



Boys volleyball season takes home a winning season

SPECIAL TO THE TRUMPET
by Nishant Modi

After a state-championship caliber performance last spring, this season's boys' volleyball team entered this year with a focus more towards rebuilding and harvesting raw talent. Yet the team proved themselves beyond such, taking home a winning season as well as several key matches.

However, for the first time in three years, the boys did not bring back the LVIAC tournament title back to the high school. The Trojans lost to Bethlehem Central Catholic in the tournament's semifinals, losing in a close but sweeping 0-3 (21-25, 14-25, 22-25).

Led by a quad leadership of four seniors – Anthony Khoury, Shaan Negandhi, Justin Lewis, and Joseph Guiliano – the team achieved a 10-3 record in the district, losing in district semifinals to long-time rivals Whitehall.

"Whitehall has always been a great match for us and for those following our team to watch. They have maintained a close second behind us in the regular season and they always challenge us every time we play them. This match was as close as all the other games. We went into five close sets," said senior Anthony Khoury.

Khoury played with the team for all four years of his high school career; unfortunately for his senior year, a

leg injury sidelined him with crutches to the bench for much of the season. Yet though temporarily incapacitated, Khoury was still able to lead the team through constant encouragement and advice.

"Even with his injury, Anthony has still kept the spirit of the team alive – he was able to stay as one of our leaders even when he could not play. He would come to every practice, every game, and make sure the team stayed on track. He contributed as much as he normally would; often times, even more," said senior Shaan Negandhi.

Parkland entered the district tournament against the Easton Red Rovers, taking away the quarterfinal win in four sets. The five-set match against Whitehall in the district semifinals was extremely close, with the Zephyrs taking away the first two sets. Parkland would come back with wins in the next two sets, forcing a final showdown in the fifth set. After leading for much of the last set, Whitehall used a strong showing from their senior leadership to gain momentum and take the win away from Parkland. The Zephyrs would go onto lose to Emmaus in the district championships, though joining the Hornets into the state tournament.

Yet the prospects for next season's team promise a return to full glory. Said Negandhi, "The juniors and sophomores of this year's team have enormous po-

tential. With the few seniors we had this year, some of these underclassmen have already started to take leadership and key role player positions – both with the team's roster and its chemistry. I have played with them in open gyms and club volleyball – after another year, I am sure

that they will improve. Even as a senior, I do not mind substituting for them. As always maintain the motto that I have repeatedly quoted to the Trumpet – that I do not care how much I play or if I start, just as long as the team wins, because that is all that matters."



Photo Courtesy of mcall.com
Senior Justin Lewis hits against a Nazareth player during the LVIAC tourney.

Boys Tennis team wins regular season; upset in Districts

SPECIAL TO THE TRUMPET
by Jared Gluskin

The Trumpet has delivered extensive coverage on Parkland High School's boy's tennis this spring season, delivering updates from the very beginning of the season to now, the very end. Before the season even started, the team was held at high expectations. With a drop-off of only two seniors from last year, the large majority of the varsity team returned alongside a bit of new talent. With a year of experience under his belt, Coach Julian Taibi brought out a whole new system of practices and game time strategies. With a large drop-off of outgoing seniors, the competition seemed to wane in comparison with Parkland's team. The boys were basically expected to sweep the season and win team districts and proceed onto states.

Yet from an unlucky combination of terrible weather and controversial line calls, the team was not able to totally meet these goals. The team swept the regular season, winning most of their matches with sweeping scores of 7-0.

"Our regular season amazing as usual amazing. In the past four or five years, I do not think there has been a single time where we have not gone undefeated. But this season was even more special

because we did not drop a single doubles or singles match in a league match," said senior Salil Ketkar.

The team met one of its biggest foes though this season, possibly in Mother Nature herself. The spontaneous weather of the months of April and May have not allowed the team many practices and have caused many games to be rescheduled in close proximity of each other.

As a result, without much practice, the team went through straight weeks of matches and tournaments. "The most time we got to form as a team and to build our skill was nowhere else but the court – we were constantly without time," said senior David Miller.

And so while the team did win with the best regular season record in the league, they came up short to expectations in all three-district events. First singles Egor Ivanov, as mentioned in the previous issue, exceeded expectations this season, beating Emmaus's Akshay Damani three times during the season. Yet when he played top seeded Eric Perez of Southern Lehigh in the district singles championship and district teams championship, he lost, alongside the rest of the team.

At team districts, the team breezed through all competition up to the finals,

losing only one match of all the preceding series. The district championship however, proved otherwise for the team. The team lost with a score of 3-0, immediately having to drop their two doubles matches that they were predicted to win.

