US Football Begins A Legacy

Danny Linsalata, Layout Editor, Class of 2003

Last Saturday, November 9, the varsity football team traveled to West Branch, Ohio, to battle the Lisbon Beavers in the regional semifinal game. Although US was ranked second in Region 9 and the Beavers ranked sixth, the drive was about a half hour longer for US than for Lisbon Beavers players and fans. Nevertheless, still pumped from the overwhelming 20-3 victory over West Geauga, the football team was determined to do their best against a physically larger opponent.

The Beavers were the first on the scoreboard as they took a 7-0 lead on their first possession. The determined Preppers responded with a thirty-three yard field goal to make it a 7-3 game. As the two teams clashed, the US defense, physically larger and more physically fit, showed everyone that we can really play football. “It was a hell of a season, and we didn’t win, they had some really great running backs, but you never know what? We went eight and four, beat some really tight teams, and made the playoffs for the first time. It was a hell of a season, and we showed everyone that we can really play football.”

The halftime show consisted of Lisbon’s marching band and the entertaining disputes between Prescott and the Beavers’ drooling mascot. After the band’s performance, the Beaver began taunting Prescott, and Prescott promptly responded by dropping and pinning the despicable rodent. Prescott emphasized his victory by yanking the ball out of the air before it could go tumbling into the backfield, but the Beaver defensive ends had already turned the corner. Sensing that the kick couldn’t get off, Starrett picked up the ball and swept around towards the left sideline, cut back towards the center, and slid untouched into the end zone, scoring two for the Preppers. Said Starrett later, “That wasn’t supposed to happen, but I just saw the guy coming, so I grabbed the ball and just ran.”

Unfortunately, the Preppers offense was stymied for the rest of the game, both by the Beavers “D” and some tough calls by the refs. The Beavers sealed the deal with two more rushing touchdowns, making the final score 33-18. Though the outcome was obviously not what the team and the fans wanted, the game still capped the best Prepper football season in school history. Said senior safety Ben Walter after the game, “We didn’t win, they had some great running backs, but you know what? We went eight and four, beat some really tight teams, and made the playoffs for the first time. It was a hell of a season, and we showed everyone that we can really play football.”
Some drug addicts commit crimes to feed their habits, and those crimes are punishable by law. But what about drug users who possess and use illegal drugs without harming anyone other than themselves? Are laws that incarcerate drug users for drug-related problems simply about personal, not educational, computing. But this explanation ignores the fact that, beyond the blockade, many students used these words. “Requested page is unavailable.” The decision to block these popular e-mail sites has frustrated many students that have been using these sites to send school-related files between their homes and school. Moreover, the US administration has not clearly explained the reasons for this unpopular move.

Mr. Lagarde’s explanation was that, in the administration’s view, “school computers should be used only for educational purposes.” The popular and now-blocked sites are inappropriate for school use because checking e-mail is “personal” computing, not educational computing. But this explanation ignores the fact that, beyond the blockade, many students used these sites for school-related work.

According to Mr. Lagarde, US may, in the future, offer an alternative to personal e-mail. This program, currently under development, would allow students to back up their school files from home. It would also enable students to communicate with faculty by e-mail, possibly in real time. In addition, it would solve the faulty-disk problem that many students encounter; the new program would provide a solution for this problem.

Mr. Lagarde did not say if personal use of the new program would be allowed.

This new program sounds good, but is it here yet, and students still have file transfer problems. Moreover, students should have the opportunity to use computers in their free time for personal use. After all, students cannot and should not be expected to spend every single moment of their in school time focused exclusively on schoolwork.

Parental approval could be ensured by offering an expanding the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy could provide a contract in which parents decide if their children should be limited to internal US communications, or if they should have the opportunity to access both internal and external e-mail from school.

The current ban is unrealistic and inappropriate. At AOL, Yahoo, and Hotmail should be removed from the block list.

On November 5th, Ohioans have a chance to vote on a proposed constitutional amendment, called Issue 1. This amendment addresses the concern that incarceration does not solve the problems of drug addicts.

