



Redcoat Review

Berlin High School, Berlin CT

December 2022 / Issue 2

Football Falls Just Shy of Perfect Season

By Nadia Malec
Redcoat Review Writer

Throughout the season, the BHS football team has performed incredibly under the stress of playing in a new class division. Berlin recently moved to Class M after playing in Class L last season. Because of this, the team faced different opponents and new challenges.

Berlin finished the regular season undefeated, and first in the league, with a total of 10 wins. The Redcoats had some very big wins this season, defeating Plainville 55-7 and winning against RHAM 47-6.

Richard Bennett, Joshua Clement, William Gomes, Josh Grimm, Luke Maguder, Kyle Melville, Mason Memery, Lorenzo Miele, and Michael Motta were named CCC All-Conference players.

In the first round of CIAC playoffs, Berlin played Branford High School, defeating them 35-25. The Redcoats advanced to play Rockville and easily beat them 42-7.

The state championship was played on December 10 at Rentschler Field. Berlin hasn't won a state title since 2009 when the Redcoats beat Bethel 46-6, so the pressure was immense. Berlin faced Notre Dame High School from West Haven. Sadly, Berlin trailed at halftime, 21-0.

Finally, with only a few minutes left



Photo Credit: Berlin High School

The football team finished its season with an impressive record of 12-1 after losing to Notre Dame West Haven in the state championship game.

of the game, Grimm was able to catch the ball from Miele in the end zone to score a touchdown. Melville was able to catch the ball in the end zone for the 2 point conversion. The game ended with a score of 35-8.

Although the end of the season wasn't what the Redcoats wanted to see, we

cannot forget about the amazing season the team had, despite the loss in the final game. Berlin finished the season with a record of 12-1.

Congratulations to all the seniors who were a part of this amazing team, and good luck to all the returning players for the next year!

Students Lead BOE Forum

By David Perkins
Redcoat Review Writer

On October 24, 2022, Berlin High School held its annual Board of Education candidate public forum in the auditorium.

The main objective of the event is for the candidates running for a seat on the Board of Education to answer questions

about any current situations regarding education and other scenarios that the Board of Education typically addresses. The candidates discussed a variety of issues regarding education including advocating for students and teachers as well as educational equity.

The forum was led by Social Studies teacher Mr. Cronk and the Berlin High School Debate Club, and the candidates who ran were Mrs. Jessica Patraw, Mrs. Aurora Corteville, Mr. Peter Zarabozo, Mrs. Deborah Reed, Mrs. Melissa Gibbons, and Mrs. Jaymee Miller.

After an introductory statement by



junior Paige Kemish, each individual candidate gave an opening statement, hoping to discuss certain positive and negative issues in regards to education such as social skills and more.

The candidates were then asked a series of questions by students: David Perkins, Addison Sczesniak, Terrence Dornfried, and Toby Lavender. The questions related to a variety of topics regarding school district related issues, including budgetary concerns and equal education for everyone.

Each candidate present answered with a one-minute statement, discussing their plans for how to solve each individual problem, and how to prioritize certain things in relation to budgets and mental health scenarios.

After each candidate answered the questions, each candidate was asked to give a closing statement. After the statements ended, Tamarah Al Mozani thanked the candidates, and everyone who helped make the event possible.

Ultimately, the candidates who won the election were Mr. Zarabozo, Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Gibbons.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

Recent Grads Offer Insights at Alumni Panel

Ms. Buzzelli Joins English Department at BHS

PAGE 3

Cabaret: A Remarkable Event

Community Honors, Mourns Two Heroes

PAGE 4

Seniors Cap Spirit Week with Hallway Win

Sandy Hook Elementary School Families Win Lawsuit

PAGE 5

The Play That Goes Wrong a Hilarious Hit

Students Explore Careers at Sacred Heart

PAGE 6

Fall Sports Season a Huge Success

Back to Back Powderpuff Champs

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever a Must See

Recent Grads Offer Insights at Alumni Panel

By Alexa Fallon
Redcoat Review Writer

After spending their first semester at college, eight Berlin High School Class of 2022 graduates came back to share their college experiences with juniors and seniors.

The “Alumni Panel” took place in the Berlin High School auditorium on Wednesday, November 23. The event was coordinated by the counseling department to help prepare juniors and seniors for the transition to college.

