



THE SENTINEL

MARIST HIGH SCHOOL



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Tucker holds end of year press conference

Kelan Fong
Christine Edgeworth
Sentinel

Ten years ago this year, Marist High School made a radical decision to turn coed. The spirit of change has not left as Marist continues to look to innovate and improve the school.

Marist has a reputation as a school that is always changing and always evolving. Only ten years ago, Marist was an all-male high school struggling to fill its classrooms.

With the change to turn coed, Marist has become the school it is today—a school successful in both athletics and scholastics.

As a dad, Mr. Tucker wants nothing more than for his children to be surrounded by a hardworking faculty as well as students that challenge one another, which is what he tries to make Marist resemble.

Producing 73 Illinois State Scholars, a few perfect ACT scores and students that continue to grow in sight of the foundation that was laid at Marist High School is living proof that this stimulating environment succeeds.

Speaking of laying foundations, Marist is constantly updating its facilities. In recent history, Marist has built or improved its three gyms, constructed a new turf field and is currently renovating the baseball fields.

The future looks bright for the already over-achieving Redhawks' sports programs, but the school has not lost its focus on education.

"Marist is always looking to update and upgrade its facilities," Mr. Tucker said. "We plan on updating the science labs after the baseball fields."

Along with updating the science labs, Marist has already placed several smart boards throughout various classrooms and there has also been a formation of an "iPad committee." Put together by Mr. Tucker, this committee has been looking at the pros and cons of converting Marist into an iPad school.

Just a year and a half ago, one of Mr. Tucker's committees decided on a drug testing policy for Marist. Contrary to what many students think, drug testing is not just a medium for Marist to catch children doing wrong and show them who's the boss.

"Drug testing students is not an opportunity for us to say 'Gotcha!'" Mr. Tucker said. Rather, he explained the reason behind drug testing to be the creation of a comfortable and focused environment for intellectuals ready to learn.

Adding to the atmosphere of intellectuals is Marist's strict uniform policy. Students in the past had the freedom in choosing things like what tie to wear, what shoes to buy, or even where to buy their clothes. Today's students have no such leeway.

In defense of Marist's strict uniform policy, Mr. Tucker argues that a student in uniform is more likely to perform better in the classroom than a student in casual wear. Tucker brought up a study which found that it was beneficial to wear work clothes even if someone works at home.

"You are more focused, more attentive when you change and go to work," said Mr. Tucker. "You dress for success."

A main source of Mr. Tucker's motivation is his belief in personal pep rallies, that everyone needs to take some time each day to find his or her own inspiration and motivation.



photo by Christine Edgeworth

Principal Mr. Larry Tucker held a two-day press conference with students in the Journalism 1 class on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, speaking on a range of issues.

He personally peps himself up by YouTubeing leadership speeches or by listening to both the Notre Dame Fight Song and *The Party Rock Anthem*. Mr. Tucker wants the same thing for his students. So whether it be listening to a favorite song or reading a good book, he believes that students need their own personal time away from the work that a school day brings.

Just as important to Mr. Tucker is keeping a relationship with Marist graduates and seeing how Marist helped them become successful.

He wants students to connect what they learn at Marist to the bigger picture. Tucker believes that by talking to graduates, students can start making connections to their own bigger picture and, most importantly, enjoy it.

"If you're at work and you're staring at forty years before you retire, you better enjoy it," Mr. Tucker said.

Going on his 11th year as principal, Mr. Tucker emphasizes that "Marist is not just made of bricks; it becomes a great place when people are in the building—parents, students and teachers alike."

New Orleans: Mission possible

Emily Quinn
Sentinel

Members of the Marist community travelled to New Orleans on Tues., Nov. 8 for a five-day mission trip.

A total of 27 juniors and 3 seniors joined faculty chaperones Jen Germino, Brian Clancy, Greg Frey, Colleen Pochly and Adam Wouk. The group spent the week restoring old graves, renovating a convent and doing repair work in homes of the less fortunate. The group also built bunkbeds for the camp at which they stayed.

Students also experienced New Orleans culture, including Gator Fest, an annual carnival, and tours of the French Quarter and the lower 9th Ward, the area hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina.

