



VOLLEYBALL: PANDAS FALL JUST SHORT IN STATE FINAL, PAGE 2



SOCCER: ANOTHER BIG SEASON FOR PANDAS, PAGE 3



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THE GAVEL



Shannanagins shows strength in numbers

As a Notre Dame Academy freshman, Shannon Wilson underwent surgery for a brain tumor. As a senior, she led Team Shannanagins — more than 250 members, the largest in the history of the Walk Ahead for a Brain Tumor Cure 5K at Sawyer Point — to help raise more than \$11,000 for research. **Story, Page 6**

NO. 2 IN STATE!

Pandas fall in final to nation's top-ranked volleyball team



On November 7, the varsity volleyball Pandas headed to the KHSAA state tournament in Louisville. After a big win over season rival Sacred Heart in the first round, the Pandas rolled all the way to the state finals.

The final vs. Mercy, at the time ranked No. 1 in the nation, went five thrilling sets, but the Pandas fell short of the title with close scores of 25-23, 20-25, 26-24, 19-25, and 8-15. Junior Hannah Colvin received the Best and Brightest Award, and seniors Abby Thelen and Alicia Von Handorf and junior Morgan Hentz were named to the state all-tournament team.

To reach state, the Pandas defeated Beechwood to win the 35th District and St. Henry

to win the Ninth Region. Madison Salkowski, Hentz and Thelen were named to the district all-tournament team, while Hannah Talkers, Salkowski and Thelen were named to the regional all-tournament team, and Hentz was named Regional MVP. Hentz also was Ninth Region player of the year, Thelen was NKGVCA player of the year, and Buck McCoart was Ninth Region coach of the year.

The Pandas (31-6) finished fifth at the Louisville Invitational, second at the Asics Tournament in Chicago, won the district for the fourth consecutive year and ranked as high as 10th in the nation and second in Kentucky.

- Abby Thelen and Micaela Stephenson

When I say ‘Quick’, you say ‘Toes’

The 2014 varsity soccer team had another successful season. The Pandas made it to the state final four and were stopped just short of making it to the state finals, falling 1-0 to South Oldham, the team that eventually won the championship.

Mandy Arnzen led the Pandas as team captain. Mandy, who plays the center midfield position, has been playing soccer since she was six and plans to continue her soccer career at Ohio University next fall.

Mandy, since starting soccer at Notre Dame, is known for being the fastest person on the soccer team and has acquired the nickname “Quicktoes.”

Mandy plays such a large role in the soccer team in the way that her dog, Simba, even gets painted like a panda and comes to their games as the mascot.

Mandy (#6, top center in photo) and fellow seniors Hayley Thompson (#4), Carissa Dyer (#8), Anna Eckerle (#10), Savanna Woods (#14), Rachel Kreutzjans



Senior soccer Pandas and sometime-Panda mascot Simba.

(#15), Courtney Hansel (#0), and Isabella Ramicone (#00) reached the state final four for the second season in a row. Last year, the team won the state championship.

Even though they did not make it all the way to the state title this year, the 2014 soccer team worked hard and still had an amazing season.

- Carly Rodgers and Laura Noll

Cross country

Season of great results, memories

Rain, shine, or mud will never stop the cross country Pandas from running a race on a Saturday morning, and the Pandas didn't stop until they reached the state meet at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, where they finished 19th.

Many great memories and laughs were shared this season, which is what many of the seniors on the team said they would miss most.

Claire Wulfeck and Hannah Good, who are seniors on the team, said their favorite thing about being on the team was being able to bond with their fellow Pandas, not just as teammates but sisters.

With many freshmen on the team this season, the seniors felt it was important to be able to bond with their teammates. They took a six-mile canoe trip on the Little Miami River. There was a team trip to Louisville, a pasta dinner, and just



hanging out in the tent before races started.

Good said her favorite meet is the annual meet held at Devou Park. She said it is one of the hardest courses but a beautiful course as well. Wulfeck said her favorite meet was held at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati. She said, "It was such a fast paced course which led lead to many PRs (personal records) and season-best times! Also they played music during the race and had a Olympic runner there to talk to us and cheer us on!"

The cross country team finished in 19th place in the state meet. The coaches of the cross country team this year are head coach Chris Herren and assistant coaches Barry Hudepohl, Kate Marks, Jennifer Vocke and Kristin Geiger.

- *Clare Armbruster*



Golf

All fall, Pandas' game up to par

This season the golf Pandas, both junior varsity and varsity, had many successes.

