

BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL



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THE NEWSPAPER

READ IT OR WEEP

Berlin Football: 1 and 0 each week

Erin Goodwin

update by Sam Barton

The undefeated Berlin High School Football team looks to keep improving its record over the end of this season. With their toughest opponent aside, the team sees no boundaries to their success. There is a single game left in the regular season, with competition for a state championship thereafter.

The team boasts an 10-0 record and holds the conference championship this season. Coach John Capodice devotes this great record to his exceptional defense. This Berlin team has let up only very few points the whole season. Capodice hopes to keep this number small in the last game by not allowing any more points scored against them.

As previously mentioned, Berlin has already won their most challenging contest of the season. This Halloween, the Redcoats took on the Platt Panthers at Sage Park in Berlin. This game was to determine the winner of the Division 3 East Conference. In a freak play, Berlin scored the winning touchdown. While kicking a field goal, the ball was tipped then remained in play. The ball was then touched by an unaware defender, then picked up and carried three yards into the endzone. This TD gave Berlin a 12-7 victory.

Going forward, Berlin has the traditional game with their rival, the New Britain Hurricanes, on the night before Thanksgiving. Capodice says his motto going forward is "to go 1-0 every week."



Unity Team Conference Kick-Off Event!

By Courtney Nelson

On Friday October 17th, the Berlin High School Unity Team attended the Statewide Unity Team Kick- Off event sponsored by CREC. This event was filled with hands on work, and influential speakers.

The BHS Unity Team, in specific, is always ready for a fun time at these conferences. It is inspiring to hear about the other teams and what they do as a team at their school. To start off the action packed day, CREC staff got things rolling with a few icebreakers to get everyone comfortable with all the new faces in the room. Santos Rivera, a BHS Unity Member, shared his favorite part of the meetings. “My favorite part has to be meeting new people and hearing new ideas from the other teams at the conferences”. These conferences are very beneficial to each member of the BHS unity team and their school as a whole. Another Unity Team member, Kayla Cervoni, states, “These events help us organize our ideas to build a better school climate. It is also beneficial to hear ideas from other teams around the state.” With the help of these events the team plans lessons that impact their school positively.

Derrica Reid, a member of the BHS Unity Team, gave her outlook on the conferences as well. “The conferences for the Unity Team’s available to us really inspired me to create the ‘Have A Heart Lesson.’” This lesson was first implemented at BHS in the 9th grade advisory classes. Unity team members and 9th grade class officers went into the advisories and ran the workshop. The lesson received such positive feedback from the 9th grade teachers that the team was asked to deliver the workshop at McGee to the 8th graders in Berlin, Connecticut. Not only did the team conduct a workshop with the younger students, but also the team was able to share the various opportunities and clubs available at the high school, like Unity Team. Santos Rivera, a founding member of the team with Kayla Cervoni shared his most memorable

part of being on the team. “My favorite project that we complete as a team is when we go to McGee, it allows the underclassmen to have a sneak-peak of high school and show them there is nothing to be scared of.”

Next at the kick off event, the teams were asked to do some action planning for their school-based projects they want to implement for the year. The BHS team was able to continue the planning that begun last year for their school-based project of implementing a campaign for school wide positive office referrals. Cervoni explained the referral as “a form available for students and teachers to fill out when they see good behavior or something positive that is worth noticing”. The team is very excited about introducing this campaign to the students and staff on Unity Day. They are planning on having a spirit week, filled with positive and fun days, leading up to Unity Day. On Unity Day, the BHS Unity team and all the class officers will be going into the advisories, grades 9-12, to teach Ally-Building skills, which the team and officers received specialized training in from the Anti-Defamation League in November. Unity Day will end with a school-wide pep rally. The BHS Unity Team all started in the fall of 2011. “Mrs. Gagnon, our assistant principal approached me about starting the team, at Berlin High. I knew I wanted to be a part of the fun after hearing about what Unity Team is all about.” according to Kayla Cervoni, Captain of Unity Team at Berlin High. Since 2011 the members of the team has risen from a small seven, to a whopping membership total of over 25 people. The BHS Unity Team’s mission is to continue to spread positivity and kindness to further increase the school’s



Boston Celtics Outlook

by Sam Barton

With the second best time of year finally rolling around (the first being the NFL Season), a lot of questions have been drumming up about the generally most popular team of the school: the Boston Celtics. It's definitely worth looking at this year's team position by position.

First let's start at Point Guard. Rajon Rondo has been the main man for years, but, obviously he wants out. Teams like the Cavaliers and Rockets would greatly benefit from Rondo's talent, and would send a lot back to Boston in return for him.

Next is Avery Bradley. He has been one of the most underrated players at his position. Bradley brings a lot to the table, but he mainly relies on his three-pointer. Bradley has a really crisp form, and when he gets open generally will convert nine times out of ten. Then, there is the rookie: Marcus Smart. This guy is a total wild card. At Oklahoma State, Smart was an animal, but had some on-the-court issues. Of course, I'm referring to when he pushed that trash-talking Texas Tech fan. That type of behavior can not happen in the NBA. With the kind of skill set that Smart has, as long as he can keep a cool head, he could be a real threat.

