



Issue 7

Online Edition

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Volume XLII



Seniors and Athletes Are Victorious

by Senior Reporter

Along with the victory of the senior class at the end of Homecoming week, the sports teams also won.

Football beat Alconbury for a pleasant end to their season. Tennis remained undefeated after their second victory over Alconbury. On Homecoming day, the lady Brigands volleyball team defeated Alconbury for the second time this season. Cross country also did well, with many members of the team getting their best time for the season.

“It was a really great week for the sports and the senior class,” said a member of the senior class.

The freshmen came in second for the week with 78 points, the juniors in third with 70 points, and the sophomores in last with 53 points.

On Monday, the dress up theme was Super Hero Day. The seniors had 91% of their class dress up for the day, the juniors had 59%, the freshmen had 26%, while the sophomores only had 23% of their class dress up. The winners of the day were a male sophomore and a female senior.

On Twin Day, which was Tuesday, the seniors had 77% of their class dressed up, the freshmen with 65%, the juniors with 64%, and the sophomores 59%. The winners for the day were the male sophomore and the senior “females.”

For Wacky Tacky Day, the seniors had 76% of their class dress up, the juniors 73%, the sophomores 45%, and the freshmen 39%. The winners for the day were a male sophomore and a female senior.

On Disco Day, the juniors beat the seniors with 43.4% of their class dressing up, while the seniors had 42.8% of their class dress up. The freshmen had 32% of their class dress up, while the sophomores had 27% of their class participate. The winners for the day were a female senior and a male junior.

The overall theme for this year’s hallway competition was movies. Winning the hallway competition for the fourth year in a row, with the theme of *The Wizard of Oz*, the senior class was thrilled with their overall victory.

“It felt good,” said a senior. “We’ve worked really hard on the hallway all four years.”

The freshmen came in second for the hallway competition with their theme, *The Lion King*. The juniors came in third with the theme of *Top Gun*. The sophomores came in last with the theme of *Alice in Wonderland*.

The Homecoming Court was announced at the dance on Saturday.

The powder puff football tournament ended in a close match with the seniors and sophomores coming out victorious over the juniors and freshmen, after scoring the only touchdown.

At the pep rally, the school’s band played the school’s fight song while the powder puff cheerleaders performed various tricks such as the pyramid and a dance. When the seniors were announced the winners of Homecoming, they all rushed forward to claim their prize: candy bars and sodas.

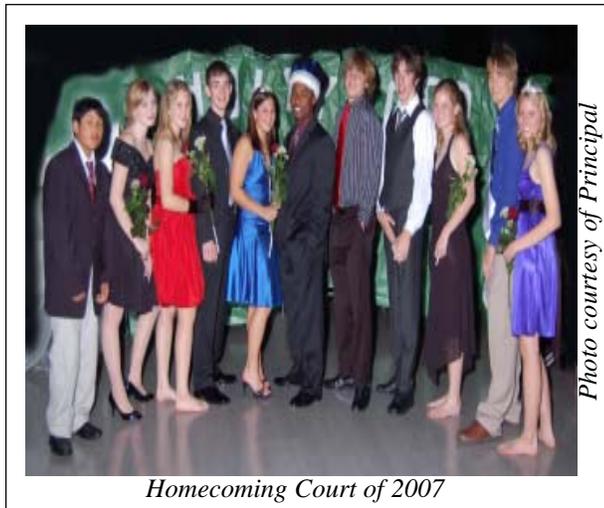


Photo courtesy of Principal

Homecoming Court of 2007



College Fair Attendees Plan for Their Future

by News Editor

Brussels College Night 2007, organized by the Belgian/Luxemburg Fulbright Commission and the local planning commission, took place at the International School of Brussels on October 1.

The Council of International Schools in collaboration with ISB, BAS, and St. Johns sponsors the event every year. Located in the heart of Europe, Brussels is home to the European Commission, several multinational corporations and a significant number of expatriate and English-speaking families with college-bound children.

The event has always generated great interest among students, their family members, and teachers. In total, about 600 students attended Brussels College Night. Of these students, roughly 50% were American, 25% international and 25% Belgian.

A significant number of various educational institutions were represented at the College Fair. There were more than 40 colleges and universities from the US, UK, France, Belgium, Germany, and Italy with a large variety of courses ranging from Business Management to Fine Arts.

Participants could find information on financial aid and scholarships, as well as admission policies and procedures. Information could also be obtained from universities' packages.

To get the most out of the event, visitors to Brussels College Night could ask useful questions, make good contacts, think carefully and critically about their educational goals and remain open minded when visiting the various institutions represented.

The team of BAS High School students was headed by the counselor. A number of students who attended Brussels College Night enjoyed themselves and obtained helpful information.

"I think it was a great opportunity for me; I found a lot of helpful information about different colleges in Europe," said a junior. "I would also say that any student who is uncertain about his or her future plans has to visit the College Fair."