The varsity team placed at the Beechwood Invitational, Grant County Invitational, and the Notre Dame Invitational. The varsity team also took the title at conference and regional tournaments.

Coach Karen Henderson said, "When it counted, the Pandas put it all together as a team."

Junior Amy Pugliano tied for first in the individuals at the regional tournament at the Kenton County Pioneer course with a round of 76.

The Pandas also placed 11th place at the KHSAA state tournament held in Bowling Green with a team total of 697.

Erin Durstock had the low rounds for the team at Bowling Green Country Club with a



Panda golfers at the Region 6 tournament at Twin Oaks. Notre Dame won the Division I championship for the 10th consecutive year.

78 and 85 (163), followed by Amy Pugliano with a 84 and 85 (169), Abby Bricking with a 91 on both days (182), Ali Maier with a 90 and 93 (183), and Josie Hammon with a 95 on both days (190).

The girls knew what they had to do to finish on top by the end of the season, so they did.

Congrats Golf Pandas!

- Hailee Scheper



Shannon Wilson (2673) surrounded by just a few of the people on her team.

SHANNANAGINS: A WALK FOR A CURE

“Being with Shannon Wilson is a humbling experience. She serves as an example and a reminder of what it really means to be a good friend,” says her good friend, Marley Wallace. She will always go out of her way to make sure you are happy and she will do anything in her power to make you happy if you are not.

Shannon was diagnosed with a brain tumor near the end of her freshman year of high school and endured a 13 1/2-hour surgery to remove a tennis ball-sized tumor from the right side of her brain.

After the surgery Shannon has gone through many things including, seizures, headaches, and scar pain. Shannon has been so passionate about finding a cure for brain cancer that she has walked a 5k in past years to raise money for the cause.

When Shannon decided to form her own team, Team Shannanagins, for the Oct. 26 Walk Ahead for a Brain Tumor Cure 5K at Sawyer Point in Cincinnati, it really showed her how much support she actually had.

Fellow senior Carly Wolnitzek says, “I have never encountered a more inspiring and uplifting person. I’d say that she is the soul of the senior class and the best Panda sister we could have ever asked for.”

Shannon’s team raised more than \$11,000 and consisted of more than 250 walkers, the largest team in the history of the walk.

Shannon says that Notre Dame Academy, especially the 2015 senior class, has been her support system.

“Every day I go to school with the senior class to see 135 of my favorite faces. They go out of their way to make sure my day is better.” Shannon says.

Shannon said she will never forget the image of turning around at the beginning of the walk and seeing the huge amount of people there to support her.

“Ever since being diagnosed with a brain tumor it has helped me realize how incredible this community is and I wish more people would see what I see.”

- Carly Rodgers and Laura Noll

Blood Drive



The Notre Dame Academy community donated 28 units at the school blood drive organized by the Hoxworth Blood Center of the University of Cincinnati. Hoxworth says 13 percent of its annual collections come from high schools.

Forty-three donors help save lives: Donating ‘is making a difference’

The annual Blood Drive at Notre Dame Academy took place on October 12, 2014. Hoxworth Blood Center of the University of Cincinnati came to NDA and spent the day drawing blood from students, saving lives one unit at a time.

Someone needs blood every two seconds, and the NDA community was happy to help. Forty-three people donated, giving twenty-eight units of blood. According to Hoxworth, each donation helps save as many as three lives.

“Always give 100 percent ... except when giving blood,” said senior Abigail Kennedy.

This tradition has been here at NDA for quite a while, representing our LIFE Club very well.

Senior Anna Stutler said, “I like donating blood because it is making a difference.”

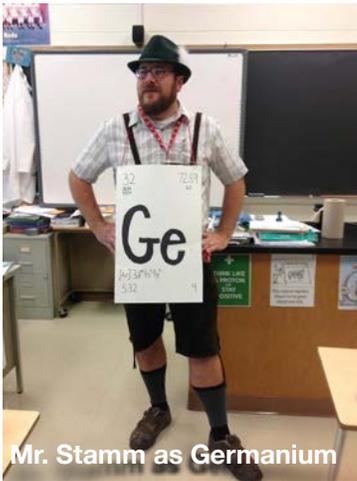
More than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day, and NDA was proud that they could help save lives.

- Hailee Scheper

NDA STUDENTS GET THEIR SCARE ON

Hope all you scary Pandas had a spooky Halloween

You didn't just pull out that lame ghost costume again, did you? Notre Dame Academy celebrated Halloween in style on October 31. The hit movie *Frozen* inspired a large number of people to go as Elsa, Anna, or Olaf. You all had some of the best costumes around! The senior class as mimes was unspeakably creative and fun.



