

THE HOOP PRINT

ROCK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - 9355 FLUSH RD. - ST. GEORGE, KAN. - 785-494-8591

NOVEMBER 2008 - VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 2

NEWS BRIEFS

By MEGAN NIDER

Band, choir members honored

On Nov. 1, Rock Creek students were selected for KMEA North Central District Honor Band and Choir.

The following were selected for band: junior Jana Havens - first chair flute, junior Nolan Fike - tenor saxophone, junior Sam Cott - first chair alto sax, sophomore Brenda Stevenson - clarinet and sophomore Josh Unruh - first chair tuba. Junior Brad Duncan and sophomore DJ Denzien were both selected for Jazz Band as trombone players. Four students were chosen for choir: senior Kallie Siderwicz - Soprano 1, senior Brittney Willard - Soprano 1, senior Brian Sixbury - Bass 2 and junior Justin Fronce - Tenor 2.

Society holds induction, blood drive

Senior Monica Ebert, juniors George Dille and Becca Snapp and sophomore Chelsea Ebert were all selected, by writing essays and filling out applications, to be in the National Honor Society.

National Honor Society also sponsored a blood drive Nov. 18-19. At press time, the group expected 29 volunteers from Rock Creek to give blood, which benefitted the American Red Cross.

FFA attends national convention

On Oct. 21-26, junior George Dille, sophomores Chelsea Ebert, TJ Minihan and Morgan Umscheid and freshmen Shane Schaake and Trevor Sutton went to the national FFA convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Junior William Trieb also attended as a member of the national FFA choir. While there, they listened to speakers, watched nationwide chapters receive awards and went to a rodeo.

Leadership class goes to conference

On Nov. 10, the junior-senior leadership class took a trip to Kansas State University to attend a leadership conference. The students listened to speakers, learned about volunteerism and learned about how to prioritize tasks.

State honors volleyball players

Senior Dana Elliot, senior Amy Yenser and junior Becky Lightfoot were honored by being chosen to the All-State tournament team after the state volleyball tournament on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

Class receives youth grant

After writing a grant last year to Youth as Resources, students in Morgan Milham's class received a grant of \$615. This money will be used to prepare a faculty Thanksgiving meal and buy a Christmas tree during the holidays. Students are also selling cookies during lunches and preparing \$3 sack lunches for athletes to earn money for a new refrigerator for their classroom.

Band participates in activities

The high school band participated in the St. George Veteran's Day ceremony on Nov. 11. The band also sponsored a Battle of the Bands concert Nov. 22, held in the commons. Bands from around the area competed in front of judges from 5-11:30 p.m. There were door prizes and a raffle drawing for two tickets to AC/DC at the Sprint Center in Kansas City. Results were not available at press time.

Recent election affects students

By JESSICA JACK & SARA LIMING

On Nov. 4, the people of the United States elected Democrat Barack Obama as president. Obama led Republican John McCain throughout most of the campaign and won 54 percent to McCain's 44 percent of the Americans' votes.

On Election Day at Rock Creek, students also had a chance to participate in what is called a "mock election" sponsored by Student Council. Students spent time before school, during classes, between classes and at lunch to participate. Seventy-seven percent of the school voted in the election, favoring McCain with 230 votes over Obama's 113 votes.

History was also made on the Election Day when the United States voted for the first African-American president. Some people in the United States are looking to make Nov. 4 a national holiday to remember the day Obama was elected.

"I am glad we finally made a change," junior Courtney Brown said, "because there have been too many white presidents in our history."

Some students, however, are distressed that Obama was elected.

"It's gonna suck, but it couldn't be much better than McCain," senior Megan Jilka said.

