January, 2013

Highlights

- Prof. Faisal Rahman discusses the new 113th Congress on "Politics Tonight"

- Prof. Faisal Rahman discusses President Obama’s cabinet picks on "Politics Tonight"

- Prof. Robert Shapiro discusses President Obama's next four years on NBC's "The Talk"

- SXU and WGN-TV's Teacher of the Month for January, 2013 - Molly Myers

- Prof. Reza Varjavand writes column about war and the economy in SouthtownStar

- SXU hosts workshop series for Pilsen small business owners

- Photo gallery of SXU's December commencement ceremony on Patch

- UFC fighter and Shannon center member Mike Russow profiled in Sports Illustrated
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<td>Times of Northwest Indiana - Online, The</td>
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<td>REGION COLLEGIANS: Noll grad Tony Hollingsworth proving his worth at UIC</td>
<td>Times of Northwest Indiana - Online, The</td>
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<td>More male students sign up for high school cheerleading squads - Rockford, IL</td>
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01/03/2013       WGN 9 Chicago/CLTV

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Prof. Robert Shapiro discusses Pres. Obama’s next four years on NBC’s “The Talk”
01/21/2013       NBC 5 Chicago

SXU and WGN-TV’s Teacher of the Month for January, 2013 - Molly Myers
01/30/2013       WGN 9 Chicago
Samsung Techwin America appoints three new Regional Sales Managers
01/03/2013  Security News Desk

Crossing Harlem: Stagg graduate serves as student-teacher at Shepard
01/04/2013  Patch

ABOUT CRAIG ROBINSON
01/04/2013  Yahoo! Movies

Charity Briefs for Jan. 8, 2013 – Text to Give
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The Journey from Music Student to Teacher
01/07/2013  SouthtownStar

Elmhurst College Admitted to University Center
01/08/2013  Daily Herald

Community Briefs - "Headlines with Tom Panush"
01/09/2013  The Beverly Review

SXU holds business workshops
01/09/2013  The Beverly Review

Work out to benefit domestic violence agency
01/09/2013  The Beverly Review

When Irish Eyes Are Frowning
01/09/2013  Examiner

Photo Gallery: St. Xavier University December Graduation
01/09/2013  Patch

Obituary - Mary Bickel
01/10/2013  Chicago Tribune

A student among students
01/10/2013  The Reporter

Charity Briefs for Jan. 15, 2013 – Text to Give
01/14/2013  SouthtownStar

OAK LAWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOST 67TH ANNUAL INSTALLATION EVENT
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Forum: Reform the Electoral College
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Chicago youth message to OneVoice: ‘We will not work with you’
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Russian School of Mathematics training brains to solve problems
01/16/2013 Naperville Sun

OL Chamber to install officers
01/17/2013 The Reporter

Brazile and Matalin speak at SXU
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Speak Out for Jan. 18, 2013
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Friends of the Library award scholarships to local students
01/17/2013 Wausau Daily Herald

Varjand: Outdated view: War as way to boost the U.S. economy
01/18/2013 SouthtownStar

Charity Briefs for Jan. 22, 2013 – Text to Give
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Powers, 67, reflected well on his Mt. Greenwood roots
01/23/2013 The Beverly Review

Charity Briefs for Jan. 22, 2013 – Text to Give
01/29/2013 SouthtownStar
Lindblom star shined in state, national and world track meets
01/02/2013 The Beverly Review

Sports Briefs
01/02/2013 The Times Review

Cougars take third at Cali tourney
01/03/2013 The Reporter

Cougar women find prey in Florida
01/03/2013 The Reporter

MVC Men’s Volleyball Ranked No. 8 in Preseason Poll
01/04/2013 KOMU

Men's college basketball: Evans scores 22 for Holy Cross
01/06/2013 South Bend Tribune

Community sports news - Oak Lawn's Luce headed to SXU
01/10/2013 The Reporter

Cougars return to winning ways
01/10/2013 The Reporter

No. 11 Saint Xavier Slows Down No. 6 Olivet Nazarene in 86-69 Win
01/11/2013 Victory Sports Network

St Xavier's Stuut Named NAIA Women’s Basketball Player of the Week
01/15/2013 Victory Sports Network

McAuley ready to welcome Oak Lawn Special Olympics basketball games
01/16/2013 The Beverly Review

Dean leads Lady Cougars in track opener
01/17/2013 The Reporter

MVC Men’s Volleyball Starts Season with Win
01/19/2013 KOMU

Former Three Rivers basketball standout Morgan Stuut earns NAIA national honor with St. Xavier University
01/19/2013 MLive

College report: Dundee-Crown grad Jeff Beck nets honor
01/20/2013 The Courier-News

Carrying the torch
01/20/2013 The Record-Eagle
No. 18 Saint Xavier Stuns No. 3 Cardinal Stritch, 66-62, For Big Road Win
01/21/2013 Victory Sports Network

MVC Men's Volleyball Stays Ranked at No. 8
01/21/2013 KOMU

SXU standout lauded by NAIA
01/23/2013 The Beverly Review

UFC fighter Mike Russow's job as a policeman is his 'real' fight
01/24/2013 Sports Illustrated

McAuley athletes sign letters of intent
01/30/2013 The Beverly Review
Many Americans felt that the 112th Congress oversaw one of the least productive legislative sessions in the country’s history. Watch Professor Faisal Rahman, Ph.D., discuss whether things will be different during the 113th Congress on “Politics Tonight” with Bill Moller. The segment aired on Jan. 3 on WGN 9 Chicago.

Prof. Rahman is the founding dean of SXU’s Graham School of Management.
Prof. Faisal Rahman discusses President Obama’s cabinet picks on “Politics Tonight”

01/11/2013

Saint Xavier University Professor Faisal Rahman, Ph.D., discusses President Obama’s new cabinet picks on “Politics Tonight” with Bill Moller. The segment aired on Jan. 11 on WGN 9 Chicago.

Prof. Rahman is the founding dean of SXU’s Graham School of Management.
Prof. Robert Shapiro discusses Pres. Obama's next four years on NBC's "The Talk"

01/21/2013

Watch Saint Xavier University Department of Philosophy Prof. Robert Shapiro discuss what President Obama needs to do during the next four years on NBC 5 Chicago's "The Talk." Shapiro, who also is a trial lawyer for Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP, appeared on the Mon., Jan. 21 episode.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2iz7bxb30M

SXU and WGN-TV's Teacher of the Month for January, 2013 - Molly Myers

01/30/2013

Saint Xavier University has partnered with WGN-TV Chicago to highlight the Teacher of the Month program, which honors educators who make a difference in their communities.

The program recognizes outstanding kindergarten, elementary, junior high, high school, vocational, and special education teachers in Chicagoland and northwest Indiana. Molly Myers, who teaches freshman human geography at Lindblom Math and Science Academy in Chicago, is January's Teacher of the Month. This segment appeared on WGN Chicago's News at Nine on Jan. 30. Teachers of the Month also will appear on the SXU and WGN-TV websites.

One teacher will be selected each month through June 2013 for a total of 10 honorees. Teachers of the Month are chosen based on educational achievements in the classroom, community contributions and innovativeness of the program/techniques used by the teacher. Each Teacher of the Month is featured on the WGN-TV news and will receive a certificate of recognition. Additionally, each Teacher of the Month will receive a $1,000 donation from SXU to purchase school supplies for his or her classroom.

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Samsung Techwin America appoints three new Regional Sales Managers

BY SAMSUNG TECHWIN EUROPE LIMITED NEWSDESK ON JANUARY 3, 2013

Samsung Techwin America, a global supplier of video surveillance and security products delivering superior performance and value, announces the appointment Brian R. Beird, Jason Boyd and Benjamin Kallas as Regional Sales Managers.

Brian R. Beird will cover the Florida region. He comes to Samsung from Johnson Controls, where he was security and fire branch account manager in Tampa. His industry experience also includes work at Milestone Systems and Sonitrol at Stanley Convergint Security Solutions. Mr. Beird has a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice from Saint Xavier University in Chicago.
Looking back, Daniel Truffa knew exactly what to expect as a student-teacher at Shepard High School: That any day could provide great reward, while the next could riddle him.

And, indeed, that’s precisely what happened.

Truffa, a St. Xavier University senior who graduated from Stagg High School, adapted on the fly to the myriad challenges that every student-teacher encounters.

“Student teaching, although very time consuming and stressful, is absolutely the most rewarding and meaningful experience I have had in my life so far,” he said.

Perhaps more than most careers, college provides only so much preparation for teaching. Truffa found some revelation in working with teenagers.

“Teaching, at least from my perspective, is a difficult thing to grasp in a class or through observation. Sure you learn a lot in (courses), but until you get in front of a class and actually start teaching, you never really have a solid understanding of what it is,” he said.

Memories of the first day remain clear for Truffa.

“My feelings were rather mixed. There were the obvious nerves and the butterflies in my stomach, all of the things that usually come with a new experience such as this,” Truffa said.

Immediately, Truffa learned that teaching high school does not always follow a script.

“The day started off a little rocky, but by the end of it I was back to my usual self, brimming with confidence,” Truffa said. “Now, that confidence would be shaken from time to time as the semester went along, as I assume it would with any student teacher, but my motto has always been to push ahead; to make the next day better than the last.”

While many people might think that managing teenagers would represent the most difficult aspect of student teaching, Truffa cited the amount of work.

“The biggest challenge was always keeping up with the work load. Student teaching, coaching speech, going to class, and grading tend to consume a lot of hours. As the semester goes on though, you become more accustomed to the work load and are able to adjust accordingly,” he said.
Truffa’s best moment, ironically, arose from failure. And it’s a lesson in perseverance he can share with students in the years ahead.

“A lesson I had planned hadn’t gone as well as I had hoped. My confidence was beginning to falter,” Truffa said.

Jeff Vazzana, the cooperating English teacher from Shepard who served as a mentor during fall semester, took him to lunch.

“He told me something that really helped me. He said that all teachers have bad lessons from time to time; the key is being able to fix your mistakes and learn from them,” Truffa said.

As soon as they returned from lunch, Truffa put the wisdom to use.

“I took that advice into the rest of my day, changed my lesson plan slightly, and delivered the lesson I had intended for my remaining classes. What was left of the day went fantastic, and a day that started off very bleak, ended with a glimmer of hope,” he said.

***This article also appeared in the following sources: SouthtownStar.***

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Craig Robinson built a rep of quiet cool, evolving from minor roles on the hit sitcom "The Office" (NBC, 2005-) to increasingly prominent billing and critical buzz. A stand-up comedian who worked at Chicago's renowned comic cauldron Second City, Robinson first made his way onto television as part of a tandem act with Jerry Minor, before landing brief but memorable guest shots on upper-echelon sitcoms such as "Arrested Development" (FOX, 2003-06), and "Curb Your Enthusiasm" (HBO, 2000- ). In 2005, however, his luck changed when he earned a job as the stoic "Office" warehouse manager Daryl on the hit NBC sitcom. The newly popular actor turned in memorable performances in the Judd Apatow film "Knocked Up" (2007), Kevin Smith's "Zack and Miri Make a Porno" (2008), and the Apatow-produced "Pineapple Express" (2008). In 2010, he vaulted to star status in the much-hyped major studio comedy, "Hot Tub Time Machine" alongside John Cusack. Sharing a name with First Lady Michelle Obama's brother, the head basketball coach of Oregon State University, Robinson's critically beloved characterizations established him as a comedy secret weapon whose consistent scene-stealing seemed to augur larger roles in larger projects.

Born Craig Philip Robinson on Oct. 25, 1971, in Chicago, IL, he developed a flair for comedy early in life, entertaining his family with his imitations of Richard Nixon. His father recognized his talents and encouraged a curious reversal of roles wherein Craig would read him and other family members stories such as "The Three Little Pigs" and insert his own offbeat real-world embellishments. He also studied music as a youth, becoming particularly proficient on keyboard instruments. After high school, he attended Illinois State University in Normal, IL, where friends urged him to try stand-up comedy. In 1994, he returned to Chicago to earn a master's degree in education at Saint Xavier University, going on to teach music at the city's Horace Mann Elementary and to take improv classes at The Second City. Initially bombing, he added the twist of sitting on stage behind his Roland keyboard and telling tales of personal heartache while accompanying himself. In 1999, he moved to Los Angeles, where he hooked up with fellow Second City - and comedy bellwether "Mr. Show" (HBO, 1995-98) - alum Jerry Minor, to create the stage act, L. Witherspoon & Chucky.

A faux R&B act with Minor as L. Witherspoon, a smooth-as-silk singer à la R. Kelly, and Robinson as Chucky, his keyboardist and backup singer, they played live and made it on to national TV on HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher" (2003- ), often performing their "hit" song "Somebody's F*cking My Lady" (it turns out it is Chucky). Robinson began picking up TV work, initially guest shots on such comedies as "Lucky" (FX, 2003), "The Bernie Mac Show" (FOX, 2001-06) and "Arrested Development" (FOX, 2003-06). In 2005, the producers of the American version of "The Office" (NBC, 2005- ), cast him as Darryl Philbin, the stoic, blue-collar warehouse manager occasionally made to suffer through and abide the machinations of the show's loopy white-collar denizens. Though initially just comprising the occasional appearance, Darryl was written more and more into the show and eventually made a regular castmember. Robinson found himself more in demand, picking up a curious job in the Korean CGI-heavy monster film "D-War" (2007); as big a hit in Korea as it was a flop in the U.S., and brief parts in Tyler Perry's "Daddy's Little Girls" (2007) and "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story" (2007).

Also in 2007, director Judd Apatow - just off the success of his ribald, largely improvised comedy "The 40 Year Old Virgin" (2005) starring Steve Carell and Seth Rogen - cast Robinson in his next untoward outing, "Knocked Up," the tale of a mismatched couple (Seth Rogen and Katherine Heigl) whose drunken coupling inadvertently results in a pregnancy. Robinson, in only a few minutes of screen time, shone as the doorman at a hipster club. The next year would see him...
twice reteamed with Rogen; initially as the complex drug capo in the messy stoner/action film hybrid, "Pineapple Express" (2008). And when director Kevin Smith tapped Rogen for his own bawdy outing, "Zack and Miri Make a Porno" (2008), Rogen pushed for Robinson for the role of his best friend. For the Apatovian comedy about two down-on-their-luck friends (Rogen and Elizabeth Banks) who decide to make an adult film, Robinson played a wife-beset coffee-shop worker recruited by Rogen's character to be the film's "producer," to great comic effect; particularly in a memorably, mostly improvised scene between him and Tisha Campbell-Martin. The New York Times made particular note that Robinson "is fast becoming the most dependable comic counterpuncher in the business and who needs some bigger roles or a sitcom of his own right away."

But some lows accompanied his career highs. In August 2008, police officers pulled Robinson over in L.A. on a traffic violation and determined him to be intoxicated; a subsequent search of his car turned up illegal drugs. Subsequent investigation found him to be under the influence of cocaine, amphetamines and marijuana. The next week Robinson pled guilty to possession of a controlled substance, but he agreed to attend drug education classes, with the charges to be dismissed upon his completion of the program. The bust did little to disrupt his upward trajectory. Robinson had a flurry of cameos in the likes of "Fanboys" (2008), "Prop 8: The Musical" (2008), "Miss March" (2009), "Post Grad" (2009), "The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard" (2009), "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian" (2009), and "Shrek Forever After" (2010), as well as turning up in select comic one-offs such as the Gunn brothers' web series "PG Porn" and Comedy Central's "Reno 911" (2003-09). He snared his biggest billing to date in the John Cusack-produced feature "Hot Tub Time Machine" (2010), with Robinson starring alongside Cusack and Rob Corddry as guys in the throes of mid-life crises who pass out in a resort hot tub and wake up to find themselves transported back to the 1980s with a chance to change their lives for the better. Robinson received excellent reviews for his work in the goofy comedy, boding well for his future success.

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Charity Briefs for Jan. 8, 2013

January 7, 2013 3:16PM

Text to Give: St. Xavier University’s Department for University Advancement has announced a new “Text to Give” mobile giving campaign to benefit the university’s Class Gift Fund and the St. Xavier Fund. The program allows donors to make $10 donations using their mobile phones through Give by Cell. You can make a gift to the Class Gift Fund by texting CLASSGIFT with your first and last name to 20222, or make a gift to the St. Xavier Fund by texting SXU with your first and last name to 20222. Donors can give multiple times a month depending on your carrier. Donations are tax-deductible, and pledges are billed through your monthly cell phone bill. Messaging and data rates may apply. For information, visit www.givebycell.com.
Did you begin making music with your family, or were you introduced to it in school?

My musical upbringing started in fifth grade when I first joined my grammar school’s choir. I initially joined because a few of my friends did, but I enjoyed it so much that I decided to stick with it!

Do you have any favorite Alfred choral pieces?

My favorite Alfred piece would have to be the piece that Sally K. Albrecht dedicated to my grammar school’s district choral festival in 1997 when she was our guest clinician: “Gloria Deo!” (2-part, 00-16955). Out of the hundreds of choral pieces that I’ve sung in my life, I can actually remember singing this one! The memory of this particular choral festival is one of my favorites, because as a young singer, I thought it was neat that we were actually working with the person who wrote the song that we were singing (and that she autographed a copy of the music for me).

Why did you decide to become a music educator?

I first thought about becoming a music educator after seventh grade, when working with Dr. Sandra Snow, another guest clinician at one of our district choral festivals. She is the most supportive person that I’ve ever had the pleasure of working with. She made me feel so positive about singing that I decided that I wanted to devote my career to inspiring students in the same way that she inspired me.

What has your experience in music school been like so far?
Collegiate music has been a welcome challenge. As a choral singer, I have been eager to get into the “meat and potatoes” music—major works that require a substantial, large chorus. I’ve had the opportunity to sing works like Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, Handel’s The Messiah and Coronation Anthems, and Brahms’ Zigeunerlieder and Neue Liebeslieder.

What do you plan to do after school?

I’m planning to obtain my graduate degree in choral music education. After completing that degree, my career goal is to teach high school choral music and sing in a professional chorus.

