

## Taking Care of Business ...and working Overtime

By Chris Rockwell

The start of school each fall means reuniting with classmates and teachers, the perfunctory homeworks, tests, and quizzes, and, of course, the return of the Gilman Football program. Though Coach Poggi maintains that the football season never ends, the simultaneous commencement of the official season with school gives the team an opportunity to set the tone for the entire school year. The varsity Football team has clearly done so, and the team is set to take on McDonogh on Saturday, November 12 and uphold its undefeated season. Besides being the culmination of a great season and the chance to play archrival McDonogh, Saturday's game will decide the MIAA "A" conference champion.

The season began on an incredibly high note with a 22-19 defeat of rival powerhouse DeMatha, and then soared even higher with a 22-19 overtime victory over St. Joseph's Prep in Philadelphia. These victories, especially that over #12-ranked St. Joseph's Prep, catapulted Gilman to national prominence. Senior wide receiver Steven Thomas said of these games, "Obviously we knew we could win, but we definitely overestimated our opponents and underestimated ourselves." Instantly the bar was raised. Now this group is being compared to the 2002 Gilman team that, featuring Ambrose Wooden and Victor Abiamiri, finished the season ranked #14 in the nation.

The dream season nearly came to a shocking crash on September 24 against Georgetown Prep. Coming off two huge wins and facing a homecoming crowd, as well as a

team making its MIAA A Conference debut, "[Gilman] just came out flat," says senior quarterback Marco Simmons. "It was as if they weren't going to be much of a contest. Obviously we found out differently". The senior captain himself had to save the game in overtime, diving for the pylon on a ten-yard touchdown run. It appears as if the Greyhounds have made the best of the close call, as their next three games resulted in blowout conference victories over Mount St. Joe, Curley, and Calvert Hall.



Kevin Niparko '08 (left), Billy Mathews '06 (center) and Jason Palaigos '07 (right) wait to return the serve (photo by Ryan Fackler)

The Greyhounds are currently ranked #1 in the Baltimore metro area, #1 in Maryland, #2 in the East, and #21 in the country. Says Simmons, "Staying grounded is our biggest obstacle. We have to try not to get full of ourselves,

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## Volleyball loses in Finals But Varsity and JV Volleyball flex their muscle in the MIAA "A" conference

By Ned Worthington

Surprisingly enough, the late August squeaks heard from the Old Gym as the new school year approached were not those of cleaning crews or children enjoying the last days of fleeting summer. Instead, the sounds were those of spiking, hitting, jumping and grunting, the early signs of hard work that would propel one of Gilman's most successful fall athletic programs to yet another great season.

Two months later, it is clear that the demanding preseason training has paid off, as both the varsity

and junior varsity teams made a go at MIAA A conference championships. Under the leadership of head coaches Mr. Neil Gabbey (V) and Mr. Ian Brooks (JV), the volleyball program has shined this season, with varsity maintaining a 14-1 record and JV a 9-1 record in only the sixth year of the program's existence. The extensive knowledge of each of the coaches has certainly helped to propel the team to its celebrated triumphs this year over rivals such as Calvert Hall, Mount St. Joseph, and the perennially strong Loyola Dons; however, the dedication of the players has also been a major factor in the drive and effort of the team in pursuing its lofty goals.

Specifically, senior leaders such as Billy Mathews, Brendan Gunning, and David Marshall have propelled the team to astonishing new heights. Billy and Brendan followed the program all the way from its Middle School intramural roots, and Dave joined the program just last year. For obvious reasons, Gilman's record this year against area teams has been quite impressive, but perhaps most impressive of all

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## Player Profile: John Pagliaro



photo by George Sourlis

### —VITALS—

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 200

Experience: 2nd year on Varsity

Position: RB/LB/FB

He Said It:

"I just want to win the MIAA championship"

"Even though I experienced it last year, I didn't have as big of a role as I do now"

## Why the all-purpose junior is essential to the team's success

By Matt Chriss

### VARSIITY Football

"I want you to watch Pags," diehard Gilman football fan Stephen Salsbury cries out on the opening kickoff of Gilman's first game of the season against national powerhouse DeMatha. "I guarantee he will make a play," he continued, "and if not 'the play', he will certainly put a kid on the ground."

