

THE HOOF PRINT

ROCK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - 9355 FLUSH RD. - ST. GEORGE, KAN. - 785-494-8591
MAY 2009 - VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 6

NEWS BRIEFS

By MEGAN NIDER

Band, choir compete at state

On April 15, the Rock Creek band went to state competition in Concordia and received a one rating. This is the first time in Rock Creek history that the band has received a one from all three judges.

Also on April 15, the Rock Creek choir received a two rating at state in Concordia. The following students received a one rating at state small ensembles: seniors Kortney Campbell and Kallie Siderewicz. Receiving a two rating were the women's ensemble and junior Becca Snapp.

The choir also competed in Music in the Parks at Worlds of Fun on May 9 and received first place.

Band, choir hold end-of-year activities

Rock Creek's choir held an end-of-the year pop concert in the commons on May 6. Following the concert, senior Kallie Siderewicz was presented with the National School Choral Award. This award is awarded to the most accomplished senior choir member based on their performances at contests and auditions for district and state honor choirs.

The Westmoreland, St. George and Rock Creek bands performed a spring concert at Rock Creek on May 11.

The Rock Creek jazz band held their spring concert at Kite's on April 27 in Manhattan. Playing after the Rock Creek band was the Latin jazz ensemble from Washburn University. The jazz band also went to Westmoreland and St. George elementary schools and played for them on April 21.

The select mixed also choir performed for Spring Northeast District County Officials meeting on April 24.

FFA takes part in activities

On May 13, FFA held their annual Barnyard Day at Rock Creek. Students from Westmoreland and St. George elementary schools came out to Rock Creek to participate in a majority of events put on by FFA members.

On April 22, senior Nate Plummer, juniors Patrick O'Connor and Lucas Swoyer and sophomore Chase Minihan helped with the "day on the farm" activity on the Gary Burgess ranch near Onaga.

FFA competes in envirothon

The FFA envirothon A team, consisting of seniors Logan Lauer, Dustin Miner, Kegan Rawhauser, Tyler Sutton, Tyler Umcheid and Nate Plummer as the alternate team member, finished fifth overall at districts in on April 10 and qualified to go to state at Winfield on May 13. The dairy foods A team, consisting of junior Lucas Swoyer and sophomores Chelsea Ebert, Amy Eshelman, TJ Minihan and Dylan Treadwell, finished in ninth place. Senior Monica Ebert placed seventh in the job interview. Junior Danielle Duncan finished in seventh place in ag communications, and junior William Trieb placed third in poultry.

FCCLA members go to conference

The following FCCLA members attended the FCCLA state convention in Wichita, Kan., March 30-31: sophomores

Graduation marks end for seniors

By JESSICA JACK

Finished, yet just begun. As the senior class of 2009 walked through the wooden doors of Rock Creek High School, new lives had just begun.

On May 16, 54 seniors graduated from Rock Creek. Prior to graduation on May 13, seniors spent time together as a class as they all had breakfast sponsored by Student Council in the school cafeteria before their graduation practice.

"I just wanted them to get together before practice and let them have one last breakfast together," Stuco sponsor Dick Dugan said.

Following the meal, students found out who won the superlatives, which determined who was the best dressed, who had the nicest vehicle and so on. After they finished that, they went on to have a rehearsal to get ready for the graduation.

This year, the graduation committee decided on having social science teacher Chris Schmitz as their class speaker. His advice to them was "never fry bacon when your naked."

On a more serious note, Schmitz said, "It's time for them to spread their wings and fly . . . remember my graduation speech."

The class valedictorian, which is the person who has the highest GPA, was Brian Sixbury, and the salutatorian was Megan Jilka, which is the person with the second highest GPA.

This year's senior class set expectations high. Thirty-two students ended their high school years with a 3.5 GPA or higher.