How do you plan to use your prizes from Alfred’s 90th Anniversary Sweepstakes?

I have actually decided to donate the majority of my prizes from the Sweepstakes. I kept three of the smaller prizes for myself, and then I donated the other prizes and split the online credit to the Alfred website between two very deserving choral music programs: my former high school director’s choirs (Meredith McGuire at Oak Lawn Community High School) and my current voice instructor’s choirs (Dr. Stacy Eckert at Providence Catholic High School). The decision was immediate; I didn’t even give it a second thought. I have been looking for the opportunity to give back to these two very deserving teachers who helped shape my musical career, and winning this contest provided me with that opportunity!

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Elmhurst College Admitted to University Center

Posted by Hilary Ward Schnadt

January 8, 2013

Elmhurst College became a member of the University Center of Lake County in action taken by the Center’s Governing Board at their December 5, 2012 meeting. Elmhurst has joined the University Center to make its Master of Science in Supply Chain Management (MS-SCM) degree program more accessible to professionals in northeastern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin. Recruiting for this new program will soon get underway.

“We’re very pleased to welcome Elmhurst College into the University Center,” said Executive Director and Dean G. Gary Grace. “Our goal is to offer the region access to a flexible array of undergraduate and graduate programs, and Elmhurst’s well-respected supply chain management program seems to be a particularly good fit. Lake County is home to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and to numerous Fortune 500 corporations, and serves as a transportation crossroads.”

“This partnership is an exciting opportunity for Elmhurst College to bring Illinois’ first supply chain graduate program, already highly regarded and well-known in the western and northwestern sectors of the Chicago metropolitan area, to a new segment of employers and employees in an area that is home to some of the biggest economic players in the country,” said Dr. Timothy Ricordati, dean of the School for Professional Studies at Elmhurst College. “Elmhurst College is delighted to enrich the University Center’s innovative efforts to address the academic and workforce development needs of the region.”

The MS-SCM program is designed for professionals with at least three years of work experience in any area of the supply chain process, and provides them with a broad perspective on that process. Combining coursework related to logistics, transportation, warehousing and procurement management, the 21-month, part-time program culminates with a team presentation of a “real world” consulting project that requires a year of work and development.

For more information about this program, contact the University Center at 847/665-4000 or visit its website: www.ucenter.org.

Elmhurst College is a leading liberal arts college located eight miles west of Chicago. The College’s mission is to prepare its students for meaningful and ethical work in a multicultural, global society. Approximately 3,400 full- and part-time students are enrolled in its 23 undergraduate academic departments and 10 graduate degree programs.

The University Center’s other member institutions are: Benedictine University, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Concordia University Chicago, DePaul University, Dominican University, Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Kendall College, National-Louis University, North Park University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Olivet Nazarene University, Saint Xavier University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Illinois at Springfield, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Western Illinois University. Each offers selected programs for a total of more than 110 degree and certificate programs.
This article also appeared in the following sources: **Grayslake Patch.**

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Community Briefs

Published as part of the January 9, 2013 edition.

"Headlines with Tom Panush," a discussion of current events open to residents and the public, will be held on Fridays, Jan, 11, 18 and 25, at 1 p.m. at Smith Village, 2320 W. 113th Place. Panush is a teacher of current events in the St. Xavier University Renaissance Program.

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SXU holds business workshops

Published as part of the January 9, 2013 edition.

St. Xavier University's (SXU) Graham School of Management recently offered a four-week educational workshop series to small business owners in the Pilsen community. The workshop was presented in partnership with First Midwest Bank, LISC Chicago, the Greater Pilsen Economic Development Association and The Resurrection Project.

The program was provided free of charge and was designed to build business owners' skills and competencies, including the use of technology and networking. Program materials and presentations were provided in both English and Spanish to increase accessibility for non-native speakers of English.

As a testimonial to the value of attending the workshops many of the owners have refined their business plans and are using them when contacting their financial lenders.

Monica C. Gavino, Ph.D., associate professor of management and program director, facilitated the workshops and conducted the session on hiring and retaining the best employees. Pam Schwer and Deb Rapacz, also SXU faculty members, taught the business owners how to develop and write their business plans and develop a marketing strategy.

Guest speakers from Bryce, Downey and Lenkov, First Midwest Bank, SommerCor 504, and the Center for Economic Progress addressed other critical aspects of sustaining a business, including financing and lender options, taxes, compliance and legal requirements. They also met with the business owners to provide feedback on their business plans.

Best Buy provided laptop computers for the workshops and the Geek Squad offered technology assistance. Groupon presented on the effective use of social media for small businesses. Don Churro de Letran, La Esperanza, Yvolina's Tamales, local establishments, catered breakfast and lunch for the workshops.
St. Aubin Haggerty and Associates, Star Diamond, and Great Lakes Financial Partners also were sponsors of the workshops.

On the final day, a certificate ceremony and celebration luncheon catered by Ciao Amore was held at Casa Morales.

For more information, call the Graham School of Management at (773) 298-3600.

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Work out to benefit domestic violence agency

Published as part of the January 9, 2013 edition.

The Morgan Park Junior Woman's Club, with the help of local fitness professionals, will sponsor the second annual Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence Day on Saturday, March 23, 2013. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness about the serious issue of domestic violence and to raise funds for a local advocacy agency, A New Direction (AND) Beverly Morgan Park.

Through various publicity and promotional media, event sponsors will invite the public to participate in various benefit day activities provided by fitness businesses and clubs throughout the community. Donations from participants will be collected at these activities, and the proceeds will go directly to AND.

The Morgan Park Junior Woman's Club is asking for participation from fitness businesses and clubs (and their clients) including the martial arts, pilates, personal trainers, dance and yoga studios, physical therapists, tennis, biking, walking, running and swimming clubs all around the community. These partners will provide or organize an activity on the benefit day, March 23, and will promote the benefit day among their clients and patrons.

Those who own or manage a fitness studio or other physical activity-based club or business and would like to participate can call Jean Catania at (773) 239-2632 or e-mail morganparkjuniors@yahoo.com. Those who are a patron of such a venue, urge them to become a benefit day partner.

Partners of the inaugural Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence Benefit Day in 2012 included Beverly Ride-On, Beverly Yoga Studio, Core Fitness and Physical Therapy, Cross Fit Beverly, Curves of Beverly, FitCode Boot Camps, Klees Golf Shop, Natural Instincts Physical Therapy and Wellness Center, Tsai's Kung Fu, Running Excels, the Shannon Center at St. Xavier University, and Yoga with Donna Wilkinson. Thanks to the coordinating efforts of the 2012 partners and the generosity of their patrons, AND was the beneficiary of more than 150 individual donations.

A New Direction Beverly Morgan Park is a nonprofit agency that provides counseling and advocacy services to domestic violence victims. It was conceived and is directed by community members with a strong commitment to its mission. AND is funded entirely through donations and relies on community support to continue its mission.

For more information about AND, visit the Web site at anewdirectionbmp.org.

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While I was trying to write about an event in Whiting, Indiana earlier this week, it seems the rest of Chicago’s Catholics were focused on South Bend, Indiana instead. Why is that? It was the college football champion game. After an undefeated year, Notre Dame’s Fighting Irish lost the BCS National Championship to Alabama with a score of 42-14. Local papers like the Chicago Sun-Times produced headlines like “Irish eyes aren’t smiling, as Notre Dame gets pounded in football championship”. Other articles noted “Notre Dame's reality check in Monday night's national title game was tough to swallow for local Fighting Irish fans, and those watching on TV didn't take long to look away”. In short, it was a grave disappointment for fans of the Fightin’ Irish. Perhaps of the reasons for the heartache was that many Notre Dame students and players are from the Chicago area. For example, Notre Dame players Chris Salvi (#24) and Will Salvi (#36) are sons of Lake Forest residents Patrick and Lindy Salvi, and nephews of the famous Illinois political couple, attorneys Al and Kathy Salvi, as well as State Rep-elect Barbara Salvi Wheeler (R-Crystal Lake). The brothers’ stories were featured in the New York Times Monday. Chris Salvi is co-captain of Notre Dame's 12-0 championship football team, and he and his younger brother Will played in the BCS Championship Bowl.

As for me, my dear readers, I don’t get why sports in general is such a big deal. When it comes to professional athletes playing football, we’re supposed to stay glued to the Superbowl every year awaiting the results on pins and needles; even if it’s two teams playing that are nowhere near Chicago and that we have no vested interest in. College sports makes even less sense to me. Why does the BCS National Football Championship get so much hoopla and constant coverage in Chicago? I don’t remember anyone even discussing the results of the latest college baseball championship
after googling it, I found that the University of Arizona Wildcats were the winners of the 2012 NCAA Division I baseball season. Perhaps that’s because we have minor league baseball teams so we don’t need to pay attention to college baseball, you might tell me. Fair enough. How about college basketball? There’s no “minor league” professional basketball team, but I don’t remember anyone covering the latest college basketball championship, either. (in this case, the 2012 winners were the University of Kentucky Wildcats)

A friend of mine was likewise baffled by the nonstop tweets and media coverage all week. On Facebook, he posed an interesting question: “Why do many Chicago-area residents care about Notre Dame sports teams? ND isn’t in the Chicago area, Illinois, or the Big 10.”

His point is a valid one: the South Bend, Indiana region where the team hails from is not traditionally considered part of the “Chicago area”, as it’s too far away. In college football, Notre Dame is not part of the “Big 10” Leaders Division of college football. Those teams are the Fighting Illini, Indiana Hoosiers, Iowa Hawkeyes, Michigan State Spartans, Michigan Wolverines, Minnesota Golden Gophers, Nebraska Cornhuskers, Northwestern Wildcats, Ohio State Buckeyes, Penn State Nittany Lions, Purdue Boilermakers, and Wisconsin Badgers. It’s not even one of the “Catholic 7” universities with multiple sports team traditions. The “Catholic 7” is DePaul, Georgetown, Marquette, Providence, Seton Hall, St. John’s and Villanova. So what is it about Notre Dame?

Notre Dame is in the NCAA Football League as an Independent school. They are one of the few NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision independent schools, along with the Army and Navy teams, and the University of Brigham Young in Utah. The reasons given for their huge popularity in the Chicago area is that the University is Catholic, its close enough for Chicagoans to commute to thanks to the South Shore Line, “it’s an Irish thing”, and most importantly – that they have winning history. Some people wrote back on Facebook saying the team is so famous because it’s “the nation's largest Catholic university” and that, for Chicago Catholics, it's "our" school. Every Chicago Catholic either attended or has family or colleagues who attended Notre Dame, I’m told.

Notre Dame does indeed having a “winning history”, and is ranked #4 overall in all-time college football wins. (behind the Michigan Wolverines, the Yale Bulldogs, and the Texas Longhorns). I do have to dispute some of the other claims, though. For starters, it’s hard to rank the “best” Catholic college because some of the Catholic schools are very good in some fields while lacking in others. When they were ranked overall, Boston College, a Jesuit University in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, was ranked highest among all Catholic universities in the United States. Notre Dame had some impressive ratings as well – their football team is obviously legendary, and they are rated as the leading private Catholic research university in the nation. The University is ranked 219th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2010. However, they are far from the nation’s largest Catholic University. Chicago’s own DePaul University (23,401 students) and Loyola University (15,545 students) are considerably ahead of the University of Notre Dame (11,733 students), with DePaul taking the prize as the “largest Catholic university” in the United States. As a lifelong Chicago area Catholic from the south side, and one with considerable Irish ancestry, I would also dispute that Notre Dame is “our school” for Chicago’s Irish Catholics. In addition to DePaul and Loyola, most of the south side Irish Catholics I know attended St. Xavier University, not Notre Dame. My mother and sister are both St. Xavier graduates. Geography might be a simple reason why: located at 103rd Street & Central Park Avenue in Chicago, St. Xavier’s is about 15 minutes away for most of us, compared to a two hour commute to Notre Dame.

For those of us in the Chicago area who are Catholic, there actually a great deal of “local” Catholic universities with winning sport teams. I’ve already mentioned DePaul University in Chicago, Loyola University in Chicago, and Saint Xavier University in Chicago. In addition, there’s Benedictine University in Lisle, Lewis University in Romeoville, Dominican University in River Forest, University of St. Francis in Joliet, University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, and so on. Do any of their sports teams compare to Notre Dame? Not in media hype, certainly. Nevertheless, they do have some impressive records.
St. Xavier's is the oldest Catholic university in the Chicago area, and was founded in 1846. It went co-ed in 1970. They have campuses in Chicago and Orland Park. They currently have over 5000 students. Its football team, the St. Xavier Cougars, competes in the Mid-States Football Association, under head coach Mike Feminis. In 2011, St. Xavier won the NAIA Football National Championship. Did you hear about it? Me neither. However, this was a considerable coup for Chicago sports. When St. Xavier beat Carroll College for the NAIA national championship title, they became the first college football team from Chicago proper to be able to make such a claim in 99 years. Apparently only the University of Chicago (back in the days when they were a member of the Big 10) can make a claim of sharing a title with Harvard University for 1913. It was certainly a boost to the morale of Chicago Catholic students, given that the players on St. Xavier's team are by-and-large are Chicago-area kids that graduated from places like Mount Carmel High School and Joliet Central. Too bad so little media attention is given to the St. Xavier Cougars.

Then there’s the case of the ironically named “Blue Demons” of DePaul University. Like Notre Dame, DePaul completed in national college sports games as an independent for much of its history, and had multiple NCAA appearances throughout the 1980s. More recently, in the 2006–2007 season; the Blue Demons beat powerhouse #5 Kansas, pulling off one of the greatest upsets in school history. They also beat 2007 NCAA tournament teams California, Northwestern State, Marquette, Connecticut, and Villanova. The team made it to the NIT and lost in the bracket final to Air Force. After the 2008 season, two of their star players went to the NBA. In their full history, over 32 Blue Demons alumni have become NBA players.

Nearby in Joliet, Illinois, there is another prominent Catholic College. That’s the University of St. Francis. Their football team is the Fighting Saints, with a St. Bernard dog as their mascot. In 2011, the team rose to considerable prestige. The University of St. Francis football team was named an Elite. Only eight college football teams made up the “Elite Eight” of the NAIA Football teams, and The Fighting Saints earned it on a bitterly cold day in northwest Iowa. They did so by picking up their first playoff victory in school history with a fourth-quarter comeback win, in a 21-17 nail bitter victory over No. #6 team Morningside College. University of St. Francis senior linebacker Drew Tondini of Morris, Illinois has been named to the 2012 Capital One Academic All-America College Division Football Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). He was a Second Team pick.

And as a final example, there is Loyola University of Chicago intercollegiate sports teams, the "Loyola Ramblers". Their basketball team competes in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I and the Horizon League. As of 2012, Loyola University is still the only Division I school in the State of Illinois to win a national championship in men's basketball. Loyola also is remembered for its courageous steps to end racial segregation in sports teams. Beginning in 1961, Loyola broke a long standing "gentlemen's agreement" among basketball teams not to have more than three black players on the team at any given time. Loyola selected players based on abilities, and soon had four or more black players on the court at every game. For the 1962-63 season, Loyola also became the first team in NCAA Division I history to play an all-black lineup, doing so in a game against Wyoming in December 1962. In that season's NCAA tournament, Loyola defeated the all-white team of the then-segregated Mississippi State, a game especially notable because the Bulldogs defied a state court order prohibiting them from playing against a school with black players. The Loyola University Ramblers are recognized today for ushering in a new era of racial equality in the sport by shattering color barriers in basketball.

When it comes to Catholic universities playing sports, however, we don’t hear much about St. Xavier, DePaul, St. Francis, or Loyola. Rather, it’s Notre Dame: all the time, every time. The fact Notre Dame is ranked fourth in all-time college football wins and went undefeated until the championship game this year is certainly impressive and deserves acclaim. But do they really deserve all the acclaim? When I was a child, I even assumed Notre Dame was an NFL team, because you’d see the “Fightin’ Irish” Notre Dame merchandise sold right alongside such notable Midwestern NFL teams as the Chicago Bears, Green Bay Packers, Indianapolis Colts, and St. Louis Rams. Why? They’re an extremely prestigious university that competes in the NCAA Football League as an independent, and they have alumni around Chicago, I’m
told. So is West Point, yet I don’t see any Army Black Knights football gear being sold. (In fact, I didn’t even though their football team was the “Army Black Knights” until I wrote this article!) One cynical Chicagoan felt differently about Notre Dame. She noted “I stopped caring when they gave the abortionist backer in chief an award and when they mishandled the rape/suicide case a few years ago”. While she has a valid point, it’s not something we should take out on the players. The only question I’d pose is: if the BCS National Championship is such a huge, huge deal to deserve nonstop coverage and attention all week, what about all the other college sports out there?

Do you get it? I don’t, Chicagoland.
Photo Gallery: St. Xavier University December Graduation

Another class passes through the gates of St. Xavier University.

By Mary Compton January 9, 2013

Another class was preparing to leave the halls of St. Xavier University.

Student speaker Jade Lewis adjusted her motorboard then sat down to go over her speech.

It was time. Over 700 graduates from the St. Xavier College of Arts and Sciences, Graham School of Management, School of Education, School of Nursing and School for Continuing and Professional studies received their degrees.

President Christine Wiseman presented Joseph Parisi with an Honorary Degree from St. Xavier. Parisi then made the commencement address.

*** This article also appeared in the following sources: Evergreen Park Patch, Oak Lawn Patch, and Orland Park Patch.
Mary Bickel (nee Sierzan), Beloved wife of the late C. Robert (Bob) Bickel; devoted mother of Jim (Christine), Jan, Karen "Currier" and her adopted daughter, Martha; cherished grandmother of 5 and great grandmother of 4; Visitation and Funeral will be Friday at McDonough Chapel on the campus of Saint Xavier University, 3700 W. 103rd St., Visitation beginning at 9 a.m. until time of Mass at 10 a.m. Interment Rice Cemetery, Elkhart, IN. In lieu of flowers, donations to Harbor Light Hospice, www.harborlighthospice.com would be appreciated. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Andrew J. McGann & Son Funeral Home 773-783-7700 www.andrewmcgann.com

***This article also appeared in the following sources: SaukValley.com.

-Top-
A student among students

Published as part of the January 10, 2013 edition.

