

Field of Dreams Minutemen christen all-weather facility

Steve Dunn '06

It's long overdue, but at least it's here now.

The hopes of state-of-the-art new athletic facilities for our athletes, which coaches have long craved, have finally come to fruition. Gone is the old grass field and its dirt patches, gone is the old poor conditioned practice field, and gone is the hazardous hard cinder track. All of which had become icons to our school's teams and athletes that used them.

Yet they probably won't be missed.

Last spring, the referendum was passed to allocate funds for the replacement of our school's football field, practice field, and track with new and improved facilities.

The football field and practice field were replaced with revolutionary FieldTurf, and the cinder track became history in the conversion to an all weather rubber one.

"We're very fortunate that the township supported the referendum," Athletic Director Mr. Kevin Murphy said.

What is FieldTurf? It is a playing surface made of synthetic materials



Brent Bartostewicz '06/The Patriot

The all-weather field now makes the stadium available to all Washington Township field sports.

which is now commonly being used as an alternative to natural grass. It is the playing surface used in at least five stadiums in the National Football League and numerous other teams throughout professional sports. The

"grass" itself is made of polyethylene fibers, which are designed to reduce abrasions athletes may receive upon contact with the ground. Beneath the "grass" lies a layer of sand particles and lots of tiny pieces of rubber; this

layer makes up the "dirt," so to speak. The field is engineered so that flooding will be minimal during heavy rains, and that few to no divots will be made even during the most intense

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Old World charms orchestra

Justine Jacobs '06

This past June, members of Washington Township's orchestra program had the adventure of their lives when the group traveled to Europe for an eleven day concert tour. The thirty-two performing students traveled to Switzerland, France, and Italy, performing five concerts and seeing plenty of sights along the way.

The group, which also included five chaperones, two nurses, and family members of the students, departed Friday June 24 from JFK International Airport and returned Wednesday July 6. The week and a half long trip featured plenty of once-in-a-lifetime moments. Highlights of the group's time in Italy include sight seeing and shopping in Florence, a trip to the leaning tower of Pisa, gondola

rides in Venice, and a night at the opera at the Roman Arena in Verona. The tour included a stay in the Alsace region of France and a day in Switzerland where the students spent a night in the mountains of Engelberg and were treated to folkloric music on alpine horns.

Conductor Mrs. Norma Meyer feels that the "perspective of the variety of culture and incredible history" the students gained from the trip is clearly beneficial.

The students agree that the trip definitely changed their view of the world.

"I got a new outlook on life from the trip," says senior Brendan Comfort.

Student trip manager, Jerry Cedrone '07, feels the trip to Europe

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photo courtesy of Jerry Cedrone '07

Musicians visited three countries during their 11-day tour.

Early departures, late arrivals restricted

Dave Zappacosta '06

This year a new early dismissal and late arrival policy is in place. Many students are not too keen to accept the new system. Many still have no clue what the policy is, or how it is enforced.

There are ten units of late arrival and early dismissal for every student over the course of the school year. For students arriving late to school between 7:30am and 8am it is one unit, between 8am and 9am is 2 units, and between 9am and 10am is 3 units.

For early dismissal leaving during 6th period is 3 units, during 7th period is 2 units, and 8th period is 1 unit. Both early dismissal and late arrival are counted for the same ten units.

If ten units are acquired by a student is given a detention. Although not thought to be that much a detention means no renaissance card. Might not be a big deal to some but to others it might make the difference between staying in school, or waking up a little early.

In previous years the student late arrival and early dismissal rate was, "epidemic" as assistant principal Bollendorf. "Students were leaving with out any regard for consequence." Students seemed to be taking

advantage of the old policy to the point where the school finally had to step in.

"Students need to be held accountable for getting to school on time and staying in class."

-Mr. Joseph Bollendorf

Although early in the year the attendance office already reports an improvement in student's attendance. "Students need to be held accountable for getting to school on time and staying in class." Bollendorf and the rest of the faculty believe that this new policy is very fair.

Another big issue with this policy is that students cannot get out of school early, without consequence, with a parents note. To be able to get out of punishment you must produce a doctor's note, no excuses. Also another myth is that this policy will not exist in the second half of the year, obviously for the senior class. Unfortunately this is not true. The new policy will be enforced totally and truly all year long. For students who are over the age of eighteen can sign themselves out, but it will count against them.



Bethany Messick '06 / The Patriot

This could be the afternoon scene in the attendance office if the new policy has the desired effect.

Another new addition to this policy is that it stretches to the nurse's office as well. If students go to the nurse and don't feel well he or she can leave school with a parent's permission. However, if it is for something like a headache, or there is no serious ailment with the student it will count against them.

On the same note however if a student goes to the nurse office with a serious problem they are allowed to leave without penalty. To define

"serious problem" the administration is talking about vomiting, serious allergy problems, migraines, or injuries sustained during school. So as a warning to all students it would be wise to use your judgment in going to the nurse's office from now on if you value your units.

All in all this new system is pretty fair if you really think about it. Students just have to be careful and take a little more responsibility in getting to school on time.

Orchestra shares summer fun in Europe

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helped to correct some personal prejudices.

"I learned that a lot of the biases we have against foreigners really aren't true," explains Cedrone. "I felt very much at home in all of the countries we were in. The people welcomed us very graciously."

The trip was also a learning experience for the young performers. The five concerts they performed were all at major halls including the gold fresco covered Église Abbatiale d'Ebersmunster (an old cathedral in

Ebersmunster, France) and the Pavillon Joséphine, the palace Napoleon had built for his wife.

"The kids played wonderfully," declares Meyer. "It was unbelievably intimidating. They played in the most magnificent settings... [which] were all full. The students were inspired to play at their very best."

Cedrone agrees that the performances really were the highlight of the trip.

"The most memorable moment of the trip for me had to be the last



Students in Riquewihir, France.

concert," he says. During the final performance of *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, Cedrone "just looked around at everyone playing the music and having a good time and listened to the audience clapping along to the song in the background. I really appreciated how far we'd come since we started in January and how much this trip really had been a once in a lifetime experience."

Ultimately, the most valuable token the participants in the trip gained is a greater appreciation of one another.

"They all got to know each other on a greater level," says Meyer. "The group feels closer and will play at a higher level because of it."



Students congregate together on a corner in Florence, Italy.

Got an idea for a news story?

Let us know.

E-mail suggestions to:

wthspatriot@gmail.com

Spirit Parade steps it up

Ester Gill '06

Many of you think that this year's spirit parade is going to be boring with no vehicles allowed, when actually the solution at hand isn't going to be much of a bore at all.

According to Mr. Joseph Bollendorf, there weren't many choices to decide from for a substitute for the vehicles. "We needed a creative solution, or there wasn't going to be a parade," commented Bollendorf.

Our new track, although worth every penny, has caused a problem for the spirit parade and homecoming court. Apparently, the weight of a vehicle would break the rubber surface of the track.

