

The Consequences of Turf Fields

By Kyle Panasuk

When athletes are preparing for a sports game they usually follow a routine. They eat something nutritious, listen to their favorite music, and even put on their equipment in a specific order. While these players prepare for the game, do you think they are worried about how the surface they are playing on could affect them? Athletes are so focused on the game they don't take these factors into consideration especially when coming face to face with surfaces like turf. Players fall down all the time making contact with the rubber and will brush themselves off and carry on. Little do these athletes know, the turf fields they play on are made from recycled rubber that contains 49 chemicals that can be released from these turf crumbs and even ingested. Research shows a calculated 1.2 in 10 million risk of cancer from one-time ingestion and an increased 2.9 in 1 million risk of cancer from ingesting chrysene, a known carcinogen, through a hand-wipe experiment done by the Office of Environmental Hazard Assessment, The harsh chemicals that make up the rubber in turf fields can cause severe health problems to people of any age. For athletes especially, exposure to these carcinogens is not only a threat to their health, but to their performance and can hinder their athletic capabilities. Turf fields are not safe for people's health and sticking to classic grass fields is a much safer option.

When it comes to injury comparisons between turf and grass fields, many players are worried about the potential increase in injuries due to playing on specific surfaces. Scholar Journalist Luz Claudio of the Environmental Health Perspectives analyzed several studies published by The British Journal of Sports Medicine in August 2007. The studies reported "no differences in the incidence, severity, nature, or cause of injuries in soccer teams who played on grass versus new-generation synthetic turf." While there is no difference in the cause of injuries, studies show the injuries may depend on the sport being played, and not the surface. A 5-year study of football injuries shows that there were 10% more injuries on turf fields than on grass fields, but the risk of a serious injury like a head or knee injury is greater on grass fields than on turf fields. The risk of injuries may be more on a turf field, but injuries to the head or knee can cause much more damage and could require a longer recovery time making grass fields a risky option.

Before sports games, turf fields are checked for hardness and toxicity. The NFL has a policy to check the fields three days prior to make sure the cushioning is appropriate. Grass fields are tested for moisture while turf fields are tested for the depth of rubber infill that fills the surface. The field is tested in about 150 different locations including sidelines to for further insurance and any field that doesn't meet the league's standards will be fixed and tested again before game day. The method of checking the field was started in the 1960s when Ford and General Motors created a method for crash-test research as well as data on the impact of blows to the head of a football game from 1971. The method provided enough information on the playability of the fields for field managers to make a decision on whether or not they are safe enough to play on. While the method could be improved, it does its job and also contributes in the development of sports equipment to further protect athletes. The actions taken to ensure the safety of the players was first countered by athletes themselves. They believed they were experiencing more injuries since turf fields have been introduced. Tests were done to substantiate that these turf fields were safe for the players and would cut down on their injuries. According to former New York Giants coach Allie Sherman, "At the time, there had been a higher degree of injuries," which caused many people to assume that the injuries were linked to playing

on turf. Studies support turf fields and how they are a safe surface for athletes to play on without the worry of suffering injuries.

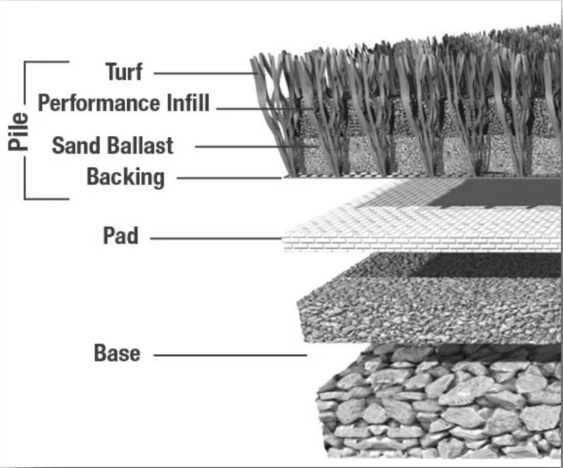
From players' opinions to safety commissions' research studies, the extensive information regarding turf fields further supports the fact that turf fields are a threat to our health and increase the risk of complications in our life. All surfaces are going to have different conditions whether that be cushioning, size of the field, or unevenness. Athletes were asked whether they preferred grass or turf fields. The NFL Player Association's survey concluded "86.6 percent of the 957 respondents said they preferred to play on natural grass and 94.2 percent said artificial turf is more likely to contribute to injuries. Four of the five fields at the bottom of the players' list had artificial surfaces" (Bock). In 1994 and 1996, these surveys were conducted once again producing parallel results. Just 4.9 percent of players preferred playing on turf in the most recent survey.