Salsbury was right in his prediction - junior running back, linebacker, and special teams contributor John Pagliaro, known to most as "Pags", not only knocked one of the bigger blockers on DeMatha's gargantuan receiving unit to the ground, but also helped bring down their shifty returner. "That's what Pags does," senior leader Kevin Carroll informs. "He just makes plays."

Though he was deep in the lineup for running backs last year, sitting as the number two fullback and number three tailback, Pagliaro still managed to amass 400 yards on the ground with few carries, a display of his natural ability in running the football, as well as his earnest desire to help the Gilman team. After a summer defined by vigorous training, during which he increased both his speed and size, Pagliario has assumed a more important role this season on Gilman's nationally ranked squad. With the reputation as one of the most hardworking and versatile players on the team, he is known for his fantastic blocking

ability at fullback and his knack for hitting the open holes with speed and force at tailback, an act that usually results in the gain of several yards after first contact on each of his carries. In addition to his playing two positions on offense, Pagliaro frequently starts games at linebacker; a position which many think is his best. "Pags makes a lot of clutch tackles," Carroll says. "He is one of the hardest hitters on the team." Besides appearing at these positions, Pagliaro also starts every play on special teams - an opportunity for him to exhibit his speed and skill in tracking down an opposing player before delivering a huge hit.

Pags, however, is not all about his yardage numbers or his tackle counts. He wants to help the team as much as he can, a clear

explanation for his multi-faceted playing ability. "I just want to win the MIAA championship," Pagliaro said, exhausted after a tough practice the week of the Loyola game. "Even though I experienced it last year, I didn't have as big of a role as I do now." With the season winding down, and only one more game left, against archrival McDonogh, John Pagliaro knows that he must make the plays he is renowned for executing. "I think I can really help us achieve our team goals of going undefeated, defending the MIAA crown, and maintaining our national ranking as long as I do everything I can to win games. That may mean playing fullback, linebacker, tailback, as well as doing special teams - if it will help us win, I'll do it."

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John Pagliaro ('07) leads the way for quarterback Marco Simmons ('06). Picture by Ben Daly ('08)

## Editorial: Excessive Penalties Ruining NFL Competition

By Teddy Minch

You have ostensibly been here before; it is third down and seven, you are strategically positioned in your favorite chair, watching the game, desperately wanting your team to pull through just as much as, well almost as much as you attentively wait for the next batch of your mother's chili to magically make its way down the stairs and into your bowl. The quarterback drops back under center, playactions his way a few yards behind the line of scrimmage, sets up and unleashes a beautiful - or if you are watching the Ravens, it is a wobbly and unsure - pass across the middle, connecting with the receiver for a gain of twelve yards, first down. You stand up to cheer, well aware of the fact that you are all alone, wearing sweatpants and a shirt you picked up from your dirty clothes hamper earlier in the afternoon, and are almost home free, even past the bowl of chili sitting delicately on the table, when you see it. It - that blessed or accursed yellow handkerchief of a flag lying on the ground. You convince yourself that it is positioned on the defensive side of the ball, but both you and the commentators really know that this beautiful play is coming back. The referee makes the signals you were hoping not to see as the replay plays on your screen, mocking you, just asking for you to put a large object through the screen. "Holding happens on every play," you think to yourself, "why, why now?"

Welcome to the world of the professional official, the only place, other than journalism, where a person can make a living by being overly critical. The ideal purpose of the referee in sports is to ensure a fair playing field. Keeping competition fair in the NFL has, over the course of the last few seasons, morphed into making the game equally unfair for both teams. Rather than opting to throw the flag less and let the two teams play football, the league of-

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## Article Ideas

Along with possible interviews, letters to the editor, and overall input from the audience, the GSN is interested in hearing possible article ideas from their readership. If you have an idea, scoop, or thought about a possible article for the GSN, please e-mail us at [gilmansports@yahoo.com](mailto:gilmansports@yahoo.com) and let us know what it is. Whether it's that you, the reader, want more professional sports editorials, or more in-depth coverage of other MIAA sporting event, we want to know. We will examine your letters and do our best to accommodate each and everyone of you. Remember, a newspaper is only as strong as it's readership!

