

The Eagle Times

Volume 3, Issue 3

TheEagleTimes.org | @theeagletimes

December 6, 2023

Fall Sports Wrap-up

Aaron Ntoko (Sophomore)

Fall sports recently wrapped up, marking the end of the first season of sports for the 2023-2024 school year. As the winter sports season rolls in, The Eagle Times wants to recap the accomplishments of our fall sports teams.

Football: The U-Prep football team had a 7-4 winning season. "Our team bonded and we have new guys and we don't treat them any differently," said Sophomore Nahayo Clavel, an offensive and defensive line player. The team was eliminated from the playoffs early in November. "We didn't communicate well and we weren't disciplined," Clavel said.

"It was really fun to be a part of this season and I believe we helped set the team up for a successful future," said Senior Aiden Elliston, one of the team's captains. "I think this season was a turning point for the program and that going forward we will be a winning team."

Girls Soccer: "I would say that overall, the soccer team became more competitive," said Sophomore Orli Trumbull.

"Despite our lack of experience, we were able to apply pressure to teams of experienced players." The girl's soccer team had poor luck "winning any section games" but they still tried their best.

"We had several promising freshmen join this year, each of whom I think will grow into really good soccer players if they stick with the team through their high school," said Team Captain Mariah Gaines. "As a senior on my way out, I am incredibly happy with how this season went."

Boys Soccer: The boy's soccer



team played a good season but didn't make it to district playoffs. "We got a new coach and we had a better record," said Senior Team Captain Emmett Dorsey.

Unfortunately, their lack of transportation occasionally held them back. "We often didn't have a bus to get to our games or sometimes they wouldn't even show up."

New Coach Kendall Roberts helped the team improve over last year's poor record. "I am looking forward to all the young guys stepping up next year," said Senior Max Pekich.

"Most of our starters were seniors so there are a lot of positions up for grabs." The younger students are hopeful for next



year. "I'm looking forward to making a run for the playoffs," said Sophomore Sam Pellegrino. Others agree. "I'm looking forward to working with the guys that are coming up from JV and stepping up into their roles on the Varsity team," said Freshman Yik Hoi Low

Girls Tennis: The girl's tennis team had a successful tennis season. They won the city championships and Reece Williams, the team captain and #1 singles player on the team, made it to subregionals but her season came to an end before the state tournament.

Doubles players Mae Balog and Sydney Pelligrino placed 2nd in the city

championships. "We as a team had a great season. More than half the players on the team were new which we all were excited about," expressed Reece Williams.

"Everybody made progress," said Sophomore Rose Carlie-Pierre, a new team member.

Girls Volleyball: The girl's volleyball team had a winning season of 7-3 and went on to play Allerdice in the City Championships. Unfortunately, they came up short.

"Some things that didn't go as well were that we often lacked communication during games, and rather than playing as a team we played as individuals," said Sophomore Omega Jones.

"Some things that went well with our season was our ability to adapt to the game and our improvement overall as a team."

Cross Country: The cross-country team had a great season. Seniors Eilidh Chapman and Charles Sweeney and Junior Marcos Gonzalez went to state championships in Hershey.

Gonzalez was the team's top runner. "Our team had good spirits and overall made improvements over the season," said Junior Javon Laprade.

"The good things about the season were my team's spirits and our overall improvement. There were a lot of injuries though and the weather made things rough sometimes."

Laprade is optimistic for next year. "I'm looking forward to seeing if any new members join and what events we go to!"

Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Bailey

Lucy Caroff (Junior)

The Eagle Times wanted to sit down and speak to a person who works behind the scenes at Obama. One of the people keeping the school running through working on the administration side of things. Vice Principal Ms. Bailey happily agreed to an interview.

Bailey is not a native Pittsburgher, she actually grew up in Ohio, and that is where she went to high school and pursued higher education.

Due to her role as Vice Principal, some would assume that she was always on the education track, but she says her goals were "not always education." Bailey actually spent half of her time during her four year degree studying fashion.

