



The News

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Gilman School

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Gilman Alum Mr. John Schmick Appointed as "Interim" Headmaster

BY GABE DONNAY

This summer, the entire Gilman community was shocked to learn of the sudden resignation of Jon McGill from the position of Headmaster due to the revelation of a misrepresentation on his résumé, and subsequently to the Gilman community. The Board of Trustees named John Schmick as Acting Headmaster for the coming school year.

Mr. Schmick has been with Gilman for a long time. He first came to the school as a fourth grader and graduated in 1967. After earning a degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania, he had a brief stint in the National Guard and worked in television with a company called Claster Television Productions. Mr. Schmick had always wanted to become a teacher, however, and it was not long before he decided to leave Claster and pursue this ambition. When Headmaster Redmond Finney offered Mr. Schmick an opportunity to teach in the Lower School, he accepted the job with great enthusiasm. Before

long, Mr. Schmick was embedded in the fabric of Gilman. He earned an MEd. from Towson State with a focus on administration. In 1981, he assumed the role of Dean of Students in the Upper School. He held the position for twelve years before becoming Director of Admissions. In 1998, he was appointed Head of the Upper School, and in 2002 he became Assistant Headmaster. Despite his diverse roles at Gilman, Mr. Schmick has remained connected to the student body through coaching lacrosse and teaching. After joining the Upper School, he taught English to ninth, tenth and eleventh graders, and offered the Lyric Poetry elective to seniors.

The acting head admits that the sudden departure of Mr. McGill was as unexpected for him as it was for the students, faculty and parents. When asked how he felt about Mr. McGill's resignation, he replied, "I can't speak for everyone, of course, but I can say that I was very surprised." Given the abrupt nature of Mr. McGill's departure, Mr. Schmick was the logical choice to

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Newly named Headmaster Mr. John Schmick poses for a photo in front of the Hound Pound. Mr. Schmick assumed the role of headmaster after working as Assistant Headmaster since 2002. (Photo by Ed Wiese).

Upper School Welcomes Six New Teachers into Gilman Community

Tap Kolkin



BY JAKE TUNNEY

Every year, Gilman seeks an energetic candidate for the position of Cooper Fellow. For the 2007-2008 school year, Gilman has managed to bring in one of the most vibrant personalities yet. Out of

a field of over one hundred candidates, Tap Kolkin was selected, and it is obvious as to why.

Coach Kolkin, a thirteen-year man, truly loves Gilman, and it is easy to sense this love when you speak to him. Interestingly, Gilman could have missed the opportunity to educate its future Cooper Fellow if it had not invested so much money into its Lower School playground; Tap claims that as an incoming pre-first student, he chose to attend Gilman over St. Paul's because of its superior playing area. In addition, St. Paul's required a three hour written entrance exam which Gilman did not.

Mr. Kolkin attended Yale and graduated in 2007 with a degree in history. His thesis focused on the history of lacrosse, and he sought out primary sources describing the first times that European colonists

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Ismael León



BY WILL ALLENBACH

There are many things that mark the start of a new school year in the Gilman Upper School. The nervous looks of freshmen, the buzz and excitement about a brand new football season, and the fresh

faces of many new Upper School faculty are all signs that the school year has begun. This year, one of those fresh faces belongs to a multi-talented member in Senior Ismael León, a Spanish teacher who is joining the foreign language department from the island of Puerto Rico.

After growing up and getting his high school education in Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico, Sr. León attended the University of Puerto Rico where he received a degree in French. A thirst to continue his education brought him to the mainland of the U.S. in 1997 when he attended Washington State University and received his master's degree in Spanish. In addition to Spanish and French, León is fluent in Italian and hopes that someday he will be able to travel to Italy.

Sr. León first heard of Gilman on the internet after searching for a school

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Gilman Alumni Best Fit for Position of Headmaster

A year ago, Gilman students and faculty alike were preparing for what had been proclaimed a “year of transition.” The entire Upper School was temporarily relocated to the Hound Pound, and all parties involved were readying themselves for what would undoubtedly be one of the most dramatic and uncomfortable changes in Gilman’s history. Still, most members of our Upper School community accepted the discomforts of the Hound Pound for the 2006-2007 school year, believing that in a few short months the drama would be over—that before long we would be finished with our “transition year.” Yet once again, we arrive back at school this September facing another year of tremendous change. Not only do we still reside in our cramped residence on the tennis courts, but we also return to Gilman with a new headmaster in place.

Naturally, Mr. McGill’s sudden resignation brings into question his compatibility with Gilman. Was he truly the right man for the position? Should Gilman, as it did for Mr. McGill’s hiring, rely on hired headhunters to find the one person who can run the school better than anyone else? Does Gilman even need to search beyond its own walls to find a headmaster? To be perfectly honest, I do not have the slightest clue on how to answer the first two of these questions—I leave that to the members of the board and other more knowledgeable people within the Gilman community. However, after thirteen years of attending Gilman, I firmly believe that the answer to the final question posed above is, quite simply, no; Gilman does not need a national search to find a person who can effectively lead the school. In

fact, I believe that we need not look outside our own community to find a candidate worthy of the position.

With his appointment as “Acting” Headmaster, Mr. Schmick joins the ranks of several other Headmasters who, prior to their appointment to the position, possessed a longstanding relationship with Gilman. In fact, from 1926 to 2001, every Headmaster had either attended Gilman as a student or worked there as a faculty member—and, in some cases, did both (E. Boyd Morrow, 1926-1943; Henry Callard, 1943-1963; Ludlow Baldwin, 1963-1968; Redmond Finney, 1968-1992; and Arch Montgomey, 1992-2001). The board would not have kept longstanding members of the Gilman community in the Headmaster’s residence for 75 years if it did not have its advantages. While I certainly do not claim that each of these men led the school without flaw or error, the fact remains that a Headmaster who knows Gilman intimately has certain beneficial qualities that are hard to measure which other “outsider” candidates do not.

First and foremost, an individual who has experienced Gilman firsthand understands the meaning of the school’s mission far more deeply than someone whose first affiliation with the school is when he or she is hired as Headmaster/Headmistress. The best way to gain a more complete understanding of something’s true value is through personal experience. No matter how much time a candidate from outside the Gilman community spends investigating Gilman’s mission, he or she will never be able to achieve the same level of appreciation for what Gilman aims to accomplish



The Redmond C.S. Finney Athletic Center is one of the buildings on campus which is named for a Headmaster who either attended or instructed at Gilman (Photo by Gabe Donnay).

than someone who has experienced “The Gilman Way” as a student or veteran teacher. It takes a long time to be able to truly value everything Gilman stands for—far more time than just a few short weeks. It is impossible for someone who merely observes Gilman’s message to be able to understand the intricacies of its mission more thoroughly than someone who has had that message engrained into his mind over the course of several years.