Since the 1970 and 1980s, there has been backlash from athletes on playing surfaces. AstroTurf was a product that grew in popularity during this time and English athletes openly complained about the surface. They complained about how much harder this surface was than grass and caused more injuries. In 1988, this caused the English Football Association to ban synthetic turf. In 1995, the NFL Players Association conducted a poll that resulted in big support for grass fields. More than 93% of players believed there was an increase in chance of injury from playing on artificial surfaces. Baseball player Dick Allen famously expressed a sentiment shared by many other athletes: "If a horse won't eat it, I don't want to play on it." The United States saw similar concerns from players and turf was not in good light.

The NFL documented concussions during the 2015-2016 season to see the correlation between injury and playing surface. The league analyzed 459 concussions and found 19% of these concussions were caused when a player's head hit the ground. Comparably, the National College Athletic Association examined 41,000 football injuries from 2004 to 2009 and the injuries were not limited to concussions. The results found more than 7% of these injuries had to do with making contact with the field.

Turf is made using recycled tires. The tires are processed into crumbs which are then put all over the field to help cushion the surface. These recycled tires however contain carcinogens that are harmful to humans. According to USA Today journalist Thomas Frank, the Environmental Protection Agency has done numerous studies since 2007 on turf fibers and soil finding harmful levels of lead within the rubber crumbs. Researchers would flag any crumbs that surpassed the federal hazard level in places where children would play. Children can ingest lead-contaminated soil directly or can put their dirty hands in their mouths.

Tires are made with natural and synthetic rubber which is made from petroleum. Somewhere between 4 and 10 gallons of petroleum products are used which contain metals like cadmium, lead, and even zinc. These metals can be neurotoxic to use humans altering our nervous system activity. Along with metals, chemicals can be found in these tires such as dibenzopyrene, a known carcinogen. Even if chemicals were not used in the making of the tires, if they were just exposed to the tires they can become absorbed by the carbon black within the tires. During activities, there is a risk of the rubber going airborne and this creates a chance of people ingesting the rubber. Studies have shown that the chemicals released during a tire fire are also released during the deterioration of turf crumbs. An Environmental Health Perspectives journalist reported on studies done by researchers at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. At the 2006 meeting of the International Association for Sports Surface Sciences on turf-related chemicals in indoor stadiums, they presented their report:



Continued on page 2.

The Every Child's Dream Dinner, shelved by Covid for the past two years, is back and better than ever!

On Friday, December 16, hundreds of our neighbors will gather at Sayville High School, transformed in to a winter wonderland, for a holiday event like no other. Food, clothing, gifts, candy, music and ice cream will all be on offer in abundance, along with the holiday spirit of the hundreds of students needed to make this event work. "Only the seniors have ever seen this event," says Student Government Advisor Mrs. VanDorn. "We need everyone to pitch in to revive this important Sayville tradition." Clearly the Art Department workshop has already been hard at work, producing and installing the hundreds of holiday decorations required for this event.

Every school club and class has a role to play in this event, so if you want to be part of Sayville High School's largest single community service project, see your adviser.

**Best wishes from your friends at The Current
for a great holiday and a restful Winter Break!**

In this issue of

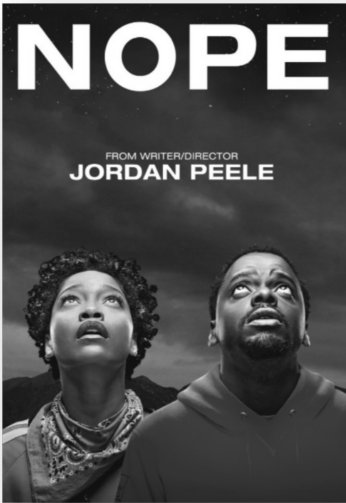


Movie Reviews	p. 2
New Bells?	p. 2
Puffs Review	p. 3
Constitution Day Essay Winner	p. 3
Sports Analytics	p. 3
Fall Sports Round Up	p. 4

