

THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL HATCHET

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EDITION
FREE
1997

Beating the long winter's nap



Inside This Issue:

Quiz bowl team is still optimistic; two WHS students are recognized for their distinctive characteristics. **p. 4-5**

Panthers show that "hibernation" is not an option when it comes to winter activities. **p. 8-9**

Philip Evans with 32-0 record leads top 20 wrestling team; basketball teams are performing well. **p. 12-15**

PASSING TIME

Do you think that Ebonics should be taught in schools?



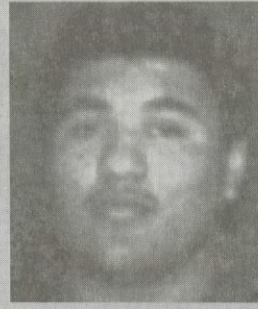
"No, because it's not the proper way to talk. It's not a race thing, but I say no."

Jaime Kurzhal-
Junior



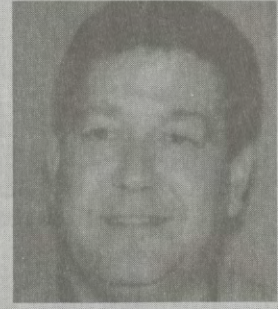
"No, we speak English and that is right. It's just a separate culture."

Shawnda Minor-
Freshman



"No, because adults or other people might not feel respected."

Eloy Alvarez-
Senior

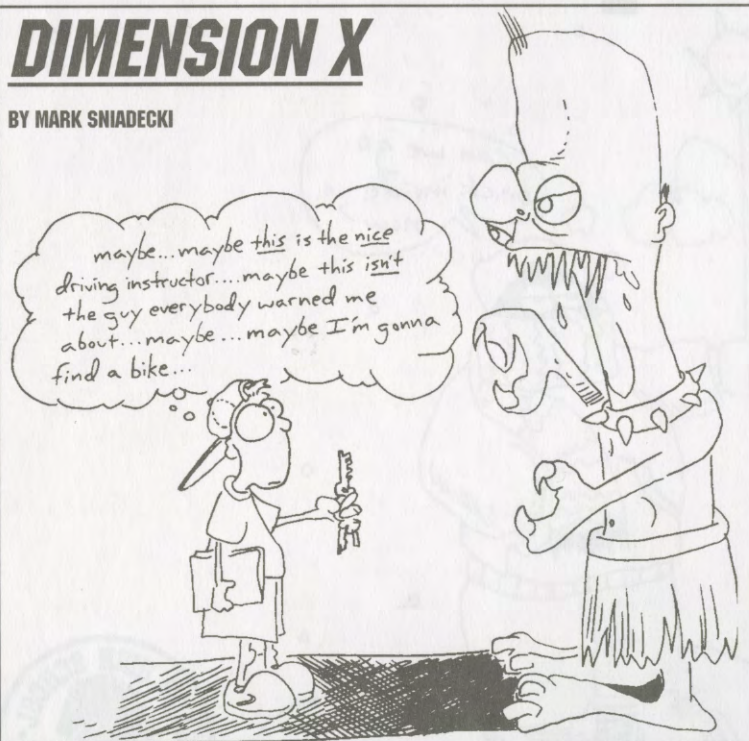


"No, because it's not a language. It will be like teaching slang in the classroom."

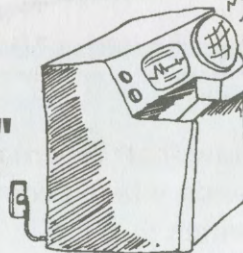
Mr. Krueger-
Teacher

DIMENSION X

BY MARK SNIADDECKI



"Artificial Unintelligence"



2+2=5...
THE CAPITOL
OF OHIO IS
BANGOR...
E=M.C. HAMMER
AND H₂O IS
THE FORMULA
FOR A KIW
DAQUIRI...



"MORONS"





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The HATCHET has been established as a forum for student expression and as a voice in the uninhibited free and open discussion of issues. Editorials represent the opinion of the editorial board but not necessarily those of the administration, staff, or student body. The HATCHET will not print obscenities, libelous material, or anything that disrupts the educational process, or invades the privacy of any group or individual.

Letters may be submitted to the HATCHET from students in order to provide a full opportunity for students to inquire, question, exchange and submit ideas. Content should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be dissent or controversy. The HATCHET also reserves the right to condense, edit, or not print material submitted by students at the discretion of the editors and supporting staff. Letters that are submitted must have the author's signature but it may be omitted upon request.

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The HATCHET is a publication of Washington High School, and is printed at LaSalle High School by Mr. Frank Marconi and the Vocational Printing Class.

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editor,

The whole idea of the security guards is fine, but what I don't understand is what they are securing.

It certainly isn't the line for the vendor of the day or express foods. There are packs of people who will go straight to the head of the line and cut in front of all the people who have been waiting. Those who wait patiently can end up standing in line so long that by the time they get to the front, some foods are sold out.

I don't think that it is that much work for security guards to "patrol" those lines and pull out those who unfairly go to the front. It's not like they're going to exhaust themselves by doing that.

Sincerely,

Senior

Tara Kenjockety

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to write you about the orchestra situation. I may be just a freshman, but I already don't like what I see. Number one, why do we share a room with health classes? It's annoying having to set up our music stands and chairs every time we come into the class. The students' desks take up a lot of room. Next year we will be getting some players from Navarre. We will definitely not have enough room to accommodate them.