What was especially interesting for American and

international students alike is that from seeing the more than 40 colleges represented at ISB, there were many possibilities for attending an American or English-language university in Europe today. That can be an appealing option for American students whose parents will still be in Europe when they are ready to go to college, or for European students whose parents stay in Brussels.

More and more universities from the U.S. are either partnering with a European university or establishing branches of their own schools in European cities. Often, they offer lower tuition prices for citizens of EU countries. In that way, they try to compete with the aggressive recruitment of European students being waged especially by Great Britain.

All in all, College Fair 2007 met all students' expectations and most BAS students seemed to benefit from attending.



What's On Your Ipod?

Randomly Chosen From the Ipod's of Brigand Teachers and Students

Hey Jude - The Beatles

Bones - The Killers

We Used to Be Friends - The Dandy Warhols

I Like The Way You Move - The Body Rockers

Early Morning - A-Ha

Stepping Out - Kaskade

Bleed it Out - Linkin Park

Superfreak - Rick James

Eye of the Tiger - Survivor

This Is Why I'm Hot - MIMS

Blueberry Yum Yum - Ludacris

When I Fall in Love - Chris Botti

Goodbye Yellow brick Road - Elton John

Popular - Wicked

Stairway to Heaven - Led Zeppelin

Purple Haze - Jimi Hendrix

Aces High - Iron Maiden

Big Girls Don't Cry - Fergie

Traveling Soldier - Dixie Chicks

Kiss - Prince

Poppin' - Chris Brown

Touchin' - R. Kelly

Suga Suga - Baby Bash

Dream Dancing - Ella Fitzgerald

No one's gonna harm you - Barbara Streisand

Straighten up and Fly right - Nat King Cole

Stronger - Kanye West

Party Like a Rockstar - The Shop Boyz

Ay Bay Bay - Hurricane Chris

Save Me - Josh Verdes

Roses Need the Rain - Keahewai

Kiss Kiss - Chris Brown feat. T-pain

Beautiful Girls - Sean Kingston

Don't Matter - Akon

Bohemian Rhapsody - Queen

Forgot About Dre - Dr. Dre feat. Eminem

Petrified - Fort Minor

Kill You - Eminem

Esena Mono - Keti

Nije Sve Tako Sivo - Hladno Pivo

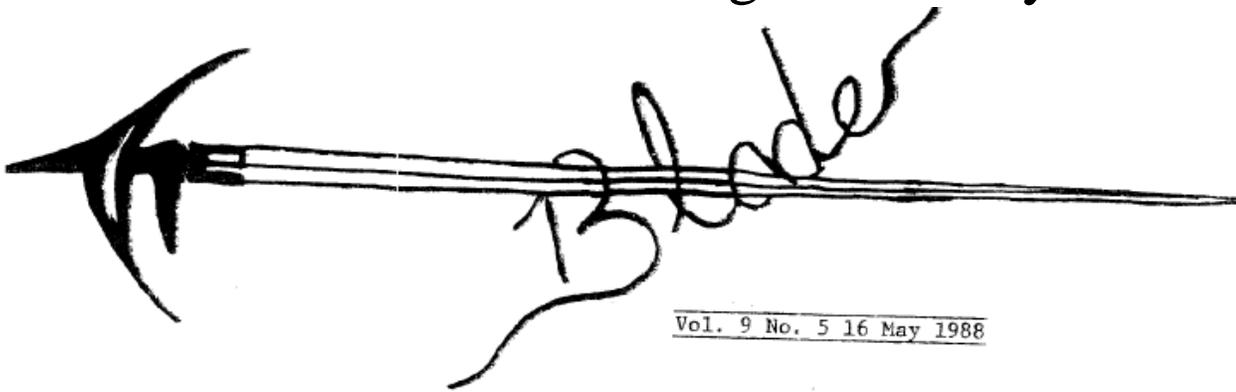
Najbolje Od Svega - Colonia



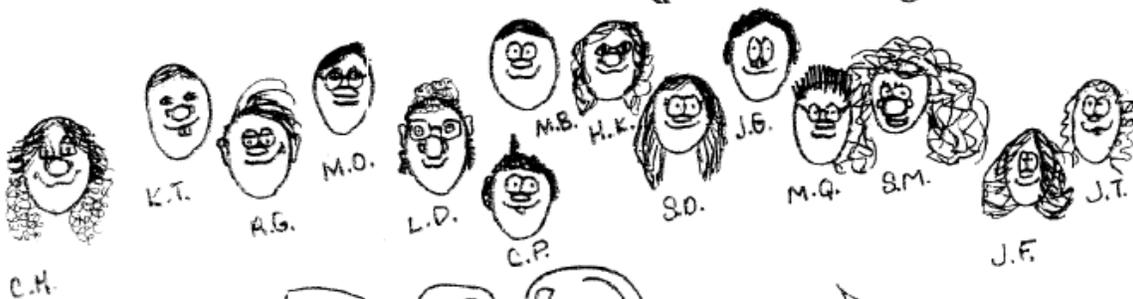
The Blade Tribute

Over the last 40 years, the BAS newspaper has been through many unique and diverse appearances. Oct 15 was the official 40th Birthday of Brussels American School, and as a salute to both BAS and the Blade, the Blade staff of 2007-2008 would like to present you with a year long feature of "Past Pages:" a look into the Blade's past.

