

# Upcoming winter Olympics begin to make a buzz

by Rachel Holly

Every four years, the globe stops to watch and admire the world's greatest athletes excel in their snowy realm. Switching off every two years between the seasons, this year the world will witness the Winter Olympics yet again.

This year, the Winter Olympics will be held in the host city of Vancouver, British Columbia in the nation of Canada.

"Vancouver is supposed to be gorgeous any time of year. I could only imagine in the wintertime," said sophomore Becca Kinsey.

The Canadian location lends itself a distinct flavor to this year's games through the organizational committee known as the Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC).

VANOC is trying to capitalize on Canada's unique qualities, such as being home to the Four Host First Nations, which comprises hundreds of aboriginal tribes that once inhabited the Canadian lands. The Olympic committee is encouraging the thousands of Aboriginal Canadians to participate in the games,

albeit as athletes, volunteers, employees of VANOC or simply spectators to increase awareness and national unity.

Another uniquely Canadian twist added to this year's games will be the games being dually broadcasted in both French and English, the two native tongues of Canada. Since nearly 75% of the Canadian population is bilingual in both French and English, it was decided that in order to have every Canadian truly feel a part of the games, it would be broadcast in both of these languages.

The athletes competing are just as spectacular as the venue and host city, however. Many big names from the 2006 Torino games are making their comebacks this year in Vancouver, but they will be challenged by many new up and coming athletes.

One man who has his name on every spectator's mind is the snowboarding legend, Shaun White. He is a 23-year-old snowboarder from Carlsbad, California, riding the circuit professionally for 14 years. He is not only the first snowboarder to have one back to back gold medals at the winter X-Games, Shaun is also

the featured athlete on the cover of *The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics: 2010 Edition*. He will be participating in the Men's Halfpipe Competition, airing February 17, among other competitions.

Besides snowboarding, many other sports will be featured at this year's Olympic games such as alpine skiing, luge, ice hockey and speed skating

Regardless of the sports being showcased, many students in Parkland are excited for the coming Olympic games.

"I can't believe it's been four years already. [I am] so excited for the snowboarding. It is incredible!" said sophomore Josh Temprow.

"I'm most excited for the wipeouts, because with big air you will obviously have pretty big spills," said sophomore Alice Butler.

Overall, Parkland is abuzz with Olympic fever. The games are slated to get started Friday, February 12 and continue until the closing ceremony airing on Sunday, February 28. Stay tuned to *The Trumpet* for the most up-to-date Olympic coverage.



## The Scoreboard

by Sam Wolf

The 2010 NBA all star break just recently ended with record breaking numbers. They brought in more than 100,000 fans to the Dallas Cowboy's new stadium. One of the main attractions of the NBA all star weekend has always been the dunk contest. Though this year's field of participants put on a less than stellar performance, there is still a fair share of dunkers who have left their mark on the competition and the league. This is my personal list of the league's top five dunkers in its history.

Beginning at number five is the legendary dunker, Julius Erving, better known as Dr. J. Not only does Mr. Erving have the fifth best dunking ability in my mind, but he also has the best hair out of any of these five dunkers. He revolutionized the one handed dunk and began the idea of "dunking on people."

Second on the list is a current Allentown resident, Darryl Dawkins, also known as "Chocolate Thunder." Dawkins made himself known as a dunker by shattering the backboard of a certified NBA rim twice. After doing it the first time, the commissioner deemed the new models of the rims to be "indestructible." Some consider Dawkins breaking the rim a second to be a response to a challenge made by the commissioner.

Though it may be a huge surprise, and though I may get scolded for this, Michael Jordan is not in my top two, but rather my top three. As the third greatest dunker of all time, Jordan brought the "jump from the foul line" dunk back to life. Ever since he did it in the dunk contest, many a dunker has tried to simulate his ultimate feat, but have come up unsuccessful time after time by either stepping over the line or just flat out missing. Jordan may have been one of the best in game dunkers as well.

Number two is the human highlight reel, Domonique Wilkins. He and Jordan had several dunking battles when all star weekend came around. Wilkins' ability to make such sudden movements while in mid air was unlike any other. His two handed windmills and 360 dunks brought the level of competition of the dunk contest to a completely new heights.

Finally at number one we have the ultimate King James. Before any more criticism is thrown in my direction, let me justify myself. I'm a firm believer that the NBA is much more competitive today than it was 20 years ago and even more than it was 40 years ago. I am a firm believer that the level of talent is improving every year. At the very least, the level of athleticism is improving every year. That is was LeBron James is the greatest dunker in the history of the NBA. Though he let down the NBA fans when he backed out of his bold entry into the most recent dunk contest, he is still undoubtedly the world's best in game dunker. His posterizing shots are classic, whether they be over Tim Duncan or Kevin Garnett.

Those who made honorable mention are Dwight Howard, the recently self-proclaimed superman, Nate Robinson, the little engine that could, and coming out from nowhere is Dwayne Wade.

Combined, there have been nearly ten dunk contest victories and so many more posterizing dunks for plenty of memories.

# Patricia Heffner passes away as Parkland role model

by Sam Wolf

On January 5, 2010, Patricia Heffner lost her battle to cancer. Heffner was a Dieruff graduate who won two state championships as a player. She then went on to play collegiate basketball at Rutgers University where she became the tenth leading scorer in the history of the program. She then returned to the Lehigh Valley by coaching at Lafayette College. Heffner then began coaching high school basketball at Catasauqua High School where she won a state championship in 1988. She then came to Parkland where she led the Trojans to a state championship in 2006. "The Majority of coaches never win any state championships. The fact that she was able to win two is amazing," said junior Monica Hagenauer. "Coach Heffner made playing basketball fun. I'll always remember how she conducted herself at practices, professionally with a sense of humor and composure. That composure carried over to her players and assistant coaches on game night. Other coaches can learn a lesson from Coach Heffner on how to conduct themselves from the bench or sideline. She was a professional. She knew how to be humble in winning and gracious in losing. She taught those traits to her players. With her as their mentor, Parkland's girls' basketball teams always represented our school with class," said former Parkland Athletic Director Mr. Dobil. Heffner will always be remembered in the eyes of the Parkland athletics and in the community.