The participants were Bailey Baclaski (UConn), Devin Collins (Salve Regina University), Kylie Gentile (CCSU), Jacob Ferland (Springfield College), Alexa Luth (Merrimack College), Leah Peck (University of Tampa), Olivia Salina (Providence College), and Michael Vignone (Penn State University).

BHS school counselor Ms. Hickey facilitated the conversation, asking each person individualized questions based on the college they currently attend.

Questions addressed scholarships, location, roommates, and getting involved in college, all in an effort to help college-bound students with a smooth transition.

Baclaski shared her experience at UConn, a popular college choice for many students in Berlin. She assured students that they will not have to worry about seeing people from Berlin, as the large campus and diversity of the student body ensures that there are very few awkward interactions.

Ferland talked to the audience about the process of applying for scholarships, and its importance for saving money on education.

“Nobody remembers the scholarships that you didn’t get,” Ferland said.



Photo Courtesy of BHS Instagram

Members of the Class of 2022 from left, Bailey Baclaski, Michael Vignone, Jake Ferland, Leah Peck, Mrs. Hickey, Alexa Luth, Devin Collins, Kylie Gentile and Olivia Salina returned to BHS for the annual Alumni Panel where they shared their experiences with current upperclassmen at BHS.

However, he explains you can miss out on a scholarship if you never apply for it in the first place.

Gentile, who is playing Division 1 soccer at Central Connecticut State University, spoke about what it’s like to be a college athlete. Her first season consisted of a lot of practices, and having to attend mandatory study halls with the team. She emphasized the importance of time management in order to stay on top of your athletics and academics.

Traveling home to Berlin from the University of Tampa, Peck gave advice about moving far away for college. Although she misses her friends and family, she has found a new home and new friends by joining a sorority.

Vignone shared why he decided to attend Penn State University, a very large public school. He explained how the diverse campus allows for creating important connections with people that can benefit him in the future.

Collins, Salina, and Luth also made important contributions to the panel, talking about the influence of the location and community you choose to live in. They shared how to discover things to do in your college neighborhood, find good roommates, and make new friends in very different environments.

The counseling department put together a successful panel that helped juniors and seniors looking for guidance through the college application and transition process.

Ms. Buzzelli Joins English Department at BHS

By Sara Langford
Redcoat Review Writer

On November 21, Ms. Buzzelli returned to work from maternity leave to start teaching again. Last year, Ms. Buzzelli was teaching at McGee Middle School but now she is teaching at Berlin High School. She now teaches ninth-grade English, Mythology, Capstone, and will be teaching Sports Literature in the spring. She was interviewed about her current position as an English teacher and the move to BHS.



How many years have you taught?
This will be my twelfth year teaching, but my first year here.

What has the transition from McGee School to Berlin High been like?
After coming back from maternity

leave, it has been like...life has been in fast motion. It’s been exciting, it’s been nice to be around, and be with kids again. I love my baby but it’s nice to have conversations with kids. It feels good to be teaching again and back at work.

Is it different from McGee?
It definitely is. Although there are some things that are similar, like lesson planning and grading. It definitely feels different in an exciting way. It feels like a new challenge, I like the age group.

Has it been hard to adapt?
It was easier than I expected, but there’s still a learning curve.

Have you gotten lost?
Yes definitely, I’ve had to have Mrs. Amenta show me around, Mrs. Dumas showed me around. I’m slowly getting the hang of it now.

What do you miss about McGee?
I miss some of my friends who worked at McGee.

What do you like most about teaching at BHS?

I want to say there are so many things, but the students being a bit more mature and able to dive a little deeper with the content has been really fun. I feel like I can talk to the students a little differently because they’re older. And it allows for some really cool discussions. I could give you a list of things I love about being here; the schedule, the department, the students, the school spirit, and the sense of community.

Ms. Buzzelli encountered challenges at first, but she overcame them by learning the ways in which BHS runs and getting back into the routine of teaching. She is enthusiastic about being able to talk and work with kids again. Her positive attitude towards taking on this challenge is admirable, because it took some getting used to after not teaching for almost six months.

Although she will miss being at home with her baby, she said she is glad to be teaching again and loves being able to teach at Berlin High School.

Community Mourns, Honors Two Heroes

By Alyssa O'Leary
Redcoat Review Writer

On Wednesday, October 12 the Bristol community was struck with tragedy. Two police officers were shot and killed on scene at a fake domestic violence call. The call turned into an ambush, leaving Sergeant Dustin DeMonte and Officer Alex Hamzy dead and one other officer injured.

