

Hunt For October

By Jared Fitzgerald

Many teams have almost clinched the MLB post season, while others are just hanging on by a thread. With less than a month of the regular season left, many teams still have high hopes for making it all the way to the playoffs.

The race is getting closer and closer as the final days of baseball comes to a close. There has not been a team clinch in the post season yet, which is a big surprise. With October just around the corner, many teams have been going in a downward spiral.

The Oakland A's, one of the hottest baseball teams this summer, have been in a rapid decline. After the trade of rising star, Yoenis Cespedes, to the Boston Red Sox, they have lost nine of their last eleven baseball games, and no longer have the best record in baseball. A's organization is looking to turn it around in hopes to play during October.

Another struggling team is the Pittsburgh Pirates. Just yesterday, the Pirates broke their four game losing streak with a win over the Philadelphia Phillies. Being second place in the National League Central, the Pirates are only a game and a half back to the red hot Cardinals. Looking for answers, the Pittsburgh Pirates are leaning on All-Star center fielder Andrew McCutchen.

Tigers and Royals, Royals and Tigers, the American League Central has been back and

forth this past month. No one knows who will be making it to the post season out of these two teams. It will be a barn burner for sure.

Junior Jacob Fitzgerald commented, "I want the Royals to go all the way to the World Series and win it." Right now though, the Royals are one-half game ahead of the Detroit Tigers.

Although everyone's favorite Minnesota Twins missed out on going to the post season for the eighth straight year, everyone was still cheering for them. "I am mad the Twins didn't make the playoffs because they are my favorite team," stated senior Tait Johnson.

Right now, the Los Angeles Angels are pulling away from A's in the AL West. All the other divisions are up for grabs! Over half of the baseball teams are still in the race. So buckle up, it's about to get bumpy!



Ready, Set, Run!

By Tabitha Klingenberg

The pressure was on last Tuesday at 4 p.m. The Garretson Cross Country team successfully defended their home turf when the boys cross country team came in first place and the girls cross country team came in second at the Jessie James Invitational.

The previous week, the girls cross country team came in first place and the boys placed second. Two of the many teams that we went up against include Madison and Lennox. That made no difference apparently. Alex Uhl says, "All the other schools had to run a very hard meet that left them all winded. For me, it was just another Tuesday." He

also added that he wasn't nervous before the race.

The top scores for the boys include Evan Fick, who placed second with a time of 17:23; Josh Liester, who placed fourth with a time of 17:32; Josh Powell, who placed eighth with a time of 17:51; Tait Johnson, who placed seventeenth with a time of 18:29.

"It was a good day for a home meet, but you're always nervous for one," Joshua stated. There is always pressure to do well, but there is potential this season for Garretson Cross Country to stick it out in the end.

The top scores for the girls cross country runners include Carmen Bohl, who placed seventh with a time of 15:35; Teisha Carnicle, who placed eleventh with a time of 16:12; Haley Sage, placing fourteenth with a time of 16:23; Peyton Sage, twentieth, with a time of 17:02.

Teisha, a senior, commented, "I was really satisfied with how our team ran. And our times were really good, but I was nervous to see how we all ran considering the humidity."

We are anxious to see how the team will turn out in the upcoming season.

Girls' Soccer Team Keeps up Hope

By Zebadiah Johnson

The Garretson girls soccer team played this last Tuesday night against the West Central Trojans at Yankton Trail Park in Sioux Falls. The game did not go well for the girls, ending in a loss 5-0.

The team's coach, Mitch Lynch, had this to say about the game, "They just played a much faster game than we did, and they played as a single unit. They're a really tough squad and they played better than we thought they would." Some of these thoughts were shared by freshman athlete, Amyah Ockenga.

"I think we went into the game thinking we were going to win, and underestimated them. That really hurt us! We also really had trouble communicating and keeping possession of the ball," said Ockenga.