"No one wanted to go home on Sunday," said junior Sean Kitchin. "It felt like we were family, sharing a special bond between us."

The next mission trip takes place between Feb. 15-20. Students will travel to Georgia to help rebuild homes for the poor.

On Mar. 30, another trip leaves for Australia, where students will spend Easter break with other Marist students and work with the Aborigines.

"These trips give students an opportunity to see how their strengths and skills can better society," Wouk said. "It's a chance to apply our Catholic values."

Applications for both trips are available in the main office and are due by Thurs., Dec. 22. For more information, students should see Mr. Wouk.



photo by John Gonczy

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from the *Sentinel* staff!**

Brian Longhman
Kiersten Kendall
Joe Salomon
Clare Jorgensen
Don Brand
Bridget Tracey
Matthew Cipriano
Joy Macarski
Matt Mead
Alex Dale
Sean Gilligan
Zachary



**Participants
in the Nov.
mission
trip to New
Orleans take
a break from
their work.**

photo by
Adam Wouk

THE
SENTINEL



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As an open forum, the *Sentinel* welcomes and encourages letters to the editor and guest editorials. Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less and must be signed by the author. Guest editorials are limited to 500 words and must also be signed by the author.

The *Sentinel* reserves the right to deny a letter publication if it is morally or ethically offensive, contains unsubstantiated claims or personal attacks. The *Sentinel* also reserves the right to edit letters and guest editorials for space or clarity. Letters may be sent to the *Sentinel* Editorial Board, 4200 W. 115th Street, Chicago, IL 60655 or may be dropped off in room 121. Letters must be received by the first school day of the calendar month if they are to be considered for publication in that month's issue.

In the event the *Sentinel* makes an error, a correction or retraction will be published in the following issue.

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The true meaning of Christmas

Clare Jorgensen
Assistant managing editor

As Christmas approaches, it is time for us to reflect on Christmas' true meaning. Sadly, it seems like all the other symbols of Christmas and greed presented by the media overshadow the true meaning.

Around Christmas time, Americans are not as distracted by the political news, by the Scrooges and the government Grinches who make headlines each day. There are a lot more distractions that may seem lighthearted and insignificant when one sees it, but he or she does not know that there has been something planted into their brain.

“Buy this Snuggie for your hubby!”
“Buy your wife a car to match yours!”
“Five percent off refrigerators at Sears!”

Once people hear these things, they spend money on large ticket items that nobody particularly wants or needs. They hear the happy sounding voiceover and see the Crazy Target Two-Day Sale Lady on their televisions.

They are instantly hooked on shopping. That is why the media came up with Black Friday. Retailers knew people need the “best” deals, so they designated a day where moms and dads can go crazy in Wal-Marts as they pepper spray other shoppers in their eyes so they can get that last XBOX-360.

Americans need to stop believing that gifts are the only way to spread Christmas cheer and to find happiness. When adults shower their kids with hundreds of toys and games, they give their kids the wrong idea of the true meaning of Christmas. Kids will start believing in the power of money and wealth over the power of love and compassion.

Parents are teaching their children greed rather than teaching them about generosity and compassion.

Americans need to stop believing that gifts are the only way to spread Christmas cheer and happiness.

The future begins with our children or even us teenagers. We need to make sure that they know the true meaning of love and compassion during the Christmas time before they are swallowed by greed and the media sensationalizing.

Many Christmas or holiday movies think they know all the answers to the true meaning of Christmas but there are major key points being left out of the message of Christmas. Sorry, Buddy the Elf; “singing loud for all to hear” is not the only way to spread Christmas cheer.

It may feel good to sing to get others out of a Christmas slump, but there are still major Scrooges who will slam the door on a group of carolers trying to spread Christmas cheer by belting out “Jingle Bells” and handing out mother’s homemade fudge.

I know.
It has happened to me.
“Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about,” Charlie Brown once asked.

Yes, Charlie Brown, there is a person who knows what Christmas is all about. That person is the lovable, blanket-holding, Linus, your best pal.

Linus explains the story of the birth of Jesus Christ to Charlie Brown and to the other children in the television movie “A Charlie Brown Christmas” who did not

understand Christmas like many of us today.

That story alone is the true meaning of Christmas; it was even the beginning of Christmas. It did not begin from Santa Claus, Black Friday, or Christmas anthems.