Sergeant DeMonte was a son, brother, husband, and father of two with one on the way. DeMonte was a Connecticut native all of his life. He attended Middletown High School and later received a college degree from Central Connecticut State University. He served as a police officer in Bristol for 10 years.

During his time, he was a School Resource Officer for the Bristol Public School District and was an advisor for the Bristol Police Explorer Cadet Program. DeMonte was undoubtedly dedicated to his community, and in 2019, he was awarded with Officer of the Year.

DeMonte was a person who cared and "loved so hard" according to his wife Laura. Sergeant DeMonte was selfless and inspirational to all of those in his community and is remembered by so many. After his death, the Bristol Police Department promoted him to Lieutenant.

Officer Hamzy is survived by his parents, sisters, and beloved wife whom he would have celebrated a one-year wedding anniversary in the days following his death. He grew up in Bristol and graduated from Bristol Eastern High School.

Hamzy served as a first responder for eight years in Bristol. He was selected to the Central Regional Emergency Response Team, in which his team, representing Bristol, came in first place at the Connecticut SWAT Challenge amongst 28 other national teams. He extended his service towards the Bristol Police Explorer Cadet Program. He was an



Photo Credit: Fox 5 New York

Bristol Lieutenant Dustin DeMonte (left) and Sergeant Alex Hamzy (right) gave their lives in the line of duty.

advisor and officer who was committed to teaching his community about value and integrity. Many viewed him as "the light in the dark" due to his infectious character.

Officer Hamzy was "more than just the number his badge indicated" as his wife Katie indicated at his eulogy reading; from that, he leaves behind a legacy filled with compassion that will always be remembered. Hamzy was posthumously promoted to Sergeant by the Bristol Police Department. In a time full of pain and anguish, there is beauty in the respect and support that has evolved amongst the community since the tragedy.

As a result of the shooting, Connecticut residents rallied around the officers and their families. People gathered together to hold vigils full of flowers, candles, and cards for the two officers. Moments of silence were shared across the state, whether it occurred during sporting events or during school, in honor of two exceptional individuals. Bristol schools had the day off at the end of the week in courtesy for the officers' funeral services. They took the time to pause and remember something taken away from their community.

Countless residents and businesses have continuously raised money to fundraise for a memorial in the slain officers' names. Town after town has

commemorated their service and sacrifice as all of Connecticut has lost something. State troopers and adjacent town police officers have filled in for shifts for Bristol police officers in order for them to take time to grieve.

These fellow officers provided support not only in their absence but also when they came back onto the job. Blue ribbons and lights can be found all around the town to acknowledge those that protect and provide our safety regularly. Bristol and Connecticut locals have evidently turned the heart-wrenching grief and loss into an outpouring of love.

As an individual who comes from a law enforcement family, this tragedy hits home. My father was a state trooper for the state of Connecticut, my oldest brother is currently a police officer in town, and my other brother is a Berlin Police Cadet. The community of law enforcement embodies nothing but respect and camaraderie. These men are just a small fraction of those that go out everyday into our communities with the purpose of being the buffer against danger and crime.

Everyday, first responders leave their homes for the uncertainty of what their job entails, not knowing if they will return as they would expect. The patriotism and altruism both Lieutenant DeMonte and Sergeant Hamzy display is something I highly respect.

These fallen officers chose risk and bravery without hesitation. They chose to put themselves first in the face of danger. Such character takes a certain individual and I am extremely grateful to know there are individuals out there with such will.

DeMonte and Hamzy's memory will be kept alive as true heroes. I share my condolences to the DeMonte and Hamzy families, the Bristol Police Department, and all those impacted by this tragedy. May our fallen heroes forever rest in peace.

Cabaret: A Remarkable Event

By Ian Saunders
Redcoat Review Writer

On October 14, the Berlin High School Chorus performed at their annual Cabaret under the direction of Mr. Boyle. A total of \$1,000 was raised to help support the chorus seniors and the scholarships sponsored by the music department.

The choir opened with an amazing performance of "Opening Up" from the musical "Waitress," and ended with a wonderfully composed medley from the musical "Wicked."

Students also performed in front of the audience as a soloist or duet, with



some singing multiple songs. All of the people who performed had an outstanding delivery, with the night ending in a deafening standing ovation.