The deal with the chevrons is extremely confusing to me. First, I hear that we won't get them. Then I hear that we MIGHT get them. It would be nice if the school would put a few bucks into the orchestra fund every so often.

Our teacher is very enthusiastic, but action needs to be taken. I'm sure that most of the orchestra agrees with me. Thank you for the time.

Sincerely,

Freshman

Jason Critchlow

What's your call?

In Tennessee, if they get even an inch of snow, all of the schools are canceled. Obviously, we can't follow these standards, or we wouldn't have school all winter. How bad do you think the conditions should get before the schools close in South Bend?

Schools should close when the wind chill is extreme or when there is a lot of blowing or drifting snow. They should also close when there is dense fog or golf ball-sized hail.

Brian Maslowski
junior

Rocha, another WHS success

By Amanda Whittaker

Staff Writer

Each year one senior is given the honor of being recognized as the D.A.R. (National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizen. Through a selective process, Javier Rocha was chosen as this year's award winner.

The process begins when teachers recommend three seniors whom they believe uphold the following qualities:

1. Dependability—truthfulness, loyalty, and punctuality
2. Service—cooperation, courtesy, and consideration of others
3. Leadership—personality, self-control, and ability to assume responsibility
4. Patriotism—unselfish interest in family, school, community, and nation.

From the three students selected, the senior class votes on who is deserving of this honor.

"I voted for Javier because he has a good attitude. He's just the kind of person that everyone likes," said senior Sara

Rose.

Senior April Parks agreed: "I think Javier deserved it."

"I was surprised to win, because I was in the running with two other great people," Rocha replied.

The other two nominees were Katharine Chan and Derek Dabrowiak.

Rocha helps out in the community by wrapping gifts for Eighth Ministries at Christmas time. He is also very active at St. Steven's Church.

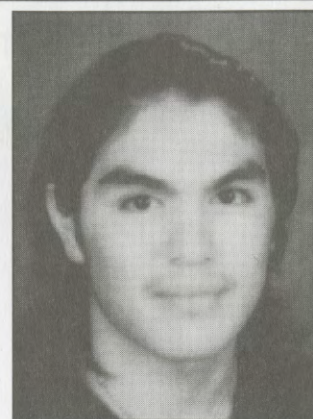
Bilingual resource specialist Amelia Munoz said, "He's a real decent guy, the kind of guy you can trust."

Rocha said, "I am concerned about others. I'm kind, I follow rules, and I do what has to be done."

But he believes that one can't take life too seriously, or it will pass you by quickly.

Rocha now has the chance to enter the D.A.R. Good Citizen Scholarship Contest at the next level.

First, Rocha will fill out a questionnaire on how he has shown himself to be a good citizen and submit a copy of his scholastic record. Then he will write an essay on why he believes he deserves this



D.A.R. Good Citizen,
Javier Rocha

award, the essay will be sent together with the questionnaire and record to the D.A.R. committee.

Each contest entry is judged individually with the first-place entry going to the next level. Each state winner receives a cash reward of \$250. The National Winner goes to Washington D.C to attend the D.A.R. Continental Congress and will receive a \$3,000 scholarship towards his or her college education. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to the second-place winner on the national level, as well as a \$750 scholarship to the third-place winner. The remaining six geographic division winners will each receive \$500 cash. □

Quiz bowl keeping hope alive

By Katharine Chan

Co-editor-in-chief

For those who enjoy "Jeopardy" and Trivial Pursuit, quiz bowl is an ideal extracurricular activity.

Although the team has not yet won a match this year, they are still optimistic.

"Even though we haven't won one match, we're having fun so I guess it doesn't matter," commented junior Olivia Jacobsen-Reighter.

English department head and quiz bowl sponsor Mike Foley said, "We're trying hard...we're still in the race."

The other team sponsor is English teacher Kathy Moriarty.

All home matches are played on Wednesdays in the library. The 14 players

are divided into varsity and junior varsity (JV) teams.

Four players from each school compete in each round. Each participant has a buzzer that he/she uses to ring in and answer. Unlike "Jeopardy," the students are not penalized for incorrect answers, unless the question is interrupted.

A normal match consists of two toss-ups, a bonus, and a lightning or 60-second round.

Scoring in JV is 10 points for each correct answer; most varsity questions are also 10 points, except in the bonus round where three-part questions are worth five points apiece.

The variety of questions come from many categories including foreign language and currents events.

Sophomore Lindsey Chrzan said, "I like the Bible and science questions because I usually know what the answers are."

Selected matches are also televised on cable-access Channel 3. The final teams who are left in the playoffs are broadcasted on WNDU for a televised matchup.

The quiz bowl team members consists of senior Derek Dabrowiak and Katharine Chan, Jenny Jacox, Paul Ohnesorge, and Ryan Hanyzewski; juniors Suzanne Myers, John Nyikos, Amanda Whittaker, Jacobsen-Reighter, Kathy Lute, and Kenya Langhofer; sophomores Lindsay Maller, Chrzan, and Sarah Muia.

The Panthers' next home match is on Feb. 12 against Mishawaka. □

Terai only foreign exchange student

By Katharine Chan
Co-editor-in-chief

Learning a foreign language is an option for most high-school students, but for Hitomi Terai, learning English was mandatory.

Originally from Sakai City in Osaka, Japan, Terai is WHS's only foreign exchange student this school year.

Living with the family of senior Heather Deka, Terai feels that she has adjusted and adapted well to American customs. "I like the U.S. very much," said Terai.

Host mother Sandy Deka said, "She is very easy to get along with and very helpful. She has really warmed our hearts, and we just feel we've been enriched by learning about her culture."

