

THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL HATCHET

MAY
EDITION
FREE
1997

PROM 1997

**So BIG,
so EXCLUSIVE,
even if you aren't
going you probably
know someone
who is!**



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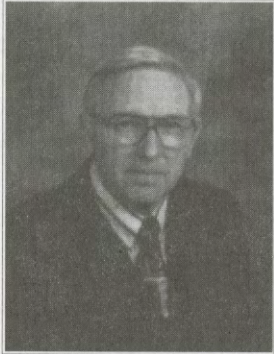
Teacher-of-the-year Burt Gates honored; WHS students get their suitcases packed for summer traveling. **p. 4-5**

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Gates is 1997 honoree

By Amanda Whittaker
Staff Writer



With so many great teachers at WHS, it can be a tough decision to decide who receives the

Teacher-of-the-Year Award. But after the votes were tallied, the decision was clear: Burt Gates would be WHS's 1996-97 Teacher of the Year.

"Mr. Gates is a great teacher. He's an easy teacher to talk to, and he encourages us to learn more," said sophomore Danielle Angel.

But, it takes more than just a good teacher to win this award. Characteristics a teacher must have include the following: a concern for individual students and an ability to inspire learning; a willingness to devote time and energy to activities that results in improved instruction for children; a desire to use current educational theories and practices; and examples of innovative practices started in the candidate's classroom.

Gates exemplifies these exceptional qualities.

In 1954 Gates began his post-secondary education at Bethel College. After attending college for one and a half years, he returned to college and earned an associate of arts degree from North Central Michigan College. In 1969 Gates graduated from Bethel College with a bachelor's degree. He majored in

general science and minored in biology.

Gates began his teaching career at Monroe Elementary School, teaching there until 1975. He then went to Jackson Middle School for 13 years. While teaching at Jackson, Gates also served as the track and football coach. He received the Teacher-of-the-Year Award at Jackson in 1985. In 1988 Gates came to WHS, and, at first, taught earth science. During the years that followed, Gates began teaching biology also. When Patrick Gullifer, head of the science department, retired in 1993, Gates became chairperson.

Gates continues to teach now, but has never stopped learning himself. He has earned his master's degree from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, his masters +30 from IUSB and Notre Dame, and is still working on six more credit hours.

One of Gates's classroom objectives is to make his classes interesting.

He said, "I am constantly looking for new material; part of being a professional teacher is always looking for new ways to teach."

According to the testimony of many students, Gates has much enthusiasm for teaching.

"Some teachers will give you an assignment or monotonously lecture the whole hour. But you can really tell the difference with Mr. Gates...he enjoys his work, and because of this, students also enjoy his class. It's difficult to learn if your teachers aren't enjoying themselves," commented Angel.

"He really makes learning easy. He knows how to make it fun, too;

it's not just the same thing every day. I've gotten some of my best science grades in Mr. Gates' biology class. Not because the class is easy, but because he explains everything so well," added little senior Jason Krol.

Gates said, "It's always exciting when you see your students grasp a difficult concept."

Principal David Kaser commented, "Mr. Gates is definitely a dedicated educator. I think he brings a lot to his classes. He spends a lot of time preparing his lessons. He gets here early and leaves late. We really appreciate his effort."

Gates has a sign hanging in his classroom that says, "If it's going to be, it's up to me." These are the words he lives by, and he tries to relay the message to his students as well.

Sophomore Shinnell Poole said, "He cares about us. He wants us to succeed and make it in life."

Gates is the sponsor for Teens Rocking On Our Planet, the school's Christian youth group, which meets every Wednesday in his classroom after school.

"Mr. Gates is a great sponsor. He brings us snacks and is a very caring person," said sophomore Maribel Ascencio.

Gates said that he really enjoys teaching middle and high-school students.

"The most rewarding part of teaching," Gates said, "is knowing that you've contributed to the students' lives, when they come back and tell you that you've prepared them well [for college]."

Gates said that he enjoys working at WHS and has no plans to retire in the near future. □

Panthers around the world

By Nicole Rudnicki
Staff Writer

The greatest breed of Panther is thought to reside here, in South Bend, Indiana, but soon their influence will be spreading around the world.

Foreign language teacher Will Perry is taking a group of students on a 21-day tour of Europe this June.

They will be visiting England, France, Switzerland, Italy, and Greece. Embarking on this trip with Perry, are teachers Jeanne Dietrich, and Mary Schmanski and students Brooke Baumgartner, Katharine Chan, Heather Deka, Tara Kenjockety, Courtney Nawrot, Javier Rocha, and Monica Swintz.

Departing from Chicago's O'Hare airport and flying overnight to Europe, the voyagers arrive in London, England. They will spend the next few days seeing London's landmarks including Buckingham Palace, Hyde Park, and even lunching in London's Hard Rock Cafe. Later the travelers will tour the university city of Oxford and Shakespeare's Stratford.