This is still apparent today. Even if students have not had the chance to interact with her, they recognize her name and style. When asked what they thought of Bailey, one responded with, "Ms. Bailey? Is that the one with the nice hair?"

After those two years of studying fashion she decided that it wasn't right for her and realized that she instead wanted to go into education.

She got her bachelors degree and went back for her masters in education and that has been her career track ever since.

Bailey's husband, who she met in college, is what brought her to Pittsburgh. He grew up here and wanted to come back.

Outside of school she lists only one thing that takes top priority: "Family, family, family." With a four year old at home, when she leaves work she "unplugs," puts the school stuff aside, and focuses on her "number one thing." At school she makes it clear that students are her top priority.

Bailey joined the Obama staff just last year, and mostly works with the middle schoolers. She says, "I handle discipline. I do observations on teachers and conduct parent meetings."

She also meets with different teacher teams throughout the week and meets one on one with Ms. Colbert.

Ultimately, one thing takes up the most of her time. "Paperwork, it's a lot of paperwork," said Bailey. Most of her tasks are administrative.

Even so, she appears to find real joy in her work. She notes that a highlight of her job is the people. "I love having conversations with students, building relationships with students, getting to know them..."

She hopes to keep this contact with students, and wants to do more in the future. Her ultimate goal here at Obama is to do student groups. To help teach "lifeskills and maybe a financial course" to help further prepare the student body at Obama for successful futures.

As for her experience at Obama specifically she says. "I really love the students here." She appreciates the school for it's diversity and describes it as a "melting pot of students."

Praising the school for giving her the opportunity to work with all types of students from all kinds of backgrounds, races, and cultures. She hopes to continue her time here and make a positive impact on as many students as possible.

Ms. Bailey is a prime example of how your future may not turn out exactly how you thought but along the way you might find something you're really passionate about. And you'll find a way to be a part of that, like how she found her way into education and into Obama.



Ms. Bailey

Annual Toy Drive

The Obama Academy Student Council recently started its annual toy drive. Until December 8, donations of new toys are being welcomed.



Winter Sports Forecast

Reece Williams (Sophomore)

Fall is over, and winter is here, a new sports season is near. With preparation and anticipation, this winter sports season will be like never before. Let's dive into how our teams are training for the 2023 season to be a slam dunk.

Both Obama basketball teams made it to the City Championships last season. The boys basketball team came up short in the championship game. They are looking for redemption this year. With the team now being more active on both the defensive and offensive end, they are ready to take on the court. "I am very confident in our performance this year," said Team Captain Torrien Perkins.

"With getting everyone to buy into their roles on the team and understanding what they can do as an individual to help the team win." Although the season comes with excitement and enthusiasm, it also comes with intensity. "We are prepping for the start of the season by pushing each other every day and continuously improving and putting in hard work with a lot of effort and discipline," added Sophomore Jaden Colbert.

The girls basketball team won 79-25 against Allderdice in the championship game last season and hopes to achieve similar results this year. They will have to make do without Kimaya Williams, last year's star player who committed to PennWest

California. Even so, they are determined to repeat the City Championship and make further progress in state playoffs.

Earlier this year, now Senior Cora Myers said about this swim season, "I think next year if we build up to that and work more towards making our relay a lot better than we can hopefully go to states as a team." That goal is looking achievable with all of the preparation everyone on the team has put forth so far. The team has been conditioning since the middle of October. A routine which consists of swimming 1-2 times a day and team lifting.

When asked about how they think the upcoming season will play out Myers responded with, "every year is different. There is a constant fluctuation in the size of the teams and so we can't be sure what this year holds." The team continues to grow, with new members this year.

The wrestling team is ready to tackle the upcoming season by practicing every week, with some taking it as far as doing club wrestling and other sports to stay strong for the season. "I am very confident this year..." says Junior Hirai Shuda. "Hopefully we will win the team championship title. I hope some of my teammates can make it to states and do good individually."