But the benefits of having a longstanding member of the Gilman community as Headmaster/Headmistress extend beyond his or her ability to utilize Gilman’s ideals to guide the school effectively. Automatically, students can relate to Gilman alumni, teachers, and administrators because they have gone through the same things we have. They know the specific roles of the arts, academics, and athletics within the Gilman community. They know what it feels like to be a student at Gilman, and, as a result, they instantly possess a bond with the student body. Upon entering the Gilman community, an “outsider” Headmaster/Headmistress has to build up his or her reputation from scratch, working for months—if not years—to earn the respect of the students and master the unwritten rules and traditions that are so important to us. On the other hand, a Headmaster/Headmistress who has been previously affiliated with Gilman would hold an initial degree of respect from the students because of their common shared experiences.

To some people, the idea of selecting exclusively Gilman alumni and Gilman faculty members to become Headmaster/Headmistress may seem conservative, near-sighted, or even arrogant. It may look as if Gilman is too afraid to allow outsiders into its community, too tentative to bring someone in who would bring about dramatic changes to the school, too conceited to entrust its future with, God forbid, an outsider. Yet I believe that those most intimately connected with Gilman may be more willing and better suited to bring about major reforms than anyone else; that, in fact, appointing a Gilmanite as Headmaster/Headmistress is not conservative at all.

When it comes to making significant changes to Gilman and its message, no

one is more capable of doing so than a longstanding member of the Gilman community. First, such individuals understand, better than anyone else, what reforms will keep Gilman’s best interests in mind. Their personal experience with the school makes them more qualified to decide when, and how Gilman should undergo dramatic change.

Secondly, no one can unite the Gilman community at-large better than someone who has been as deeply engrained in the community as an alum or respected faculty member. In 1967, (?) Reddy Finney made perhaps the most significant change in Gilman history when he decided to integrate the school. As one can expect with regards to such a controversial decision, general opinion over the integration of the school was greatly divided. Yet surely, Mr. Finney’s past relationship with Gilman pacified many of his critics—alumni and others involved with the school trusted his judgment more readily than they would for someone from the “outside.” Granted, I have no doubt in my mind that one such individual from outside the Gilman community could have successfully integrated the school; but I simply cannot believe that his or her decision would have produced the same public reaction as Mr. Finney’s.

Do I expect board, the faculty, and the rest of the Gilman community to share my opinion? Absolutely not—all that I ask is that we do not overlook the candidates for Headmaster that are most easily accessible, most easily found—those already within the Gilman community. Who knows, there may be someone out there who is, in fact, the perfect person to lead the school. I just can’t see why we have to put on such an elaborate search to find this individual when we’d be hard-pressed to find candidates better suited for the position than people like Mr. Holley, Mr. Demeule, and Mrs. Turner, who have been involved with Gilman for decades; why we need to recruit someone from hundreds of miles away when we can recruit from within and find candidates equally capable; why we even bother to conduct a search when the right man for the job is already sitting in the Headmaster’s office.

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Gilman School



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Michael Jordan, George Foreman, Roger Clemens...Bob Demeule?

BY TREVOR HOFFBERGER

In a time of year when Gilman generally welcomes new faces into its faculty, it will also be seeing the return of longtime teacher, Mr. Robert Demeule, after his brief retirement. Mr. Demeule, who has held the position of Director of Admissions for several years, will take up his new role Director of Special Programs for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Last spring, the Upper School bid farewell to Mr. Demeule, who had announced that he would retire following the school year. At that time, however, nobody knew that he would return with a different so soon. Mr. Demeule himself had just finished cleaning up his office, turned in his computer, and was making his last emotional "goodbyes" to colleagues when he was called into Mr. Schmick's office.

"I was probably retired for fifteen minutes," stated Mr. Demeule, for during this meeting, he was asked to stay at Gilman for one more year. Since Mr. Schmick had taken up his position as Acting Headmaster for the '07-'08 year, there was an opening. Mr. Demeule was asked to fill this void while the school continued with its transitional year. Although Mr. Demeule stated that he was "stunned" when he heard the news, he admits that the move makes logi-

cal sense for everybody involved. If any other current Gilman teacher had been given the job, there would be yet another unplanned job opening to take care of. Since the school had already known about the change in the Admissions office, it was easier for Mr. Schmick to ask the favor of Mr. Demeule.

Mr. Bill Gamper, who has previously been the Middle School Director of Admissions, will move into the Upper School and oversee admissions in both the Upper and Middle Schools. While he used to run the interview process for the Middle School, various staff members will now do most of them.

Additionally, since Mr. Demeule is staying for one more year, the teaching schedules will not be disrupted. He will continue to teach his two French courses. He will teach French 32, an honors course for sophomores, and French Civilization.

Said Mr. Demeule of his new position: "I'm in a very different situation right now." He stated that he no longer has to deal with the pressure of admissions, although his new job is laden with responsibilities. He will help ease the school through all of the transition this year, which consists of the physical move from the Hound Pound to the renovated Carey Hall in the winter. He will oversee many major functions throughout the year including opening and closing cer-



A younger version of Mr. Demeule motivates a former student (Photo courtesy of Cynosure).

emonies, the new teacher institute, faculty financial aid, and security and crisis management plans. Also, Mr. Demeule will assist Dr. Harris with the AIMS evaluation.

Mr. Demeule said that there were two main reasons that he decided to come back for this school year. He wished to help the school through the changeover, and this means that he only has to take this position for

one year. Second, Mr. Demeule said that he is "looking forward to getting back into the classroom."

Whether it is teaching a French class, helping organize the school's master calendar, or helping facilitate the AIMS evaluation, Mr. Demeule will certainly keep busy while truly helping Gilman through the upcoming school year. □

Construction Update: No Further Delays on Carey Hall Renovation

BY CONNOR LOUNSBURY

As we enter another school year in the Hound Pound, many of us still glance across the field and see the signs of ongoing construction at Carey Hall. After a whole year in the Hound Pound, students and faculty alike have become anxious to know when exactly we will be out of the trailers and into the newly renovated Carey Hall. As of this past Spring, the administration maintained that renovations would be completed sometime in December, and the Upper School would be moving into Carey Hall after Winter break.

However, many students fear that over the course of Summer vacation, new delays may have developed what would further prolong our time in the Hound Pound.

Putting an end to such fears, the administration is happy to report that the renovation is still on schedule, and the Upper School remains scheduled to return to Carey Hall—at the very latest—after Winter break in January. Some speculation exists that, in a best-case scenario, Carey Hall may be completed sometime around Thanksgiving.

"Everything in Carey Hall is moving along very well," states Mr. Sean Furlong, Gilman's Business Manager.



According to Mr. Furlong, classrooms are nearing completion, the staircase is finished, and finishing touches, such as carpets and moldings, are being installed. It appears as if the Upper School can look forward to a great new learning environment in a few short months. In the words of Mr. Furlong, "It's going to look wonderful."