Mr. Stamm as Germanium

Many people had a unforgettable night with some of the freakiest haunted houses in October: U.S.S. Nightmare, Fearfest, Dent Schoolhouse, and Land of Illusion. Along with the haunted houses, many scary movies came out; hope you don't mind having nightmares. *Anabelle*, *Oujia*, *The Conjuring*, and *The Quiet Ones* are surely worth watching; just make sure you aren't alone.



Junior contest winners



Santa Claus

Or maybe you enjoy some of the classics like *Hocus Pocus*, *Halloweentown*, *Twitches*, or *Young Frankenstein*. While you're enjoying one of those fabulous movies, don't forget the best part ... CANDY! Don't feel guilty, grab a handful of some candy corn, M&M's, Reese's, Tootsie Rolls, Kit-Kats, and Butterfingers. Hope you all had a terrifying night, ate lots of candy, and didn't scream too loud.

- Grace Lubbe, Annie Cheesman



Freshman contest winners

No 'Almost' about it: Play delivers life, love, laughter

"You're in unorganized territory. Township Thirteen, Range Seven. It's not gonna be on your map, cause it's not an actual town, technically."



The lighting fixtures are down and the set has been taken apart for the Notre Dame Academy and Covington Catholic schools' production of *Almost, Maine*, but the play's impact seemed to stay with audiences.

The play, which ran October 24-26, was full of laughs, relationships, falling, and heartbreaks touching on topics from falling in love to losing hope. The play was set in a town called Almost, Maine, where many different types of love stories come together to form a dramatic and sometimes comedic show.

The audience laughed along with the characters, felt the pain of strained relationships, or even tried to reminisce about an old love story from their own lives. The play was a success and the cast and crew were in good spirits, ready for *The Nutcracker* in December.

Meet the teacher: Ms. Johnson

NDA alumna Ms. Johnson returned to campus this fall to teach social studies. She took time recently to discuss a variety of topics — including one of her favorite places (hint: check out the photo illustration at right) — with Gavel staffers Abigail Kennedy and Katie Grefer:



What made you want to come to NDA?

I graduated from NDA and I wanted to come back to my alma mater because of the family environment and the faith driven atmosphere. I also wanted to teach here because of the excellent academic standards to which we hold our students.

Did you feel welcomed?

Absolutely, both when I was a long-term sub and when I became a full-time teacher. Everyone reaches out and makes sure you have everything you need and we collaborate well together.

Have you given a violation yet?

I have given one violation to a student for taking a picture on her iPad during a class discussion.

What has been your funniest moment so far?

In class we were reading and I said the word (for passing gas) on accident, causing a big ruckus. Saying it is almost

just as embarrassing as actually doing it.

What is the difference between when you went to NDA and now except for iPads?

Stress levels are higher now because students are starting to think about college as freshmen but that is a great thing because it gets the students concentrated on their future at an early age.

What is one interesting fact about yourself?

I have a twin but we look nothing alike.

If you could be anywhere in the world right now where would it be?

Definitely London!

-Abigail Kennedy and Katie Grefer

Meet the teacher: Dr. Snodgrass



Dr. Snodgrass, interim assistant principal at NDA (pictured in a favorite place, Assisi, in the photo illustration above), took time to talk to Gavel staffers Abigail Kennedy and Katie Grefer:

What made you want to be at NDA?

I have been a stay-at-home mom for 13 years, but I teach at NKU and decided it would be time to go back to full-time work, so I started thinking about being a principal. I really want a job that integrated what I know about education and my faith.

Did you know that you wanted to be a principal at a high school?

I knew I did not want to teach at a grade school, and in college I would see kids coming in unprepared, so I thought I could use what I knew from college and apply it to high school.

Have you given a violation yet?

No, I have not, because I do not know all the rules yet.

Have you felt welcomed by the Notre Dame community?

Yes, very welcomed. But it is hard because I am not a teacher so I do not know all of the students. I have gotten to know a lot of the faculty and I have sat in on their classes, which helps me learn the students more also.

What has been your funniest moment so far?

So far I have stumbled up stairs, directed a student to the wrong classroom and called several people by the wrong name. But my most amusing moment was in a study hall a few weeks ago. I spent an entertaining 15 minutes watching three students attempt to catch a bug and release it out the window. I never imagined that 28 girls would be so mesmerized by the plight of a small insect. But three tries, two sheets of paper and numerous stifled smiles later the bug was successfully freed. NDA ingenuity in action!

- Katie Grefer and Abigail Kennedy