Issue 1 would set up a comprehensive treatment program to provide first-time and second-time non-violent drug offenders with an opportunity for rehabilitation, instead of prison. This would be a revolutionary breakthroug in the way America treats its drug problem. Under Issue 1, the state of Ohio would help non-violent addicts recover from their drug problems without jail. Incarceration, the current method of dealing with drug addicts, is not only costly but is also ineffective, in that it does not strike at the root of a drug problem. Although Ohio already has a drug treatment plan in place, it is not nearly as comprehensive as this proposal.

Opponents of Issue 1 argue that, if this plan were financed, it would take away judges’ biggest tool for encouraging convicted drug offenders to clean up - prison time. They also question the cost-effectiveness of the proposal and express concern about reducing judges’ flexibility in sentencing.

These arguments miss the point. America’s war on drugs has completely failed. Issue 1 would deal with the addiction and the addicts themselves, instead of attacking drug suppliers or imprisoning addicts. This new approach would decrease the need for illegal drug use; rather, it would effectively treat addicts, showing them the negative effects of their drug use, and fixing their problem instead of locking them away. Not only would this benefit society as a whole, but it would also leave room in an overcrowded prison system for criminals who pose a greater threat to society.

On November 5th, if you vote in favor of Issue 1, you could be changing lives for the better all over Ohio.

Editor’s Note: On November 5th, Ohio voters overwhelmingly rejected Issue 1, with 67% of ballots cast against the proposed amendment.

Issue 1: Punishment or Rehabilitation for Drug Addicts?

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House Representatives Discuss Possibilities of Future Honor Code

During an October House Meeting, students engaged in a discussion about academic honesty and the possible establishment of an honor code. Though few meetings appeared to have an opinion on the topic, a committee has been established in order to discuss this topic in greater detail and develop a resolution to the problem. The discussion group is led by Cruikshank House Prefect Chandler Goodman and Pettie House Prefect Crall.

House Prefects have appointed two members from each house to attend the meetings, held during either long breaks or lunch. According to a source familiar with the situation, no specific recommendations about the actual content of a possible honor code have been made. However, members have a diverse array of solutions, ranging from no honor code at all, to a simple honor code that would spell out the terms of any acts of dishonesty, to a comprehensive constitution that would clearly explain the consequences associated with various infractions. The task behind the idea of a constitution is that many believe an honor code will do little to promote a more honest academic environment.

Many prestigious secondary schools throughout the country, as well as leading colleges and universities have honor codes, including Phillips Academy-Andover and Washington & Lee University. Constitutions are not as common in the academic environment as honor codes, because the constitutions are typically more lengthy and more complex, and they have the tendency to place more power in the hands of students. Still, Crall appears to be fairly neutral regarding the likelihood of an honor code. Though Goodman appears to have strong desire for a constitution to be written and instituted by the end of this year, according to a source familiar with the situation.

No matter what solution, if any is made through these discussions, it is highly unlikely that the benefits that it would yield would truly be noticed for three to four years, after students who are now in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades pass through the Upper School, and such a honor code becomes part of the US culture.

College Snapshot: Bowdoin College

Location: Brunswick, Maine
Student Body: 1,600
U.S. News & World Report ranking: 7
SATs: Not required
Housing: Guaranteed for all students, lacks Greek system
Tuition: $35,990
Facilities: The campus boasts all dorm rooms having Internet access, libraries, museums, and an underground tunnel network for the winter.
School Strengths: Social sciences

Go here if: You seek a large city; do not seek a liberal arts degree; want a college with a recognizable sports program, or if you are conservative

Comparative Schools: Amherst, Bates, Colby, Middlebury, and Williams;
US students who are currently attending: Chris Gaskill '00, Adam Ringel '00, and Worth Ellison '99
Extracurriculars

Students Explore Great Works

Griffin Santarelli, Class of 2005

The Literary Society is thrilled with the student’s excitement and hopes to continue to engage in productive discussions and to read interesting literature.

The Literary Society, in its third year of existence, has seen a dramatic leap in participation and enthusiasm. Last year’s group of five members has grown to an astounding forty-two, all eager to share the joys of reading outside the classroom.

The material to be read is chosen by the group with topics designed to intrigue all. After the reading, a great guest speaker, usually a knowledgeable member of the University School faculty, discusses the work and promotes student-centered discussion.

