

SPORTS

Issue I
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Inside MHS Sports Teams

Kyle
Staff Writer

September is here and fall sports are underway. There are a lot of questions to be answered going into this fall. Will the football team bounce back from a disappointing 3-7 season? Can the volleyball team repeat another Division III championship with the loss of their front line? Boys' soccer is a completely new team this year after losing 13 seniors and 9 starters can they post another good record like last years 11-5-2 season? The girls' soccer team has a new coach this year, **Dave**, a former Rogers High School coach. Can he turn this team around after a devastating loss to Lincoln in the first round of the playoffs last year? How about the tennis team with a lot of experience having the luxury of not losing anybody? Will they be able to go back to the championship and win?

Last fall all of our teams together had a record of 38-27-7. Hopefully this year we will have a more impressive resume for the fall.

"This year there are no excuses," said **Coach Andy Leys**. You might see the football players wearing their shirts with this saying on it. This is the football team's motto for this upcoming season. After coming off of a disappointing 3-7 season, the team comes to the gridiron with a little

more experience and age this season. Last season's freshman sensation **Rico** comes into this season with a lot of weight on his shoulders having such an impressive first season. When asked what his secret was he responded "A lot of practice, and hard work." Sure



Senior **Pat # 21** jumps up to head butt the ball during the game against the Warwick Vets.

Photo by **Kyle**

enough in Middletown's season opener **Rico** rushed for 149 yards on nine carries and two touchdowns. He also ran back a 79 yard kick return and had a 53 yard fumble recovery. He led Middletown to a 36-24 victory over arch rival Rogers for the first time since 1997.

With an impressive opening game for the team hopefully this will lead to good things to come.

Home Games

Oct. 24 7p.m. Hope
Nov. 7 7p.m. North Providence

Nov. 14 7p.m. Scituate
Nov. 27 10a.m. Portsmouth

Our Volleyball team won the 2007 Division III championship last season. But this year they will have to over come a lot to get back to that title spot. Having lost their two middle hitters **Ashley** (5' 10") and **Marjorie** (6' 3"), and also acquiring a new head coach **Karen** there will be a lot of adversity in their way to the championship game. Senior Captain **Sarah** was a huge asset to last year's championship run and one of two returning varsity members along with sophomore **Grace**, who will try to pickup where the dynamic duo left off. The team is very young this year only having three seniors on the roster. Home Games

Oct. 1 4p.m. Shea
Oct. 10 4p.m. Hope
Oct. 15 4p.m. Fatima
Oct. 24 4p.m. Central Falls

Have you been to one of the boy's soccer games and not recognized anybody? That's because it's a completely new team. After last season they lost 13 seniors and 9 starters from the varsity roster. It now is made up of 4 seniors, 7 juniors, 10 sophomores, and 5 freshmen, as you can see we are a very young team. We only have two returning starters from last year, senior **Ryan** and junior **Bowen** whom both played defense.

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A Note

From the Editor:

Have you noticed how many sets of siblings we have playing together this sports season? Some siblings include Ben and Danny playing on boys' Varsity soccer, Alison and Emily on the girls' volleyball team. Then there is Sarah and Katie also on the volleyball team. Next time when you are at these games, see if you can spot these people.

~Sara~

MVP of the Issue

Rico

Kelsey
Staff Writer

It is only the first month of school and he has already scored five touchdowns and is on his way to become an even more talented football star.

This issues MVP is sophomore Rico . He is a member of the MHS football, basketball, and track team. However, he puts one hundred percent into working to his full potential, whichever sports he plays.

“Rico plays great in the games. He’s very unselfish and always thanks his team mates when he does well,” said MHS head football coach Andrew Leys.

His teammates enjoy playing with him on the field and believe that he is an extraordinary athlete.

Senior captain Nathan said, “Playing with Rico is always fun and he runs so pretty. He’s a good player on and off the field. He’s my boy,

“Rico is a great teammate and playing with him out on that field is an honor,” said other senior captain Andrew .

Not only does he get the support of his teammates, but also from those that are looking on as he steps onto the field.

“It’s great being at the games and watching him do so well, he’s got a lot to be proud of,” said MHS cheerleader and girlfriend Courtney .

Moreover, many students want to know who is the real Rico ? Here are some questions that I had for this amazing athlete.