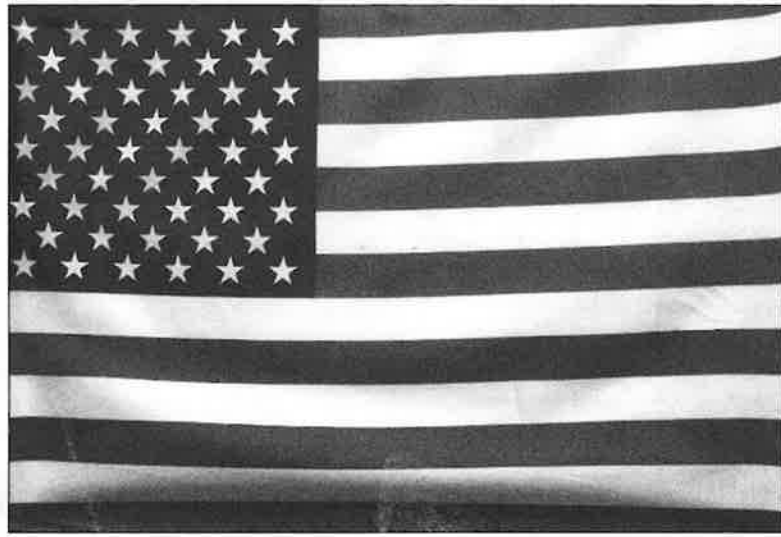


PHOTO BY SARA LIMING

Debate team participates in season of tournaments

By KORTNEY CAMPBELL

When one walks down the halls of Rock Creek, he or she can often times hear teachers or students giving athletes compliments on the tough win they pulled out the night before.

What one will hardly ever hear is, "Hey, nice job at that debate meet last week; you really beat the competition!"

According to Rock Creek's debate coach Keith Miller, debate teaches high school kids many skills that can later be applied to anything in life, such as public speaking skills, organization and work ethic. Miller also said one of the team's biggest accomplishments is developing a culture of excellence. This invokes confidence in the students and means that they are willing to do the work that it takes to do well.

When asked what the reputation of Rock Creek debate was, Miller said it was "strong." The team has placed numerous times this season, including a third place at the Wamego meet and two first places at the Riley County and Clay Center meets.

Top individual records include juniors Sam Cott

and Torrey Peterson, both with a 17-4 varsity record. Sophomore Mandi Blenn leads the novice group with a 16-4 record, closely followed by freshman Ben Peterson with a record of 14-4.

Cott said his most memorable moment from debate so far this year was, "Beating the 2007 4A State champions from Tonganoxie at the Silver Lake meet."

Peterson's most memorable moment was the trip up to the Spring Hill tournament when their driver almost fell asleep at the wheel.

Although many are involved in debate, senior representation is very low. Morgan Eichman is the only senior on the debate team, however, she said that it makes her feel "powerful."

The team will host the Rock Creek invitational debate tournament Nov. 22 and continue participating in tournaments throughout the season. State debate occurs Jan. 23 and 24. Goals of this year's team are to bring home trophies from state, send more students to quarterfinals at nationals and then advance to semifinals and perhaps finals.

According to www.obamabiden.com, Obama's plan for the economy is not set in stone, but what Obama and his vice-president-elect Joe Biden have planned will hopefully strengthen the economy. Obama plans to give middle-class families a \$1,000 guaranteed tax benefit to help pay for rising energy bills. The new president-elect also plans to spend \$50 billion to prevent the economy from crashing and to help prevent one

million Americans from losing their jobs. This plan, in the long run, should prevent the young generation from dealing with and economic failure.

Also on www.obamabiden.com, it is said that Obama also plans to create five million new "green" jobs in the manufacturing industry. He also plans to invest \$150 billion over the next 10 years to make advances in biofuels and fuel infrastructure, accelerate the production of plug-in hybrids, promote renewable energy and start the transition into a new digital electricity grid.

While the plans for the new administration are tentative, some people are confident that the economy will expand in the future.

"If people have faith and confidence in the government," government teacher Chris Schmitz said, "some can be put back into the consumer-based economy. Unfortunately, the problems run much deeper than the people's faith in the government."

Foreign students enroll at Rock Creek this year

By TRAVIS HEIDEMAN

Visiting a new country can be quite an experience. Not only are there hardships of making new friends and fitting in, but also making cultural changes to the everyday life of the people in the country.