Fall Movie Reviews

by Alex Lepping

Nope: Jordan Peele is just one of those directors; you know him by name, anticipate his next release, and expect greatness each time. With the release of *Nope*, Peele not only provides a cinematic spectacle, but provides commentary on it too. *Nope*, as described by Peele himself, was intended to be “the *Jaws* of the sky.” An alien movie turned on its head, it follows characters OJ, Emerald, and Angel as they figure out how to deal with an extraterrestrial problem. However, the main storyline is interspersed with clips of a monkey named Gordy mauling a family on the set of a TV show. The key to understanding *Nope* lies in these scenes. If you peel away the husk of the traditional sci-fi plot, the true meaning reveals itself: a criticism of Hollywood and people’s reactions to “spectacles.” Have you ever seen something so grand you can’t help but watch, no matter the consequences? The first reaction the characters have upon spotting the alien is to begin filming. So many things tie in here - the bible quote at the beginning, the references to the first moving image (a black man on a horse), a TMZ reporter in a reflective helmet. The word “NOPE” isn’t even what it seems- it’s an acronym for “Not of Planet Earth.” Everything is carefully placed with intention, and these tiny details connect into Peele’s grand vision: making a spectacle movie about spectacles and movies. Shot in IMAX, any audience member could see it was truly made for the big screen. The openness of the main ranch allows for full immersion. I felt like a character along for the journey. The ending of the movie unfolds into a grand, sprawling, climactic finish. Don’t look up how it ends - you want to see this for yourself.



The Invitation: Before I saw *NOPE*, I saw a trailer for this movie. The first thing that struck me was - “Did I just watch the entire thing?” The trailer was 3 minutes long and revealed the whole plot, including the twist. I was dumbfounded. Why would they do that? I ended up seeing the movie a few weeks later. What ended up unfolding in front of me was one of the greatest “so bad it’s good” movies I’ve seen recently. In *The Invitation*, our main character Evie connects with a British cousin. He invites her to a family wedding taking place at a mansion. The owner of this mansion, Walter, begins advancing on Evie. The “twist” is that it turns out the wedding is for Evie, and she’s getting married to Walter. This is the first twist, and it was shown in the trailer. It also takes up the first ¾ of the movie. What happens after - and keep in mind I’m not spoiling, this was all in the trailer - they cut off the head of one of the waiters. And then drink her blood. It turns out Walter was a vampire the whole time! Which was shown in the trailer. There’s this really awkward line where the writers imply Walter is both Dracula and Nosferatu. If he is, man did he have a glow down. The reveal of these twists take away the entire build up of the movie. If the first ¾ were suspense for something you knew was going to happen, it kind of takes away the whole point. I’m not going to spoil the rest, but you can guess how it ends. The final scene, though, made me question everything. It was so random and wildly different from anything else in the movie, I wondered if it was some grand artistic statement. Evie and her friend shown at the beginning of the movie, now wielding weapons, go to attack a bunch of random people (implied to be vampires) at a bank. Then, some random 2012 pop song starts playing. It didn’t match the tone or feeling of the movie at all, to the point where I had to respect it. If I had to make an analogy, it felt like the people who made the 2016 *Ghostbusters* tried to remake *Get Out* - putting bad comedy and “girl power” moments over an engaging and driven plot. Pair that along with pretty much knowing what was about to happen at any given point, and *The Invitation* really only invites you to fall asleep during its runtime. Unless you want to enjoy a bowl of popcorn and make fun of it with your friends, I don’t really recommend this.



What’s With the Bells?

by Ben Flaumenhaft

Upon returning to school this fall, students were greeted with strangely sounding and erratically timed bell tones. The usual first week homerooms were held, but the bell system was not adjusted for the schedule change. Additionally, the sounds emitted from the speakers varied, and continue to vary, from room to room. There was confusion over start and end times, frustration over inexplicably shortened periods, and there continues to be musings over the sometimes annoying, sometimes humorous bell tones.

