

Keeping the family safe

How administrators got an exception, saved Lab Schools security staffs' jobs

By Nick Chaskin and Matt Luchins
Editors-in-Chief

Bridging the separations of summer break, Lab Schools community members came together to save three valued security officers.

To cut costs, the University Police Department, led by new Police Chief Marlon Lynch, decided to out-source part of its force. In mid-July, 50 Public Safety Coordinators – unarmed University employees who provided security for U. of C. buildings – were informed they would lose their jobs. Among them were longtime Lab Schools security guards Mike Cephus, Jessie Ward and Cynthia Boykin.

Replacing them would be employees of the private firm Allied Barton Security Services.

AS WITH other laid-off employees, Mr. Cephus, Ms. Boykin and Mr. Ward were given the opportunity to stay at the Lab Schools, but as employees of Allied Barton. All three refused because of lower pay.

Summer notwithstanding, the news spread quickly, as more than 600 people joined "UHigh loves Mike," a group on Facebook started by Senior Loren Kole.

"I heard about it one day from Simone Baggetto's mom (Nurse Martha Baggetto) when I was at her house and I was shocked," Loren explained. "Mike, Cynthia and Jesse are always there. They're a friendly face. Even if you're having a really bad day you can count on a smile or a hi-five from Mike, lots of people feel that way."

"I **EXPECTED** maybe 50 people to join the group, but I was getting emails from alumni and even parents thanking me and asking what they could do to help."

Administrators also recognized the guards' importance to the community and worked to keep them, according to Lab Schools Director David Magill.

"We don't view Mike, Cynthia and Jessie as just security," said Mr. Magill, who worked with Director of Business Affairs Chris Jones and Director of Facilities and Security Tony Wilson. "They are the first people



Photo by Loren Kole

BEHIND HIS desk overlooking the High School lobby, Mr. Mike Cephus, left, with Mr. Jessie Ward, who watches the Blaine Lobby, has greeted Lab Schools students of all ages for over a decade. Ms. Cynthia Boykin, the Lab Schools' third security guard, works from the lobby of Judd Hall.

you see when you walk into school and that first impression is very important. We want those who provide security to also have a relationship with us.

"**CHRIS JONES** and I requested a meeting with Marlon Lynch to make sure we had every chance to keep Mike, Cynthia and Jessie at Lab. Along with Tony Wilson, we sat down with Chief Lynch and several representatives from Allied Barton and explained that these people were different from the other security guards around the University.

"Chief Lynch was very receptive. It was his idea to keep just our three guards as University employees. If any one of them leaves the school for whatever reason, Allied Barton will replace them, but we can interview

and have input in who fills that post."

The final resolution allowed the University Police Department to address the issue that caused the layoffs in the first place, according to Chief Lynch.

"**IF ANY** security officer took leave time, a University Police Department officer was required to replace them in that post," Chief Lynch said. "That's one reason why we decided to make the change to Allied Barton."

"The decision to keep the Lab Schools guards came because their role seemed to be different due to the K-12 environment. But now when one of them takes leave, we'll use Allied Barton to replace them. When attrition occurs, either through resignation or retirement, Allied Barton personnel will take the posts."

New teacher, new administrator debut as familiar faces return

By Rachel Sylora
Associate editor

Only new teacher as school opens, Chinese Teacher Ching-Yun Chang is planning on emphasizing high energy class activities.

A native of Taiwan, Ms. Chang moved to the U.S. three years ago to complete a Masters de-

gree at University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

A new Lab Schools administrator has also come and two faculty members have returned in new positions.

At U-High Ms. Chang, the World Language Department's third Chinese teacher, will teach Chinese 3 in addition Lower and Middle School classes.

"I had heard a lot about the U-High World Languages department before I came here from my coworkers at U. of I.," Ms. Chang said. "I believe I can bring my students enthusiasm to Chinese."

After serving as a substitute for Biology Teacher Sharon Housinger last year, Science Teacher Daniel Calleri will teach Biology this year as full time faculty. Last year he received an honorary diploma at Commencement from the Class of 2009.

After retiring two years ago, English Teacher Hal Hoffenkamp by popular demand last year hosted a seminar on "Anna Karenina." Mr. Hoffenkamp will return to teach English Winter Quarter.

In charge of educational and diversity programs, Associate Director (Educational Program) Jason Lopez has 20 years experience as an educational administrator. He came from Downingtown, Pennsylvania, with his wife Penelope and two kids Sine and Sebastian, a new junior here. Mr. Lopez will be profiled in-depth in an upcoming Midway.