En route to Paris the group will see the majestic Canterbury Cathedral. Traveling to the whimsical and enchanting city of Paris they will see sights such as the Eiffel Tower and the Montmartre, the art district of Paris.

The train ride from Paris to Lucerne, Switzerland pause in the capital city of Berne. When reaching Lucerne, there will be an optional climb to the top of Mount Pilatus, the rest of the day



Waiting at O'Hare, bound for London: Amy Wimberly, Bridget Martin, Jessica Majer, Kris Arizmendi, Emily Pryzbysz, Tara Kenjockety, and Beth Baker made the journey in 1995.

will be free for shopping.

The next days in Italy will be filled with seeing the architectural and artistic wonders in Florence, the "Cradle of the Renaissance." They will continue to Saint Francis' hometown of Assisi to see Giotto's exquisite frescos. Visiting



Foreign language teacher Will Perry and students pose in front of the mysterious, ancient monument Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain in southern England.

"The Eternal City," Rome, the group will tour the landmarks of Rome. After Rome, the journey through the beautiful Italian countryside to the Mediterranean resort of Sorrento. Voyaging across the southern part of Italy, the party boards an overnight steamer to Greece.

In the morning they arrive in the city of Patras, where they continue to the birth place of democracy, Athens, Greece.

Perry said that the students going on this trip will be able to appreciate other countries more and view them with more openness.

Having only a few weeks rest in between trips, Perry is also taking students on a trip to Canada. Those going include Kim McCuddy, Kenneth Kelly, Katie Reeves, Jackie Ullery, and Janin Zent. They plan to spend five days in Canada. The students will see Montreal, Westmont, McGill University, and Olympic Parc. They will take a ferry ride down the St. Lawrence River to see the lights of Quebec City. They will visit the Shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre and visit Monmorancy Falls, the tallest in North America.

Perry is giving his student a taste of foreign countries this year and hopes that these trips will help students understand the cultures of the different people of the world. □

PANTHERS

BY MARK SNIADOCKI & KATHARINE CHAN

On March 6, 7, and 8, the WHS drama club presented William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. The cast transported themselves into the mixed-up world of Illyria where a Countess in mourning falls in love with a stranger of "mistaken identity" and a group of bitter friends plot a hilarious revenge. After months of planning and rehearsal, here are the results:

Is this a match made in Illyria? Seniors Tara Kenjockety and Erik Kolacz "jump" into one of William Shakespeare's funniest comedies with their characters Priscilla --Olivia's chambermaid--and Malvolio, a self-centered "cross-garterer."



The colorful costume and professional-style makeup accentuates senior Janice Koch's artistic, dramatic, and "clownish" personality as she gets ready to portray Feste the clown.

Take The Stage

As Sir Andrew Aguecheek and Sir Toby Belch, seniors Mark Sniadecki and Derek Dabrowiak model their Elizabethan hairdo's.



"Hail, hail, the Duke Orsino presents himself." Senior Andy Rhodes fights off his enemies and tries to win the heart of the Countess Olivia by flashing his fancy threads.



Representing the best of the courts of the Olivia and Orsino, freshmen Molly Kolecki, Tami Bovenkerk, Emily Bastine, and Kimberly Woods should be properly dubbed as "ladies-a-smiling."



A perfect match! Senior Katharine Chan and freshman Rob Siri look like they've been shopping from the same Illyrian taylor. The costumes were actually ordered from a Chicago-based costume shop and were authentically reproduced to represent the clothing of Shakespearean times.

Seniors' night of enchantment

By **Nikki Kaufman**
Feature Editor

It's spring and only a month of school remains for those seniors who have spent the last four years of their lives at WHS. New memories are to be made and old ones will be reminisced. Friendships were made and some were broken. Infatuations blossomed into a lasting love or a seemingly unending heartache.

Numerous times the class that was "really revin'" made the Panthers proud with their enthusiasm and spirit. The proof of that will be forever etched on the spirit sticks. For the Class of '97, it is now almost time to say good-bye...but one thing remains.

For three years the juniors have been watching and waiting: watching their friends who went before them say good-bye and waiting for their time to be on top.

One event will bring these two classes together one last time—the 1997 prom. The juniors have spent months planning the event of the year, as the seniors wait in anticipation. Finally, emotions will soar on Friday, May 16, at Union Station as the juniors present, "Re-

member Me This Way."

The colors adorning Union Station will be emerald and silver. Music will be provided by the Music Machine, and pictures will be

cause it takes awhile for the girl to find her dress."

Junior Suzi Myers said, "You should ask your date to go with you at the very least, a month in advance, but I'd recommend around two months."

Another way to go to prom of course, is to go stag with friends.

Senior Erik Kolacz said, "If you don't have a boyfriend or girlfriend to go to prom with, then I would definitely just go stag with some friends. You would still have fun and wouldn't feel pressed to stay with one person all night long."

Junior Karen Mezzei said, "I cannot wait for prom to see all my friends looking so beautiful."