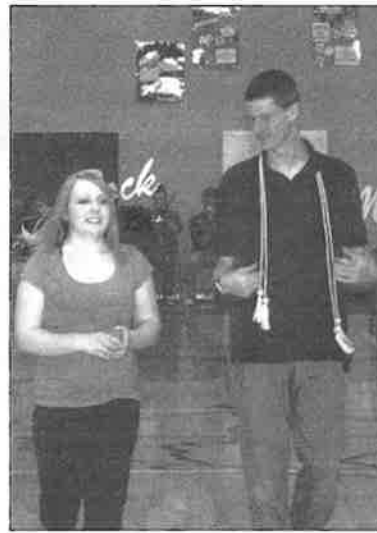
"They are all very good academically," principal Dennis Post said.

The things achieved by the class of 2009 could not have been done without the help of sponsors junior high math teacher, Desirae Reitz, and special education teacher, Tori Sieben.

"They are a great class with lots of potential to succeed outside of school," Reitz said. "They have been a fantastic class to work with and will be missed."

Like Reitz, Sieben also had her thoughts about the senior class.

"I feel that they were very well-rounded and accomplished many successes this year," Sieben said. "I really enjoyed being their class sponsor."



AT GRADUATION PRACTICE, seniors Megan Jilka and Brian Sixbury practice walking in on May 13. Jilka was named salutatorian for the class for having the second-highest GPA, while Sixbury was awarded the valedictorian title for having the highest GPA overall. **PHOTO BY KORTNEY CAMPBELL**

BEFORE THE REAL THING, the senior class members practice throwing up their hats at the graduation rehearsal on May 13. Prior to the graduation practice in the gym, the seniors met for a breakfast, sponsored by Student Council. **PHOTO BY KORTNEY CAMPBELL**



Forensics team places second at state tournament

By EMILY ZOELLER

When the forensics team began this year, many thought it would be a rebuilding year, but those doubts were quickly put to rest when the team hit its stride and took 22 members to state.

On May 2, the team came in second place at the 3A state forensics meet in Wichita, where they fell to Sterling. The Mustangs had many competitors go far in the meet with 14 of the 16 participants heading on to the semifinals. After the semifinals, Rock Creek had nine competitors move on to the final round.

Going into the tournament, coach Keith Miller had good feelings about Rock Creek's chances in meet saying, "I knew we'd be one of the top five teams because of our really strong junior class, but I wasn't sure how the new students would do. They did really, really well, plus,

it didn't hurt to have [senior] Morgan Eichman on our side."

One of the highlights from the tournament was the duet performance from junior Nolan Fike and Eichman. The two made history by not only becoming the new duet state champions, but also beating out three different Sterling duets, who have won state for the last 19 years.

Another Mustang that had a huge day was junior TJ Roberts. Roberts did something that very few students have the privilege to say they did, which was winning not one, but two state championships. Roberts is Rock Creek's first ever dual state champion by taking first in poetry and prose.

The success for Rock Creek did not end there; the Mustangs had four entries take third place. These students were Eichman in dramatic solo acting, juniors Sam Cott and Torrey Peterson

in duet, and sophomore Mandi Blenn in extemporaneous. The victories were still on the Mustang's side with Peterson finishing in fourth place in informative and junior William Trieb taking sixth in oration.

"We had an amazing team this year, and it was by far the best season ever. It was awesome beating Sterling in duet," said Eichman on her last year of forensics.



AT STATE, the second-place forensics team poses for a group photo on May 2. **PHOTO COURTESY OF KEITH MILLER**

Chelsea Ebert, Jackie Gonzalez and Jee Jee Yoon, freshman Lane Frazier and eighth graders Rachel Frank and Anna Jilka.

Science Club puts on a show

On May 1, Science Club members, freshmen Elke Thompson and Lane Frazier, went to Westmoreland and St. George elementary schools to show the students their science demonstrations with a magic show theme.

School holds new banquet format

Rock Creek combined the athletic and activity banquets together this year for one big ceremony on May 4, titled "The Year

of the Rock."

The ceremony consisted of an open house for the fine arts, highlight videos, live entertainment and presentations.

Forensics members perform

On May 19, the Rock Creek forensics team sponsored a forensics night in which students presented their pieces from throughout the season. Afterwards, dessert was served, and a free will donation was collected to help with expenses for the students trip to national forensics in Albany, New York, later this month.