Stagg grad wetting feet at Shepard

From Bob McParland

High School Dist. 218

Looking back, Daniel Truffa knew exactly what to expect as a student-teacher at Shepard High School: That any day could provide great reward, while the next could riddle him.

And, indeed, that's precisely what happened. Truffa, a St. Xavier University senior who graduated from Stagg High School, adapted on the fly to the myriad challenges that every student-teacher encounters.

"Student teaching, although very time consuming and stressful, is absolutely the most rewarding and meaningful experience I have had in my life so far," he said.

Perhaps more than most careers, college provides only so much preparation for teaching. Truffa found some revelation in working with teenagers.

"Teaching, at least from my perspective, is a difficult thing to grasp in a class or through observation. Sure you learn a lot in (courses), but until you get in front of a class and actually start teaching, you never really have a solid understanding of what it is," he said.

Memories of the first day remain clear for Truffa.

"My feelings were rather mixed. There were the obvious nerves and the butterflies in my stomach, all of the things that usually come with a new experience such as this," Truffa said.

Immediately, Truffa learned that teaching high school does not always follow a script.

"The day started off a little rocky, but by the end of it I was back to my usual self, brimming with confidence," Truffa said. "Now, that confidence would be shaken from time to time as the semester went along, as I assume it would with any student teacher, but my motto has always been to push ahead; to make the next day better than the last."

While many people might think that managing teenagers would represent the most difficult aspect of student teaching, Truffa cited the amount of work.
"The biggest challenge was always keeping up with the work load. Student teaching, coaching speech, going to class, and grading tend to consume a lot of hours. As the semester goes on though, you become more accustomed to the work load and are able to adjust accordingly," he said.

Truffa’s best moment, ironically, arose from failure. And it’s a lesson in perseverance he can share with students in the years ahead.

"A lesson I had planned hadn’t gone as well as I had hoped. My confidence was beginning to falter," Truffa said.

Jeff Vazzana, the cooperating English teacher from Shepard who served as a mentor during fall semester, took him to lunch.

"He told me something that really helped me. He said that all teachers have bad lessons from time to time; the key is being able to fix your mistakes and learn from them," Truffa said.

As soon as they returned from lunch, Truffa put the wisdom to use.

"I took that advice into the rest of my day, changed my lesson plan slightly, and delivered the lesson I had intended for my remaining classes. What was left of the day went fantastic, and a day that started off very bleak, ended with a glimmer of hope," he said.

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Charity Briefs for Jan. 15, 2013

January 14, 2013 3:06PM

Text to Give: St. Xavier University's Department for University Advancement has announced a new “Text to Give” mobile giving campaign to benefit the university’s Class Gift Fund and the St. Xavier Fund. The program allows donors to make $10 donations using their mobile phones through Give by Cell. You can make a gift to the Class Gift Fund by texting CLASSGIFT with your first and last name to 20222, or make a gift to the St. Xavier Fund by texting SXU with your first and last name to 20222. Donors can give multiple times a month depending on your carrier. Donations are tax-deductible, and pledges are billed through your monthly cell phone bill. Messaging and data rates may apply. For information, visit www.givebycell.com.

-Top-
OAK LAWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOST 67TH ANNUAL INSTALLATION EVENT

Posted by Oak Lawn Chamber

January 15, 2013

Oak Lawn, IL, January 9, 2013 – Members and supporters of the Oak Lawn business community will gather on Saturday, January 19th at the Hilton Oak Lawn (9333 S. Cicero Ave.) to honor the 2013 Officers and Directors of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce during the 67th Annual Installation. This year’s theme is “The Roaring Twenties”. Tickets cost $50 per person and include a four-course dinner and a cash bar.

The evening begins with cocktails at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. and the Installation of the Board of Directors and Business Award Presentation at 8:30p.m. Music, Dancing and Casino fun begin at 9:00 p.m.

Jeff Reichl of Marquette Bank will be inducted as the 2013 President of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Reichl succeeds Karen Boll of Hawk Ford. Also inducted will be First Vice President, Michelle Williams of First Midwest Bank; Second Vice President Jennifer Coriell of 21st Century Chiropractic; Treasurer, Larry Lehman of Liberty Tax Services; and Secretary, Adam Woodworth of The Children’s Museum in Oak Lawn. Past President Jack Baker of Marquette Bank will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

The Installation of the 2013 Board will be led by Village President. Dave Heilmann. Members of the Board include: Peggy Burke (First American Bank), Dr. Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care), George Cachares (Southwest Physical Therapy), Joe Cwikinski (Century 21 Accent), Larry Deetjen (Village of Oak Lawn), Vito DiPerte (Kelly Nissan), Laura Earner (St. Xavier University), Brian Ferrell (MetLife), Dr. David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle), Rick Harmon (Hilton Oak Lawn), Robert Harrison (Advocate Christ Medical Center), Patti Johnson (Suburban Bank & Trust), Nancy Mabbott (Advocate Children’s Hospital), Ninae Mondello (NGM Services), Karen Moran (Together We Cope) Ginger Morgan (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.), Jonathan Perry (Park Lawn), Vicki Scanlon (Standard Bank & Trust), Mike Sutko (World Travel Mart),

For more information, or to purchase tickets for the dinner, please call the Chamber office at 708-424-8300 or email office@oaklawnchamber.com
In a recent SouthtownStar column, St. Xavier University professor Robert Shapiro praised our Electoral College, contending that it is representative and allows for “diversity.”

I disagree. Because of this weird system, a Democratic voter in Texas or a Republican in Illinois knows his vote is worthless in a presidential race. Ten “swing states” choose the president while voters in the other 40 are mere bystanders.

Rather than a candidate getting all of a state’s electoral votes by winning that state, electoral votes should be apportioned in each state on the basis of the popular vote. For example, if a presidential candidate in Illinois wins 60 percent of the popular vote he should get 11 electoral votes. The loser would get the other eight.

Maine, to its credit, recognized the defects of our current system and now gives an electoral vote to the winner of the popular vote in each congressional district.

Apportionment would also ensure that both presidential candidates campaigned in all 50 states.

We would eliminate the absurdity of a candidate winning the presidential election even though he received fewer votes than his opponent, as happened in 1888 when Grover Cleveland won the popular vote by more than 95,000 but lost the election to Benjamin Harrison, who won the electoral vote by 233 to 168. I submit that such a result is not “representative” nor does it assure “diversity of ideas.”

C.J. Koehler
Homer Glen
Chicago youth message to OneVoice: ‘We will not work with you’

by Chicago Movement for Palestinian Rights on January 16, 2013

The following letter was sent over by the Chicago Movement for Palestinian Rights.

Open Letter to OneVoice from Chicago Youth-led Palestinian Solidarity Organizations

Dear OneVoice,

We are youth-led Palestinian solidarity organizations in Chicago, many of which have been contacted by OneVoice to work together. Our response to these requests is simple: We will not work with you.

OneVoice aims to bring Palestinians and Israelis together to achieve “peace.”[1] However, you bring them together while ignoring Palestinian history, Palestinian citizens of Israel, Palestinian calls for struggling against colonialism, and the power imbalance between the State of Israel and the Palestinian people. We believe that the only way to achieve a just peace is by addressing all of these issues.

OneVoice avoids the history and the roots of the “conflict.” For example, mention of Israel’s ethnic cleansing of two-thirds of the Palestinian population during the Nakba in order to create a Jewish state in 1948 is completely absent. You claim that “the idea of focusing on the future instead of clinging to the past is paramount to the philosophy of both OneVoice members and its programs.”[2] This approach towards viewing the conflict ignores some of its most foundational elements. For Palestinians under occupation and in the diaspora, the past remains their present, and to ignore the history is to ignore and neglect the Palestinian plight today.

OneVoice also advocates for “a two-state solution to end the conflict.”[1] However, considering Israel’s continued settlement construction and land confiscation, the two-state solution has no realistic geopolitical configuration. Additionally, among your justifications for a two-state solution, you prioritize preserving a Jewish majority in Israel.[3] Not only is this Israel-centric, it is racist in nature. A recent advertisement posted on the OneVoice Hebrew Facebook page urges the Jewish community to vote in the Israeli elections for a two-state solution to maintain an ethnically Jewish majority.[4] We find this position as disturbing as we would a position that advocates maintaining a white majority in the United States.

In the OneVoice mission statement, you claim to be a grassroots movement. However, your advocacy for a two-state solution is incompatible with grassroots organizing. OneVoice takes a top-down, “solution”-based approach grounded in border negotiations put forth by politicians. Your campaign for a two-state solution only serves the interests of those in power, rather than the people.

Unlike you, we come from a rights-based approach grounded in human rights, civil rights, and equality. We believe that peace and justice will come from the bottom up, not top down. As such, we support the call for Boycott, Divestment and
Sanctions (BDS) issued by over 170 Palestinian civil society organizations in 2005, asking the international community to implement boycotts and divestment initiatives against Israel until Israel ends its occupation of Palestinian land, recognizes the fundamental rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality, and respects the Palestinian refugees’ right of return as stipulated by UN resolution 194.[5]

In regard to Palestinian citizens of Israel, OneVoice does not address their systematic discrimination, or their lack of basic civil rights within Israel. In fact, one of the only times we found any mention of Palestinian citizens of Israel on your website was in a poll, asking Israelis if “Israeli Arabs should be transferred to Palestine/the West Bank and Gaza”. We feel that your complete disregard for Palestinian citizens of Israel ignores the structural racism and discrimination that is the driving force behind the continuous occupation, colonization, and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. We also believe that the two-state solution you advocate will likely perpetuate the second class status of Palestinians living in Israel.

Unfortunately, while OneVoice actively advocates Palestinian “nonviolence,” you simultaneously oppose the BDS movement. BDS is a key part of Palestinian nonviolent resistance today and we, as Palestinian solidarity organizers, are supporters and participants of the global BDS movement. Although you do not explicitly take a position on BDS, you have called campus divestment initiatives “destructive campaigns aimed at de-legitimizing Israel.”[7]

Moreover, it is highly problematic that OneVoice is advising Palestinians on resistance without fully acknowledging the oppression faced by Palestinians. You cannot refuse to acknowledge apartheid and colonization, while at the same time dictating what type of resistance of the oppressed is “acceptable”.

OneVoice gives Israel’s violent occupation and colonialism a more pleasant face by framing the “conflict” as symmetrical without explaining the power imbalance between Israel and the Palestinian people. Israel is the military occupier and Palestinians are occupied. Presenting both sides as equals is both dishonest and harmful, and it creates the illusion that the colonizer and the colonized are equally responsible parties in this “conflict.”

We support the 2010 statement against normalization issued by Palestinian youth organizations in commemoration of the anniversary of the Nakba. The appeal mentioned OneVoice as one of the organizations that “specifically target Palestinian youth to engage them in dialogue [sic] with Israelis without recognizing the inalienable rights of Palestinians, or aiming to end Israel’s occupation, colonization, and apartheid.”[8] The statement reflects young Palestinian voices on the ground who are experiencing Israel’s policies firsthand. To them, your organization serves to normalize oppression and injustice.

Until you change your positions on the issues raised above, we do not have any interest in working with OneVoice, or any other similar organization, until you recognize the power imbalance and refuse to perpetuate it by denying the colonial and apartheid reality in Palestine. We hope you understand.

Sincerely,

Chicago Movement for Palestinian Rights

Students for Justice in Palestine – Northwestern University

Students for Justice in Palestine – DePaul University

Students for Justice in Palestine – University of Chicago

Students for Justice in Palestine – University of Illinois at Chicago
Students for Justice in Palestine – Loyola University of Chicago

Students for Justice in Palestine – Northeastern Illinois University

Students for Justice in Palestine – Benedictine University

Students for Justice in Palestine – St. Xavier University

-Top-
Mikhail Korenman doesn’t see math as a subject. Instead the 50-year-old educator and owner of the Russian School of Mathematics in Naperville views it as “a tool for developing a habit of mind,” which is why he opened the school in September.

“Our goal is to help children build a solid foundation for future success in taking the SAT and college mathematics,” he said. “We provide our students with a thorough understanding of every mathematical concept and help them develop excellent problem-solving skills.”

The after-school mathematics program was founded in Boston in 1997 by Russian immigrant and computer engineer Inessa Rifkin. Since then, 15 schools have opened around the country, including Massachusetts, California, Washington, Kentucky and Korenman’s facility in Illinois.

Korenman, who has a doctorate in education from Kansas State University and 27 years of teaching experience, said the program is based on classical traditions of systematic math education.

Along with his wife, Dr. Tamara Korenman, associate professor at Saint Xavier University in Chicago and Russian School of Mathematics teacher, he said they teach math because they “want young people to feel smart and have a habit of working smart and overcoming challenges in real life.”

“We believe math is a tool for developing a habit of mind; A habit of thinking creatively, recognizing patterns, and most important, a habit of enjoying a challenge. (When) working on math problems, children get used to working hard, trying different approaches, thinking and rethinking steps.”

The location at 932 N. Wright St. serves more than 50 students in kindergarten through grade 12 from Chicago and the suburbs. Learning takes place “in an individual way, at an individual pace.”

“Ever since the conception of this school, we have successfully practiced our cornerstone beliefs,” Korenman said. “Critical thinking and problem solving skills can be developed. Strong and structured foundation is a key to success and confidence.”

Terry Chang said she enrolled her two daughters, ages 8 and 10, because she wanted to supplement their current District 204 math curriculum.
“Math is something that everybody needs,” Chang said. “Russian math is giving me a supplement for them; they are doing very well in their (elementary school) math class (but) I wanted to get something more for them.”

Chang said along with the math class, the girls are taking chess at the Naperville location.

“They are taking chess for enjoyment, something they can do for leisure,” she said. “They really enjoy going to chess and to math. It’s never a drag to take them there.”
OL Chamber to install officers

Published as part of the January 17, 2013 edition.

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will hold its 67th annual officer installation dinner Saturday, Jan. 19 at the Hilton Oak Lawn, 9333 S. Cicero Ave.

This year's theme is "The Roaring Twenties." Tickets cost $50 per person and include a fourcourse dinner. There will be a cash bar. The evening begins with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. The Installation of the board of directors and Business Award Presentation will begin at 8:30 p.m. Music, dancing and casino games will begin at 9 p.m.

Jeff Reichl of Marquette Bank will be inducted as the 2013 Chamber president. Reichl succeeds Karen Boll of Hawk Ford. Also inducted will be First Vice President Michelle Williams of First Midwest Bank, Second Vice President Jennifer Coriell of 21st Century Chiropractic, Treasurer Larry Lehman of Liberty Tax Services, and Secretary Adam Woodworth of The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn. Past Chamber President Jack Baker of Marquette Bank will serve as master of ceremonies.

The Installation of the 2013 board will be led by Oak Lawn Mayor Dave Heilmann. Members of the Board include Peggy Burke (First American Bank), Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care), George Cachares (Southwest Physical Therapy), Joe Cwiklinski (Century 21 Accent), Larry Deetjen (village manager of Oak Lawn), Vito Di-Perte (Kelly Nissan), Laura Erner (St. Xavier University), Brian Ferrell (MetLife), David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle), Rick Harmon (Hilton Oak Lawn), Robert Harrison (Advocate Christ Medical Center), Patti Johnson (Suburban Bank & Trust), Nancy Mabbott (Advocate Children's Hospital), Ninae Mondello (NGM Services), Karen Moran (Together We Cope), Ginger Morgan (Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home), Jonathan Perry (Park Lawn), Vicki Scanlon (Standard Bank & Trust) and Mike Sutko (World Travel Mart).

For more information or to purchase tickets call the Chamber office at 424-8300 or email office@oaklawnchamber.com
Brazile and Matalin speak at SXU

January 17, 2013 4:10PM

More than 1,000 people watched political commentators Donna Brazile and Mary Matalin square off recently at St. Xavier University during the school’s Voices and Visions speaker series.

Brazile is a veteran Democratic political strategist and commentator, as well as an adjunct professor, author and syndicated columnist. Matalin is a conservative author, television and radio host, and political pundit.

Though Brazile and Matalin are good friends, that didn’t stop them from clashing on major issues shaping the American political landscape.

Their discussion focused on their predictions for the Nov. 6 election, the state of the economy, modern voter demographics, the effects of the Citizens United Supreme Court case and more.

The event also included a classroom question-and-answer session for SXU students, as well as exclusive post-lecture wine and cheese reception with the speakers.

The Voices and Visions speaker series is sponsored by University Relations and in part by the Student Government Association.

Provided to the SouthtownStar
The 11th-ranked St. Xavier University women’s basketball team upset the sixth-ranked team from Olivet Nazarene University, and the 23rd-ranked St. Xavier men’s team also won. As I looked in the SouthtownStar’s sports section I saw nothing about St. Xavier or any local college team. I think the local colleges of St. Xavier University, Moraine Valley Community College, Trinity Christian College, South Suburban College, Governors State University, Lewis University and the University of St. Francis deserve a little more coverage than a once-in-a-while two lines at the bottom of a page.

Chris from Crestwood

-Top-
Friends of the Library award scholarships to local students

Jan 17, 2013

Written by Lisa Voss

Reader submitted

Two local students have received scholarships from the Friends of the Oshkosh Public Library to pursue library science degrees during the 2012-13 school year.

The Friends of the Library awarded the John V. Nichols Public Library Professional Scholarship to Emily Borchardt and Aaron Raschke. Each student received a $2,000 scholarship. The Nichols scholarship, named for the former Oshkosh Public Library director, is available to students who plan to pursue a degree in library science and a career as a librarian.

Borchardt, an Oshkosh West graduate who has a bachelor’s degree in history from Saint Xavier University in Chicago, is pursuing her master’s degree in history and library science at Indiana University. She has been employed seasonally as a page at the Oshkosh Public Library since 2006 and had previously served as a library volunteer.

Raschke is a graduate of Clintonville High School who earned a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He will begin work this semester on his master’s degree in library science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has been employed as a page in the Technical Services, Circulation and Reference departments at OPL since 2009.