Mezzei will most likely see her friends looking beautiful in blue, (particularly navy and light blue) this year, as blue is the most popular dress color chosen by those polled.

Other popular colors that the girls will be wearing this year include white, plum, green, black, and red. Panthers can also expect to see a lot of sequined dresses out on the dance floor.

The majority of guys polled said that they will be renting a car, although they haven't decided



Photo courtesy of Katharine Chan

The 1996 junior prom planning committee takes a break from a long night of dancing to get together and immortalize their memories.

taken by Root Studios.

Panthers began asking for dates to the prom as early as six months ago, while some have yet to ask that special person.

Senior Vanessa Whitmer said, "You should find out if you're going in February or March, be-

what kind yet. Some guys will either be using their own car or borrowing a family member's.

Senior Andy Rhodes said, "I'm gonna be stylin' in my mom's '97 Sebring!"

Many seniors have already had their first prom experience and have special memories because of that.

Kolacz, who has gone to prom the past three years, said his best prom memory is just getting together with friends and having a lot of fun.

Senior Julie Ewing commented, "My favorite thing about prom is when everyone starts dancing; everyone gets along especially with people you don't normally talk to at school."

Senior Heather Mann said, "The best thing about prom last year was eating dinner with my boyfriend."

Junior Tina Brantley said that she can not wait for prom to look around and see what everyone else is wearing.

Junior class sponsor Kathy Cavinder commented, "The prom committee has been working very hard on getting everything together in order for prom to be a success. We are looking forward to the big night when all of our planning will finally pay off."

The hall is reserved, the tickets are being sold, the courts have been decided. The prom is ready to go; all that is left is the waiting. □

*Remember Me This Way
Casper Soundtrack*

Every now and then
We find a special friend
Who never lets us down
Who understands it all
Reaches out each time you fall
You're the best friend that I've found

I know you can't stay
A part of you will never ever go away
Your heart will stay

I'll make a wish for you
And hope it will come true
That life would just be kind
To such a gentle mind

If you lose your way
Think back on yesterday
Remember me this way
Remember me this way

I don't need us to see the love you
bring to me
No matter where I go

And I know that you'll be there
You're evermore a part of me in every
way

I'll make a wish for you and hope it will
come true
That life would just be kind
to such a gentle mind

If you lose your way
Think back on yesterday
Remember me this way
Remember me this way

I'll be right behind your shoulder
watching you
I'll be standing by your side in all you
do
I won't leave as long as you believe,
you just believe

If you lose your way
Think back on yesterday
Remember me this way
Remember me this way...this way

Order in the court!

The Class of 1998 changed the number of court members from 10 to 12 for each court. The prince and princess will be crowned at 9:30 and the king and queen at 10:30. Here are the nominees:

Princes:	Princesses:
Kyle Bach	Tracy Cavinder
Kejuan Callicott	Sarah Giszewski
Cody Donlon	Kathy Lute
Philip Evans	Stacey Kuharic
Pablo Garcia	Jaime Kurzhal
Jamal Henry	Jill Meert
Brad Laskowski	Karen Mezzei
Jason Lips	Stacey Mroz
Tony Mathews	Suzi Myers
Andy Nalepinski	Jenny Pittman
Devin Nuner	Patrice Sconiers
Matt Willoughby	Sarah Wood

Kings:	Queens:
Tim Balasa	Eishau Allen
Todd Bella	Kris Arizmendi
Ivan Blount	Jessica Babbitt
Leonard Bush	Beth Baker
Rudy Cavazos	Jenny Brenner
Zeb Gathright	Jessica Evans
Ryan Hanyzewski	Julie Ewing
Ed Kelsey	Annil Hamilton
Brian Krawiec	Balinda Hollaway
Edmund Kyle	Heather Mann
Cedric Moodie	Ebony Nailon
Javier Rocha	Stacey Page

Prom info

Cost of a pair of tickets--\$35

Place--Union Station

Time--8:30-11:30

Music--Music Machine

Colors--Emerald and Silver

Date--May 16

Song/Theme--*Remember Me This Way*

Brawn vs. brains

Walking through the main entrance of WHS is a constant reminder of all of the recognition for sports that the Panthers have received ever since the high school has been established. All of the sectional trophies, plaques, and the pictures of all-star athletes adorn the front lobby. Okay, so we know that we have brawn, but where are the brains?

Editorial

In the cafeteria stands an itsy-bitsie, teeny-weenie, miniature showcase of academia, against the windows, that would in fact be overlooked if it weren't specifically pointed out by someone.

WHS has a prominent number of good athletes, but why are they given so much more recognition than those who score high on their SAT's, win countless awards for their work in fine arts, or are members of a quiz bowl team?

Chevrons are good examples of the way sports are perceived as being more important than studies. Activities such as yearbook and band also receive chevrons and are sometimes frowned upon by those who possess a letterman's jacket filled with varsity letters from sports. This is mainly because some people do not understand how much preparation is actually given to many non-athletic activities.