Ruth Brown Kirchner, a senior, performed "Gorgeous" from the musical "The Apple Tree." Kirchner chose this song "because my private voice teacher recommended the song to me while I was studying at Carnegie Mellon Pre-College for Drama. I had so much fun working on it this past summer that I decided to use it for the show!"

Kirchner also explains that "Being on stage is where I feel most comfortable. For many people being in front of others is terrifying but I don't have that feeling. If anything, I'm more confident and more like myself when I have a spotlight in my eyes and am in front of hundreds of people."

Achilles Niecikowski, who is also a senior, performed "A Show Stoppin' Number" from "The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals." This brought a light-



Photo Credit: Dominik Picur

The music department held its annual Cabaret event and raised \$1,000 for the program.

hearted comedic element to the night, with laughter ringing from the audience throughout the song.

All of the students who performed that night demonstrated an extreme sense of confidence and self-assurance, as it takes both of those things, plus hours and hours of practice, to perform successfully in front of an audience. The performances of the chorus, soloists, and duets make the anticipation for the spring musical, "The Little Mermaid," all the more invigorating.



Seniors Cap Spirit Week with Hallway Win

By Katie Tierney
Redcoat Review Writer

Spirit week at BHS has been a recurring tradition. Each year, students and staff are given the opportunity to participate in the spirit day themes. Students from every grade level show their spirit throughout the week, leading up to the pep rally held on Friday.

Spirit week took place the week of October 24. During spirit week at BHS, each day has a different theme students and staff are able to participate in. This year, Monday was Meme Day Monday. Students and staff were encouraged to dress up as their favorite meme found on the internet.

Tuesday was Teen Beach Movie. The hallways were filled with surfers and bikers! On Wednesday, members of BHS supported Breast Cancer awareness by wearing the color pink. Thursday was Disney Day where individuals dressed up as their favorite Disney character or movie. Characters like Stitch, Russell from Up, and Mickey Mouse were seen.

On Friday, the day of the annual pep rally, it was Color Wars. Each grade level was instructed to wear their class color. Freshmen wore red, sophomores blue, juniors white, and seniors black. One of the traditions our school has is its hallway competition. Students from each grade level prepared hallways pertaining to the theme of their choosing. Students spent tremendous amounts of time planning and staying after school working on creating decorations for the hallway. This theme is meant to correspond with their grade level's "class color."

The freshmen, whose class color is red, decided on the theme pertaining to the popular Disney movie, *Cars*. The hallway was filled with appropriately themed items, including tires, license plates, and figurines of the characters from the movie itself.

The sophomores, whose class color is blue, went with the broad theme of Disney. The hallway contained different characters from different "blue" Disney movies, such as Sully, Ariel, and Stitch.



Photo Courtesy of Berlin High School

The senior class held up tradition and claimed first place in the Hallway Competition. Pictured from left, advisor Mrs. Dirkson, Allie Nawalaniec, Kaliee DiMaio, Terrence Dornfried, Julia Greenwood, Meredith Gendreau and Trista May.

Walking through this hallway on Friday morning, students and staff would be able to hear music from multiple Disney movies.

The juniors had a major comeback this year, upping the stakes for which grade would win first place in the competition. They tackled the theme of the Winter Olympics, as their class color is white. Many students thought the highlight of this hallway was their waffle stand, where members of the Junior Class handed out actual waffles.

The seniors took a trip back in time, and decided on the theme of 80s Arcade. The hallway was filled with real arcade games such as Pac-Man, and they even had the fortune telling Akinator!

All grades put in an immense amount of work into the hallways, and all of them turned out incredible. The seniors were able to secure a first place win, with the juniors in a close second place. The sophomores got third place, while the

freshmen were last.

The pep rally here at BHS is a celebration of school spirit, and is the ultimate highlight of spirit week (besides Homecoming).

Senior Claudia Jankovich appreciated "how much school spirit there was" and "how everyone came together to have a fun time." Students from each grade level are dispersed all over the gym, with intense competitions transforming the gym into ground zero for the deafening school spirit of BHS.

This year, the pep rally had all classes compete in games such as the frozen t-shirt, a free-throw contest, a paper airplane contest, a tug of war, and the class officer relay race.