# NHL Revives and Revamps for 2005-2006 Season

How the NHL plans to bounce back after an embarrassing year without play

By Peter Fallon

On October 5th, the National Hockey League (NHL) resumed play after a bitter ten-month contract dispute that cancelled the entire 2004-2005 season. The owners' lockout ended when the players and owners settled their major difference by instituting a salary cap. However, the protracted strike and the cancelled season had taken a heavy toll on the viability of the league. Fans had defected to other sports. Several of the NHL's stars, including Mark Messier, have retired. ESPN decided to drop its coverage of NHL games for the upcoming season, banishing hockey to the Outdoor Life Network. Therefore, hoping to lift the NHL out of post-strike obscurity, the resolution of the labor dispute included significant changes to take effect upon the league's resumption in October. With the new season came new realities – significant team roster changes, fundamental rule changes, and stricter officiating -- aimed at increasing fan popularity, team solvency, and regaining television contracts.

The teams that have emerged after an energetic free agency period in August and September bear little resemblance to the pre-strike teams of the NHL. The implementation of the new \$39 million salary cap has led to numerous changes in team rosters. Now, without a lineup card, even an avid fan will have trouble recognizing players. Over 100 players have changed teams, the equivalent of five full NHL hockey teams. Free agency has changed the look of most teams; significant players such as Peter Forsberg, Paul Kariya and Brian Leetch have all switched teams. The shuffle has made this a difficult season to handicap, but early results are showing a definitive change in the NHL's hierarchy,

with the emergence of the Nashville Predators, New York Rangers, and Los Angeles Kings. Widespread free agency and a strict salary cap are two ingredients with which the NHL hopes to regain financial stability and parity among its teams.

In addition, the NHL hopes to reestablish the role of the league's most skilled scorers by amending various rules to increase offense and speed. Most notably, the NHL is allowing the two-line pass by essentially eliminating the middle red-line, similar to the more open European and Olympic style of play. To also increase scoring throughout the league, the NHL has instituted restrictions on goalie equipment, decreasing the size of goalie pads. Lastly, the NHL has erased the tie from the standings. Previously, if a game finished the first overtime period in a tie score, the result would be a draw for both teams. Now, with the idea of establishing a more exciting game, the NHL has decided to implement a shootout to decide all ties. Under the new rules, there will only be wins and losses in the score column. By amending the rules to increase offensive play, the NHL hopes to combat its image as a boring league, thereby increasing fan support. Indications are that the new rule changes are working; since they have come into effect, scoring throughout the league has increased, and saves by the goalie have decreased.

Not only have rules been changed, but the way the game is officiated has also changed. Gone are the days of loose interpretations of the rulebook. By showcasing the offensive skill of its players, the league hopes to increase fan popularity and excitement.

Perhaps the most exciting move made by the NHL since the

lockout had nothing to do with rule changes or the salary cap. With the first pick in this past NHL Draft, the Pittsburgh Penguins selected Sidney Crosby, an 18 year old prodigy from Nova Scotia. Wayne Gretzky has dubbed Crosby the "best player [he has] seen since Mario Lemieux." Crosby, a gifted center with a knack for scoring, has become the new face of the NHL. The Penguin's center has created much enthusiasm about this season, only adding to the anticipation surrounding the new NHL.

The NHL has reestablished itself as an exciting, fast, and skilled league. With the new rules, players, and officiating in place, the NHL is poised to reaffirm its glory. Scoring is up, hooking and grabbing is down, and excitement once again fills NHL arenas throughout North America. After ten months and one season without hockey, the NHL is ready for a great new season. By increasing scoring and enhancing the offensive skill of its players, the NHL is once again fun to watch.

