guerrero, Emily Durham Middle Row: Assistant Coach Kim Karn, Head Coach Brittany Glowa, Assistant Coach Dave Erlanbaugh, DJ Wohead, Amber D'Andrea, Abby Baffoe, Kaylsa Walter, Brittany Cantarino, Maddy Detres, Katie Howe Front Row: Nicole May, Lindsay Bromberek(Senior), Keara McGraw(Senior), Alex Lyewski

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photo by Ms. Glowa



Let's Speak About Speech

by Caroline Celis
News writer

The Monday morning announcements almost always include news of the Speech team's most recent win. Still, many LHS students are unaware of what the team actually does.

Saturday mornings begin for LHS senior Rob Smerciak by waking up before 5 A.M. to prepare for an eight hour day of competitions and performances. "[Dan] Franke, [Speech Team Coach] is very particular about how we look," he said. Smerciak, who has won multiple first place finishes, says his favorite part of Speech team is "when we are rewarded for all the hard work."

Every Saturday, speech team members arrive at LHS to depart on a bus as a team and arrive an hour prior to the start of a competition. The competitions, which usually start at 8 A.M., include multiple rounds in unique categories and go well into the afternoon.

Besides Franke, Dennis Brumirski and Philip Lazzari coach the speech-givers. All three practice with the kids every day after school, giving them group and individual attention.

Franke has cited "the entirety of the season" as his proudest moment. "[I want] people to know we exist and [know] what an amazing group of kids compete on a weekly basis."

The team, which has had a successful season thus far, has broken many school speech records. Placing 43 students as tournament champions, they have so far more than doubled the school's history of tournament champions.

With 5 first place finishes as a team and a recent 2nd place finish at regionals, the LHS "speaks" are hoping to continue their success at the upcoming sectional and state competitions.

photo by Dan Franke



Lemont Speech Regional Team (Left to Right): Enrika Grigorjevaite, Leslie Kane, Aubree Tally, Delia Ercoli, Coach Dennis Bruimirski, Danny Kulasik, Amy Harlovic, Coach Dan Franke, Lindsay Simonetta, Josh Timm, Coach Philip Lazzari, Gabrielle Zeman, Rob Smierciak, Rachel Hunter, and Nathan Kievert.

Turnabout

by Elizabeth Bernabe
News writer

Colorful poster signs and flyers brightly decorate the information boards and lunchroom all commonly plastered with one word: MORP. To the detailed eye, that's prom spelled backwards.

On Saturday Feb. 19, Lemont High School will host a winter dance in the commons at 7 p.m. In the past this dance was referred to as the Turnabout dance, but this year marks the first time student council has decided to change the event into a more casual dance titled MORP. The theme is Neon Nights and students are expected to dress casually and preferably in white or neon colors to glow in the black lights.

Tickets will go on sale from Feb. 14 to 18 during lunch for \$10. But why did student council develop this dance and will it truly be worth it to go?

Student Council Head Sponsor Elizabeth Raimondi reveals, "[student council had] done the Turnabout for about 5 years in a row and ... less people were coming every year ... the whole issue of the girls asking the boys kind of caused people not to go."

Raimondi also confesses, "It's kind of like an experiment, just trying out a new kind of dance." Without the need for girls to ask out the guys, there would be less pressure and as Raimondi put it, "a fun, more relaxed kind of dance atmosphere." It also helps that students are allowed to dress casually instead of in the uncomfortable dresses or formal wear usually required.



Choosing a theme to show the casualness of the dance must not have been easy for student council. The theme itself was interestingly chosen from pictures in a magazine depicting people wearing glow necklaces.

Raimondi expects 300 or more students to show adding, "There have been a lot of kids telling me that they love the idea and that they are definitely planning on going."

If MORP does acquire more students than expected, it will most likely continue to become the annual LHS winter dance, replacing the Turnabout dance.

With balloons and decorations glowing in the special black lights, the commons will truly be transformed from a lunchroom by day, to a neon paradise at night. As Raimondi put it, "if people like to dance and be with their friends and make memories, I don't see why [students] wouldn't want to come."

photos by Katelyn Bitke and courtesy of Google



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“Winning is the best feeling in the world,” said three year varsity cheerleader Nicole May. “We worked harder (this year) than any other year.”

