

# THE POSTSCRIPT

The Park School of Baltimore | PO Box 8200 Brooklandville, MD 21022

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*Sports Extra*

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## Girls' Tennis beats St. Paul's for Bruins' lone fall championship

by Nate Kaufman '10

The only team to win a championship this fall might just be the best kept secret at the school. Although few fans watched, Jill Gordon '09 and Juliet Eisenstein '11 persevered in their championship match against the number two doubles team from St. Paul's School for Girls. The win capped a third place season for the tennis team.

The girls won an individual championship, but that was not the only success the team had. The team finished third out of 11 teams in the IAAM B Conference, completely controlling St. Tim's, St. Frances Academy, and Baltimore Lutheran; the Bruins swept each matchup, 5-0 (meaning all 5 of Park's teams beat all 5 of their opponents'). Park also dominated Oldfields and Glenelg, winning both matchups 4-1.

### A Winning Season

These victories led the Bruins to a 5-3 season heading into the individual tournament.

According to Captain Sydney Booker '08, the team focused on "making sure everyone was practicing and practicing hard" in the weeks leading up to the tournament. "Everyone had a solid season, but just before the tournament we had one tough matchup and a few easy ones. We also wanted to get people used to playing multiple matches



photo courtesy Brownie

J. Gordon '09 and J. Eisenstein '11 celebrate their doubles championship match victory over St. Paul's School for Girls.

in the same day," said Booker.

Coach Betty Medalie emphasized that the team needed to try to play together and focus on one match at a time.

Although tennis is an individual sport, team unity is important, and members supported one another. Medalie said that her team was very cohesive.

Booker and Captain Mad-die Macks '08 were key players. Booker played number one singles, and Macks played number one doubles with Tess Shiras '09. Medalie said that the team was very fortunate that two freshmen competed at the Varsity level. Eisenstein played number two doubles, and Drew Tildon '11 subbed in three matches. Both did extremely well. "We really almost couldn't be doing any better," Macks said near the end of the season.

### Doubles Title

The IAAM Tournament First Round was held October 22 at McDonogh School. Since Park was ranked at the top of the division for the season, it was seeded number two for most matches. The number one and two doubles teams advanced to the finals, which were held October 26 at McDonogh. Eisenstein and Gordon took home the title.

In preparation for the tournament, players were looking to stay physically and mentally tough. "The whole idea was not to let up on the gas pedal in every match you play," said Book-

er leading up to the Tournament.

Even after winning a title, there's a general sense on the team that other Park sports programs generate more school spirit than Girls' Varsity Tennis. "It would be really great if people came out to see us," said Booker.

### An Inconvenient Location

Park's home courts are at Chestnut Ridge Country Club. While the team enjoys having access to a large number of courts, Medalie and some players think that the location makes it inconvenient for people to get to the matches.

Next year, expectations for the squad are even higher. Booker believes that the team will be strong, a claim that is supported by the fact that the Bruins are only losing two seniors.

"Sofia Macht ('10) has improved considerably, and I expect that she'll have a chance to play (number) one singles," added Booker. The team will also rely heavily on returning doubles champions, Gordon and Eisenstein. With so much talent returning, the Bruins are wondering, why not in 2008?



photo courtesy Brownie

The Girl's Tennis team was the only Park team to win a championship this year. Back Row: J. Levitski '09, S. Al-Ibrahim '08, J. Eisenstein '11, J. Gordon '09, S. Macht '10, C. Basner '10, T. Shiras '09, M. Macks '08, S. Booker '08. Front row: K. Summerfield '10, A. Rabin '11, D. Tildon '11.

## SPORTS EXTRA

## A Nightmare on Russell Street

by Ben Goldstein '08

The Spartans of Greece. The empire of Babylon. The Great Roman empire. Whenever a great dynasty falls, we stop and admire. We look back and remember. We immortalize forever. People of Baltimore, it's time to do the same.

Over the last decade we've had the pleasure of watching a dynasty. The defense of the Baltimore Ravens can be described as nothing less. From bone-jarring hits, to goal line stands, to turnovers for touchdowns, this defense has provided the football fans of Baltimore with memories to last a lifetime. Remember the nine sacks of Steeler quarterback Ben Roethlisberger last season in a single game? He might not. But we do. Or how about the year when the defense set a record for the fewest points allowed in an NFL season? Or when the Ravens hit so hard in a division game against Cincinnati, then Bengals running back Corey Dillon refused to go back on the field? This defense was feared, respected, distinguished.