JeeJee Yoon, a sophomore in the foreign exchange program from South Korea, has enrolled Rock Creek High School for a year.

In Korean schools, Yoon said students are punished for violating dress codes or talking in class, and she mentioned that in Korean schools, kids are not as talkative as in America. Yoon said being a foreign exchange student is an experience that changes the way she interacts with others.

"In Korea, I was very shy, but I still had friends," Yoon said. "In America, friends are easier to make."

Yoon said that overall she likes America, but there are some disadvantages of being here.

"America is very big; it is hard to find what you are looking for; there are a lot of choices," Yoon said.

Yoon is Rock Creek's only foreign exchange student, but there are also students who have moved from faraway places to live here. Alexey Brunko, a sophomore whose family has moved to the United States from Russia, has made a home in the plains of Kansas.

"Kansas is fun, but I miss Russia a lot," Brunko said.

Rock Creek has participated in the foreign exchange programs since the school has opened its doors; Germany, Korea, and Thailand are just some of the countries that have participated in the program. However, Rock Creek has not only received foreign exchange students, but has sent students, such as senior Morgan Eichman, abroad. Eichman went to Japan last summer for an eight-week stay.

Eichman said, "I really like Japan, but I did get home sick. There were a lot of fun things to do, like I saw the movie 'The Incredibles' in Japanese. Overall, it was a good experience. . . It was such a unique thing to live with strangers and learn about their lives."

These programs are designed to give students independence and ready them for the real world.

"All in all, there isn't one drawback to being a foreign exchange student," counselor Kevin Sullivan said. "It allows you to experience something completely different and is guaranteed to take you out of your comfort zone. I have had five kids in the past six years who have traveled on foreign exchange, and each and every one of them loved it."

OPINIONS

NOVEMBER 2008 - PAGE 2

'Saw V' makes viewer piece together movie



KORTNEY CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

Murder is distasteful; it's more like instant rehabilitation. If the victim survives the trap that they are in, they are instantly rehabilitated.

This is the philosophy of John Kramer, or

as many would know him, Jigsaw. The fifth installment of the "Saw" movie series came out just before Halloween.

In the last four "Saw" movies, cops have dropped like flies, except two: Agent Peter Strahm (Scott Patterson) and Detective Mark Hoffman (Costas Mandylor). In this thriller, we get let in on a little secret. Serial killer, Jigsaw (Tobin Bell) has not been working alone. One of the two police officers has been the accomplice to countless mysteries. After framing Jigsaw to have committed one of his own murders, the cop is in debt to the notorious killer. Jigsaw promises him anonymity for his crimes if he carries through with the tasks provided for him. Once the innocent cop realizes who has been in on these ruthless incidents, it is too late for him, for all the blood is left on his hands.

This movie was hyped up to be a miss, but the director made it happen. It is hard to remember and tie back all the stories into one and still be left wondering, what happens next? Maybe that was the intent, to leave us with the jigsaw pieces to put together ourselves.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

My name is Bonnie Seehafer. My daughters, Tracy Seehafer and Julie Amick, both attend Rock Creek.

Aug. 30, our home burned while I was still in the hospital, and it came to my understanding that Rock Creek sent out a mass e-mail to staff asking that (without Tracy's knowledge) cash donations be given to Tracy. I believe about \$40 was donated and given to her. Mrs. Milham's classroom also had a "cookie sale" and raised over \$250. That money was then used to buy our new "kitchen" for our house, which we'll be moving into around Nov. 1.

I was hoping that we could send out a big "thank you" to the staff, students and faculty who donated and bought cookies for our family. All the hard work, thoughtfulness and prayers were very much appreciated. Thank you.

- Bonnie Seehafer



By JACE BRUCE

Text-messaging while driving could lead to dangerous effects

Texting and driving is not only stupid, but it's dangerous.

Using your phone while driving is a danger to you. A study done by Tony Caggiano, a board-certified civil trial lawyer for car accidents, shows that people who are texting while driving are six times more likely to have an accident than those who do not text. Texting while driving averts the eyes of the driver from the road to the phone.