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Emails to the editors are much appreciated. If you have any comments to make or would like to have a letter published, please email us at [gilmansports@yahoo.com](mailto:gilmansports@yahoo.com).



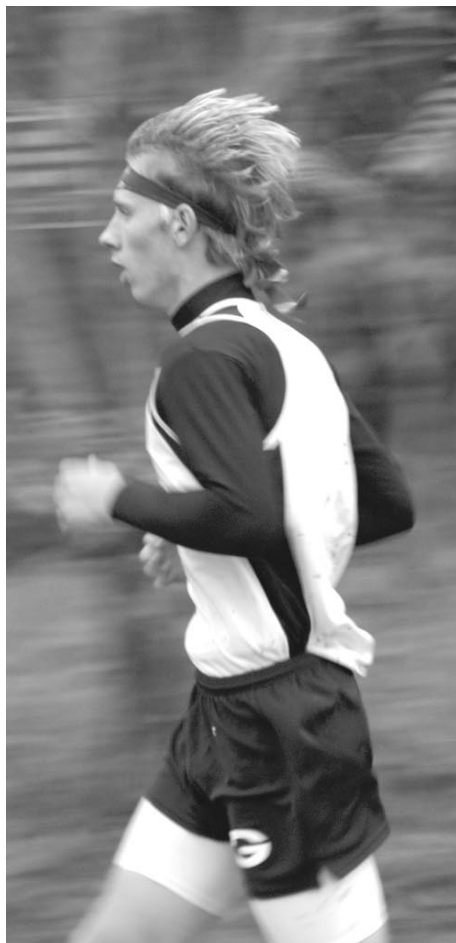
# Photo Feature: The Fall Season



Quarterback Giancarlo Simmons ('09) consults with Coach Ledyard during a JV game. (photo by Ben Daly)



(left to right) Seniors Max Dalury, Justin Levitas, Keith Blackman, Griff Shay, John Williams, and Kirby Preroff cheer on the varsity football team at homecoming. (photo by Ben Daly)



Sam Jackson ('06) running hard as usual. On November 2nd, Sam Captured the MIAA "A" conference title with a time of 16:15 for 3 miles, a pace of 5:25 per mile. (photo by Gabe Schwartz)



Arthur Worthington '09 (#20) and Chris Siliciano '08 (#23) watch as Tyler Alfriend ('08) keeps the point alive. (photo by Ryan Fackler)



Barney Ehrmann (#42) watches as Kevin Carroll (#14) and Reggie Fugett (#8) bring down a DeMatha ball-carrier. (photo by Ben Daly)

# Up and Comer: Cooper Brown

## VARSITY SOCCER

By Will Keigler



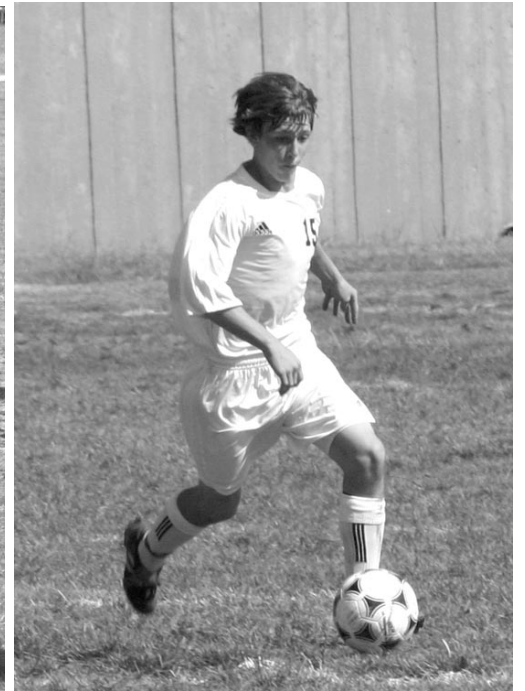
Cooper waiting for play to resume (photo by Ben Daly)