Some are making light of the situation. One music student claims that the bell “changed from an ‘a’ to a ‘b’.” Some are taking the situation more seriously. Dylan Treco, a member of the senior class, tells *The Current*, “I don’t feel great about [the bells], they make me feel unsafe.” Some are merely indifferent. Monsieur/Señor/Mr. Nani says “the sound is okay.” So, reactions are varied, but present. Everyone knows there is a problem with the bells.

This problem, explains Ms. Bricker, is due to the installation of a new bell system district wide. The new system transmits information using digital signals, but many of the speakers across the building are meant to receive analog signals. Essentially, the speakers are too outdated for the new system, and thus emit random, unintended noises. Ms. Bricker says the solution is a work in progress, as it requires that all of the analog speakers in the building be replaced.

It is important to note that, despite the problems, the new bell system should afford the school some interesting new capabilities. For instance, there are additional tone options, allowing for intentional changes to the bell sound. Additionally, Mr. Hoffer claims that the system can play music via bluetooth, which could allow for some passing period fun and overall morale lifting. The new system, in its intended purposes, is generally beneficial and even exciting.

People are confused, upset, and amused by the bell situation, but an end is in sight. Once the old speakers are replaced, and digital signals can flow freely through digital speakers, confusion and frustration should subside and consistent, predictable bells should return.



Turf Fields, Cont’d from p. 1

Artificial Turf Pitches: An Assessment of the Health Risks for Football Players, which showed that VOCs from rubber infill can be aerosolized into respirable form during sports play. The authors calculated health risks assuming the use of recycled rubber granulate, which releases the lowest amounts of these chemicals of any type of rubber infill.

This report assumes that turf fields are using recycled rubber granulate but does not take into consideration that other chemicals could have been absorbed by the rubber. The risk of peoples’ health being compromised is very alarming and for the reports to say that recycled rubber granulate releases the least amount of chemicals is still concerning that we are exposed to it.

Surfaces experience different conditions and temperatures which can affect athletes playing ability. During warmer times of the year, turf can get over 60 degrees hotter than grass fields. Temperatures were taken on a day in 2007 when the atmospheric temperature was 78 degrees. A grass field was 85 degrees while receiving direct sunlight and a turf field reached 140 degrees. Skin injuries can potentially happen if there is an exposure to the surface temperature when it gets above 122 degrees. Hot surfaces are not safe for players who risk of becoming dehydrated and could possibly faint. Player safety is the most important part of sports and playing on turf when it can get much hotter than grass doesn’t help.

Turf fields need to be maintained just as grass fields do. Turf doesn’t need to be mowed, but weed killers must be applied and there are health concerns linked to these weed killers. Turf is treated with biocides which have been correlated to an increased risk of infections from Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus. MRSA can be resistant to antibiotics making it very dangerous, and this infection can happen if you cut or scrape your skin which can be caused by sliding on turf.

Extensive research and studies show the dangers of lead and other chemicals in turf crumbs. Unfortunately, safety commissions look at the evidence and don’t stress the importance of staying away from such harsh chemicals that are not safe for us humans. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has been promoting turf fields for years, saying it is okay for children to play on. A news article states that children are not at risk to lead exposure on these turf fields even though the commission found hazardous levels of lead in the turf fibers. The scary part is that they did not even test the rubber crumbs made from recycled tires. The recycled tires contain about 30 harmful substances, one of them being lead. Lead is known to cause intelligence loss, delays in development, and damage to the organs and nervous system especially in children, yet the commission is saying it's safe. This is not a good look for the Consumer Product Safety Commission and it makes them seem lazy in the sense that they didn’t even test rubber crumbs made from recycled tires after finding hazardous levels of lead in turf fibers.

When it comes to warnings from scientists who have studied the ingestion of turf fibers, the Synthetic Turf Council ignores them. The council quotes a statement in a 2002 EPA report that says there is only a minimal increased cancer risk for children who play on turf for years. The statement was actually from a Rubber Manufacturers Association. They made a mistake and spokeswoman Terrie Ward said the inaccuracy was an "honest mistake." Only a few studies investigated the dangers of ingesting turf fibers and mentioned how they can be as small as the tip of a pencil or as large as a wood chip. If safety commissions and turf councils cannot even conduct research why should they be the ones relaying this information to the public? If turf is being looked upon poorly, turf councils won’t report this because it ruins their brand. Having a strong and credible source relay accurate information to the public is important in maintaining a safe and healthy life for everyone.