"We knew it would be a hard fought match, but sometimes it just does not go our way. We knew we had to win at least one singles match in order to take the trophy – again, it just was not our day," said Ketkar.

Indeed, many saw third singles Alec Lucente as the key player to winning the title. Lucente was predicted to win, especially after his meteoric rise since his freshman year. Districts on the other hand, proved t

simply be a bad day for the senior.

"Like the rest of the team, it just was not his day. Southern Lehigh's third singles was able to get in his head and win by taking momentum off of unforced errors," said Ketkar.

Though the team was upset in their journey for a title, it still did accomplish a remarkable season. They went undefeated in the regular season and swept LVCs.



Photo Courtesy of mcall.com
Egor Ivanov went all the way to district finals to lose in three sets.

The implications of Osama's death, near and abroad

by A. T. Spikol

After ten years of playing the role of America's most prominent nemesis, Osama bin Laden's sudden demise has come as an immense shock and relief to the country. Throughout the war on terror he has occupied a unique niche in the nation's conscience, once reserved for our most dreaded specters, in his case the threat of another major terrorist attack on American soil. While his death, at this point, may do little to either provoke or prevent such another attack, it is still a significant event with very real ramifications.

First and foremost is the blatant satisfaction that has been so visibly drawn from his demise. While America may like to think of itself as by and large a moral nation, there is little moral justification for the targeted killing of an individual, mass murderer or no; therefore our recent jubilation (which I have full heartedly shared in) does not derive from some abstract sense of justice but from the more visceral and fundamental notion of vengeance: The killer has been killed. In an era of conflict that seems to be defined by its moral gray areas, whether it is the prolonged detention of detainees at Guantanamo or the murky justifications for the Iraq War, the sudden removal of one of America's longest and sharpest thorns in a manner that almost every American could agree on is cathartic. As a nation we seem to be letting out a pent up breath, as if the tide of emotion following 9/11 had somehow crystallized in amber over the previous years of increasingly

chaotic conflict only to be let out with the attainment of an old national goal, bringing with it some of the moral clarity that first flamed the national spirit in the wake of our disaster. If we can salvage that feeling, the sense that it is our right to defend ourselves, and couple it with the hard won wisdom that security can be maximized only to a certain extent before its costs outweigh its gains, we will emerge a stronger, safer and more enlightened nation, far from both the enfeebled paper tiger or draconian reactive security state that our enemies wish to see us become.

Yet more has changed than ourselves. In particular the Arab world, whose imagination and zeitgeist always served as the true goals of al Qaeda, has evolved in a direction far different than the one bin Laden envisaged for it. While the repressive states which he and his cohorts reviled are falling, they are toppling not by the hands of al-Qaeda but by a secularist political awakening which will likely do more to combat religious extremism

in the area than any force of arms could accomplish. While Islamists may benefit in the short term from the attending chaos or the need for established parties, their



Photo Courtesy of newfreephotos.com
Osama bin Laden profile taken during his reign as world terrorist.

long term success will ultimately depend on their moderation rather than their radicalization which bin Laden sought to achieve. Even if Islamist parties gain power, the rise in democratic aspirations will force them to conform to a new pluralistic norm and adapt their own ideology to democracy rather than the other way around. Islam will likely flourish in many Arab countries again in a way it has not for centuries, but it will not be the Islam of the sword, which bin Laden championed, but rather an Islam of the people.

Yet with great changes awaiting the Arab world, it is important to remember what bin Laden stood for. While in the United States it is common to write off bin Laden simply as a man who hated us for our freedoms (which he did), it

is vital to know that this is not why he attacked us. Rather, his main concern was what he perceived as the hegemonic goals of the U.S. with respect to the world, particularly the world of Islam. Unlike many of his fellow countrymen, bin Laden was unwilling to tolerate U.S. soldiers on his country's soil, soil which to him is not only that of his nation but that of his God, the holy land of Islam itself. Bin Laden was a weak man, from a weak area of the world, very aware of his weakness; in his frustration he fought back in the most vicious way he could find, in the process abandoning every tenet of the faith he professed to defend. Imbalances of power, while inevitable, will always generate strong reactions; weakness breeds resentment. Simply because Arab regimes become more pluralistic does not mean they will become stronger or more prosperous. The outside role the United States plays in the region and the constant presence of Israel will always serve as sources of tension and embarrassment for Arab populaces and governments. The narrative bin Laden presented is as provocative today as it was in 2001 and while his methods have lost some credibility, the role of the terrorist is not one that will disappear for want of willing actors. Yet terrorism may prove to be of lesser concern in the future. After all, those who practice extreme violence can never really speak for a majority of people. As Hamas, the democratically elected terrorist group in Gaza, has ably demonstrated, sometimes the most vexing problems are those elected by the will of the majority.