When asked about how he felt about the new track leading to a carless spirit parade Bollendorf's reply was simple, "To have a community like Washington Township, and not have a state of the art track is ridiculous, so I can't really complain."

When suggested that we parade around the school instead, Bollendorf sadly admitted that there wasn't enough participation to go around the

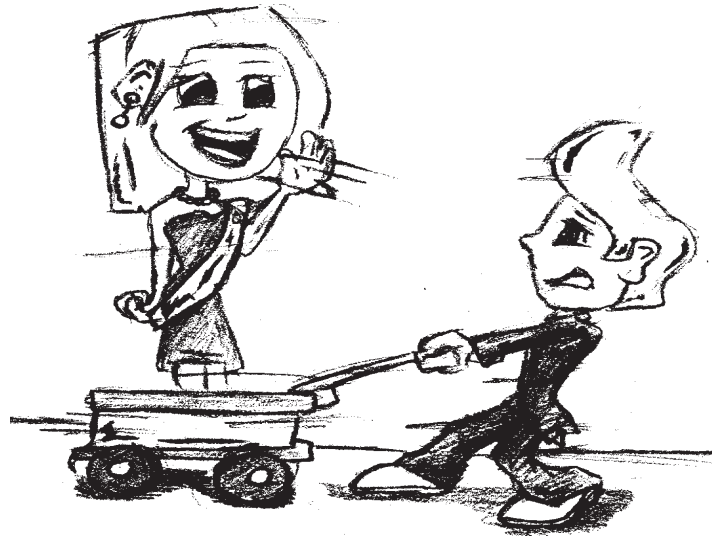


Illustration by Shane Walsh '06

school. Although, according to Mrs. Carol Costello, "We will be evaluating this year's attendance, and if we need a larger space for our parade, then that's what we'll do."

Leaving one main option for this year, a foot parade. As Bollendorf

explained how the foot parade would work, it really didn't sound too bad.

Clearly there had been a lot of thought put into how to make this work.

This year is the fifth year of the

spirit parade at our school, Bollendorf and Costello hope that there will be a large turn out. To enter a float in the parade, the group or club will be charged twenty-five dollars, but will also gain free admission into the homecoming game and the fireworks afterward.

"...it will give a chance for the students to be more creative..."

-Mrs. Costello

"By not using cars, it's a little stumbling block, but it will give a chance for the students to be more creative," added Costello. It seems as though this year's spirit parade will be a test to see which group can be as imaginative as possible. We're just going to have to improvise.

Bollendorf and Costello have been working together for the spirit parade the last five years.

"She's the driving force, I'm just the idea man," commented Bollendorf.

Costello has one desire for this year's parade and homecoming, "I just hope that as many people as possible come out and enjoy all of our hard work."

Top field to showcase top talent

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athletic competitions.

The FieldTurf is also, supposedly, a safer playing surface than natural grass. According to John Gilman of FieldTurf, our new field will reduce neural injuries by 66 percent, head and neck injuries by 50 percent, and "third degree injuries" by 33 percent.

According to the school trainer Mrs. Tanya Dargush, there has been a decrease in the amount of fractures at this point in the year as compared to last year; however, she isn't ready to contribute that change to the new turf.

Despite FieldTurf's claims for injury reduction, Mrs. Dargush says she's read studies which said that there is "no difference between natural grass and turf."

Perhaps the most beneficial aspect of the new field is that it will be available to more of Washington Township to use.

To say it bluntly, this field can take a beating. FieldTurf increases potential use of the facility by 242% before suffering major wear and tear. From football to field hockey to the marching band, all can use it without fear of wearing it down.

The natural grass field required about \$50,000 per year to maintain. At approximately \$5000 per year,

our new field is also much cheaper to maintain. In the long run, FieldTurf, including installation costs, is \$570,000 to buy and maintain over the course of ten years. Natural grass, in the same time span, costs approximately \$900,000.

The new track, like our new field, will be a massive improvement over what existed there previously.

Construction was scheduled to commence on September 26th, and the track will be ready for action hopefully

by the end of October.

The old track was made of cinders, had holes and bumps, and even trenches running across it in some spots. Before meets the maintenance crew would draw lines with chalk.

The new track is being installed by Beynon Track Systems and is state of the art.

"Our track will be the best track in the state," said Athletic Director Mr. Murphy, "it is the same track installed by Duke University two

summers ago and by Wake Forest this past summer."

The new track will be a much faster and much safer surface to workout on.

"Definitely," said Dargush "There won't be any cinders stuck inside wounds, fewer shin problems."

Finally Washington Township High School has the facilities worthy of its name. These changes are beneficial to all, and something everyone should be excited about.

Welcome Back Township, *Patriot* style

Mike Jones '06

Hello everyone, this is *The Patriot* staff's way of giving you a heads up as to what's new with the school paper.

First of all, we're officially under new management. Not only is there a new chief editor in town, but also our new staff promises to be a good one. For more on our all-star staff, however, you'll have to check out the staff box on Page 4.

Now, the typical thought of an average student upon seeing the school newspaper, apart from the instinctive first reaction to throw it on the floor, is that those newspaper kids always start the year off by telling us how things are going to be different, how an issue is *actually* going to come out

once a month, and how the stories are going to come out faster and better than ever before.

Well, to some extent you're right. The only part the *Patriot* has actually fulfilled is that little one about the stories coming out better. As previously stated, our staff writers are getting better by the year, and this year's just might prove to be the best yet. We plan to make every effort to deliver on some of those other promises.

For those who remember, our school paper has always had a nasty habit of coming out once every three months or so. Yet, this has not always been entirely our fault, though we claim at least half the responsibility. Sometimes we take longer than we

should to complete an issue. Additionally, the school press has, after all, been known to fight us a bit. There is good news, no pun intended, in these two areas; this past summer our school acquired a brand new press. This brings the total number of printing presses to a riveting...two and gives us the ability to print 1500 copies of the paper in just under a week. As for the other problem, us - well, we'll take care of that.

Despite our slow start, the newspaper promises to be a good read this year. So, just do us a favor, ignore your primal instincts, and instead of throwing the *Patriot* to the ground in a fit of rage, try opening it. Besides, we know it sounds crazy, but you might just find something you like.

Commentary

No right way to feel as a senior

Mike Jones '06

I guess it hit me while I was sitting, at age seventeen, in my pediatrician's office. A swarm of carefree five-year-olds played with legos at my feet, while I sat reading the only magazine left in the waiting room (Parenting), desperately wanting to join and explain the proper method of building a Lego house.

Then, the rather good-looking receptionist whom, under different, less embarrassing circumstances, I might have tried to hit on, called my name. When I stood up – car keys dangling from my belt loop – towering over everyone else in the room, it struck me:

I had just driven myself to the pediatrician.

It was at that precise moment that I realized my senior year was coming like a freight train, and there I was, tied to the tracks.