This is the first time Terai has ever been so far away from home for such a long time, and she does get homesick. "I miss my friends and family very much, but I enjoy living with the Dekas."

One of the reasons Terai wanted to study in the U.S. is because of her future plan of working in an inter-

This says Washington High School in Japanese.

national airport. "I want to learn more about the English language, and I want to speak it better," said Terai.

Terai discussed many differences between Japan and the U.S.

In Japan, drivers' licenses aren't issued until the age of 20. High-school students are also assigned a mandatory class schedule; Terai greatly appreciates the electives she can take at WHS.

Terai also said that in Japan, there is a greater emphasis on studying outside of school. She said, "In Japan, we study a minimum of two to three hours a day."

Before coming to the U.S., Terai took four different English classes: conversation, comprehension and reading, listening, and grammar.

Like European schools and colleges, the class schedule in Japan varies from day to day. Students in Japan begin school at 8:50 and stay until 3:30 from Monday through Friday. On Saturday school is from 8:50 to 1:30.

When it comes to sports in Japan, Terai says that baseball is one of the most popular: "Hideo Nomo [of the L.A. Dodgers] is Japan's Michael Jordan."

Sumo wrestling is another famous Japanese sport, but only with the older crowd. "Japanese older people enjoy sumo wrestling very much, but teenagers do not like it," commented Terai.

Terai has noticed that teens in the U.S. act very similar to those

The Japanese uses characters to write; this reads Hitomi Terai



in Japan.

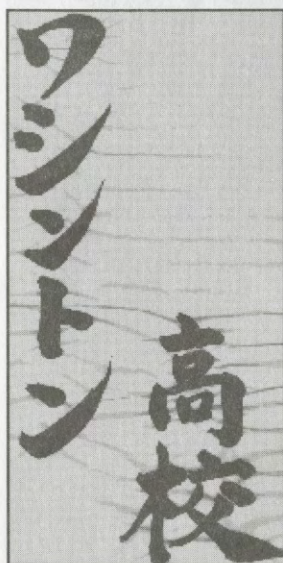
"Japanese young people also like to go to the malls. We also enjoy amusement parks very much."

Sandy Deka also sees the similarity. "It's obvious how alike teens from around the world are; they all like to socialize, go to the mall and hang out."

But Terai mentions that when it comes to differences, the fashions in Japan and the U.S. are very different. "In Japan, we have more uniforms, and it is very business [like]. In America, it is very casual."

Although Terai's conversational English is limited, she still enjoys socializing and practicing with friends. She's also very willing to talk with anyone who has any questions about Japan or Japanese cultures.

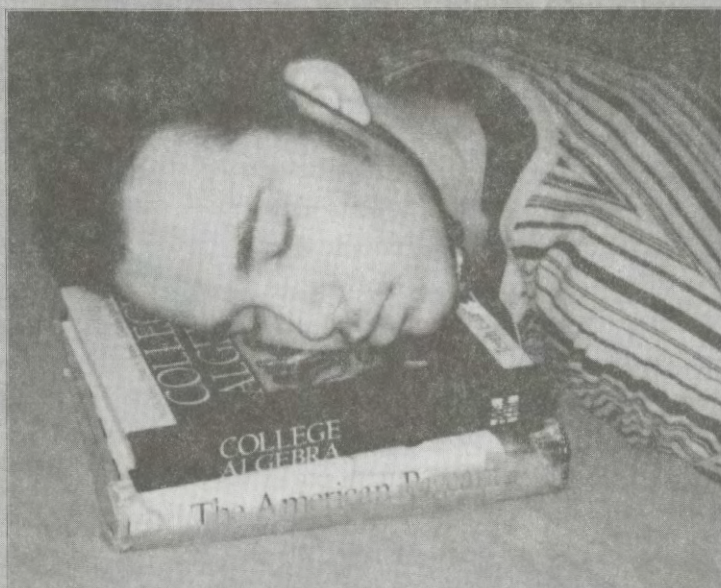
Terai said, "If somebody is interested in Japan, please ask me. I am interested in learning more about Americans and the English language." □



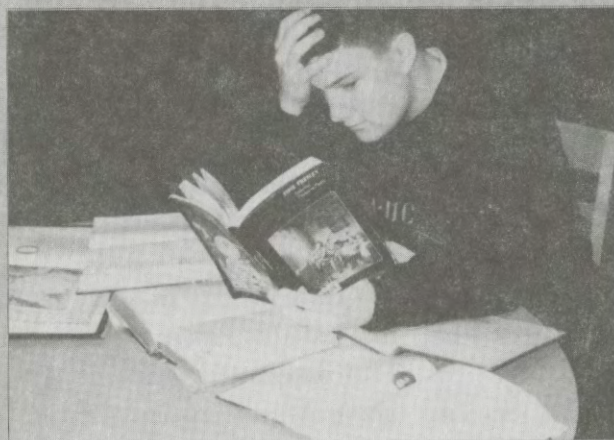
PANTHERS

BY MARK SNIADDECKI

PREPARATION FOR FINALS



(Above right) Senior Joshua Northam uses the "osmosis" method, absorbing all the formulas through his skull. (Above right) Junior Jason Lips goes straight for the throat, fixing his marks in the grade book before finals are even passed out. (Below left) Senior Derek Dabrowiak pours over a mountain of books, soaking up knowledge. Yeah, right. (Below right) "Cheat sheets" are an ancient and accurate form of test-passing technology. Sophomore Jason Wisniewski saves trees by using his hand.