It began from Jesus lying in a manger, surrounded by Mary, Joseph, the wise men, and the shepherds under the beautiful, bright star.

Jesus is not, of course, physically born again each year, but his spirit and his message are renewed every year at Christmas time.

It is our duty around Christmas to not only take care of ourselves, but to take care of others who are alone or who do not feel as bright during the holiday season.

Christmas is the time of the year when everyone should be happy and if each and every one of us spreads the love and the wealth that we possess, we can make sure that promise is kept.

Around Christmas, it is also our duty to spend time with our family and other loved ones that we have not been able to see in a while. Even if everyone is busy or otherwise in high spirits, spending time with family is still important.

Now before everyone wakes up on Christmas morning, ready to attack the presents laid out for them under the tree, everyone must remember how the holiday began.

We must be thankful for the different traditions that were sprung up from the birth of Christ. We can then finish celebrating the holiday with our families, sing Christmas songs, open up presents together, and celebrate the renewal of the birth of the Savior of the world.

That, as they say, is the reason for the season. Merry Christmas, everyone!

Joe Galason and Tony Mocarski

What do you want for Christmas this year?



Tommy Ormond-senior
I would like a 2012 Mustang Shelby, peace on earth and enough money to pay off my teachers for straight A’s. (Seputis-I’m talking to you!)



Madisyn Ewing-freshman
I want money because I want to buy Bria Stallworth and Lorna a Christmas gift. I also want nail polish, a unicorn and more clothes.



Aubrey Klimala-junior
For Christmas, I want to spend time with my family. I’d also like for it to snow. A camera would be nice, too.



Natalie Scumaci-senior
This year I want an iguana. I also want a Burmese python for my friend Lauren Styx.



Craig Rosner-junior
For Christmas, I want everybody in my family and in my life to have a happy holiday. I want peace on earth. I also want everything on my wish list to come true.



Joe Mudd-senior
For Christmas, I want world peace. Secondly, I want an Easy Bake oven. Lastly, I just want to learn how to dance.

Film classics to usher in the holiday spirit

Brian Laughran
The Cinematic Sultan

Christmas is a season synonymous with feelings of joy and warmth. Some of the best manifestations of these can be found in the ghosts of Christmas movies past.

A staple of the holiday viewing season for many is Frank Capra's classic *It's a Wonderful Life*, starring Jimmy Stewart. The film tells the story of George Bailey (Stewart), the ultimate nice guy who has a string of terrible luck around the holidays. After a foiled suicide attempt, his guardian angel (Henry Travers) shows him what the world would be like had he never existed.

This film brilliantly wraps a story of friendship, giving and sacrifice into an incredible fantasy that tugs at the heartstrings. This film also has a special meaning for me. I first watched this film quite a few years ago with my late grandmother, Donna Moss, and it always brings back fond memories.

While *It's a Wonderful Life* touches on some of the more emotional and spiritual aspects of Christmas, the next flick on my holiday viewing short-list is about one thing that has become synonymous with Christmas—that one present we *really* want. That film is, of course, *A Christmas Story*.

Jean Shepherd's novel *In God We Trust, All Others Pay In Cash*, a story loosely based on his own childhood, serves as the basis for the film. Shepherd, who also serves as the picture's narrator, tells the story of a young boy named Ralphie (Peter Billingsley) growing up in 1940s Indiana only wanting one thing for Christmas – a Red Ryder BB gun.

The film perfectly captures the essence of waiting for the perfect gift, including dealing with the naysayers who all chime in, "You'll shoot your eye out, kid!" Darren McGavin and Melinda Dillon co-star perfectly as Ralphie's turkey-mongering-foul-mouthed-mechanically-challenged father and patient, kindly mother.