The year always seems to start off on the wrong foot, leaving you with a slightly off balanced feeling. Your older friends leave before school starts, giving you the wake-up call of a lifetime. Suddenly, you find yourself alone, in charge of younger students, who stare at you in anticipation the



Illustration by Cassey Matos '07

same way you stared at people in your new position as a freshman. All this talk about “the best years of your life” brands itself in your brain, sending you off with the sneaking suspicion that life just goes downhill from here. College planning, frankly, is painful, and everything is rushed.

However, despite starting sadly, senior year is one of those precious few big deals about high school. For starters, you're driving, which is, for lack of a better term, awesome. Then, of course, there's the senior trip – enough said. All of these great things are happening and you're clinging to

the place you've claimed to loathe for the last eleven years.

In the end, there's no right way to feel. You're left wanting to stay – and live forever with no responsibilities, of course. Nevertheless, when you examine your other hand, it's hard not to look forward to college. After all, according to undergrads, alumni, and movies, it's only supposed to be one or two steps shy of heaven.

Senior year: Culmination of education

Justine Jacobs '06

I can remember my first day of kindergarten. Waiting out at the bus stop, my dad holding my hand, school seemed like a scary place. I couldn't imagine surviving the day. Looking back on that time, it really hits me hard that I not only survived that day, but I survived over 2,160 days of school after that. And it's almost over.

I'm a senior, and in less than a year I will be leaving the Washington Township public school system for good. And how do I feel now that I'm on the brink of adulthood, ready to plan for college and my future career? Excited, joyous, scared, nervous would all logically come to mind, but they're not correct.

I feel numb. Graduating from high school and going to college was always some elusive dream I looked forward to as a kid, not a real event that would actually come to pass. Yet here I am, narrowing down my list of colleges, asking for teacher recommendations, contemplating what to write in my essays. All the

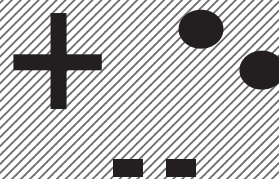
while I'm still trying to handle the demands of a full academic schedule. I would feel completely overwhelmed, if I had the ability to feel anything at all.

I guess that deep inside its preferable to feel nothing than to have to think about the roller coaster ride of emotions the next year will entail. There will be plenty of good times (dances and senior trip). There will be even more stress (applying to colleges, waiting for acceptance letters, making the final decision of where to go). However, despite the plethora of new and exciting experiences ahead, it's frightening to think about leaving home, leaving friends, starting over somewhere completely different all alone.

When I really think about it, being a senior is a lot like that very first day of kindergarten. It's an intimidating change, leaving a familiar way of life behind to start something totally new. Deep down inside I know that leaving Washington Township and going on to higher education will be just as rewarding as that first

change. Yet, it's at this time when I'm finally reaching adulthood that I've never felt more like that little girl clinging to her father's hand.

Join the Game Club!
Thursdays after school in Cafeteria B.



The Patriot

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The blame game over Katrina

Scapegoating mars disaster response



Illustration by Shane Walsh '06

David Zappacosta '06

Everyone in the United States knows how devastating hurricane Katrina was. You can also guarantee that the people of Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana know it. Most have no homes, no money, and are living off what the government and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is giving them.

This hurricane was of a scale never seen before. Winds that could blow houses out of their foundations, floods that would make Noah sweat. Hundreds of people are dead and many more still missing.

It has brought unity out of this country like we haven't seen since 9-11.

People helping people they have never met before, donations from corporations and pro athletes who will usually chop their hands off before giving up money.

Although much of the media seems to be focused on putting the blame on someone, obviously that someone is our President, and the rest of our government. It just strikes me as stupid to be putting the blame for a natural disaster on a single man or group.

Yes, President Bush made some mistakes in how he handled the crisis, but we forget that nothing like this has ever happened to the United States. There are many things that could have been done much better and it would have been a good idea for our President not to be on vacation right before this hit.

Besides all the points that have been brought up by the media about what Bush has done wrong, besides all the firings and last minute scrambles

and "shoulda woulda coulda" 's. There is no pretending that President Bush didn't make his big mistakes.

One of the issues that is being put on Bush is that he did not send out a warning to the coastal area. First of all, the flooding was not what it was until the levies broke which were supposed to hold. However, the simple truth of it is, if he had where would they have gone?

Many of the people who died in this hurricane were people who were too poor to even own a television much less a car. What would they have done, tried to run out of New Orleans before the storm came so that all the people that died in the floods would

have been killed by a stampede. People just seem to want to have a person that they can point a finger at and say "It's all his fault!"

Instead people need to start to realize that there are thousands and thousands of people without homes or even have yet to be reunited with their family. As awful and terrible as those things are scarier still is the fact that many of those people will never find their loved ones.

Sometimes people need to just let these issues go for right now, and focus on what really matters. Focus on the people that are suffering because of this horrific tragedy. Its times like these were we all need to a step back from our own private lives and think of more than just the people we see everyday.

Before we're mothers or fathers, before brothers and sisters, before we're much of anything, we're Americans. We're the nation that was built of people helping each other.

Building for a better tomorrow and pushing through the hard times when they come, and this is one of those times. We need to stand together and work towards bringing these peoples lives back to some form of normal.

We need to stop ridiculing our leader and stand behind him and help him to make the right choices to bring our American people back to where they need to be. Even if we don't agree with all the things that he has done, not including Katrina, he is still our leader and this tragedy is a lot more than just one man's problem.

Matt Kienzle '06

Hurricane Katrina was a natural disaster of epic proportions and was compounded by incompetence and indifference from the very top of the government which led to the deaths of many hundreds of people who should not have died.

The gross mismanagement of the situation began as Katrina was bearing down on the Gulf Coast. President Bush was just beginning the fifth week of his vacation (his previous five week vacation had been in April) and despite the

extreme warnings of the National Weather Service, the constant warnings of countless news agencies, and the common sense of the general public, Bush issued no federal warning to the gulf coast and no statement on possible dangers.

Then, on August 30, when Katrina hit the coast, destroying virtually everything, Bush traveled west to promote his agenda.

The following day the levees of New Orleans failed flooding the city and, naturally, the President traveled to San Diego to deliver a speech commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII.

It was not until the third day after the hurricane, when Katrina was over western New York, that Bush decided it was time to end his vacation and travel to Mississippi and New Orleans to assess the damage.

It was around this time that FEMA director Michael Brown entered the picture. Brown was formerly the head of the Arabian Horse Association, which no doubt had its share of disasters during Brown's tenure, from which he resigned.

He was then hired as FEMA's

Deputy Director by its previous head Joe Allbaugh, who just happened to be Brown's college roommate. Coincidence? I think not.

So, on August 30, when Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast, our President was pondering which type of bait he wanted to use during his afternoon fishing trip, and the man supposedly in charge of disaster response was only qualified to judge Arabian Horse Competitions.

To their credit, the Bush Administration realized their actions may evoke indifference, so they decided to appear on as many talk shows as possible, to try and clean up their public relations mess.