The amount of time spent practicing or rehearsing, not to mention the hours of individual time spent outside of the team or group activity, can actually exceed the time spent out on the field.

Sports may be a good way for students to exercise their bodies, but exercising the mind is also essential for the body to function properly. Learning is a life-long process, and this should be emphasized.

The awards that athletes win do mean a great deal of prestige for themselves and the school, but so do the talents of students who use their minds to excel in school and the arts. They deserve and should be given the same respect and credit athletes receive.

It takes just as much talent, determination, teamwork, discipline, and hard work for someone to build a first-place science project, paint a work of art, or perform a concerto as it does for the quarterback to score the winning touchdown in a football game.

This could be the reason that many students see it as "nerdy" or "uncool" to do well in school or participate in such activities as band or orchestra.

Students are given the wrong impression about academics and sports when such a large gap is placed between them. Instead, a greater emphasis should be put on the use of the muscle in the head instead of those in the arms and legs.

Thumbs Up

Thumbs Down

THUMBS UP

...to the band for traveling all the way down to Orlando, Florida, to march in Walt Disney World's Mickey's Magic Music Days. Way to go! Surviving 24 1/2 hours on a bus is a deserving feat within itself. You really made us proud with the two trophies that the marching band and jazz combo brought back.

...to the concert and swing choir for giving an excellent performance at the All-City choir festival. We really saw "how you shined" with the great vocals. A good job also goes out to scat soloists freshman Larry Levine and junior Brad Wilson.

...to members of the jazz band for playing backup at the All-City choir festival. You added to the great music with your swingin' sounds.

...to all of the new National Honor Society inductees. With 40 plus members, we hope you can make a difference with service projects to help benefit and give back to the community.

...to everyone who was honored and in attendance at the 12th annual Academic Honors Banquet on April 1. It was no joke—the uniqueness of the dinner to South Bend schools showed up on the Hometown page of the *South Bend Tribune*. A thumbs up goes out to Nancy Jo Pinney for coming up with the idea of combining the dinners.

...to junior Nicole Woods for Best of Category in the state media fair for her photographic essay.

...to seniors Michelle Rosplock and Kim Pace for helping to collect ad money from the many vendors who contributed to the success of the special edition basketball sectional championship issue.

THUMBS DOWN

...to the chilly April weather that we've been experiencing. Snow? In the middle of spring?

...to the freshmen at the regional pep assembly. By moving over to the sophomore side, you insulted them and your own class. The Class of '99 has enough spirit of their own without the extra help. Only a few more weeks before you, too, are sophomores. Keep your spirit contained to your own freshman section until then.

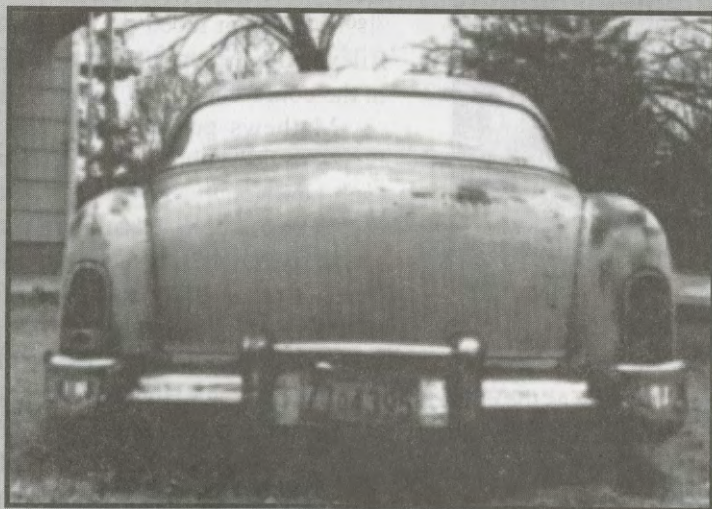
Art Gallery

by Tricia Nyikos



(Left) Sophomore Jennifer Pawlak--*Bumper Crop*

(Below) Sophomore Carrie Robak--*Death of a School Bus*



(Above) Sophomore Jesse Bladecki--*Wander 71D4395*



(Right) Junior Kim Harness--*Girl in the Light*

Captions by Mark Sniadecki

SPORTS PAGES

Baseball starts well, then falters

By **Ryan Hanyzewski**
Sports Editor

The Panther "Hitmen" entered the season knowing that they needed to pitch well to win.

"We knew we could hit the ball, but pitching was our major concern coming into the game," said junior John Nyikos.

The Panthers opened the '97 campaign with the Saint Joseph Indians.

Senior Ed Kelsey blasted two home runs for WHS and that would be more than enough for junior Tony Mathews who struck out "ten little indians" as the Panthers cruised to a 12-2 lead.

The "Hitmen" then travelled to Glenn, and the bats remained on fire despite the freezing temperatures. Senior Dan Hersom and junior Brad Laskowski each doubled and senior Todd Bella tripled.