A freshman. That is the first thing you think when you see the 5'5" 130lb kid joking around on the soccer field, yet Cooper Brown was a starting offensive player for the 2005 Gilman Varsity Soccer team. A fiery, fast, and determined addition to the team, Cooper Brown does not play like it is his first year in high school. Normally, a freshman on a team with eight starting seniors would walk in feeling a little intimidated. Nevertheless, Cooper Brown fit right in with the entire team and was not the least bit shy or intimidated, "Having Greg on the team [fellow freshman and Paul McBride's ('06) younger brother] really made it easy for me to become friends with the upperclassmen." While feeling confident hanging around upperclassmen, Cooper Brown was also very curious about the Gilman Upper School atmosphere, and his relentless questions made him a constant target of playful ridicule. He eased even the hardest practices by taking the brunt of many of the teams light-hearted jokes. "I just got made fun of a lot."

As the season wore on, and with the injury of Sean Murphy, the team looked toward Cooper Brown and Paul McBride for scoring. Initially, haunted by the pressure, Cooper



Cooper displaying his aggressive style of play (photo by Ben Daly)



Cooper dribbling down the field (photo by Ben Daly)

### —VITALS—

Height: 5'5"

Weight: 130

Experience: 1st year Varsity

Position: Forward

He Said It:

"Varsity soccer in the MIAA 'A' conference was a lot more physical, bigger, and faster than what I was used to."

per Brown struggled against Curley, barely missing various opportunities to score. Following the loss, Coach Seal moved Cooper from striker to right wing, where Cooper could utilize his speed more effectively, thus solidifying him as a feared scoring threat.

Often, Cooper provided the fiery spark the team needed. During the Homecoming game against McDonogh, experienced senior Wade McHugh (soon to play at Notre Dame) and Cooper were caught in a struggle that turned into a fight and ended when Cooper threw McHugh to the ground. Although receiving a yellow card, his aggressive attitude inspired the rest of the team which led to a series of scoring opportunities late in the game.

Although the transition from Middle School soccer to that of the competitive MIAA "A" conference, usually a very difficult one, Brown seemed to cope with the changes, particularly the speed of the game relatively easily.

Throughout the entire year, Cooper Brown's speed, passionate playing style, and clear knack for the game were key factors to Gilman's playoff birth. More impressively, he was able to have such an impact as a freshman, "Varsity soccer in the MIAA 'A' conference was a lot more physical, bigger, and faster than what I was used to." With this much success as a freshman, look for Cooper Brown to im-

prove drastically as he matures and gains even more size, speed, and strength. Along with other notable underclassmen such as freshman Greg McBride with sophomores Evan Redwood and Giff Brooks, the future of the Gilman Soccer team is bright.

As the 2005 soccer season came to close with Gilman's 2-0 loss against McDonogh, look for Cooper on the lacrosse field where his speed and aggressive nature are sure to make him an excellent lacrosse player for the future.

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Cooper Brown takes the ball from two McDonogh players and attempts to pass it to Paul McBride (photo by Ben Daly)

# Flag Football

## A Year to Remember

By Mike Fallon and Peter Rogers

A new era of Gilman Flag Football arrived early this year when experienced flag-football players, seniors Mike Fallon, Justin Levitas, Keith Blackman, and Dustin Rogers-Little, sought to improve competition in the league by instituting a draft. They discussed the possible change with Mr. Malkus, and with little hesitation, Mr. Malkus agreed on having a draft for the 2005 Flag Football season. It has always been “the most prestigious intramural sport in Gilman Athletics,” (Tim Naughton '06, LA Riots) but now it finally has the opportunity to be “fun and competitive at the same time.”

***“I trained all season –including two-a-days in late August. I’m not going to let all the hard***

***work go to waste.”***  
- Jamie Sinclair

In years past, Gilman Flag Football did not have an organized draft. Mr. Malkus, coach and player, would assign team-captains daily. The teams would be different everyday. Without a draft, there was much less camaraderie and team spirit. The seasons lacked exciting rivalries and missed out on a race through the playoffs to the Super Bowl. All of this has come to an end.