Students receive individual honors

Junior William Trieb received first

place state/class honors in the FACS division of the 2009 Kansas Scholarship Contest. This program is sponsored by Emporia State University and recognizes academic achievement in junior high and high school Kansas students.

Senior Caleb Schmitz was one of the only two Kansas students selected to attend the National Youth Science Camp in Bartow, West Virginia. The summer program honors high school seniors who have shown exceptional academic achievement in the sciences.

Juniors Wesley Theirolf and Justin Fronce and freshman Cody Liming were selected to receive the Jack Clanton/Rudy Award for this year's football season.

OPINIONS

MAY 2009 - PAGE 2

Reviewer finds humor in newest Jim Carrey flick

Who knew that saying "yes" could be so easy and rewarding? In the hit comedy, "Yes Man," main character Carl Allen (Jim Carrey) finds out.

Carl Allen is an average guy, working at a bank approving loans. Once divorced, Carl shuts himself into his own little shell, basically saying no to life, until he happens to run into an old schoolmate named Nick (John Michael Higgins). Nick tells him all about this new motivational program called "Yes Man" held by famous author Terrence Bundley (Terrence Stamp). The only thing participants have to do is say yes.



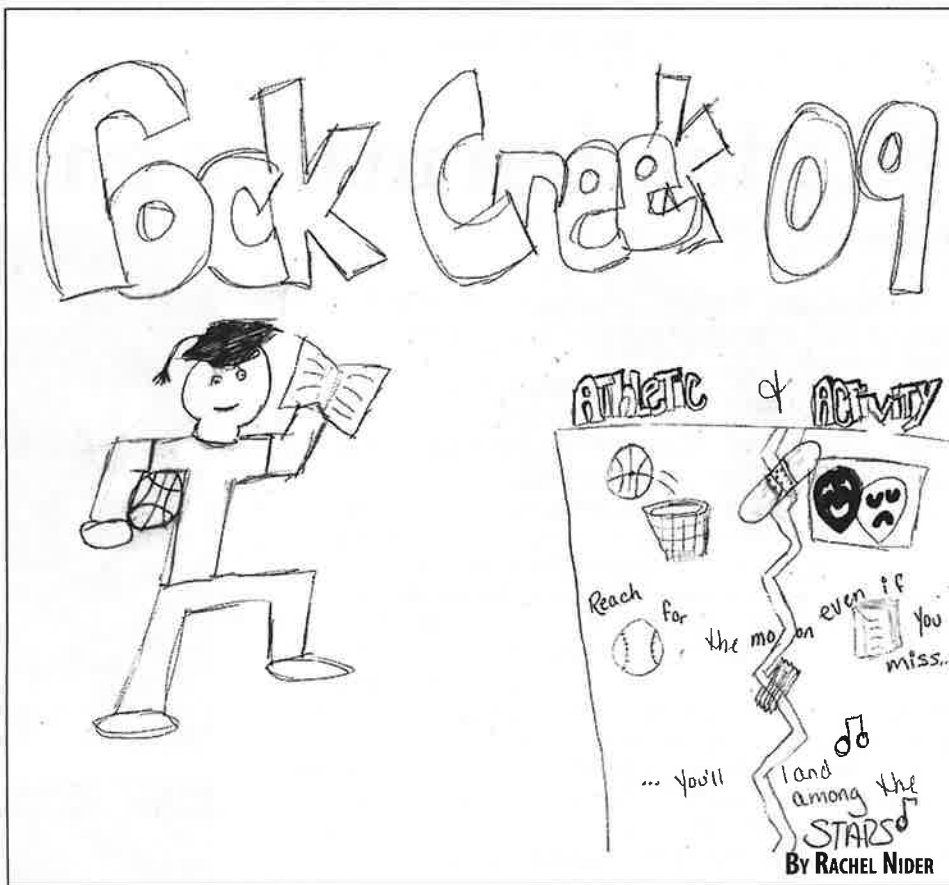
KORTNEY CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

The first time he is tested, Carl is asked to receive a ride to a park out of town by a homeless man. This only gets him stranded, so Carl treks to the nearest gas station to fill up some reserve gallons he had in his trunk. While there, he meets Allison (Zoey Deschanel), a spunky girl filling up her scooter. She asks if he needs a ride back to his car, and of course, he must say "yes." The night ends with a kiss, and Carl is left with the desire to see this Allison character again.