As the renovation of Carey Hall wraps up, construction on the new Student Academic Center continues to progress nicely. The building is

expected to near completion in the spring, and should be ready to welcome students in September, 2008. As of this point, neither building has seen issues or delays over the hot summer and all expected move in dates have not changed. So, it seems that our days in the Hound Pound are numbered, and the countdown to the new Carey Hall move in has commenced. □



Above Left: Mr. Carey, Mr. Lassiter, and Mr. Heubeck explore the large classroom that has replaced the history offices on the 2nd floor of Carey Hall
Above Right: Mr. Hastings and Mr. Lauer examine classrooms from the Carey Hall's new 3rd floor corridor

Six New Upper School Teachers Prepare to Start School Year

Teddy Macker



BY ALEX HORMOZI

None can dispute that the new Tickner Writing Fellow is cultured and poetic in his outlook at life. “The sycamores and oaks, mountains and beaches. That part of California is my home,” reminisces Mr. Macker. But as much as he misses Santa Barbara, Mr. Macker and his wife are “excited to be here and to’ve had the opportunity to take our time driving across the country.” Mr. Macker’s description of this cross-country drive offers insight into his poetic outlook on life. Early in his adventure, Mr. Macker had the pleasure of “encountering a 10 gauge shotgun...supposedly used by Wyatt Earp, a gun with the frailest of arabesques carved into its barrel,” and later appreciating “those heartbreaking rinky-dink snow-cone stands with flavors like ‘Teenager’s Guilt’ and ‘Cactus Rain.’” Mr. Macker paints a vivid picture of an experience few have a chance to live.

With his wealth of experience bursting at the seams, it may be even harder to imagine that in the meantime he graduated from Tufts University as an English Major then got a Masters in Fine Arts at the University of California, Irvine. He stayed in the region to teach at U.C. Santa Barbara before moving here to Gilman. “I was heartened to hear that the headmaster will be teaching a poetry section – I imagine there are few headmasters these days who make decisions about the budget in the morning then talk about Walt Whitman in the afternoon.”

Mr. Macker and his wife have both become a part of the Gilman community: she in the Lower School teaching fourth and fifth grade and he here in the Upper School as our Writing Fellow presiding over Paragon in addition to his teaching duties. During his tenure at Gilman, Mr. Macker will be working on poems and stories on his off days throughout the year. “Kenneth Rexroth liked to quote: ‘reverence for life.’ I hope such reverence is implicit in everything I write.” □

Ismael León

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to teach at in Maryland. “I was really impressed with Gilman’s architecture, and the atmosphere was very different,” says Mr. León about his initial impression of Gilman. With the departure of several foreign language department faculty, his experience and thorough education will certainly be a welcome asset.

This year Sr. León will be teaching Spanish 31 classes as well as an honors course. In addition, he hopes to contribute outside of the classroom in the intramural athletic program.

After his arrival to Gilman on August 17th, Mr. León said he felt extremely comfortable in his new home. “So far it has been really good. The teachers in the

foreign language department are really great. Everyone has their own personality and they are very friendly. I have been getting to know other teachers as well and I feel like I belong here.” He also noted the excitement in the air by saying, “I am just waiting for the beginning. Teacher orientation was exhausting and it is time to do what I do best now, teach.”

With a pleasant personality and an exciting glow in his face, Sr. León looks to be headed for a great first year as a Gilman faculty member. □

Patrick Hastings



BY PATRICK SHIKANI

The Gilman community is very excited to welcome a new addition to the English department, the young and vibrant Mr. Patrick Hastings. Mr. Hastings was born and raised in Atlanta, where he attended the Marist School. When he was a junior in high school, Mr. Hastings’ Literature teacher inspired him to pursue the study of English as a profession.

From there, he went on to Washington and Lee University, where he graduated in 2005, majoring in English. At W&L, he completed his honors thesis on the literary community of American expatriates living in Paris. His interest in the subject was sparked after he spent three months in the summer living above the famous Parisian Shakespeare and Company Bookstore, managing the night shift and conducting research there.

In 2004, he pursued an internship working with Reach for Excellence, a program for academically gifted inner city youth in Atlanta, and, as Mr. Hastings says, “This experience solidified my love of the classroom.”

After college, he spent two years teaching at Tower Hill School in Wilmington, Delaware. When asked how he heard about Gilman and why he chose to teach here, Mr. Hastings replied, “Gilman has an outstanding reputation at Washington and Lee and throughout the East Coast...Gilman was my first choice school. I feel extremely fortunate that a position became available and that Gilman saw me as a strong fit for the school.”

As Mr. Hastings says, “I was thoroughly impressed by the warmth of the community and the quality of the relationships that form within the school.” He looks forward to teaching ninth and tenth grade English, helping in the Writing Center, and also coaching lacrosse and JV soccer. Mr. Hastings enjoys reading, naturally, and his favorite book is, without a doubt, James Joyce’s *Ulysses*. In his spare time, he likes to play golf, travel, and run half-marathons, as well as watching soccer and the Southeastern Conference college football on TV. He also enjoys playing FIFA and NCAA on his PS2. Mr. Hastings has been quite busy since he has moved to Baltimore, and he is currently engaged to be married in November. □

Tap Kolkin

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observed the Native American game.

The position of Cooper Fellow is acts as an opportunity for young teachers with little teaching experience to ease in to the course load. Most full-time teachers have four classes, but this year, the Mr. Kolkin teaches only two and a half. The Cooper Fellow is also faced with the obligation to become deeply involved with the students. Mr. Kolkin plans on accomplishing this through coaching sports in all three athletic seasons. He is currently an assistant coach on the JV football squad, and he looks forward to coaching JV wrestling and varsity lacrosse later in the school year.

Mr. Kolkin also feels he can become close with students by being both open to discussion and easily accessible like his mentor and Gilman counselor, Mr. David Allan who retired in 2006. Mr. Kolkin describes Mr. Allan as, “a great guy, and the type of teacher who made me want to do something for the school.” Mr. Allan was Mr. Kolkin’s high school advisor, and Mr. Kolkin says Coach Allan was always there to talk to about whatever he needed—whether it be lax or a personal matter. When Mr. Kolkin heard Mr. Allan was leaving Gilman in 2006, he decided to return to Gilman and work to make a difference among the student body, just as Mr. Allan did.

After Mr. Kolkin learned he would be returning to Gilman, he took various European history courses to prepare himself for teaching two European Civilization sections and one Humanities class he will be sharing with Mr. Heubeck. He has also had coaching experience at many summer camps. Mr. Kolkin is eagerly anticipating the commencement of the upcoming school year, and is very excited to return to his alma mater. He looks to follow in the footsteps of his mentor, Coach Allan, and of previous Cooper Fellows such as current faculty members Brian Ledyard and Chris Dawson. □

Brian Phillips



BY KEVIN NIPARKO AND ALI HONG

Helping Mr. Duncan to “rep” the shaved-head look in the Spanish Department is newcomer Brian Phillips, a Eugene, Oregon native with two and a half years of teaching experience under his belt. Mr. Phillips completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Oregon, majoring in Spanish Literature and Electrical Engineering. Hoping to put his engineering background to good use, he went on to work in a plant that manufactured silicon microprocessors. However, Mr. Phillips grew increasingly unfulfilled with the direction of his career, realizing that there was more to life than a 9 to 5.

Throughout his youth, Mr. Phillips

had spent his summers working on his grandfather’s ranch where he became an invaluable translator for Mexican migrant workers. He remembered his early Spanish experiences with fondness and decided that his future might lie in that direction.