This is a big step for a team that finished second in their conference and sectional behind Oak Forest. “(Going into state), we were still optimistic,” said senior Keara McGraw. “Conference and sectional’s we still had injuries. A week before state the girls put in everything they had.”

This is very remarkable for a team that has only two seniors and thirteen underclassmen, including seven freshmen. “The juniors and seniors showed leadership and worked together to make sure the team had potential,” said Glowa.

This is the Lemont’s third cheerleading state title in as many years. This impressive feat hasn’t been done by any other Lemont sports team.

The nine months of rigorous work seems to have paid off for the team. During the season these girls have to balance academics, football games, practice, fundraisers, and competitions, not to mention the practices over the summer, too. “The season is very rigorous. It’s a lot of strain on the body but it is worth it,” said McGraw.

As for a fourth title in the future, Glowa believes, “since we ended the season with such high skills, you can only improve on them. With the returning players and some of the JV girls, this team can be untouchable for the next three years.



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photos by Ms. Glowa

And the Oscar Goes to...



Oh wait, no one cares

by Kelly Lyons
Editorials Editor

The beginning of each new year ushers in glamour, prestige and stardom for all of Hollywood in the form of award season. Most Americans are very excited to watch actors duke it out to see whose movies or television shows were the favorites of the previous year. Actors work very hard to make it in their industry; it makes sense set aside a best of the best. However, award shows nowadays of the previous year. The emphasis on award to the red carpet. Who cares who won which award was best and worst dressed? As an admitted addict of just how prominent looks during award show red carpet fashion, I’ve noticed rather than talent have become season. After the award shows talk about? The fashion. Virtually every entertainment television station talks more about who wore what rather than the actual talent of the people being honored. Although many people enjoy the superficial coverage, it seems as if many talented actors are shafted from the spotlight to accommodate for the best looking people of the evening. Clothing designers are getting more credit than the actors themselves.



Images Courtesy of Google

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I imagine that the majority of America couldn't even list half of the movies nominated for best picture this year. Many people jump onto the bandwagon and preach how important the arts are, but when it comes down to it how many people really care?

Put yourself in the shoes of your favorite actor or actress. After putting in so much work to become the best at your craft, would you find it very fair to be outshone by others just because they were put on the best dressed list and you weren't? The most beautiful people don't always deserve the most attention, especially when these shows are supposed pay homage to talent rather than looks.

Overall, red carpet addiction only makes America believe even more strongly in the importance of looks and body perfection. And then after the award shows are over, dozens of programs are devoted to calling out and bashing seemingly normal stars. Does America really need any more of that attitude?

It's sad that despite the great performances actors gave in 2010, their work still may not be noticed behind all the glitz and glamour of the superficial aspects of award season. Although award shows are meant to display the success of the past year's finest actors, many people just watch the arrival of their favorite stars on the red carpet and tune out.

It's a shame that the importance of the arts has been overshadowed by such shallow matters. Instead of discussing Natalie Portman's bone-chilling performance in *Black Swan* or the mind-blowing story of *Inception*, all people will want to know from each passing show is "who are you wearing?"

Images Courtesy of Google



7 FEATURES

OOPS!... SHE DID IT AGAIN

by Maddy George
Features Writer

Since 1999 Britney Spears has been topping the charts and breaking the rules with controversial dance moves and dozens of hit songs. Spears has sold over 100 million records worldwide and she still shows no sign of stopping.

Spears' new album, *Femme Fatale*, is set to release Mar. 15, 2011. This is Spears' seventh studio album and it has supposedly been in development for two years. Her first single off the album, "Hold it Against Me", debuted at number one on the Billboard Hot 100.

It's no secret Spears has gone through a few rough patches over the years. She has been married twice (and then divorced twice), had two kids, shaved her head, been to rehab and has managed to keep her career on track...for the most part.

However her fans have stuck by her and are more than thrilled for her comeback. "I'm so excited for it!" Junior Christine McVeagh says, "I'm thinking about camping out at Best Buy to get it!"

