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Vermilion High School

The Compass

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Fall Sports Teams Create Seasons to Remember by Stephen Stez and Mason Plas

If we were to travel back in time to around 10 to 15 years ago, most of the athletic teams of Vermilion High School had seasons to forget. Fast forward to the present day in 2024, and with the fall sports season now all but wrapped up, the Sailors of fall have had several seasons to remember, and one that has really captured this town's hearts is the 2024 campaign of Vermilion football. Several droughts have been ended this season, including the first win over arch rival Firelands since 2013 to bring the Stillman Cup back to Vermilion, defeating western rival Huron to hoist the Win Oar for the first time since 1966, the clinching of the program's first winning season since 2008 after a nail biting win over Port Clinton which led to the team's first 8-2 regular season record since 1985, and going to the playoffs for the second straight year, the first home playoff game in program history, the first time

ever that the program has accomplished the feat of back to back playoff appearances. Most importantly, with last Friday's win over River Valley, the Sailor Football team has won a playoff game for the first time in school history.

Of course, all this success did not just happen overnight; a lot of work had to be put in to make this historic and memorable season come to fruition. Led by senior captains Aaron Mathis, Cohen Mooney, Oliver Roy, and Head Coach DiFucci, the Sailor football team has been working hard since the off-season. DiFucci said they have been "maximizing every opportunity to get better. Get better in the weight room. Never miss a set or a rep. Get better in film study. Know your opponent better and know how they will play you. Get better on the field. Maximum effort and assignment responsibilities." The Sailors all had one goal in mind

and that was to win a home playoff game. Cohen Mooney explained, "in order to win a playoff game and go further, we need to perfect our plays and now all of our assignments, and run every play with 100% effort." The football team has been having a blast, and is looking forward to the next step in their playoff journey this Friday.

Meanwhile, other sports have also had great 2024 campaigns. Cross Country was no exception as they sent senior Joseph Webb to the regional competition in Tiffin. He also was the first Sailor to win Vermilion's very own Obenour since 2008 as the team also finished strong in that race, placing in the top 10. "Ever since the first race, we've gone out and broken barriers we didn't think we would break. We hit the ground running and competed in every race like it was our last, especially considering the majority of us are seniors." Webb said. Of

course, this team had success in mind even before the season started. “We were really hopeful to move on to regionals as a team. That was the goal we talked about. Even though that goal wasn’t achieved we still tried the best we could and strived to complete our goals.” Webb said.

When it came to team leadership, everyone pitched in to keep spirits high. “It’s very hard to narrow down one to be honest. All of them were into the team spirit. Everyone played a different part. Joseph led the boys, Ava and Lexi led the girls. Everyone had a role for our team to be successful,” head coach Kristina Edmison remarked. “Our tone this year was really upbeat and positive. Everyone wanted to be there and those seniors wanted to finish their careers on a high note. Everyone bought in and worked hard.” This really goes to show that sports are a team effort and not everything is accomplished by one singular person. “They started running at the beginning of June. Cross country takes a lot of hard work, and these guys really put themselves through all of it.”

The boys golf team also found success this fall with the team making it to districts, but falling short of qualifying for the state tournament. That was the team’s first district appearance since 2019. On top of that, the team also won their third SBC championship in seven years, their first since 2017, and

the Erie County championship as well. “The season went better than expected; we won the Stillman Cup, the Erie County Championship, an SBC championship, and qualified for districts for the first time since 2019. We had high expectations with 5 seniors and due to a lack of experience for some, I wasn’t sure what to think of it,” said head coach Joe Schneid. “I’ve got to give a tip of the hat to Codey Schwarck and Julian Hamman. They really grinded out some of the tough rounds and held us together with their outstanding performance throughout the year.”

Schwarck and Hamman were not the only ones that had big years though; freshman Sam Riddle had a breakout first year as a Sailor golfer.

“Definitely Codey, Julian, and Sam Riddle” were who fellow golfer Sevie Kretchmar listed for his most important players of the 2024 season. Going into next season, “I really think the expectation is to be the same, if not better than, what we did this year due to improvement, especially with Sam playing as good as he had been.” Kretchmar said. Coach Schneid remarked about the young talent of this group, “We have a lot of young talent returning next season. We hope to repeat as conference champions in particular.”