With a newfound determination to become a teacher he enrolled in graduate school at NYU in Madrid, where he took courses in Spanish language and translation. Moving overseas, he found a position teaching English as a second language at schools in Granada and Madrid, Spain. Coming home to the United States last December, his job search led him to Baltimore where the language department appreciates his international experience. Mr. Phillips will be a JV football coach and is considering working with the track team in the spring as well.

Taryn Firch



BY KEVIN NIPARKO

The foreign language department will be featuring some fresh faces this school year. Dr. Taryn Ferch will be among this influx, working mainly with sophomores and juniors in their quest for Spanish fluency.

After earning an undergraduate degree from Westminster College, Dr. Ferch continued on to receive Master’s and Doctorate degrees from the University of Akron in Ohio. Since then, she has taught at the collegiate level at Theil College in Greenville, Pennsylvania. She already has made friends in the area and is adjusting comfortably to her new home in Cockeysville.

Dr. Ferch was drawn to Gilman in part because of the holistic approach Gilman takes towards education. While at many public institutions teachers are one-dimensional, educators at Gilman work with students both inside and outside the classroom. Dr. Ferch intends to teach the nuances of Spanish to the same students that she will be exercising with in Fitness. When asked what brought her to Gilman, she replied, “I really liked how the campus had a University feel to it. Also, Gilman allows teachers to participate with students in extracurricular activities.”

The hardest part to adjusting to Gilman for Dr. Ferch will no doubt be the single-sex classes. “I’ve never taught in an all-boys setting, so it will be a learning experience for me.” However, she believes that her teaching style at Gilman will probably not stray far from her college lessons. Dr. Ferch looks forward to the year with enthusiasm.

Dr. Ferch, cites her passion for teaching as the key element that has spurred her to earn a doctorate and teach at the university level. Not content to rest there, she continued to study and earn her high-school teaching credential. Whether it is a new city or new job, she views the foreign and unknown as nothing less than a learning experience. And the best teachers never stop learning. □

Gilman Spirit Committee Works to Maximize Fan Support

BY ALEX HORMOZI

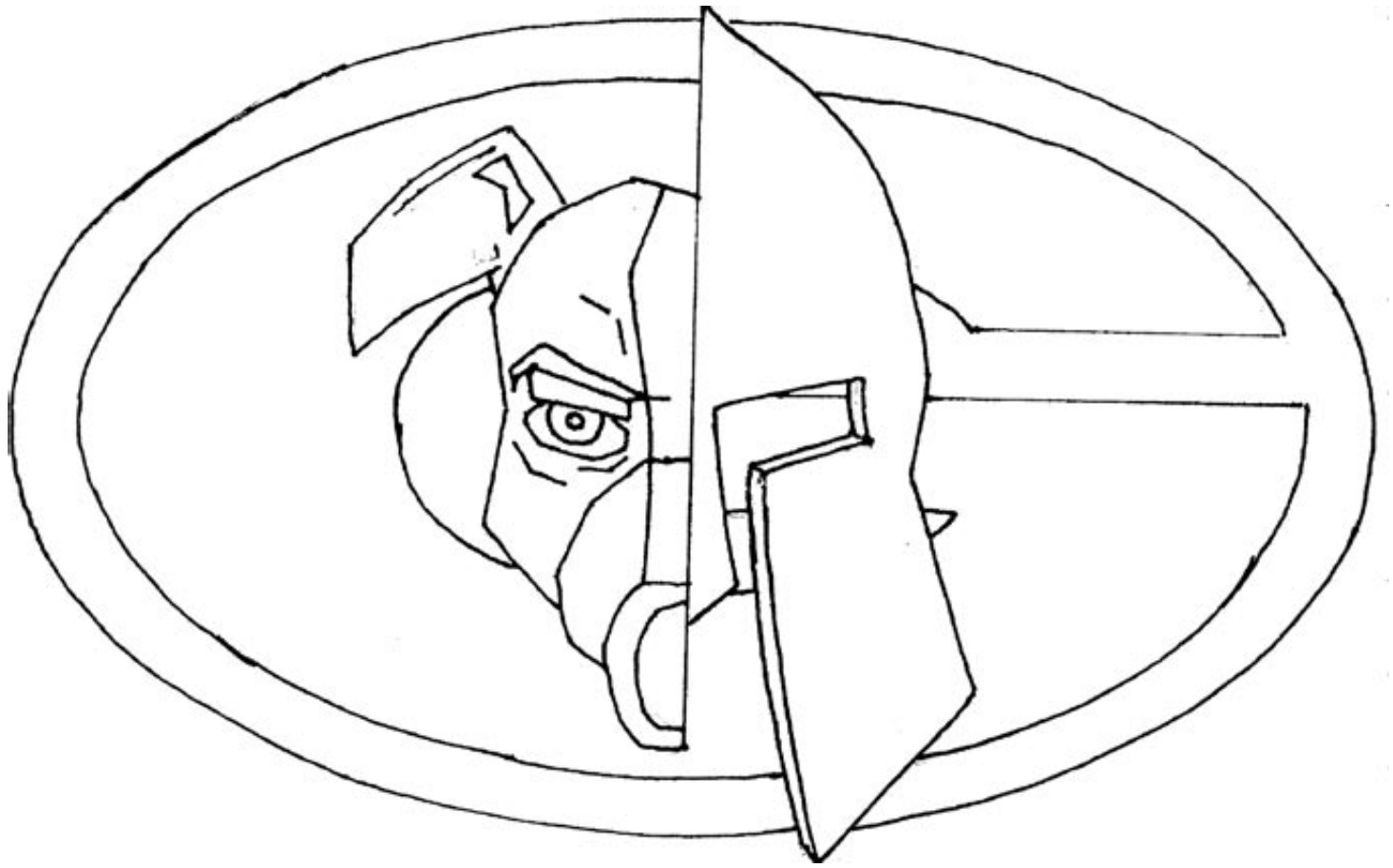
While many other students sat complacently at home and relaxed this summer, the Gilman student body was polling, asking questions, and challenging the very limits of student participation that were set down by prior senior classes. This year, there has been organization in the Spirit Committee that has trumped past years.

They have already written and rehearsed a fight song written by Kevin Niparko for the school; it's classy, of course, "I think the song represents competitive spirit of the Gilman individual. There's a lot more to the song than appears on the surface, for example, I included a lot of metaphors which I won't divulge right now, but are to be exhumed by all who hear the song; It means something different to everyone," Niparko comments.

In addition, the football program will have unparalleled support not only at its home games but at its away games as well with organized bus rides to bring hordes of Gilman students over to the games. Realistically speaking, however, no one really worries about the football team's support because it is always very high.

"This year we are going to try to have certain nights for the less-attended sports like water polo, squash, and golf where we get everyone pumped for a week then everyone will show up and support other teams than lacrosse and football to give the other guys a chance to be appreciated," says Tyler Alfriend, a senior leader of the Spirit Committee.

In contrast to years past, this year the spirit t-shirts and flag designs will not be entirely designed by the seniors.



One of Micah Belzberg's '08 potential designs for the spirit committee t-shirts. In the end, another one of Micah's drawings was selected over this one. (Image courtesy of Micah Belzberg).

The entire student body will have a chance to vote on designs because everyone will be wearing these t-shirts and cheering under these flags. The displays should logically be the product of the whole student body, not just the seniors. This new inclusion of non-seniors into the decision-making process has led to more ingenuity and creativity than was ever previously possible.