Kelsey: What positions do you play in football?

Rico: I play running back and outside line backer.

Kelsey: If you could play a different position other than the ones you already play, what would it be?

Rico: I think I’d want to play quarterback.

Kelsey: How are your practices? Are they always really tough?

Rico: They are semi-tough. They tend to vary from day to day. It all depends on what kind of mood coach is in.

Kelsey: Do you prefer defense or offense?

Rico: I would much rather be on offense. I’m not a big fan of hitting people.

Kelsey: What is your jersey number?

Rico: 44.

Kelsey: What are your goals during this football season?

Rico: My goals are to win as many games as possible and get 1,000 yards while I’m at it.

Kelsey: How long have you been playing for?

Rico: 4 years now.

Kelsey: Who are your biggest supporters?

Rico: My parents, of course. Courtney and my BFF J.P .

Kelsey: Being a sophomore and already having so much success, can you picture yourself continuing into college and possibly as a profession?

Rico: I hope to one day play college football and maybe after playing at the college level I’ll know if I want to go pro.

Kelsey: What other sports do you play?

Rico: I run track and also play basketball.

Kelsey: Is football your favorite sport?

Rico: Yes.

Kelsey: If you were to go pro, what team would you want to be on?

Rico: Dallas Cowboys.

Kelsey: What inspired you to start playing football?

Rico: It’s a funny story actually. When I was in second grade, my best friend Thomas tried to get me to play with him all the time at school and I never would. Then when I got to Rhode Island, I realized that it was a sport that I would probably enjoy and have been playing ever since.

Kelsey: What do you feel makes you a good player?

Rico: I think that practice, determination, and motivation are what makes me a good player.

Kelsey: Is there a special routine that you follow to get you in the zone?

Rico: Before a game I usually listen to music to pump myself up and remain silence to concentrate on the game that’s ahead.

Good sportsmanship and determination, it is no wonder why Rico was chosen as this issues MVP. He works hard and does not let anything stand in the way of achieving his goals. Next time you go to a boys’ varsity football game make sure to keep an eye out for number 44, Rico !

Olympic Overviews

David Staff Writer

This year's summer Olympics started on August 8th with an amazing opening ceremony demonstrating the creative mind of Zhang Yimou, the man who directed the opening ceremony. 91,000 people watched the opening ceremony and over 100 world leaders were there as well. Some of the major events between August 9th and 12th included Michael Phelps setting an Olympic record in the men's 400m. U.S.A. basketball got a 110-70 victory over China. The United States set a world record in the men's 4 x 100m freestyle with a time of 3:08:24 beating France by 0.08 seconds, in one of the most exciting events of the summer games. Michael Phelps setting another world record in the men's 200m freestyle and Natalie Coughlin of the U.S. becomes the first athlete to defend a gold medal women's 100m backstroke.

The major events of the days August 13th through August 18th included the Chinese gymnastic team winning their first ever team gold medal. Also, Michael Phelps set the record for most gold medals by an athlete with 11. Nastia Liukin of the U.S. wins gold in women's artistic individual all-round for gymnastics, and Shawn Johnson took silver, this was the first time where two teammates took the top two spots in an individual all-round event.

"The girl's gymnastics winning this event was my most memorial event from the Olympics," said Principal Mr. Ruscito.

Jamaica's Usain Bolt wins gold in the men's 100m with a world record time of 9.69. Michael Phelps won gold in men's 100m butterfly by 0.01 seconds; this was the closest he came to loosing in the summer games. China won their 33rd gold medal beating there previous record of 32 in the Athens Olympics. In Michael Phelps 8th and final event of the Olympics he won gold, winning his 8th gold medal.

"Michael Phelps winning 8 gold medals was the most

exciting moment of the Olympics," said sophomore Matthew on Michael Phelps winning eight gold medals.

For the final days of the Olympics, August 19th to the 24th, there were many surprises. Argentina beat Brazil 3-0, who was the favorite to win gold, in the semifinals. Shawn Johnson won gold in women's balance beam. Usain Bolt set another world record in the men's 200m with a time of 19.30. Team Japan upset team U.S.A. in the finals with a score of 3-1. This was Team U.S.A. first loss since 2000 and first time they didn't win gold. Team U.S.A. took gold in women's soccer and basketball. Argentina won gold in men's soccer. Team U.S.A. beat Spain 118-107 in the finals of basketball, this was U.S.A.'s first gold since since 2000.