After realizing how lucky saying yes can get him, Carl starts agreeing to everything possible. Things start to turn for the worst when Carl believes it is physically impossible for him to say no, while at the same time being asked to move in with Allison. He says yes, only because he believes he has to. Allison finds this out and leaves him.

In desperation to get Allison back, he tracks down the motivational guru to ask to be freed from the "covenant." While doing so, the two are involved in a minor car accident. Before Carl leaves the hospital, Bundley admits that the program is only a motivational program and that Carl is free to make his own decisions. Realizing this, Carl takes off in a hospital gown on a Ducati to pick up the pieces of his broken relationship.

This movie was just like most of Carrey's other movies, a very comical hit. The romance involved in the knee-slapping comedy made the perfect date movie, because the girls can enjoy the mushy-gushy stuff, while the guys can ooh and ahh about the jet-black Ducati. Who knows, maybe one word really can change everything.



The 'Year of the Rock' describes perfectly the successes of 2008-2009

To recap the school year, the "Year of the Rock" correctly describes how well our school and its students have performed.

Starting with the fall sports, our school has been dominating everywhere we go. The football team played very well this past year, earning *The Manhattan Mercury's* spot in the top ten sports game of the year. But, sadly, they lost to Andover in playoffs.

Our volleyball girls took second in state after losing a very close game to state champs Garden Plains in the finals. The cross country team had also done very well this past season. The team was smaller than previous years, but there is hope for gaining in numbers next year. Also, the fall play's cast members put on a great success titled, "Is He Dead?" a play by Mark Twain.

The winter activities also blew everyone's mind. The girls basketball team made it to the state tournament for the first time in Rock Creek's history. The boys didn't make it to the state tournament, but did very well, despite losing senior Kegan Rawhauser to an injury. Our wrestlers were outstanding, with three making it to the state tournament: seniors Matt Unruh and Andrew Wahlmeier and freshman Shane Shaake. The four-speaker debate team

placed second in the national qualifying tournament and placed second at state. Scholars Bowl did very well also this year, making a good showing at state, too. The forensics team had a full entry going into the state tournament, with nine placing in finals, allowing the team to take second place this year. Band and choir received a one rating at the regional and state competitions. Cheerleading received the

school spirit award from state basketball. And to add to the ever-growing list, softball, baseball and track continue to make an impact as the athletes round out their season.

Academics have also made our school what it is. We had 90 students accomplish the academic

league award, which is much higher than the 42 from last year. There were also 49 seniors who were presented with the senior award for participating in at least one activity this year. Rock Creek also earned the Governor's Achievement Award for its test scores, received a nomination for the No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon and earned a bronze medal rating from *US News and World Report*.

We would like to thank staff and students for receiving these awards and for helping us achieve these awards. Thanks everyone and have a great summer from all of us at the *Hoof Print!*

TO RECAP THE SCHOOL YEAR, the "Year of the Rock" correctly describes how well our school and its students have performed.

YOUR PRINT

DO YOU PLAN TO TRAVEL DURING THE SUMMER? WHERE?

"Arkansas, because my aunt lives down there." - senior Cassie Marker

"West Virginia for National Youth Science Camp." - senior Caleb Schmitz

"No, I'll be staying home until school gets ready to start." - senior Brittany Willard

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAD TO GO TO SCHOOL DURING THE SUMMER?

"I would go in my pajamas and complain the whole time." - junior Lora Blackwood

"Shoot myself." - junior Josh Camacho

"I wouldn't go." - junior Brad Duncan

DO YOU PLAN ON HAVING A JOB THIS SUMMER? WHERE?

"Yes, working at Hot Topic." - sophomore Alex Hennigh

"Yes, mowing lawns." - sophomore TJ Minihan

"Oh, ummm... no!" - sophomore Macy Umscheid

ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY ANY SUMMER SPORTS?