Many drivers will focus all their attention onto the phone. Lack of attention to the road can cause many head-on collisions or many one-vehicle accidents. One week after graduating high school in June 2007, five teenage girls from Rochester, N.Y., were killed in a head-on collision with a tractor-trailer because the driver of the SUV sent a text message moments before the crash.

Texting while driving is also dangerous to other drivers. When you, as a driver, remove your eyes from the road, you are not only responsible for your possible death, but the possible deaths of others. Not paying attention to the road can make your vehicle cross the center median and collide with another vehicle. This can cause serious injury, if not death, to you, but also the driver of the other car. Would you want this to be on your hands?

OUR BEST SUGGESTION is that, while driving, you leave your phone in your bag. We would not want to lose a very special classmate because of a car accident.

There are other ways to use your cell phone, if you must. Some alternatives you could use would be to have a passenger type a message for you, to use a hand-held device or to not use your cell phone at all. Passengers typing the message will keep your eyes on the road and let you focus on driving instead of texting. Hands-free devices will allow you to have both hands on the steering wheel, but has a possibility of still distracting you. Our best suggestion is that, while driving, you leave your phone in your bag. We would not want to lose a very special classmate because of a car accident.

Many states all across the United States are creating laws that are making it illegal to have phones while driving. California, Washington, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., have banned drivers from talking on a cell phone. *US News and World Report* says that Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia are following in these states' footsteps, creating bills to make using cell phones while driving illegal. One day soon, maybe texting while driving will become illegal for all states.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Hoof Prints is a monthly student-produced newspaper, published to inform and to entertain the Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School community and to educate Multimedia students. Each issue is produced with the guidance of a faculty adviser. Student staff members will be offered opportunities to inform, investigate, entertain, interpret and evaluate - all accepted functions of traditional American press. Included materials will be those of responsible journalism, including restraint by the student and adviser in matters such as libel, privacy, obscenity and copyright.

The staff chooses to reflect the mission of Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School, to serve the interests and the needs of the community and to provide fair, objective, accurate and truthful materials. Opinions do not necessarily reflect views of anyone other than *The Hoof Prints* student staff.

Digital images have not been altered to manipulate reality. Photo illustrations are labeled to reflect any technical alterations.

Anonymity may be given in the following cases: the information is unable to be presented another way, the information warrants anonymity, the source's privacy and/or reputation requires protection and the source must be protected from damages.

Student or faculty member deaths during the coverage period will be covered with a short obituary and a mug shot photo if available.

If errors are negligently made, corrections will appear in the next issue.

Advertising must meet the same guidelines as editorial content. The acceptance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement by the school. Students pictured in advertising must sign a release and accept no monetary compensation. Advertising rates are available on request. School club discounts are available.

Letters to the editor must also meet the same guidelines as editorial content, must be 150 words or less and must be signed. Baseless accusations, libelous statements, insults and unsigned letters will not be considered for publication. The staff reserves the right to edit or omit letters. Letters should be taken to Room 112 or mailed to the address below.

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By ANTHONY REID & MELANIE STUBBS

YOUR PRINT

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD TO EAT ON THANKSGIVING?

"Sweet potato pie, because it's 'delish.'" - senior Lizzie Pitts

"Apple or cherry pie, because it's good!" - senior Luis Gonzalez

"Pumpkin pie, because it's delicious." - senior Mark Jack

ARE THERE ANY TRADITIONS YOUR FAMILY DOES?

"We run around in turkey suits. I'm kidding. But, seriously, my family comes over." - junior Harrison Newman

"We go around the night before and steal people's turkeys, then the next day, I hang out with my family." - junior Jackie Heaslet

WHAT TYPE OF PIE DO YOU ENJOY MOST AT THANKSGIVING?

"Pumpkin, because it's magically delicious." - sophomore Josh Rieck

"Walmart pie, because it's homemade." - sophomore Justin Redding

"Apple, because it's 'appley.'" - sophomore Luke Commerford

DO YOU EAT TURKEY, HAM OR SOMETHING ELSE?