Two Full Pages of Your Friends, Your School, and a Zany Cast of Millions!

TAKES ON NEW MEANINGS



(Above left) Freshman Andy Dulcet studies on-the-go, unaware that he's heading for the wrong classroom. (Above right) Junior Amanda Waddups plays "Mission: Impossible," rummaging through file cabinets in an attempt to discover top-secret final answers. (Below right) Mr. Perry accepts a small "monetary donation" towards freshman Carl Carr's grade.



FUN . . . without the sun

By Erin Wardman
& Lindsay Maller
Feature Writers

"BORING" IS WHAT COMES TO mind when one thinks of the long winter months in South Bend. With an average of 48% of possible sunshine during the months of Jan., Feb., and Mar., it's hard to keep from hibernating in front of the TV. Many consider going to the mall a winter sport, but with a little creativity teen activities can go beyond that.

"I tie a sled to the back of a truck and then go sledding on it," said senior Brad Langhofer.

Freshman Crecencio Perez exclaimed, "I don't care how old I get. I'll never be too old for a good ol' Iron-Man snowball fight!"

According to Compton's Encyclopedia, "The most notable change on the American winter sport scene in recent years has been the boom in recreational skiing."

Senior Steve Naragon agreed and said, "I've been skiing and snowboarding for seven years. I

usually go to Swiss Valley up in Jones, Michigan, about 10 times a year." Naragon also added that learning to snowboard is not as hard as it may look, "It's harder for people who ski to learn how to snowboard, than for someone who has no clue about either."

As for cost, Naragon said

My favorite thing to do is sit in a coffee house and watch the rain pour down; I get into the 'blahs' in order to rise above them," said English teacher Kathy Jo Tully.

Those who detest the cold can still remain active with indoor sports.

"More people in the United States go bowling than go to baseball games." (Compton's Encyclopedia)

Senior Shawn Brzezinski said, "I really like to bowl, because it keeps me busy in the winter. I'm in an All Men's League, and usually bowl Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at PNA, Beacon, or Chippewa." He added, "My average is in the upper 190's."

"In the winter, I roller skate every weekend at USA with a group of friends. It's way too cold to be outside," said sophomore LaDonna Harris.

Some, like junior Nikki Kaufman, don't even enjoy leaving the house. "I like to cook or bake, and maybe watch a movie."

English teacher Louise Drapek said, "I really believe in exercise and would do it more often if I had more time. When I



that if you're going to use the equipment often, owning your own is cheaper than renting it.

This teacher's inspirational list should also give some other low-cost ideas. "I wear brightly colored clothing and burn incense. I blast my stereo very loudly and listen to a CD or maybe write a letter to a friend.

do have time, I like to walk on the treadmill, swim, run, and go to a fitness class."

Weight-training teacher Scott Bovenkerk said, "More people start exercising in January than in any other month. The majority, however, stop within 60 days, because they don't see immediate results." He said that as the weight gradually increases, so would the progress.

Bovenkerk encourages young people to start exercising now in order to create a life-long habit.

With these Panther suggestions and a little imagination, a life of snowy boredom will leap into a flurry of winter activity. □



Sophomore Danielle Verleye makes the most of these frigid months with only a sled and a dream.

Winter Survival 101

Dig in your wallet or use your imagination; either way, there are things to do if you look hard enough--or sit back and check out this handy compilation of winter activities! We'll start with your favorite category: **FREE!**

- Play in the snow
- Volunteer at a hospital/nursing home
- Bake something
- Exercise
- Make a home video
- Give a friend a makeover
- Play a board game
- Have a sleepover
- Read a book
- Plan a vacation

- Rearrange your room
- Watch cartoons
- Slide down your stairs in a sleeping bag
- Play cards
- Go to Alley Oop's dressed in 50's clothing (if you don't eat, it's free)

\$1- \$10

- Iceskating
- Putter's
- Bowling
- Tubing/sledding
- Indoor swimming
- Roller skating
- Dye your hair
- Go to WHS games
- Visit Potawatami Zoo
- Go to the movies

- Have a movie marathon
- Shopping
- Visit College Football Hall of Fame

\$10+

- Skiing
- Tobogganing
- Go to a play/concert at Morris Civic
- Major shopping
- Rent a limo with friends
- Get a manicure, makeover
- Get ready for prom
- Go to Grand Slam USA
- Take a trip to Chicago

Ebonics not a language

Teachers and administrators in Oakland, CA, recently proposed the establishment of a program to teach Ebonics, or black English, in the public school system.

Ebonics is what is commonly heard in the halls of many of America's schools; a slang that is popular among many blacks and teenagers.

Editorial

Some of those who speak it "fluently" even go so far as to consider themselves bilingual. But to be bilingual, two languages must be known, and Ebonics is definitely not a language.

It is preposterous to bring Ebonics into the classroom when it is already widespread through rap music on the radio

and in videos, TV shows such as "Martin," and certain movies geared toward the black population. We should concentrate on teaching standard English and grammar, and not slang, to children.

Using slang is not acceptable in the working or business world. In fact, it often makes the speaker appear less intelligent and uneducated. Why teach it in schools if it is not going to be a useful tool later on in life?

Black leaders including Jesse Jackson and Maya Angelou have even publically spoken out against Ebonics. They believe that it degrades blacks and gives an excuse for black teens to use improper English.

Ebonics doesn't bring about cultural learning or tolerance, but rather a division of who speaks "black" or "white." It stereotypes those who speak it and the environment they belong to as urban or inner-city.