Other new administrators include Alumni Development Director Alice Dubose and Mr. Colin Warren, replacing Allison Weiss as the Technology Integration Specialist of the World Language Department.



Photo by Kyra Sturgill

PRESIDENTS Jack Brewer, Student Council, and Julia Baird, Cultural Union, met this summer to discuss plans for the upcoming year.

Council president hopes to strengthen student voice

By Nick Phalen
Student government editor

Giving students more of a voice in the possible change to a five-day schedule with varying period lengths each day of the week but would eliminate Thursday double lunch, Student Council President Jack Brewer, senior, plans to hold forums so students can voice their concerns to the faculty.

The faculty, after years of discussion, the faculty last spring voted the new schedule be considered.

"I think that the students really haven't been heard on the scheduling change," said Jack. "I plan to speak with Lab Schools Director David Magill and make sure that we can set up a time where students can voice their opinions and ask questions of the faculty."

Cultural Union will add more whimsical activities, according to President Julia Baird, senior.

"I think that this year we could make Spirit Week more exciting by having a lot of new activities," Julia explained. "One of the ideas we had is instead of the traditional pie-eating contest where you can't use your hands, we've considered adding something where people actually put food into your mouth that you have to eat."



Photo by Kyra Sturgill

AT A NEW FACULTY LUNCHEON August 25, Chinese Teacher Ching-Yun Chang met Lab Schools new associate director for educational program, Mr. Jason Lopez. During the faculty's Planning Week Mr. Lopez led several major programs.

2 Opinion

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT

More than a school, U-High shows it's a united family

Most people think school should be the last thing on students' minds during the summer. It is surprising, therefore, how many students responded to the threat of losing three of Lab Schools' security guards this summer.

Amid the current economic recession, recently-appointed University Police Chief Marlon Lynch decided to replace 50 security guards with employees of a private security firm.

THE NEWS that Lab Schools security guards Mike Cephus, Jessie Ward and Cynthia Boykin wouldn't be welcoming students back to school flew through the grapevine during July.

Parents, teachers and students went to work. Parents and teachers took more traditional steps – writing letters and speaking directly to administrators – while a student-formed Facebook group, "UHigh Loves Mike!," swelled to more than 600 members, dwarfing the U-High student population of 496.

For more than a decade, Mike – as he's known to students – has provided more than security. From his perch overlooking the David Scheunemann Lobby, he has formed strong relationships with U-Highers.

"NO MORE high fives," a dejected student wrote in the Facebook group's forum, voicing the student body's

sentiments.

Administrators, including Director David Magill and Director of Business Affairs Christopher Jones, recognized the importance of Mr. Cephus, Mr. Ward and Ms. Boykin in the community as role models and resources to students. They became committed to keeping them.

Mr. Lynch and his associates considered several options including having Mr. Cephus, Mr. Ward and Ms. Boykin join the new security company, but stay at the school. When all three were unwilling to accept the cut in benefits and pay that would come with that plan, Mr. Magill and Mr. Jones arranged a meeting with Mr. Lynch.

AFTER MR. MAGILL and Mr. Jones explained the unique roles the guards play in the school community, Mr. Lynch suggested an exception be made. The three now remain the only security guards employed by the University Police.

Not everyone gets along at U-High. Like any high school, students disagree and don't always have each other's back. But here, the atmosphere was different. Everyone rallied behind these members of the community. Working together, students and administrators effected real change in the school.

Let's keep it up.

Put your voice in the Midway

We know you're disappointed. You can't believe it's the end of summer, and classes are back in session. But don't worry, we have a first-day Midway issue to ease you into the start of school.

Journalism and photojournalism students publish the Midway, reporting and photographing issues, people, and events important to U-High and the community. We hope to provide an accurate picture of U-High and maintain a credible, quality news source for our readers.

This year's paper looks to maintain the same informative, clean and easy-to-read paper you've come to enjoy, but with further emphasis on informative columns, opinion and investigative pieces.

The Midway prides itself and is consistently praised in competition for its individuality and range of coverage. We welcome readers to submit any story ideas, guest columns, or letters to Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler's mailbox in U-High

106 for consideration. Potential topics can range from commenting on a Midway article to addressing a community concern. Contributions are not limited to the student body. Faculty, parents, and administrators are welcome to submit material as well.