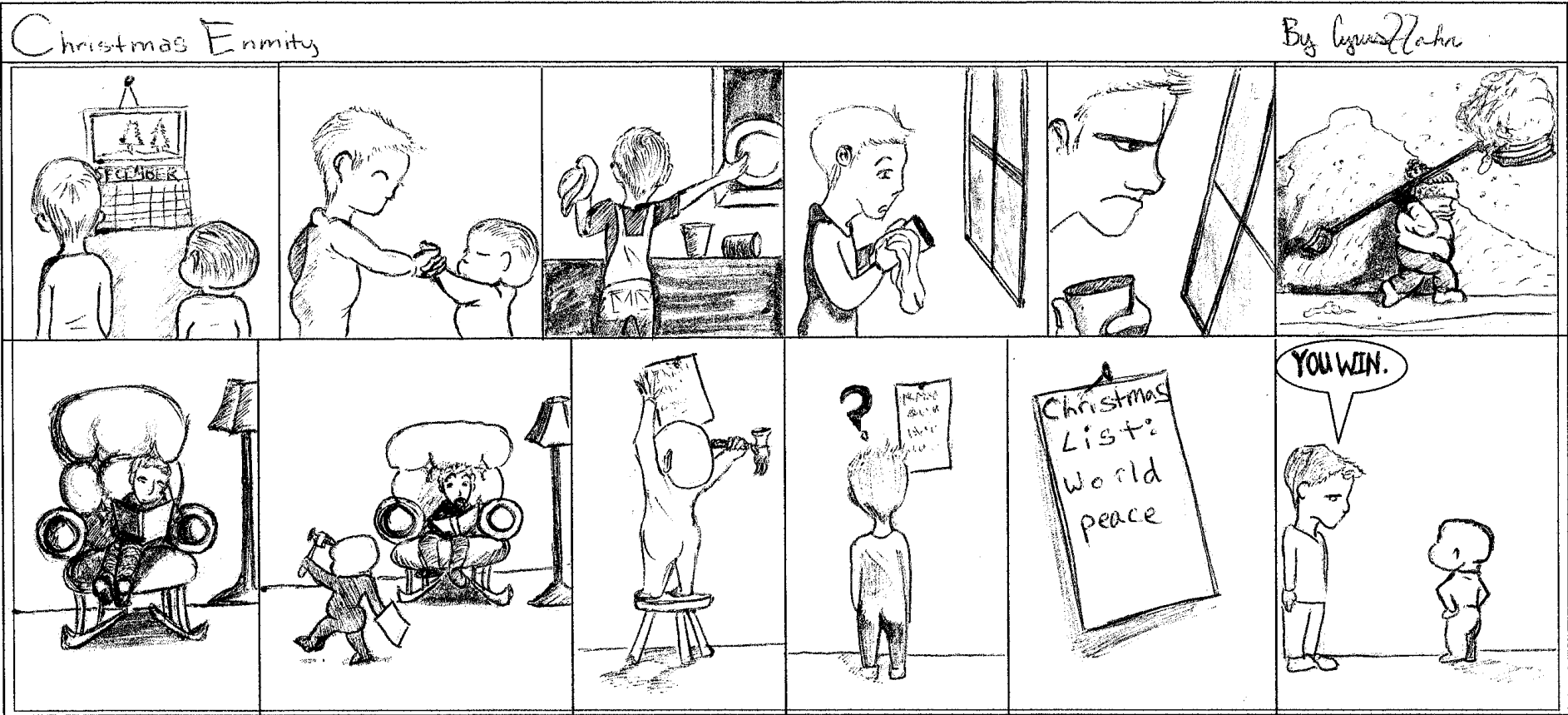
Few holiday classics come as close to perfect as Charles Shultz and Bill Melendez's *A Charlie Brown Christmas* – a special which finds the always loveable Charlie Brown (voiced by Peter Robbins) lost in the commercial shuffle of the Christmas season (a very deep problem for a ten-year-old). He hopes that his role as director of the upcoming Christmas pageant will help solve his problems. Instead he ends up picking a dud of a Christmas tree for the centerpiece of the show, only adding to his friends' dismay.

Shultz's script has a certain attitude and dialect that very few writers nowadays could ever possibly hope to recreate. The humor and heart are equally sharp and sincere. I would also like to mention, this is one of the rare pictures that brings up Christmas's religious meaning – in a beautiful scene featuring Charlie's good pal Linus (voiced by Christopher Shea), Luke's gospel passage on the nativity is read tying the whole special together.

