

Baltic Bulldogs beat boys in basketball

GHS basketball team experiences an unfortunate loss against rival Bulldogs on Senior Night

by **Tabi Klingenberg**
staff writer

The GHS boys' basketball team took on the rival team, the Baltic Bulldogs on Tuesday, January 30th. In a battle for positioning in the region playoffs, Garretson walked away with a 46-64 loss.

"We were pretty close in football and it was senior night so I was really pumped to beat them. However, it did not turn out the way we



expected," commented senior Noah Rieber.

The Blue Dragons started off strong with senior Shay Gibson scoring a three-pointer in the first possession. The Blue Dragons took an early lead 19-8 and Garretson had the chance to come up with the ball during the final play of the first half. Unfortunately, Baltic

slowly began to come back and shot off before halftime, leaving the score at 33-31.

Coach Shrank explained, "We came out very flat in the second half, and they didn't miss a lot of shots. We got complacent in our offense, and tried to shoot our way back into the game. We were within seven points

with 5:00 to go in the game, and the wheels fell off. We forced too many shots, and they took advantage."

Coach Shrank continued, "I think we came out ready to play, and as the game went on, we lost some of our edge. We started to panic, rather than play our game, and credit Baltic for knocking down shots when they needed to."

In addition to an intense rivalry game, Tuesday night was also senior night where their team, their family, and the remainder of the packed gymnasium honored the five future graduates: Shay Gibson, Matthew Gustafson, Aaron Hoon, Riley Nordstrom, and Noah Rieber.

Rieber noted that he will not be playing basketball in the near future and this will be the fourth and final year that he will be lacing up his basketball shoes. "We learned that we truly are the underdogs going into every game. We have to perceive ourselves as that and work hard every time we step onto the court."

"This senior group is a fun group of guys. We will miss them next year, and I hope their efforts in improving our program don't go unnoticed. Unfortunately, we haven't seen a lot of production in the win column, but the guys are improving," concluded Coach Shrank.

The season is nearly over with only two home games left. The Blue Dragons' next game will be held at Montrose tonight against McCook Central-Montrose.

Photos of five seniors on the team this year: #14 Shay Gibson, #15 Aaron Hoon, #21 Riley Nordstrom, #32 Noah Rieber, #42 Matthew Gustafson
Photos by Sylvia Larson



Super Bowl Sunday activities for cool people

This whole thing is just an elaborate ploy to get you to go to Dirty Dancing in theaters

by **Sylvia Larson**—editorial staff writer

Nothing exciting happens this Sunday. "The Super Bowl!" someone uncool shouts from the distance. Shhhhhhhh... nothing important happens this Sunday.

I'm all for unnecessary entertainment, but really? For real? Nothing is so colossally, magnificently unimportant as professional sports. Since men don't get to work off excess testosterone by raiding enemy tribes anymore, they watch overpaid louts give each other concussions instead.

Unfortunately, so many people will be indefinitely preoccupied with the glorified game of fetch that it's practically shunned by practitioners of society's sociocultural norms to attempt to enjoy any other activities.

Of course, you can always ignore the haters and do whatever you want, a path of which I strongly advise.

Usually Super Bowl Sunday sales circulate on that particular date, so going to SuFu to do some heavy shopping may be beneficial to the bargain-buy aficionado. The mall will be virtually barren, so you'll have the

luxury of the uninterrupted shopping experience you can only dream about when being run down by the usual brain-dead masses that frequent the mall on weekends. (And as a bonus, Hot Topic is having a T Shirt sale!)

If shopping isn't quite your forte, you can always go enjoy a movie at one of the many theaters in town. West Mall 7 is showing some 'older' films, such as *Fantastic Beasts* and *Doctor Strange*, all for the pocket-change price of three dollars and fifty cents.

If you don't want to drive that far, Century East at Dawley Farms is offering newer films like *La La Land* and *A Dog's Purpose*. Century East is also showing the 30th anniversary special of *Dirty Dancing*. I went to it last Wednesday, and take my word that it is just as good – if not better – on the big screen. Something about a 50-foot-tall Patrick Swayze REALLY makes me want to spend \$10 on popcorn.

Century Stadium 14's movie options are the same as their younger brother's, albeit barring a few... unique choices. I won't judge; if you want to spend two hours of your

Sunday learning about the founder of a greasy fast food chain, be my guest. They are also offering a sing-along version of Disney's *Moana*, but I would advise against that. You need to have a thick skull and bad hearing to enjoy the wretched sounds of out-of-tune pre-adolescents, tone deaf toddlers, and child-like adults. Or, at best, a pair of heaven duty ear plugs.

I'm going to be enjoying my Sunday the same way I enjoy every other Sunday (scratch that, every day): on the internet. Specifically, YouTube.

If you're a fan of staring mindlessly at a computer screen for hours on end, you could attempt this activity without any side projects. I, however, prefer to enjoy YouTube while doing things like cleaning my room or making snazzy tees. I've probably made one third of my tee shirt collection whilst binge watching SORTEDfood, a channel starring a chef and four simpletons making food and exchanging witty banter in their charming English accents, or Julian Solomita, the aspiring film-maker boyfriend of most subscribed woman YouTuber Jenna Marbles.

One could even take the more socially acceptable route of watching

an entire season of *Supernatural* on Netflix. Different format, same idea. If you're still all for the sports, you might benefit from watching the Puppy Bowl on Animal Planet.

Although I'm bitter that so much of the bourgeoisie devote their precious time to a meaningless, glorified form of entertainment that makes way too much money, I can identify with people who are only there for the food. Wings are a gift from God, man. You can't expect anyone to skip out of them if they're available. I can also kind of understand people who only pretend to like the Super Bowl so they won't get disowned by their families that are super extra. You know, the ones that think Super Bowl themed memes are funny.

