



QUICK HITS

HALFTIME SHOWS



Cheerleaders performed during haltime. “It’s not a lot of pressure, at halftime shows because we’re not getting judged,” senior captain Mariama Hudson said.

Junior dance team member Valentina Izzi loves to dance. She and the rest of the dance team perform at the halftime shows for all home basketball games.

“We spend a lot of time together practicing, and we get to be creative,” dance team coach Krystal Spear said.

Other halftime performances include the pep band, Drumline, and the cheerleaders. The band performs during timeouts and halftimes of home games.

“My favorite song is ‘Brick House,’” freshman pep band member Emily Truss said.

“The dances are good, and I especially liked the Christmas one,” freshman Lauren Lesha, JV basketball player, said. “I like the dance team’s performances as well as the pep band’s.”

Drumline performs during home games on Friday nights.

“Drumline always play cool, fast beats and patterns,” Lesha said.

JV BASKETBALL: ERIC MAXIE

Most basketball players get injured by a teammate or an opponent, but sophomore JV player Eric Maxie was brought down by his coach. Freshman basketball coach Bryan Bennett was scrimmaging with the boys, and Maxie went up for a shot, which Bennett attempted to block. They ended up tangled, and Maxie fell to the ground hard on his leg.



COLLEEN REVELEY

“I injured my left leg (from knee down). The doctors call it an extremely severe hyperextensive sprain,” Maxie said. “I was driving to the basket with intentions to lay the ball in, and coach Bennett, trying to block my shot, ended up wrapping his arms around my neck, causing me to fall hard and my leg to bend the wrong way.”

Though Maxie does not blame Bennett for his injury, he does say that Bennett was very apologetic and helped Maxie learn from this experience.

“He showed me love and picked me up with his kind words of wisdom and knowledge with a touch of humor,” Maxie said.

Maxie does not intend to let his injury keep him down the rest of the season.

“I felt challenged. This injury has allowed me to look at myself and realize that I’m better than I have recently showed,” Maxie said. “I already have not started off to a great season, so I took this time off to perfect my craft and also my attitude and to remind myself that we’re a family on and off the court.”

SKATING COMPETITION

It’s the deciding battle.

North and South’s combined figure skating team will be performing in the third and final competition that determines state competitors on Feb. 7. Scores from this competition, hosted in Birmingham, will be combined with the previous two for an overall score. If that places them within the top three of their district, they will compete in states.

“I want to see us get first. We’ve done it before, and we have gotten even better now. We usually medal in every part of every competition (jumps, moves, spins),” senior Kamala Kanneganti, a C team member, said. “Everyone on my team has been working on their elements on their own time, even our freshmen.”

The team is split into three sub-teams. C team is tied for first while A and B teams are a few behind.

“I’m proud of the entire team, especially the seniors. They have been dedicated to the team for four years and it’ll be hard to see them go,” coach Shelly Rosinski said.

By Anu Subramaniam, Colleen Reveley & Natalie Skorupski

Seniors take baseball talent to collegiate level

Seniors David Kracht and Evan Hayden signed with Kalamazoo College Tuesday, Jan. 29 to play baseball. North Pointe caught up with the future Hornets to discuss the path that led to their collegiate dreams.

By Kim Cusmano & Andrea Scapini
EDITOR & ASSISTANT EDITOR

David Kracht

North Pointe: How long have you been playing baseball?

David Kracht: Oh gosh, for 15 years.

NP: What made you start?

Kracht: My dad actually got me into it because he has been playing baseball his entire life, too.

NP: Did he help you?

Kracht: Yeah. He didn’t play in college. He was short. He wasn’t like big, so no one really looked at him. He’s been my coach my entire life. He has been my actual (coach) for pretty every single team I’ve been on besides last year.

NP: What position do you play?

Kracht: Middle infield: short-stop.

NP: Has it always been your dream to play in college?

Kracht: Yeah. Probably when I was in eighth grade. This is really what I want to do.

NP: What is the hardest skill to conquer?

Kracht: Learning how to hit. Like the little things with it. Not actually hitting the ball, but seeing the pitch and trying to make good contact.

NP: Is there anything unknown about baseball?

Kracht: I don’t know. It’s kinda all out there. What you see is what you get. I think it’s a lot more difficult that people think it is, for sure. I just tell them try it yourself, see how it goes.

NP: Who have been your biggest influences?

Kracht: Probably my dad. My favorite player? I guess Miguel Cabrera would be a good one. The way he hits.

NP: Do you play any other sports?

Kracht: Yeah, soccer and basketball. It’s not as conditioning oriented, I guess, but it’s more skill.

NP: Do you plan to play after college?

Kracht: I would like to, for sure. Yeah, see if I get any opportunities, I guess.

NP: What made you choose Kalamazoo?

Kracht: Well for one, they have new facilities and stuff. The coach is really involved. They got a new coach there. He is trying to change the culture. He’s very open. He likes to communicate a lot.

NP: What was the recruitment process like?

Kracht: It was tough. You kind of have to get your name out there to a bunch of coaches first as opposed to waiting for them to come see you. But once they see you, it happens pretty quick. I actually signed up for a recruiting website thing that basically takes your email and sends it to thousands of coaches, and you basically just see who responds back.