"Yes, swimming." - freshman Nicole Koonce

"Yes, baseball." - freshman Eric Willard

"Yes, softball." - freshman Katie Zimmerman

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF SUMMER?

"Having freedom outside of time schedules and spending time with family." - FACS teacher Mary Siderewicz

"Go to therapy to relax and to recharge my batteries." - school counselor Kevin Sullivan

"Sleeping 'till noon." - science teacher Kellie Milner

By MELANIE STUBBS

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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 students 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 photos 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. 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 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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FEATURES

MAY 2009 - PAGE 3

Seniors 2009

With high school and graduation behind them, seniors look forward to their future plans

By Kim Fairchild & Jessica Jack

KORTNEY CAMPBELL



Senior Kortney Campbell is one of the many graduates going to Washburn University next year to attend college, getting a degree in Radiologic Technology and continuing to dance. Campbell tried out for the Washburn Dancing Blues on April 5 and made it.

She said, "I'm most looking forward to college just to get it done as fast as I can because it's going to be really hard!" Many seniors said they can't wait for college, but that it's going to be completely different from high school.

Campbell said, "I'm going to miss my friends the most and how helpful all the teachers were because I'm definitely not ready to be that responsible!"

Campbell was involved in many activities at Rock Creek, including volleyball four years, track for three, basketball for four, and she has been dancing at Bates Dance Studio in Manhattan for three years.

Campbell said, "Dance is the thing that I'm most passionate about in my whole life. I absolutely love it."

What are your plans for next year?

"I'm going to get a job and go to school at Washburn in Topeka."

- senior Brittany Chasser

"Going to Cloud [County Community College] and do track and field."

- senior Ashley Garetson

"Going to Cloud County Community College to play baseball."

- senior Luis Gonzalez

"Going to Kansas State for architectural engineering and working on campus."

- senior Jacob Haverkamp

"Going to Manhattan Area Technical College for the Information Network Technology program."

- senior Tim Herrs

"Going to college at Highland Community College and getting a job."

- senior Becca Milligan

"Going to Highland Community College and attending as many concerts as I can."

- senior Devin Nelson

SAVANNAH MILLER



"I'm not going to give up no matter what the struggle is," senior Savannah Miller said. "My goals are to push myself to the full extent."

Miller plans to move out after her senior year and rent a house in Manhattan. During that time, she also plans on attending college at the American Hair Academy.

Following her schooling in Manhattan, she plans on going to Joe Blasco Cosmetic Artistry School in Hollywood, Calif. After Miller finishes college, she plans on moving to the east coast.

Through Miller's high school years at Rock Creek, she was involved in track one year, FCCLA one year and cheerleading four years.

Like many seniors, Miller said that she will miss some things about high school.

"Seeing the faces of those who I may never see again," Miller said was what she would miss the most about Rock Creek.

COLIN DUNCAN



Senior Colin Duncan is headed to San Antonio this summer to start off his basic training for the Army.

He said, "I'm going to fish about a week [after graduation] then run some and then start training hard!"

Some graduates are going to be going into the military after high school. Duncan is not sure if he will stay in the military after he is done with basic or just go to college.

Duncan said, "I'm looking forward to all the traveling I will be doing, but I'm going to miss my friends and family so much because I won't see the people I'm use to seeing every day."

Duncan played football at Rock Creek all four years of his high school career; he was also a wrestler all four years and in track for three years. Duncan was also in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and in band for four years.

Duncan said, "It feels good to be done with school. I'm excited to move on, but I'll probably wish to still be in high school some day."

What will you miss most about being in high school?

"Not seeing the bros anymore."

- senior Graham Briggs

"Probably all the friends because I won't see them as much anymore."

- senior Colin Duncan

"The teachers and seeing my friends every day, along with the food."

- senior Dana Elliott

"Mr. Post, because I will not have anyone to joke around with."

- senior Matt Gee

"Friends, because I won't be able to hang out with anyone because I'll always be on my computer."