Through the Nichols scholarship, the Friends of the Library are committed to supporting the service that public librarians provide to their communities. “The public library is an important place at the heart of so many communities,” says Brenda Reese, president of the Friends. “In carrying out the public library’s mission, professional librarians offer free access to knowledge resources, provide a place to gather and exchange ideas, and preserve and share local history.”

While it is not a criteria to receive the scholarship, sometimes the Friends’ investment pays dividends right here in Oshkosh. A former scholarship recipient, Adeline Miller, recently joined the OPL staff as a children’s librarian.

To learn more about the Friends of the Library and the work that they do, visit www.oshkoshpubliclibrary.org.

***This article also appeared in the following sources: FDL Reporter, Marshfield News Herald, The Northwestern, Post Crescent, Sheboygan Hub, and Stevens Point Journal,
Varjavand: Outdated view: War as way to boost the U.S. economy

By Reza Varjavand Guest Commentary January 18, 2013 11:40PM

On Nov. 1, two Iranian Su-25 fighter jets fired on an unmanned U.S. Air Force drone after it entered Iranian airspace in the Persian Gulf. The jets missed the drone, which returned to its base, but the incident triggered a formal warning by the United States to Iran through diplomatic channels.

Given the rising tensions with Iran, largely over its pursuit of a nuclear weapon, and the still-disappointing economic conditions in the United States, there might be some support for going to war with Iran — especially among some hard-line Republican politicians and a few economists who believe that war will jump-start our stalled economy.

While the U.S. may decide to take military action to deter Iran’s nuclear capability, an armed conflict with Iran is most unlikely in a war-weary U.S. — given that we ended the Iraq War 13 months ago and are moving up the timetable for withdrawing our troops from Afghanistan.

With that said, in a Sept. 5, 2010 article in The New York Times, renowned economist Paul Krugman stated that “From an economic point of view, World War II was, above all, a burst of deficit-financed government spending” (that he believes was responsible for a long-lasting economic boom). Krugman concluded that “the economic moral is clear — when the economy is deeply depressed, the usual rules don’t apply.”

Historically, the trend of U.S. economic performance reveals persistent ups and downs that are clearly more intense before and after major wars. Most notably, severe upside fluctuations occurred right after World War II. Such historical evidence has led many economists, such as Krugman, to voice their support for war as a remedy for the country’s economic slump.

However, the resilient current downturn, the outgrowth of the Great Recession of 2007, is not on par with the pre-WWII Great Depression in terms of causation, intensity, duration and consequences. Unemployment was 25 percent at the height of the Great Depression while it was less than 9 percent during our latest recession.

Many economists believe that, unlike the Great Depression, the Great Recession was not basically triggered by a lack of spending, but rather by the tremendous loss of hastily created wealth via the stock market crashing, years of reckless mortgage lending and risky asset-backed securities that were created and sold to investors worldwide.
The Great Depression was primarily caused by historically high tariffs on imports through the enactment of the federal Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act in 1930 and the tight monetary policy of the Federal Reserve. Eventually, massive investment in public works projects was needed, which was beyond the will and ability of the private sector, and was instrumental in moving the economy out of the Great Depression and into a healthy recovery phase that lasted for more than three decades.

Additionally, the nature of business fluctuations has changed over the past 50 years — thanks to more prudent fiscal and monetary policies that were lacking prior to the Great Depression and the installment of safety nets such as Social Security that automatically kicks in to counter the business cycles.

Also, the nature of war has changed. It is now more high-tech, less expensive and less labor intensive. A war no longer generates as much employment and economic activity at home.

In fact, war will likely be more helpful to those countries the U.S. attacks or invades rather than the U.S. itself. Therefore, it is illusory to rely on a war to generate the type of spending that typically spurs economic growth.

Some economic experts may claim that many people go back to work, thanks to jobs created as a result of war, but war does not resolve or alleviate unemployment. Today, either new real jobs must be created by the private sector or the structural bottlenecks in the labor market must be properly dealt with through well-designed government policies.

Job growth today requires the collaborative efforts of both government and the private sector and not an ineffective Band-aid-type solution that may be achieved through war.

Some may still credit World War II for pulling the U.S. economy out of the Great Depression, but the booming, post-war prosperity of 1947 to 1975 did not happen because of the war.

It resulted from prudent and meticulously crafted government policies, complemented by favorable institutional settings and a changing American culture in favor of mass production and mass consumption. Because of these factors, war-related spending soon spilled over to the production sector of the economy.

The key concern is whether economic progress can be fostered through military spending. From a historical standpoint, I don’t believe it can.

Reza Varjavand is associate professor of economics and finance at the Graham School of Management at St. Xavier University in Chicago.
Charity Briefs for Jan. 22, 2013

January 21, 2013 2:46PM

Text to Give: St. Xavier University’s Department for University Advancement has announced a new “Text to Give” mobile giving campaign to benefit the university’s Class Gift Fund and the St. Xavier Fund. The program allows donors to make $10 donations using their mobile phones through Give by Cell. You can make a gift to the Class Gift Fund by texting CLASSGIFT with your first and last name to 20222, or make a gift to the St. Xavier Fund by texting SXU with your first and last name to 20222. Donors can give multiple times a month depending on your carrier. Donations are tax-deductible, and pledges are billed through your monthly cell phone bill. Messaging and data rates may apply. For information, visit www.givebycell.com.
Powers, 67, reflected well on his Mt. Greenwood roots

Published as part of the January 23, 2013 edition.

by Caroline Connors

Mt. Greenwood native John R. Powers, the author of the 1975 novel "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" which was turned into a popular musical by the same name, died Jan. 17. He was 67.

Powers died after a heart attack while exercising in his Lake Geneva, Wisc., home, according to a report in the Lake Geneva Regional News. He had lived in Lake Geneva for about 25 years with his wife and two daughters.

In addition to writing several novels about growing up Catholic on the South Side of Chicago, Powers was a two-time Emmy Award winner and successful theater producer. Beginning in 1979, "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" enjoyed record runs at community theaters across the country, including the Forum Theatre in south suburban Summit. It later opened for a brief run on Broadway.

In recent years, Powers had published a self-help book called "Odditude (Finding the Passion for Who You Are and What You Do)" and worked as a nationally-acclaimed motivational speaker, a job that combined his talents as a writer and public speaker, he said in a previous interview with The Beverly Review. In addition, he had recently completed writing a one-man play and was working with a group in Chicago to produce it, according to Beverly resident and author Dennis Foley.

Foley said he became acquainted with Powers after contacting him, on a whim, to read and critique the final draft of Foley's book, "The Drunkard's Son," last year. Although he had never met or talked with Powers before, Foley said, Powers graciously accepted his request.

"He not only read the book, but he gave me a back-cover endorsement as well," Foley said in an e-mail. "He didn't ask for anything, and he certainly didn't play himself off as a literary big shot. He was a regular guy who was genuinely happy to help. Maybe he saw something in me, a fellow South Sider, that he thought was worth helping. Maybe that was just his way. Who knows?"
Foley said he was more than happy to return the favor a few months later when Powers asked if Foley and his wife, Sue, would give his new one-man play a look.

"I had an absolute blast going through the man's material," Foley said in the email. "It was a reflective, energetic piece again centered in our neighborhoods. I loved the play, as did my wife. We were very much looking forward to seeing the play come to fruition this year, and I'm certain many Chicagoans would have enjoyed it."

In recent years, hundreds of local residents had the pleasure of seeing Powers perform locally during appearances at two charitable events—one at the Beverly Arts Center (BAC) in January 2007 to raise funds for a renovation of the playground at Mt. Greenwood Park and another in April 2010 at St. Xavier University (SXU) to benefit its track and crosscountry programs. Powers' performance at the BAC helped the Mt. Greenwood Park playground committee raise approximately $4,000 for the project, said committee member Kathleen Riordan.

"John waived his fee and donated all the proceeds from the show—and he was happy to do it," Riordan said. "We didn't pay him anything; we couldn't even buy him lunch."

During both performances, Powers kept audiences laughing with his often poignant tales of attending St. Christina Elementary School, "where there were about 8 billion students," and his high school years at Br. Rice, where "all four years I tried out for the baseball team and all four years I didn't make it."

Although he lacked ambition and enthusiasm for school in his younger years, Powers said, he excelled academically at Loyola University Chicago and then at Northwestern University, where he earned master's and doctorate degrees. After graduating from college, Powers returned to the classroom as a teacher at St. Christina School and later as a professor at Northeastern University in Chicago.

Powers was well known and well liked in the city of Lake Geneva, said Jim Strauss, a friend from Caribou Coffee, a coffeehouse where both men spent part of their days.

"We never sat together but shared a daily dialogue," Strauss said. "He was always smiling and always upbeat. He energized so many people."

Strauss, a novelist and a writer for the television show "House," said that Powers was an "equal-opportunity human being" who had as much regard for "the person living in the halfway house" as he did for "the much-lauded screenwriter with a Ph.D." Powers talked to everyone, Strauss said, and often had a good message to share in those conversations.

"I enjoyed the subtlety of John's humor, and I learned some good things from him," Strauss said. "His ability to entertain and transmit data was magical."

Powers and his wife were active in numerous Lake Geneva area charities, according to the Lake Geneva Regional News, including an effort to preserve the Geneva Theater by turning it into a community arts center.

Powers is survived by his wife, JaNelle, and his daughters, Jacey and Joy.

Visitation was held Jan. 20 at Chapel on the Hill in Lake Geneva, followed by a funeral service on Jan. 21.
Charity Briefs for Jan. 22, 2013

January 29, 2013 2:46PM

Text to Give: St. Xavier University’s Department for University Advancement has announced a new “Text to Give” mobile giving campaign to benefit the university’s Class Gift Fund and the St. Xavier Fund. The program allows donors to make $10 donations using their mobile phones through Give by Cell. You can make a gift to the Class Gift Fund by texting CLASSGIFT with your first and last name to 20222, or make a gift to the St. Xavier Fund by texting SXU with your first and last name to 20222. Donors can give multiple times a month depending on your carrier. Donations are tax-deductible, and pledges are billed through your monthly cell phone bill. Messaging and data rates may apply. For information, visit www.givebycell.com.

-Top-
Lindblom star shined in state, national and world track meets

Published as part of the January 2, 2013 edition.

by Scott Fredericks

Lindblom High School has hardly been an athletic juggernaut since it opened, winning just two state trophies—a state title and runner-up finish in boys gymnastics in 1954 and '55.

Beverly resident Shamier Little changed all that by herself.

At the Class 2A state track and field meet at Eastern Illinois University on May 19, Little won three championships and finished second in another event to accumulate 38 points, good enough for third place in the meet.

She shattered state records in the 100-meter high hurdles, 400-meter dash and 300-meter intermediate hurdles.

Little's efforts on the track earned her The Beverly Review individual sports story of the year.

"At first, they told me I wasn't eligible to win the state trophy. But once I heard I was, I was really emotional," said Little. "It was exciting to be the first female athlete to win a state trophy by myself. I think it's more exciting because I won it without any help. After state was done, we came home and kept the trophy for the weekend. I brought it to school on Monday morning."

Little was far from done enjoying success on the track. She won the national championship in the 400-meter hurdles and was third in the 100-meter high hurdles at the USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics meet at Morgan State University in Baltimore in July.

She also reached the finals of the world championships in Barcelona in August.

Other notable individual accomplishments are listed below.
Former Sandburg High School and Bradley University standout Megan Jones was named the volleyball coach at Queen of Peace in early January.

Legendary prep boys basketball coach Mike Flaherty reached another career milestone when the Mt. Carmel basketball team beat St. Laurence on Jan. 27. Flaherty, who also coached at Mendel Catholic and Thornridge, won his 700th game that night.

Sutherland fourth-grade volleyball star Katie Dattner made Graver Park history when she served a perfect game on Jan. 30. She had 34 consecutive service points spanning two matches.

Prep football players from several schools in the area, including Mt. Carmel, Br. Rice, Marist and St. Rita, signed national letters of intent to continue their football careers on National Signing Day on Feb. 1.

De La Salle two-sport star James Buss completed his stellar prep wrestling career by winning the Class 3A heavyweight crown at Assembly Hall on Feb. 18. Buss finished the season with a 42-0 record.

"I worked all four years for this moment. When I started wrestling at De La Salle, I told myself I was going to win one of these by my senior year," said Buss. "I did a lot of work in the offseason. I wrestled in nationals and hit the weights. I was always running wind sprints in practice with the little guys. It killed me to do it, but I knew I needed to put the work in to get to this level."

Morgan Park Academy three-sport star Kelly Sorfleet inked a letter to play softball at Butler University in March.

Four former area standout prep basketball players participated in the NCAA tournament last March. All four, Louisville's Wayne Blackshear, Ohio State's Sam Thompson, Wisconsin's Dan Fahey and Ohio's D.J. Cooper, reached the Sweet 16.

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences freshman softball player Samantha Peron fired a perfect game, retiring all the hitters she faced on strikeouts, in the Cyclones' 19-0 win over Chicago International Charter School-Longwood on March 29.

Morgan Park High School baseball players DeJohn Suber, Thomas Clay and Mike Hudson signed letters of intent at the school on April 9 to play college baseball. The White Sox drafted Suber in the late rounds of the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft in June.

Beverly resident Bob Stan striping, who starred in three sports at Leo High School, was inducted into the Leo High School Sports Hall of Fame on April 27. He played collegiately at the University of Illinois.

Local soccer phenom Sidney Paris earned a spot on the Chicago Fire Under-10 squad in May. Paris is a student at Morgan Park Academy.

Brooks College Prep freshman and Beverly resident Janel Riddle launched her best shot put of the season at the best time. She had a personal-best throw at the Brooks sectional to advance to the state meet in late May.

Mother McAuley announced the hiring of former prep and collegiate basketball standout Ashley Luke-Clanton as the Mighty Macs' new basketball coach on June 5. Luke-Clanton is eighth on the all-time Illinois High School Association girls scoring list and the second most prolific three-point shooter.

Marist senior outfielder Ashley Gorman was one of the key players on the RedHawks' state championship run. She had a game-winning home run in the state semifinals and also a walk-off single against Sandburg in the sectional semifinals.
-St. Ignatius seniors and cousins, Patrick Santino and Mike Tonner, closed their prep track careers with a bang, reaching the state finals for the first time.

-Leo senior Keith Harris completed an amazing academic and athletic career at Leo in May. Harris, an all-state performer in football, helped lead the Lions track and field team to the Class 1A state championship. Harris, who is playing football at Northern Illinois, was also the school's valedictorian.

-Local cyclists and members of the Beverly Bike/Vee Pak racing team, Brian Boyle, John Sequin and Tony Reinks, all finished the grueling 100-kilometer Beverly Hills Cycling Classic in temperatures above 100 degrees on July 6. It was the first time any member of the Beverly Bike/Vee Pak team finished the race.

-Area anglers Nick Engel and Nick Kushnerik won the 2012 Illinois Student Angler Federation high school fishing state championship at Lake Shelbyville in June.

-Evan Strehlau was named the women's soccer coach at St. Xavier University. Strehlau was a successful coach at Mother McAuley before landing the post.

-Mt. Carmel senior baseball player Tyler Laurisch was named the Lawless Award winner in the Catholic League. He was the school's valedictorian and is currently attending Harvard University.

-Marist girls basketball teammates and best friends Leah Bolton and JeTaun Rouse signed their letters of intent to colleges in the summer. Bolton will attend Illinois, while Rouse will take her talents to Marquette. The duo has been playing together since fourth grade when they attended Sutherland Elementary.

-Payton College Prep track and field standout Cameron Pettigrew enjoyed solid seasons both at state and nationals. Pettigrew medaled in three events at the USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics meet at Morgan State University in Baltimore in July.

-Cousins Maggie and Grace Murphy were as hot as the summer heat on beaches throughout the Midwest. The duo won several beach volleyball tournaments in their first year playing together.

-Beverly resident Grace Zarzecki, a student at Whitney Young High School, represented the U.S. Under-18 national team in a series of games against Canada in July. As a member of that team, Zarzecki is currently participating in the U-18 World Championships in Finland.

"I tried out for the team last year and got cut right before they played Canada," said Zarzecki. "I was happy to come back and make the team this year. My ultimate goal is to play in the Olympics. 2014 is a stretch, but it's a good goal and pushes me to work harder. I'm definitely looking at making the 2018 team."


-Beverly native Conor Ryan completed the grueling Ironman Wisconsin triathlon on Sept. 9. He finished the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run in a time of 14 hours, 18 minutes and 42 seconds.

-Beverly residents Jim and Martin Johnston helped the Chicago Christian football team enjoy a resurgent season on the gridiron a year after the Knights were outscored 393-67. Chicago Christian should contend for a playoff spot next season.

-St. Rita hockey Coach Craig Ferguson, who led the Mustangs to the Kennedy Cup and state championships in 2012, will retire from coaching at the end of the current season. Ferguson won his 500th game in November.
-St. Ignatius senior Jack Keelan won the Class 3A crosscountry race at Detweiler Park on Nov. 3. A year after failing to qualify for the state meet, Keelan blitzed the course in a time of 14:05.

"I can mark this season down as a success in every way now. This feels awesome," said Keelan. "I was tired, and my arms started to shorten up; but I wanted to go for it because I had nothing to lose. At that point, I just went all out. This was my dream since I got here. All the workouts I did were for today. This is a great feeling."

Keelan set a personal-best and school record, shattering former St. Ignatius state champion Mike Patton's mark.

-Mother McAuley senior diver Meghan Dragel reached the finals of the state diving competition for the first time at Evanston High School on Nov. 16. She finished 12th.

-St. Rita junior Nick Goldsmith was honored as one of 10 finalists for the inaugural U.S. Army-Pro Football Hall of Fame-Award for Excellence at an assembly that was attended by Bears Hall of Famer Richard Dent on Nov. 27. Goldsmith plays three sports at St. Rita. The winner will be announced in San Antonio on Jan. 4.

-Mt. Carmel senior football players Buster Sheridan, Joe Pavlik and Brian Parker excelled on and off the football field for the state champion Caravan. They are the top three ranked students in the senior class.