The newly instituted draft has revolutionized the program. There was a lot of buzz going around the campus about the first draft. Everyone wanted to know who would go in the first round. Everyone was eager to find out what team they would be playing with the whole season. As Jamie Sinclair ('06, Danisbetter), who ended up being picked first in the draft, pointed out, “I trained all season –including two-a-days in late August. I’m not going to let all the hard work go to waste.” Overall, everyone was extremely excited for the 2005 Flag Football season and everyone was hungry for the Super Bowl. At the beginning of the sea-

son, Keith Blackman added, “I’m a playmaker. Primetime players step up in big games, and I’m going to carry my team to victory day in and day out.”

With the new improvements the draft has brought to the league and Mr. Otto’s (coach and player) re-energized passion on the field, it is easy to say that this year’s Flag Football season was the best Gilman has ever seen. Jamie Sinclair ('06) says, “The draft has already brought serious competition and excitement to the league. Things the previous years lacked. This year is a definite turning point for Gilman’s Flag Football program.”

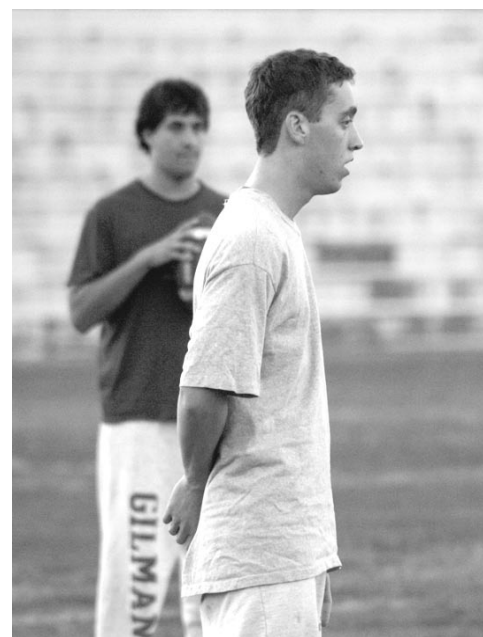
The enhancements to the competition have lead to the casting of rivalries, and the rivalries have lead to serious trash talk.

Keith Blackman, the unofficial team leader of the LA Riots, said about The Dustin captain Dustin Rogers-Little who wears cleats while competing that, “Dustin’s cleat wearing is very questionable.”

While forming bitter rivalries between the four teams, the draft also gives the league much more stability and consistent play. The teams were picked early in the fall season, and the season is coming to a close with the standings very tight. Although Tim Naughton might disagree, as when he stated “even though our records may be close, they’re really not,” each of the four teams has a legitimate shot at becoming Gilman’s 2005 Inter-mural Football Champions. With the playoffs still underway, it is too early to tell which team will be crowned champion, but one thing is for certain; the new improvements of the 2005 Flag Football season will make this year a year to remember in Gilman Flag Football history.



Alex Kelly signals over to Jamie Sinclair - Justin Levitas and Anton Lande wait for the play to start (photo by Ben Daly)



First round pick Jamie Sinclair takes a breather; quarterback Alex Kelly waits for play to resume in the background (photo by Ben Daly)



Tyler Graham follows the lead block of Alex Kelly. Zahir Rahman and Mike Fallon attempt to stop him. (Photo by Ben Daly)

## Editorial: NFL

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ficials seem to have decided that the NFL's official color is yellow, calling more phantom penalties and infractions over the past several seasons than ever before. Games are won and lost nowadays not on guts, glory, and the stuff of legends as in the days of old; rather they are won on penalties for obscure infractions.

To elucidate how much the officiating in the NFL has overstepped its bounds, one need not look further than players' reactions to plays. Each time a pass is incomplete, and a defender happens to be within cell phone range of the receiver, the receiver – plausibly thinking how original he is being – looks for a flag, for a pass interference call. Each time a pass into the corner of the endzone is thrown and fall incomplete, the crowd erupts, calling for a penalty flag, even though Randy Hymes just dropped it. Every time the opposing offense runs an excellent sweep or establishes the corner, we look to the official for a holding penalty. The fact that people know NFL officials by their first names – Bernie, Johnny, and Paul to name a few – indicates that an overemphasis is being placed on the officials in this league.