Although administrators have a legal right to view the paper before publication, they haven't in 45 years. The two faculty advisers, Mr. Wayne Brasler and Ms. Liese Ricketts, are the only adults who see the Midway's contents before it is sent to the print, to ensure the paper abides by legal restrictions.

We are obligated not to publish libel, obscenity, or any content that can reasonably be construed as disruptive to the orderly running of the school.

We look forward to giving you continuing, in-depth coverage of the U-High community, and hope the Midway offers you the reader an enjoyable experience in all of our content.

OPINION ANDREW SYLORA

There's more to life at U-High than the workload; there's a payoff

SO THE work begins.

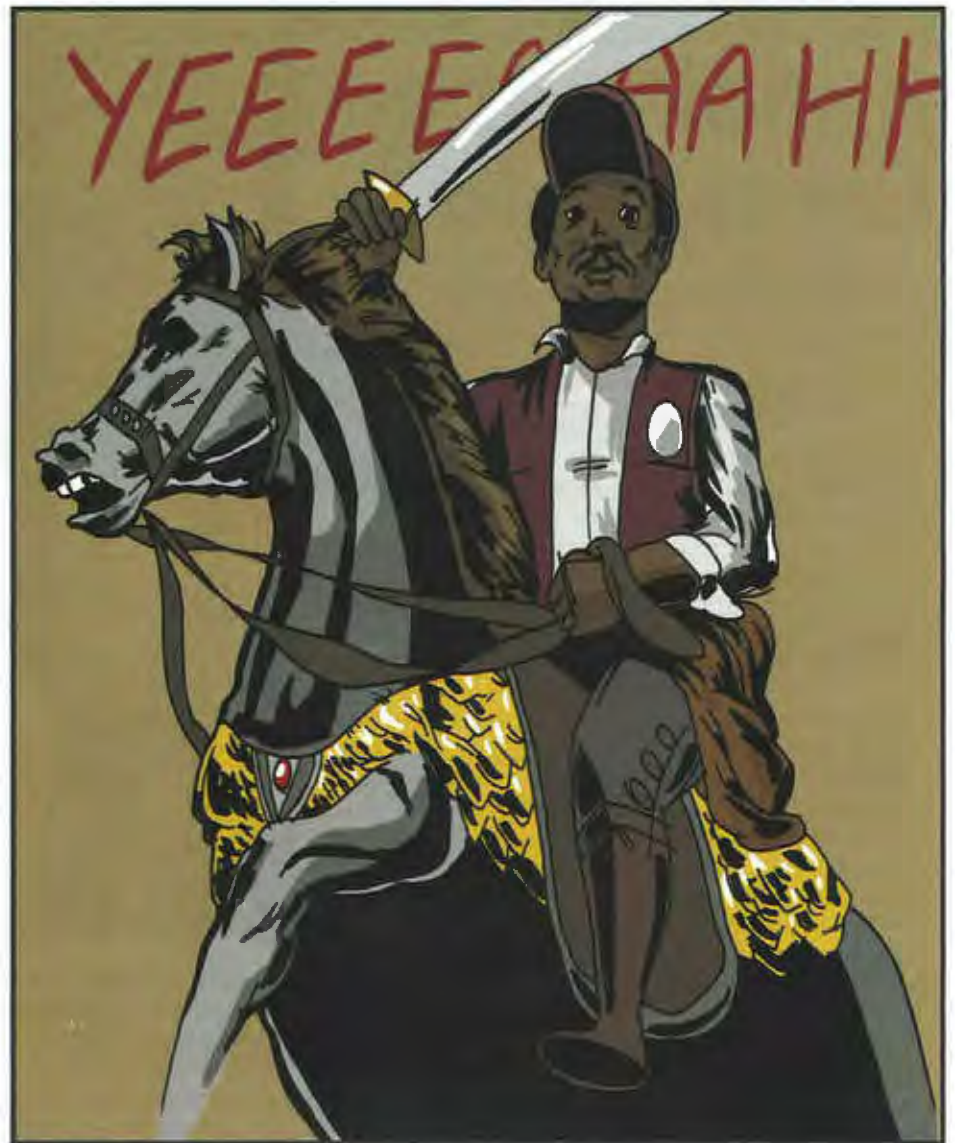
Let's go back to this morning, when I stepped through the doors of Judd Hall, took the well-worn passage through the cafeteria into the hallowed halls of U-High, and prepared myself for the inevitable barrage of homework and accompanying groans that signaled the end of summer.