But the Federal government decided to play dumb and they came off looking just that.

President Bush went on Good Morning America days after the storm and attempted to ease criticism of the government's response to the disaster and calmly stated that nobody could have predicted the failure of the levees despite the numerous calls by every weather expert for an apocalyptic flood in New Orleans.

Days after the disaster, FEMA director Michael Brown was on Nightline with Ted Koppel and claimed he had no knowledge of the 20,000 or so people stranded at the New Orleans Convention Center, despite around the clock coverage of that very situation.

The Bush Administration's apathetic response to be reviewed and evaluated to determine whose mishap is most to blame for the deaths in New Orleans. But unfortunately no Congressional panel can bring back the many people who paid for the government's choices with their lives.

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Inside the Mind of Mark Natale

Senseless summer reading

Mark Natale '06

In a dark unforgiving place, eons before any of us graced the halls of 519 Hurville Cross Keys Road, a single man came up with a concept that would forever cause torment among the teenage population:

Summer Reading.

I don't know where that man is, or what sort of hopefully miserable existence he has succumbed to, but his legacy remains with us today. Right now, as I sit in front of my computer in D-8, people are around me looking up Spark notes, desperately trying to end the Movie vs Book debate, and casting medieval voodoo spells rumored to install character lists in the brain. All this nonsense forms one simple question in my mind.

Why?

Don't get me wrong, I understand the point of summer reading. It isn't really supposed to cause English students to descend to the fifth letter of the alphabet by the 2nd week of the school year. Summer reading is supposed to keep the mind sharp and keep students interested in their studies during the annual 3 month hiatus from school. But, while we're being blunt, has summer reading ever



worked, even in the days of its infancy?

I doubt it.

Every year, the situation is the same. Kids walk into English class, full of laughs and disinterest in how they are going to perform on the summer reading tests. Every September, without fail, students perform miserably on the test. I understand the idea. Teachers want to keep students active in their studies during the summer. But by now, it should be pretty obvious. Nobody does the summer reading, and the amount of students that actually read and understand the book would greatly increase if they simply covered the book in class.

With the current system, the vast majority of the student population does NOT actually read their books, while even less do it thoroughly enough to understand. So

...summer reading is a good idea that will simply never work.

why continue? I would like to argue that the practice is obsolete, but I am almost positive it never worked in the first place. Its time for the English Department to cut their losses, admit their defeat, and stop giving us summer reading. Like communism, summer reading is a good idea that will simply never work.

Keeping up with Jonesy By Mike Jones

...The other "S-word"



Illustration by Shane Walsh '06

For quite a while during my youth, I was under the distinct impression that "Shut up" was a curse. Now, let me explain, at age five I was terrified of cursing. I guess I figured someone would somehow smite me if I ever dared utter the "S-word," the "D-word," or the "A-word." As for the dreaded "F-word," well, that was just unthinkable.

When my loving mother told me that "Shut up" was a bad word, – a "Bad word" translating to a curse in

my five-year-old mind – I clasped my hands over my mouth in fear, having just used it in a heated argument with my sister. I, of course, took her word for it. After all, this was the woman who had taught me such skills as shoe-tying or bike-riding. It never occurred to me that the phrase "Shut up" couldn't possibly be a bad word, so to speak, because it was, in fact, a phrase.

Up until my first day of school, I was petrified of "Shut up." I would even gasp when one of my friends

would say it. Their confused expression led me to clarify my reaction. Apparently, my explanation was convincing, thus spreading the notion at a rate somewhat comparable to the Bubonic Plague. By the start of the first grade, I had half the kids on my block enlightened to its cursed nature.

One can only imagine my absolute shock when I walked into school, a worldly six-year-old, on my first day only to be informed (by a teacher no less) that "Shut up" was not a curse, but simply a fairly unpleasant thing to say. The realization that my mother, the saint, had let me go on believing it was a curse was nothing short of traumatizing. I became infuriated by the deception.

I was left to ponder the very basis of my morals, having learned everything until then from those two acquaintances I now viewed as untrustworthy. I began to doubt even the most unlikely of lies – like that Santa Claus character, he always had seemed somewhat shady. If they had led me to exaggerate the severity of "shut up," who was to say that they hadn't done it before? At age six, I had learned to question those in power.

**Two
Chances to
get your car
washed!**

Sat. Oct. 15th Volleyball Carwash 10:00-1:00 in the 11/12 parking lot.

Sun. Oct. 16th Field Hockey Carwash 12:00-4:00 in the 11/12 parking lot.

Features

Taking a stand on disaster relief

Student raises money for Katrina's victims

Tori Gilbert '07

For many Washington Township teenagers, the day Hurricane Katrina reached land on August 2, 2005 in the Gulf Coast was a day spent in front of the television, viewing news coverage of the horrible destruction.

Many quickly began to wonder how they could do their part to help aid the victims, and for one

sophomore here at WTHS, the answer came quickly.

Kristen Saggiomo was watching the news the weekend after the hurricane hit when a quick piece on children helping the aid effort was shown. Having already pondered what she could do on her own to help the victims, Kristen's answer was quickly found when she saw a clip on the news showing children holding a lemonade stand. Figuring it was a unique and practical way to raise money, Kristen began running her stand on the following Saturday.

Setting up in front of her house on Rickland Drive in the development of Wellington Manor, she constructed, with the help of her friends, a table on which she placed posters with Internet downloaded pictures of the devastation, and a large jug of ice cold lemonade.

Her customers came quickly and steadily, and by the end of the first day she had collected about \$80. It appeared her plan was going to be successful.

Kristen was surprised by the

variance among her sponsors. The neighborhood kids riding by on their bicycles would donate pocket change, while the parents of neighborhood kids driving by would stop to give bills and

"Kids really cared. They gave the most money of all."

- Kristen Saggiomo

have a quick conversation. Surprisingly, the largest donations came from teenagers and high school students. Kristen was surprised, "Kids really cared. They gave the most money of all."

After two days, Kristen had tired of making lemonade. However, she was receiving just as many donations by simply sitting in front of the table.

After Kristen had raised more money than she had thought she ever could, she set out with her best friend, Allie Bassetti, to deliver it.

Unsure of where it would be accepted, the two girls first walked to

Hurricane Elementary School, which they found locked. However, a policeman stopped to ask what they were doing there, and when they told him, he drove them over to the local Red Cross Headquarters.

Kristen says that when she walked in and handed the \$603 in assorted bills, change, and pennies to the two women sitting there.

"Their mouths just dropped. It was great feeling to see how thankful they were."

Since that first donation, Kristen has continued to sit outside. After taking a week off to recover from a fever, her arrival was greeted by even more donors who said they had been waiting for her.

Now having raised almost \$900 and after being interviewed on ABC Action News, Kristen feels her stand is coming to the end, "I'm busy with school, I have a lot of stuff to do, and it's going to get cold. I'm really happy I could help out the way I did, and now I have to do something new. Thank you to everyone, your help was very much appreciated."