Global economy shifts towards developing countries in East

by Aditya Misra

It seems that the US is losing its economic prowess as the East is making gargantuan economic strides. By 2030, the developing world will account for 60% of the global GDP. In addition, China will most likely surpass the US economy in 2016-2020. The Chinese and Indian economies have also powered ahead that of the US while US had boom-bust cycles.

Their power is evident in the modern business world. China is the primary global trading partner of Brazil, India, and South America. Naturally, these countries would prefer Chinese-manufactured goods over American goods due to the lower prices. An example would be the Indian multinational Tata, a company

similar to Ford Motor Company, is very active in investing money into Africa. In addition, 40% of world research is based in Asia.

There are several reasons why such developing countries are racing to hold the coveted position of leading global trade. Brazil, India, and China all give quota-free market access, or rather unrestricted trade to countries with low income, benefitting both the buyer and seller. This type of trade has increased twenty-fold while global trade expanded only four times. This not only increases profit, but also allows for the trade of ideas--ranging anywhere from technology to monetary aid.

The "invisible hand" behind China's prowess is its insatiable desire for pursuing expansion and power. Once upon a time, the United States was

also power-hungry in the 1800s, like modern China. However, the U.S. tried to surpass Britain during the time of the Industrial Revolution. They were successful. Similarly, China is trying to surpass the U.S. Unfortunately, the U.S. has no tangible goals to set itself towards and may as well succumb to the same fate as Britain. Moreover, China has state-driven market system while US has free market. As a result, US gave China jobs and increased profit, but this allowed China to grow its manufacturing capacity as well.

Nonetheless, this doesn't mean that they are prosperous. Most of the population in the developing world is still in poverty. Only China has made significant bounds in reducing poverty. For instance, 22.5% of world's impoverished population escaped the

poverty line due to the improvements in China undertook.

This increased economic prowess by such countries has displaced American jobs. For example, 1.8 million American jobs have been displaced over nine years since China entered the World Trade Organization. Detroit is a prime example of this trend because the city's car manufacturing plants got outsourced to different countries.

In addition, the U.S. dollar will not be the global reserve currency due to its declining value. The U.S. companies will have to strive to be more competitive. They cannot just rely on innovation to strengthen their business, but they have to take into account their employees and their working conditions, even though it may mean reducing the profit margin.

Keystone tests are poised as predecessor to the PSSA

by Aditya Misra

Keystone Exams are slowly ousting PSSAs. Sophomores and freshmen had to take the Keystone exams recently on May 2 and May 3, 2011. Starting in the 2012-2013 school year, Keystones will officially replace PSSAs.

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs) are not very accurate in depicting high school performance. Legislators want a test that will clearly show whether the student understands the logic behind the course material and is at the intellectual level to receive a high school diploma.

According to *The Merionite*, deputy press secretary of the Dept. of Education Leah Harris said, "We think that the PSSAs, although good, are a general look at achievement, not a specific glimpse

at how well a student understands the course."

Under the PSSA, even those who do poorly receive high school diplomas, at the cost of development courses in college or a bleak prospect for success in the job market. According to *The Merionite*, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Business Council David Patti said, "The scary thing is that we really do not know how they are doing. Given what they are handing in



Photo by Nadia Boekenkamp
Current freshman will be the next group to take the Keystones.

and what's being scored, only 55% of the students are scoring at a proficient level right now in 11th grade. Maybe 45% are goofing off...I do not know," said Patti. "Yet almost 99% of the same students are getting their high school diploma a year later." He also stated later that the high school graduates who did not go to college did not have the necessary math, reading, or writing skills to be successful in a job.

Under the Keystone exam, more

of the questions are at an above-average difficulty, which will make it somewhat harder to earn the high school diploma, and make candidates more ready for life outside the classroom

Due to the budget cuts for the year 2011-2012, Keystone exams will not be administered during that year. However, they will be fully implemented in the following year.

According to the Team Pennsylvania Foundation, Secretary of Education Amy Morton said, "This was a very deliberate decision and was made for two important reasons. First is the cost associated with exam development during a very challenging fiscal year; the second reason is the need to provide schools more time to align their curriculum and instruction to these more rigorous assessments."