So there's one thing we know for sure. If anyone can make a comeback, it's Britney. Look out for Britney's new album, *Femme Fatale*, on Mar. 15 and decide whether it was worth the wait!



Images Courtesy of Google

HEY HE SAID/SHE SAID,

I'M MAD CRUSHIN' ON A GUY WHO DOESN'T
EVEN KNOW I EXIST. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

SIGNED,

KRUSHIN KUTIE

Dear Krushin Kutie,

Sometimes it is really hard to get someone you like to notice you. Looking great on a daily basis is always a good thing. When someone sees that you care about yourself, they may start to notice. First off, you should try talking to them and getting to know them. If you really don't know who they are, then you are just crushing because of looks. You should get to know the person they actually are because chances are, you may not actually like them. Also, you should start hanging out with them so you see if you two get along. If you're compatible, you will start building the chemistry that can become the building blocks of your relationship. These first couple months can be crucial to make or break your bond. The best advice I can give you is to just be yourself. You don't want to lie or cheat or go into the relationship for the wrong reasons. This can end up hurting both of you in the future, especially if you are planning on maintaining a friendship if nothing else works out.

Trust me! Been there, done that!

Good luck and let us know how it turns out!

Signed,

He said, She said



HUNGRY FOR THE HUNGER GAMES

by Maddy George
Features writer

What would you do if you were forced into an arena with your peers to fight to the death with an entire country watching?

That is the very real situation 16 year old Katniss Everdeen is forced to face. Representing her “District”, Katniss is forced into the Hunger Games arena in place of her 12 year old sister.

The Hunger Games takes place in a future where North America has been split up into twelve districts and the country has been renamed Panem. The “Capitol” is home to Panem’s government. The Hunger Games, which occur every year, is meant to show the government’s power over the districts after the districts attempted to overthrow the government in a weak rebellion.

Twenty-four children, a boy and girl from each district, between the ages of 12 and 18 are “reaped” for the games. But only one can survive; only one can be the victor.



Images Courtesy of Google

Katniss now faces surviving in unbelievable conditions, foraging for safe food and water while the “gamemakers” throw all sorts of scenarios at each of the tributes. Raging, uncontrollable fire that is anything but natural. Strange mutant wolves that are ruthless in their attacks. “Tracker Jacker” insects that puncture you with deadly venom.

But the contestants are not only assaulted with physical attacks, but mental attacks as well. Most contestants are smart enough to sever their alliances and not become too attached to the other tributes, but Katniss has a weakness for saving people.

Katniss will lose more than her childhood in this arena. She will be forced to compromise her morals, forced to slaughter other kids in hopes of making it out alive herself.

And what happens in the end when there are just two tributes left, when Katniss has to face the boy she fell in love with, the boy who has loved her since she was a little girl. The boy from home, the only companion she has left in these sick games.

Will he kill her? Or will she kill him? Check out the Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins to find out.



D-ROSE FOR

MVP?

by Ian Stratta
Sports writer

Every year around the start of the new year, the most impressive NBA players are subject to conversations to see who should win this year’s MVP award. There will always be the Kobe’s and LeBron’s, but some players on less successful teams are also getting a look this year.

The reigning MVP from last year, LeBron James, now plays for the Miami Heat. While playing alongside Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh, his level of play has been slightly altered. He has 26 points per game (ppg) this season, compared to his career average of 27.7.

Many believe LeBron doesn’t deserve the trophy based on his supporting cast of players. While playing parallel to Wade and Bosh, the team seems to be much more talented than his old team, the Cleveland Cavaliers.

As a future hall-of-famer, Kobe Bryant has always had his name on the MVP ballad. However, the magic everyone feels when Kobe plays has not been felt by his long-time fans. His statistics, overall, have not changed from last season, but his season has been more controversial this year with his altercations with Lakers head coach, Phil Jackson. All around, Kobe does not deserve the trophy this year.

Rookie, Blake Griffin, has exploded onto the scene this season with the Los Angeles Clippers. So far, he is averaging a double-double (23 points and 12.7 rebounds per game) and has been named the most exciting player in the NBA today.