High List: An Alternative to MySpace

Heather Ale '06

MySpace is a craze that has swept everyone in the hallways of high schools all over the country. What started out as only a few people has exploded into millions of and doesn't seem to be slowing down any time soon. Some people may feel that this vast amount of people is excessive. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a MySpace that was on a smaller, more personal scale?

Frank Gervasi, '08, was looking through MySpace profiles when he noticed a bulletin for the High List, a newly created adaptation of MySpace. He decided that this sounded like an interesting way to meet new people and became a part of it. After joining, he volunteered to be the representative for High List and spread the word. Currently, there are only a handful of members but Gervasi is hoping to expand and get as many people as possible involved.

High List is different than MySpace because of the restrictions placed upon it. In order to keep High List more exclusive than MySpace, only young people who are either in high school or college are allowed to join. "The High List is better [than MySpace] because it gives you way more space for pictures and information than MySpace does," acknowledges Gervasi.

Besides the age restriction there are no other limitations and anyone can join at TheHighList.com.

Move over Lance Armstrong



photo courtesy of Col. Joseph Wolozyn

Faculty Cyclists (l-r) Mr Gary Mount, Mr. Harvey McNeil, Col. Joseph Wolozyn, Mr. Richard Ambacher, and Mr Jerry Cullen (L-R) took to the streets on Saturday, September 24th to ride 80 miles together in the annual MS 150. Ambacher and Wolozyn rode an extra 80 miles back home the following day. "Not bad for a few old guys," said Cullen. The cyclists raised over \$7,000 to fight Multiple Sclerosis. Not bad at all.

Drama, Drama, Drama ...

Freshmen adjusting to new school

Esther Gill '06

The freshman class of 2009 is made up of 817 students. Many of whom are nervous about being in a new school of this size. Many of them felt apprehensive about coming to a new school triple the size of their middle schools.

As many residents of Washington Township know, there are three middle schools, leaving most students blind to anyone from another middle school in the area. Then high school knocks them over like a freight train and everyone is thrown together. It's like moving to an entirely new town where you go to class and might not recognize a soul.

Megan McMurtrie '09 said, "I was so nervous, the school is just so big."

Although according to McMurtrie while she was only late to one class on the first day, it was still nerve racking.

"I was so nervous ..."
-Megan McMurtrie '09

Coming to the high school can definitely be scary. There can always be crowded halls, pushy people, and mean teachers. What new comers need to learn is that the sooner you are able to adapt, the better. Which was no problem for Candice McNaul '09, "The first day I wasn't nervous at all, everyone is really nice here."

There's not much that you can do about how nervous you may feel about this overwhelming experience, just try to make the best of it.

Shananigan's by Heather Ale '06 & Lyndsay Jenkins '06

Couples become endangered species

In years past, the trend demanded that girlfriends and boyfriends were required accessories. Lately, it's more common to see guys and girls walking the halls without arm candy.

Between classes the stampede of couples, to rendezvous with their better halves after forty-five minutes of torture, has ceased to be seen.

These days, people are more inclined to congregate with friends instead of significant others. So I have to wonder, has being in a relationship gone out of style this season?

David Zappacosta '06

Washington Township High School is full of clubs. Unfortunately because of this many of them fly under the radar and are not recognized. One of the new clubs that started late last year and has the hopes of restarting this year is the Drama Club.

Headed by Mrs. Silverman, the drama teacher, this club is here for fun and enjoyment. Its intention is to bring young students who have interests in acting out to try it. Also to help other actors hone their skills for acting.

Last year this club struggled with getting students to come out. Many were nervous or didn't know what to expect. Well I can tell you first hand that these meetings are fun. Many games from the popular show *Whose Line is it Anyway* are featured entertainment. Students can go on stage and participate in these games or sit in the audience and enjoy.

This club does not pressure you to perform or do anything that you don't want to. You can take your time and ease into performing in front of the other students or you can get up



Dave Zappacosta '06 The Patriot

Drama club gives students like Jen Heston and Megan Beraint time to work on their acting skills.

and start right away. Students like Megan Beraint who have participated in these meetings have said that "These meetings are a great way to get into acting." Many of the same students who are the drama club also do the shows for the high school.

One of the more popular shows that is done is called *Senior Directed*. This is a show directed by two seniors who this year are Megan Beraint and Kelly Karcher. These students pick small skits and turn them into a show. Everyone is invited to participate.

To Your Health by Steve Dunn '06

What an unhealthy trend does to your lungs

One of the most unhealthy and prevalent trends among teenagers for many years has been smoking. I suppose those who do smoke have their reasons for doing so, whether it is to be cool, to deal with emotional problems, or to stay thin, but the bottom line is, it is unhealthy.

According to WebMD, it is estimated that forty-three percent of high school going teenagers smoke cigarettes or use some kind of smokeless tobacco. Among those, 75% of those teenagers keep smoking as adults. Another interesting statistic, 75% of teenagers who smoke have a parent who does so.

Smoking is hazardous to one's

health; even a light smoker (one who smokes one to four cigarettes a day) is three times more as likely to die of lung cancer or heart disease, according to Dr. Tverdal of Norway through CNN.com. This difference varies across the sexes though. Men who are light smokers are three times more likely to die of lung cancer, while women who are light smokers are five times as more likely.

Smoking does yield many serious long term side effects; however, there are short term effects of smoking too. A smoker will most likely have shorter of breath than a nonsmoker and will tire quickly when walking uphill or out in humidity. According to the Center

for Disease Control (CDC), Studies have shown that early signs of these diseases can be found in adolescents who smoke. In another study by the CDC, teens who smoke "are three times more likely than nonsmokers to use alcohol, eight times more likely to use marijuana, and 22 times more likely to use cocaine."

I know teenagers who smoke have their reasons for doing so and it is nearly impossible to convince them to stop, however, smoking is a bad habit, and it is unhealthy. In the short term it is harder for smokers to compete athletically, but the long term health effects are severely worse. From parents to teachers to DARE officers, people have been trying to preach not smoking to children and teenagers. However, I think these efforts are in vain. I'm not trying to dissuade students from smoking in this article; I'm trying to illustrate the truth in the consequences of that decision to do so.

be compared to breaking away from a faded relationship.

The high school years are ones to be spent enjoying time with friends instead of stressing over the perfect two month anniversary gift for your newest love interest.

Though the prospect of finding your soul mate in high school sounds appealing, it's not often the case. At this age, serious relationships just don't seem to have what it takes.

High school is a time to have fun and enjoy yourself, no strings attached.

**See the
homecoming
girls Friday
night at 7:00**

Entertainment

New season brings hope to dying genre

Justine Jacobs '06

Fall is here and that can mean only one thing – new television shows. The dreary summer season of reruns has come to an end, and the major networks are scrambling to promote their new fall lineups.