Turf fields are harmful to athletes' health due to the toxicity of their components. Many players prefer to play on grass and for a reason. If the ones who are playing on these surfaces openly complain about turf, we must continue to use grass fields. Limiting the exposure of turf to humans is ideal for limiting the risk of cancer as well as promoting good health.

WINTER CONCERT SCHEDULE

Tuesday

December 20

Winter Concert 1

Concert Orchestra

Concert Band

Concert Choir

Thursday

December 22

Winter Concert 2

Wind Ensemble

String Ensemble

Chorale

Symphonic Orchestra

Concerts begin at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium

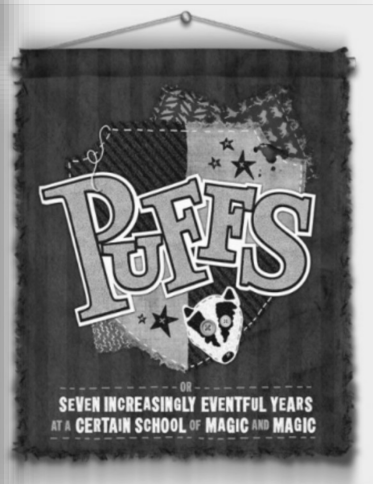
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Senior, Kyle Panasuk is a member of the Boys’ Varsity Soccer team.



Sayville Players Delight In Puffs



The Current

Did you ever wonder what the Hufflepuffs were doing while Harry was exploring the Chamber of Secrets? How did they really feel about Cedric? And what kind of student was Helga looking for to fill the Hufflepuff Common Room?

These questions and more were answered by the recent production, *Puffs*, by Matt Cox, performed by the Sayville Players in the Little Theatre. Filled with Easter Eggs appreciated by true fans of the Harry Potter franchise, *Puffs* tells the story of the seven years at a certain school of magic from the perspective of the often maligned and underappreciated Hufflepuff, led by Wayne Hopkins, a young American from Arizona who unexpectedly gets his owl-delivered letter.

The cast of over 20 students, led by Asher Deverna as Wayne, Jayli Perez as the brooding Megan, Kieran Daniels as math-geek Oliver and Owen Parrott as the always suave, but short-lived Cedric delivered 90-ish hilarious minutes. Audiences particularly enjoyed freshman Will Roderka's profanity-laden (though censored thanks to James Talbot) telling off.

Fans of the movie franchise were treated to some inside jokes—the mysteriously changing Headmaster (Amelia Wells and Nick Rampulla) and the narrator, Ben Flaumenhaft's big reveal as the future magic student and child of Oliver and Megan.

Congratulations to the Sayville Players on another great production.

Audiences are looking forward to a stage adaptation of *A Wrinkle in Time* to be performed in January.

Upcoming Theatre at Sayville High School

A Wrinkle in Time

January 19-21

The Music Man

March 23-25

May One Acts

May 18-20

Civic Responsibility

The winner of the 2022 Constitution Day Essay Contest

Kate Leigh-Manuell

The foundation of the United States is surely a complex one. Dating back to colonial times, Britain reinforced a mercantilist relationship with its profitable lands across the Atlantic. However, despite the one-sided nature of this relationship, the colonies remained content as they grew increasingly independent from the mother country, establishing self-government, traditions, a social hierarchy, and overall a new-found set of values that contrasted English ways. A mere few decades following this era of salutary neglect, a revolution inevitably erupted following a movement by England to reinforce mother country rule on its colonies alongside ceaseless taxation. Therefore, considering this basic history, some may conclude that America has been founded on warfare, revolution, the yearning for independence, etc. Although these notions are true, it is more so apparent that America's genuine foundation lies within one underlying aspect: people. Bold, enlightened, citizens were the first to migrate to this nation, establish its foundation, and fortify this substrate. People were not only at the core of the nation's genesis, but it is us, citizens, who withhold the nation's fate to either prevail or succumb. In all, this notion encompasses civic responsibility, where it is our duty as American citizens to endure the characteristics of our founders to remain enlightened and utterly unafraid to express our values. In turn, only alongside an enlightened and audacious population, American society can only continue to progress.