Going on four years as a U-Higher, the pains and sacrifices that go along with class workloads now seem second nature to me. In a school whose mission

statement includes "rigorous and well-rounded education," a heavy homework load is simply accepted as a universal truth. Some of my friends get their homework done in one sitting and spend the rest of the night watching movies or talking with friends.

But many others opt to procrastinate, much like myself, doing the minimal amount of work until the day or period before. And then there are others who simply don't do assignments at all, though they are few and far between.

There are moments the workload becomes overwhelming. The times when I sit back in my chair and wonder if analyzing the meaning of a fictional character or solving calculus problems



Art by Gene Cochrane

SAY WHAT?

Compiled by Sydney Scarlata

What are you most looking forward to as you begin your life at U-High?
(Asked of new students.)



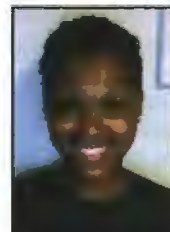
Jamie

JAMIE HEILBRUNN, junior from Fairview High School, Boulder, Colorado: I'm excited about being in Chicago and going to school at such a small high school. I like the fact that there are closer student teacher relationships, and that the atmosphere is much smaller.



Tina

TINA UMANSKIY, junior from Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois: I'm a fencer, so I'm really excited to join the team at U-High. At Stevenson I was really interested in student government so I'm looking forward to seeing how student government works at U-High.



Brianna

BRIANNA SOLOLA, sophomore from Munster (Indiana) High School: I'm ready for a new experience in general. Because I was at such a big school, I'm looking forward to being at a small school and also being in Chicago.



William

WILLIAM CHUNG, freshman from Whitney Young: I'm really looking forward to being on the swim team with my brother David, and hopefully making varsity and competing against St. Ignatius, and hopefully beating them.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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"In the second tour I got of the White House, I literally bumped into President Obama. I thought Secret Service was going to shoot me. I was speechless."

—Senior Andy Harris, who interned in Washington D.C.



Traveling to exotic locales U-Highers return with tales

By Adrian Aldana

Associate editor

Cruising down a bumpy road on the last of five 85-degree afternoons in Mashatu Game Reserve, a safari park in Botswana, Junior Tyler and Freshman Laura Anderson rode with their parents in an open top jeep driven by a park ranger. The ranger slowed for the family to photograph impalas, African antelopes.



Tyler

Tyler and Laura were among several U-Highers who traveled the globe this summer.

The Anderson family became inspired to visit Africa from a conversation with other travelers while vacationing in Idaho. Beginning their trip in South Africa, the family traveled to Zambia and Botswana.

"We would go off for an entire day and see animals and take pictures," Tyler said. "We would get in the car from 6:45 to 10:30. From 3:30 to 7:30, we would be on safari."

"We did lots of camping in the bush and talked to the safari men. We would keep watch for animals. Our guide could name every animal we saw. He knew where to go to see certain animals."

Traveling to Taiwan, Junior Jonathan Jou, with his parents and Middle School brother Jeffrey, visited family for five weeks.

"In my first week, my mom and I went to a guitar store to get me into guitar lessons," Jonathan said.



Jonathan

"I got assigned an aboriginal Taiwanese, those who immigrated with Chang Kai Shek to Taiwan, as a teacher. Two weeks later, a hurricane swept over his mountain village. He had to go back home, so I really had only one guitar lesson."

"After the hurricane, we did volunteer work. We were shoveling mud from the mudslides. It felt good helping people."

Among countries U-Highers visited:

Argentina: Rosie Cuneo-Grant, Marissa Guiang, Cathy Ludwig, Page Redding; **Australia:** Aclap Herur-Raman; **Brazil:** Marissa Guiang; **Canada:** Alex Chang; **China:** Sherry Fu, Aclap Herur-Raman; **France:** Alex Chang, Jackie Robertson, Sydney Scanlata; **Greece:** Rose Traubert; **Hong Kong:** Spencer Lee, Aclap Herur-Raman; **India:** Aclap Herur-Raman, Maivika Jolly; **Ireland:** Aoife MacMahon; **Israel:** Joe Philipson; **Italy:** Delia Privitera; **Japan:** Spencer Lee; **Mexico:** Sebastian Lopez; **Spain:** Delia Privitera, Jackie Robertson; **Taiwan:** Sherry Fu; **Uruguay:** Rosie Cuneo-Grant, Cathy Ludwig, Page Redding.