At a time when reality shows and dramas have taken over primetime, a funny thing is happening this season. Some of the most hyped shows are sitcoms, a failing genre of late.

Television critics are singing the praises of NBC's new series *My Name is Earl*. Airing Tuesday nights at nine o'clock, the show stars Jason Lee as a small time criminal who attempts to right all the wrongs he's committed after learning about karma on "Late Night with Carson Daily." *Earl*, one of the most well received sitcoms of 2005, is also a noticeably different type of humor than the upper class laughs common to the network that brought you *Frasier*.

The other most talked about show of the season is *Everybody Hates Chris*, finding a home in UPN's eight o'clock Thursday night time slot. Created and narrated by Chris Rock, *Everybody Hates Chris* tells the story of the famous comic's childhood in Brooklyn. Tyler James Williams portrays the thirteen year old Chris who is struggling as a black kid in a predominantly white school.

CBS's new half hour sitcom, *How I Met Your Mother*, has been well received also. The series is told through flashback, as the main character Ted tells his teenage children how he met their mother. In a special fall TV preview done by The Philadelphia Inquirer, the show was hailed as "the new Friends." Viewers can tune in Monday nights at 8:30 to catch this new show.

Another promising comedy is *Kitchen Confidential*, FOX's new series about celebrity chef Jack Bourdain who after spoiling his opportunities with a life of excess gets a second chance as the head chef at a



popular restaurant in New York. Jack staffs his kitchen with a motley crew of ex-colleagues that are sure to bring plenty of laughs. *Kitchen Confidential* airs Monday's at 8:30 PM.

With the good comes the bad, and this fall schedule isn't without its stinkers. Wednesday nights at 8:30 on ABC will bring *Freddie*, an unimaginative vehicle for Freddie Prinze Jr. which promises to be anything but good.

Also airing on ABC is *Hot Properties*, a pathetically desperate attempt to channel *Sex in the City* that revolves around the romantic and

sexual misadventures of four women working in a Manhattan real estate firm. It's easy to tell why this unimaginative series was given its time slot – 9:30 Friday night, the one time when no one is watching television.

Should this year's new shows fail to please, many old favorites will be returning. *The King of Queens*, *Two and a Half Men*, *Still Standing*, and *Yes, Dear* will all start new seasons this September on CBS. NBC is bringing back *Will & Grace* for its eighth season, as well as newer hits *The Office* and *Joey*. FOX is airing new seasons of its popular live action shows (*That 70's Show*, *The Bernie Mac Show*, and *Malcolm in the Middle*) as well as its animated series (*King of the Hill*, *The Simpsons*, and *Family Guy*). *According to Jim* and *George Lopez* will also be returning on their home network, ABC. Some of these sitcoms will be airing in new time slots, so check your local listings or go to their respective network's website to find out when to tune in.

Will sequel hit target?

Matthew Starner '06

This fall, Namco will release its third installment in their successful fighting game series *Soul Calibur*. This third installment is only a PS2 exclusive unlike its predecessor the very successful *Soul Calibur 2*, which was available on all three major game systems.

In the game a mysterious person managed to resurrect the evil knight Nightmare who is the wielder of the powerful sword, Soul Edge, that actually has a mind of its own. Of course this is a great reason to start fighting. There are going to be many playable characters in this game. All the old favorites such as Raphael, Nightmare, Mitsurugi, Cervantes, and Ivy are in it along with more.

There are three new characters in the game. Setsuka is a female character that wields an umbrella that contains a hidden sword. Kira is another female character who wields a ring like weapon that looks oddly like a hula-hoop. The last new character Zasalamel who is the most striking character who wields a very nasty scythe like weapon and is rather quick for his large size.

A new feature in this game though is what caught my interest. The Chronicles of the Sword will allow



Soul Calibur 3 cover

you to actually make your own character. You can make the character anything you want with the ability to choose its gender, occupation, physical characteristics (height, weight, weapon, etc.), and even what weapon the character is allowed to use. Of course the usual arcade and versus modes will be in the game like in the previous titles. The most shocking news for this game so far is that it won't have online game play, which I believe to be a mistake.

All in all the game seems that it will hit the target. Find out for sure when it is released in late October.

Living on reputation

Matthew Starner '06

Nintendo is one of the best video game companies out there... years ago maybe. Now Nintendo is a company that has made mistake after mistake. The first dates back to Nintendo 64 days when they stuck with cartridges for that long. Then when they released the Game Cube, it came without online capabilities and released games that aren't very popular. Not to long ago Nintendo had another mistake, when they announced that they were postponing one of the most anticipated games of the year which would have increased sales by a large margin *Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess* until 2006. Now Nintendo has made two more mistakes with the Revolution. The controller is nothing more then a remote control! That's right you read it right, that is the new systems controller. Nintendo revealed it recently to the public and all I have to say is what are they thinking?

This new revelation is very shocking to me. It has a motion sensor for movement in first person shooters which will make them a lot easier, but for other games I have serious doubts. The way the buttons are placed will throw game movement off big time in other games. The D-Pad is placed

at the top with the A button underneath it. That will considerably slow down movement in a fighting games and especially sports games. Don't fret though; if you want to throw out more money you can buy an accessory analog stick that will attach to the bottom of the controller or a shell of a controller to place the remote in.

The other mistake, though not as outrageous as the controller is that this system has online play using Wi-Fi! Wi-fi limits access to other systems to short distance areas, while Sony's Play Station 3 and Microsoft's X-Box 360 will have broadband connection which will connect you to systems all over the country.

Nintendo is churning out all the mistakes the last few years. A positive about the Nintendo: Revolutions is that you will be able to download all previous games from Nintendo's extensive library, but that is where the positives end right now. With strong competition from Sony and Microsoft's more superior and efficient systems Nintendo's best days could be behind them.

TALGATE PARTY: 4:00 BEFORE EACH HOME FOOTBALL GAME!
 Just 5 bucks! Next To The Old Tennis Courts
All You Can Eat! BE THERE!

Summer cinema makes great home viewing

David Zappacosta '06

1. Cinderella Man

This movie was the hands down best summer movie. You can't judge this movie on the box office sales. It was tainted by the fact that Russell Crowe decided to throw a phone at someone working on the set. This movie is a heart warming inspirational film about never giving up and making the better of second chances. Russell Crowe should be nominated for an academy award for what I think makes Gladiator look like a smelly dirty soap opera.

2. Wedding Crashers

Vince Vaughn is officially the second funniest man in Hollywood next to, of course, Will Ferrell. This movie wasn't as funny as old school but it certainly carries the tradition. This movie has some of the funniest scenes I have ever seen and as my good friend Amanda Jennings said "I can't wait to own this movie just so I can learn the quotes." The one liners in this movie are legendary and Wedding Crashers had lifted Vince Vaughn into legendary status. But don't think that this is another sick extension of Old School ladies; there is a very good love story as well.