Teaching Ebonics would only lower the standards of education to meet students halfway. Instead, we should be pushing students to meet those goals, and encouraging them to go even further. □



Thumbs Up Thumbs Down

THUMBS UP

...to librarian Nancy Jo Pinney and library paraprofessional Bonnie Tafelski for making WHS's library the best. Hosting several press conferences, including former Governor Evan Bayh's farewell address to South Bend, you contribute to Westside pride.

...to the student council for diligently collecting money for various charities during halftime at the boys' home basketball games. The jingle of the money will certainly be music to the recipients' ears.

...to the seniors who have made it through the first semester (or the second to last semester of high school). Those reminders of announcement orders and cap and gown measurements have put into perspective how close graduation really is. Hang in there—only five more months to go.

THUMBS DOWN

...to the students who lack common sense (and common courtesy) and triple park cars in the front parking lot.

...to the freezing and blizzard-like weather conditions. But if it snows, it might as well snow hard—we may be able to get a snow day in this year after all.

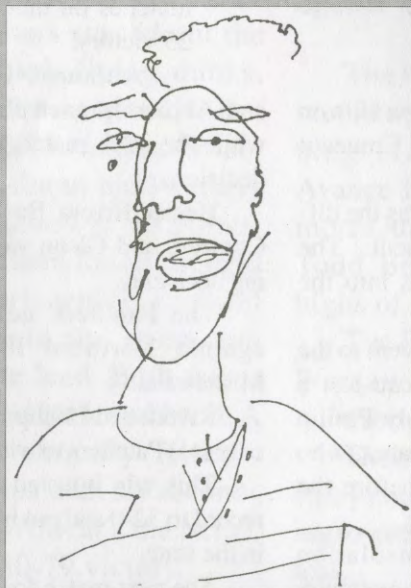
...to the person or persons responsible for the false fire alarm. You not only interrupted finals, but you also disgraced WHS by bringing the authorities to school only to find a practical and cruel joke.

Art Gallery.

by Benji Woolet

▼ freshman Emery

Sieczkoq - blind line drawing



▲ senior James Schafer - "Depression"

◀ sophomore Carrie Robak - blind line drawing

Best season in history

By Ryan Hanyzewski

Sports Editor

The Panther grapplers are having their best season in history.

The Panthers were 18-1 and ranked 18th in the state going into the Northern Indiana Conference Championships at the end of the season.

"We are having one of our best years ever and we are becoming a force to be reckoned with in the area," said junior Kyle Bach.

With a 5-0 record, the Panthers took on the Adams Eagles.

Freshman Jeff Laskowski started the Panthers off right by pinning his opponent in the second period. Sophomores Tony Heeter, Vincent Minor, and Tito Rivera all pinned their opponents and the Panthers led 24-9.

After Kyle Bach lost a close match, the Panthers won the next six matches.

Senior Isaac Evans and juniors John Comeau and Phillip Evans won by pin. Sophomores Chris Glenn and Jimmy McKinnes and freshman Kevin Smigielski won by forfeit.

Next up for the Panthers was the WHS Superduel. The Panthers went 5-0 as a team and captured the Superduel Championship, including an 83-0 route of LaLumierre and a 41-33 victory over 4-0 Winimac in the final round.

Comeau, Philip Evans, and McKinnes all brought championships to WHS and Comeau was named the outstanding wrestler of the tournament.

The Panthers next travelled to Clay to take on the Colonials.

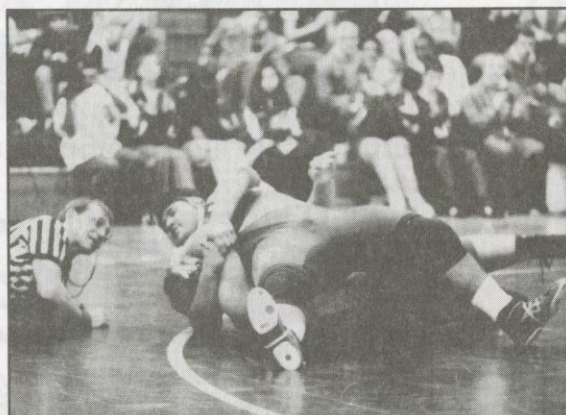
After Laskowski lost a tough overtime match, freshman Mike McKenzie pinned his opponent to give the Pan-

thers the lead.

A loss at 119 lbs. for the Panthers tied the match 6-6.

This was as close as the fired-up Clay team would get as Minor pinned a very difficult opponent to put the Panthers up 12-6 and give them a lead they would not relinquish.

The Panthers went on to win six of the last seven matches. Rivera, Phillip Evans, and Jimmy McKinnes all won by pins.



Senior Eloy Alvarez puts his opponent on his back and is looking for a pin to keep his perfect record intact.

Bach, Comeau, and Glenn all won tough decisions. (Bach: 7-3, Comeau: 3-0, Glenn: 6-5).

Next for the Panthers was the difficult Mishawaka Tournament. The Panthers took five matches into the second day of competition.

Three WHS grapplers went to the semi-finals; but after Comeau lost a tough semi-final match, only Phillip Evans and senior Eloy Alvarez, who returned to the team just before the tournament, made the finals.

Comeau won his consolation match to place third in the tournament.

Phillip Evans was first to wrestle. His opponent was Penn's Mike

McBride, who had only one loss this season.

"I was never that nervous before a match in my life," said Phillip Evans.

"I haven't been that nervous since I wrestled in the state tournament," said his coach and father, Carl Evans.

The nerves did not last long as Phillip Evans controlled the match and won 5-1.