"Turkey, because it's the only thing my dad can cook." - freshman Alisha Banta

"I eat turkey because they roam my yard." - freshman Dylan Dunaway

"Turkey, because it's traditional." - freshman Nicole Koonce

ARE YOU GOING ANYWHERE FOR THANKSGIVING?

"No, I am having Thanksgiving at my house." - Media Specialist LouAnn Fike

"Yes, I am going to Eskridge to my mom and dad's, then to Alma to my friend, Carla's, mom and dad's." - P.E. teacher Jim Johnston

"No, because I'm picking up alpacas." - Title I teacher Jeremy Lehning

FEATURES

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txtng AND drvng spells danger



LOL

IDK

nvm



2nite



ttyl



States, such as California, consider laws that would prohibit driving while texting due to dangers on the road

By KIM FAIRCHILD & LINDA OVERKAMP

In Western New York, five high school cheerleaders died on June 27, 2007, in an automobile accident after celebrating for their high school graduation. The records showed that Bailey Goodman had been texting 38 seconds before someone had called 911 to report the accident, as told by ABC News. No one knows how many vehicular accidents are caused by text messaging each year, but the evidence is mounting.

Kansas currently has no law prohibiting texting while driving. Although, according to www.handsfreeinfo.com, there is pending law that says: "No person, while driving a motor vehicle, shall be so distracted as to interfere with the safe operation of such motor vehicle. Activities include using personal communication technologies." Kansas Legislature discussed a bill in 2000 that would require drivers to use hands-free devices, but the bill did not pass. There have also been recent proposals to outlaw cell phone texting, especially with new teen driver laws, but they did not pass either.

Starting on Jan. 1, 2009, though, motorists in California are no longer allowed to send, write or read text messages while driving. The texting ban will carry a \$20 fine for the first infraction and a \$50 fine for any subsequent violations, plus any

additional court fees.

"Banning electronic text messaging while driving will keep drivers' hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road, making our roadways a safer place for all Californians," said California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, stated by the *Los Angeles Times*.

In response to this law, junior Becky Lightfoot, junior Ashley Srna and sophomore Lucas Commerford said that they think texting while driving should be outlawed. They think this because texting takes a person's eyes off of the road, and he or she can't see what is in front of the car.

Student teacher Kelly Hammond said, "Texting while driving should be against the law, but sometimes it could be inconvenient."

However, sophomore Justin Redding, sophomore Morgan Umscheid, junior Jared Hawkins, and senior Luis Gonzalez say that they do not think that texting while driving should be outlawed.

Despite their feelings, many believe that a law would be helpful.

"When someone is distracted while driving, they not only put themselves at risk, but they also put everyone else in the car and everyone on the highway near them at risk, too," Melissa Santos, a *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reporter, said in an article.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TRAVIS HEIDEMAN

What do you think about texting while driving?

"I can't even text without driving, so I think that texting while driving is a very bad idea."
- strength teacher Mike Beam

"I don't think anyone should use any kind of cell phone while driving."
- English teacher Donna Hawkins

"Don't do it! Kill my wife, and I am coming after you!"
- Title I teacher Jeremy Lehning

"I would probably talk on the phone instead of texting because you can keep your eyes on the road."
- senior Alexa Ukena

"Oh, I text and drive all the time!"
- senior Matt Couchman

"It's bad, but I do it all the time."
- senior Ashley Hodges

"I am a good texter and a good driver, so it is a good combination."
- junior Danielle Area

"I can't drive straight if I text and drive, therefore, it's bad."
- sophomore Katie Good

"I feel as though our society has taken advantage of texting while driving."
- sophomore Macy Umscheid

Staff writer believes cell phone use should be allowed in school

"Whose phone is that? Give me the phone, and you will get it back after school." Many of you hear this very often during class. Almost every student in high school has a cellular phone and brings it with them during the day. Some may leave it in their lockers or in their back packs, but most have it on them during classes. I believe that students should be able to carry their phones with them and be able to use them during free time, at lunch or in the hallways.