Seniors took first place in the pep rally, while juniors took second. Sophomores placed third, and freshmen last. Congratulations to all grades for their outstanding effort; we all are looking forward to next year!

Sandy Hook Elementary School Families Win Lawsuit

By Ian Saunders
Redcoat Review Writer

Alex Jones, InfoWars talk show host and conspiracy theorist, was recently tried and convicted of defamation in a rare decision 10 years in the making.

On November 10, 2022, Jones was ordered by a Connecticut jury to pay \$1.44 billion to the families of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre victims. Jones was found guilty of spreading misinformation about the shooting regularly on his show. He claimed that the victims (20 students and 6 staff members) were not really killed in the shooting and were instead played by crisis actors.

The timing is significant to the surviving families, who are marking the

tenth anniversary of the tragedy, which occurred on December 14, 2012 in Newtown, CT.

According to NPR, Jones' commentary has led InfoWars followers to abuse families online, make anonymous phone calls, harass them in public, and use guns to target their homes and cars. One family claimed that Jones' followers had made their lives a "living hell."

The families and the FBI agent who filed suit against Jones won on grounds of defamation and infliction of emotional distress.

Christopher Mattei, the plaintiffs' lawyer, described the impact of the decision saying, "the Court recognized the 'intentional, malicious ... and heinous' conduct of Mr. Jones and his business entities."

However, Jones disagreed, claiming that the ruling violated his first amendment rights and called the settlement "ridiculous" and a "joke."

Cornell Law School defines defamation as untrue statements that harm a third party. Defamation can either be in the form of writing (libel), or in spoken statements (slander). Under the First Amendment, defamation is also a form of "fighting words," and is therefore not protected speech.

According to the ruling, Jones' statements were factually incorrect. Reuters reports that Jones has now filed for bankruptcy and will be requesting a retrial. As of November 2022, he has acknowledged that the Sandy Hook shooting did take place and was not a government controlled hoax.

“The Play That Goes Wrong” a Hilarious Hit

By Eleanor Henriques
Redcoat Review Writer

This fall, on November 4 and 5, BHS students performed, “The Play that Goes Wrong.” The production was full of hilarious mishaps, including many spit takes, messed up lines, set pieces falling down, and the show ending with a booming collapse of the walls falling down and slamming on the stage floor.

There are many other adaptations of the production, consisting of a show, a two act play, and even a few movie versions. The show started with the impression that it would be a normal play that every other school puts on. The director, Chris Bean (played by Calvin Delude) came onstage and introduced the performance. After many failed attempts, he introduced the comedy, “The Murder at Haversham Manor,” and it began.

The melodrama opens on a dead body; well, it is supposed to. Really it opens on someone running on stage trying to be dead. After the body is discovered and identified as Charles, and after many set malfunctions, they call the Inspector, and he is on the case. Then, it is discovered that the Inspector has been embezzling money. Charles bursts through the door, alive, and with a gun, he has the evidence for the Inspector’s ulterior motives. After a fight between two actors, the Inspector is killed by his accomplice who is revealed moments earlier. Shortly after, the accomplice drinks poisoned water and is killed.

Actors in the show had to make scripted mistakes seem like real mistakes, which they did quite well. When a play is focused on things breaking and going wrong, it gives the actors a small amount of slack that they do not get in other productions. If they mess up a line or break character for a second, viewers will think it is all just part of the show.

Tommy Morisse-Corsetti, a sophomore, played a character that seemed very



Photo Credit: Cara Gileau

Students had flexibility to perform to flex their improv skills in this year’s play.

inexperienced and loved the applause of the crowd. Unlike his character, Tommy is an experienced actor and still had a couple problems that were not scripted.

“I remember that specifically the stretcher was a constant source of problems,” he said.

These issues were covered just to be part of the show, as it was another way to make the audience laugh. Ultimately, the production consisted of scripted and non-scripted elements that allowed the audience to roar with laughter.

The tech department was a huge contribution to the success of the comedy. From badly-timed music to set pieces falling apart, the play could not have been done without the help of the entire tech department. The audio technician, Charles Henriques, a sophomore, explains that, “one of the main things that people don’t see is all the time and effort that goes into building and painting the set.”

He also remarks on how there are many other events that go on before the show.

“Things such as writing cues, plan-

ning out timing, making sure that everything is working properly, and fixing problems that occur,” he said. The production was put on twice so the tech team had to build sets that could break, but be easily put back together.