Bella fired a no-hitter and struck out 12 as the Panthers cruised to a 20-1 victory.

Next up for the Panthers was Dowagiac, and the bats still did not cool off. Mathews got the win, and Nyikos came in for the final inning and sealed the deal for WHS as they began their season at 3-0.

Junior Jamal Henry stole eight bases and senior Andy Cenkush hit a towering home run.

"That was the longest home run I have ever seen hit. That would have been out at Wrigley Field," said Bella.

Next on the schedule was the Adams Invitational, and first on the menu was Wheeler.

Cenkush blasted two triples and Bella pitched seven innings and al-

lowed only one run.

In the night game, the Panthers faced the host Eagles of Adams. Sophomore Gabe Cuevas got his first win of the year on the mound. Kelsey blasted his third home run of the year.

"We are really hitting the ball well. Our entire lineup can hit the ball with power. Bella and I are one of the best 7-8 combos in the game," said junior Steve Lekarczyk.



Photo courtesy of Memory Lane

Junior Jamal Henry stands in at the plate against conference foe, the Riley Wildcats.

Next up for WHS was the conference opener against the Blazers of Elkhart Central.

Mathews got the win and hit two home runs to lead the Panthers. Junior Kyle Bach also hit a home run to aid in the Panther assault.

The Panthers then went to the Cove and took on the Clay Colonials.

The big park hurt the Panthers as the long flyballs that would make it out of a high-school park were run

down by the Colonial outfielders.

WHS then hosted the Eagles, and Cuevas got the start again. The Panthers cruised to a 16-3 victory, and it appeared the bats were being heated up again.

Cenkush and Mathews hit back-to-back home runs for the Panthers.

After the Adams game, WHS loaded up on the bus and headed for Macutcheon for a double-header the next day.

Coming into the game, the bats seemed as if they were on track, but that would not be the case on that day. The Panthers were shut out 9-0 in the opener as Bella took the loss and fell to 2-2 overall.

In the second game, WHS stayed close but fell just one run short, losing 5-4. Sophomore Kevin Keen took the loss.

WHS then faced the Wildcats of Riley and hoped to remain above .500 in the conference.

Mathews got the start, and the Panthers fell behind more and more each inning.

Lekarczyk blasted a two-run home run in the final inning, but it was too little, too late as WHS lost the game 9-3.

Needing a win badly, the Panthers travelled to Penn High School to dual with another conference foe.

The Panthers were being shut out 3-0 until the sixth inning when Jamal Henry sparked a rally with a home run, and the Panthers took a 5-3 lead into the bottom of the seventh.

With Mathews on in relief, WHS watched the lead and the conference game slip away as they gave up three in the seventh and the Panthers lost 6-5. □

Hopes set high on Regionals

By Drew Griffis
Sports Writer

The golf team is looking forward to having their third straight winning season under three-year coach Milt Cooper. The Panthers are hoping to be one of the three area teams to make it to regionals. This feat has eluded the golfers the past two seasons as they have finished in fourth place the last two years.

The team will be led by three-time letter winner, senior Ryan Hanyzewski, and two-time letter winner, junior Drew Griffis. Griffis was all-conference in his first two seasons.

This duo could be the best one-two punch in the area.

"Having two players with the caliber of Griffis and Hanyzewski is a great asset to our team," said Cooper who added, "They're both the type of players who makes everyone around them better."

If the team gets good performances from its other three returning lettermen, senior Mike Szymarek, junior Kyle Basker, and sophomore Andy Peterson, they are capable

of winning the Northern Indiana Conference (NIC).

"Even though I was cut, the team still has a good chance at their first-ever NIC title," said junior Ryan Kring, who added, "The team does have a couple of talented players, but the team's success will rely on their good coaching and hard discipline."

The Panthers went into their first match against the Jimmies of Jimtown. The Panthers were led by Griffis who fired a 37 and gave the Panthers a six-shot lead with just one man finished.

Petersen and Hanyzewski shot 39 and 40 respectively.

WHS ran away with the match and buried the Jimmies by 24 shots.

The Panthers then travelled to Knollwood for their first conference match against Elkhart Memorial and defending conference champion, Clay.

After Griffis finished the Panthers trailed by just three shots to Clay; but Hanyzewski shot a 39 and his Clay opponent shot a 49 and the Panthers took a seven shot lead that they would not relinquish.

Szymarek came in with a 44 and Petersen fired a 46, as the Panthers ran away and won by 14 shots over Clay and 19 over Memorial. The Panthers now stood at 3-0 overall and 2-0 in the conference.

The Panthers averaged an 11-shot advantage after Griffis and Hanyzewski finished their rounds; but the margin jumped to 14 when Szymarek finished.

"It takes a lot of pressure off the rest of the team when Griffis and Hanyzewski get those big leads early," said Szymarek.