Photo by Kyra Sturgill

MIDWAY STAFF REVIVES FIRST-DAY ISSUE

RESTORING the First-Day Midway, the three new editors-in-chief, from left, Matt Luchins, Nick Chaskin and Andrew Sylora returned to school early to work on the issue with staff members. The Midway will also publish a four-page issue September 29, previewing Homecoming, and then its first full-sized issue October 27.

Brief-ly

Yearbook photo taking first week in October

■ **REASON TO SMILE**—Student photos for the 2010 U-Highlights are scheduled for the beginning of next month. Seniors will be photographed in the courtyard Monday, October 5; Tuesday, October 6; Thursday, October 8; and Friday, October 9, announce Editors-in-Chief Simone Baggetto and Isabella Prenta. Juniors, sophomores and freshmen will be photographed Wednesday, October 7 in the Journalism Office, Judd 14. Schedules will be posted next week on class boards. Seniors will receive order forms through the mail; underclassmen will receive them in their mailboxes or advisories. Students or parents with questions can contact Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler at 773-702-0591.

■ **TOP RATING**—All American, the highest rating given by the National Scholastic Press Association for overall excellence, has been received for last year's Midway. "I think it's the 44th consecutive year the Midway has made All American," said Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler, who advises the paper with Photojournalism Teacher Liese Ricketts. "It also got All American in 1938 and 1939 when Cecil Denton was the adviser. That's one of the longest records in the country."

The Midway is spotlighted in the current issue of the Dow-Jones Newspaper Fund newspaper for its tradition of first-day issues, which began in 1965-66.

■ **FIRST-DAY CHANGES**—With new student-designed workshops and a return to 20-minute class meetings, U-Highers participated in activities ranging from a life size clue game to a discussion of lies based on the summer reading novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Mark Haddon. In an assembly earlier in the day, U. of C. Computational Institute Director Ian Foster, Lab Schools parent, spoke on the theme of computational thinking.

Computer Science Teacher Baker Franke helped coordinate the student First-Day committee.

"Students got to decide what type of discussion group they wanted to be in," Mr. Franke said. "There were some groups with direct discussions of the book and others with activities related to it. The First-Day Committee and I took the concept from Artsfest. We wanted more interesting, fun and especially active group activities to get kids more involved."

Last year on the first day, some classes met for the full 45-minute class period while others did not meet at all.

"Students were very vocal about wanting to see all of their teachers on the first day," Mr. Franke explained. "It's important for things like having the right books and getting the homework for the next day."

■ **RENAISSANCE REAPPEARS**—Both the 2008 and 2009 issues of Renaissance, the school's literary and arts magazine, will be distributed later this month according to Alex Fryer, art board editor-in-chief with Keira Kennedy and Nicole Massad. All are seniors.

"We haven't decided yet about how to hand out the magazines to current students," Alex said. "We're mailing the magazines to the graduated seniors from the last two years. We've addressed all of the envelopes so we just need to pack them and send them off."

"We got both issues done by the end of the last school year but they weren't printed early enough to hand out. Assuming we get enough freshmen, we shouldn't have a problem getting an issue out this year."

—Compiled by Bill Stueben

Thirty-two newcomers debut today

By Rafi Khan

Associate editor

Exactly 133 applied. Exactly 20 were chosen.

These are the odds freshmen new to the Lab Schools overcame to join the 498 member student body. They are among 32 newcomers, some from as far away as Italy, California and Massachusetts.

"Even with such tight competition, we have several late withdrawals," Executive Director of Admission and Financial Aid William Newman said.

"Enrollment numbers will probably continue to change weeks into the school year. We also had to admit significantly more boys in the 9th grade class to balance out the overwhelming girl

majority."

Enrollment by grade is as follows: Seniors, 117; juniors, 121; sophomores, 126; freshman, 134.

New students are as follows:

SENIORS—None.

JUNIORS—Yi Chang, Wolfgang Poulkes, Robert Heilbrunn, Aukuso Iafeta, Sebastian Lopez, Daniel Martinez, Tina Umansky, Stephanie Xiao, Michael Hussey and Martin Nesbitt are returning after leaving the Lab Schools in 8th grade.

SOPHOMORES—Brianna Solola, Louis Van Craen.