-St. Xavier University senior quarterback Jimmy Coy was named the 2012 Rawlings- National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Football Player of the Year at a banquet in Rome, Ga., on Dec. 12.
Sports Briefs

Wednesday, 02 January 2013 23:56

Led by Sarah Miller-Jennings' 21 points and six assists, Huntington University defeated the University of St. Francis women's basketball team 77-65 in the third-place game of the Saint Xavier University Holiday Tournament Saturday evening. Huntington (10-4) never trailed in the contest. The Foresters built a 31-22 advantage at the intermission and held a double-digit edge for the first three minutes of the second half. USF trimmed the deficit to 55-53 at the 7:26 mark after freshman Debra Jenkins buried back-to-back three-pointers less than a minute apart. The Foresters answered with a 13-5 run over the next four minutes to push their lead back to double digits. Sophomore Katie Gonnering led all scorers with 23 points. She represented the Saints on the all-tournament team after averaging 21.3 points, 7.0 rebounds and 2.5 steals in the three contests. Senior Ashley Teresiak (Orland Park, Ill./ Sandburg) finished with 10 points for USF. Miller-Jennings was one of five Foresters to net double digits. She was joined by Amelia Recker (15 points), Pazia Speed (14), Allison Greene (13) and Taylor Foley (10). USF returns to action Thursday when it entertains Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference rival Indiana University South Bend at 5 p.m.
Cougars take third at Cali tourney

Published as part of the January 3, 2013 edition.

By Anthony Nasella

An eight-game winning streak by the St. Xavier men’s basketball team was snapped in the first game of the Westmont College Tournament in Santa Barbara on Friday against Westminster College of Salt Lake City.

But the Cougars started a new streak the next day against William Jessup, and their best player, Brad Karp, had a dominating night that almost matched a career-high scoring output. The junior recorded a double-double with 37 points and 13 rebounds and led St. Xavier to a third-place finish at Westmont with a 87-58 victory over William Jessup University of California.

A strong second-half performance by St. Xavier, outscoring the Warriors, 50-31, propelled the Cougars to the big win. With the victory, SXU has won nine of its last 10 games, with the lone loss coming last night against No. 7 ranked Westminster, 73-70.

Karp's 37-point effort was just two points shy of his career-high of 39 points set last Feb. 4 against Robert Morris (Ill.).

“Without a doubt, Karp was the master of that game,” Cougars Coach John O’Malley said. “He was controlling a lot of things, but he also got a lot of help.”

Sophomore guard Jack Krieger scored 17 points and corralled six boards on the evening for St. Xavier. Senior guard Anthony Grant had another nice game for Saint Xavier chipping in 11 points on the night. The Cougars started the game on a high note with a 14-0 run over the game's first four minutes to jump out to an early double-digit lead.

WJU closed the gap over the next 11 minutes trimming it down to 30-25 with just over five minutes to go in the first half. However, Saint Xavier pushed the lead back up to double figures, 37-27, at the halftime intermission.

St. Xavier came out on fire in the second half quickly pushing its lead up to 20 points, 55-35, after an 18-8 run that spanned the first seven minutes of the half. The Cougars enhanced their lead to as many as 32 points, 81-49, on a Karp lay-up with less than four minutes remaining. Saint Xavier held firm on its big lead and cruised the rest of the way to the 29-point win over the Warriors.

“The second half of the win is about the best we’ve played all year,” O’Malley. “It was a plus; to play teams that are as good as the ones we played this weekend, No. 7 and Westmont No. 5, we come back to Chicago with our heads up.

“I’m really enjoying this team; we have a great group of kids who are playing hard all the time.”
On Friday despite a game-best 24 points by Karp, St. Xavier had its eight-game win streak snapped in a tough 73-70 loss to No. 5 ranked (NAIA Division I) Westminster College in the opening game of the four-team tournament.

The Cougars found themselves in a see-saw battle throughout the game with neither team able to build a comfortable lead in the contest. St. Xavier closed to within a point, 67-66, on a pair of free throws by Karp with 1:22 to play in regulation, but the Griffins made a key lay-up and hit all four of their free throws attempts in the final seconds to hold on for the victory.

Senior guard Anthony Grant returned after missing a game due to injury and scored 12 points for Saint Xavier. Senior point guard Roosevelt Green continued his stellar all-around play finishing the night with 13 points, six assists and seven steals.

Senior forward Dominique Harvey made his presence felt for the Cougars posting a double-double effort of 11 points and 11 rebounds.

St. Xavier built an eight-point lead (25-17), which was the largest of the night by either team, with just over six minutes to go in the first half after a lay-up by Karp. The Griffins then answered with a 10-2 run over the next three minutes to knot the game up at 27-27.

Saint Xavier took a 37-32 lead into the halftime intermission. Westminster came out firing in the second half and went ahead, 59-58, with just under seven minutes to go in the game off a lay-up by junior guard Blake Skidmore.

The Cougars fought back to tie the game, 63-63, with a little over three minutes to play before junior forward Tallon Robertson put WMU for good on a jumper to give the Griffins a two-point lead, 65-63, that they would not relinquish. The team put up a valiant rally attempt over the final three minutes, but fell just short in their attempt for a ninth straight victory.

O'Malley, who chooses to not blame officials in a loss, was quick to point out a visible flaw – eight charging calls whistled against St. Xavier.

“I’ve never seen so many charging calls in my life,” he said. “Westminster College is a good team; we played well, but they beat us and eventually won the tournament. Nothing be ashamed of in a close loss.”

On Dec. 18 the team captured a 94-69 Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference victory over Trinity International University and then swept three straight games the St. Xavier Midwest Tournament from Dec. 20 through Dec. 22.

Senior point guard Roosevelt Green achieved two big career marks to lead the St. Xavier University to the win over Trinity International University. Green became St. Xavier's all-time career assists leader (485) and also surpassed 1,000 career points in Tuesday's victory finishing the night with game-bests of 26 points and 10 assists in his 100th career game in a Cougar uniform.

St. Xavier led 70-68 with 8:30 left to play before closing out the game on a 24-1 run to pull away for good. In addition to Green, two other Cougars recorded double-double performances with junior guard Brad Karp posting 21 points and team-best 13 rebounds, while sophomore guard Jack Krieger had 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Senior point guard Anthony Grant also scored in double figures for St. Xavier Tuesday with 13 points to go along with seven rebounds. The first half was a tight one with both teams lighting up the scoreboard and hitting at least 50 percent of its shots from the field en route to TIU taking a 49-44 lead into halftime.

The Cougars clamped down defensively in the second half, and the visiting Trojans had difficulty getting their shots to fall after the break. Trinity International hit just 33 percent of its shots in the second half (9-for-27).
Green nearly singlehandedly fueled the late St. Xavier scoring surge scoring 13 points, including three of his five three-pointers on the night, and posting three assists and a pair of steals over the final nine minutes of regulation.

On December 20, Karp led the way with a double-double effort of 21 points and 13 rebounds to help propel the team to its sixth straight win with an 80-66 victory over Robert Morris University in the first day of the St. Xavier Midwest Tournament at the Shannon Center in Chicago.

Karp was just one of the key performers in Thursday's win as senior point guards Anthony Grant and Roosevelt Green as well as sophomore guard Jack Krieger all had monster individual performances for the Cougars.

For the second straight game, St. Xavier used another solid second-half effort on both sides of the court to pull away for the victory.

Green became the first player in Cougar men's basketball history to amass 500 career assists with his career-best 16 dishes on the day. Grant and Krieger each dropped 20 points in the game. Krieger sank an impressive six three-pointers shooting 67 percent (6-for-9) from beyond the arc on the afternoon.

After leading 44-34 at the half, the Cougars hit 55 percent (16-for-29) of their second-half shots and held the visiting Eagles to just 28 percent shooting (9-for-32) to put the game away. St. Xavier kept its double-digit advantage all but a few seconds of the second half and led by as many as 21 points, 68-47, with 9:40 to play.

Freshman forward Joshua Mawhorr narrowly missed a double-double for St. Xavier, finishing with eight points and nine rebounds. RMU was led by senior guard Brian Bradley, who scored 15 points.

On December 21, the team won its seventh straight game and 10th in its last 11 game by defeating Saint Ambrose University (Iowa), 80-54, in non-conference NAIA action Friday afternoon in the second day of the St Xavier Midwest Tournament.

The Cougars (10-3 overall) opened the game on an 11-3 run fueled by eight points from Krieger, who tallied 18 points in the game on perfect 6-of-6 shooting including all four of his three-point attempts. Karp led all scorers in the game with 24 points along with five rebounds.

Green narrowly missed a double-double with 12 points and eight assists. Saint Xavier dominated on the boards out-rebounding the visiting Fighting Bees 47 to 25. St. Xavier freshman forward Josh Mawhorr was tough on the boards the entire afternoon, pulling down a game-best 10 rebounds to go along with six points.

A stifling defense has been one of the signature components to Saint Xavier's success over the last month and Friday's game was no different as the Cougars flustered Saint Ambrose from the onset helping force 16 turnovers and scoring 13 points off of SAU miscues. St. Xavier never trailed in the game and built its largest lead of 33 points, 70-37, with 12:40 to go in the second half on a lay-up by Green.

On Dec. 22, the Cougars completed its Midwest Tournament with a 61-57 victory over Marian University (Ind.) to take the championship Saturday in Chicago.

The Cougars (11-3 overall) had their hands full with the Knights and despite leading by 11 points early in the second half, the game went down to the final seconds with key free throws by Karp – who was dominant again posting game-highs of 26 points and 14 rebounds. Marian falls to 9-4 overall on the year with the loss.

Following the championship, Karp was named the tournament Most Valuable Player (MVP), while Green and Krieger earned spots on the all-tournament squad.
Green finished the championship just missing another double-double with 10 points and game-best nine assists. Krieger also hit double figures in scoring with 10 points to go along with seven rebounds. St. Xavier started the game strong opening on a 10-2 run sparked by three-pointers by Krieger and Green.

However, the Knights fought back and tied things up, 17-17, with just over 11 minutes to play in the first half on a jumper by junior guard Nick Achille -- who also earned a spot on the all-tournament team scoring a team-high 22 points. The game went back and forth until the final two minutes of the half when Karp hit a jumper and a three-pointer to give the Cougars a six-point halftime advantage, 39-33.

A couple of big baskets by senior forward Dominique Harvey early in the second half put St. Xavier ahead, 45-34, but Achille capped a 9-0 run for Marian and the Knights closed to within two, 45-43, with just under 14 minutes to play in the game.

A lay-up by Green gave St. Xavier an eight-point lead, 58-50, near the five-minute mark, but MU refused to go away and a big three-pointer by Achille made it a two-point game, 58-56, with 2:37 remaining. In the closing two minutes, Green came up with a big block for the Cougars and Karp pulled down a key offensive rebound to secure the victory.

“We played good in three of those games where we were able to move the ball and get up and down rather quickly,” O’Malley said. “We played defense well and shot the ball pretty well. I’ve been very pleased the way we’ve been playing lately. We’re getting a lot of people involved. The overall play that we’ve been exhibiting has been pretty good.

“Against Marian University, we were slowed down by the team’s play. They move the ball around a little bit more...They were able to keep us from getting out and doing as much running as we would have liked to. But in all four games, I thought the guys played very well.”

-Top-
Cougar women find prey in Florida

Published as part of the January 3, 2013 edition.

By Anthony Nasella

After securing two of its most impressive victories of the season the previous week in sunny Florida, the St. Xavier women's basketball team continued its hot streak with three more victories en route to winning its Holiday Women's basketball tournament last week.

The Cougars opened the tournament with a convincing 82-49 victory over Ashford University of Iowa on Thursday. They continued in a winning vein on Friday 77-61 victory over No. 23 Huntington University of Indiana and captured the championship Saturday with a 78-61 win over previously unbeaten University of Saint Francis of Indiana.

Following the championship game, junior forward Chrissy Heine and sophomore guard Suzie Broski were named to the all-tournament team, while sophomore forward Morgan Stuut was named the Tournament's Most Valuable Player (MVP).

Just as individuals were stepping up in the Florida contests to support the offense that has been consistently supplied by Broski and Stuut, additional players stepped at the St. Xavier Holiday Tournament.

"In the last two weeks, since those two bad losses, we've defeated four ranked teams – and none of the games were close," St. Xavier Coach Bob Hallberg said. "We've been beating these teams by 15-plus points, which is even more impressive. I don't know what happened after those losses, but we've been playing some solid basketball since.

"And what was especially good in the past three games, we've had at least one additional players - to go with Broski and Stuut - step for played as a different type of impact player for us."

Against Ashford University, junior guard Niara Harris came off the bench to score 18 points, shooting an impressive 5-for- 7 from the floor while helping her team to the convincing win. Stuut also had a big night for the Cougars, recording her eighth double-double of the season with game-highs of 19 points and 12 rebounds.

"Niara played an impact game for us," Hallberg said.

Trailing 21-12 with just under 10 minutes to play in the first half, St. Xavier closed out the frame on an 18-4 run to take a 30-25 lead into halftime and then used another 26-8 run in the second half to pull away for good.

Senior guard Romisha Taylor was a huge spark defensively for the Cougars, recording a gamebest four steals in addition to dishing out a game-high five assists. Freshman forward Caitlin McMahon also was tough in a reserve role for St. Xavier, dropping six points and pulling down seven rebounds.
Both teams struggled shooting the ball in the first half each hitting just 32 percent of their shots. However, the second half was a different story as the Cougars heated up and connected on 57 percent (21-for-37) of its attempts from the floor.

The Saints hit just 29 percent (8-for-28) of their shots after the break. St. Xaiver kept the defensive pressure on high throughout the ballgame with 14 steals, which helped lead to 27 Ashford turnovers. The team had all 10 of its active players record at least two points and a rebound in Thursday's game.

"We continue to do a good job at forcing turnovers," Hallberg said. "And we’re forcing a high amount of them against them. Playing good, aggressive defense definitely limits the opponent’s offense. Even when we play team who can shoot the three, we’re not giving them good looks at the basket."

On Friday, against Huntington, performances by junior Heine, Broski and Morgan Stuut help St. Xavier pull away for the victory and the berth in the championship contest. Taylor was also key to the big offensive surges by Heine, Broski and Stuut, finishing the game with a career-high 10 assists.

Broski led the way with 20 points on 10-for-20 shooting from the field, while Stuut was right behind her posting her ninth double-double of the season with 17 points and 16 rebounds. Heine connected on eight of her 10 field goals on the evening for a careerbest 16 points in addition to pulling down seven rebounds.

St. Xavier shot an amazing 61 percent (19-for-31) from the field in the second half to secure the double-digit victory. The Cougars opened the game on a 14-2 run in the first five minutes, but the Foresters fought back and tied things up, 16-16, with 11 minutes to play in the half.

The Cougars poured it on again and built a 10-point advantage, 35- 25, with a minute remaining, but Huntington hit a three-pointer and a pair of free throws in the final seconds to make the score, 35-30, at the break. The Cougars did not build a comfortable lead until a 20-8 run during a sevenminute span midway through the second period pushed the advantage to 68-50.

Good defense also limits the amount of shots they can take and make," he said. "And if we continue to shoot wit a high percentage, it's going to beat us."

Against the University of St. Francis, St. Xavier opened the game with an 18-2 run and never looked back. The Cougars (12-3 overall) were tough on both ends of the court hitting 49 percent (29-of-59) of its shot attempts and racking up 15 steals to help lead to 22 USF turnovers on the evening.

Broski and Stuut had the hot hands in Saturday's victory, each scoring 20 points to pace the winning effort. Stuut just missed another double-double performance pulling down nine rebounds. Heine and Taylor also had solid outings with Heine, chipping in 13 points and a game-high four blocks and Taylor posting 13 points and a game-best seven assists.

"It was nice to have Heine and Taylor both step up offensively," Hallberg said. "They definitely gave Broski and Stuut the offensive support. They helped make it easy for us.

St. Xavier had one of its best defensive outings of the season, scoring 28 of its 78 points off Saint Francis turnovers. After jumping out to its big lead in the game's first seven minutes, the Cougars kept the pressure on and built a 41-21 halftime advantage.

"And here we are up, at one point, 20 points against a previously undefeated team," he said, "That was a big first half for us and probably the best half of basketball that we played all season. We had a real nice outing and win the championship of our tournament against good competition."
St. Xavier held USF to just 31 percent (8-for-26) shooting in the first half. The Cougars maintained a double-digit lead for the entire second half, but Saint Francis cut it to 10 points, 66-56, with just under three minutes to play before a late flurry of free throws by the hosts wrapped things up.

-Top-
MVC Men's Volleyball Ranked No. 8 in Preseason Poll

Posted: Jan 4, 2013 9:33 AM

MARSHALL, MO -- The Missouri Valley College men's volleyball team will open its 2013 season as the No. 8 ranked team in the NAIA Men's Volleyball Preseason Top 10 Poll released Wednesday.

The Vikings finished the 2012 season with a 20-9 overall record, and were ranked in every NAIA Men's Volleyball Top 10 Poll during the season. This year they will be looking to return to the National tournament for the first time since 2007.

MVC will open up the 2013 schedule with an exhibition match with No. 2 ranked Graceland University on January 13. The first regular season match will be January 19 against St. Xavier University in Des Moines, Iowa with the first home contest on January 21 when the Vikings will host No. 6 ranked Missouri Baptist University.

-Top-
Brandon Evans had 22 points and six rebounds in Holy Cross’ 95-77 setback to Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) foe Saint Xavier University Saturday in Chicago.

Zoe Bauer added 14 points and Parker Dominguez 10.

Mike Vander Ploeg finished with nine assists and seven rebounds.

HOLY CROSS (77): Clayton Webb 6, Brandon Evans 22, Parker Dominguez 10, Mike Vander Ploeg 8, Dane Okuda 2, Zoe Bauer 14, Coley Schultheis 0, Darrell McIntyre 2, Michael Anderson 5, Alajowon Edwards 0, Jordan Leturgez 6, George Stainko 2, Pat Derksen 0. TOTALS: 29 11-16 77.