Alvarez, in his first tournament of the year, steamrolled the competition and pinned his opponent in the second period.

The next match was at Lake Station where the team was handed its first loss. The Panthers went 4-1, with a loss to a very tough Portage team.

The Panthers then travelled to Riley for a tough inter-conference matchup.

WHS trailed 22-3 after five matches.

From that point on, the Panthers took over the match, winning eight of the last nine matches on their way to a 37-25 victory.

Althouse, Phillip Evans, and Alvarez pinned their opponents while the other matches were won by decision.

Heeter, Rivera, Bach, Isaac Evans, Comeau, and Glenn won by convincing decisions.

The Panthers' next match was against Northern Indiana power Mishawaka.

Rivera and Phillip Evans were the only two Panthers to win their matches.

This win boosted Phillip Evans' record to 32-0 and put him ranked third in the state.

The next match for the Panthers is regionals on Feb. 8, at LaPorte High School. □

Panthers contending for NIC

By Ryan Hanyzewski

Sports Editor

The boys' basketball team headed into the second week of their season with high hopes and a chance to build their first game win against Gary Wallace.

The Panthers stepped into the second week against St. Joe and unleashed a defensive and offensive game plan that would prove to be effective. The team ran the score up by winning 87-39 and showing the rest of the state that they're a team to deal with.

"Coach Cooper gave us a challenge to see if we could hold the Indians under forty points. Our intensity and defensive frame of mind were all there," said William Avance.

The Panthers' next game was against rival Riley at the Wildcats' Den. "We grew up with most of the guys from Riley's team and everytime we play it's always a hard-fought, competitive game," said senior Cedric Moodie.

The Panthers started out the game with high flying dunks, courtesy of Cedric Moodie. But a late first half run and early second half run found the Panthers down by as much as 13 points. The Panthers then found strength and teamwork which brought them back into the game and gave them the lead. Both teams then see-sawed back and forth. A three point shot by Riley's Cephus Phillips with six seconds left gave the Wildcat's the N.I.C. win with an 80-79 victory.

The following night the Pan-

thers took their wrath out on the Knights of Marian. Moodie scored 26 points and Jamal Henry added 20.

The next week the Panthers got their first N.I.C. win against Adams. They were led by Moodie's 28 and Avance's 20 points.



Senior Edmund Kyle crashes the boards hard in their season opener against Gary Wallace.

The Panthers also set a school record against Westville by winning 113-70. Moodie had 33, Avance 14, Henry 16, and sophomore Quentel Howard and senior Todd Bella contributed career highs of 14 and 10.

The Panthers next entered the Warsaw Holiday Tournament with the hope of winning it.

Their first game was against Riley and the team was also looking to avenge their earlier one point loss.

The game again teetered back

and forth, but two late three pointers by Henry put the Panthers ahead by two with 5.6 seconds left.

Philips raced down the court and heaved up a last second shot which rimmed out.

"Cedric found me standing open and I was glad that I could step up and win it for us," said Henry.

The Panthers entered the championship game against Warsaw looking to show everyone that their first tourney win wasn't a fluke.

The Panthers fought back from a 10 point deficit to cut the lead to three. But late free-throws sealed the win and the championship for the Warsaw Tigers.

After a week off, the Panthers played host to the Chargers of Elkhart Memorial. Thirty points by Moodie and 19 by Henry, along with late defensive presence and key free-throws by Edmund Kyle and Henry helped seal the N.I.C.

"We took a big lead early and it slipped away from us. We just dug down and played hard and came out on top," said Kyle.

Next, against the Michigan City Wolves, cold shooting hurt the Panthers as the Wolves avenged last year's 20 point loss. The Panthers were led by Moodie's 10 and Kyle's and Avance's 17 apiece.

The Panthers are now 2-1 in the N.I.C. and 7-3 overall. Their next game is Friday, Feb. 14 at Elkhart Central. □

Looking to contend in sectionals

By Jamal Henry
Sports Writer

The girls' basketball team has been hovering around the .500 mark all year long and the trend is continuing.

After a three-and-three start, the Panthers have won four of their last eight games.

"We are improving with every game. We are playing well as a team, and we are really looking forward to sectionals," said Coach Marilyn Coddens.

The Panthers' next game was against the Riley Wildcats. Fans were anticipating the showdown between the two boys' teams the next day and did not expect the great game they saw that night.

Senior Winetta Neely led the Panthers early as she poured in nine first-half points.

The Lady Panthers trailed by one at the half and fell down by seven after three quarters.

Senior Cortney Litka led the charge in the fourth quarter by scoring 10 of her team high 13 points as the Panthers cut the Wildcat lead to one with just over a minute remaining.

This was as close as the Panthers would get as Riley won the game 54-51.

Seniors Annil Hamilton and Nicole Drabecki scored 11 and 8 respectively, and junior Tasha Johnson scored seven.

The Panthers hit on just 8-19 from the free-throw line while Riley connected on 16-23 from the charity stripe.

WHS turned its anger on the Adams Eagles as they led by double digits the en-

tire game on their way to an 18-point route in the contest.

Johnson led the Panthers with 15 points, while Hamilton and Neely scored 11 and 10 respectively.



Photo courtesy of Memory Lane

Senior Cortney Litka, two-time Burger King Athlete of the Week, scores two of her 10 points against the LaVille Lancers.

The Panthers were victorious over the Eagles by the score of 66-48.

WHS hit only 10 of 20 free throws in the game.

The next game was against the Marian Knights.

The Panthers trailed by one at the half and fell down by four after three quarters.