A more recent classic would be National Lampoon's *Christmas Vacation*, starring Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo. The film finds Clark Griswold in anticipation of the perfect Christmas, yet his plans go up in smoke when his hillbilly cousin-in-law Eddie (Randy Quaid) rolls up with his clan in a mobile home.

Christmas Vacation is a tale of when all the things that can go wrong on the holidays do. Chase's comedic timing makes this holiday installment of the *Vacation* franchise the best. Complete with a burning Christmas tree, a blinding houselights display, and a Christmas Eve police raid, this film tickles the funny bone and builds anticipation for the holiday season.

This year, be sure to settle down with your family and friends and enjoy a holiday film. And from the Cinematic Sultan to you and yours, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



a few minutes with...Santa Claus

Kiersten Kendall
Sentinel

Yes, Marist. There is a Santa Claus. He knows when you are sleeping. He knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good, so....

How was your summer?

It was quite relaxing. Now, we're all hard at work. Come November, it's Christmas crunch time. The elves and I have been working hard to get presents ready for all the good girls and boys and procuring enough coal for the bad ones.

How do you feel about the bad boys and girls?

They are getting what they deserve. You have to work for presents. With the economy being what it is, I can't afford to be as lenient as in years past. Getting to the nice list is an accomplishment.

How is Mrs. Claus?

Well, the holidays are stressful for everyone. I'm at work a lot, and she's home with the reindeer, but we try to make it work. I like to think of her as the First Lady of Christmas.

What are the hot presents this Christmas?

Well, electronics are really in this year. All you kids with your iPods, iPhones and such. It's hard for me to keep up with changes in technology.

How do you feel about the children that grow up and stop believing in you?

I know it's a natural thing to doubt the existence of Santa Claus, but for those who continue to believe, the holidays have certain special quality to them. That special quality is gone for the children who stop believing. This is a magical time for those who still believe.

Do the elves still make all the toys?

It's a mix. With technology advancing the way it is, the North Pole is not the place to keep up with the constant changes. We import some gifts directly from the manufacturers in China and Taiwan, but the elves continue to make many of the toys that go out, either at the North Pole or at one of our various factories around the world.

Where is your favorite place to deliver presents?

The Bahamas. I love to swim.

Who is your favorite reindeer?

I don't really like to choose favorites. We try to create a rotation of who will be leading the team every year. This year will be Comet or Dasher.

What about Rudolph?

Rudolph only leads when there is fog or haze, and this year is supposed to be quite clear.

Do you have any children of your own?

I like to think of the world as being filled with my children.

When you die, who becomes the new Santa?

The Tim Allen movies would have you believe that whomever knocks me off a roof becomes the new Santa Claus, but there is really a flow chart of succession.



Santa Claus

How do you remember what everyone wants for Christmas?

Well, it's a matter of compiling a list and archiving it for last dates. We take into account letters and wishes that you give to my helpers at the malls, and then I put it on my list and check it twice.

If you weren't Santa, what career would you like to try?

I'd like to write the next great American novel. I think I've got a great story in me.

Poms season gets underway

Dana Bisbee
Sentinel

This year the poms team “kicked” off to a good start. On Nov. 5, the team competed in their first competition of the season. Varsity danced in the categories of pom and hip hop. The team took second place in the category of hip hop.

For the team though, this is only the start of their long season. Practice for this year’s team started last May, and will last until March-right after the state competition.

Like the cheerleaders, the poms team performs at all the football and boys’ basketball games. What most people do not realize is that these games are only practices compared to their competitions.

The team will compete in 6 more competitions this season, including state.

Head Coach Krista Placas said, “Everyone gets along and everyone is very motivated. [The girls] love practice;

[They] want it to be perfect. It is not all hard work for the girls, though.”

The team also creates other dances for the half-time show of the sporting events at which they perform. Their kick routine is among that. Unlike all other sports, the poms team does not have any captains.

“The seniors act as captains” Coach Krista Placas says, “and as role models, too.” There are three freshman on the team this year: Lauren Surin, Ariel Smith, and Colleen Innis.

“Being on the dance team really helped me to get really involved my freshman year,” Surin said. “I’ve met some of my good friends through poms, and I love being on the team.”

Everyone on the team is very devoted, practicing multiple times a week for several hours at a time.