ST. XAVIER (95): Josh Mawhorr 2, Roosevelt Green 11, Brad Karmp 24, Anthony Grant 16, Jack Krieger 22, Sean Crary 0, Mike Beutel 2, Munir Smith 2, Tony Core 7, Dominique Harvey 9. TOTALS: 34 20-26 95.

Halftime score: St. Xavier 45, Holy Cross 30. 3-point goals: Holy Cross 8 (Bauer 4, Vander Ploeg 2, Leturgez 2), St. Xavier 7 (Krieger 4, Green 2, Karp). Total fouls (fouled out): Holy Cross 17 (Dominguez), St. Xavier 14 (none).
Oak Lawn's Luce headed to SXU

Oak Lawn lineman Ron Luce will continue his academic and football careers at St. Xavier University after signing a letter of intent.

Luce battled injuries as a senior, but was a starter on the Spartans' offensive line in 2011. He maintains a 3.7 grade-point average.
Cougars return to winning ways

Published as part of the January 10, 2013 edition.

SXU sports summary

Fortunately for St. Xavier University's men's basketball team, a bump in the road never turned into a series of potholes.

The Cougars rolled into the four-school Westmont College (Calif.) Tournament with an eight-game win streak in their possession, but NAIA Division I No. 7-ranked Westminster College snapped it by doling out a 73-70 defeat on the first night. Instead of stewing over the loss, however, SXU put both its offense and defense on full boil.

That resulted in an 87-58 thrashing of William Jessup University in the other Santa Barbara outing, a game about which Cougars coach Tom O'Malley said his team "played probably as well in the second half as we have all year." And SXU didn't leave its magic formula in the Golden State.

Upon their return to the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference wars, the Cougars continued their strong play. First, they eclipsed the century mark in scoring last Wednesday as they crushed Purdue University-North Central 105-77.

SXU then completed another unblemished week by romping to a 95-77 triumph over Holy Cross College on Saturday.

"We've actually been playing pretty well all the way through," O'Malley said. "We're playing at a better pace than we have the past few years and we played three good games.

"We've got kids who are a little bit on the positive side as far as their abilities and we have depth, too. I just like the mix we have right now and I'm very pleased with what we've done."

That included in the Cougars' lone setback. SXU engaged Westminster in a see-saw battle and found itself trailing by only one point with 1:22 remaining in the contest before the Griffins converted a layup and sank four free throws to stave off the Cougars' victory bid.

"I don't think it was a bad loss [because] we played Westminster right down to the wire," O'Malley said.

One thing working against SXU was a string of offensive fouls. O'Malley counted eight charges whistled against his club, while the Griffins got called for just one.

"I'm not saying they were all bad calls," O'Malley said, "but [Westminster] had only one. Usually, those [types of fouls] kind of even out during a game."

Despite the various obstacles they faced, the Cougars hung tough behind strong performances from junior guard Brad Karp (game-high 24 points), senior guard Roosevelt Green (13 points, seven steals, six assists), senior guard Anthony
Grant (12 points) and senior forward Dominique Harvey (11 points, 11 rebounds). The quartet spearheaded a 25-17 getaway for SXU and helped it carry a 37-32 edge into intermission.

The Griffins fought back and inched ahead 59-58 with just under seven minutes to go, but the Cougars created one more tie at 63 before Westminster went ahead to stay. Still, O'Malley liked this latest example of offensive balance put on display by SXU.

"I keep looking at our stats and we get four guys in double figures almost every game," he said. "We have five guys [averaging] in double figures for the season."

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Karp erupted for 37 points and also pulled down 13 rebounds to boost the Cougars to their convincing triumph over William Jessup. SXU outscored the Warriors 50-31 in the second half, in part because of commendable work on the offensive glass.

Sophomore Jack Krieger backed Karp with 17 points and six boards, and Grant chipped in 11 points.

The Cougars scored the game's first 14 points, but William Jessup narrowed the gap to five a bit later before falling 10 points in arrears by halftime. An 18-8 run by SXU to open the second half pretty much doomed the Warriors, who trailed by as many as 32 points at one juncture.

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Moving operations from California to LaPorte, Ind., didn't faze the Cougars, who rocked Purdue-North Central last Wednesday behind more heroics from Karp (24 points on 10-of-18 shooting), Green (16 points, six assists), Grant (13 points, seven rebounds), Harvey (17 points) and Krieger (11).

SXU gained firm control by embarking on a 20-9 run to start the second half, a surge fueled by two Krieger 3-pointers and six points from Karp.

Back home at the Shannon Center on Saturday, the Cougars (14-4, 10-2) continued traveling on high ground as they blitzed Holy Cross. Krieger and Karp supplied SXU with a superb 1-2 punch as they combined for 46 points.

After falling behind 12-8, the Cougars tallied 18 of the next 22 points to put the visitors on their heels. Krieger (22 points, including four 3-pointers) and Grant (16 points) deposited seven points apiece to ignite the surge.

Karp augmented his team-best 24 markers with seven rebounds, which also topped SXU. Green, who earlier this season became the Cougars' all-time assists leader and has passed out more than 500 in his collegiate career, garnered nine here, to go along with 11 points.

Just as important as the offense to SXU's cause, though, was its defense, which forced 20 Holy Cross turnovers. The Cougars were credited with 12 steals, with Green accounting for one-third of those. SXU, meanwhile, was guilty of just six miscues itself, a fact that pleased O'Malley very much.

"We're somewhere in the range of 10 or 11 [on average]," he said of the Cougars' per-game number of miscues. "Offensive rebounds and turnovers are two things we look closely at, and we've come up very strong in those areas. [But] I think we have improvement we can still make [in our overall performance]."

SXU was back in action this past Tuesday, when it hosted Indiana University-South Bend in another CCAC encounter. - Ken Karrson.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The offensive flow the Lady Cougars had been in during their previous five games continued in impressive fashion last Saturday versus Holy Cross College.

Jumping out to a 10-2 lead in first four minutes and never trailing, NAIA Division II No. 12-ranked SXU rolled to an 88-54 victory over its CCAC foe at the Shannon Center. Senior point guard Romisha Taylor fueled the early surge and the Lady Cougars' defense racked up 13 steals on the afternoon while holding the visiting Lady Fighting Saints to just 31 percent shooting.

Freshman forward Caitlin McMahon led the way for SXU (13-3, 8-3) by posting career highs of 15 points and 12 rebounds. The Lady Cougars, who were ahead 46-13 at halftime, received offensive contributions from all 10 of their active players.

"We've got some momentum going now," SXU coach Bob Hallberg said. "Saturday was a nice win for us. It was pretty much over at halftime.

"No matter who we are playing, we need to keep coming out and playing the same way we did on Saturday. We have to continue to have the good halves like the one we had in the first half against Holy Cross."

Sophomore forward Morgan Stuut also finished the game with a double-double effort, her 10th of the season. Along with her 12 points and 13 rebounds, Stuut dished out a game-best six assists. Junior guard Niara Harris provided a nice lift off the bench by chipping in 14 points and three assists, and junior forward Chrissy Heine was solid as well with eight points, six rebounds and a game-best four blocks.

The Lady Cougars controlled the glass by a 53-40 margin and recorded assists on 21 of their baskets.

"We had several players give us more offense," Hallberg said. "We need to have players like that also step up and have games like that for us. We received a lot of contributions from players, and that's what we have to continue to do against the very good teams.

"Maureen Riley was 3-for-5 from [behind the arc], and she's the best 3-point shooter we have. We have to use her more and she has to be hitting those."

Hallberg said that the more other players are able to find their offensive niche in the lineup, the better off SXU will ultimately be.

"We're going to be a hard team to defend if we put five good offensive players on the floor at a time," he said. "The opposition puts their best two defensive players on Stuut and [Suzie] Broski, [and] most teams can't find five good defensive players to put on the court at the same time. So the more others step up and take advantage, the more success we'll have."

Hallberg said he was especially pleased with the contributions that came from the remainder of his team in light of the fact that Stutt and Broski - who have been offensive stalwarts for the Lady Cougars all season - shot a combined 8-of-22 from the floor against Holy Cross.

"Morgan and Suzie weren't [doing] their usual lights-out shooting and we still managed to pile up 88 points," he said. "Usually, we would only score 60 in that case. It's good to see the other players step up and take advantage of the opportunity."
"They just have to get out there, relax and look for their own shot when they're open. Other players need to remain offensive-minded, too."

SXU's current streak will be put to the test this week against Indiana University-South Bend, Roosevelt University and Olivet Nazarene. In November, the Lady Cougars posted two-point victories over the Lady Titans and Lady Lakers, but lost by 12 to the Lady Tigers.

"We have a tough road ahead," Hallberg said. "We didn't play well against Olivet last time, and we barely beat South Bend and Roosevelt in the final minute. We'll see if we can keep this streak going against some challenging conference opponents this week." - Anthony Nasella.

FOOTBALL

Finishing the 2012 season with an 11-2 overall record and their fourth straight appearance in the NAIA Football Championship Series semifinals, the Cougars were honored as the "NAIA Team of the Year" when FieldTurf announced the annual winners of its FieldTurf Football Awards at the American Football Coaches Association Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

The FieldTurf Team of the Year Awards acknowledge programs at all levels of sport that show a passion for the game, along with dedication to team play. FieldTurf announced awards in 19 different categories for the 2012 season, including team and head coach honors from the NFL through high school.

"I'm so thankful to FieldTurf for recognizing our program as the NAIA team of the year," SXU coach Mike Feminis. "They run a first-class business and have been instrumental in the development of the game of football at every level of play. It is truly an honor to receive such a prestigious award."

SOFTBALL

Franchesca Graffeo, a senior shortstop at Shepard, recently signed a letter of intent to continue her academic and athletic careers at SXU as a member of the Lady Cougars softball program.

The Crestwood native, who plans to pursue a degree in elementary education, will be a freshman at SXU next fall and compete for playing time in the 2014 season. Lady Cougars coach Myra Minuskin believes Graffeo will continue to see action at shortstop during her collegiate career.

As a junior last spring, Graffeo was named the Lady Astros' Most Valuable Player and selected to The Regional News All-Area team. She hit .396 on the year and broke a school record with 20 doubles, to go along with 26 runs scored and 24 RBI.

"Franchesca has the talent and work ethic to have an immediate impact as a freshman," Minuskin said. "We are so excited to have such a quality student-athlete, who will represent SXU so beautifully on and off the field."

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Christy Bowgren, a senior midfielder at Hononegah High School in Rockton, Ill., recently signed a letter of intent to continue her academic and athletic careers at SXU.
Bowgren, who will major in nursing upon her arrival on campus next fall, will help compensate for the absence of Lady Cougars midfielders Nancy Schueth and Tammy Contorno, both of whom will graduate in the spring.

"Christy is a strong and smart player, and she will help fill the loss of our two central defenders," SXU coach Evan Strehlau said. "Christy's style of play complements what we want to accomplish on the field.

"Her impact will be felt on Day 1, not only on the field but in the locker room as well. She is proud to become a Cougar and we are proud to have her join our program."

-Top-
No. 11 Saint Xavier Slows Down No. 6 Olivet Nazarene in 86-69 Win

Rob Brandt (admin) Published Friday, January 11, 2013 - 07:41 PM

Bourbonnais, Ill. - Knocking off its third NAIA top-10 ranked team in less than a month, the No. 11 ranked Saint Xavier University women’s basketball team continued to roll claiming its eighth straight victory Thursday night in an 86-69 win over Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) frontrunner and No. 6 ranked Olivet Nazarene University (Ill.) at McHie Arena in Bourbonnais, Ill. The Cougars (15-3 overall/10-3 CCAC) successfully slowed down the Tigers holding the NAIA's top scoring offense (103.2 points per game) to their worst offensive output of the season, nearly 35 points below their season average. With ONU coming into Thursday's contest also leading the nation in steals per game (21.9 spg), SXU used one of its opponent's strengths against them racking up 20 steals to help lead to 35 turnovers by the Tigers.

Sophomore guard/forward Morgan Stuut (Marcellus, Mich./Three Rivers) led all scorers with 26 points, while also pulling down a game-best 12 rebounds for her 12th double-double effort of the season. Hitting half of her shot attempts from the floor (11-for-22) sophomore guard Suzie Broski (Rockford, Ill./Boylan Catholic) was also key to SXU's success Thursday finishing with 13 points and seven rebounds to go along with game-highs of seven assists and five steals. In her first career start, sophomore forward Margaret Wildner (Oak Lawn, Ill./Mother McAuley) proved she could be a difference maker as well scoring 11 points to go along with six rebounds and three steals. The Tigers had just one player score in double figures with sophomore forward Ashley Wilson notching 12 points.

Olivet built a 14-8 advantage over the game's first five minutes before Saint Xavier used a 7-0 run to take the lead on a lay-up by junior point guard Jordan Brandt (Winamac, Ind./Winamac) with 12:27 to play in the first half. Over the next five minutes of play, the two teams exchanged leads, but a pair of three-pointers by ONU junior guard Liz Bart put the hosts ahead, 30-24, at the 7:15 mark of the half. The Cougars clawed their way back though and took advantage of a cold spell by the Tigers to forge a 21-2 run over the game's next six minutes. Olivet regrouped in the final minute of the frame and went into the locker room at halftime trailing by eight, 45-37. The Tigers cut the deficit to four, 45-41, in the opening minute of the second half, but the rest of the game belonged to SXU as an 11-2 run helped push the lead into double figures for good. ONU shot 30 percent (21-for-71) from the field, including just 10 of its 49 three-point attempts (20 percent).

Saint Xavier (15-3 overall/10-3 CCAC) hosts a tough Roosevelt University squad on Saturday, January 12, in another key CCAC match-up. The game is scheduled for a 1 p.m. start at the Shannon Center in Chicago. The Lakers bring a 16-4 overall record and 11-2 conference mark into the game and are receiving votes in the latest NAIA Top 25 Poll.

-Top-
St Xavier’s Stuut Named NAIA Women’s Basketball Player of the Week

Rob Brandt (admin) Published Tuesday, January 15, 2013 - 08:39 PM

Kansas City, Mo. – Saint Xavier University sophomore forward Morgan Stuut (Marcellus, Mich./Three Rivers) came up big in a week when the Cougars needed her the most leading SXU to three key conference wins, including an upset of No. 6 ranked Olivet Nazarene University (Ill.), with a trio of double-doubles during the seven-day stretch ending January 13. Stuut then doubled up in the awards category late Tuesday afternoon when she was named both the NAIA National and Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) Women's Basketball Player of the Week after averaging 23.3 points, 15.7 rebounds, 3.3 assists, 2.7 rebounds and 1.3 blocks over the three games. She also shot .526 (10-of-19) from beyond the arc and averaged three three-pointers made in those affairs, one of which was against Roosevelt University (Ill.), a team receiving votes in the latest NAIA National Top 25 Poll.

Stuut opened the busy week with 19 points, 16 rebounds, four steals and three assists in an 80-68 win over Indiana University-South Bend (IUSB) last Tuesday. Two nights later, she registered 26 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and three steals in the road upset of Olivet Nazarene, 86-69. Stuut, who now has 12 double-doubles on the season and four in a row, closed out her three-game barrage with 25 points, 19 rebounds, three assists and two blocks in an 81-61 home win over Roosevelt. For the season, Stuut is currently averaging 19.5 points per game (No. 8 in the nation) and 11.6 rebounds per contest (No. 4 nationally). She is also shooting .436 from beyond the three-point arc, which ranks her ninth best at the national level. The CCAC recognition marks the third time this season that Stuut has been so honored and the first time a player from the league has been acknowledged at the national level this year. It was the first time a SXU women’s basketball player has earned the national recognition since former standout Erin Hannemann did it back on February 3, 2009.

Saint Xavier (16-3 overall/11-3 CCAC) moved to within a game of first place in the conference standings with the three victories this past week, part of a current nine-game winning streak for the Cougars. SXU continues its regular season slate on Wednesday, January 16, with a home match-up against conference foe Trinity Christian College (Ill.). The game is scheduled for a 5 p.m. tip-off at the Shannon Center in Chicago.

-Top-
McAuley ready to welcome Oak Lawn Special Olympics basketball games

Published as part of the January 16, 2013 edition.

by Scott Fredericks

For the Oak Lawn Special Education Department's annual basketball showcase, one year at St. Linus was an overwhelming success, and three years at Br. Rice were even better.

Now the event continues to grow as Mother McAuley High School welcomes the basketball showcase for the first time on Jan. 19 at 1 p.m.

Tickets are $5 with all proceeds benefitting the athletic program of the Oak Lawn Park District Special Recreation Department.

Mother McAuley officials, game organizers, coaches and players couldn't be happier to welcome the special athletes to their school.

"I'm very pleased that we are hosting this," said Mother McAuley Principal Claudia Woodruff. "I think it's a great thing for the community and the participants. It's wonderful and hopefully something that will continue to grow."

John Zawaski, the brain trust behind the annual game, is also excited to bring the game to a new venue.

"The whole idea is to pack the house for these kids to play in front of wall-to-wall fans and see the looks on their faces," said Zawaski. "We are trying to get a lot of new fans here. We have the following at Br. Rice; so, hopefully now the Rice fans will come here, and we will have new fans from McAuley. Our goal is to play the game at St. Xavier on the 10-year anniversary."
Zawaski came up with the idea to host a basketball game for special athletes at St. Linus when he realized the group needed funds to pay for gym time for program participants. That first game at St. Linus drew a standing room-only crowd and raised more than $1,000.

Zawaski knew the game needed a different location to accommodate all the fans. Br. Rice, where Zawaski's sons attended, was a natural fit. The Junior Jordans and Eagles played to capacity crowds there for three years, raising enough money to provide some much needed revenue for the program.

"We had older uniforms and went on the money that the parents paid. Now they don't have to worry about the burden of that," said Oak Lawn Special Recreation Department Director Todd Mallo. "We have top-of-the-line jerseys now, and we bought warm-ups for them this year. They also get great trophies."

In four years, the event has raised nearly $40,000, Zawaski said, and this year's event has already raised more than $10,000.

Doors to the event open at noon.