Notice the past tense. I shouldn't be breaking any news here in telling you that that era is over.

For the first quarter of the season, I was in denial; then



Rafael Suanes/MCT

Cincinnati wide receiver Chris Henry breaks a Ronnie Prude tackle in the Ravens 21-7 loss to the Bengals November 11. The Ravens' playoff hopes are in doubt with a 4-6 record.

came week seven. The Ravens traveled to Buffalo to face a (1-4) team in a must win game. After falling behind early, the Ravens' lifeless offense finally found a spark. Running back Willis McGahee broke off a 46 yard touchdown run to bring the Ravens within two. What followed was frightening.

Two years ago the outcome would have been easy to predict. With the Ravens trailing and the offense finally generating some

points in an exciting way, the opposing offense might as well have punted the ball on first down. There was no way an offense would put together any kind of drive, let alone scoring points with Ray Lewis and Co. fired up. In Buffalo, just the opposite happened. The 31st ranked offense in the league led by a rookie quarterback marched

51 yards down the field for a field goal, and on their next drive tacked on another seven points to put the game away. Dominating? Fearsome? Are you kidding me? The Ravens defense looked like the fat kid who has just been pounded with the dodge ball. Embarrassed. Out of place. Beaten.

I was close to giving up hope

until our lord and savior, head honcho, offensive genius, Mr. Brian Billick informed us that the bye week was coming. The way he praised and talked up the bye, you would have thought all the world's problems would be resolved come Week eight of the NFL season. Well, the bye week came and went. I made some popcorn and plopped myself in front of my TV anticipating a new product.

Thirty minutes, four turnovers and five Ben Roethlisberger touchdowns later, reality hit. The carriage turned back into a pumpkin. The clock struck 12. The era of smash-mouth Ravens football-pound it on the ground and dominate on defense-was over.

To blame the entirety of the Ravens current problems on the defense is not only unfair but absurd. It's the offense that turns the ball over what seems like every other drive. The offense that not only ranks first, but blows the rest of the league out of the water in number of lost fumbles. The offense that hasn't ranked in the top half of the league once over the past 10 years. The difference is that the defense used to be able to carry the offense. Hell, the defense would score points almost as frequently as the offense. Those times are over.

## Young team makes great strides; comes in fifth at championship

by Peter Treadway '08

With Anders Hulleberg '07 and Jesse Naiman '07 off to college, Park's current Cross Country team looked as though it might suffer from the loss of such key players. But this year's squad saw a large increase in membership with the addition of four freshmen and two sophomores.

When asked about what may have caused the sudden influx in new members, Assistant Coach John Kessinger said, "I don't know. I think Jamie [DeMarco '11] being so into [cross country] in Middle School may have inspired some of his teammates." Kessinger also noted that while the team has always known of the potential and skill of Juniors Ethan Haswell '09 and Lucas Hulleberg, Ben '09 Brewster '10 and Kyle Long '10 made huge strides since their freshman season last year.

On October 23, Park won its race against John Carroll 21-34 (the lowest score wins in XC), with Haswell coming in first place for the first time in his Park Cross Country career. Hulleberg,

DeMarco, and Long came in third, fourth, and fifth. Brewster and Alex Elias '11 came in eighth and tenth, respectively.

Haswell, when asked about his first win, said, "It feels good, but just as much as coming in second and having the team win would. On this team, we've fostered an environment where the team winning feels as good as winning individually."

With great expectations, Park entered the championship meet 3-5 after winning their last two regular season matches. Kessinger explained that the team

expected to beat all of the B conference schools and also hoped to win against every school that they had beaten so far. And so they did, placing fifth at the championships, beating out Mt. St. Josephs, McDonough, Archbishop Curley, and John Carroll. Haswell, who led once again, capped his junior year with a ninth place finish (eighth in the conference).

Having already proven themselves to be one of the top squads in the league, and with everyone returning, the team has positive expectations for next year.



photo by A. Patel '08

E. Haswell '09 chases after McDonough's lead runner in a race that the Bruins won 24-31. Haswell was Park's number one runner.