- senior Greg Pushee

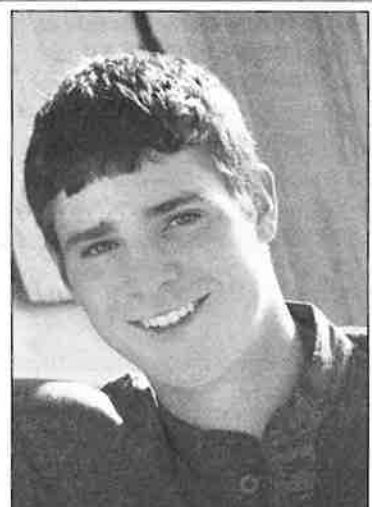
"The people because of the attitude that most people have here."

- senior Derek Saueressig

"Playing volleyball and seeing my friends every day."

- senior Emily Zoeller

DUSTIN MINER



Going to a Division I college is what most high school athletes dream of, but for senior Dustin Miner, that dream became a reality.

Miner plans to attend Kansas State University to major in landscape design, which is a subdivision of horticulture. He plans to play in their football team and to keep and A's and B's while in college.

Through Miner's high school years at Rock Creek, he participated in RC Club three years, FFA four years, football four years, basketball three years, baseball four years and track four years.

"I'm really going to miss my friends, the sports and not having to do my own laundry," Miner said.

Likewise, Miner's family is really proud of him, but there are some ups and downs to his graduation.

"I'm probably going to be kind of lonely," Miner's mother Staci Miner said. "He likes to do stuff with his mommy."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KORTNEY CAMPBELL, COLIN DUNCAN, SAVANNAH MILLER AND DUSTIN MINER FROM THEIR SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

SPORTS

MAY 2009 - PAGE 4

Baseball team faces tough competition this spring

By BRAD KLEUSCH

The Mustang baseball team has climbed up to be the third ranked team in 3A baseball. With a record of 13-2 at press time, the Mustangs have battled with some tough 4A teams, including Chapman and Wamego.

"Our toughest game so far this season would have to be our game against Riley County," head coach Chad Herren said. "But with games still to come, we have to stay on top of our game so we can get through a tough regional and win state."

Herren said he believes that even if the Mustangs do not win state, this season will still be considered a success.

Herren said, "I enjoy getting out every day to practice with the guys and going to coach them to a win every time we step onto a field. I will miss the seniors, and I wish I could have been around them more."

Herren would like to recognize and thank principal Dennis Post and athletic director Scott Harshbarger for giving him the chance to teach and coach at Rock

Creek this year.

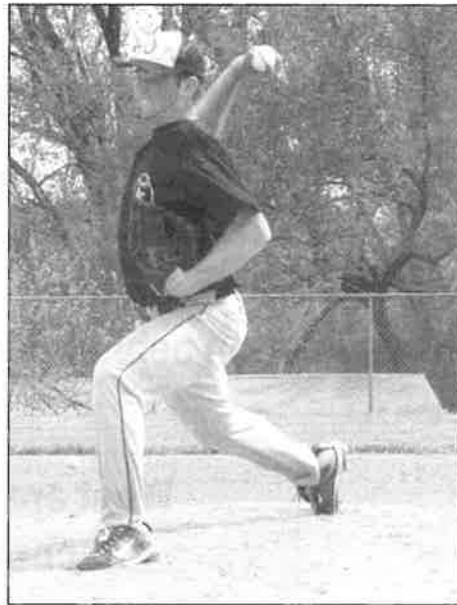
Herren would also like to recognize seniors Matt Gee, Gabriel Gomez, Luis Gonzalez, Logan Lauer, Dustin Miner, Devin Nelson and Kegan Rawhouser for being the leaders of this year's team. He also wants to recognize everyone else on the team for being the future of Rock Creek baseball.

"The future of this team looks very bright," Herren said.

Herren is very proud of Gee, Gonzalez, Lauer and Rawhouser for furthering their education next year, while continuing to play baseball for Cloud County College. He said he is also proud of Miner because he is a great athlete and a better person.

"This whole season was based around the word 'Swagger,' with means to play with confidence, and carry that confidence anywhere you go whether it be for athletics or academics," Herren said.