Next, we move to Shooting Guard. There are only three on the roster and each of them provide certain skills. First, there's Marcus Thornton. Thornton isn't really good for much more than shooting. A career PPG of 13.3 is very good, especially when you're not a starter. The only problem is that

there's not much else there. A career 1.5 APG, especially when you're a guard, is not great.

Next, we have Evan Turner. No one really knows this guy's true potential. After a horrible half-season in Indiana, where he clearly wasn't a fit, he hit the free-agent market. With around 10 teams pursuing him, he chose Boston. This guy is more a pass-first player. A career 3.9 APG player, Turner is a great addition to this team.

Lastly, the other rookie is James Young. As a 6'6" shooting guard, Young is loaded with potential. Last year at Kentucky, Young was one of the biggest stars. Of course, Kentucky would have been more successful if the whole team wasn't freshmen, but that's beside the point. Young was supposed to go higher in the draft, but slid to the Celtics. In my opinion, he's a steal. He's big and can shoot, and that's not even the best part. This guy is known for his defense.

Let's move on to the Forward position, or more specifically, the Small Forward. Let's start with Jeff Green. This guy has paid dividends ever since he joined the Celtics. As a career 14.3 PPG player, Green has always been successful. Plus, Green has many big plays as a Celtic, most recently being his buzzer-beating 3 to take down the Heat last season.

Next, we have Gerald Wallace. A huge problem with Wallace is his age. At 32 years old, he's not as quick as he used to be. So far this season, he is a 0.8 PPG player. These are horrible stats as a Small Forward, especially as a oversized one. The Celtics may look to move Wallace at the trade deadline as a possible package deal with Rajon Rondo.

Now for the other Forward, the Power



Upbeat - A Positive and Welcoming Environment in Berlin High School

by Kayla Sagan
Student Journalist

The Upbeat Peer Leadership Program remains to be one of the largest organizations in Berlin High School. The program began with a federal grant in 1988 and is currently lead by Ms. Mitchell. Berlin Upbeat is a school and community-based program that aims to encourage young individuals to develop logical decision making skills and become involved in various community service activities. Students, teachers, administration and community members such as police officers and parents work side by side to maintain and enhance the operation of the program.

First, there's one of the most underrated players in the league, Brandon Bass. Bass has traditionally been a solid player his whole career, but was never really a superstar. He's a career 8.8 PPG player, but also is not in the starting role, but he doesn't need to start in Boston.

Also, we have Jared Sullinger, the 22 year-old PF out of Ohio State. Sullinger has a lot of upside. As a career 10.8 PPG player, Sullinger knows how to put the ball in the basket efficiently. Plus, Sullinger is a career 7.4 RPG player. Since he is only 6'9", this is a great statline considering he has to out-muscle 7 footers for the ball.

Lastly, we move to the Center. Although the Celtics have many underrated players, they also have one of the most overrated players in my opinion: Kelly Olynyk. Olynyk, as a career 9.3 PPG player, the stats really aren't all that special. Of course, it's hard to judge him right now only

The members of Upbeat assist townwide organizations by participating in numerous community service projects. At the beginning of the school year, the leaders of the program organize and assign shifts for the Fried Dough booth at the Berlin Fair. From Thursday to Monday, Berlin Upbeat works alongside the Lion's Club to sell fried dough and other food items to create a profit. Later in the year, Upbeat aids Kiwanis by providing student volunteers to sell Christmas trees. In return, the organizations give generous financial donations that are used, along with additional grants and fundraising, to supply the program with necessary funding.

Along with the service projects completed by Berlin Upbeat as a whole, individual houses offer weekly volunteer opportunities that encourage students to become involved in activities outside of Berlin High School. For instance, the members of Hospital House volunteer at the Hospital for Special Care on either Tuesday or Friday. Unified House members serve as partners for individuals on the Unified athletics team. Griswold, McGee and Willard House work with elementary and middle school students at after school tutoring programs and GEM (Going the Extra Mile)

House makes gift baskets for struggling families at the Berlin food pantry .

In addition to community service, members of Upbeat work together to obtain leadership and communication skills. These traits are cultivated through hands-on experience and team building activities at the Peer Leadership Weekends at Camp Woodstock which occur in September, March and May. Invitations to the weekends are distributed based on attendance to the bi-monthly meetings and service projects. September Weekend is designed for the junior and senior members of Upbeat to acquire the ability to engage the younger members of the program and influence them in a positive way. Sophomores and juniors are invited to March Weekend, where public speaking and communication skills are primarily focused on. May Weekend is open to all students in the program. At this weekend, students learn to work together on various physical and mental challenges that require trust and communication.