What came out of this fall season came both stories of success and signs of improvement that can be made, but all around, Vermilion has certainly turned the tables in the eyes of others.



Aaron Matthis paves the way to a flawless victory

Vermilion Honors Mr. Snook for winning Staff Of The Month

by Mariah Mills

This October, Vermilion High School proudly announces Mr. Snook as Staff Member of the Month! Devon Snook has been teaching for 20 years, is the chair of the mathematics department, and teaches two Collage Credit Plus classes at Vermilion High School. Mr. Snook was chosen by students who voted for him because of his dedication to teaching. Mr. Snook strives to make the learning experience more exciting for those who have a harder time paying attention.

When asked about winning this award, Mr. Snook expressed, "I'm very honored, lots of other staff deserve it as well." Mr. Snook was "surprised because it was the middle of the month, but very excited, shocked, and surprised."

What does Mr. Snook enjoy most about working in a high school environment? Connecting with students holds a special meaning for him. "I like those kids who work hard to achieve," shared Mr. Snook. In sharing what he wishes everyone knew about teacher's roles. "It's hard for people to understand as a teacher there are times when your heart breaks for kid's situations. I believe it's good to make the learning experience somewhat enjoyable." He emphasizes. Even encouraging friendly hellos can go a long way.

To give more insight into what makes Mr. Snook such an amazing teacher, we spoke with senior students Alina Pollak and Summer Shirley from Vermilion High School. Mr. Snook is

a good teacher because "he's funny, Alina enthusiastically explained. Summer added that "he can teach well. I always feel like I understand him." They both felt that Mr. Snook's impact goes beyond the classroom. "When he acknowledges people or me in the hallway, I think it brightens students' days," they explained. Mr. Snook said that he credits others in the building for helping him to be a great teacher. "I would like to thank Mrs. Caffarel for being like a sister I've never had, as well as Mrs. Jacinto, and Mrs. Rini for being like an extra mother to the whole school," he said, "and also the whole administrative team for dealing with a lot. Also, a thank you to the students who voted for me!"



NHS (National Honors Society) has their induction meeting

Will You Be the Next Member of Rock Climbing Club?

by Sevie Kretchmar

At Vermilion High School there are many awesome clubs anyone can participate in. One of those amazing clubs is the Rock Climbing Club, which many students enjoy. Mrs. Bengeler, the principal at Vermilion, manages the club and its events.

Aubrey Weimer, an 11th grade member of the club, spoke very highly of it. Aubrey said "Rock Climbing Club was something new and fun, that at first I showed very little interest in, until one of my friends convinced me to join." She explained that Rock Climbing Club is very well run and is

fun for everybody. Weimer also talked about how it has impacted her life saying "It really made me face my fears and greatly impacted my confidence."

I also talked to Mrs. Bengeler, the club leader, and she revealed information about why she started the club and what it's all about. Mrs. Bengeler explained that "two years ago the manager of a nearby rock climbing gym reached out to me about starting a club for rock climbing. I thought it would be a cool opportunity to give the kids who don't play athletics at Vermilion." Mrs.

Bengeler said, "We meet after school at around 3:30 and ride a bus to the On The Rocks climbing gym and climb for around 2 hours. The kids have a really fun time and it's a great opportunity to be active and involved in something."

The many clubs at Vermilion give kids the opportunity to have fun and try new things. They give students a fun and safe environment for them to hang out with their friends and be passionate about the club they're in. After all, Rock Climbing Club could be your thing, but you won't know until you try!

Vermilion High School Students Dress Up and Get Spooky This Halloween!

by Delilah Poole

It is well known that dressing up in costumes is a classic Halloween tradition. As times change, some people come up with new ideas for scary or cute costumes, while others stick to the classics, such as vampires or werewolves.