The Blade Cover Page from May 1988



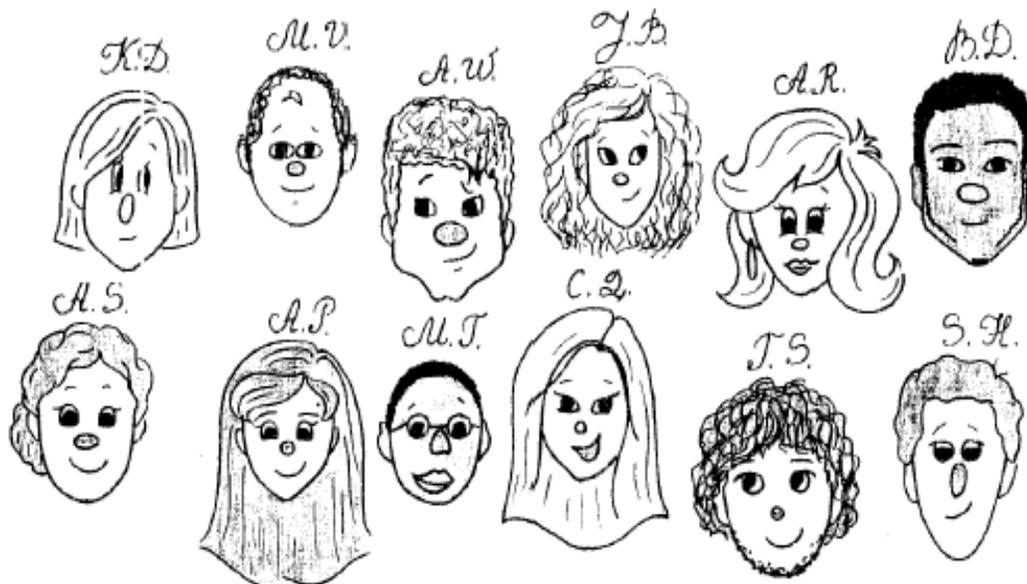
WE WOULD LIKE TO
PRESENT THIS
PAPER TO YOU ! Enjoy 🍷



HAPPY
READING



by News Editor



BAS 2007



BAS by Numbers

by Features Editor

- 97 students: 36 toilets
- 97 students: 11 busses
- 97 students: 8 cats
- 67 students not taking AP classes: 30 taking AP classes
- 6: 1 students: teacher
- 11 students in Journalism: 10 students in Yearbook
- 97 students: 231 computers/laptops
- 79 laptops: 152 computers
- 39 girls: 58 boys (1.5/ 1)
- 2 natural red heads: 95 non-red heads
- 3 guys with beards: 55 guys without beards
- 5 guys with shoulder length hair: 53 guys with short or no hair
- 163 desks in HS: 97 HS students
- Number of people in high school: 97
- Number of police cars that drive through the school: 2

How Halloween First Began

by Features Editor

Halloween is one of the most famous, though to some infamous, holidays around the world. Almost every culture celebrates Halloween in one form or another, though on different days. Every culture has its own ideas as to where the celebration comes from. There has always been controversy over what the holiday stands for. Is it a demonic ritual where the dead can rise and demons may enter the world for a night, or is it simply the descendent of an ancient pagan harvest festival?

The most common, and believable, theory of the origin of Halloween is that it was once, in fact, a Celtic pagan harvest celebration. Contrary to what many believe, paganism is the religious belief in something other than God, not related to Satanism.

To the Irish, the festival was called Samhain, to the Welsh, Nos Galen-Gaeaf. It marked the end of harvest and summer and the beginning of preparation for winter. The festival, by whatever name, was believed to be the one time of the year when spirits of the dead could come into the world. It was one of the largest "fire festivals," so called because of the Celtic belief that fire was a physical symbol for holiness, beauty, and truth.

Fire festivals were originally to celebrate the lives

of the loved ones lost over the year; they were celebrated as living spirits, not as the dead. The Celts would burn offerings of food and the remains of animals to their gods in a huge bonfire for protection in the winter. They would then take fire from the bonfire and put it in their own hearth for protection.

This was one of the many Celtic fire festivals transformed into a commonly celebrated holiday. It lasted for several nights and included things such as apple peeling to predict one's lifespan, bobbing for apples, and eating an apple while looking in a mirror to find one's soul mate; apples were considered a symbol of truth and wisdom.

As Christianity spread through Europe and replaced most pagan religions, this particular fire festival was split up into Hallowe'en or Halloween, All Hallows or All Saints Day, and All Souls Day.