With a few new "talented" freshmen on the team accompanied by a new coach with different techniques the wrestling team is ready for a slam.

Thanksgiving Classic

Orli Trumbull (Sophomore)

A chill blanketed the field on the day of the 2023 Thanksgiving Classic. The previous night's rain had turned the grass into a semi hardened mud mixture, which students carefully stepped through while making their way around the crowded snack table. Onlookers paid \$5 for a ticket to spend the second half of the school day watching a flag football game between female Junior and Senior students. The Thanksgiving Classic is a long-standing Obama tradition organized by Mr. Ehman and the Student Council, serving as both fundraiser and entertainment for the students as well as a break from the school day. Mr. Miller, one of the two referees for the game, says he has been refereeing since the tradition began.

The Student Council had set up a table selling hot chocolate, Coke, and a variety of chips. Hanging on the fence behind the snack table were hand painted posters displaying support for the Junior and Senior teams and generally raising school spirit. As viewers huddled together and purchased

hot chocolate to stay warm, players on the field bundled themselves in jackets and covered their sneakers with blue plastic bags. There was a range of experience on both teams, coached by Mr. Roa and Ms. Dugan (for the Senior and Junior teams respectively). Ms. Dugan is the coach of the flag football team, a new addition to Obama that began last year. She utilized her pre-game time to make "sure everyone felt comfortable with the rules of the game," and practiced passing and handoffs. Having teachers coach the teams was new this year. In previous years, football players did the coaching.

The Senior team scored a touchdown and took the lead in the first 10 minutes of the game. Despite the quick lead, the Juniors did not give in and kept the score close the whole game. By half time, the Seniors had scored their fourth touchdown, keeping them a few points ahead of the Juniors. Like any good match-up played in late-November, the game came down to the last play, with the Seniors pulling ahead for a win of 56 - 49. Senior Jazmine Herriot was game MVP. Both teams played an excellent game.



The boys basketball team practicing



Homecoming 2023

Viola Aderholt (Sophomore)

Featuring many picturesque art displays and balconies looking out on the skyline, the Mattress Factory was an unforgettable venue for Obama's homecoming this year. Light Up Night Downtown set the scene with fireworks, as students traveled from floor to floor engaging in interactive art pieces and posing for pictures in the mirror room. "With such a unique venue there was so much to explore," said Sophomore Aaron Ntoko.

Homecoming Court followed a similar routine as last year and included three categories from each grade: academics, arts, and athletics. While describing the process of running Sophomore Rose Carlie Pierre said, "the process was pretty chal-

lenging and a bit stressful, it was definitely hard to have to run against my friends."

Sophomore Jaden Colbert said, "I definitely should have started promoting earlier."

While some were disappointed with the outcomes of their hard work, others won the title. In an interview at Homecoming Senior Academics winner Dorian "Killa D" Cole described his victory; "I appreciate all my friends that posted me day in and day out, I've really been spreading the word."

This was Cole's first time winning homecoming court and he describes the experience as "really fun," and something that will push him forward. Homecoming was an unforgettable night filled with wins and losses, but everyone had fun.



The Court winners. Freshmen: Yik Hoi Low (Academics), Nakayla Carter (Arts), and Emerson Bahler (Athletics). Sophomores: DeAnna Perez Hall (Academics), Nyeila Parker (Arts), and Omega Jones (Athletics). Juniors: Hirai Shuda (Academics), Dyamond Northern (Arts), and Makala Starks (Athletics). Seniors: Dorian Cole (Academics), Jaidon Mears (Arts), and Aiden Elliston (Athletics).

IB Test Registration

Hirai Shuda (Junior)

As an International Baccalaureate school, some students choose to take IB tests to earn college credit. Before the pandemic, many students would take IB tests. After coming back from the virtual school year, these numbers decreased. They are finally back on the rise. 8 students are taking the full diploma, and 38 juniors and seniors are taking at least one exam this year.