Moreover, despite taking place prior to the genesis of the nation, the Pilgrims and Puritans obtained an unrivaled sense of boldness that truly characterizes American ways. These small, but mighty populations subsided the apparent risks to flee to an alien land so they can practice their own religion and values without fear of persecution. In addition to these groups, revolutionary dissenters Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams likewise portray this American ideal, where death is superior to the silencing of their beliefs. Moreover, Hutchinson embraced the ideology of Antinomianism, opposing church authority to instead stress that genuine salvation originated from inner faith. Additionally, Hutchinson revolutionarily proposed the notion that women were not inherently more sinful than their male counterparts, further nurturing controversy within the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Likewise, Roger Williams disputed the Massachusetts Bay Colony's political structure that coincided with the church. Instead, the revolutionary advocated for an early form of separation between church and state. Inevitably, these Dissenters were loathed within their home colony and ultimately evicted after trial, a practical death sentence due to the bare land home to solely native tribes that surrounded the colony. This trend of risking death prevailed throughout the American revolution, where the founding fathers jeopardized being tried with treason to take a stand for their value of independence. Overall, these tales alike stress the value of civic responsibility that underlies the foundation of America. In spite of dire consequences, educated individuals took a valiant effort to reform the perceived wrongdoings of society by expressing their own beliefs.

A mere few centuries later, today, it is easy to become inundated with the hassles of daily life and neglect to subside time to keep oneself educated on national and international affairs. To be truthful, even if making time is plausible within daily life, the news is often entrenched with overwhelming and depressing updates that are easier to simply ignore. However, although less troublesome short term, it is imperative that American citizens maintain their civic responsibility to remain enlightened for the common good of the nation. When the population remains educated on affairs, malpractice within the government is identified, policies are questioned before being implemented, and citizens are more inclined to be empathetic and understand one another's backgrounds. Acknowledging this, I personally like to keep myself updated on political and social affairs by simply watching the news, reading articles online, conversing with family, etc. Although saddening at times, I feel that it is not only a duty, but a privilege to have the resources to keep educated on national and international affairs, so I do everything I can to simply remain enlightened.

In all, when contemplating the origins of the nation, it is exuberantly clear that a core value encompasses the concept of civic responsibility. Americans are revolutionaries, ceaselessly pushing boundaries to elevate humanity on a national and international scale alike. However, this trend can only subsist when the population obtains the responsibility to remain enlightened and unafraid to contradict, support, and overall participate in the political and social sphere with their own opinions. Therefore, civic responsibility entails just this, where it is the duty for the American population to remain enlightened and valiantly willing to participate in the public sphere. In turn, when this definition of civic responsibility is obeyed, the nation may flourish to unprecedented extents.



Sports Analytics

by Andrew Law

Sports Analytics is an elective at Sayville High School that is taught by Mr. Sznitken. In this class you go through data of almost anything imaginable. Baseball, football, basketball, soccer, cheerleading, any sport that you can think of, we look into the analytics and stats behind it. During this class we look at sports through a new angle. Not just looking to see who won, or how certain players did to help us boost our fantasy teams, but the data behind decisions made in games, how stats are calculated, and all of the unique stats that determine just how good a player is. When looking at sports from an outside perspective you only see certain things about it like who the best teams and players are, but in this class we take an analytical approach to sports to find out what makes these players so skilled and what prompts general managers to pay them a crazy amount of money Brett Veach, the general manager for the Chiefs, did not just offer Patrick Mahomes a 10 year, 450 million dollar contract, without looking deeper into his true value and his true skill set which can be determined through analytics.

Baseball is arguably the sport in which analytics are used the most. Anything that you can think of in baseball is recorded. On Thursday, we had Major Leaguer Logan O'Hoppe, who was recently dealt to the Angels and called up to make his day view on September 27th, come in and talk to our class. We thought, as a class, that we had looked into all of the stats in baseball. But Logan proved us wrong. He brought up a website given to MLB players in which you could find any possible stat about any possible player in less than 30 seconds. Every pitch, hit, homerun, and result was recorded on this website, and you could find it with a click of a few buttons. Logan showed us this website and answered some questions about his approach on analytics. When asked "what stat do you keep track of the most", Logan quickly answered and said "batting average", giving an explanation on why he, and many of his teammates valued this stat above others. Logan claimed that there are some stats and analytics that have no meaning to him, but as a catcher he said that he also valued a particular stat for catchers that kept track of catcher's assisted strikes. In baseball, framing is when you receive the pitch and slightly move it closer to the zone as a way to 'trick' the umpire. If you can do that at a high level (which the stat portrays), said Logan, you will be looked at as a great catcher. Logan coming into class proved to us just how important analytics have become, and it was extremely beneficial to see how analytics are heavily relied on in today's game.