Halloween developed over many years into the holiday we celebrate today. Children dress up as scary creatures and carve Jack-o-lanterns to set in front of houses to fend off demons. Sadly, getting candy is just a commercialized perk of this holiday, with no real historical background.

Favorite Brigand Quotes

- "Your leg is a long way from your heart."
- "Chuleta!!"
- "Lay the wood!" "Grow to be strong or choose to be weak."
- "Love is patient, love is kind, love does not envy."
1 Corinthians 13
- "Make it new" *Ezra Pound*
- "Give me a place to stay, and I'll move the world." *Archimedes*
- "Beer is living proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy."
- "God invented whisky to keep the Irish from ruling the world."
- "You can't always get what you want but if you

try sometimes you can get what you need."

- "It's a great day to work!!!" "Can't never did anything!!!" "Quit being a wimp and increase the weight!!"
- "Folks who throw dirt on you aren't always trying to hurt you; and folks who pull you out of a mess aren't always trying to help you."
- "Excellence is doing something extremely well over and over again. Therefore, excellence is not a goal it's a habit."
- "Whatever"
- "Success is merely going from one failure to the next without loss of enthusiasm." *Winston Churchill*

Myspace vs. Facebook

By Senior Reporter

With the emergence of Facebook for people enrolled in high school last fall, the popular website has taken several students devoted to Myspace and converted them to Facebook-obsessed teenagers. Many people think that the flocking of people to Facebook means that Myspace was just a passing fad, but others think that both are emerging as the most popular blogging and friend-finding websites in the world.

A poll given to the high school students here at BAS shows that 76% of the underclassmen use Myspace, while no one uses just Facebook, and only 6% use both Myspace and Facebook.

Over half of the upperclassmen, however, use both Myspace and Facebook, and few people use just one of the websites.

Quite a few people switch over to Facebook after they go to college, and many upperclassmen feel that Facebook is a better website to keep in contact with their college friends because of that.

"Myspace is better to keep in touch with people that you haven't seen over the years," said a senior. "Facebook is mostly having fun with applications and taking quizzes to compare with your friends."

"I prefer Facebook because it is more mature," said a junior. "People don't go all crazy with the page backgrounds."

Myspace, a site originally created as a site for bands, was started in 2003, and is one of the top visited websites in the world. Users of the website can create profiles with unique information about themselves and

customized backgrounds. They can upload photos to the website, and write blogs for their friends to read. Users can also message their friends, or comment on their profiles. They can also find music for their profile page, and upload videos from sites such as Youtube.

Facebook, which was launched in 2004, was only accessible by college students when it was first launched. When someone joins, the networking system asks where that person goes to school, and the person then has about two months to be verified as a part of that school by adding people into a friends list who go to that school, otherwise the account will be deleted. Facebook has the unique ability of applications, or optional programs to put on a profile, like top friends, music, and quizzes. Myspace does not have all of these applications and other applications like top friends are required.

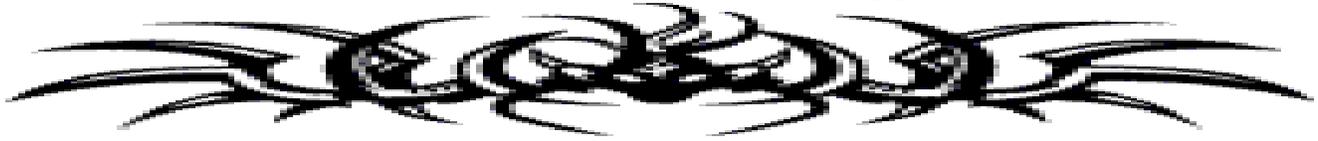
Many parents feel that both Myspace and Facebook are not safe sites since anyone can join, and some children have been tracked by internet stalkers using the sites.

Other students have posted vulgar information and pictures on their profiles, and have been punished at school for doing so.

Because many people seem to be flocking to Facebook, many students think that Myspace will eventually become outdated and unpopular.

"As years go on, Myspace will become less popular," said a senior. "Something better and more advanced will come along."





BAS: A Great Place to Be

by Photography Editor

Many high school students that attend Brussels American School (BAS) tend to dislike the school and what it offers, but the real question is: why? Is it the small amount of children per class, the lack of variety for classes, or do they simply just resent the country in which the school is situated?

I have attended BAS since kindergarten and I feel as if the parents and faculty at BAS have shaped me into a well-rounded individual. Yes, small schools have their disadvantages, but the advantages override the disadvantages by a long shot.

Living overseas may not seem like a big deal, but there are many students in the United States that have never ventured outside of the state they were born in. Learning to accept cultural differences and living in an atmosphere where the people do not speak your first language is something that “third culture kids,” like ourselves, may take for granted.