Jazz Band Gets In The Mood

Andrew Waxman, Class of 2006

We have all seen the popular automobile commercial on television with the cool sound of “It Don’t Mean A Thing if it Ain’t Got That Swing.” Or how about the music for Gap commercials? These are examples of the kind of music performed by the 21-piece US Jazz Band.

The group comprises saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass, piano, and drums sections. Through this variety, the Jazz Band is able to achieve a full, big-band sound. Stylistically described by one band member as “Big Band, Fusion Rock,” the 2002 band is once again under the leadership of Mr. Kay, now in his fifteenth year as director. The members, who enjoy a wide range of musical experience, must try out during the summer by sight-reading (that is, playing music that the person has never seen before) and playing various jazz scales.

This year, the US Jazz Band is hoping to go on a weekend tour of New York City, during which they would visit famous jazz clubs and perform at various locations. They will also be offering several concerts in the Cleveland area, the first being a Holiday Performance at the upper school on December 12.

Jazz is considered to be the only musical art form to originate in the United States. Today, it is all around us and influences the sounds of many popular artists. If you want to get “In the Mood,” go see the Jazz Band perform on December 12.

I’m here to tell you that the US Glee Club and the US Males are going to Sweden and Denmark over spring break. You can’t argue that it’s an original vacation destination, that’s for sure. It still seems like only last year that Kerry Brennan was the director of the Glee Club and Males, and we were traveling across California, hearing stories about “Ushii” and the claims of “we still know.”

But in truth, that was an entire two years and two directors ago! James D. Niblock came and went, choosing to continue his quest for a Ph.D. in choral directing at the University of Connecticut. Now we have the new guy, Mr. Jonathan Palant. Mr. Palant shares a similar background with Mr. Niblock, as both received their Bachelor’s degree in the Arts from the University of Michigan. In addition, Mr. Palant has also received his Master’s degree in the Arts from Temple University in Pennsylvania. He brings with him a plethora of music knowledge and information, as well as some seemingly unorthodox warm-ups and techniques. “He seems very up-beat and positive about the group,” says four-year Glee Club member, senior John Rutter, “and although his warm-ups and techniques are different than what we’re used to, I can already see the positive effects.”

Let us not forget that Mr. Palant directs the US Males as well. In fact, tryouts for the US Males were held on Wednesday, September 3, from 7-9 PM, and the turnout was enormous! There were so many students interested in singing with the Males that Mr. Palant has decided to form a second group, called the US Cadets. The US Cadets future, including repertoire, rehearsal schedule, and number of gigs will be decided by the members themselves. As for the US Males, the only thing I could get out of any one was an assurance that there are already more gigs planned then we had all last year, with more still to come! For those curious, the US Cadets don’t have a final “ruser” yet, but here’s how the new US Males look:

Tenor 1: Barton Gillombardo, Kevin Huang, Peter Moses, John Rutter
Tenor 2: Jason Hess, Putter Johnson, Rob Mayes, Ryan Mayes, Greg Sparks
Baritone: Will Bowen, Robert Huang, Steve Melis, Stetmon Roberson
Bass: Andrew Crouch, Brian Faraday, Ned Reddrop, Chris Stagno
Griffin Santarelli, Class of 2005

The Record: A Tradition

Cameron Freed, Proofing Editor, Class of 2003

The Record, University School’s literary magazine, is an annual compilation of the artistic and creative works of US students. Any student who wishes to volunteer his art, whether visual or literary, will have his pieces considered for publication. The Editorial Review Board, a group of students headed by Managing Editors Cameron Freed, Chris Murphy, and Jeff Terrell, carefully reviews each work, allowing only the best to be published. As of late, the book has been longer than in the past due the increased participation of the student body as a whole. Color photographs sections have been a recent addition to the magazine, and are likely to be a mainstay in years to come.

Last year, The Record began what it hopes to be another continuing tradition. For every issue, a contest for literary and visual works submitted to its latest edition will result in these monetary prizes in each category. The works will be reviewed by two judges, our own Dr. O’Neil and Hathaway Brown School’s Dr. Pauline Thornton. The winners of the contest will be recognized in the early pages of the upcoming issue.
The Letter of the Law

Mock Trial is a competition that allows students to learn about the legal process by participating in simulated court cases. This year’s district competition will be held in February, downtown at the Cleveland Justice Center in front of a practicing judge and two lawyers. The top three teams from that tournament will go on to the state tournament in Columbus.