The girls have had trouble getting rolling with the season, but they have faith they can pick things up. They have shown to have an extremely strong bond, never getting each other down, and keeping positive in the face of adversity.

"We do lots of team bonding and stay positive with each other. Practices are always fun," said Ockenga.

"We have played some really, really good teams so far this season, and will continue to play them. But the girls show improvement every day. We have a relatively young team and every game against the teams with more experience helps us become a stronger, more experienced team ourselves." said Lynch.

The soccer team will play next Thursday against Vermillion at Vermillion. Make sure to wish them luck with the game!

Blue Dragons get a Decisive Win in Home Opener over Cougars

By Abriana Scholl

Down, set, hut! Garretson scores another touchdown!

Just last Friday, the high school football team went head-to-head against Viborg-Hurley at the first home game this season.

Garretson owned the other team with a score of 50-34, leaving the crowd roaring from the team's outstanding win.

Although they played off successfully, they still have improvements.

"Without a doubt, we have corrections that need to be made in all three phases. Without getting into specifics, we have a lot of work to do." stated Coach Steckler. "I'm happy with the win, but I know that we have a long way to go to be the type of team we expect to be by the end of the season." he believes.

Not only was this the team's first game at home, but the first time our cheerleaders kept the crowd roaring. There has been good support coming from everyone because of

the successful play. "I think that the team picked up the pace when they needed to, and were able to successfully bring out the win in a controlled manner," junior cheerleader, Katie Giesler told.

"I think that the fans showcase their excitement throughout the entire length of the game. During slow parts, there's anticipation that shows on their faces. During exciting parts, it's pretty evident that they're into what's happening down on the field. Football is apparently entertaining, so people are always going to show emotion on their faces." she stated.

Although they had a less than perfect start, the JV football has been bringing

their A-game, and will not go down in a competition. So we give a pat on the back to the boys for a great game last Friday. Go big blue!



Senior running back, Ben Hanson, carries the ball through the hall created by his teammates on the offensive line.

Better Luck Next Time

By Sylvia Larson

Another interesting volleyball game took place on Tuesday this week. The Garretson girls gave daisies and candy bars to their parents as part of parents' night, so lots of family members attended to cheer them on.

Freshmen through seniors, as well as the four student managers, all were recognized along with their parents.

From four to a little after nine o'clock, Garretson's volleyball players were sweating on the floor working their hardest to beat Colman-Egan.

With only one win on their record, the Garretson girls suffered another loss Tuesday night.

"The team definitely needs to work on communication," stated Assistant Coach Kelsey Buchholz. "They also need to attack the ball and be much more aggressive, offensively and defensively."

Freshman Lila Ockenga agrees. "Communicate, communicate, communicate! We DEFINITELY need to work on that."

"The girls have shown bursts of greatness, now they just have to bring it for an entire game." Buchholz continued. "By the end of the season, I hope they will all play with a winning mind-set."

But does the team have the potential to make it to state? Ockenga reported, "Yes and

no. They act pumped up at the beginning of the game, but near the end, they're just like, 'let's get this over with.'"

"It would be tough (to make it to state) considering the teams in our region, but I wouldn't doubt them so soon in the season." Buchholz added.

Ockenga concluded by saying, "We just need you at the future games to cheer us on!"

Not all hope is lost though; there is still the rest of the season. Make sure to be at all the future games so you can cheer on the team, and to get tickets for the pork loin feed taking place on the 26th.

Junior High Volleyball

By Lana Braswell

Another point gained and another game down for the junior high girls.

Eighth grader, Kylie Greenhoff, shared that they are hoping for a good game sometime this year. They seem to be having just a little trouble on the court, with such a great performance.

Greenhoff also stated, "As a team, we get along and pick each other up instead of knocking each other down," showing how team work is the most important thing in volleyball when it comes to games.

"It's hard to say if we are gonna have many wins or losses this year, since we have only had one game and tournament so far," shared eighth grader Rakell Gnadt.

She mentioned how some things need work on the court, such as talking to each other when needed, putting their defense up, and fighting back.