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## Rebuilding Hockey team surges in 2nd half of tough season

by Sam Cornblath '10

With only two returning starters and a new head coach, there were challenges to overcome for this year's Girls' Varsity Field Hockey team.

A number of players stepped up to the plate to fill the void that was left by the 10 seniors who dominated last year's team. For defense, Lindsay Shiff '09 and Erin Shafer '08 had strong showings in goal and Dawn Lee '09 was a star defender. "Dawn is flexible, a great defensive player and works very hard," said Captain Val Green '08. "Throughout the first half of the season, our two goalies helped to keep us in the game as well as keeping the score down," said Head Coach Kara Keith Hickok '95.

On offense, the two captains have shown leadership and drive. "Eve [Rorison '08] is full of energy, constantly moving and keeps the game in motion," said Alexis Feldman '10, "Val is our lead scorer and pushes the forward line. Midfielder Rachel Elliot '09 has grown tremendously," said Hickok. "The whole midfield has been constantly strong."

The team is unanimously enthusiastic about their new head coach. A 1995 Park gradu-

ate and daughter of school and bookstore manager Helen Keith, Hickok's teaching and coaching experience includes work at the Pace Academy in Atlanta, GA. "She is awesome!" exclaimed Feldman. "She is great for this year's team as she not only works on aspects of the game, but also on the team's chemistry and attitude," said Rorison. "Through her coaching, we have really started to connect and play a great game," said Feldman.

"Although the scoreboard doesn't always show it, we've played very well and had some great games," said Rorison. Most notable was their victory over the conference's top seeded team, John Carroll, on October 4. "The ball remained on the offensive side for most of the game and the defense was very strong," said Hickok.

Other notable games were against Maryvale September 17, Institute of Notre Dame (IND) September 28, and Mount De Sales October 2. "Maryvale was a very tough game; both teams were evenly matched, but they converted on more shooting opportunities," said Hickok. "IND was a big win for us," she said. "They were undefeated and we hadn't won a game. The offense exploded, and it marked the turn



photos by A. Patel '08

Above: E. Breiter '10 carries the ball up field in a tie game against Seton Keough. Below: Seniors V. Green and E. Rorison defend against a Seton Keough attack.

around point in our season."

In the second half of their schedule the girls proved they were one of the better league teams and had the skill to rival the top teams. The first of many victories came against top-seeded John Carroll. After a loss to Maryvale and disappointing tie with Seton Keough, the girls beat Baltimore Lutheran at Homecoming, Friends on October 16, and Glenelg on October 18.

After a long and hard fought four-game winning streak, the girls faced McDonogh who snatched the number one seed from John Carroll earlier in the season. The girls sustained another difficult loss, but remained confident entering the playoffs.

With the same record as Seton



Keough, 5-9-2, the Bruins lost the coin toss to determine their spot in the playoffs. They met McDonogh in the quarterfinals, and suffered a 2-0 loss after playing a tough game.

In the end, the girls have much to be proud of, including rebuilding the team, connecting with a new coach and each other, and proving they have a lot of potential for next year.

## Girls' Soccer loses to Maryvale 3-0 in semis

by Alex Katz '10

Girls' Varsity Soccer, under second-year head coach Jeff Jennings, finished fifth in the IAAM B Conference division with a final record of 4-4-1, ending up behind Maryvale, Severn, Saint Paul's, and Friends.

This year's group was led by senior captains Gabby Lessans, Jane Eisner, and Claire Ellwanger. As sweeper, Ellwanger was the last line of defense before opposing offenses reached goalkeeper Mica Fidler '08. "Claire is the anchor of our team. Everything really rests on her shoulders," said Jennings.

Eisner, the team's leading scorer, scored almost all the Bruins' goals, with a final total of six. Her ability to create opportunities was equally impressive, as most of her goals were unassisted. Lessans filled the void left by star center

midfielder Meghan McMahon, who graduated last June. Lessans played the role of distributing the ball to strikers and moving up the field when the opportunity presented itself. She finished with two assists and two goals of her own.