Next up for WHS was the Kaeppler Invitational at Morris Park Country Club.

The field consisted of all five South Bend schools, plus St. Joe, Marian, Penn, and Mishawaka.

WHS struggled all day as they finished fifth of nine teams.

Griffis shot an 85 and Hanyzewski fired an 87. Szymarek shot a 95 and Petersen stepped up his play by shooting an 86.

The Panthers are a team to be reckoned with and could post their best season in a long time. Their next match is a dual competition on May 15 against Riley and Adams at Erskin at 4. □

Girls searching for victory

By Katharine Chan
Co-Editor-in-Chief

After suffering a previous no-win season, the Lady Panther tennis team hopes to find strength and wins in their new and returning players.

"I think that we have a chance of winning against a few teams this year...a lot of the upperclassmen have experience, and the new people are improving and catching on fast," said sophomore Carly Northam.

The varsity lineup consists of senior co-captains Katharine Chan and Vanessa Whitmer; juniors Kathy Lute, Jocie Orłowski, Samantha Anderson; and sophomores Lisa Clark, Kristin Orłowski, and Northam.

JV players include junior Jennifer Hess; sophomores LaShonda Kirkendoll, Charon Lax, Lacey Platz, Chrystlea Willis; and freshmen Angel Reeder, Nicole

Pawlak, Perla Hernandez, Shanda Minor, Sara Kehole, and Kayla Johnson.

Third-year WHS tennis coach Darryl Boykins said, "We still have to work on consistency [with strokes]. We have a lot of good underclassmen...this ensures our chance of having a strong team for next year. We improve every week, but I think that we need a little more 'heart' from every player in order to pull off the close matches."

Despite the cold, rainy, and seemingly unpredictable weather, the team is working hard to build up their skills.

"We've been working on a lot of drills involving net play and strokes...they've helped a lot, but serving may be our weakest point. We're also at a disadvantage because a lot of the other teams have girls who take lessons or play year-round. We've been going through a few rebuilding years, so it's hard," said Whitmer.

The cold weather caused the team's first match against LaVille to be postponed to the next day.

A cloudy overcast day hung over the team as they battled the Lancers. Unfortunately, the weather resembled the team's outcome; the varsity squad lost 0-5.

"I think that going the previous day without practice set us back. Hopefully, our upcoming matches will turn out better," said Hess.

The results in the girls' next meet against Jimtown showed improvement, but the varsity still lost with a score 2-3.

"We've made a lot of improvements, but better footwork, more consistency, and stronger serves are the key. A different level of mental toughness is also needed," said assistant coach Chris Whiffen.

The girls' next home match is May 13, senior night, at 4:30 against Penn. □

Softball team holding their own

By Prudence White
Sports Writer

The softball team went into their new season with high hopes.

The girls' first game was against the St. Joseph Indians. The Indians took a strong 3-0 lead in the first inning. WHS rallied for a 4-3 lead.

Senior standout Nicole Drabecki hit a two-out, two-run single. The Panthers, who out-hit the Indians 11-7, stretched their lead to 5-3 in the third.

The Panthers got it together and tied the game 6-6 in the end of the fourth, as sophomore Angie Ludwig's single scored junior pitcher Alicia Ladewski. The Indians once again rallied in the fifth inning, scoring three runs to take a 9-6 advantage.

WHS's head coach Scott Biesel said, "I'm more pleased than disappointed. We always start out the season slowly. I believe it's more important to be ready down the road."

Ludwig was 3-4 and scored twice to pace the Panthers. Ladewski had two singles.

The Panthers' next game was a double header against the Dowagiac Chieftains. The girls

struggled throughout the first game.

The second game turned out a little differently. The Lady Panthers now knew how the Chieftains played. The girls were ready to put up a fight. Dowagiac had taken a turn for the worst. Sophomore Brooke Baumgartner and Ladewski both had doubles. Drabecki added two doubles, and sophomore Ryanne Litka added a triple.

Junior Sarah Wood and freshman Angel Shonkwiler had two hits each. Winning pitcher Ladewski tossed a two-hitter and fanned 11 to pace the Panthers.

The girls gave Dowagiac what they had asked for. The Panthers sent the Chieftains running back to Michigan with a score of 17-2.

The girls were pumped and ready to take on the Jimtown Jimmies. All the effort had paid off. The Lady Panthers showed the Jimmies how to really play softball; the girls won 16-8.

Beating Jimtown raised the girls' hopes against their next opponent, the Niles Vikings. Unfortunately, due to bad weather the game was postponed.

The next week, WHS beat the Vikings 9-2. Ludwig and junior Courtney Nawrot each had two hits to add to the score book.

The girls went on to play the Blue Blazers of Elkhart Central. The Panthers were on a roll. Ladewski struck out 11, while only allowing one hit. Baumgartner assisted with a double, while Wood and senior Katie Shumber added two hits each. WHS stomped Elkhart Central 11-1.