“By using combinations of hinges and latches we were able to create temporarily fixed walls that could be dropped at a moment’s notice.”

On stage during the show there was an actor playing the job of tech, although it seemed believable, Charles believes that the job was portrayed as a lot easier on stage than it actually is. Along with many other behind the scenes secrets this play could not be put on without the amazing tech department.

Without the direction of Mr. Boyle, the BHS director of plays and musicals, this play would not have been possible.

Thanks to the contribution of Tyler Chamberland, the tech director, and the entire stage crew, sets were built, audio was clear, and the lighting fit the scene. Through the amazing performance of the actors, the show was both funny and successful.

Students Explore Careers at Sacred Heart University

By Katherine Morris & Emma Lavoie
Redcoat Review Writers

In the area of career exploration, media and production may not currently be a major at the top of many students’ lists. However, Sacred Heart University has a great program for students wanting to pursue this field and enhance their education in media and television. SHU offers a plethora of courses including: Journalism & Media Production, Film & Television, Esports, and Sports Communication & Media.

A group of Berlin High students were invited on a job shadow on November 18, 2022 to explore the opportunities that SHU offers in the Television Production field. BHS students met with a student currently enrolled in the graduate program and a professor that teaches in the media and production department, while getting hands-on experience and working with undergraduate students filming for their final exam. BHS students were able to work with the professional equipment

provided by the university during the trip. Students were also able to experience what pursuing this type of major would be like and what kind of options there are post college.

During a Q&A session, questions surrounded career opportunities after graduation in this field, with many different options being offered, whether it be internships with media companies or being able to travel to places such as the Olympics.

Adam Rice, a BHS junior who attended the job shadow, explained that he enjoyed how helpful it was in deciding a future path worth exploring.

“During my time at Sacred Heart University, I really got to explore and experience the field of media and production, and this opened my eyes to possible career opportunities in the future,” Rice said.

SHU also offers a Sports Media Masters program that works with the university’s sports teams to broadcast their sports games and put together



Photo Credit: Cara Gileau

Students get hands-on experience at Sacred Heart University in November.

sports highlights. Students in this program are given many different hands-on learning opportunities and are able to see what it takes to film and direct an actual show that is made solely by students. This simulates the pressure and timing it takes to make a live production.



Fall Sports Season a Huge Success for BHS

By Nadia Malec
Redcoat Review Writer

As the fall sports season comes to a close, Berlin High School has many things to celebrate. This fall, nine sports teams competed: football, boys and girls soccer, volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys golf, girls swim and dive and unified sports. All teams put in great effort this season and competed to the best of their ability.

Boys golf had an early start to the season, with their first practice in August and matches before the school year started. This season, the boys finished third at the CIAC Division II state championship tournament. Terrence Dornfried was named All-State and All-Conference. The boys finished the regular season with only two losses.

The football team had great success this season. Read more about their outstanding season in "Football Falls Just Shy of Perfect Season" on page one.

Coming off of last year's boys soccer season, the team lost nine senior starters. Their replacements included seven sophomore starters out of eleven players on the field. However, this did not discourage the boys who completed a very satisfactory season, finishing the season with a record of 12-4-2. They beat Stratford in the first playoff game of states, 5-1.

Sadly, they lost in a close game in the second round of states to Daniel Hand. Michael Abayomi, Joey Francalanga, Marcus Joshi, Colby Nardelli and Nicholas Vignone were all named CCC All-Conference players. Nardelli was also named All-State and selected to play in the Senior Bowl.

The boys cross country team finished with a regular season record of 3-3. Austin Vale Da Serra was named a CCC All-Conference runner. The boys placed in the top half of the teams during the conference race this season.

Girls soccer finished the season with a record of 10-5-4, losing in the second round of states in a close game to Notre Dame, coming off an 8-0 win against Bullard-Havens. This season the girls tied their long-time rival, Newington, in a scoreless game. Julia Palmese, Maddie Sadowski, Bella Salina and Julia Salina were named CCC All-Conference players. Julia Salina was also named All-State.

Girls volleyball had a great season, finishing with a record of 15-7. The girls made it to the second round of states, losing to Pomperaug in five sets. The girls also qualified and played in CCCs. Both Alivia Halkias and Gabriella Pappa were named All-Conference players.