Alarm bells should start ringing when a team is capable of committing twenty one penalties in one game; granted that one team was the Ravens, listening to the calls reverberate through the Ford Field sound system was risible. What about defensive line holding? Calling a defensive lineman for grabbing and twisting the jersey of an offensive lineman is like arresting a girl scout for selling cookies; the penalties – from nosetackle holding, to illegal jumping, to illegal kicking, and from unnecessary roughness, to excessive celebration – are beyond ridiculous. By creating a new penalty seemingly every Sunday, the NFL has dramatically decreased the quality of play during games. The players are simply too afraid to commit a penalty – at the snap, offensive lineman are hoping their hands are exactly three inches

from the outside of the shoulder pads, positioned lovingly and carefully on the middle of the opposing player's chest. By the way, that opposing player is about 6'4", weighs about two hundred sixty five pounds in raw muscle, and just got out of prison.

Over-officiating has begun to erode away the traditional football experience; overzealous officials trying to create a plump dossier of all the calls they have made have trickled from the NFL to college football and even to high school football. The recent explosion of over-officiating came to national attention over the past two seasons, with multitudes of players receiving fines for hits they put on players of the opposing teams. Even now, some players are fined for playing the game of football and for putting a bone-crushing, jaw-dropping massive hit onto another player. The "Big Hit, Big Bucks" campaign by the NFL has in no way reduced the number of big hits each Sunday afternoon, rather it has created a new generation of players who stick their facemask into an opponent's earhole and then reach into their back pockets, reaching for their Visa card, so the referee can swipe it and fine him for playing the sport of which he is a professional athlete. This over-officiating is a perverted sort of political correctness; showing that violence is not the answer and that superior athleticism and awareness at any given moment deserve to be frowned upon, rather than applauded. As the NFL officials become increasingly more stringent and more absurd in their calls, the time may not be far off when the fans are flagged for "excessive noise," or better yet "illegal drunkenness." In short, the NFL officiating crews have become exponentially blind while seeking to become equally aware.

Much of this over-officiating can be accredited to the wonderful commissioner of the NFL, Paul Tagliabue. Tagliabue, in his typical sage, strong-willed manner, has been giving in constantly to critics

of the NFL and negative press on the league; instead of considering the source of criticism (see Quakers and others advocating non-violent lifestyles) and using the sheer size of the NFL to keep the games entertaining and above all else, fairly played and officiated, Tagliabue has moved along with his very critics. To crack down on the "violence" present in the NFL, Herr Commissioner has beefed up the number of penalties; the number of penalties in games has equated to beating a wasp nest with a rake, further agitating players and coaches, which in turn incites more violence and outbursts. It is impossible to understand Tagliabue, for he has before him – with no thanks to his own tenure as commissioner – a wonderfully woven tapestry, covering the floor of the lavishly furnished living room that is America, and is worried about the shredding of a tassel on the corner of the fabric, overlooking the rest of the beautiful textile. In keeping that one corner from shredding, Tagliabue has effectively ruined the remaining fabric, and finds himself left with an unsightly cloth with a corner tassel of pure, unshredded material. In short, Tagliabue has forgotten about the essence of football, the pure beauty inherent in the game, and in doing so, has tarnished the NFL.

So the next time you find yourself standing mouth agape in front of the television, or stifling an expletive directed at Johnny Grier because your girlfriend does not like that language or football anyway, do not hesitate. Go ahead, scream out that word, and if your girlfriend storms out, who cares, for she obviously does not understand the direness of the situation. The National Football League is plagued by over-officiating. If the "zebras" do not stop trying to be more important than the actual players and coaches, the NFL will soon find itself second to NASCAR on Sundays. Do not call penalties just because you have a yellow flag in your belt; just let the boys play. GSN