3. Batman Begins

I think that an argument could be made that this Batman movie is



Russell Crowe is James Braddock in Cinderella Man.

the best that has been made. They found the perfect Batman in actor Christian Bale and the perfect villain in Cillian Murphy. This movie goes all the way back and explains how Batman actually got all the crazy moves that Batman has. Not only that, but how Batman got all of his crazy gadgets and how he got the "Batmobile". This movie even goes as far as to explain how all the psychopathic criminals end up in the streets of Gotham. During all this it just happens to be the best action movie of the summer.

4. Four Brothers

This movie could be on many peoples list as number one. A great movie in many respects, it captures the true heartbreak of losing a mother, a guaranteed cry for many. But at the same time can make a push

for best action movie of the summer. Mark Wahlberg turns in his best performance of his career. Although that's not saying too much he still did a very fine job. The only thing that brought this movie down is in the end, it was too cliché and not right for the mood and tone of this movie. I'd still say that you need to see this movie but in my opinion something needs to be done to this ending. Otherwise I might just have to stop it ten minutes before it ends.

5. 40 Year Old Virgin

This movie does not get the recognition and attributes that we all anticipated. It was a good movie and it had its parts where everyone was laughing, but those were few and far between. There was a lot of time where simply nothing was happening. Steve Carell, however, carried that movie. The former hysterical reporter for the Daily Show has made a name for himself and did it with style. The only reason that this movie even made it on my list is because it has one of the best endings ever.

This summer's box office was extremely disappointing. Some say that it was just because the movies they thought were supposed to do well didn't. Or was it, more than likely, the fact that this summer's movie list just wasn't that good. Sure you had

your heavy hitters which were the movies listed above and a few others, but there weren't many B list movies that made an impact. Like the movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* did in the summer of 03. At first this movie did nothing, no hype, no money. Then it turned out to be a box office monster. Not a single movie that was a hit was a surprise hit. You could blame this on the fact that movie prices are close to ten dollars for a ticket. However, think of it this way. When movie prices were lower probably more people went to the movies. Now with movie prices as high as they are, one person buying a ticket is like two buying a ticket five years ago.

No, you can't really use that excuse. No, the only thing that you can blame is the lack of attendance at this year's theatres was simply the fact that the movies out were just not good.



New Batman, same look.

Township on the airwaves

Rob Czyzewicz '06

At noon on a mid May afternoon last year, without much fanfare, the cable access channel 13 became sole possession of Washington Township.

For the past twelve years, Channel 13 had been used for community announcements in South Jersey. The channel was shared among several school districts that included such schools as Washington Township, Williamstown, Buena, and Winslow, among others. Township purchased the channel with a \$12,000 down payment, and \$1,000 monthly increments.

"I started pursuing the cable access channel about thirteen years ago", said Mr. Marty Bouchard, the high school's telecommunications teacher and advisor to WTHS Monthly Rewind. "When you have the ability that we have to produce the type of programming that we can, it's a good idea to use that to market the programming and to market the schools in general."



Matt Kienzle '06/The Patriot

Many ideas for shows may be filmed in the school's TV studio.

Bouchard believes that there is much that can be done with the new station.

"I think that as the years go on, the amount of programming will definitely expand" said Bouchard.

Ms. Jan Giel, the Director of Public Relations, echoes Bouchard's sentiments.

"I am responsible for the scheduling for the programming" said

highlights show, a quiz show between middle schools, and countless other projects have a good opportunity to run.

While the Monthly Rewind classes will still be covering the in school events, the new cable coordinator will likely do outside district events, probably including elementary and middle school events, new original programming based on the recently passed referendum, and profiles of members of the community. In addition, profiles of the teachers of the year and their students are likely to air on the station.

In the future, Giel would also like to see live broadcasts of sporting events, school wide events, and many other things. With all of the new technology that is available to technicians, Giel's goals include getting at least weekly changes of the programming on the channel, and ultimately, having daily changes of the programming.

"I'm really excited about this", Giel began. "I anticipate that this channel could go anywhere we want it to."

SPORTS

Field hockey triple threat leads squad

Bethany Messick '06

The field hockey team was off to a shaky start this season with their losses to Shawnee and Cherokee, but after a few tough practices, they have been able to recover their record with wins over Lenape, Seneca, and Cherry Hill East. The three captains, Jennie Hara, Nicole Muracco, and Chelsea Winkelspecht, have greatly contributed to the team's turnaround.

Jennie Hara '06

Hara has been playing right mid field and right wing for about ten years. She plans to play next year at William Paterson University. Hara wants to play there and major in education because she looks up to her mom, a WPU alumni, who did just that.

"My mom has been a great role model for me. She knows a lot about the game, and I can go to her for help whenever I'm struggling," said Hara.

Hara also looks up to is a former WTHS student, Kelly Angstadt.

"I look up to Kelly because she is a great friend, and she is one of the best athletes I've ever seen.

Making the state tournament and getting noticed by a WPU scout this season are Hara's preseason goals.



Bethany Messick '06/ ThePatriot

Team captains, (l-r) Muracco, Winkelspecht, and Hara.

things to them, and giving them positive comments to help them improve.

Muracco feels the coaches have

a lot to do with the team's success.

"The coaches cheer us on, let know us when we aren't doing well, and tell us how to improve. We are

constantly talking to them, and we can go to them with any of our problems," said Muracco.

Muracco also wants to make the state tournament this year, and she strives to be the South Jersey Offensive Player of The Year.

Muracco has been playing field hockey since seventh grade. She plans to play in college and major in communications. Muracco has been offered scholarships to many schools, but has recently chosen University of Maryland.

Chelsea Winkelspecht '06

Winkelspecht's favorite aspect about field hockey is the fact that she had the chance to meet a lot of new people.

"Over the past five years I made new friends and got close with the team. They are a great bunch of girls who I will never forget," said Winkelspecht.

Winkelspecht thinks the team will be successful this season.

"We have a great chemistry and we are so close. We can all talk to each other and give each other constructive criticism without putting each other down," said Winkelspecht.

Winkelspecht has been playing field hockey since seventh grade, and plays a number of positions. She plans to play softball in college, instead of field hockey, but if she goes to Bloomsburg University she might tryout.

Opinion

Despite loss, football future remains bright

Mark Natale '06

Everyone needs to calm down, take a deep breath, and stop worrying.

We still have one of the best football teams in South Jersey, and one loss does not change that.

Sure, someone who traveled to Pennsauken on the 24th might beg to differ.

Yes, the offense was stagnant, managing only 6 points in the waning moments of the game, and yes, the 3-5 stack defense did get run over all afternoon. But it's not time to panic yet, not time to shake things up, but instead, time to look at where both teams were coming from before this game.

From the Pennsauken perspective, this was THE game. The Indians hadn't beaten Township since

1989, and with a clear shot coming into the 2005 season, you can bet Pennsauken had week three marked on their calendars. Tickets were sold out the Wednesday before the game, and Township signs hung from the school's walls for every Pennsauken player to see. Meanwhile, Township had the same mindset...about the PREVIOUS week.