Zawaski said there will also be raffles with prizes. In addition, the Mother McAuley choir will sing the national anthem, while the Marching Crusaders will also perform.
Dean leads Lady Cougars in track opener

Published as part of the January 17, 2013 edition.

SXU sports summary

Highlighted by Rachael Dean's victory in the mile run, St. Xavier University's women's track team got its 2013 indoor season underway in fine fashion at the Lewis University Open Friday night in Romeoville.

Dean's clocking of 5 minutes, 12.84 seconds was a "B"-standard national qualifying time in her event and less than full second off the "A" qualifier. She is already in line to compete in the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships, which begin Feb. 28 in Geneva, Ohio.

"What a great way to open our indoor season," Lady Cougars coach Lisa Ebel said. "Although Rachael winning and qualifying for nationals in the mile was the exclamation point on the evening, I felt the team as a whole did a great job and there were plenty of individual performances that showcased the amount of talent that this squad possesses.

"It should be another great season and I'm looking forward to watching our entire team compete this weekend [at the Lewis University Invitational]."

Freshman Ann Kolker had a nice track debut for SXU as she took second in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:32.40. Junior Anna Galvez was runner-up in the 600 (1:44.50), senior Jackie Ott placed third in the 1,000-run (3:05.55) and senior Ashley Shares (Stagg) claimed third as well in the 3,000-run (10:48.19).

Freshman Lexi McDermid gave the Lady Cougars a fourth in the 400-dash (1:05.71).

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Extracting payback was the Cougars' watchword last week.

Two of SXU's three Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference wins could certainly be filed under that category. The first was when the Cougars avenged a loss to Indiana University-South Bend earlier this season.

The Titans couldn't complete a sweep of SXU despite the latter's periodic difficulties on offense. Not until the late going did the Cougars finally pull away a bit as they wound up bagging a 68-58 triumph at the Shannon Center last Tuesday.

"We had control of it at the end, which I always like," SXU coach Tom O'Malley said. "But in reality, South Bend was a tough game."
Making it so was an attack that produced just 21 points in the contest's first 14 minutes. Luckily for the Cougars, their defense showed up from the outset, and the hosts were still able to hold a lead at that juncture. Two Jack Krieger 3-pointers helped SXU remain in front at the break.

The Titans refused to cave, though, and were within 44-42 seven minutes into the second half following a 3-pointer by Chris Beam. Not much changed over the next several minutes, but a Tony Core dunk energized the Cougars down the stretch. That basket upped their lead to 60-53, and the home team soon pushed into double digits.

Krieger totaled 14 points to rank as SXU's second-best scorer behind junior Brad Karp. Karp, who has earned CCAC Men's Player of the Week honors four times already this season, led all scorers with 23 points on 10-of-14 shooting. He also gathered in a game-high nine rebounds and blocked three shots.

Additional input for the Cougars came from senior guard Roosevelt Green, who totaled 13 points, six steals and five assists. Each of the latter two numbers represented game-best efforts.

SXU forced 17 IUSB turnovers while committing only nine itself, and the Cougars also did a better job of minimizing the Titans' impact on the glass.

"Every time you can come back and beat that beat you [before], that speaks a lot to where you're at," O'Malley said. "There were a couple things we had to correct, and we did. When we hit more shots, more free throws and [commit] fewer turnovers [than our opponent], we're probably going to win."

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Olivet Nazarene has long been one of SXU's staunchest foes within the CCAC, but the rivalry took on an even sharper edge last spring. That's when the Tigers nosed out the Cougars for a berth in the national tournament, something O'Malley felt happened largely because Olivet coach Ralph Hodge had a say into which school advanced.

"I thought what happened last year wasn't the right thing to do," O'Malley said. "They beat Robert Morris and moved ahead of us [in the rankings], then we beat Robert Morris handily and didn't go back ahead of them. With me, it's a little bit of motivation [remembering that]."

SXU had beaten Olivet once already this winter, but O'Malley didn't think his club derived any sort of advantage from that previous result.

"We can't afford to take it easy," he said. "You have to do a lot of preparation because [the Tigers] run their offense as well as anybody in the country. After playing them a while, you have an idea of what they're going to do, but any time you beat Olivet, you're doing something good."

What was good on this occasion was the Cougars' ability to both take care of and distribute the basketball. A total of just six turnovers meant SXU had plenty of potentially rewarding possessions, and 21 times a Cougars basket had an assist attached to it.

Karp (18 points), senior forward Dominique Harvey (16 points) and Anthony Grant (16) keyed SXU's charge by sinking a combined 24-of-35 shots. With freshman forward Josh Mawhorr (14 points, six rebounds) also making his presence felt, the Cougars had more than enough firepower to slam the door on the Tigers, 81-64, last Thursday at McHie Arena in Bourbonnais.

SXU used a 9-1 run to give itself a 30-22 edge with less than nine minutes to go in the opening half. After Olivet made a minor disturbance in response, the Cougars entered halftime on a roll as they held a 48-32 advantage. The hosts never got within single digits again.
SXU clicked on 55 percent of its field-goal tries overall, while the Tigers made good on only 39 percent of theirs.

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And no sooner had that contest ended than the Cougars were preparing for yet another CCAC foe. This time, it was Roosevelt, which visited the Shanon Center Saturday afternoon.

The most significant difference between the schools was that SXU (17-4, 13-2) had Karp on its side. Karp provided his team with game-high totals of 29 points, 19 rebounds and four steals as the NAIA Division II No. 23-ranked Cougars pocketed an 88-65 triumph.

In addition to being the third win in five nights for SXU, this latest success was its 14th victory in 15 games.

"And it's not because the competition is less," O'Malley said. "It's not slouch teams we're playing. It looks like a one-sided game [here], but it really wasn't.

"This was a very good week, one of our better weeks in quite a while."

The Cougars found themselves in a 44-all tie with the Lakers early in the second half, but a 16-3 surge by the hosts put them in command. Besides Karp, SXU received strong play from Krieger (15 points, including three 3-pointers), Green (12 points, eight assists) and Grant (12 points).

The Cougars owned a 41-26 edge on the boards and forced 20 Roosevelt turnovers, nine of which came on steals. O'Malley attributed much of SXU's second-half dominance to its switch to man-to-man defense.

Dates with Trinity Christian this past Wednesday and CCACleading Cardinal Stritch on Saturday were next up for the Cougars, who now have a bull's-eye on their own back, thanks to their national rating.

"It doesn't stop - it's endless," O'Malley said of his squad's challenges. "We just keep going at it." - Ken Karrson

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

After playing perhaps the best three consecutive games of the season to date, the Lady Cougars extended their winning streak to nine games by defeating Indiana University-South Bend, sixthranked Olivet Nazarene and Roosevelt University in CCAC action last week.

SXU, which came into last week ranked 11th in NAIA Division II, defeated IUSB 80-68 in at home on Tuesday. The Lady Cougars then overwhelmed Olivet, which boasts the NAIA's top offense at 103 points per game, 86-69 in Bourbonnais.

Capping the productive week was an 81-61 triumph over the Lady lakers, who were victimized by 50 second-half points from SXU (16-3, 11-3).

While the Lady Cougars had several players contribute to the successes, sophomore Morgan Stuut undoubtedly stood out among the crowd. The 5-foot-10 forward averaged 23.3 points and 15.7 rebounds in the three contests and now has 13 doubledoubles on the season.

"The two most amazing things in these past three games: holding Olivet down offensively the way we did and Morgan's offensive output," SXU coach Bob Hallberg said. "She's not Wilt Chamberlain, and yet she pulled down so many rebounds. She's just playing at an All-American level.
"The South Bend game went unscripted [and] we had a total turnaround against Olivet from the first time we played them. Against Roosevelt, the difference was, no doubt, between the two halves. We're still being led by Morgan and Suzie [Broski], but we got big contributions from Jordan Brandt, Romisha Taylor, Caitlin McMahon and Margaret Wildner."

Stuut led the way versus the Lady Titans with game-high totals of 19 points, 16 rebounds and four steals. The Lady Cougars also got a solid outing from Brandt, who matched a career high with 16 points after sinking a game-best four 3-pointers.

Broski also finished in double figures on Tuesday, netting 18 points on efficient 9-of-18 shooting. Taylor dished out 10 assists, which tied her previous career mark in that category, and McMahon had a solid night as well by recording eight points and eight rebounds.

The Lady Titans came out firing, going ahead 7-0 in the game's first two minutes before SXU answered back with 10 straight points. The game went back and forth for the next 10 minutes before Stuut scored 11 points in a row to give the Lady Cougars a 37-32 lead with four minutes remaining in the half.

IUSB never recovered as it trailed 47-37 at the break and stayed in arrears by a doublefigure margin for most of the second half. SXU frustrated the Lady Titans with tough defense throughout the evening as it made 13 steals and caused 21 IUSB turnovers in all.

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The victory over Olivet was the Lady Cougars' third over a top-10 team in less than a month, and they subdued the Lady Tigers by holding them to their worst offensive output of the season. Olivet's point total was nearly 35 below its season average.

With the Lady Tigers also leading the nation in per-game steals (21.9) entering the contest, SXU used one of its opponent's strengths against it. The Lady Cougars made off with 20 steals, part of a 35-turnover evening for Olivet.

Stuut led all scorers with 26 points while also pulling down a game-best 12 rebounds. Hitting half of her shot attempts from the floor (11-of-22) and finishing with 22 points, Broski was also a key to SXU's success.

Supplying further help were Taylor (13 points, seven rebounds, seven assists, five steals) and Wildner (11 points, six rebounds, three steals), the latter of whom was making her initial collegiate start.

Olivet built a 14-8 advantage over the game's first five minutes before the Lady Cougars used a 7-0 run to take the lead, doing so on Brandt's layup with 12:27 to play in the half. Over the next five minutes, the two teams exchanged leads before a pair of 3-pointers put the hosts ahead 30-24 at the 7:15 mark.

SXU clawed its way back, though, and capitalized upon an Olivet cold spell by embarking on a 21-2 blitz over the next six minutes. The Lady Tigers regrouped in the final minute of the and went into the locker room at halftime trailing by eight, 45-37.

Olivet reduced its deficit to four (45-41) when play resumed, but the remainder of the game belonged to the Lady Cougars, who pushed their lead into double digits for good with an 11-2 run. The Lady Tigers shot only 30 percent from the field, a figure by 10 points when they stepped outside the 3-point arc.

"We spent more time on offense this time against Olivet," Hallberg said. "We took too many bad, quick shots the first time around. Olivet averages 57 3-point attempts a game and they attempted 65 against us last time, but this time we held them to 49 3-point attempts."
"We really did a great job defensively against them. We didn't let them stand out there and get real good looks at the baskets; we got in their face.

"Even the turnovers weren't as bad. We committed 31, but Olivet committed 35. So turnovers, defending the 3-point shot [better] and taking more time on offense were key factors in the win."

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SXU connected on 58 percent of its second-half shots and rang up 50 points to leave Roosevelt in the rearview mirror on Saturday.

Stuut had another monster performance for the Lady Cougars, posting game-best totals of 25 points and 19 rebounds. Mc-Mahon notched a double-double of her own with 11 points and 12 boards, Broski chipped in 16 points on 8-of-16 shooting and Taylor delivered eight points and a game-high seven assists.

It was not a smooth start for SXU, which sank only 30 percent of its first-half shots and fell behind by as many as six points on multiple occasions. The Lady Cougars trailed 36-31 at halftime, but came out with a renewed energy in the second half and opened the session with a 20-1 explosion.

Leading 51-37 with 12 minutes remaining, SXU maintained its double-figure lead the rest of the way going.

As the Lady Cougars' win total - and, ultimately, their national ranking - climbs, Hallberg said another key to success has been the team’s developing identity.

"We started out in conference so early and we were still trying to find our identity," he said. "We learned from those early mistakes and defeats. We're learning what we have to do better to beat good team. Now, were starting to learn how good we can be.

"We didn't know that at the beginning of the year and were still finding out if we were good enough. Lately, we've been beating several ranked team. It's been good competition against good teams, and we've been beating them handily as of late."

On tap for SXU were matchups against Trinity Christian College and Cardinal Stritch. The Lady Wolves host the Lady Cougars on Saturday in Milwaukee.

"It's always tough when we play Cardinal Stritch at their place," Hallberg said. "They've only lost two conference games this year: to us and Olivet Nazarene. So hopefully we can have the same type of game that we had against them in November." - Anthony Nasella

FOOTBALL

Senior center Matt Munizzi, the 2012 recipient of the prestigious NAIA Rimington Award, was honored Friday in Lincoln, Neb., at the 13th annual Rimington Trophy Presentation.

The award recognizes the most outstanding centers at NCAA's Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), Division II and Division III levels, as well as the NAIA. It is named after former University of Nebraska two-time All-American Dave Rimington, who played for the Cornhuskers in the early 1980s.

This year's Rimington Trophy, awarded to the best center at the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) level, went to the University of Alabama's Barrett Jones.
The Rimington Trophy and Awards are overseen by the Boomer Esiason Foundation, which is committed to finding a cure for cystic fibrosis and has raised over $100 million for CF research. Munizzi is the first player from SXU to earn the national award and just the second player from the Mid-States Football Association to claim the honor since the NAIA version began in 2003.

"It is truly an honor to be the recipient of the 2012 Rimington Award for the NAIA," Munizzi said. "I want to thank my family and friends, who have been so supportive throughout my career, and my teammates as well, who made my time playing football here so enjoyable. I also want to thank Coach [Mike] Feminis for recruiting me and giving me the opportunity to play at St Xavier.

"Finally, I want to thank my position coaches, Coach [Mark] Yanule, Coach [Joe] Lecessi and Coach [Michael] Johnson, who made this award a possibility for me. I didn't know it at the time, but my decision to come to SXU was one of the greatest decisions of my life."

Munizzi was an MSFA All-Mideast League first-team selection in 2012 after earning second-team recognition as a junior. He helped provide blocking for an offensive unit that was second in the NAIA in total passing (4,254 yards) and per-game passing (327.2 yards) and eighth in scoring (448 points). Munizzi was also the starter in 2011 when the Cougars won their first NAIA national championship.

"This is a tremendous honor for Matt," Feminis said. "He made all of the calls and was the calming influence on our offensive line.

"But Matt was [also] an all around great teammate and always showed how much he cared for the entire team, not just for our offense. He made a point all year to be a great prep player for our defensive guys in their weekly preparations. Matt was a true leader for our program."

**VOLLEYBALL**

Seniors Desiree Aramburu (Mother McAuley) and Kelly Knudsen (Oak Lawn) both earned honorable mention recognition on the Tachikara-NAIA Volleyball and American Volleyball Coaches Association All-America teams for 2012.

The duo has previous been chosen as AVCA NAIA All-Mideast Region first-teamers.

"These are well-deserved honors for both of these young ladies," SXU coach Robert Heersema said. "Desiree has been working very hard for the last two years and Kelly has been a solid contributor and highly decorated player for us the past four seasons.

"We have never had five players make all-conference and we have never had two players earn All-America honorable mention honors in the same year. Both of them will be hard to replace and big shoes to fill going forward."

Aramburu was named the 2012 Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference Volleyball Player of the Year after leading the Lady Cougars with 1,425 assists and finishing second on the team with 42 service aces and 432 digs. Knudsen was second on the team in both total kills (451) and kills per set (3.09), to go along with her 352 digs and 39 aces. Both players were also first-team members on the All-CCAC volleyball squad.

-Top-
MARSHALL, MO -- The No. 8 Missouri Valley College Vikings men's volleyball team took on St. Xavier University in Des Moines, Iowa on Saturday afternoon winning 3-1 in the Vikings' first match of the 2013 season.


Leading the way for MVC was Freshman Outside Hitter Stan Bosovik who finished with nine kills and four blocks, while Junior Middle Blocker Jake Haar had seven kills on nine swings and two blocks. Junior Outside Hitter Peterson Silva contributed with eight kills, five digs, and two blocks while Junior Setter Will McCracken had 25 assists, four digs, and two aces.

The win brings the Vikings to 1-0 overall. St. Xavier falls to 0-2 on the season. The Vikings will be in action Monday when they host No. 6 Missouri Baptist University for the first home match, and conference match of the season.

-Top-
Former Three Rivers basketball standout Morgan Stuut earns NAIA national honor with St. Xavier University

By Scott DeCamp | sdecamp1@mlive.com

on January 19, 2013 at 8:00 AM, updated January 19, 2013 at 8:06 AM

Morgan Stuut was the best girls basketball player in the Kalamazoo area during her senior season at Three Rivers High School in 2010-11.

Now a sophomore at St. Xavier University in Chicago, Stuut is earning herself national acclaim as a budding NAIA star.

The 5-foot-10 guard/forward collected a pair of awards earlier this week after she posted three double-doubles in a trio of victories last week. Not only was Stuut named the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference women’s basketball player of the week, she was selected NAIA national player of the week after she averaged 23.3 points, 15.7 rebounds, 3.3 assists, 2.7 steals and 1.3 blocks in the three games.

Stuut shot 52.6 percent (10-of-19) from 3-point range during the trio of victories, including an upset of No. 6 Olivet Nazarene University (Ill.).

Stuut opened the week with 19 points, 16 rebounds, four steals and three assists in an 80-68 win over Indiana University-South Bend on Tuesday. Two nights later, she totaled 26 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and three steals in the 86-69 road win over Olivet Nazarene. She finished the three-game run with 25 points, 19 boards, three assists and two blocks in an 81-61 win over Roosevelt.

For the season, Stuut is averaging a team-high 19.5 points, 11.4 rebounds, 3.4 assists, 2.3 steals and 1.4 blocks. She’s shooting 43.5 percent from the floor, including 42.9 percent from deep (36-of-84), and 80.4 percent from the free-throw line.

Stuut ranks ninth nationally in NAIA Division II in scoring, fourth in rebounding and 11th in 3-point efficiency. She has received CCAC player of the week honors three times this season, and her national honor marks the first time a player from the league has been acknowledged at the national level this year.

Stuut has posted a dozen double-doubles. She saw her double-double streak snapped at four in Wednesday’s 99-58 home rout over Trinity Christian College, when she finished with 20 points, seven rebounds, four assists, one steal and one block.