In 1858, a man named Henry Chadwick, created the box score. This was the first ever sport analytic created. Now, 164 years later, new sports analytics are being discovered every year and they have drastically changed sports. They give people a new approach to sports of all kinds, and they provide advantages in some occasions. Analytics have provided people who enjoy sports and math, to come together and unite in the sports industry. They are the future of sports, and as time moves on, they will only become more complex. If you have any free classes and are interested in sports, or even just math, join this class, and you will not regret it.

Have Your Say!

Submit your writing to The Current for
publication, or join the newspaper staff.

Wednesdays, 10th Per. Little Theatre

Fall Sports Round-Up

By Sarah Blaskiewicz

When the bell rings after 2:35, and the rummaging in the halls around the gym starts and the leaves are changing colors it can mean only one thing... Fall sports season has commenced!! Here at Sayville High we have 11 sports for athletes in this the first season of the school year. Ranging from football on the turf to girls tennis hitting the courts. Our athletes are practicing throughout town and across the island as girls swimming and diving practice at the middle school while the Cross Country teams have the lengthy trek all the way to Sunken Meadow State Park. This article will cover the ins and outs, the ups and downs, and the highs and lows of Sayville high school sports. Keep on reading for the inside scoop on all your favorite sports teams!

To kick this article off I interviewed Senior Jack Owenberg, a veteran player for the Varsity soccer team with 3 years of experience under his belt. Owenberg recalled his favorite moments wearing the purple and gold uniform. His favorite was last year’s underdog season, being the 12 seed and the team fighting their way all the way back to the Suffolk County Championship. I asked Jack what resilience means to him. He replied that it means overcoming adversities such as injuries or setbacks hinting at this year- the team was down two starters due to injuries. Jack said that the team worked together to overcome those injuries and to “squeak out wins” in the more challenging games. The Boys Varsity Soccer team has made it to playoffs once again. They finished the regular season with a 9-6-1 record overall. Best of luck!

Next up is Mrs. Werner and her take on the 2022 Field Hockey Season, she’s been at the head of the reins for the Flashes Field Hockey for six years. The team went 6-8 on the season, just missing the playoffs by a single game. During an in-person interview with the head coach, I asked for her favorite memory from the season. With a bright smile Mrs. Werner spoke of the Rocky Point game. She said it was her favorite game of the season because Rocky Point was a higher ranked team and the Flashes came out victorious. Mrs. Werner said that she was “so proud of the girls, both mentally and physically. They are just amazing. I love all of them.” Werner has high hopes for next year as she plans on having 17 returners, 15 of them will be in their senior year. Sounds like a winning combination!

Hitting the swim lanes I asked two senior swimmers about their regular season as they finished 6 -1 and were undefeated in their league. First off Jordan Carpentieri, an American University D# commit, competed in her 5th varsity season this year in the pool. Outswimming the competition Carpentieri qualified for states in the 100 fly, and the 200 IM. Carpentieri along with fellow swimmers Emma Haas, Meghan Brady, and Lauren Woody, qualified for the 200 Medley Relay in states . When asked about her favorite memories in or out of the pool during her swim season and experience at Sayville she said that nothing tops the delicious food and good times at the pregame pasta parties! She loved the senior meet it was special and one that she’ll always remember! Senior Emma Haas, a Sacred Heart University D # commit, is in her 4th varsity season and has high hopes to qualify for states in the 100 backstroke as well as improve her time in the 100 Butterfly!

Good luck at States and pool bring home the trophy to SayBayBlue! Best of luck!