Their win-loss record is 1-4 so far. For their games, we are sure that they will pick up the speed and keep on working hard to earn the wins they deserve, and have been

waiting for, playing with more than just a little bit of hope, but with confidence that this year will be a winning one.

The coach has been working with the girls lately on their talking and getting themselves together with a stronger defense, they still need to boost up their confidence on the court.

Good luck to all you girls this year, play hard and keep your heads high for a great year of playing hard and fighting for the top!

Fantasy Football Begins

By Micah Mader

This last week the NFL kicked off their season with action packed games around the nation. Along with this league beginning comes another one, fantasy football.

Fantasy football is a competitive league in which NFL players are picked during a draft and put on a team. A typical team is made up of a quarterback, two running backs, two wide receivers, one tight end, one kicker, and a defense.

Each week you match your fantasy team up against a different team within your league. Whichever team racks up the most total points wins the matchup.

Points are determined by the number of yards and touchdowns your player ends up with from that week's game. Kickers points are determined by number of field goals made and point after attempts, while

defense is scores you points via interceptions, sacks, and points scored.

Fantasy football has become wildly popular in recent years across the country and even within our own school. Junior Brady Schleuter has been playing for three years and "plays just for the fun of it."

However some people are in it for more than just fun. More competitive leagues can cost you big bucks just to be a part of, and close friends if you are not careful

Who is more important, running back or quarterback? This is fantasy football's biggest debate.

"Quarterback, because they play the whole game and ulti-

mately get you the most points," stated Junior Alex Andersen on the issue.

Senior Tait Johnson seemed to agree saying, "I think quarterback is the most important position, and Peyton Manning is the leagues MVP."

Although Andersen and Johnson both agree, copious amounts of other fantasy fans would disagree. They would argue running backs get easier yards and have more scoring opportunities.

Whether you're a Broncos fan or a Vikings fan, fantasy football is for everyone. With 33 million members and counting it's not too late to join the movement!



Senior Spotlight

NAME: Lydia Olson
SENIOR PROJECT: Hosting a summer soccer camp
ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN: Soccer, Cross Country, Track, and FFA
WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST: Bryce, Friends and Sports
PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR: Go to college



TATU Begins with Strong Message

The junior high and high school students work with elementary students to send a strong message: stomp out tobacco.

Right: Eighth grader Dakota Johnson helps kindergarten Landon Ross put his stamp on the "Stomping Out Tobacco" poster.



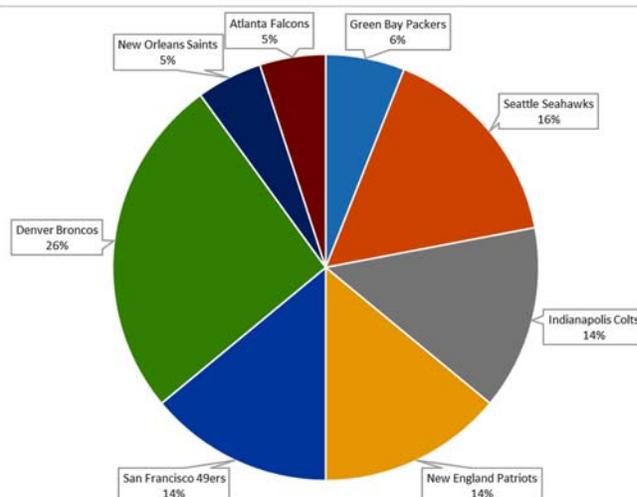
Photo submitted by Julie Mueller

Student Opinion Poll

Students were asked which team had the best chance to make it to the Super Bowl after watching week #1 performances this past weekend.



Take a moment to vote on the student opinion poll for next week's *Blue Ink*. Polls are located inside Mr. Hughes' room and Mrs. Buchholz's room.



ANSWERS: Brain Teaser: One, then the box isn't empty anymore.

Joke: He was "outstanding" in his field.