Of all North American professional games, the Super Bowl is the most expensive, hysterical, and most vulgar. People actually think part of the fun is being able to talk about the commercials the next day. The commercials. Do yourself a favor and enjoy something more entertaining or more beneficial while all the America drools over a football game. Or watch with them, if that's what you think is 'fun'. You do you fam.

Garretson wrestlers are getting ready for their last three weeks of the season.

With only three guaranteed meets left in the season, wrestlers prepare for their final battles

by **Victoria Lippert**
staff writer

With the Big East Conference Tournament tomorrow the Garretson wrestlers are seeing results falling their way. Through hard work, dedication and structure Garretson performed well last Saturday in Plankinton. So placed sophomore Hayden Pierret and juniors Chayce Schleuter and Jack Konechne third, eighth grader Lucas Fitzgerald, sophomore

Ben Konechne and senior Alex Uhl finished fourth and sophomore Dakota Johnson, fifth.

Uhl commented on the performance with, "We are good at really staying in the matches and not getting pinned by our opponents. But it would be nice having more people place besides just the veterans."

On Tuesday Garretson wrestled three teams in Freeman. They won against the team of Marion/Freeman and lost against Beresford/Alcester-

Hudson and Elk Point/Jefferson.

Looking at the present situation head coach Ruml said, "We have been coming together as a team. Our veteran wrestlers are helping out our young wrestlers as we get closer to regions. If we can wrestle the whole match with limited mistakes the chances are pretty good that we will come out with a win. I hope we can place every wrestler and make it in the top four as a team."

The teams participating in the Big

East Conference Tournament in Howard are Clark/Willow Lake, Deuel, Flandreau, Garretson, Howard, Kingsbury County, McCook Central/Montose, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica/Stickney, Parker, and Sioux Valley.

After tomorrow the Blue Dragon wrestlers have only one more meet until regions, where they have the chance to qualify for the State Tournament on February 24-25.

Six more weeks of winter?

People's hopes of better weather rest with a groundhog and what he may or may not see

This article ran two years ago in issue 2.22. This is reprinted with the permission of author Sylvia Larson. As a note, Phil saw his shadow yesterday as well, meaning six more weeks of winter

On Monday, the infamous Punxsutawney Phil crept out of his hide-hole at 7:25 a.m. at Gobbler's Knob, a rural area about two miles outside of Punxsutawney proper. Guess what? He SAW his shadow. What does that mean for us? Six more weeks of snow and cold!

Groundhog Day is the midway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox. The day's history is rooted in the celebration of Candlemas. In 1841, a store keeper in Morgantown, Pennsylvania wrote about February 2nd and referred to it as Candlemas Day; this was the first documented American reference to Candlemas Day.

Storekeeper James Morris: "Last Tuesday, the 2nd, was Candlemas day, the day on which, according to the Germans, the Groundhog peeps out of his winter quarters

and if he sees his shadow he pops back for another six weeks nap, but if the day be cloudy he remains out, as the weather is to be moderate."

For the last two years, Phil has seen his shadow, and both times, his predictions have reigned true. After the particularly brutal winter of 2014, who knows what the weather will do this year?

Punxsutawney Phil has been in charge of telling America how long winter will wear on since 1886, all based on whether or not he sees his shadow on the morning of February 2nd.

That means that Phil is supposedly a sprightly 124 years old! Generally, ground-hogs have a lifespan of about six years, so it is extremely unlikely

that our famous groundhog friend from the eighteen-hundreds is still alive and well.

Although it is supposed to be kept a secret that Phil is an imposter, it's not really hard to guess. It's publicly unknown how many groundhogs have actively played Phil.

The Philadelphian woodchuck's full name is actually "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather Prophet Extraordinary." He was named by the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club in 1887.

A special group called the Inner Circle takes care of Phil during his down time in the year and also plans the annual ceremony. Members of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club's Inner

Circle are recognizable by their top hats and tuxedos.

When Phil is not busy predicting the weather at Gobbler's Knob, he lives in the town library with his wife, Phyllis. Yes, Punxsutawney Phil has his own adorable little groundhog wife, and her name is Phyllis.

Punxsutawney Phil's batting average isn't exactly spectacular. His

weather predictions have been accurate approximately 39% of the time since 1887. Because the year's coldest quarter, also known as meteorological winter, runs from Dec. 5 to March 5, Phil predicts a long winter about 80 percent of the time. Members of the Inner Circle claim that predictions are accurate about 75% to 90% of the time.

The forecast for next week holds mild temps, but it's still too early to predict what will happen the rest of the winter. Until then, though, make sure your heater is in working condition.

Just remember, in the words of Hal Borland, "No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn."



Senior Spotlight

Claire Longhenry

Senior Project:
Small Construction Business

Activities:
FFA, Band, Choir, National Honor Society, AQHA, Bridles & Britches 4-H Club, Zion Lutheran Church, Work at Longhenry Custom Homes

Who/What Will You Miss the Most:
Jacob Rolland Liester

Next Year's Plans:
Attend South Dakota State University to major in construction management and minor in public relations



GHS cheer camp

Excited elementary students show off Blue Dragon passion

by **Jaden Braaten**
staff writer

All elementary aged acrobats have the chance to show off their abilities in the GHS Cheerleading camp next week.

This is a challenge that the Garretson High School cheerleaders have taken on for many years. February 6th is the start date of the 2017 edition of Cheer Camp for these students,

where they will be learning basic cheers and a dance routine for their performance.

In the week of preparation the girls will be learning various jumps, cheers, and dance routines. The girls will be split into two groups: kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade and then 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. Each group will be showing off their skills with separate dances and chants. They will be performing at the boys and girls double header Friday night on February 10th.