Students should be able to have phones in the school because it does not hurt anybody or take anybody's learning ability away to allow students to use phones during free time or passing periods. Teachers hunt down students using their phones during passing periods when there is not one logical reason why students cannot have phones

during this time. Sometimes I need to get ahold of my parents or friends from other schools, and I do not have time to call them in the office, so why can't I text them in the halls or when we have free time?



ANTHONY REID
BUSINESS MANAGER

There has been times when teachers are on their phones during class or before, so why can't students? There was a time in class when a teacher was in the middle of teaching, and her phone started to ring; all the students started laughing, and the teacher answered it. I do not understand what gives a teacher the right to use their phones during class, but students are not allowed to even use them when they are not in class.

A reason why teachers say we can't have phones in school is because they are distracting. I have one word, "Vibrate."

Vibrate mode works to alert only you and nobody else. I use my phone during classes all the time, and I still make good grades and do just fine in school. It is not necessarily distracting except when made that way. When a teacher flips out because they see a person's phone hanging out their pocket, that is the distraction to the class. I have had my phone taken away when it was in my bag because it made a beeping sound that only a few people heard. One happened to be the teacher, so she decided to make a big deal out of it. If only she would have let it go, no class time would have been disrupted.

One reason the rule is in place is because teachers think students will text each other answers on tests. I honestly didn't even think of doing that until teachers said something about it. I would be too lazy to type out a question to a friend when I could easily just guess or move on. One easy way to fix that would be to ask every student to place their phone

on the teacher's desk until after tests are taken. I would have to speak for the most of the students when I say that if we were allowed to use our phones during passing periods or free time, we would give up our phones on test days.

I believe students should be allowed to use their phones, especially during passing periods and free time with their phones on silent or vibrate. Students should have just as many rights as teachers do and be able to use their cell phones, as some teachers do. I believe that we should be trusted to use our time wisely for homework and then able to text a friend or family member about something important. I also believe that teachers should not overreact about phones in class, such as a little beep or a text message being typed during reading time. Students are capable of using cell phones and working on homework at the same time, and I believe they should be given the chance to do just that.

SPORTS

NOVEMBER 2008 - PAGE 4

Volleyball captures second place in 3A

By BLAKE HINKLE & JAKE SCHROEDER

All the way to state! All the way to state! That was the chant after the Rock Creek Mustangs defeated the Silver Lake Eagles in the sub-state championship on the Oct. 25 at Riley County. Winning the championship gave them a trip to Salina in the 3A State volleyball tournament, which is a first in school history for volleyball.

The Mustangs record before heading to the state tournament was 35-4. This and their schedule gave them third seed. The tournament consisted of pool play Oct. 31 and semi-finals and finals Nov. 1. The team had to win two out of three games to advance to the semi-final match.

The Mustangs first game was against Frontenac, in which the Mustangs made quick work of the Raiders, winning 25-16 the first set and 25-13 the second set. Next, the Mustangs played the Hillsboro Trojans. The Trojans played the Mustangs tough, winning the first set 25-27, but the Mustangs won the next two sets 25-13 and 25-19. In the last pool play game, the Mustangs faced Garden Plain. The Owls were the second seed in the tournament, but the Mustangs took the first set in a close game. They came up short in the second set, losing 22-25, sending the game into the third set. There, the Mustangs, with the backing of a great fan base, won over the Owls. Beating the Owls gave the Mustangs a 3-0 start.

With that record, the Mustangs moved on to the semi-final match against the Jefferson County North Knights. The Knights played tough, but were no match for the Mustangs, with scores of 29-27 and 25-19. Winning this game sent Rock Creek to the state championship, where they faced the Garden Plain Owls once again. The first set was back and forth, but the Owls came away with the win in the set. The next set saw the Mustangs take an early deficit, but they battled back, trading points with the Owls. The Mustangs fought hard, but could not come away with the win. Still, the loss gave the Mustangs second place in the state tournament, the highest in school history.