Ever since double sessions started on August 19th, every Township player worth his weight in blue and red thought about Week 2. Township vs. Cherokee slated Pre-Season #1 against Pre Season #2. This was the game everyone was talking about, and with a goal line stand in the final seconds to give Township the win, the game lived up to every ounce of hype.

Then, you have the Pennsauken game. First away game, first game not on turf, in an unusual Saturday

afternoon time slot, against a dangerous, hungry, rank climbing Pennsauken team. Can anybody say "trap game"?

But that still doesn't change much. We still have the best backfield in South Jersey, we still have a young talented Quarterback not afraid to make the big throw, and a 3-5 defense that leaves most Coaches clueless.

There are a lot of good things that came out of the Minutemen's 2-1 start. Township opened up with a dominating 55-14 win over Winslow, in which Ryan D'Imperio scored 2 touchdowns, and our second string offense was able to score multiple times against the Eagle's first string defense. The following week, came the game everyone was waiting for.

Cherokee came into Sewell fresh off an opening week home loss to Pennsauken. However, Cherokee was

depleted against Pennsauken, having reserves in for 9 of their starting positions. Cherokee fielded their whole varsity team against Township, and the two South Jersey powerhouses fought it out down to the wire. Two Blaise Lacca touchdowns and a Ryan Diemperio Field goal put the Minutemen up 17-16, a late pass from Pat Moffit to Rescinito put Township up by 8, and a goal line stand in the waning moments of the game started the celebration.

The joy didn't last too long, as the Pennsauken defeat grounded the high flying Minutemen. But the season is young, and if the Minutemen can pick up the pieces for the rest of the season, the December 2nd South Jersey Group 4 championship will still be played on the newly installed Washington Township turf.

Boys soccer prepares for second chance

Mike Dougherty '06

The 2005-2006 Varsity Minutemen soccer team is gearing up for another great season. Last year the Minutemen squad finished with a record of 10-7-1, making the State Tournament and defeating Toms River South in the first round, but went on to lose to their rival Shawnee.

The team lost eight starters to graduation, but is still confident that the players they have now are more than capable of filling the needed positions. Like Township a lot of other teams in the conference lost a lot of players, that's why this team believes that the conference is open, and is theirs for the taking.

The ultimate goal this year for the team is to make the Coach's Tournament, an event that the team missed last year. To get a bid in the Tournament, the coaches select the teams that they feel qualified. The Township team feels that this is an obtainable goal, especially because this seems to be a team that is focused around defense.

As senior forward Chris Andrews put it, "We have the potential to be great." With the firm belief that defense wins championships, the Minutemen squad believes that this year is going to be better than recent past years.

Like talking sports?
Join the S.T.A.T. Pack.

Look out for future meetings in G-222.

Four fabulous football studs

Story and photos
Bethany Messick '06

Township Football games are loud. When you arrive at the games on Friday night, you can hear kids screaming, parents cheering, cannons firing, and bands playing. Over all the excitement and noise, Mr. Steve Wisniewski enthusiastically announces the game from the press box. Nick Baccare, Ryan D'Imperio, Tracey Brown, and Pat Moffit are some of the names that he most frequently calls while he's highlighting the game.

Nick Baccare

Baccare is the starting halfback for the Minutemen. He has been playing football since second grade and wants to continue playing through college where he will major in accounting. Baccare is currently considering Monmouth and Lehigh Universities.

One of the reasons Baccare is so successful in football is because he



Baccare has 35 carries for 259 yards, 3 touchdowns, and 8 tackles to start off the season.

has a strong relationship with his coaches. He especially admires Coach Brown because of his commitment and love of the game.

"The coaches are like a second father figure to me because I'm around them so much," said Baccare. "They help and encourage me by telling me how to deal with problems, how to stay on top of my grades, and how to never give up."

Baccare's goals for this season are to win the State Championship and to be selected to the All Group Four team.

The team's enthusiasm and support are also important to Baccare.

"When I see my teammates will to win, it makes me want to win that much more," said Baccare.

Tracey Brown

Brown is another name you hear quite frequently throughout the game. He is the wide receiver on the team who started playing football when he was in ninth grade. Brown plans to play in college and major in business, but he doesn't know what college he wants to attend.

Brown is a strong believer in team unity.

"Everybody has to stick together. If one person screws up, then the team screws up. If one person does



Working together on and off the field to achieve success.

something good, then the team does something good," said Brown.

This is a lesson he has learned from his family who he says has always supported him and encouraged him to do his best.

Brown's role model is Michael Vick.

"When things get rough, he just makes things happen," said Brown. Like Vick, Brown looks forward to those times when his teammates look to him for help.

Brown congratulates the team on their first two wins and is confident that more will come.

Ryan D'Imperio

Another famous name throughout WTHS is the running back and the linebacker D'Imperio. He has been playing since fifth grade and plans to play in college. Among the many schools who have shown interest, he's looking at are Virginia Tech, Rutgers University, University of Maryland, and Penn State University.

D'Imperio believes that the team's continued success is due in large part to the players' hard work, dedication and the guidance they get from the coaches.

"The coaches and the players put a 100% into everything they do, so that when we set goals, we achieve them," said D'Imperio.

D'Imperio is also seen as a leader on the field because he encourages his teammates whenever he can.

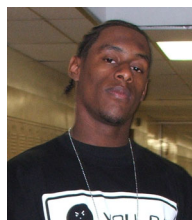
"I tell them to do better, don't

screw up, keep focus, and not to worry," said D'Imperio.

He feels he has a great relationship with the other players. He and some of his teammates have been playing together since they were in seventh grade.

"We all hang out on the weekends and we never fight," said D'Imperio. "Whenever I am on the field, I don't only play for myself and for my coaches, but for my teammates."

He is thankful that the coaches are making this year a memorable one, and he appreciates the offensive line for doing a great job blocking for him.



Brown has 7 catches for 130 yards, 1 touchdown, and 2 tackles.

Pat Moffit

One of the newest stars on the team is Moffit. The junior quarterback plans to play football in college, but hasn't thought about where he wants to go or what he plans to major in yet.

Moffit says that one of the most difficult things about being a junior is the added pressure of competition within the team.

"When you're younger than everyone, and make a mistake, there are a bunch of seniors waiting for your spot," said Moffit.

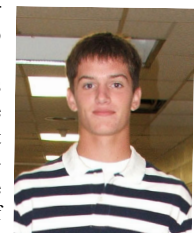
Whenever he's in trouble, Moffit is not hesitant to ask for advice.

"I haven't had as much experience as the other players which makes playing varsity difficult, but the coaches and seniors help me out as much as possible."

Moffit also looks to his parents for advice, "When times are bad, they pick me up and help me out," said Moffit.

The first year starter plans to do anything he can to help the team go undefeated this season.

Township fans can expect to hear their names often this season.



Quarterback Pat Moffit has passed for 232 yards and 2 touchdowns.