At a school in the United States, everyone speaks the same language and every clique consists of clones that walk, talk, and look the same. However, at BAS, cliques and stereotypes don’t necessarily exist. The population of our incomparable school is mostly American, but there is also a large portion of Europeans that make our school unique. There are nearly 23 different nationalities that abide in the premises of our school grounds everyday, and these numbers ought to amaze everyone.

Another thing I enjoy about attending a small school is the close community. Living overseas, the community becomes like a second family because relatives are so often living far away. Often in communities like ours, everyone knows one another and there is usually a low amount of crime.

BAS has among the highest SAT scores of all the DoDDs Schools according to the Stars & Stripes, and it also provides a great environment with lots of academic and athletic competition. There are multiple opportunities that students at a small school, like BAS, get to take part in. These “opportunities” include being a 120-pound varsity football player, getting the lead role in a play without any experience, or maybe just getting to learn the names and background of your entire class.

Sports at BAS are phenomenal. The relationships you build with fellow teammates are unbeatable. Over the past several years, BAS sports teams have done exceedingly

well even though we are incredibly small and often barely have enough players to fill the courts or fields. The quality of Division IV school sports has gone up because BAS has set the bar high.

Sure, we all know what it feels like to be the “new kid,” but this phrase is taken into a new account when attending our school. Since there is such a small population of students in each class, new kids are welcomed and are made at home by their fellow classmates upon arrival. This attribute is rather helpful because friends are usually the best part of showing up to school.

Schedules at BAS are complained about year after year, but I think the “7 periods of 48 minutes” schedule is convenient. Some believe that a block schedule would make it easier to turn in homework, but this also means that if there were only 4 classes a day, the classes would be twice as long. Imagine having your least favorite class for 48 minutes longer! Some teachers might not even give extra time to start the homework and just lecture the entire time, which would not decrease the homework load given each night.

Think there is too much security around the grounds? I think that the amount of security is slightly over the top, but our safety is even more important. An American School in a large city like Brussels can be a major attraction for terrorists. Although there are many boundaries that the security around the school creates, we can attend school knowing we have top-notch devices and people looking out for us.

Brussels American School may be different than what most people are used to, but you need not forget how lucky we are to be enrolled at a school with high academic standards, multiple sports, a good community, and the competition to succeed.



Photo by Photography Editor

One of the many small classes enjoyed at BAS

Running Backs vs Lineman?

by Layout Editor

What position in football is more challenging, running back or lineman? This question is frequently brought up in conversations between football fans and football players. Even though this topic seems to be so controversial, it is obvious that the more challenging position is running back. Running backs are essential to the football team. A football team cannot be outstanding without a good running back. Running backs score points for the team, running backs are necessary to control the clock when trying to run the time out, which is very important. Many first downs of the game, especially when it is a short gain, are contributed by the running back. Unlike lineman, running backs take many hits and are much more susceptible to serious career ending injuries. They must run in the open field at full speed, making them vulnerable and exposing almost every weak point of their body. Also, they are usually gang tackled by men their size or much bigger, which provides another very dangerous situation that lineman do not encounter.

The running back position also requires much more natural talent and ability. They must read holes that are sometimes not open, juke and spin past defenders, run through tight spaces, and break tackles as they run with the ball. In addition, they must be able to catch the ball on passes, pitches, and sweeps. Sometimes in trick plays they are required to throw the ball as well. When it is a pass play, they must be able to block a defender who is much larger than them. Most importantly, as all running backs know, they must never let go of the ball. This responsibility causes much stress and guilt if one fails to hold on to the ball. Despite the anxiety these duties cause, the running back still must play to his best abilities to be respected and recognized.

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by Editorials Editor

Being an offensive lineman is more difficult than any other position in football.

Offensive linemen can't hold defenders. All they can do is stay in front of them and push them back, which is a rather significant handicap. Linemen have to have incredible upper body strength to prevent any oncoming blitz from defensive linemen or linebackers, sometimes even corners or safeties who can do a number of things to easily get around a slow lineman. Therefore, along with upper body strength they have to have incredible lower body strength to stay in front of defenders so they don't get called for holding or get knocked off their feet or pushed back.

Another major reason why being a lineman is more difficult than any other position in football is because they get absolutely no glory for their hard work. This is a much bigger mental tribulation than many may think. Offenses, especially for professional teams, are separated between good and great based on their line. This is especially true for quarterbacks.

Troy Aikman, quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys for 11 years, is a member of the Hall of Fame. The Dallas Cowboys had one of, if not the best, offensive lines in the NFL during most of the 90's. Many people speculate that had Aikman played on any other team with a lesser line, he would not have been half as successful. One can only imagine how many other quarterbacks could have been just as successful as Aikman had they had the same line he did with the Cowboys. Troy Aikman was a fantastic quarterback, but could he have been as great on a different team with a less capable line?

Payton Manning is a standout quarterback in today's NFL.

In fact, after a horrible game against the Pittsburgh Steelers last year, Manning said, "I'm trying to be a good teammate here. Let's just say we had some problems in protection."