Bird Gray stated that she will be a zombie this year, "I needed something that worked with purple hair and didn't look like everything else I wear." While some students had ideas

put together early, others have procrastinated with their planning. Olivia Augustine said she still has no idea what she is dressing up as this year.

Many people are innovative and creative, but many ideas have been overdone through the years. Olivia Augustine states "There's a few that I see every year...definitely cats." While being a cat is popular for girls, there are many costumes that guys have

overused recently. "I'm tired of seeing Ghost face costumes, that like all I see guys wearing every year over and over again." Bird Gray asserted passionately.

While Halloween will go on for many years to come, it is also worth thinking about the festivities and costumes we wore in the past. "Last year Micheala Kelly and I were Harry Styles and Niall Horan," says Olivia Augustine.

Vermilion Decorates Pumpkins at VHS

by Jennifer Gray

On October 30th, Mrs. Schneid's National Art Society (NAHS) students' ran an "Art With Pumpkins" event. People were invited to paint or carve a pumpkin for charity. It was the first public event that the NAHS has planned. Mrs. Schneid thought that providing a fun activity for the community that allowed for people of all ages was a great way to introduce the community to the brand-new group.

While the event was free for everyone, donations were encouraged. "We're hoping to raise money for both the National Art Society, and we'd like to collect money for local charities to give back to the community," said

Mrs. Schneid. NAHS's biggest goal is to help people improve their artistic skills however they can.

This event was made possible by the Novotny Farm Market in Vermilion. They generously provided forty-five pumpkins to the NAHS for a great discount, which allowed for this event to be possible. This event not only raises money for those who need it, but it also brings together the whole community for a fun project.

Pumpkin carving was especially popular with the students at Vermilion High School. Some people such as Kylie Kruse plan to make their pumpkins spooky

to show off their Halloween spirit. "I'm probably going to carve, like a monster face. I love monsters, and I want to make it very detailed," she said. Lilah Werner, a senior, also plans a scary pumpkin. "If I get a bumpy one I can make them look like bugs or eyeballs." Lilah said. Spooky pumpkins are not the only types of pumpkins being made though. Lydia Horrocks, a fellow member of NAHS plans on "putting a little cute cat" on hers.

This may be the first event NAHS has planned, but it certainly won't be the last. NAHS is currently planning even more events like this for the community, so stay tuned!



NAHS members (left to right) Kylie Kruse, Gwendolyn Krupp, Lana West, and Lydia Horrocks pose with pumpkins in front of VHS

This Years Fall Play 'Puffs': A Magical Comedy!

by Alivia Berrios

Vermilion High School's fall play this year is a spinoff of Harry Potter, Titled "PUFFS!" this production features three sophomores for the lead roles, Jareth Ball, Miles Wiegand, and Bella Judd. The story follows a certain house at a certain magic school for young wizards. The play blends humor with emotional moments as it explores friendship, loyalty, and self discovery.

Jareth Ball plays Wayne Hopkins, the lead in "PUFFS," was not too surprised that he got the part. "To be honest I wasn't shocked. I was sort of expecting it, although I originally auditioned for Oliver Rivers." Ball provided insight on how he prepares for his role onstage and off. "I don't really prepare, I just kind of fit the characters role. I do try to spice my lines up and add expression to make it funnier."

Bella Judd who plays Megan Jones, thinks rehearsals are "pretty fun, we all get along and have good chemistry with each other." Judd also said, "I think the audience will enjoy all of the little funny lines. I personally like when my character has the sudden change of personality and becomes a true Puff."

Last, Miles Wiegand who plays Olivier Rivers, feels "very confident to play Oliver.

I've been pretty prepared. I'm basically him." Wiegand has previous acting experience at VHS. "I was in Trap! I played multiple roles and had a good chunk of lines and monologues".

"PUFFS" seems to be a promising mix of comedy and heartfelt moments that showcases the lead actors, ensuring a memorable time for the upcoming audience. The VHS actors will perform on Saturday, November 9th at 7pm and Sunday November 10th at 2pm. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://events.hometownticketing.com/>.

Vermilion
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by Kellie Pan-
cost



Logo for the Fall Play 'Puffs'