Nawrot said, "Our season has been really good. We've defeated two teams with 11-1 records, and we're trying to get first place in the NIC."

WHS now had to take on the Minutemen of Concord. Ludwig and Baumgartner each had a double, but the Panthers started to fall behind. Drabecki assisted with a triple, and Ladewski hit a home run. The girls won the game against Concord 9-7.

Even through all the ups, the girls have had their downs. The Lady Panthers lost one of their many played games to the Marian Knights. The girls had the game up until the last inning when one of the lady Knights decided to make a home run. The girls lost the game 5-4.

The Lady Panthers also lost to the Clay Colonials. Although the girls tried their best, they just weren't able to tip off the last run needed to continue the game. The girls lost 5-4. The girls' next game is on May 13, at 4:30 against Adams at School Field. □

Girls track runs into new season

By Amanda Whittaker
Sports Writer

The girls track team is working hard despite some obstacles.

When conditioning began at the end of January, over 30 girls were working out and getting ready for the season to begin. By their first track meet on April 16, however, just under 16 girls were left on the team.

"It was disheartening to have girls with so much potential quitting," commented the new head coach Lauren McClenahan.

Besides the participants who have quit, the team also lost their assistant coach. Fortunately, James Williams, last year's assistant coach, has returned to help the team and get them ready for their meets.

The team has also gone through several managers before finding sophomore Wynetta Anderson, as well as Panther alumna Angie Brantley, who helped in

previous years.

The weather hasn't been on the girls' side either. With snow all the way into April, the girls have had to sacrifice much precious time on the outdoor track for running through the halls of WHS. Though the team has been working hard, it's difficult to get proper conditioning inside.

McClenahan said, "Even with the indoor track, it's hard to get a feeling for what the track is like outside or for the wind you often have to push your way past."

The girls are working hard through these obstacles and are still optimistic about breaking last year's record of 1-7.

"We may not have a big team, but every girl we have is dedicated and tries to give her all. We all support each other," said junior Jennifer Pittman.

The Girls South Bend Classic took place at the Loftus Center at Notre Dame in mid-march. Competing against some of the best track athletes in Michigan and Indiana, WHS didn't score any points.

The team's first regular season meet was held in April against LaSalle. This meet was the girls' chance to see what they've accomplished, and find out what they still need to work on. Despite their efforts, the team lost 57-49.

McClenahan said, "We still have a lot of work to do, but I think we'll be competitive by the end of the season."

The Panthers had to replace four key members lost to graduation, including two sprinters, Stacey Lentych and Tricia Ort. Leading this year's team is senior Kelly Retek. She runs the two mile and is only about half a minute away from breaking the school's record of 12:21, set in 1989 by Michelle Andrzejewski.

Another key member is junior Lisa Hadary who won the city meet last year in the 100-meter hurdles, as well as placing fifth in the 300-meter hurdles.

With the small size of the team, some girls found themselves trying new events, such as sophomore Sara Muia, who said, "I went from being a distance runner to a sprinter in less than three days."

The girls' next meet is the NIC on May 13, at 5 at Penn. □

Flashes of greatness

By **Ryan Hanyzewski**
Sports Editor

The boys' track season is underway, and there have already been many flashes of greatness in the season.

The leaders on the track team are sophomore Tim Pehlke, and seniors Zeb Gathright, Sam Burris, Harry Densmore, and Ivan Blount.



Junior Ricco Tinnin nips senior Zeb Gathright at the finish line in the 100-meter dash in the City meet.

Photo courtesy of South Bend Tribune

"This team goes out and runs its very best every match, and if we can keep that up we will be a tough team to beat," said Blount.

The goals are simple this season: To go out and run their best every meet.

The Panthers have beaten LaSalle, but have come up short against Marian, Riley, and Adams.

"The team has become close during the course of the

season, and we really pull for one another. Our four-by-one team won first place at the City Meet, and it may have been a city record. They were not sure at the time," said Blount.

The Panthers also have problems due to the fact that they are low in numbers.

"Guys on other teams run one or two events. We are forced to run more, and fatigue can play a huge part in determining the outcome of a meet," said Gathright.

The Panthers placed fourth in the city meet.

Sophomore Rico Tinnin started the Panthers off on the right foot by winning the 100-meter dash, and Gathright won the 200-meter dash right after that.

"In the 100, especially, I'm in the zone," said Tinnin. "It's like a dark tunnel and the finish line is the light at the end of the tunnel; I don't even notice any one else."

Pehlke placed third in the 800-meter event, Burris won the high-hurdles, and sophomore Quentel Howard won the high jump for the Panthers.

Tinnin again made his presence felt by placing second in the long jump. □



Name: Andy Cenkush

Birthdate: 9-1-78

Nickname: Dyr

Year: Senior

Sports played: Baseball

Awards and Achievements: 1st team all NIC, preseason 1st team all-state, and triple crown winner at WHS

Role model: Mike Piazza

Favorite sports teams: Atlanta Braves & Buffalo Bills

Favorite food: Subway

What I love about School: Woods

What I hate about School: Lunch and going to class

Greatest athletic moment: Winning the NIC, sectional, and regional last year, and winning state with post 357 last summer.