If a quarterback has excellent protection and plenty of time, that is all they need to make a play every time on the NFL level. On the contrary, if the quarterback is rushed and threatened they will more likely than not make bad decisions or not progress on the drive.

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photo courtesy of Football Team



photo courtesy of CAD Teacher



The Alchemist holds Inspiring Philosophies

by News Editor

The Alchemist, by Paulo Coelho, is a special book that is uplifting to someone who wants to seek his dream but is not sure how to take the first step.

It begins with Santiago, a Shepard, arriving at an abandoned church with a single sycamore tree. Despite his extensive travels all over Andalusia, Santiago has never encountered this church before. Nevertheless, he decides it would be a good place to settle down for the night. During that night, Santiago experiences a deep and prophetic dream of a hidden treasure at the Pyramids of Egypt. This mysterious dream stirs Santiago's thirst for knowledge, wisdom and new adventures. After seeking advice from a gypsy and meeting a magical king, he must decide whether to give up everything so familiar and comfortable in his life to seek the treasure; or choose, as most people do, to remain still and lose sight of his destiny.

Finally, he makes his decision and travels to Northern Africa, seeking ancient and worldly wisdom as

well as the treasure. Despite his obstacles and doubts from the beginning, Santiago finally reaches his destination. Along the way, he makes friends, meets the love of his life, and, most significantly, gains wisdom from an enigmatic alchemist. Santiago's incredible experiences open a key theme of the book, which focuses on how much life is under one's control, and how much it is controlled by fate.

The lessons Santiago acquires during his adventure can be seen in everyday life and today's society. Although the story is very simply written, the underlying wisdom is very powerful and profound. Readers must be willing to open their eyes and minds to modern real life, where Santiago's life can be found. It includes society's fear of change and the unwillingness to seek destiny and true happiness. Instead the society prefers to settle into comfortable and familiar, if not inhibiting, routine.

All in all, for anyone with an open mind and an open heart, this book has many lessons to teach.

RunningBacks

VS

Linemen

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Furthermore, in order to prevent injuries, fight off competition, and gain recognition, a running back must be the best in every way. This means that running backs must be in top condition. They must train their bodies for at least 6 hours a day. This training includes, aerobics, weight lifting, cardiovascular, and flexibility. Also, they need to be on a very strict diet to keep their body fat percentage in the optimum range.

Running backs are often the center of attention in the media along with all the other playmakers. They are vulnerable to criticism on television networks that broadcast worldwide because they are playmakers and are sometimes responsible for big turnovers, such as fumbles. This adds on to the overwhelming stress they already have from just playing the game.

Ultimately, running back is definitely the more challenging position when compared to a lineman. There should not be any dispute over this matter if all the details are recognized and studied.

Running backs have a similar dependency on their offensive line. Very few backs can have a good rushing game when they are being tackled behind the line. Most running backs do not average much more than 3 or 4 yards every time they get the ball by the end of the game. This is because, despite a few big plays, the combination of big plays and being tackled for little or no loss evens it out to 3 or 4 yards.

Running backs are also incredibly replaceable, especially in the professionals. It does not take an incredible athlete to run through wide-open holes for a good 5-yard gain.

Last year, Seattle really struggled on offense despite having one of the most celebrated running backs in the league, Shaun Alexander. The reason, according to some professional commentators, is because their center Robbie Tobeck struggled with injuries.

An offense purely cannot function without an effective offensive line, but with it they can thrive.

Brigands Win Homecoming Over Rival Alconbury

by Sophomore Reporter

The Brigands Football team has had a unique and challenging 2007 season with a record of 1-5.

They had 20 players on the team this year, which is larger than last year's 16-player team. Of those players on the current team, 14 of them had never played football before. There were 6 returning players. This year features 9 freshmen. With that many newcomers to football, they came into the season inexperienced but got better every game.

Leading the Brigands are the four senior team captains.

The game scores for the season were Hanau 6-44; AFNORTH 7-51; Hanau 23-62; Menwith Hill 29-47; Rota 0-48; and Alconbury 46-33.

The winning game on homecoming day against Alconbury was a rushing game with the Quarterback rushing 12 times for 142 yards scoring 3 Touchdowns, a runningback rushing 12 times for 155 yards scoring 2 touchdowns, and a fullback rushing 12 times for 53 yards and scoring 1 touchdown. There was also some good passing in the game with the Slot Receiver catching 3 passes for 70 yards, and scoring 1 touchdown. A running back caught 3 passes for 47 yards.

"AFNORTH has been the toughest opponent this season," said the head Coach.

The Brigand offense used both running and passing with the main focus on running. The Brigands had an average of 260 running yards per game, over 5 yards per carry. The passing game steadily improved every week, which allowed new offensive schemes to be utilized in spreading defenses; the first game only two passes were attempted but in the most recent game the Brigands passed for 170 yards.