Participating students have been given a packet that holds the case that will be presented at the district tournament. This case explores the interplay between free speech and national security. This packet contains the basic conflict, witness statements, documentary evidence, and relevant laws. Students can act out roles of attorney, witness, or bailiff. After an initial period of delving into the case, as is crucial for success at the tournament, attorneys will practice direct examinations and cross-examinations, and prepare opening statements and closing arguments. Witnesses will similarly learn the case in depth so that they can provide realistic answers when questioned.

Mock Trial had been missing from the School until Mr. Perry restarted the program four years ago. He has coached Mock Trial since its rebirth and now Ms. Jenkins joins him. Both teachers have practiced law before teaching at US. According to Ms. Jenkins, Mock Trial is a “terrific opportunity for boys interested in law and acting.” Mr. Perry, Ms. Jenkins, and President Steven Chan are starting early this year, constructing and preparing a team of students to compete. The team has had a substantial turnout this year, already nearly enough to field two teams. The year looks promising.
To make absolutely sure that they do. A major within anyone’s mind: the Rolling Stones’ Forty Licks is a hits collection. It’s not their first, and it’s not likely to be their last hits collection. If you buy this album, expect to find neither a slice of dusty, grim rock-n-roll heaven, nor a sprawling masterpiece like Exile on Main Street. Instead, take it for what it is: a selection of what the Stones deemed to be the highlights of their career. Do not take their word for it: “best” is too subjective a term to give this collection – but it comes to “best” far closer than one might expect. Nonetheless, the summer blockbuster by no means about to die at the hands of a multitude of cheap films devoid of big-name actors and directors. The blockbuster, most often released during summer or the winter holidays, is necessary to maintain a studio’s prestige; the movie landscape would possess far different continuities with the absence of major actors like Russell Crowe and George Clooney, or major producers like George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. And the profits shared by the studios from a megalithic money aren’t as bad as the numbers often project. DVD and video sales and rentals are increasing, and many studios, most notably Disney and MGM, can always make up for any downturn in profits with releases from their colossal libraries of films (Snow White seems to be going on sale for “the last time” every other week) – or they just create new films to be brought out exclusively on DVD and VHS. Studios garner almost pure profit from DVD and VHS sales, taking in almost $3 billion last year in rentals. So don’t cry for the studio executives when you hear that they aren’t getting their fair share of a great new film’s take; they’re doing just fine. And the local movie theater is not about to become a haunt for lousy low-budget films: it’ll just continue to show lousy expensive ones instead.

Chris’s Rating: 65 / 100
Seldom do film enthusiasts encounter modern releases as touching, poignant, or chilling as the original. The newest film from director Jonathan Demme, The Truth About Charlie, is another one of these unassaying new editions. The film is based on Stanley Donen’s 1963 classic, Charade, which sported an all-star cast including Cary Grant, Audrey Hepburn, and Walter Matthau. However, Demme (That Thing You Do!, 2000; The Talented Mrs. randers, 1991) fails to replicate the film’s corniness. The gams of this portion of the album include such great songs as “(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction,” “Gimme Shelter,” and “Continent.” The musical talents of Keith, Mick, & Co., which allowed them to create such unique and exciting music, are style-compatible, but they’re all here. Everything, from the instrumentation to the “I couldn’t-care-less” attitude that characterized many of the band’s songs, is present on the first disk.

Song for song, the second half of Forty Licks doesn’t have the thrills of the first, a problem mirroring the band’s career. As the Stones arced past their peak, the group began to live on its past glories, and its style became similarly mediocre. There are still some excellent songs here, probably “It’s Only Rock ‘n’ Roll” and “Happy.” Few of the ‘80s and ‘90s on this disc are remarkable, but they fit in with the rest of the album because they give the listener a comprehensive taste of the Rolling Stones. The fourth new track, however, is completely unnecessary. The Stones are merely making a superficial attempt to give soundtracks a reason to buy this album, and that attitude is reflected in the songs’ sound. The band still have the ability to create some great music, these songs don’t show it.