Luis Queral, a junior who has already contributed an enormous amount of effort this year, represents one example of the all-school inclusion.

"I am organizing the new drum line, helping out with the flag issue, and helping to bring more people to more games this year," explains Queral. The "flag issue" that he speaks of is the creation of a very large Gilman flag that will be flown at games.

All the student body's powers are being channeled to create the ultimate in student participation and spirit. This has all been made possible through a Facebook group designed by the designated leaders of the Spirit Committee. This way the entire Gilman online community can participate in the decision-

making and can contribute any and all of their ideas into forums ranging from homecoming themes to flag designs. The success through organization and wide-scale involvement of the entire student body has been proven thus far and will no doubt lead to lots of spirit on and off the playfield which in tight situations may give Gilman players the edge over their competitors.

"This is bigger than anything I've seen since I entered high school," Queral says. "Teams can absolutely do better with a lot more support." □

Baltimore Mayoral Race Preview

BY JOHN SANDERS

Baltimore City finds itself in a predicament: it is neither small nor large, yet it has both the financial and criminal burdens of a sprawling metropolis and the pettiness of small town politics. The mayoral race, which is barely on the radar of national publications, is always an important issue to Marylanders. This can be attributed to the fact that Baltimore is Maryland's economic hub, a city that has given the state two of its past four governors. In addition, Maryland's reputation is often affected by how others view Baltimore. Therefore, it is important not to take the mayoral race lightly, as the future mayor of Baltimore may prove to be the next gubernatorial candidate. Throughout this fall, in the weeks and months approaching the election, the subject will be watched very closely by this news media.

When Mayor Martin O'Malley was elected Governor last fall, Councilwoman Sheila Dixon was, as the second highest-ranking city official, made interim mayor of Baltimore. Dixon, who was born and raised in Baltimore, believes in lessening overall crime rates by targeting violent criminals. She has made removing illegal guns from the streets a primary goal. She believes that this, in addition to the recruiting

of more police officers, will make the city's economy healthier by making Baltimore a safer place to do business.

Keiffer Mitchell, Jr. poses the greatest threat to the acting mayor's incumbency. His family's history of civil service and his personal history in politics make him a very viable candidate for mayor. A staunch critic of Sheila Dixon for her alleged nepotism, Mitchell believes that more needs to be done to restore trust and ethics in the political system. He promotes a system with regular auditing and more transparency about how tax dollars are spent. He also believes that more police officers are needed to combat Baltimore's burgeoning crime.

Dr. Andrey Bundley, a slightly lesser known, but equally important player in this political race, is very active in Baltimore City's public school system. He believes that if students are shown practical applications of what they are taught, they will be more likely to succeed in life. It sounds like vocational learning, yet it affords more flexibility and prevents a child from being trapped in a situation they cannot get out of. He desires schools to be open after hours, in order to provide a safe and educational place for children to stay. He promotes better healthcare options and minority businesses.

Included in this election is the selection of a new City Council President.

Either Michael Sarbanes or Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will work with the lawmakers in the City Council in addition to being the second most important political figure in Baltimore. They will also oversee the Board of Estimates, which awards contracts and determines spending.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake was elected President by her peers on the City Council after the acting president, Sheila Dixon, became interim mayor. Endorsed by both Elijah Cummings and Governor O'Malley, this graduate of the Baltimore City public school system has over ten years experience on the City Council. She hopes, if elected, to create a more supportive and nurturing environment for children in city schools, as well as recruit more police officers to ensure that all citizens have a safe place to live.

Michael Sarbanes' campaign is directly associated with Gilman in that a few of its past and present students have volunteered to work for him. Ben Jarso, a Gilman senior, has been working for Sarbanes over his summer vacation. Through his experiences he has discovered that, "Baltimore is a city of diverse neighborhoods that, when combined, make it an interesting and unique place to live." His sentiment is shared by Michael Sarbanes, who has worked for over fifteen years as a community lawyer. Sarbanes believes that

the demolition of abandoned houses is a key part of neighborhood rejuvenation. In addition, he will work to create more jobs, which will bring more money into Baltimore's dying communities.

The Baltimore City primaries are on September 11, 2007. The results of this election will be closely scrutinized and will be important, not just to Baltimore, but also to the entire state. □



Mayoral candidate Keiffer Mitchell extols the virtues of his platform to a local audience (Photo courtesy of keiffermitchell.com).

How Should Barry Bonds Be Remembered?

Hessinger's Take: Bonds Should be Given More Credit for his Accomplishments



On the morning of August 8th, I woke up to discover that the greatest record in sports had been broken by one of sports' greatest villains. I watched SportsCenter and heard from various experts and reporters who felt it was their right to minimize and taint Barry Bonds and his achievement. All the talk was about how his record breaking home run was a total fraud because of Bonds' alleged steroid use.

Obviously, looking at the power increase in Bonds' stats over the past nine years, as well as his clear body and hat size increase, it is hard to argue that Bonds never used steroids. But then discussion began over whether or not the controversial left fielder belonged in the Hall of Fame.

Unfortunately, the media and Bonds' misanthropic demeanor has caused this type of ludicrous conversation topic to arise. No matter how much you hate him and no matter how many steroids he used in the past eight or nine years, Barry Bonds is a first-ballot Hall-of-Famer. Don't get me wrong, I am certainly not a fan of Barry Bonds. I think he is one of the most arrogant players in sports. He treats his teammates like garbage and he treats the media even worse. And really, there's no doubt in my mind that he has used steroids over the course of his power surge of the last eight years.

But the public and everybody in and around baseball has joined together to condemn this man despite his illustrious career. People want an asterisk put next to Bonds' record, but the truth is that the entire era of the 90's and early 2000's needs an asterisk next to it. Steroids have been as much a part of baseball in the past 15 years as home runs have.

When Jose Canseco revealed his book *Juiced* allegedly detailing the widespread use of performance enhancers in the MLB, everybody thought he was just trying to make money with his outrageous claims. Canseco, however, was right. You can't blame Bonds for using steroids because everybody else was doing it. If you want to keep Bonds out of the Hall, then you need to keep the likes of Sosa, McGwire, Griffey, Palmeiro, and A-Rod out as well because all of these hitters were at their peak in the 90's when steroids were running rampant through professional baseball and none of them can be awarded a free pass.

But the media and public don't question A-Rod or Sosa or Griffey because they're all perceived as nice guys. Bonds, on the other hand, is painted as public

enemy number one by the press. This perception is certainly due to Bonds' treatment of others, but he is certainly not the only perpetrator and he definitely is not justifiably celebrated for his talents and achievements.

The fact is that this guy was considered one of the greatest baseball players in history before he turned 34. He was the epitome of a five-tool player. He won 4 MVP's, 8 Gold Glove awards, and appeared in 8 All Star Games in his first 12 seasons, which are considered to be his pre-steroid years. People want to doubt his numbers because of steroids but he would've hit over 600 home runs at the pace he set in his first 12 seasons. Maybe not the record 760+ he has now, but he certainly would've been in the top five in career home run totals. And with the steroids, you still have to have immense talent to produce the way Bonds produced over the last nine years.