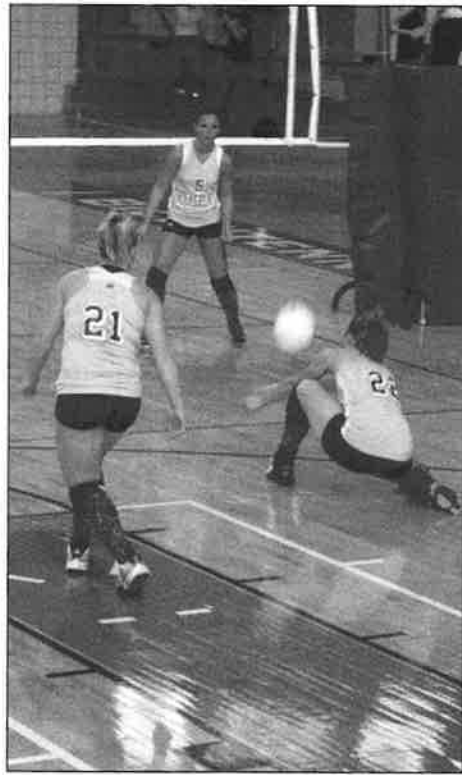
"It's frustrating and disappointing because we had beat them the night before, and we knew we could do it," senior Emily Zoeller said, commenting on the loss to Garden Plain.

After the tournament, coach Terry Schmitz was asked what were some of the most memorable moments of the season.

"Winning sub-state and beating Silver Lake," he said, adding, "The overall state experience was very memorable with the fans."

In order to return to the state tournament next year, Schmitz said hard work will be required for the girls.

"[We need to] get a few to play in the offseason, and now that we made it to state, our girls know how to do it again."



AT THE 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME, senior middle-hitter Dana Elliot goes low to dig the ball on Nov. 1 at Salina Bicentennial Center, while her teammates, senior Amy Yenzen and junior Taylor Ebert, move in to assist with the play. "We should have beat them [Garden Plain] in the second game," Elliot said. "It won't be forgotten." PHOTO BY JAKE SCHROEDER

SPORTS SCOREBOARD

| | RC | OPPONENT |
|------------------------------------|-----|----------|
| VARSITY FOOTBALL | | |
| WAMEGO (10/24) | 36 | 8 |
| CLAY CENTER (10/30) | 31 | 13 |
| ABILENE (11/04) | 40 | 7 |
| ANDOVER (11/08) | 39 | 12 |
| ANDALE (11/14) | 12 | 46 |
| FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE FOOTBALL | | |
| WAMEGO (10/23) | 34 | 32 |
| VARSITY VOLLEYBALL | | |
| SUB-STATE (10/25) | 1ST | |
| STATE (10/31 & 11/01) | 2ND | |

By BRAD KLEUSCH & CHRIS WAHL

Mustang football team wins district title, competes for first time in 4A playoffs

By COURTNEY STILLWAGON & EMILY ZOELLER

As the adrenaline pumped faster and the last seconds hit the clock, the Mustangs took another win. With this win, the Mustangs got their first 4A district championship. Not an easy task, the Mustangs had to deal with many challenges and injuries during the season.

On Oct. 17, Rock Creek played at home against the Royal Valley Panthers. Just as district play kicked off, the Mustangs encountered two season-ending injuries. The first came when sophomore Brady Quinn broke his ankle during the first half of the Royal Valley game. Rolling into the second half, the Mustangs were cursed with their second injury. Senior Logan Lauer was hit late in the second half, which later caused an emergency surgery to his right thigh. After going into surgery, Lauer lost the majority of his quadricep muscle. At that time, the doctor said he would have a four to six month recovery. Lauer is now starting therapy and is getting back on his feet.

"Not being able to play is hard, but being able to support my teammates, keeps me going," Lauer said.

Even though there were many difficulties, the Mustangs came through and beat the Panthers 35-0. The following week, on Oct. 24, Rock Creek ventured to Wamego, where the two teams met for the first time.

The game started out slow with the score tied at half, 8-8. It was not close for much longer; the Mustangs went on a 28-0 run in the second half. The team had many memorable moments, one being senior Tyler Umschied's favorite when he said, "Me, [senior Matt] Gee and [senior] Dustin [Miner] trucked that kid from Wamego in the air!" This closed out all chances for the Raiders, giving the Mustangs another district victory.