So what’s the final word on Forty Licks? If you’re a longtime fan, steer clear of this collection, because the new songs definitely aren’t worth the price tag. If you’ve never gotten a good feel for their music, though, this is the CD for you. As Rolling Stone Editor David Wild wrote in the liner notes, “After all these warmly decadent decades of vaguely journalistic musings about [chemical substance abuse and sexual misconduct], it’s kind of nice to see that it still ultimately comes down to the songs.”

The Blockbuster Heroes like Spiderman ever be revered?

Daniel Adler, Entertainment Editor, Class of 2005

Will the ascendancy of blockbuster heroes end as bad as the numbers often project? The studios are anxious to find a slice of the pie, and many studios, most notably Disney and Dreamworks SKG, received a slim twenty million between them. It’s plain to see that in today’s movie world, studios are anxious to find a fair share of a great new film’s take; they’re doing just fine.

Is it the fear of failure that causes films devoid of big-name actors, directors, and producers to be taking bigger and bigger slices of the pie, and studios are anxious to find a solution to their financial woes.

Many studio executives, who earlier in the year were lauding the blockbuster as a cure-all for financial concerns, are now turning to low-budget and thus low-risk, films. Their favorite example is My Big Fat Greek Wedding, a $5 million dollar film that has grossed over $185 million in its seven month stint at the box office; it lasted twice as long as the average blockbuster’s time in theaters. Many in the movie industry are predicting that these smaller-budget films will be the new rage in Hollywood, sending unfair profit sharing on the part of directors, big-name actors, and producers who have only a limited involvement with the actual making of the film.

This sudden widespread acclaim for the low-budget film has been spawned by the colossal flops suffered by so many prominent movie studio...
A Season Apart from the Rest

Baron Gollombardo, Class of 2003

This year’s varsity football team is the first to make the state playoffs in school history. The post-season has been out of reach for US in the past for a multitude of reasons. Three major characteristics, however, differentiate the current team from previous years’ teams. The first difference is scheduling. This year's squad faced the most competitive opponents that the athletic department could muster. Because teams are selected for the playoffs through a complicated point system that takes into consideration the division and record of a team’s opponents, and its opponents’ opponents, a team receives more points for wins over better teams. For example, victories over small, winless teams like Shroder Padua Academy, Williamsburg, and Riverdale are meaningless. US did not play these teams; its arduous schedule made every win very important to the team’s division ranking. Big wins against Willoughby South, St. Vincent St. Mary, Maple Heights, and Black River, all contributed to US’s postseason. The second major characteristic is leadership. This year’s team is blessed with a solid coaching staff, talented tri-captains, and an experienced senior class. Head coach Mr. Stephens’ selfless devotion to the team has been infectious, inspiring everyone to hard work. The third and most influential aspect of this year’s team stems from dedication. The team has realized that games are won in the off-season, in January, in April, and in May. Because teams train harder and harder every year, unaided natural ability will not win games anymore - hard work is necessary. The US team is “bigger, faster, and stronger,” having reaped the fruits of a steady, efficient, work-out regimen. This year’s football season will go down as one of US’s finest and will hopefully mark the beginning of a new era in Prepper football.

A Talented Soccer Team Faced with Inconsistency

Tim Bakke, Class of 2004

The 2002 University School soccer team has gone through a very turbulent season, riddled with ephemerai winning and losing streaks. Each key win was coupled with a heart-wrenching loss. The team had an 8-5-5 record and beat out tough opponents like Notre Dame Cathedral Latin and Bay Village (two successful teams in last year’s state tournament). US was ranked 4th in the district, closely following West Geauga, NDCL, and Lake Catholic, respectively. Against West Geauga and Lake Catholic, US lost by a single goal because of several missed scoring opportunities. The first major success of the season was the team’s victory over Bay Village. The win boosted the team’s confidence after two tough losses to West Geauga and a solid but unranked Padua. The latter loss was particularly disappointing because US was more talented and should not have lost. A consistent problem plagued the soccer team: US could not score in a clutch situation. The Prepper defense was very strong, led by Garrison Mason at sweeper and goalie Jeff Bittenbender. It allowed only 13 goals the entire season. Unfortu-

Darren Schmidt boots a field goal as Jason Starrett holds.