People think that all you have to do is take a few steroid injections and you become the next Barry Bonds. If that were the case, there would've been a hundred Barry Bonds in the MLB in the 90's.

But the reality is that there is only one Barry Bonds. I'm not making excuses for him and I'm certainly not advocating his likely use of illegal substances. I am, however, asking that you at least give the man his due respect and commendation. And for those of you out there that still hate Bonds and think he belongs in a Turkish prison for his crimes to humanity and the game of baseball, have no fear. A-Rod appears to be well on his way to putting his own name atop the all time home run list. But until then, let's all give a few props to the game's current home run king. He's earned it. Sort of. □



Amidst a flurry of controversy, Barry Bonds broke Hank Aaron's career home run record on August 7th (photo courtesy of blog.mydailynews.com)

Jiang's Perception: Fans, Players, MLB Alike Confused On How to React to #756



755. For 33 years, that number stood as *the* record in sports.

On August 7, 2007, at 8:51 Pacific time (11:51 over here), Barry Bonds hit a 3-2 pitch from Mike Bacsik into the right-center field bleachers, breaking that most prestigious record, making Bonds Major League Baseball's home run king. It came at the only place it could have, at home in San Francisco, in front of his self-proclaimed "family." Bonds took the microphone from his godfather and Giant great Willie Mays, thanked his family and all of the fans. When it came to his late father, Bonds got very emotional, pointing up to the sky and exclaiming, "Thank you, for everything."

The Giants lost the game, but no one will remember that. That night marked the end of a furious chase that had the entire sports world on the edge of their seats. Starting on July 23rd, ESPN2 was at every Giants game until #756, a span of 16 days. Bonds' daughter, wife, and mother can claim the same. The Bonds situation is so unique because never before has a player surrounded by so much controversy been so suc-

cessful.

Unlike Vick and Donaghy, Bonds is pulling at the very roots of baseball history. He is surpassing Hank Aaron, a man well respected as both a player and an inspiration for African-Americans, having joined the majors only four years after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. Add the fact that Bonds is making history under the suspicion of steroid use and the issue gets mighty dicey.

For a different perspective on Bonds, go back to Aug. 4 at Petco Park in San Diego, a city whose hatred of Bonds is second only to Los Angeles. Bonds hit #755 that night to a mixture of cheers and boos. Asterisk signs flooded the stands.

However, perhaps the most telling sign of the controversy surrounding Bonds came from the top, the reaction of baseball commissioner Bud Selig. Selig watched the homerun go out with utter indifference. He then stood up and calmly put his hands in his pockets. In a classic example of actions speaking louder than words, Selig spoke very loudly by saying and doing nothing.

Is Bonds good or bad for baseball? I have to admit that I was ecstatic watching Bonds' 755th homerun, but then found myself containing the celebration, because that's when the thought, "am I cheering for a cheater?" popped into my head.

However, the only reason I was mad about 756 is that I didn't stay up late enough to see it. The chase has certainly brought major league baseball a lot of publicity, some bad, but a lot of it was also good.

Surely people who didn't care about baseball tuned in to watch Bonds. It was also probably the only reason that 43,000 packed AT&T Park every night to see an otherwise futile last-place team.

Even opposing fans felt the fever. Fans in L.A. or San Diego may have hated Bonds, but they nevertheless wanted to see him succeed, booing when his name was announced, and then booing when he was walked.

I had the opportunity to see one of Bonds' games in person this summer in San Francisco. In fact, it was two days after he hit 754, and the day of Cal Ripken and Tony Gwynn's induction into the Hall of Fame—perhaps the antithesis to Bonds in terms of adding to the image of baseball.

The reception given to Bonds was amazing. Cheers every time his name was mentioned, standing ovations for every at-bat, a hopeful glance at a fly ball followed by a sigh as the ball weakly fell into the right-fielder's glove. After Bonds' at-bat in the eight (a high pop-up dropped by the catcher), the crowd began emptying. After all, the score was 8-5, Marlins.

755 stood for 33 years. Who knows how long Bonds' record will last as his playing years may be dwindling. For now, I am glad that I was able to see this momentous event in baseball history. □

Gilman Football: Seniors Look to Take Charge, Lead Team Against Tough Schedule

BY DAVID JIANG

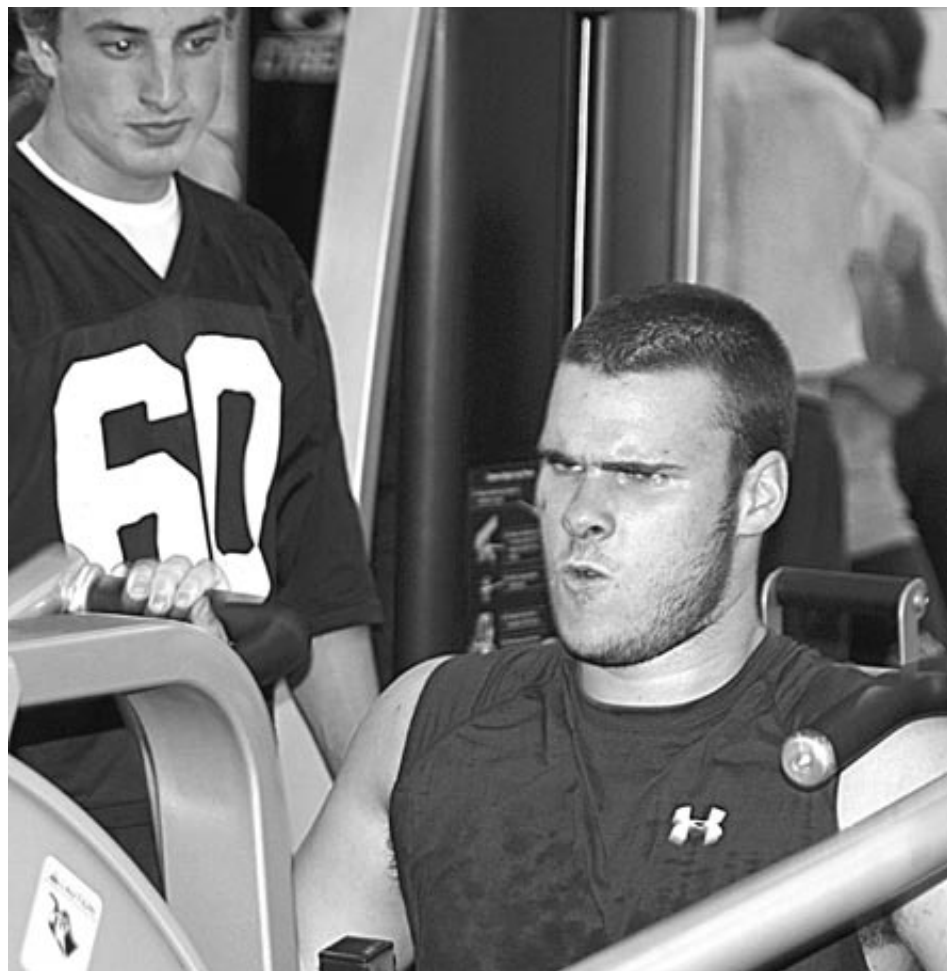
The last time that the Gilman football team took the field was in the 2006 season finale at home against rival McDonogh. Trailing 16-8, the Eagles scored two touchdowns to take a 22-16 lead. Gilman had two more possessions, but a fumble and interception allowed McDonogh to run out the clock, leaving the entire Gilman side of the field in disbelief. It was the first loss for the class of 2008 against McDonogh, and this loss was especially painful because it occurred at home. The loss finished up an otherwise successful season for the Greyhounds, who finished 4-1 in the MIAA (6-3 overall) and locked up a share of their eighth conference championship in the past nine years.