The head coach commented on individual players, saying that one of the standouts for the offense was the quarterback, who before this year had never played this position. He rushed 24 times for 136 yards against Hanau. The quarterback was well protected by the offensive line, who anchored the offense. The running back was a further threat on the offense, carrying 29 times for 209 yards against Hanau, and the starting center has been getting better each week.

The Brigand's defense struggled at times but continued to show improvement. The defensive coaches worked to improve the teams tackling skills and to find the



Photo courtesy of football team

The Brigands carry their quarterback off the field after their homecoming victory.

right combination of schemes to fit their talents.

"The defense was definitely an improving squad each week," said the head Coach.

Some of the key players on defense include the defensive line and the linebackers. The defense had some interceptions to its credit with the cornerback picking off 2 and the outside linebacker nabbing 1.

"The Brigand special teams have some gifted players as well," said the Head Coach.

The kick returner has proven to be very adept at kick and punt returns; the field goal kicker has completed 5 out of 8 field goals.

"The fan support for the Brigands has been great," said the head Coach. "They have had good turnouts for each game."

"If these young players stay together next year and the year after, and keep working out in the off season, they could be very good over the next 1-3 years," said the head Coach. "The future for the Brigand's football team looks very promising."

Unbeaten in Regular Season, Tennis Takes 2nd at Euros

by Sports Editor

After the entire BAS Tennis team—males and females—won every head-to-head competition during the regular season, the top six Brigand tennis players finished second overall in team points at Europeans for Division IV.

The top female made it further into the tournament than any BAS players, winning three matches as the women's singles representative. The top male won one match in boys singles. In doubles the male team lost two tough matches, and in girls doubles the females team won one match.

The male single beat Vilseck (6-2; 6-0) and lost to Wiesbaden (6-2; 6-3) and AFNORTH (8-6). The female single won against Incirlik (6-1; 6-4) Ansbach, (8-3) and Black Forest Academy (8-2), but lost to SHAPE 6-0; 6-0 (against the eventual European Champion) and BAH (8-5). The men's doubles team lost against Bitburg (4-6; 6-3; 7-5) and BAH (8-2). The women's doubles team won against Bitburg (8-3) and lost against Lakenheath (6-1; 6-2) and Ramstein (8-2).

"I am very pleased with this season," said the head coach. "We had hoped to score more points, but finishing second was where we thought we would end up."

The Brigands six victorious match-ups were against AFNORTH, Bamberg, Baumholder, Bitburg, Alconbury and SHAPE.

The Homecoming contest was hosted at BAS on October 20, and was the last match played before Europeans. The Brussels boys won 9-0 and the girls won 7-2. Winning scores included: the top male 6-0, 6-3; the second male 8-4; the fifth male 6-0; the sixth male 6-2; the fourth female 6-4; the fifth female 6-0; the third female 8-4; the sixth female 6-3; the third male 8-2; and the fourth male 6-2.

"This is the biggest team I have been on since I have been here," said the number one male. "It's been fun being the only guy senior on the team."

The Brigands tennis team had six seniors.

The team had three coaches, including one who acted as a volunteer assistant coach.

At Alconbury the top male won 6-2, 6-2; the fourth male won 6-1; the third female won 8-4; and the fifth male won 6-0. The Brussels boys defeated Alconbury at home 6-3 and the Brussels girls defeated Alconbury 5-4.

The Brussels boys won against AFNORTH 6-3 (away) on October 14 and the girls won 5-4.

The second and third matches against Bitburg and Baumholder were held at Bitburg.

The first match the Brigands played this season was at AFNORTH on September 14. The Brussels boys defeated AFNORTH 8-1 and the girls defeated AFNORTH

5-4. Winning scores included: the number two male 8-1; the number three male 8-2; the fifth male 6-0; the sixth male 6-2; the top female 7-5, 4-6, 9-7; and the sixth female 6-4.



The number three male serves the ball during his home match against Alconbury.

Photo courtesy of CAD Teacher

Lady Brigands Slay Rota, but Fall Short at Europeans

by Photography Editor

Although the Lady Brigands failed to place at Europeans, they brought a good effort and attitude to the court and were clearly a force to be reckoned with.

At Europeans, the Brigands competed against nine teams for the Division IV title. Four of whom – Rota, Hanau, Menwithill and Alconbury (twice) – they had already played in the regular season and were 3-2 in those matches.

On Thursday, November 1, the Lady Brigands went into Europeans as the number 4 seed. The first game of the day was against Incirlik and the Lady Brigands were victorious. Later that day, the Brigands endured in a close match versus the Alconbury Dragons and fell apart in the last game.

“The loss was rough since we had already defeated Alconbury in our regular season, but we resolved our mistakes in our defeat against (Number 1 seed) Rota,” said the senior and captain right side hitter.

The Brigands, in their game against the Rota Admirals, pulled it together and beat them in three games. The Admirals went on to win their second straight European championship. The Brigands were their only D-IV loss this season.