The girls cross country team had another great season, finishing with the title of CCC Champions for the 11th

year in a row. Natalia Kmita, the team's top competitor, was runner-up in the state meet out of 131 runners, and named All-State. The girls finished with a record of 13-1, suffering its loss to rival Plainville. Claudia Jankovich, Natalia Kmita and Nadia Malec were all named CCC All-Conference runners.

The girls swim and dive team ended the season with a record of 5-6. The team had a great season, with six swimmers and one diver making it to the state final in individual events. Jenna Borselle, Zuzanna Dabek, Paige Kemish, Molly Szczesniak, Addison Szczesniak and Nina Welch for swimming events, and Emma Toce in diving. Molly Szczesniak was named a CCC All Conference swimmer. The girls are proud to say that they beat their longtime rival, Newington, with a score of 97-85.

This year, the unified sports team competed in two competitions, one in East Hartford and the other one in Glastonbury, winning most of their games during the Glastonbury competition. Unified sports practiced twice a week every week, putting in a lot of hard work. Unified had nine athletes participating, with 15 student partners.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in a fall sport! Overall we had a great season, and cannot wait to see what our school brings to the winter sport season!

Back to Back Powderpuff Champs

By Allie Nawalaniec
Redcoat Review Writer

Berlin High School held its traditional powderpuff event, a flag football game between girls from freshman through senior classes, on Tuesday, November 22 at Sage Park.

Once again this year, the event was hosted to support Berlin Helping Berlin (BHB). Last year, the event returned after a year-long hiatus due to Covid. Students and staff were happy to be able to have the event again and 106 students participated.

Mr. Arnold, a physical education teacher, hosts and organizes the event each year, emphasizing the importance of both raising money and enjoying yourself at the same time.

"It was a really fun night. That's the ultimate goal," Arnold said. "If you could raise money for a good cause and have fun, it's a win-win. It's a plus-plus."

Students were skeptical as to whether the defending Class of 2024 champions would secure the win. But the defending junior class was confident.

"I feel like we have a good shot," junior Emma Lavoie said. "We've been practicing a lot and we're all hoping we can get another win."

Lavoie was right. The class of 2024 defended its title, ultimately winning the powderpuff game for the second year in a row.

While the juniors were thrilled about their success, the seniors were certainly disappointed. As seniors, this was their last opportunity to secure a win.

Senior Jenna Wenzel shared her



Photo Courtesy of Berlin High School

The juniors won the title for the second year.

thoughts after the team's upsetting loss. She said the team felt as though they had to come through and win, knowing their biggest competitor was going to be the juniors.

"We really just wanted to beat them because they beat us last year but I think it was really fun to come together as a senior group one more time," Wenzel said.

Many of the seniors expressed the fact that their favorite part about it all was getting the opportunity to play a sport that girls don't typically play.

Wenzel explained, "I think it's really funny to have the boys who actually play football to be able to coach us since we really don't know anything about the sport and it's nice to have them direct us and help us play."

This year, the event raised \$2,000, which is a great outcome.

"For me, I love to see the girls on the big stage," Arnold said. "People are really working hard to be their best. It's a great opportunity for girls to have their opportunity to be on a stage. Everybody needs to be celebrated, so let's start celebrating each other."

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever is a Must See

By David Perkins
Redcoat Review Writer

A heart-throbbing story of love, grief, and perseverance, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* follows Shuri (Letitia Wright), Queen Ramonda (Angela Bassett), and the rest of Wakanda as they mourn the heartbreaking loss of King T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman).

However, even as the golden city mourns, war is still on the horizon. The caring but vicious Namor (Tenoch Huerta), and the underwater nation of Talokan will stop at nothing to achieve their independence and privacy from the surface world. In order to save Wakanda, Shuri will need to overcome her grief, don the mantle of the Black Panther, and carry on the legacy left by her beloved brother.

Directed and written by Ryan Coogler, the movie is a tribute to the late Chadwick Boseman, with intense emotional sequences and heartfelt moments. The composer, Ludwig Göransson, provides one of the most unique soundtracks, blending his own music with different artists from across the world, including Rihanna, Baaba Maal, and Tems. The cinematography throughout the film is breathtaking, managing to showcase the beauty of dozens of different nations. The film has made an astounding \$180 million domestically, and an incredible \$330 million globally. *Wakanda Forever* is emotional, impactful, and a must-watch film!