Now it is 2007, and the final chance to shine for this year's seniors. Excitement is higher than ever for this year's team. The newly created Facebook spirit group has the entire school ready to pump up the atmosphere at football games, hoping to build them up to nothing short of the pageantry and exhilaration of college football. Unfortunately, Gilman's schedule features only three home games compared to five away games.

The Greyhounds opened their season with a decisive victory against St. Mary's, winning by a margin of 36-0. The team opens a rigorous two weeks of games on September 8th against DeMatha, ranked

by Sports Illustrated as the fourth best high school football team in the nation, a team that has taken two of three from Gilman over the past three years. Only a week later, Gilman takes on the challenging Bergen Catholic in New Jersey. Plans are already developing to arrange a bus to take students on the three-hour ride to cheer on the Greyhounds, who hope to avenge last year's 32-19 loss. Other season highlights should include the Homecoming game against Calvert Hall and the always emotional match-up at McDonogh to wrap up the season.

This year's team will rely on seniors Joey Ehrmann and Chris Burnette on defense, and quarterback Jake Tunney on offense. In addition, the team looks forward to a backfield comprised of juniors Jordan Love (running back) and Kevin Clark (fullback and linebacker). Tunney says, "Coach Biff Poggi is looking for the entire senior class to step up and take leadership roles this year." The team's goals, as always, are to beat DeMatha, win the conference, and beat McDonogh. When asked what team on the schedule he wants to beat most, Tunney had to think for a second, but eventually chose McDonogh. After all, the poem-writing, dressing up as farmers, and Mission Impossible-esque rescue of Gilman players "taken hostage" must make that game mean something. □



Captain Mark Cleland works on the pull down machine while JD Kameen watches. (Photo by Ben Daly)

Coming off Disappointing Season, Cross Country Team Determined to Succeed

BY DERRICK BURNETT

Last fall, the Gilman cross country team finished a season that was definitely not up to par. The team finished with a disappointing 2-6 record that left many questions about the team's near future. However, Coach Joe Duncan believes that this team has nowhere to go but up. "I expect the team to demonstrate improvement over last year's performance. The team has put a lot of mileage into the summer, attended cross country camps and should be ready for a strong season."

After losing senior leader Jonathan Koch, Duncan is looking towards

veterans Patrick Fiske, Evan Bryant, Aaron Jordan, Taz George, and newcomer Tyler Alfriend. Along with the seniors, the team will need contributions from the young runners who helped the JV squad win a championship last year. "This year we are looking to sophomore Adil Khan to contribute greatly and juniors Ian Jones, Ben Deford, Chase Jackson, Jabulani Blyden, Will Dawson, and Will Fenwick to build for next season."

The whole cross country program is expecting to have a successful year, but they will need to work their hardest to achieve their goals. Senior Evan Bryant looks forward to starting the season on a good foot: "We have

a really good team this year, and we want to improve as much as possible from last year."

Coach Duncan believes that they will be successful if they do everything that needs to be done: "The team will need to continue to work hard in practice and maintain our 'pack attack' at the invitationals and show strength at our dual meets with our 11 man varsity team. Our junior varsity team hopes to defend their championship from last year as well." □

Xander Chriss ('09) demonstrates his form. (Photo by Taz George)



Mr. John Schmick Assumes Role of Headmaster

Continued from page 1

fill in as Acting Headmaster for this year. He is certainly qualified; thanks to his enormous experience as a coach, teacher, and administrator at Gilman, the faculty is confident in his ability to lead the school. "I am sure that he will do an outstanding job," said Iva Turner, Head of the Upper School. "He has a good head, but more importantly, he has a good heart. He personifies the Gilman mission, and everyone is looking forward to a great year ahead." Mr. Schmick is modest about his appointment, and when asked about the possibility of continuing to lead the school in the future, he stressed the fact that he is currently only the Acting Headmaster. "I really can't say what will happen beyond this year," he said. "That's up to the Board of Trustees and the Search Committee."

Mr. Schmick does not plan on making

any radical changes. "I just want to keep Gilman moving in the right direction," he said. "A change like [the loss of a Headmaster] can cause a lot of anxiety and uncertainty ... so I just want to keep the ship on course." Even so, he will certainly have his hands full this fall.

The transition into the Headmaster's Office involves assuming a great number of new responsibilities. Although it is not always readily apparent to students and parents, the inner workings of Gilman are extremely delicate and complex, and the Headmaster is largely responsible for keeping everything running smoothly. In addition to overseeing the move back into Carey Hall, important issues that Mr. Schmick will be addressing this year include the completion of a comprehensive ten-year AIMS evaluation of the school and the implementation of the early steps in a recently completed long-range plan for Gilman.

As the long-term plans advance, he is also thinking about the upcoming start of school. "I am very excited about this year," he continued. "The current senior class is a great group of guys, and I know I will be able to count on their enthusiasm and leadership." Mr. Schmick is also looking forward to working with the faculty in the Lower and Middle Schools. "There are outstanding teachers in every division of the school, and it's exciting to have an opportunity to work with all of them."

Of course, Mr. Schmick is bound to encounter some difficulties in his new position. Any important decision that needs to be made at Gilman eventually goes through the Headmaster's Office, and pleasing everyone all the time is impossible. Mr. Schmick nevertheless is confident about his ability to fill his new role. "I am surrounded by so many wonderful people here," he said. "I've had to take on a lot of new responsibili-

ties and learn a lot on the fly, but everyone has been incredibly supportive."

Mr. Schmick is known for his genuine, personable nature and it seems that the Gilman community shares his optimism about the school year ahead. "Everyone in this school, whether he or she is a teacher, staff member, or student, feels like they can knock on [Mr. Schmick's] door and talk to him about any issue, either personal or professional," remarked Mrs. Turner. "He is one of the most respected faculty members at Gilman," remarked School President Evan Redwood. "I know that he will do a great job as Headmaster this year ... and hopefully some of his 'class' will rub off on the Upper School."

Students will be especially pleased to hear that Mr. Schmick only plans to read one poem in assembly this year; a poem written, of course, by Roger the Elf. □

Gilman Volleyball: Third Time's the Charm?

BY JASON FRANKEL

The stars were aligned. After winning their last seven MIAA "A" Conference games last season, the Gilman Volleyball team was poised to avenge their 2005 heart-breaking championship defeat. With a 16-1 record heading into the playoffs, three All-MIAA starters, and a deep bench, the Greyhounds were the favorites to beat the Mount St. Joe Gaels on the cool November night. But that's why you play the game, and in a quick four game match, the championship had slipped from Gilman's grasp for a second straight year.