On Friday, November 2, the Lady Brigands lost a crucial game to Lajes that determined if they would go on to the semi-finals. After taking the first game easily from Lajes, the Lady Brigands were unable to maintain their momentum and fell in three games.

The Coach said she saw “tremendous potential” in her very young team led by captains the setter and the right side hitter. “They’re trying their hardest and learning the required skills, and they’ve shown a lot of improvement.”

The Brigands only had four returning players this year, seniors the right side hitter and the setter, junior starting outside hitter, and sophomore starting middle hitter.

Before Europeans, the Brigands traveled to SHAPE for the second time this season only to be defeated by both Baumholder and the Lady Spartans. These losses could be contributed to the absence of the setter.

For Homecoming, the Lady Brigands Volleyball Team faced off with the Rota Admirals on Friday October 19 and the Lady Dragons of Alconbury on Saturday October 20. Rota managed to pull off the win against the Brigands, but the Lady Brigands defeated the Lady Dragons for the second time on Saturday morning.

The Lady Brigands put on quite a performance on October 6 when they defeated their conference opponents the Lady Mustangs of Menwith Hill and the Lady Dragons of Alconbury at home.

After the game the setter said that she believes that the team “has shown potential” and is simply “trying to learn to work together.”

At SHAPE on October 3, the Lady Brigands, despite their improvement as a team overall, fell to the Bitburg Barons. Their improvement was evident as the setter had 4 aces, 5 assists, and 4 kills, complimented by the right side hitter’s 5 assists and 4 kills, the middle hitter’s 3 aces, and the starting outside hitter’s 3 kills.

The week prior to their trip to SHAPE, the Brigands faced off with Hanau and Bamberg in Hanau, losing to both despite winning 3 games on the day. Against Bamberg, the setter managed 5 kills and 9 assists, the right side hitter had 6 kills and 7 assists and an outside hitter had 5 kills. Against Hanau the setter had 3 digs, the starting outside hitter had 3 kills, and a freshman outside hitter had 3 kills.



Photo courtesy of CAD Teacher

The starting outside hitter spikes the ball against Rota.

Runners Win Europeans for Third Straight Year

by Senior Reporter

The Captains of the BAS 2007 Cross Country team led the team through a successful season. The boys team took first place for the third straight year—this time winning the Division 4 Championship on Oct. 27 at the European Small Schools (Division 3 & 4) race in Heidelberg.

The Brigands had two runners place in the top ten over-all, with the lead Brigand taking 5th at 18:51, and the second Brigand taking 9th. In D-IV competition, the Brigands took 1st, 4th, 10th, 19th, and 21st to give BAS the combined score necessary for victory by tiebreak over Alconbury.

Despite not being able to field a five-person team for male and female races to gain points for BAS for the first few meets, all members of the Cross-Country team peaked at the end of the season.

On October 6th at SHAPE, the BAS Male Cross-Country team placed 4th overall. The lead Brigand had a time of 17:34, placing 4th overall, followed by his teammates at 21:49, 22:07, 22:30, and 23:48.

On September 29 at St. Johns, the lead Brigand took 3rd place with a time of 16:50—his all-time best, and the second best time in BAS history. His teammate placed 11th at 18:29, followed by a Brigand at 20:33, and 20:38. The only female Brigand runner this year, came in at 23:55—the 6th best time in BAS history among females.

The meet previous, on September 22, was staged at ISB. Unfortunately there was not a five-man team ready to compete, but the runners did well nonetheless. The lead Brigand placed 5th at 18:06, followed by the rest of the Brigands at 19:27, 22:09, and 22:49. The Female Brigand

took 34th with a time of 25:35.

At Ramstein High School the boys came in 3rd overall with 68 points against Division 1 Schools. The female Brigand came in at 27:46 with an overall place of 31st. The lead Brigand took 10th at 19:25, the second Brigand took 15th at 20:22, followed by the rest of the team at 22:40, and 25:38.

With only two injuries during the season, a slight upper hamstring injury and a bruised knee, the team

considered itself very fortunate. Both injuries were able to heal and the athletes continued running.

“A big key to the team’s success was their ability and determination to practice hard and miss almost no workouts,” said the Coach. “I’ve never been more impressed with a team effort. And even though our female didn’t have a team on race day, she was a big contributor to that Championship boys squad. Her leadership in practice—together with the other captain’s—was really something



The lead Brigand as he finishes first at Europeans for D-IV.

Photo courtesy of CAD Teacher

special.”

As Europeans approached, the boys didn’t really know what their competition would look like, but the Coach did say that “Milan has been second to BAS the last couple of years at Europeans, so we look for them as one of the toughest teams to beat.”

“I say we are going to win Europeans again,” said the confident lead runner before the meet. “Third time in a row.”

And they did, fending off Alconbury—who had beaten them earlier in the year—by only a few seconds.