Only two rookies have ever won the award (Wilt Chamberlain and Wes Unseld), but Griffin should at least be on the ballad this year, as he has led his team on an amazing turnaround from the last three seasons (29-53, 19-63 and 23-59).

New York Knicks center, Amar’e Stoudemire, also led his new team on an amazing turnaround from last season (29-53). As the unquestioned leader of his team, Stoudemire has averaged 26.1 points per game this season, well above his career average of 21.8 points per game. He should be one of the favorites to win this season.

A product of the number one pick from the 2008 NBA draft, Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose is well on his way to an MVP trophy this season. Not only has he turned his new-look team around alongside forward Carlos Boozer, but he also achieved the first triple-double of his three year career. He has improved his points per game, assists per game and three-point shooting greatly from last year’s disappointing season for the Bulls.

Rose and Stoudemire should be the two favorites to win the MVP trophy this year.

When all is said and done, Derrick Rose and Amar’e Stoudemire will be the only two players on the MVP ballot to contend for the trophy. They are both very deserving players in their own right, but Derrick Rose will be the last man standing and will win the trophy.

Photos courtesy of Google



10 LHS

underclassmen *THRIVING*

By: Gregg Husa
Sports Editor



Kyle Hamann



Ethan Pocic

This year, Lemont High School's sports continue to have success, even when many reliable athletes graduate. This year seems to be no different. Sports such as football, swimming and soccer relied on underclassmen to continue their success in the South Suburban Conference, and even into the state playoffs.

Soccer got a handful of help, with six underclassmen seeing a significant amount of playing time this season. Freshman midfielder Clint McAllister and defender Andrew Chiladkas both played several important minutes for this season's super sectional team. Sophomores Kyle Hamann, Tommy Gasienca, Ray Stieber and Andrew Putna were also part of this season's success as well. Coach Rick Pragen said, "I believe that as a coach you should play the best players, and if that player happens to be an underclassmen he should play."

The football team also received some help from underclassmen. Three sophomore players, Timmy McAuliffe, Ethan Pocic and Jake Lemming, all were starters for this year's 12-1 football team. With the contributions of these underclassmen, the football team will continue succeeding for seasons to come.

Even though the boys swim team is only in its second year, freshman have been key contributors for the team. Freshman Brian Brown made a big impact this season and is one of the SSC's top swimmers. Also, freshman Joe Ziebell, who never swam competitively until this year, made large contributions to the team effort. Boyd said, "The underclassmen have really stepped up, since most of the team is made up of underclassmen."

With many teams getting contributions from underclassmen, LHS its teams succeed for many years to come. Even as new classes come in and old ones leave LHS shouldn't fear a lapse in its athletics.



Timmy McAuliffe



Jake Lemming

Photos by Tony Hamilton



LEMONT WRESTLING

WINS *regionals*



senior Derek Nagel



junior Jake Latanski



junior Gio Schmitt

The Lemont wrestling team captured the regional title this weekend in dominate fashion, doubling the second place team's score. The Indians had six first place finishers in the tournament, and placed in the top four in all weight classes.

First place finishers included senior Derek Nagel (160) and juniors Jake Latanski (112), Glenn Malecki (125), Gio Schmitt (135), Jake Kaminski (145) and Erik Kirkman (171). The six first place finishes was the most of any team at the regional meet.

Other top finishers included seniors Andrew Mason (2nd at 112) and Andrew Avalos (4th at 140). Juniors who placed in the top four included Bobby Bromberek (3rd at 130), Mark Kirkman (2nd at 152), John Tomala (2nd at 215) and Arnas Laurinaitis (3rd at 285).

The Indians will compete for the sectional title this weekend at Lincoln-Way West Sectional along with the Joliet Catholic, Yorkville and Bowen regional champions.

Lemont continues to build on their successful season as they have already captured the South Suburban Conference title earlier this year. Sectionals will be the last meet for the Indians before the state tournament on February 19-20.

Photos by Tony Hamilton



junior Glenn Malecki



junior Erik Kirkman



senior Andrew Avalos