So when the Mustangs take the field May 18-21 for regionals, the phrase "Swagger" will probably be heard. Due to press deadlines, the results for regionals were not yet available.



ON SENIOR NIGHT, senior Logan Lauer pitches the ball against Wabauunsee at Rock Creek on May 5. The Mustangs won the first game against Wabauunsee, 17-0, then also defeated the Chargers in the second game, 15-0. PHOTO BY HANNAH COCKERILL

SPORTS SCOREBOARD

	RC	OPPONENT
Varsity Baseball		
WAMEGO (04/09)	1	9
CHAPMAN (04/14)	4	2
CHAPMAN (04/14)	7	3
MARYSVILLE (04/17)	1	2
MARYSVILLE (04/17)	6	4
ST. MARYS (04/21)	14	4
ST. MARYS (04/21)	9	4
OSAGE CITY (04/24)	16	1
OSAGE CITY (04/24)	7	2
RILEY COUNTY (04/28)	15	0
RILEY COUNTY (04/28)	4	3
CLAY CENTER (05/01)	12	1
CLAY CENTER (05/01)	16	2
WABAUNSEE (05/05)	17	0
WABAUNSEE (05/05)	15	0
SILVER LAKE (05/08)	2	4
SILVER LAKE (05/08)	1	11
ROSSVILLE (05/12)	7	2
ROSSVILLE (05/12)	15	0
Junior Varsity Baseball		
MARYSVILLE (04/06)	6	12
MARYSVILLE (04/06)	8	7
HERINGTON (04/07)	14	6
WAMEGO (04/13)	L	
WAMEGO (04/13)	W	
MARYSVILLE (04/23)	W	
JEFFERSON WEST (04/23)	L	
MANHATTAN (04/25)	W	
HOLTON (04/25)	L	
Varsity Softball		
WAMEGO (04/03)	4	0
WAMEGO (04/03)	8	0
ABILENE (04/07)	0	3
ABILENE (04/07)	6	12
SE OF SALINE (04/10)	7	0
CLAY CENTER (04/14)	2	4
CLAY CENTER (04/14)	10	1
ST. MARYS (04/21)	5	1
ST. MARYS (04/21)	11	1
OSAGE CITY (04/24)	4	5
OSAGE CITY (04/24)	2	3
RILEY COUNTY (04/28)	9	4
RILEY COUNTY (04/28)	11	0
SE OF SALINE (04/30)	2	0
WABAUNSEE (05/05)	3	1
WABAUNSEE (05/05)	7	2
SILVER LAKE (05/08)	3	4
SILVER LAKE (05/08)	7	5
ROSSVILLE (05/12)	7	1
ROSSVILLE (05/12)	7	0
Junior Varsity Softball		
SILVER LAKE (04/06)	11	12
SILVER LAKE (04/06)	5	11
CLAY CENTER (04/13)	10	5
CLAY CENTER (04/13)	19	2
ROSSVILLE (04/16)	4	8
ROSSVILLE (04/16)	4	15
WASHBURN RURAL (04/18)	8	16
ROYAL VALLEY (04/18)	8	4
COUNCIL GROVE (04/24)	13	3
COUNCIL GROVE (04/24)	10	0
SE OF SALINE (04/30)	8	7
Varsity Track		
SILVER LAKE (04/03)	3RD	4TH
WABAUNSEE (04/09)	2ND	2ND
WAMEGO (04/14)	3RD	6TH
ROCK CREEK (04/17)	2ND	6TH
JEFFERSON WEST (04/21)	6TH	7TH
ST. MARYS (05/01)	3RD	3RD
NEMAHA VALLEY (05/05)	3RD	4TH
MID-EAST LEAGUE (05/14)	3RD	3RD
Junior Varsity Track		
SILVER LAKE (04/03)	1ST	1ST
ABILENE (04/14)	3RD	3RD
ROCK CREEK (04/17)	2ND	1ST
NEMAHA VALLEY (05/05)	3RD	1ST

By ANTHONY REID

Softball faces league opponents to wind down season

By HANNAH COCKERILL & LINDA OVERKAMP

The Rock Creek Mustangs opened up their Mid-East League softball play on April 21 against St. Mary's.