FRESHMAN—Nadja Barlera, Lauren Blacker, Ramona Chatman-Morris, Woojin Chung, Moira Differding, Runshi Gu, Lane Gunderman, Curtis Henderson, Grace L.E. Kocher, Aysia Lewis, Kaiwen Luan, Sean Magill, Bernard McDevitt, Emma Polson, Aleeze Qadir, Samuel Sentongo, Jonah Silverstein, Lucia Tenorio, Dominic Wordlaw. David Tong is also returning to the Lab Schools.

1st period: A.P. U.S. History.

2nd period: Literature, Rhetoric and Morality.

3rd period: a **U.M.** Sandwich.



Photo by Kyra Sturgill

CHECKING OUT her options, Senior Lida Wu settles on a U.M. Sub, a masterpiece she designed with three kinds of meat and two varieties of cheese. Other specials include the Cajun Wrap, the Italian and Fresh Mozzarella.

With the U.M. Deli now serving their **hand-made** subs on **house-made** loaves starting at **10 a.m.**, U-Highers can indulge their mid-morning cravings just down the block.

And if a sandwich isn't your thing, you can still grab anything from **drinks** to **peanut butter** anytime from **8 a.m.** to **10:30 p.m.**

Things just keep getting better at the

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4 Sports

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009



"The Northridge match is pretty big for us because it's our first real test as a team. The team's we've played so far have, besides Parker, been out of conference and haven't really been close."
—Evan Levin, senior

Tennis battles ISL champs

Seeking to avenge a 4-1 loss last year, varsity tennis girls face Conference rival Latin 4:30 p.m. today at home in the season's third match.

Last season, the Romans became one of three Independent School League teams which beat U-High. On top of that, the Romans also clinched the ISL Conference title, U-High finished 4th.

All this year's Maroons played last year except for Freshman Laura Anderson. Seniors Gabbie Clark and Margot Turek captain the varsity lineup of seniors Caitlin Finn and Liz Abello, juniors Rachel Sylora and Maggie Carton and sophomore Leslie Sibener.

With two doubles players lost to graduation, the team will need to readjust according to Coach Gerold Hanck.

"It usually takes a few matches for the doubles pairs to get used to playing together," Coach Hanck said. "None of the doubles pairs will be the same as last year because the seniors we lost were on different doubles teams. We'll need to win some of the doubles matches if we want to beat Latin because they are a really deep team. Our new second singles player, Laura, has a lot of tournament experience so I think she can really help us win some matches at that position."

With nine returnees and eight newcomers, j.v. also plays 4:30 today. "Against Latin, we have to be consistent and aggressive because they are a difficult team to beat," Coach Julijana Lazarevich explained. "In general we have been working on a lot of doubles drills, focusing on placing the ball effectively and communicating well."

U-High split their first two matches, September 1 and 2, both at home, defeating Marist 3-2 with j.v. winning 4-1, and losing to Whitney Young 2-3 with j.v. winning 5-0.



Photo by Kyra Sturgill

SWITCHING THE FIELD, Senior Oliver Effenbaum, shadowed by a Lincoln Park player, led the Maroons to a 4-0 victory in their first game of the Windy City Classic.

Soccer begins conference quest

Soccermen start their Independent School League title defense 4:30 p.m. today against Northridge Prep in the Maroons' first game at Jackman Field.

After a 1-2 defeat to Mount Carmel at Stag Field in the Windy City Rams Classic tournament August 27, Coach Mike Moses says an ISL repeat has become the team's main goal. Coach Moses mentors the squad with Assistant Coach Carlos Acosta.

"Our first goal was to win the Windy City Classic," Coach Moses said. "Now that we've lost in the second round, we will focus on the second goal of winning the ISL. Our third goal is to advance farther than Sectionals in the State Tournament."

"Like I always say if we have talent — and we do have it this year — and we play to the level we're capable of, we should win."

With only a few freshmen playing soccer, the j.v. squad, traditionally composed of mostly freshmen and sophomores, needed several juniors in order to field a team.

"We have some older players with experience playing soccer, so we expect to win the ISL," J.V. Coach Tom Piane said. "Unfortunately, we had low turnout at preseason so we couldn't work on fundamentals during the first weeks of practice."

Other scores are as follows:

Eisenhower, August 29, away: Varsity won 3-2; Timothy Christian, September 1, away: j.v. won 1-0. St. Ignatius, September 3, away: Varsity won 4-0.