With seven returning seniors, the 2007 Greyhounds look to change their luck. Co-Captain and three-year varsity volleyball athlete Ed Wiese '08 states, "We have had amazing teams the past two years, but I believe this team is the best in the program's history." Senior leadership will come additionally from Co-Captains Kevin Niparko '08 and Jeff Irwin '08. "The three of us have endured unbearable pain in those previous two defeats," Wiese continues. "Now as captains, we need to lead the team to its first MIAA championship." Surprisingly, the only All-MIAA returning player is only in his second year on the varsity squad. Idy Iglehart '08 looks like a viable candidate to lead the MIAA with his deadly "kills." His constant slams continually kept the crowd wild

in the small confines of the Old Gym, a/k/a the "Deaf Dome", and nothing is expected to change this upcoming season.

Although the squad consists of primarily seniors, multiple juniors will play a crucial role in its quest to a championship. Returning junior starters Will Allenbach and Asher Kaplan look to improve on their growing talents. "With Coach Gabbey's tutelage these past two seasons, I have really seen my abilities develop," Allenbach states. A first year team member, Matt Cahn '09, looks to follow in Iglehart's footsteps. While Iglehart increased his talent on the junior varsity level in his sophomore year, he was able to make an invaluable impact on the varsity a year later. Similarly, Cahn was a junior varsity threat last season and has looked phenomenal during the August practices.

Furthermore, Iglehart and Kahn are two primary examples of the junior varsity's exceptional coaching. Both of these players were not only groomed for talent, but they were also taught how push their teammates. "The JV captains need to step up and be leaders," Varsity Coach Neil Gabbey expresses. The JV program will again be looking to produce more immediate talent for the years to come.

While the JV squad breeds for the future, the varsity team will be looking to jump that final hurdle. The talent is

obviously there, yet the team needs to push through that mental block that has defeated them the past two seasons. Coach Gabbey believes, "Instead of playing a B Conference team and just going in there knowing we're going to win, I want the players to be thinking they are going to crush this team 6, 2, and 8 [in straight sets]." Gabbey believes this type of attitude will prepare them for A conference matches. The talent is the deepest in the conference, and they

have to believe it.

"I could not sleep well for about a month after each of the championship defeats the past two seasons," Niparko states. "This season is for all the past seniors who didn't win that final match. Those defeats were heartbreaking, yet I always had next year to look forward to. Now I don't have that as a backup. It's now or never for seven of us, and we're ready to take the program to a new level." □



Jeff Irwin '08 bumps a pass to teammate Idy Iglehart '08 during the team's annual practice at Baltimore's Beach Courts (Photo by Ed Wiese).

Varsity Soccer Team Poised for Return to MIAA Contention

BY TYLER ALFRIEND

The Gilman varsity soccer team is ready to turn heads this season. They are ready to turn the heads of the last season's doubters, the football fans cheering on the adjacent field, and their agrarian rivals playing for McDonogh.

Last fall was a tough season for our soccer team, but according to senior captain Giff Brooks, "Last year was a new team and a new beginning for Gilman soccer." The 2007 soccer team learned a lot from last season, and they are finally ready to become what many have already predicted: one of the most talented teams in Gilman's history.

The varsity soccer team is welcoming three new playmakers who will undoubtedly make a difference from the first whistle. Junior transfer Christian Hall has stepped into the net and has made an impact on the team immediately. Young standouts Jared Sullivan and Joe Cahalan look to start high school out with a bang by making the box score even as freshmen. With only a few more additions to the already incredibly talented unit, the soccer team is ready to win.

According to senior captain George Gruner, "We pretty much have the same team as last year. We believe that this is an incredible advantage because not



Nick Nolan weaves through Friends defenders during a varsity soccer scrimmage. (Photo by Gilman Staff)

too many teams have the opportunity to play two years together. It is hard to play soccer as an individual, and after two years of work, we have definitely become one cohesive unit."

The head coach of the varsity soccer team, Coach Seal, is infamous for his summer training that tends to leave guys losing their lunch on the side of the field. This summer, though, has been differ-

ent. "Sure, we have conditioned hard this summer, but we have also focused a lot on learning the system. We are implementing a zone defense, and many guys are trying to adjust to new spots on the field," says Gruner.

Executing Coach Seal's system is an exceptionally important part of finding success. According to Brooks, "The guys on the team are unbelievably talented.

We need to use this talent in combination with good teamwork and solid execution of the system to become one of the top contenders in the league."

Many of the guys on the team are hopeful for a run at the playoffs, but they refuse to look ahead too far. Gruner says, "We have a lot of competition in the MIAA. Teams like McDonogh, Calvert Hall, and Loyola are always top contenders. We are going to be coming at them a little under the radar this year, but we are going to be ready."

As the soccer team looks to break through in the MIAA this year, some of the guys you might want to keep a close eye on are captains Gruner and Brooks, junior captain Greg McBride, sophomores Diego McQuestion and Reed Barger, and freshman Joe Cahalan.

This Gilman team might look the same as last year, but it definitely has a new mindset. The players on the team are determined to erase all memory of last year's struggles by taking the fight right to the big guys in the league. The Gilman varsity soccer team always prides themselves on being the best-conditioned team in the area so no matter what happens during the season, this group of hounds will be playing hard and together until the last whistle.. □

Veterans Lead Water Polo Team into Promising Season

BY ROHAN RAMESH

After last year's rebuilding, the Gilman Water Polo team looks forward to a year of opportunity and success. Many members of the team have "spent a lot of time this summer working on fundamentals," said Aris Bouloubassis. Alex Merkle, Aris Bouloubassis, Andrew Nelson, Scott Gummerson, Eli Kahn, Sam Beirne, and Liam Gallagher participated in Water Polo club teams during the summer in Greater Baltimore. There they paired up with other Water Polo players from Mt. St. Joe and

DeMatha to scrimmage and work on the basics. They attended these club teams for 3 days a week during the summer. This dedication to Water Polo will pay off for this year's team as it allowed them to remain in excellent swimming condition and to hone their passing and treading skills. "It's the basics that count in Water Polo: swimming, conditioning, and the fundamentals," said Aris Bouloubassis.

This year the Water Polo team is led by four returning seniors: Albert Hong, Aris Bouloubassis, Donald Song,

and Andrew Layman. Most of the four seniors are three year veterans who have grown accustomed to playing together as a cohesive unit. This year, however, "we can expect a lot from our rising juniors and sophomores," said Donald Song. The juniors and sophomores received a good deal of playing experience last year and the team has become a cohesive unit. This year the team will turn to junior Andrew Nelson as the go-to guy. "He is very dependable and a good swimmer," said Donald Song.

This year the schedule for the Water Polo team is "fast and very challenging," said Aris Bouloubassis. The season starts off with the Gilman Challenge in the second week of September. "We are a very competitive team this year, and the league is not as clear cut this year, because Calvert Hall is not as powerful," said Aris Bouloubassis. The Gilman Water Polo team looks forward to a successful year, according to Donald Song, since we have "played together for a long time and we have a lot of experience." □