NP: What do you want to study at Kalamazoo?

Kracht: Well I want to get into medicine, any kind of science.



KRISTEN KALED

Evan Hayden

North Pointe: How long have you been playing baseball?

Evan Hayden: Since I was five. My mom and dad just put me into baseball, and I just never stopped.

NP: Has it always been your dream to play in college?

Hayden: Yes, it has. Probably around the end of little league, beginning of travel baseball.

NP: What is the hardest skill to conquer?

Hayden: Hitting, definitely. Being able to read off-speed pitches and not just completely swing and miss. You’ve got to be able to adapt.

NP: Do you have to deal with people hating on it?

Hayden: Everyone loves to hate on baseball over everything, but then if they try to play it, you just can’t pick up baseball as easily as other

sports. You can get along by not having much skill in playing other sports, but you can’t really do that with baseball.

NP: Who have been your biggest influences?

Hayden: My coaches and then really just all of the other kids playing with me because you always want to do better than them. So you kind of have to influence yourself to be better than them.

NP: What made you choose Kalamazoo?

Hayden: Definitely the school aspect of it. And the coach, he’s a pusher, so he really got me into it.

NP: What do you like best about him?

Hayden: He’s very precise, and he has everything organized. His practice plans are by the minute. There’s three-minute exercises he has you do, and then at the exact time, you have to change. He’s very on point.

NP: What was the recruitment process like?

Hayden: The schools would send out scouts to look at talent, and then if they liked you, they’d come back and look at you a couple more times, and then they would contact your coaches, and then they would contact you. And then once you get contacted, then you could either go to a camp, or they’d just continue to come watch you. Then they’d talk about getting you on the team. If they want you, then you talk about the scholarships and the school yourself.

NP: What do you want to study at Kalamazoo?

Hayden: I was thinking about going into business or computer or engineering. One of those three.

NP: Do you think playing a sport in college will help you adjust?

Hayden: It’s going to be really hard, and it’s going to be time consuming, but it’s going to keep me out of trouble, keep me in line, and it will hopefully make me a better person.

Through roller derby, minimal violence and a future found

By Dayle Maas
EDITOR

She’s known on the rink as B.B. Gunz.

She sports silver metallic leggings, baby-blue Riedell skates and a green jersey.

She is a derby girl.

Junior Uribi Beaumont began roller derby in November of her sophomore year. Her interest was sparked at a young age, and hearing about the Detroit Derby Girls made her want to join even more.

Roller derby, typically a girls sport, features two teams skating around an indoor rink. The object is to make it around the rink more times than the opposing team. As it is a contact sport, pushing and bumping other players is allowed, though referees discern what is safe and not. Beaumont explains the exaggeratedly violent and wild images others imagine in roller derby, and those portrayed in the 2009 film *Whip It*.

“It’s a lot more overdramatic when it comes to girls getting hit and punched in the face; that doesn’t happen. Like, you can’t just turn around and sock someone in the face,” Beaumont said. “It’s all gotta be really strategized. It’s more about strategy than it is about strength is the way to say it.”

Though she says it isn’t as aggressive as some think it is, she was drawn to that aspect of it.

“The reason I wanted to do it was so that I could get hurt. Yeah, it sounds really weird, but I played soccer my whole life, and that was okay, but I never got contact or stuff like that,” Beaumont said. “I’m beating people up without actually having to beat them up.”

Although Beaumont plays what seems to be a violent sport, she hasn’t suffered any serious injuries, though currently she has a bruise on her hip.

“I received my first derby bruise yesterday which is the one that I have on my leg, but nothing like a break or anything like that. Not yet. I’m waiting,” she said.

Beaumont is currently training to be

a part of a travel derby team. She has to learn how to skate, check and fall properly.

“It’s actually a lot less dangerous than people think because you do have a lot of padding on ... but you’re not allowed to elbow people; that’s chicken winging. You’re allowed to check them with your whole body though,” Beaumont said. “It’s dangerous because you have to put your whole force into people but there’s not punching in the face. A lot of people think that it’s kicking and punching and beating each other up, and that’s not really what happens.”

Beaumont’s coach, Jeff Good, sees her potential on the Darlings of Destruction travel team.

“Anything a hockey player or football player would do to get into shape, we do this with our skaters. We just do them on quad skates,” Good said. “Derby is a very physically challenging and demanding sport. We train to be fit as well as to be strong enough to withstand skating at 25 mph into other skaters, and possibly being knocked down onto the floor at that kind of speed.”

Even after Beaumont reaches 18 and can no longer play through Darlings of Destruction, she hopes to always make derby a part of her life.

“I want to go to Wayne State, and so I’ll



KAYLEE DALL

be around Detroit ... so I wanna do Detroit Derby Girls after I turn 18,” Beaumont said. “A lot of the coaches that I have now are middle-aged, and they actually get on the rink and they skate and they buy skates and they do the same things we do. But they’re just coaching us and helping us and learning with us so that’s pretty cool. I’d do that. That’d be awesome.”