### Letters to the Editors

If you would like to voice your opinion about the most recent editorial or any of the preceding articles, we would love to hear it. If you want to submit a letter or e-mail, please put the letter in either Greg Stamas's or John Williams's mailbox. If you would like to submit your letter electronically, please e-mail it to us as an attachment to [gilmansports@yahoo.com](mailto:gilmansports@yahoo.com). We thank you sincerely,

Editors-in-Chief  
Greg Stamas  
John Williams

### Interviews

The *GSN* is always interested in interviews with sports personnel or athletes on the professional level. If you know someone who might be a good interview, please send e-mail to [gilmansports@yahoo.com](mailto:gilmansports@yahoo.com). Please include your name, the possible interviewee's name, as well as your association with him/her.

Thanks once again,  
Editors-in-Chief  
John Williams  
Greg Stamas

# Varsity Football Gears up for McDonogh

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and I don't think we will [get full of ourselves]." But nothing seems to get in the way of the 8-0 Greyhounds. For example, on October 29, Gilman marched into Loyola and blanked the Dons, 14-0, in front of a loud, obnoxious Loyola crowd. Last week, the team went down to Landon for a Friday afternoon game and defeated Landon 14-0 in front of a small Gilman crowd.

Forged by daily three-hour practices, Simmons cites toughness as the team's greatest strength. "Nothing gets us down and no one plays harder than us," he says. Thomas agrees, adding, "Our scout team is tougher than our opponents. The games seem easier to us because of the effort and toughness our scout team gives every day in practice."

The team concept is not, however, just a trite quote above the door in the locker room. Says Thomas, "The team doesn't end off the field. We're all great friends in the classroom too." Simmons agrees, saying, "I don't think people realize the strength of the bonds on this team." Citing the second half of the DeMatha game, Thomas says, "We can pick each other up when we're down. If we all play together, we're impossible to beat." Clearly, Gilman not only has the talent necessary to accomplish their goal of an undefeated season, but the intangibles as well.

GSN

*Gilman VS McDonogh*  
*Saturday, November 12*  
*1:00 p.m. @ McDonogh*



#32 Brian Carroll ('06) and #30 John Pagliaro ('07) lead the way for quarterback Marco Simmons ('06) during their game against Curley (photo by Ben Daly)

# Bittersweet end to Volleyball Program's Season

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was their showing in a recent tournament in Rochester, New York that the team has attended for the past few years. Each year, the program has built on its past successes, and this year was no different, as Gilman took fifth in a bracket filled by club teams that play year-round.

Approaching the conference playoffs, both teams looked quite strong as well. Varsity finished its season with a win over the John Carroll Patriots, thereby clinching the number one playoff seed. In fact, with this win, the Greyhounds would also clinch home-court advantage throughout the playoffs, a distinct advantage aided by the rabid Gilman fans.

Furthermore, the JV team, having already clinched the number one seed in its playoff bracket with an October 24th win against Calvert Hall, found success in the post season as well, winning a very tough championship match against Calvert Hall, their second victory over the Cardinals in two short weeks. Idy Iglehart, a sophomore returner on the JV team, stated, "One could never know how proud I am of this program. Winning one championship is something to be proud of,

but two in a row? That's just unbelievable."

Unfortunately, the varsity Greyhounds would not be so lucky, losing to Loyola (at Loyola, even though Gilman drew the number one seed) in a tough five game match in the MIAA championships despite the hard work of three seniors that Mr. Gabbey has said are, "impossible to replace." Said senior captain Billy Mathews, "It would be a lie to say that we are not disappointed by the final outcome of the season, however, I can say that I am tremendously proud of the work we did to get [to the championship]."

Luckily, the future of the Gilman volleyball program looks bright. Waiting in the wings, junior talents such as Jason Palaigos and Kyle Weiman are sure to lead the team to new heights in 2006. Moreover, the strong sophomore presences of Edward Wiese, Jeff Erwin, and Kevin Niparko, in the words of Marshall, "contribute greatly to the well-being of the program," and are sure to propel the varsity team to great successes in the future.

GSN



Sean Price ('06) tries to break the tackle of a Curley defender (photo by Ben Daly)