Litka scored eight of her game high 18 in the first quarter.

Drabecki added 12 for the Panthers, and junior Alicia Ladewski poured in 10.

Free throws were again the downfall, as the Panthers hit only four of nine from the line in the second half and lost by just one point, 61-60.

WHS then went on to lose another heartbreaker by just three points to the St. Joe Indians.

The Panthers found themselves down 13-1 at the end of the first quarter and 22-8 at the half.

Litka scored all 13 of her points and Drabecki buried four three-pointers for 12 of her 13 in the second half.

The lead was just four after three quarters but only four of 11 from the free-throw line left the Panthers three points short of winning the game.

WHS then lost two games in a row by a total of nine points.

The first was to the Lancers of LaVille and the second was to the Blue Blazers of Elkhart Central.

Litka led the scoring in both games with 10 against LaVille and 17 against Central.

WHS then took on the other Elkhart team, the Chargers of Elkhart Memorial.

The Panthers stayed close for the first three quarters and then blew the Chargers away in the fourth on their way to a 70-46 victory.

Drabecki scored 16 and Johnson scored 15 to lead the Panthers.

The Panthers went 14-19 from the free throw line.

Their next game is sectionals on Tuesday, Feb. 4. □

Good season for sports at WHS

By Ryan Hanyzewski
Sports Editor

This could be the year for winter sports. All the winter sports' teams are having record-breaking seasons.

The wrestling team is having the best season in history, while the boys' basketball team has its best opportunity to win sectionals since the early 1970's.

The girls' basketball team is looking better and better with each game and both swimming teams are improving with ev-

ery meet.

The wrestling team broke into the top 20 in the state for the first time in school history.

They began their season 18-1 and that was good enough to get them ranked at number 18 in the state.

The basketball team leads the state in scoring and also has the area's leading scorer, senior Cedric Moodie, who averages just over 26 points per game.

They also possess the area's second-leading rebounder, junior William Avance.

The girls' basketball team lost to the Clay Colonials by just four points and proved they could hang with any team in the state.

The swimming teams are not leading the NIC in the win-loss column, but they are gaining respect with every meet and are looking forward to sectionals with high hopes. □

Hard work starts paying off

By Sara Page and Carly Northam
SportsWriters

The girls' swim team worked hard and reached many goals over winter break.

The girls city swimming and diving championships were held in December at Clay High School. The Lady Panthers came in fifth place overall with a total of 78 points, defeating rival LaSalle.

The A Medley Relay touched out Riley to capture sixth place and earn their first medal at a city meet in several years. Their time was 2:18.01. The relay team consisted of seniors Hitomi Terai and Katie Shuamber, and freshmen Monica Niemi and Sara Page.

This was an emotional meet for Shuamber as it was her first time standing on the podium. She said that this

was something that she always dreamed of doing.

Terai said, "I was happy, because I swam with American friends and I

**"I'M GLAD TO SEE THE
RELAY TEAMS WORKING
TOGETHER SO WELL."
-COACH KRISTI WALZ**

was very excited to win." Terai, a foreign exchange student, is used to competition as a swimmer in her home country of Japan.

The other Panther relays turned on the speed to place in the top 12 at the meet.

"I'm glad to see the relay teams working together so well," said Coach Kristi Walz.

Ribboning in individual events were senior Amber Bammerlin in the 200 freestyle; Niemi in the 200 individual medley; Terai and sophomore Alison Cordell in the 100 backstroke; and sophomore Dawn Sieszkarek and Niemi in the 100 breaststroke.

"It was hard work, but I reached my goal of getting a ribbon," said Cordell.

Junior Jocelyn Orlowski said, "I believe that swimming is a challenging sport, and I hope that each girl obtains her own personal goal at the upcoming sectionals."

The girls sectional trials are Thurs., Feb. 6. Sectional finals are Sat., Feb. 8.

Contributing Writer: Monica Niemi

Records don't always tell all

By Monica Niemi
Sports Writer

Their record may not show it, but the boys' swim team has been having a respectable season.

Considering the quality of their opponents and the number of injuries, the effort WHS has displayed thus far is commendable.

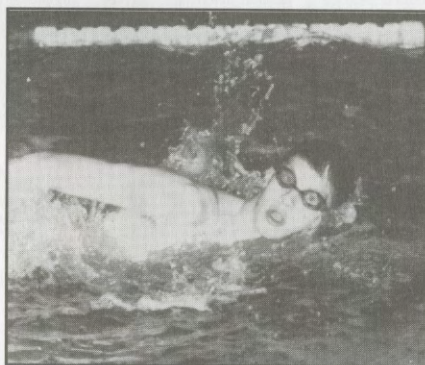
"I believe we could have won some of those meets if fewer of our swimmers were out," said Coach Dave Woods.

Five people don't make a swim team though. Even while handicapped, the Panthers managed to make an impressive showing at the city meet on Jan. 11.

One of the most important events for a high-school swimmer, the city meet includes six area schools and some of the best athletes in the city.

Panther swimmers finished in the top six places in several individual races, including senior Josh Northam, juniors Kyle Basker and Kevin Merek, and sophomore

Brian Ziolkowski in the 200 yd. freestyle relay; Northam in the 50 and 100yd. freestyle and senior Harry Densmore in the one-meter diving.



Junior Kevin Marek uses power and persistence to swim his way to victory.

Many others placed in the top 12, and best times were not uncommon. Sophomore Jimmy Bammerlin took an amazing 30 seconds off his 500 freestyle. The Panthers eventually went on to defeat

Adams.