Driving home from school you may see a pack of speedy girls on the sidewalks not even phased by the great distances and miles they’ve run this season. That is none other than our own Girl’s Cross Country team. At the forefront of the winners circle be sure to look for this year’s solo senior, Taylor Totevski. The team went 5-0 this year in their regular season meets making them undefeated! Currently they are currently ranked number two in the State of New York! When asked about unity and teamwork and what they mean to her, Totevski said that “it means being really close with your teammates and building each other up.” Cross Country is a sport like no other both mentally and physically and in XC you always need to be one your A game to score the most amount of points in the meets to continue to advance in the level of meet. Junior Maddie McKillop agrees amd said that in Cross Country you have to work “individually and collectively as a team” and that in order to be successful each runner has to “have each other’s back”. The team is hoping to run away with their 3rd consecutive Suffolk county title. Best of luck!

You may have noticed the girls tennis team throughout school as the girls have to attend class in their uniform in order to make it to their meets on time! In addition they’ve worn multiple senior day shirts (due to weather implications). Doubles partners Riley Lapine and Sasha Gagnon lead the team not only as seniors but as a strong pair to help the team go 12-0 in their league! Another undefeated Sayville team! Lapine, a fourth year returner on Varsity, recalls her favorite moment this past season being when she and Gagnon defeated Islip in three quick sets to win the overall match for the team. Lapine said that it was “exciting and an intense match” and that it was a huge success to “defeat the biggest competition in our league”. Gagnon, also a fourth year returner, added that the team was not only close with each other but with their coach, Mr. Aronsen, and they wore shirts with his picture on it for one of their rescheduled senior days. Gagnon said the season was “exciting” and that everyone was “hyped up” for every match they played. Congrats on a successful season!

Girls soccer is taking the season by charge finishing with a 5-5-3 record and beating Islip 2-1 in their first playoff game. Senior Ava Dexter, a 3rd year member of the varsity squad, was asked what being a part of this year’s team meant to her. Dexter recalled the energetic, laughter and full of singing, and cheering on the bus after a successful team win. Dexter believes that her team sticks together on and off the field. That they can “come together to solve all the problems together”. This year’s roster is rumored to be filled with superior skill, teamwork and pride as they rely on the importance of team bonding which can be reflected in their play as well as in winning games. The team takes on East Islip in their second round of playoffs on October 25th. Best of luck!

Tradition and teamwork is the center focus of our very own football team as seen by the sayings adorned on the back of their shirts. The brothers only need one more game to clinch an undefeated regular season. Blowing other teams out of the water 35-6, 41-20 and placing an exclamation point on the regular season with their homecoming win against East Islip 36-15. The boys have high hopes looking towards the playoffs. With all great teams comes great support. Here a big shout out to the band and cheer squad! Both groups are led by their seniors who were celebrated October 11th during the football game.

As you may have seen after 10th period in the cafeteria or on the announcements Sayville has a new team to add to our athletic program, the dance team! Dance team senior and Captain Abby Noack is the leader of the team as they prepare routines to perform during the winter season for boys and girls basketball teams. Noack is grateful to be a part of this team! Its coaches have been trying for a team since 2020, which was pushed further back to 2022 due to covid. Sayville can’t wait to see what’s going to happen at halftime at mid court! Break a leg!

Wow! What a successful time for the fall season this year at Sayville High School! Be sure to go out and cheer for your favorite teams as they advance to the playoffs! Congratulations to all of our athletes and best of luck seniors in your college endeavors!

Sarah Blaskiewicz is a senior member of the Basketball and softball team and sports editor of The Current.

Members of the Varsity Football team and coaching staff holding the coveted Rutgers Cup Trophy.



Fall Sports Achievements

Girls' Varsity Soccer
5-4-2 in League III
Advanced to quarterfinals with win over Islip

Football
Undefeated 12-0 in Division III
Division III County Champions
Class III Long Island Champions
Rutgers Cup Champions

Girls' Volleyball
Undefeated League VI Champions 14-0 (20-1 overall)
Class A County Champions
Lost in Long Island Championship to Calhoun

Girls' Swimming and Diving
Undefeated in League III – 4-0
League III Champions

Girls' Tennis
Undefeated in League II – 11-0
League II Champions
Advanced to quarterfinals of County Championship

Boys Golf
Undefeated 10-0 in League V
League V Champions

Boys Varsity Soccer
2nd Place in League IV
8-2
Playoff Team

Girls' Cross-Country
Undefeated League VI Champions – 6-0
Division III Champions
Suffolk County Team Champions
Class B New York State Champions