Junior Stephen Audey works his way through the Padua midfield.

Jeff Terrell launches a bomb as the ref looks on in astonishment.

nately, the US 2002 soccer Academy simply could not score enough to finish victorious. US opened the state tournament the following Thursday, October 17. It defeated Villa Angela-Saint Joseph’s handily. This win advanced the team to the District Semi-finals, where it would have another chance to play against West Geauga. Throughout the game, both teams fought hard, but, in the end, West Geauga was able to break the scoreless stalemate with a goal in the second half. The season finished with a close 1-0 loss to a strong West Geauga team, ending the team’s run for the District Championship. Even though the record may not show it, the US 2002 soccer team was strong both defensively and offensively. However, these strengths were not enough to win the decisive games.
After finishing this year’s regular golf season with a bang, the team began its post-season, going to the Sectional Golf Tournament at Scioto Downs, Columbus, Oct. 26, 2002. Nik Trikha, Class of 2002

“Hold Water!” shouts Andrew Crouch while sitting in an 8-man racing shell on the Cuyahoga River. He just spotted an 800-foot barge coming straight for his boat and must get the boat out of its way before he and his fellow rowers are crushed. Five days a week, Crouch and the thirteen other members of the crew team, make a pilgrimage to the west side of Cleveland to row on the Cuyahoga River. Although only two members of the team had rowed before the beginning of the season, in the four weeks that they have been training, the crew team has become one of the best novice teams in the city of Cleveland.

Although most people in this city don’t know it, Cleveland has a large and active rowing association. More than 800 rowers are a part of Cleveland’s rowing program. Local high school teams such as Shaker, St. Ignatius, CSRA (Cleveland Scholastic Rowing Association, which is an all girls club team), and Western Reserve Junior Men’s Crew (of which US is a major part) all have active crew teams. US will become completely independent as a team once they have been established for a year. The US team was created with the help of the Western Reserve Rowing Foundation. The WRRF is an umbrella organization that regulates all rowing in Cleveland, and their help was crucial in creating the US team.

Although US students have only been rowing for four weeks, they have already demonstrated their dedication through their hard work. Their efforts have paid off; they have shown great promise and have amazed coaches from other teams, who were surprised that these students were mere novices.

In fact, they have impressed officials so greatly that they have already been invited to their first regatta: the Speckman Memorial Regatta, in Columbus on October 26, 2002.

Cross Country Finishes Successful Season
Geoff Schmitz, Class of 2003

If you look around the halls of University School and you can’t help but notice the new and unusual hairstyles of Andrew Williams, Tom Moore, Jeff Heister, and Nik Trikha. From the mullet to bright yellow hair, the cross-country team’s stellar performance at this year’s Div II State tournament has resulted in several celebratory hair-styles.

After winning their district, the team continued on to the regional meet. There, despite poor running conditions and intense competition, the team placed fourth, good enough to give them a birth in the State Tournament.

The team went to Scioto Downs, Columbus, determined to run well. Every member really wanted to improve upon the previous year’s seventh place state finish. Despite the muddy and rainy conditions, the team performed extremely well. Leading the pack of Preppers was Andrew Williams with a mile pace of 5:27. Andrew improved fantastically, running the 5k race in a time of 16:55, a personal record. With this time, he finished 33rd out of 150 runners. Captain Chris Adams followed him closely, finishing with a time of 17:03. With both Williams and Adams stepping up, the team was in a good tournament position. But two people can’t win the tournament, the rest of the team needed to step up as well. Following the two seniors were Juniors Brad Weitman and Dan Golub, respectively. Then, rounding out the team were Martin Mudry, Davood Abdollahian, and Brian Cost. Due to hard work and determination, the team finished 5th out of 16 teams in the Div II State Tournament. This victory coupled with the team’s I.P.S.L. win reveals that this season was one of the most successful season for Cross Country in University School history. Although next year the team loses the talent of seniors Andrew Williams and Chris Adams, the team is young and has a lot of potential. Juniors Dan Golub, Brian Cost, and Brad Weitman will be looking upon to lead the team to hopefully a top 3 finish in the state. Expect only top results out of next year’s runners.