“We’ve come a long way, and we have worked really hard to come this far,” Placas said. “We started out not very strong, but we’re getting better.”



photo by Krista Placas

The 2011-2012 Poms squad prepares for a practice in the gymnasium. The girls compete next on Jan. 15 at Waubonsie Valley High School.

Basketball season starts strong

Sean Gilligan
Sentinel

The boys varsity basketball team started off their season winning their first six games. Led by captains sophomore Nice Weishar and junior L.J. McIntosh, the team won the District 218 Thanksgiving Tip-off Classic tournament at Shepard. The tournament included impressive wins over Eisenhower, Richards, Shepard, and Leo.

Going into their seventh game of the season they were undefeated and ranked 24th in the state. Then the Redhawks defeated 5th ranked St. Rita in the 3rd annual Callahan-Griffin Classic at St. Rita on Dec. 6. Lexus Williams and Nic Weishar led the team against the neighborhood rival to a 74-71 nail-biting victory.

Williams scored a team high 25 points while Weishar dropped 23 points. The Redhawks led most of the game, with Morty Bergland and Williams sealing Rita’s fate with big free throws. Williams was also awarded with the Jim Griffin Most Valuable Player Award. He was 8 of 11 from the field and 3 of 4 from the three point line.

The team’s record is now 7-2 after losing a tough game to Notre Dame on Dec. 9 at home. At one point the Redhawks were up 34-19 but Notre Dame came back to win 75-59 and give Marist its first loss of the season. Leading the way for the Redhawks was L.J. McIntosh with 16 points and Matt O’Reilly had 14 points.

The second loss of the season proved even tougher against St. Viator on Dec. 16, with a final score of 39-78.

O’Reilly said, “We did not play how we wanted to but he have to bounce back. We can’t live on past games win or loss, we have to move on.”

There is still a lot of season to go, including the 69th Annual Centralia Holiday Tournament from Dec. 28-30.

The team’s first home game after Christmas break will be on Jan. 10 against St. Laurence.

On Jan. 17, Marist will take on arch rival Brother Rice at home in a huge game. beginning at 7:30 p.m.



photo courtesy of Marist Athletics

The boys basketball team started out strong, but their season has stalled as they look to improve on a recent stretch of losses.

RedHawks struggle on ice

Matt Espinola
Sentinel

The Marist varsity boys hockey team started off the season away at Naperville North on Tues., Sept. 13 with a loss. The boys then went on to go 7-11-0 overall and earned a 1-5-0 record in the ESCC conference. Some of these included important matches against St. Rita, New Trier and Fenwick.

Injuries have been present so far through the season, hurting the team especially for the first half of the season. The latest injury update is a shoulder injury to defenseman Nick Kushnerik

“We have been battling injuries throughout the year,” said Senior Mike Wilson. “We just have to push.”

Wilson is part of the core group of seniors which include Dan Caudill, Dan Jarecki, Jack Goldsmith, Patrick Kenny, Nick Kushnerik, goalie Mike D’Oronzo, and the team leader in goals scored, Rocco Dazzo, who had a shot percentage of 31.7% through November.

The team played St. Rita again on Dec. 1, falling to the Mustangs 4-1.

After that the varsity team took a trip to South Bend, Indiana, to face some out of state teams. They managed to tie one game but lost the last one.

Upon returning to Illinois, the Redhawks turned it up a notch, tying Providence 2-2 on Dec. 8, then beat Notre Dame at home 6-3 on Dec. 11. The Redhawks next took on Brother Rice on Dec. 15, defeating the Crusaders 5-1.

With this surge of wins, the team looks forward to playing conference rival Fenwick tomorrow at Arctic Ice Arena at 7:20.

“One of the tournaments we are looking forward to is the Blackhawk Charities Holiday Tournament over break,” Kenny said. “A lot of good teams are going to be at that one.”

Despite the injuries faced by the team, there are some players who have yet to miss a game this season, including Rocco Dazzo and Dan Caudill. They are looking forward to the upcoming games and believe they have a chance to shock in the playoffs.



photo by Eryka Borisy

Forward Sean Henrici, senior, takes the puck in the game against Providence on Dec. 8. The RedHawks tied that game and will play Fenwick tomorrow night at 7:30 at Arctic Ice Arena.