After all the events had finished the U.S.A. had the most total medals with 110, this includes gold medals, silver medals, and bronze medals. We had 36 gold medals, 38 silver medals, and 26 bronze medals. China had the 2nd highest amount of medal with 100. China had 51 gold medals, 21 silver, and 28 bronze. Overall this year's Olympics has been very exciting and there has been many surprises.



The Latest Additions to MHS Fall Sports This Seasons New Coaches

Kyle Staff Writer

Both the girl's volleyball team and the girl's soccer team have a new Head Coach going into this season.

The volleyball team who is coming off of a Division IV championship now goes into this season not only with out their two key players from last season, but now with a new coach, Karen Massaro. She is our physical education and health teacher here at the school and is now open to the task of coaching our team hopefully to another Division IV championship.

The girl's soccer team is coming off a first round loss in the playoffs last season to Lincoln. Now in steps new head coach Dave Kolator. Coach Kolator has plenty of experience in coaching he previously coached the Rogers team before coming over to help out our Islanders.

Hopefully both these coaches will lead their teams to victory and much success. They are both being thrown into teams with lots of talent and high expectations since both teams made playoffs last season. Lets see if we can get both these teams back to the playoffs this season and hopefully another Division Championship.

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Bowen's outlook on this season was "even though we lost a lot of seniors hopefully we can end off at .500 and make playoffs." Another big question this season is can **Cam** fill the shoes of All Division goalie **Tory** ? **Bowen's** comment on this subject was "**Cam's** a freak athlete and will get the job done." Hopefully this young team can bring the Islanders back to the playoffs this season after last years loss to Mount Pleasant in the quarter finals.

Home Games

Sept. 25	6p.m.	Cranston West
Oct. 1	6p.m.	East Greenwich
Oct. 6	6p.m.	Cranston East
Oct. 14	6p.m.	Westerly
Oct. 16	6p.m.	Pilgrim

Tennis team is definitely a group of girls that you want to go and check out. Last year they posted a 16-3 record and lost to Providence Country Day in the Division IV- East championship. They have an extremely experienced team this year having lost no seniors last year. Now having said all of this the number one singles player is a freshman, **Kristin** . Senior Captain **Cate** had this to say about their young star "She works really hard, and it is paying off, obviously if she is a freshman and she is the number one singles player". The team is made up mostly of seniors having eight seniors on the team. With a lot of experience hopefully they will get back to the championship this year.

Girl's varsity soccer team is coming off of a one and done playoff run from last season. Coming into this season they have are hoping for a little better luck. The new head coach in **Dave** , who was the coach for Rogers High School. The team might've suffered the worst blow of the season though by loosing senior captain **Erica** for the season due to injury.

"It stinks being hurt because I want to play so bad, but our team is going to be fine." Said captain senior **Erica**.

The JV team is full of young talent anchored by and overwhelming amount of underclassmen which is great for the future. Hopefully our girls will be able to overcome the devastating loss to their roster and still have a winning season.

This fall is going to be a very up and down fall with all of our young teams. Hopefully the Islanders will not fall to the fact of inexperience but will flourish, and attack the task at hand. As a whole Middletown went 38-27-7 last fall. Hopefully we can have more wins and fewer ties to make our fall resume look a little better. Hopefully the fans will get to these games and show the Islander pride and show a little support for our friends and classmates. They can not do it without the fans!!



Sports Briefs



Outside of school there is plenty going on in professional sports to write about for days.

- Tampa Bay Rays will make the World Series for the first time in their 11 year history.
- New York Yankees played their final game in the old Yankee Stadium, and had a huge ceremonial tribute to all of the past greats. Also the Yankees missed the playoffs for the first time in 13 years.
- United States wins Ryder Cup over Europe for the first time since 1991, with the score of 16 ½ to 11 ½
- Tom Brady is out for the season and Matt Cassel leads the Patriots to their first loss in 23 regular season games.
- Lance Armstrong will return to the Tour De France to try and win his eighth Tour De France.
- O.J. Simpsons is convicted on al 13 cases in court.
- NASCAR now holds the right to drug test drivers for any drug and at any time.

(Compiled by Kyle)