Biggest fear: Not succeeding

Wildest dream: Playing pro baseball

What turns me off: Girls that smoke

Person I'd like to meet: Mike Piazza

Advice to others: Go to Deja Vu

Number of tattoos: One (and I show everybody)

Best advice I've ever received: Play every game like it's your last

What college do you plan to attend: Triton

In 20 years I see myself: I don't know I just have to wait and see.

How long are you at a party before your shirt comes off? 20 minutes, tops

Goals: Play professional baseball for some team

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.

BOB: Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, a tale of . . .

DENNIS: Wait, little buddy, wrong island. Welcome to San Moreno, home of sand, surf and scantily-clad women.

BOB: Also home of the most fiesta-minded little league team in the world!

DENNIS: Not to mention the pride and joy of the U.S. Navy, Base San Ysidoro or "Sid" for short. This place, full of madness and mayhem, is the setting for the big screen adaption of television's classic *McHale's Navy*.

BOB: This is one of those great character comedies: first, you've got the big, dumb, strong-armed guy named Christy. I don't think you're supposed to laugh at this name.

DENNIS: One of my favorites was Happy (*Third Rock's* French Stewart). This was the dude who lived in a tree, and couldn't pick up a woman if his life depended on it.

BOB: There was also this really suave-cool kinda guy whose name we cannot recall, even under the influence of tequila (with TWO worms, no less).

DENNIS: He shall here after be called "Rico Suave".

BOB: Enough character descriptions, let's dive into the plot. Three stereotypical world-leader types have hired Vladakov (the world's SECOND greatest terrorist, played by Tim Curry) to launch a nuclear missile and destroy the Pentagon (and then the trapezoid, and the triangle. . .)

DENNIS: Well, there's not a whole lot I can say to praise Curry. If he'd have rolled



his eyes a little less and actually had a few one-line comebacks, his character would've been a whole lot better. Maybe if he dressed as he did in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*...

BOB: Anyway, Vladakov picks—and this is truly evil—the only baseball diamond on San Moreno as his staging grounds. Then, to be even crueller, he blows up the village. Meanwhile. . .

DENNIS: Can I have coffee with that cruller? Well, while all this is transpiring, on the Navy base there's a Mardi Gras-like party going 24 hours a day. This is led by former Naval officer Quinton McHale (Tom Barr. . . I mean Arnold).

BOB: Naval? Make mine a fuzzy navel.

DENNIS: OK. Yea. Sure. Anyway, McHale supplies the sailors with everything they need. He has more stuff than K-Mart. This

party's fire is doused by the newly appointed commander, Captain Billington (Dean Stockwell). He has a babe for an assistant, who I believe is named Debby or Bambi or something like that.

BOB: Enter Cobra. No, not the name of a new Bruce Lee flick, or even a G.I. Joe spin-off. Cobra (Earnest Borgnine, the original McHale in the TV show) is the head of the Navy, and it's his order (and Vladakov blowing up McHale's house and boat) that pulls the aging McHale out of retirement.

DENNIS: I think Vladakov is a bit peeved about the tattoo on his back. Who wouldn't want a picture of McHale's bust on their back? Now that Vladakov's motive is established, maybe it's the cause of the constipated look which he always has.

BOB: Well, as you can already tell, Dennis isn't happy with Curry's character. And while the movie had it's moments, I think this story had a lot more potential than what they got out of it. Tom Arnold was the saving grace—he had some of the best lines in the movie, mostly because he seemed to be the only one who knew what was going on. If you go see this film, let me know if it sounds like they did a voice-over on Dean Stockwell. . .

DENNIS: Hey, wait. I have one question. Are there really ensigns like David Allen Greer's character in the Navy? Also, if you can find any stogies like Mr. Suave had, let me know. Well, that's all for this month. Hey, Bob! Bring me my Mai-Tai!

BOB: That's all for this month, folks. Excuse me, but I have to go bury Dennis in the sand up to his head—before the tide comes in. □

George's To-Do List:

May 16 is the big day, prom. A night to remember with the theme, *Remember Me This Way*.

The **Fine Arts Festival** is **May 21** in the gym. Come and find the next Picasso, Itzhak Perlman, or Miles Davis.

Memorial Day is **May 26**, and it isn't by coincidence that we don't have school.

May 28 is the spring sports banquet. All the awards our Panthers have won are shown off during the banquet.

Cap and gown day for Seniors is **May 29**. The new fashion statement is green or white gowns and matching hats and tassles.

May 30 is the honors day program for seniors. All those years of hard work finally pay off.

Finally the day that seniors have been waiting for arrives on **June 8**, commencement. Get out your hankies and video cameras because it will be a day to remember.