Volleyball takes on Raiders

Working an hour in the weight room each practice to avoid injury, volleyballing girls will face off against the North Shore Country Day Raiders at 6 p.m., today in Upper Kovler in their third match.

Losing four seniors to graduation, Coach Lisa Miller believes the extra hour of weight training will compensate for the less-experienced group.

"The first week and a half of practices were spent conditioning, which we will continue to do throughout the season," Coach Miller said. "The team will be strengthening their core muscles through weight training, and I feel that this will help us avoid injuries and thus be more competitive against Latin and Morgan Park Academy, our biggest ISL competitors."

In their first two games, August 26 and 27, the girls defeated St. Francis and St. Benedict, both at home, 25-11, 25-22 and 25-10, 23-25, 25-13, respectively.

Consistency In Quality

Amidst our current economic troubles, many services we depend on have sacrificed quality for cost. But the Medici remains a dependable staple for U-Highers. You can still rely on your burger being juicy, your salads crisp and your pizza warm and cheesy. Everything as good as ever.



AS JUNIOR Isaac Nicholas has maintained his bandana since 7th grade, the Medici has maintained its quality of food and service since 1955.



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Saturday 9 a.m.-Midnight □ Sunday 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Golf seeks to keep streak alive

Boasting a solid starting lineup of six returning players, the golf team looks to extend their currently undefeated record against Northridge College Prep, 4:30 p.m., today at home.

Standing 5-0 as of last Wednesday, the Maroons finished last season with an 8-7 record, having lost only one player to graduation. The squad views their experience as a big advantage, according to Senior Evan Levin, captain.

"This year we're really focusing on making Sectionals," Evan said. "Other than that, we are trying to place top three overall in the Independent School League and end the season with a winning record."

First-year Varsity Coach Micah Christensen is working with players to improve on last year's performance and establish strong team spirit.

"Ideally as a coach, I would like to see both the team and players individually improve," Coach Christensen said. "I've already seen great improvements this year, and I think it's because we're really having fun out on the courses."

Scores as of last Wednesday:

Nazareth Academy Invitational, August 19, away: Varsity placed 4 of 6; Westmont, August 20, home: Varsity won 181-187, j.v. lost 170-152; Parker, August 21, away: Varsity won 152-160; Walter Payton, August 25, home: Varsity won 179-226; Lincoln Park, August 25 home; j.v. lost 168-166; Illiana Christian, August 27, home; match cancelled; St. Benedict, September 1, away: Varsity 172-318, j.v. won 165-0.

Swim adds practices for power

Improving their technique using snorkels and underwater cameras, girl swimmers have been preparing for their second meet 4:30 p.m., tomorrow at Morton High School.

Along with new equipment, Coach Mike Cunningham has added Saturday practices.

"Saturday practices won't be just straight swimming, but rather, different activities like Pilates and bike rides along the Lakefront," Coach Mike said. "We want to continue to improve strokes, and get best times at meets and I believe Saturday practices will bring us that much closer to achieving these goals."

Finishing 7th of 30 in the 50 free at the Bremen Pentathlon August 31, Senior Kaia Tammen, cocaptain with Seniors Page Redding, Bettina Wiesenthal, Audrey Alexander, Simone Baggetto, Isabella Prenta and Varsha Raghavan, was satisfied with finishing 3rd of 5 teams.

"It was a great starting point for us, because we have a base time to work off of for the rest of the season," Kaia said. "I was really happy with the team spirit as well. All the girls made signs for the swimmers and were really enthusiastic in the stands."

Runners join Kenwood Invite

Competing in the Kenwood Invitational for the first time, cross country opens 4 p.m., Thursday at Promontory Point Park.

The Maroons will soon participate in the Gordon Tech Invitational, Saturday, September 12; two homes meets in Washington Park, Tuesday, September 15 and 22.

With 12 returnees and 13 newcomers, Coach Bud James believes the team is showing strength.

"Preseason went very well," Coach James said. "I was making sure people were healthy, breaking them in to run races. We have good people from last year from two State qualifying teams. Three of the top five girls are back and three of the top seven guys are back. We have Sarah Curci. She has lots of potential. So do Danny Traub, Alex Chang, and Aoife MacMahon. Robert Meyer definitely got better during the year. Ben Buchheim-Jurrison and Thomas Aquino are up there, too."

Stories on this page were reported by Rachel Sylora, tennis; Andrew Sylora, golf; Matt Luchins, soccer; Sydney Scariata, swim and volleyball; and Adrian Aldana, cross country.