



From classroom to cages

Baseball coach Kenny White installs batting cages into the back of his history classroom

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Sports Editor

Every afternoon, the resounding ping of aluminum meeting leather rings through the lower floor of Building 4. Heavy nets, once dropped, have extra length that piles on the floor and anchors each cage.

Each baseball that is slugged or thrown smacks the netting and then bounces to the brown-floral carpeted ground.

The boys of the baseball team are practicing in newly installed batting cages, pitching and hitting in a variety of drills to prepare them for the season.

With only a swish of netting, half of coach Kenny White's world history classroom is transformed into several large cages. The baseball and golf coach set up huge hanging nets and carpeting this year to provide a way for the team to get more swings in and catch up on lost practice, all in the cool comfort of air conditioning.

"This was a way for us to 'keep up with the Joneses,'" White said.

While other schools are able to use their field year-round, the baseball team has to deal with sharing the field with other teams and recent field drainage issues. Not to mention, the physical education class at Memorial Middle School uses the field until 4:15 p.m. All of that use not only hinders the availabil-



Freshman Justin de Hoyos prepares to swing at a ball pitched by sophomore Yoan Hernandez in one of the several batting cages coach Kenny White set up in his room in Building 4. (Photo by Samantha Votzke)

ity of the baseball fields, but also damages the field itself, leaving a substantial part of the field mostly dirt. "We've worked with football, we've worked with soccer and we play more

road games than anybody else," White said.

Of course, White had to seek approval from administration before putting in the cages, but both Principal Johan von Ancken and

Athletic Director Melvin Williams expressed their support for them.

"The opportunity showed itself and I jumped on it," White said. Sophomore Sam Burnett is extremely grateful to have the batting cages. "[To Coach White] I would say thank you for supporting the team and creating something that most other coaches either don't or can't do for their teams."

Each day a majority of underclassmen can be seen practicing their batting, with the team gaining a record 13 freshmen this year. "They look good," White said. "They need work, but they have potential."

The extra practice will certainly pay off for the team this year. Burnett said "They're helpful to me and the team and I think it's cool that we are one of the only schools to have indoor cages."



Junior golfer Jessica Thornton "chips" the ball in order to make it onto the green of the last hole. "Chipping is my least favorite part," Thornton said. "I always go way over or two inches in front of me." (Photo by Aleesha Mundra)

Junior volleyball player Kiki Sutherland (center) sets the ball while fellow juniors Alex Lutton and Amanda Bachmann prepare to spike back against Spoto. (Photo by Hayley McAleese)

The members of the Dancerettes line up for the half-time performance during the Monday night football game against Armwood. (Photo by Hannah Baade)