### New Starters

Aside from the captains, other players also stepped up. With six members of the previous year's team

now in college, many starting roles were filled by last year's contributors. Franny McGill '08 replaced Elizabeth Levitan '07 at fullback. Becka Althausen '09, fully recovered from a season ending injury one year ago, was a defensive force in the center of the field. Another strong presence was Aiden Piper '11, who got plenty of time as an outside fullback. Second year goalie Fidler kept



photo by A. Patel '08  
L. Weinberg '10 (#9) and K. Bruun '09 fight for a 50-50 ball vs. St. John's October 15.

her play consistent, and was a major factor in this year's success. Jennings credits her with doing an excellent job as someone who was primarily a field player in her freshman and sophomore seasons in JV.

### Slim Roster

One of the biggest obstacles the team faced was the depth of its roster. Only 14 names were listed on the roster at the beginning of the season-problematic with 11 players on the field at a time, and additionally stressful when illness and injury occurred. During the season, Sophie DeFries '11 was moved up from JV to add a fresh set of legs.

While each year the character of a team changes, Jennings believes that the tight chemistry of this year's group was similar to that of last year's, making his job considerably easier. "Being a top of the line coach is more or less being

a great teacher," he said.

At the season's midpoint, Jennings expressed concern in two areas, the first being consistency. A difficult part of staying consistent is maintaining intensity day in and day out, and the team tried not to peak too early in the season. They hoped to hit their highest point towards the end of the regular season and carry that intensity into the playoffs.

The other area of concern was getting more players in offense. Eisner needed help to ease the burden of scoring all of the goals. When she was shut down in a game, the team needed another person to step up and create plays.

During the second half of the season, the girls' hard work showed. One of the highlights was taking down Roland Park Country School 2-0 on October 2. Roland Park knocked Park out of the playoffs

last year. "It felt good even though it was one of our poorest games; we didn't dominate like we should have," said Jennings.

Park's first playoff match came against Friends on October 30. Kayla Bruun '09 scored the only goal to help beat the fourth-ranked Quakers 1-0. The Bruins next faced top seeded Maryvale Prep in the semifinals, November 1. The team played hard but could not stop the high-powered offense of the Lions, who ended the Bruins' season with a 3-0 victory.

Lessans reflected on the season: "We had a great group of coaches and an extremely tight-knit group of girls. Although we had some injuries that affected us, I think I speak for everyone when I say we had an amazing season, and we should all be very proud. I'm really going to miss this team."

# SPORTS EXTRA

The Postscript | November 20, 2007

## Boys' Soccer loses in familiar fashion

by Andy Marmer '08

Last year, the Boys' Varsity Soccer season ended in heartbreak following a 0-0 tie, and a semifinal loss in penalty kicks to the eventual champions, Severn. Well, at least one thing has changed in the last year; this year the Bruins scored a goal in their playoff loss against Severn. Unfortunately, that's the only difference a year makes. After playing the Admirals to a 1-1 tie, the Bruins suffered a quarterfinal loss in penalty kicks. "It's an awful way to end a game and an even worse way to end a season," said Captain Rex Gelb '08.

Still, in some ways, the season was a success. Two games out of the playoffs, the Bruins entered the final three games against the league's top three teams. To make the playoffs, the Bruins had to win at least two of their final three matches, including a win in the last game of the year against Glenelg; they did just that.

The season started well enough. The team won its first four games, including three conference wins over St. Mary's, Cardinal Gibbons, and Pallotti. St. Mary's was the only team of the four to score against the vaunted Bruins defense. The offense outscored their opponents 7-1 in these four games, but things would not continue going as smoothly for the Varsity squad.

After starting 3-0 in conference, the Bruins ran into tough times. They lost 1-0 and 2-1, respectively, to Annapolis Area Christian School and eventual champs Boys' Latin (BL). Rebounding with a 3-0 victory over Sts. Peter & Paul, the boys then lost 4-2 to archrival and league runner-up Friends.

The defense responded successfully after the brutal loss to Friends, shutting out Severn 2-0. The Bruins followed this win with a disappointing 2-1 loss to Glenelg. In their next match, the team shut out Cardinal Gibbons for a sec-



photo by A. Patel '08

B. Levin '08, C. Smith '08, and N. Yaffe '09 run a free-kick play against Pallotti. The Bruins won five out of their last six regular season games to make the playoffs, only to lose to Severn in penalty kicks for the second year in a row, and the third time in four years.

ond time by the score of 1-0.