Still, not everyone was satisfied.

"I was hoping that we would get fourth place," commented Woods. "LaSalle only beat us by a little."

Said Densmore, "I could have concentrated more. I would have done a lot better on my dives." He ended up finishing sixth out of 11 divers.

With little more than half way to go in the regular season, WHS hopes to improve its record against weaker teams like LaSalle, Rochester, and North Judson.

Some of those stricken with injuries will be healthy enough to participate in those meets.

Freshman Joey Reaves, who has been out with the flu, wants to get his times back down to normal.

Said sophomore Jason Gorbitz, "My goal is to have perfect attendance at practice for the rest of the season."

The next meet is on Jan. 13 against the LaSalle Lions.

THE USHERS

By Bob Palatino and Dennis Gdansk
Two Guys

The opinions voiced in this column are not necessarily those of the HATCHET staff. We'd like to stress that Bob and Dennis are real humans, though any attempt to uncover their identities will result in an unpleasant visitation from a large hired thug named Knuckles.

DENNIS: Twenty-five years ago, a legend came to pass. There was to be a great white ninja who was to come forward and save his people. We do not know where this ninja came from, but he arrived on our shores one day wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a basket.

BOB: We called him Haru (Chris Farley). . . we were going to call him Tommy Boy, but somebody laughed us out of the dojo. Anyway, his training was slow and painful—literally. He often did more damage to his brother Gobei (you know, the guy from *Mortal Kombat*) than anything else.

DENNIS: Well, if your meditation has not yet revealed it to you, get a new one. Our movie this month is *Beverly Hills Ninny*... I mean *Ninja*. For some reason or other, I have never quite pictured Farley as a master of the martial arts. He did, however, surprise me with his lightning agility and quick reflexes. That was at the buffet line, unfortunately.

BOB: The story really begins when Haru is left alone to guard the dojo (for those of you who missed *The Karate Kid*, a "dojo" is like a club) and is propositioned by the lovely "Sally Jones" (Nicolette Sheridan) who is really Alison Page, and the proposition is actually just a business deal. Wait—that still doesn't sound right!

DENNIS: I shall allow my friend to collect his thoughts and become one again with the universe. The story moves along very quickly, with Haru traveling to Beverly Hills (hence the title), being framed for one... well two... okay, three murders. All of



this and he loses three pairs of shoes in the process. Please don't ask how.

BOB: The story is punctuated by several visits to another plane of existence, where Haru holds council with his sensei (again, for you non-*Karate Kid* aficionados, that means "mentor"). Haru flies up to this place like Superman after a New Year's party and lands worse than a blue-footed booby.

DENNIS: A who? I was thinking more along the lines of a ValuJet pilot. At the Rodeo Plaza, Haru meets a bellhop with bad wrists named Joey (Chris Rock of *SNL* fame). Haru begins to instruct Joey in the ways of ninjahood, starting with "always be on guard" and ending with "tearing the heads off chickens."

BOB: Fear not, there IS a plot! Alison Page (remember her?) is the girlfriend of head bad guy Martin Tanelly (Nathaniel Parker), who is into the business of—gasp!—counterfeit yen.

DENNIS: No, not yen!

BOB: Yes, yen. While he has plates to reproduce one side of the Japanese currency, the other half is held by a rival group composed of gun-toting ninjas.

DENNIS: Whatever happened to just using really, really sharp swords? However, as you can presumably predict, Haru (led about by his short-sword) and helped along the way by Gobei, proceeds to foil the plans of Tanelly, save the beautiful girl (look at her, you can't tell me she ain't a babe), and capture the bad dudes, all while being dressed in their bathrobes and using nothing more than their fists of fury. With more training, my friend, you too can obtain a belt of one of the citrus colors.

BOB: Haru fights in true ninja style: throwing trash cans, desks, and other things behind him to trip the enemy as he runs screaming from the hoodlums. But nothing will ever top the moment when he unveils the ultimate weapon: a HAR-POON GUN!

DENNIS: Hydraulically powered, no less. Hey, Bob, will you tell me the legend of the sensei and the 18-year-old twin geishas again? Please?

BOB: No, my pupil, it grows too late for stories. I will, however, give you this advice: the next time you wish to climb the temple stairs and look at the sacred object. . .

DENNIS: I know. . . I know. Please don't reveal that to all of the readers. I'm sooo embarrassed.

BOB: If you go and see this one, have fun with it. That's it for this month, folks. □

George's To-do list:

The musical prodigies have their **Piano Vocal Solo and Ensemble** contests **Feb. 2** at Penn High School, and the **Instrumental Solo and Ensemble** contests **Feb. 8**, yet again at Penn.

The drama club has their **Pie-in-the-face contest to Feb. 22**. Put your money in your favorite, or least favorite, teacher's jar. Can you put a price on good entertainment?

I'd like to interrupt your announcements for just a moment to bring you a special announcement. The ACT deadline was **Jan. 10**, but the test is **Feb. 18**. Just remember, this is a test and only a test.

Here's another test. The SAT deadline is **Feb. 7**. The test is **March 15**.

The **Class of '99** is selling candy from **Feb. 3 to Feb. 10**. Help out those sweet sophomores.

Here's another candy sale, this time for the **multicultural society**. Their candy sale will be **Feb. 24 to Mar. 10**. You can't have just one.

Feb. 22 is the day we've all been waiting for. **Homecoming!** Come and be athletic supporters or support athletics, whichever you prefer.

Another contest, this time on **Feb. 27**, for those talented **honors band members**. It takes place at **7 p.m.** at Clay.