Stuut was the Kalamazoo Gazette’s Classes A-B player of the year in 2010-11, when she led Three Rivers to a 27-1 record and a Class B state runner-up finish.
As a freshman at St. Xavier, Stuut averaged 15.2 points, 9.2 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 2.0 steals for the 24-8 Cougars.

Her St. Xavier squad is enjoying great success this season, too, at 17-3 overall and 12-3 in the CCAC. The Cougars are ranked 12th in the NAIA Division II coaches top 25.

St. Xavier, which sits in second place in the CCAC, carries a 10-game winning streak into today’s contest at 14th-ranked Cardinal Stitch (19-3, 13-2). Cardinal Stitch has won 11 straight and is tied atop the CCAC with No. 7 Olivet Nazarene (17-3, 13-2), for which former Portage Northern standout Ashley Wilson (5-11 sophomore forward) is the leading scorer (15.7 ppg) and rebounder (6.4).

***This article also appeared in the following sources: River County Journal.

-Top-
College report: Dundee-Crown grad Jeff Beck nets honor

By Dan Chamness For Sun-Times Media January 20, 2013 5:42PM

Saint Xavier won its own Christmas tournament, defeating Ashford University (82-49), Huntington University (77-61) and Indiana-based St. Francis (78-61). Chrissy Heine (Hampshire), a SXU junior forward, was in double figures in two games. Her best effort was against Huntington as she scored 16 points, hitting 8-of-10 field goals. The starting forward, who played 26 minutes, also had seven rebounds and two assists.

-Top-
Carrying the torch

By MIKE ECKERT

meckert@record-eagle.com

January 20, 2013

TRAVISCE CITY — There were 259 days between St. Francis' loss to Flint Beecher in the Class C state title game last spring to the start of this basketball season.

That was 259 days for current Gladiator seniors Kody Kleinrichert and Damon Sheehy-Guiseppi to hear all of the doubts. People telling them the team would be in for a down year with the loss of center Sean Sheldon and point guard Devin Sheehy-Guiseppi to graduation.

It was also 259 days for the pair to work. And work hard.

"I put up shots in the gym and Kody and I started running," Sheehy-Guiseppi said. "We took an initiative to get a lifting program going, and then we went to the track and started running more. It was anything we could do to get ready for the next level."

"I really looked forward to this season," Kleinrichert said. "I had multiple conversations with Damon about how we were going to have to be the ones to step up and replace Sean and Devin. Really, we had to take our team to the next level and keep us on top."

Have they ever. St. Francis is off to an 11-0 start and was ranked third in the first Associated Press Class C poll last week. While a number of players have made significant contributions to the Gladiators' success thus far, Kleinrichert and Sheehy-Guiseppi have led the charge in their final season.

"I think from a year ago, those two guys more than anybody knew it was going to come down to their improvement," St. Francis coach Keith Haske said. "We've had to kick them out of the gym because they weren't supposed to be in here. If you saw them last year to this year, it's pretty evident how much work they've put in, because their improvement is just huge. And obviously the better they are, the better we are."

While multiple-sport athletes are common at St. Francis, Kleinrichert and Sheehy-Guiseppi chose to focus solely on basketball. That gave them plenty of time to play AAU and pick-up games while working on getting bigger and faster with TC Central strength and conditioning coach Doug Gle.

"They had me listed at 205 (pounds) last year, but I was probably only 195," the 6-foot-7 Kleinrichert said. "Last time I weighed in, I was about 210. It helped a ton. It's a lot easier down low with finishes and everything. The game almost
goes into slow motion now. I don't have to worry about it getting smacked out of my hands. I don't have to worry about getting moved around."

The off-season work already paid off in one sense for Kleinrichert, who was offered this fall and verbally accepted to play basketball for St. Xavier University in Chicago. He'll be the second straight big man from St. Francis to play at the next level, as Sheldon is in his freshman year at William & Mary.

"Part of the reason I'm as good as I am today is because of Sean," Kleinrichert said. "Playing against him all of those years made me a lot better player. Honestly, if I didn't have Sean to look up to, I wouldn't be playing college basketball. But seeing his work ethic and what he put in and got out of the game inspired me to do what I've done with it."

For Damon Sheehy-Guiseppi, moving into the starting lineup this year meant taking the spot his older brother held for the last couple of years.

"It was nerve-racking, because he (Devin) and Sean led it pretty hard," Sheehy-Guiseppi said. "It was a lot of pressure, but we've had a good season so far. I want to see if we can keep it going."

"I told Damon that his first eight games may be the best eight games I've had a point guard string together in a long, long time," Haske said. "Hopefully he can stay at that level."

Kleinrichert is averaging 20 points and 8 rebounds a game, while Sheehy-Guiseppi is averaging 10 points, 8 assists and 4 steals.

With both Kleinrichert and Sheehy-Guiseppi being seniors, this will be their last run. And no matter how far the run goes, the Gladiators will be looking for players to step into their roles next season.

"I'm already talking to my juniors," Haske said. "Some of them aren't playing a lot, but you want to make sure they're in here working hard. I think the mark of a good program is when that happens. You have juniors come in and maybe they have to pay their dues, but as seniors they step up. If you look at really good programs, high school or college, that's what happens. We're hoping they're stepping stones to good things in the future."

-Top-
Milwaukee, Wis. - Behind team-bests of 22 points and five assists by senior point guard Roosevelt Green (Markham, Ill./Tinley Park), No. 18 ranked Saint Xavier University came away with a huge 66-62 road win over No. 3 Cardinal Stritch University (Wis.) in thrilling Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) men's basketball action Saturday afternoon at Panella Court in Milwaukee, Wis. Green hit a pair of free throws with 13 seconds remaining in regulation that gave SXU a four-point lead and stifled any chance of a last-second rally by the Wolves. The key road victory makes it eight straight for the Cougars and also gives CSU its first conference loss of the season (16-1). Saint Xavier improves to 19-4 on the year and 15-2 in the CCAC standings, just a game behind league-leading Cardinal Stritch.

Junior guard Brad Karp (Valparaiso, Ind./Valparaiso) finished with 12 points and team-high seven rebounds for the Cougars, while sophomore guard Jack Krieger (Plainfield, Ill./Plainfield North) also scored in double figures Saturday with 10 points. SXU did not have one of its best shooting performances hitting just 39 percent (23-for-59) of its attempts, but came through when it counted the most shooting at a 52 percent clip (14-for-27) in the second half. The Cougars also took care of the basketball committing just six turnovers in the ballgame. The Wolves were led by senior center Darren Moore with 16 points and nine rebounds.

The Cougars started off hot jumping out to an early 8-1 lead in the game's first three minutes on a run capped by a jumper from Green. Stritch stormed back and a three-pointer by junior guard Derek Semenas capped a 16-4 scoring surge that put the hosts ahead, 17-12, with just under 10 minutes remaining in the first half. The two teams exchanged leads over the final 10 minutes, but a pair of lay-ups in the final seconds allowed the Wolves to take a 32-27 lead into the locker room at the break. Cardinal Stritch held its advantage for the first 10 minutes of the second half, but Saint Xavier slowly chipped away and another jumper by Green with 8:33 left to play gave the squad its first lead of the half, 50-49. SXU maintained its momentum and built a six-point lead, 61-55, on a jumper by senior point guard Anthony Grant (Calumet City, Ill./Prairie State CC/Thornridge) at the two-minute mark. The Wolves made it a two-point game with 14 seconds remaining on a free throw by Moore, but were forced to foul and Green buried his two free throws to put the game out of reach.
Saint Xavier (19-4 overall/15-2 CCAC) takes nearly a week off and returns to action on Saturday, January 26, with a home conference match-up against Calumet College of St. Joseph (Ind.). The home game is scheduled for a 3 p.m. tip at the Shannon Center in Chicago.
MVC Men's Volleyball Stays Ranked at No. 8

Posted: Jan 21, 2013 6:22 PM

MARSHALL, MO -- The Missouri Valley College men's volleyball team remains in the No. 8 position for another week following the release of the first regular season NAIA Men's Volleyball Top 10 Poll Monday. The Vikings opened up their 2013 campaign Saturday afternoon with a neutral site win over St. Xavier University in four sets in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Vikings have a busy week ahead of them as they host No. 7 Missouri Baptist University in the first home match of the season Monday night at 7 p.m. at the Burns Athletic Complex, then play at the St. Ambrose Tournament in Davenport, Iowa over the weekend. The Vikings will play Robert Morris College, Johnson & Wales, and No. 5 St. Ambrose University.

-Top-
SXU standout lauded by NAIA

Published as part of the January 23, 2013 edition.

St. Xavier University (SXU) sophomore forward Morgan Stuut came up big in a week when the Cougars needed her most, leading SXU to three key conference wins, including an upset of No.-6 ranked Olivet Nazarene University.

She had a trio of doubledoubles during the seven-day stretch ending Jan. 13.

Stuut then doubled up in the awards category on Jan. 15 when she was named the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) Women's Basketball Player of the Week after averaging 23.3 points, 15.7 rebounds, 3.3 assists, 2.7 rebounds and 1.3 blocks during the three games. She also shot .526 (10 of 19) from beyond the arc and averaged three three-pointers in those affairs, one of which was against Roosevelt University, a team receiving votes in the latest NAIA National Top 25 Poll.

Stuut opened the busy week with 19 points, 16 rebounds, four steals and three assists in an 80-68 win over Indiana University-South Bend on Jan. 8.

Two nights later, she registered 26 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and three steals in the road upset of Olivet Nazarene, 86-69.

Stuut, who now has 12 double-doubles on the season and four in a row, closed out her three-game barrage with 25 points, 19 rebounds, three assists and two blocks in an 81-61 home win over Roosevelt.

For the season, Stuut is averaging 19.5 points per game (eighth in the nation) and 11.6 rebounds per contest (fourth nationally). She is also shooting .436 from beyond the three-point arc, ninth best at the national level.

The CCAC recognition marks the third time this season that Stuut has been honored and the first time a player from the league has been acknowledged at the national level this year. It was the first time a SXU women's basketball player has earned the national recognition since former standout Erin Hannemann accomplished the feat in 2009.

SXU (16-3, 11-3 CCAC) moved to within a game of first place in the conference standings with the three victories, part of a current ninegame winning streak for the Cougars.
Mike Russow is savoring every minute he gets to simply drive around in his squad car with his partner, Tony Petrancosta.

For the past hour, the drive has been uneventful and uninterrupted, something rare given the fact that Russow works as a Chicago police officer in the notorious Third District. Home to some 25-30 active gangs, eight of which are currently amidst conflicts mainly over drug turf, the Third District is as foreign to most Chicagoans as thin-crust pizza.

The hot weather on this December night -- it would reach 70 degrees -- has prompted most of the neighborhood to spend the night outside. But that makes it all the more puzzling that Russow's night has been event-free. The warmest nights are usually the busiest.
"We're so used to it but it really is true: every night, especially where I work, there is a chance you're not going home that night to see your family -- it's a real chance," Russow said. "It happens all the time. You always got to be on guard."

Russow is a UFC heavyweight fighter, but he calls his job as a policeman the "real" fight in his life. Russow is not trying to diminish the obvious rigors of also being in the UFC -- the fact is that the streets are less forgiving than the octagon.

Behind the wheel, Russow's eyes are focused on patrolling, but he still feels somewhat relaxed without the stress of a dispatch call. He thinks about his upcoming fight against Shawn Jordan at the United Center in Chicago on Jan. 26.

Enough at ease to show some rare hubris, he dismisses the idea of going on a vegan diet during training camp for the fight, instead bragging about how much he likes to eat. It draws a burst of laughter from Petrancosta, who admits that despite his poor influence, Russow maintains a strict diet.

Minutes later the mood changes when Russow's car gets a call from dispatch.

Dispatch calls come with varying levels of risk. But one call -- above all others -- has the power to awaken Russow from daydreaming about smelling salts after a knockout.

Ending any hope it would be an easy shift, all the dispatcher had to do was utter two words.

'Shots fired.'

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Even though he has just completed Day 33 of his three-month training camp some two hours before the dispatch call, Russow's fighting career suddenly feels very distant.

Days mean little to Russow, though. They literally blend into one another. He works the police department's third watch, taking him into the early hours of the night.

Time is always defined by the next chance he gets to go home to see his wife, Alana, and two-year old daughter, Ella. Excluding sleep, Russow's time at home is usually limited to 45-minute blocks on the days he works. Russow uses his days off from the force to spend with his family, foregoing the opportunity to schedule his toughest days of training camp on days it could be his only focus.

The family has adapted to his rigorous schedule and perilous job.

"Worry is just a waste of time so I don't waste my time worrying," Alana said. "It doesn't matter [who you are] -- when God's ready to take you off this earth, you're gone."

Today, training camp starts at 9 a.m. and Russow says he's tired. He doesn't look it.

He is training on less than seven hours of sleep after he and Petrancosta were the first responders to a homicide in the early hours of the morning and had to fill out the requisite paperwork. Russow didn't get home until 2 a.m.

But time is too valuable for him to waste it lying in bed.

After he walks through a labyrinth of dark hallways and over a wood plank that levels an uneven floor, Russow steps into the Celtic Boxing Gym and immediately starts shadow-boxing, a makeshift studio apartment some five blocks away from his home in Chicago's Mt. Greenwood neighborhood.
During his fifth round, boxing coach Tom Hayes arrives. As soon as Russow has finished, the two immediately begin five more rounds of mitts. Hayes works so hard keeping up with Russow that he's dripping with sweat when he instructs his fighter to go to the speed bag and then work abs in a session that last about an hour.

Training is over, but Russow still has to lift weights and run at nearby St. Xavier University. He could probably parlay his fame into training at a gym for free but instead chooses to pay the $30 a month the university charges.

Before leaving the boxing gym, he takes a momentary break to get a drink of water from an adjacent bathroom sink. Unlike most fighters, the idea of having an entourage to pass him water or even having a nickname doesn't sit well with Russow.

"That's just not me," Russow said. "I'm really, I think, a shy person, reserved. That's just not my style. I just guess I'm pretty laid back."

His career arch is even more unconventional than his personality.

Russow won an Illinois state championship as a heavyweight wrestler in high school and competed at Eastern Illinois University. After graduating from college he won one professional mixed martial arts fight before taking more than a 10-year hiatus to focus on his career as a police officer, a job he needs to maintain in order to support his family.

His professional fighting career began in earnest in 2006 at the age of 30.

"I wish after college I would have just went into fighting in the UFC and then got a career just to see where it would have [taken] me," Russow said.

He didn't sign with UFC until 2009 and in his five fights since, he has lost only once. After winning by unanimous decision in his first UFC fight, Russow was matched against Todd Duffee nine months later on May 29, 2010. At the time, Duffee was billed as the Ivan Drago of UFC, having never lost a professional fight heading into that night.

Unlike most fighters, Russow has a gut that makes him look like he just walked off the street. Put simply, he's genetically inferior to the chiseled Duffee and was considered a steppingstone for the highly regarded fighter.

That looked to be the case through the first two rounds of the fight when Duffee turned Russow into a human heavy bag, causing the then-33-year-old to break his arm while deflecting a punch in the first round.

But Russow proved that genetics doesn't win a fight.

Using his adrenaline to battle nearly unbearable pain, Russow landed a right hand to Duffee's chin in the third round -- knocking him out and completing what is widely considered the greatest comeback in UFC history.

"If you hang in there long enough, if you don't give up, you'll eventually get a break and I got one in the third round with two minutes to go," Russow said.

Since then Russow has become increasingly more famous, though he doesn't give any credence to the idea. His loss came in his last fight, on June 23, against Fabricio Werdum in Brazil, where he was knocked out for the first time in his career.

After the Werdum fight, he was asked by Brazilian police officers if he wanted to sign autographs, yet he is dismissive of the idea that he's famous locally, let alone internationally. Upon walking outside accompanied by the heavily armed officers, Russow was shocked, even after a loss, that people swarmed him for his signature.
Stateside, Russow has even been recognized in uniform in the Third District. But by all accounts of those around him, Russow doesn't even realize his popularity.

"I don't think he has any idea and if he does, he's such a down-to-earth and humble guy that it wouldn't affect him in any way," Petrancosta said. "He's such a super, super nice guy."

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The sun has nearly gone down, but the little light still left in the day is an ally to Russow and Petrancosta when they arrive at the scene of the alleged shooting. A woman points across the street to two abandoned homes she says are regularly broken into by assailants.

With other officers on scene covering their rear, Russow and Petrancosta begin patrolling the alleys, guns drawn, looking for suspects or evidence that shots were fired. As the two pasted themselves to the left-hand wall of an alley, a bystander pops out of her apartment asking whether what she heard were real gunshots.

Their focus is undeterred.

Russow has been fired upon once in nearly 10 years on the job while working in the equally challenging Seventh District.

Knowing it could easily happen again, he can't afford to take a second to turn his back and answer. Should someone sneak up on them, Russow knows a referee won't step in to stop the fight.

"On the streets there [are] no rules," Russow said. "They don't play by any rules and that's just how it is and you have to be ready at all times.

"Sometimes you get lax because it's so routine but that's when you get hurt."

The duo canvass the rest of the block, searching crevices for bullet casings, but are unable to verify the crime occurred, despite a thorough search.

They walk back to their squad car. Russow gets behind the wheel, buckles, takes a breath and begins to drive away from the scene.

His shift has just started, but Russow is a little bit closer to going home.
Six Mother McAuley High School senior athletes signed a binding Letter of Intent on Nov. 14, as part of National Signing Day, to play their respective sports at universities nationwide. Christina Sperando (from left), will play soccer for St. Xavier University; Carly Bettinardi will play golf for St. Ambrose University, in Davenport, Iowa; Sarah Abbott will play water polo for Siena College, in Latham, N.Y.; Emily Marousek will play softball for Lander University, in Greenwood, S.C.; Alyssa Siwek will play basketball for Lewis University, in Romeoville; and Sydney McPhillips, of Beverly, will play volleyball for Kennesaw State University, in Kennesaw, Ga.