This scenario left the Bruins, two games out with three left to play. Fortunately, they were playing the teams they needed to beat to make the playoffs. Unfortunately, they were 0-3 against those teams. It was going to be tough, but the Bruins knew they could make the playoffs.

In the first game of their key stretch, the Bruins held the first place Lakers of BL to a 1-1 tie. This meant that Park had to win its last two games against Friends and Glenelg, and that Glenelg had to lose to BL in order for the Bruins to make the playoffs.

Just in case Park needed more motivation, its next game was against archrival Friends, a team that scored four goals against Park in their previous match. Arthur Sonnenfeld '10 scored the only goal of the game as Jon Hettleman '10 shut out the Quakers.

Shortly after beating Friends, the Bruins learned that BL had beaten Glenelg 5-0. This meant that all the

Bruins needed to do was beat Glenelg on the road, in order to make the playoffs. The task was a daunting one, especially considering that Park hadn't won in three years against the Dragons.

The Bruins arrived at school the Thursday of the game, anxious to seal their fate, but Mother Nature had other plans. Due to rain, the game was postponed five days to the following Tuesday, a delay that benefited the Bruins.

The team erupted out of the gate, obviously fired up by their opportunity. Colin Smith '08 added the first tally of the game, and Noam Yaffe '09 added another late goal to give the Bruins a 2-0 lead. The Dragons made it interesting with a late goal, but Hettleman '10 made a clutch save, late in the game, to preserve the victory and give the team a return trip to the playoffs.

In an interview with Joe Diblasi of the MIAA website following the game, Coach Lucky Mallonee stated, "The kids have played hard all season, and I'm very proud of them. I would

have been very proud of their performance, even if we had been on the losing end today."

In the playoffs against Severn, the Bruins found themselves face-to-face with the defending champs, a team they had beaten in their only matchup of the year. The Admirals struck first

before Ben Levin '08 added the equalizer in the second half. The season ended in penalty kicks for the second straight year.

"We showed a lot of character," said Mallonee. "While we didn't always execute, I can't recall a time when we didn't play hard."

The Bruins were paced by stellar defensive play all year. The team recorded seven shut-outs in 15 regular season games, allowing just 14 goals in that span. This is even more remarkable when one considers that four of those goals came in one game against Friends. The defense was led by Hettleman, who Gelb described as "a great all around athlete." Mallonee added, "Jon is a fine goalie. There isn't one better."

The future is bright for next year's team. Despite losing 12 seniors, the Bruins will return six starters, including the entire defense except for Tony DeMarco '08. Gelb summed it up best, "They're going to be a young team next year, graduating so many seniors, but they will have a solid group of returning players and I think they'll have a great season."

## Girls finish XC with best times

by Dan Tsemach '10

Members of the 2007-2008 Girls' Varsity Cross Country team started the season a little rocky, but they only needed a little time to come out of their shells.

Led by seniors Tamara Perreault and Catherine Earley, the team ran hard for the entire season. The girls practiced every day after school, running through the challenge course and sprinting up hills in order to prepare for their opposition.

Sophomore runner Suzy Yaster said that most of their losses were the result of being a small team. The squad is comprised of only nine runners. Other schools have as many as 30 runners, thus increasing their chances of better scores. "We came up a little short with a lot of teams," said Yaster.

The fewer runners a given squad has, the lower probability of high placement in the races. Therefore, the group really struggled against the bigger teams, and did well against schools with smaller teams.

When asked about the high-

lights of their season, Captain Perreault said, "Making team t-shirts for the team, and our success in the championship bonded us as a team." Perreault and Earley have placed in the top six many times this season helping their tight-knit team come closer to victory.

Suzy Yaster also expressed the respect each member of the team has for one another, "Our team dynamic is great. We get along well, work hard, push each other, and most importantly, have a lot of fun together."

Coach Kent Walker had a lot of positive input and stated that "Everyone worked hard and improved their times week by week."

On October 9 the girls ran with a smaller group than usual, but managed to beat three teams: Beth Tfiloh, AACS, and Indian Creek to earn their first win of the season.

The team ended its season on a high note at the October 31 championship. Each runner ran their best time of the season, and they beat five teams, including B and A conference schools. The Bruins hope to do even better next year.

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