As district play came to a close, Rock Creek faced its final opponent, Clay Center on Oct. 30. The Mustangs started out strong when Miner rushed for two touchdowns in the first half. Following both touchdowns, Rock Creek successfully went for the two-point conversion, making it 16-0 at half. As the night went on, the Mustangs shut down Clay Center, making it impossible for them to come back, with a score of 31-13.

Junior Jared Hawkins said, "It was a statement to the state that we're here to stay," after winning the district.

On Nov. 4, Abilene rolled into town for Rock Creek's first playoff game. The Mustangs took care of business on both sides of the ball throughout the night. Miner came out with two touchdowns and had help from Gee on defense, where he grabbed two interceptions on the night. As a whole, the Mustang defense came up big, holding Abilene's key player, junior Curry Sexton, to only 87

yards. When asked about shutting Sexton down, senior Jacob Haverkamp replied, "Study." The game came to a close with a final score 40-7, advancing Rock Creek to the next round.

After traveling for two hours to Andover, on Nov. 8, the Mustangs showed up with what was one of their best games of the year. The game started off with a Rock Creek touchdown by Haverkamp. The Mustang offense did not stop there, as senior Kegan Rawhouser threw for three touchdown passes by the end of the game. In the third quarter, Gee broke through the line and ran for a 61-yard touchdown. This ended all chances for the Andover Trojans to carry through to the next round. Rock Creek ended up with a final score 39-12.

Going into the game, junior Brad Duncan expressed his feeling about coming out on top saying, "I wouldn't have it any other way. I like being the underdog."

As the seconds slipped away on Nov. 14, however, the Mustangs saw their 9-3 season come to an end. Rock Creek faced two-time defending 4A champions, the Andale Indians. Despite two touchdowns by Gee and Miner, the Indians came away with a 46-12 victory.

"This team should be remembered as the best ever at Rock Creek because they moved up a class and are regional champs," head coach Mike Beam said.

With winter sports beginning, staff previews season for basketball, wrestling

Girls Basketball (with head coach Mike Zabel)

What was your record last year?

18-5

Who are key players returning from last year?

Seniors Monica Ebert, Dana Elliot, Amy Yenzen and Emily Zoeller, and juniors Taylor Ebert and Becky Lightfoot

What game opens the season?

Dickinson County Tournament on Dec. 12-13, then the first home game is against Wabaunsee on Dec. 16

How would you compare this year to last year?

"There is not one opponent on our schedule that we can look past, so we need to play everyone at our fullest potential."

How do you feel about the chances of winning state?

"I think our chances this year are even better than last year, and we almost pulled it off last year."

By BRAD KLEUSCH

Boys Basketball (with coach Jim Johnston)

What was your record last year?

9-12

Who are key players returning from last year?

Seniors Graham Briggs, Jacob Haverkamp, Kegan Rawhouser, Tyler Umscheid and Chris Wahl, and juniors Josh Camacho and Pake Ebert

Who will fill the roles of players lost to graduation from last season?

"Depends on who works hard and is willing to learn the offense."

How are you inspiring your players?

"Coach [Denny] Darting has come in to help us on our shooting and give us advice on our cage defense."

What are your goals for the season?

"To work on the little things like free throws and ball control to reduce turnovers... and to improve the cage defense."

By SETH KUECKER

Wrestling (with senior Gabriel Gomez)

What was your record last year?

8-9

Who are key wrestlers returning from last year?

Seniors Collin Duncan, Gabriel Gomez, Matt Unruh and Andrew Wahlmeier

Who are significant new wrestlers to the team this year?

Senior Justin Weers, sophomore Josh Unruh and freshmen Shane Schaake and Trevor Sutton

What match opens the season?

Mission Valley Tournament on Dec. 6

What are your expectations for the season?

"To be the best that I can be and to push everyone else to do their best."

By KIM FAIRCHILD & LINDA OVERKAMP