St. Mary's hosted the Mustangs that night, and the girls came out on top with a score of 5-1 in the first game and a score of 11-1 in the second game. Junior Ashley Srna hit an over the fence home run for the lead of 1-0. Not long after, they added three more runs in the third inning from freshman Bailey Elliott, Srna and freshman Katie Hodges, followed by a double from junior Taylor Ebert, who hit the three girls on base in. In the fifth inning, they scored another run and held their defense up for the 5-1 win. During the second game, the Mustangs had 11 hits and 11 RBI's with only three runners left on base.

Srna said, "Playing St. Mary's the most challenging game that we have had all year."

On April 24, the Mustangs played the Osage City Indians at Osage City. Even though the Mustangs lost the first and

second game, they still played very hard. The first game had a score of 4-5, and the second game had a score of 2-3.

The Mustangs played Riley County on April 28 at home. The girls won both games with ending scores of 9-4 and 11-0. In the first game, the girls scored two runs in the first inning, two runs in the third, one run in the fourth inning and then four runs in the fifth inning. In the second game, they scored two runs in the first inning, three in the second, five in the third and one in the fourth.

On April 30, the varsity team played Southeast of Saline, winning 2-0, making their runs in the first and second innings.

May 5, the Mustangs played Wabauunsee at home. For both games, they had wins with scores of 3-1 and 7-2.

Up next for the team, regionals started on May 18 and lasted through May 21, then on May 30, state begins for softball. Due to press deadlines, results were not available.

Coach Jeri Brummett said, "We let a couple games slip away, but have had a successful season."



RELEASING THE BALL, senior Amy Yenser pitches against the Riley County Falcons in varsity softball action at Rock Creek on April 28. The Rock Creek girls defeated Riley County in both games, 9-4 in the first and 11-0 in the second. PHOTO BY HANNAH COCKERILL

Boys, girls track teams compete in area meets

By MELANIE STUBBS & EMILY ZOELLER

The track team started the year with breaking school records, and at press time, were preparing for upcoming regional competitions and possibly state.

On the boys side, the 4x800 relay, consisting of senior Justin Weers, juniors Seth Ruder and Harrison Newman and sophomore DJ Denzien, broke the record from 2007. Ruder also record broke his own record from 2007 in the two mile, with a time of 10:56.05. As for boys pole vault, junior Nolan Fike tied senior Tyler Umscheid's record with a jump of 12 feet. For girls pole vault, senior Emily Zoeller broke her own record from 2007 with a jump of 7'6".

The track teams started their year off at Silver Lake on April 3. At Silver Lake, the varsity boys team finished third, while the junior varsity boys finished first. The varsity girls team finished fourth at the same meet, while junior varsity girls finished first.

While at Wamego, held on April 7 and 14, the varsity boys finished third, along with the junior varsity boys. Varsity girls finished in sixth place, and the junior varsity girls finished second.

The varsity Mustangs traveled to Wabauunsee on April 20 and finished second, as did the girls track team.

When the Mustangs held their invitational track meet at home on April 17, the varsity and junior varsity boys finished

second place, the varsity girls finished sixth and the junior varsity finished first place.

While at a varsity meet in Rossville on May 1, the boys finished third, while the girls finished in fourth.

At the Nemaha Valley meet on May 5, the varsity and junior varsity boys finished in third. The varsity girls finished in fourth and the junior varsity girls finished in first place.

During the latest track meet, the boys and girls competed at the Mid-East League meet on May 14 at St. Marys. Overall, as teams, both the boys and the girls finished in third place at the league tournament.

For the boys, Riley County placed first, while Rossville earned second. On the girls side, Riley County also won first as a team, and Rossville placed second.

Individually, for the boys, 20 Rock Creek athletes qualified for regional competition.

For the girls, 13 Mustangs earned the opportunity to go on to regional competition.

Following the league meet, the next action for the boys and girls teams will be regionals, which will be on May 22 at Riley County. Due to press deadlines, results from the regional meet could not be published.

Many people thought the season went well this year, including senior Justin Weers, who said, "this year has been a great experience this year."