The Upbeat Peer Leadership Program meets in the Cafeteria every other Monday from 5:30 to 6:30pm. Students are welcome to enjoy a slice of pizza and a beverage at the beginning of every meeting. New members are encouraged to join at any point of the school year. If you are interested, see Ms. Mitchell to join.

Worrisome Article Exposed

by Larry Swanson

Contrary to what was suggested in the article, "What's Going on Around Here," that briefly appeared in the newspaper's previous edition, Berlin High almost certainly is not built on the site of an ancient burying ground.

Construction noises are just that - construction noises, not rattling bones of long deceased spirits. No assistant principals are likely to explode, and our superintendent definitely will not sacrifice any freshmen to appease evil spirits.

No administrators were injured in the writing of this article.

Berlin Trivia

There is a town called Berlin in each New England State. Each is pronounced "Burrllin, just like the one in Connecticut.

Come on down to the Writing Center

by Victoria Marino

Students who need assistance in their academic writing are encouraged to visit the Berlin High School Writing Center, which is located in Room 1403. The Writing Center is open to all students before, during, and after school throughout the school week.

The individual tutoring sessions are operated by students in grades eleven and twelve; all tutors have been trained and certified. The tutors are very friendly and are available to help students in all stages of their writing process. Tutoring sessions are informal, and are designed to provide students with a comfortable setting to discuss certain aspects of writing. The tutor's goal is to improve the writing ability of all students who visit. Writing Center tutors are not allowed to physically write on or edit a student's paper; students must take it upon themselves to take notes on the advice provided to them by the tutors.

Tutors are able to adapt sessions to accommodate all writing assignments and aid peers with their specific issues. Any type of writing assignment across the Berlin High School curriculum from lab reports to research essays can be brought into the Writing Center. Students can also stop by the Writing Center to collect writing resources. There are many fliers and brochures available for students to reference throughout their writing process.

The Writing Center is advised by Berlin High School faculty members Ms. Portal,

Ms. Rutkowski, Ms. Briganti and Mr. Ott. Students can make appointments for the Writing Center online on the school website. Walk-ins to the Writing Center are also welcome upon the availability of the peer tutors. Ms. Portal, lead advisor for the Writing Center wants to “encourage all students to attend the Writing Center at any point in the writing process.”

Students who are interested in becoming peer tutors are encouraged to take the Issues and Methods in Peer Tutoring class offered at Berlin High School. This class prepares students to become effective tutors and improve upon their writing skills so that they can help others.

The BHS Writing Center’s motto is “We make better writers, not better papers.”

Book Review: *Life of Pi*

by Tyre Brinson

I can sum this book up in four words: “Nothing short of amazing.” *Life of Pi* is a lighthearted story of adventure, survival, morals, and how stories can ease one’s suffering. Written by Indian/Canadian author Yann Martel in 2001, *Life of Pi* is the story of Piscine Molitor Patel and how he is now adrift in the ocean after the boat he was on mysteriously sank, leaving him to share a lifeboat with a tiger, a hyena, an orangutan, and a wounded zebra.

The story is a beautiful tale that I plan to read over and over for years to come. Martel does a great job at giving context to Pi’s character and how Pi’s beliefs now affect his life at sea. The story starts out slow but soon becomes fast paced and engaging as Pi must not only go against his beliefs to survive at sea, but question the existence of his own

god. The story starts out slow and is really meant to give background on Pi’s upbringing in India and his religious beliefs, as well as his family’s history with owning a zoo. This part of the narrative is really slow and takes about 37 chapters until it gets to the story of Pi shipwreck. It’s boring but necessary if you want to realize what the heck is going on and how Pi manages to survive a seven month shipwreck with a 450 pound Bengal tiger. The story that follows after is the long and sorrowful tale of Pi as he struggles to cope with eating and killing living creatures in order to live, despite being raised as a vegetarian and training the tiger, whose name is Richard Parker because of a clerical error by a shipping clerk, in order to survive.

The story even takes a darker turn when you discover the true meaning of the story: how Pi is struggling to control his darker, more aggressive nature, which is symbolized as Richard Parker and how throughout the journey he’s dealing with the loss of his family and the blood on his hands. He is forced to kill in order to survive, and even at one point, eat another human being. When you learn the true nature of his story, it is both horrific, yet passionate. The book is touching and really amazing, justifying hundreds of rereadings and pondering.



The Bumpy Road to Acceptance

by Julia Kemmling

In mid-November is the National Letter of Intent early signing period for prospective student-athletes. A national letter of intent is a binding agreement between a prospective student-athlete and a NLI member institution stating that the athlete will attend the university and the university will provide athletic financial aid. There are many steps that student-athletes must take to get to this point, including years of hard work, practice and dedication

This process begins when the athlete is in 9th grade. This is when she officially becomes a prospective student-athlete for the university. Athletes start by filling out recruiting questionnaires and emailing coaches to grab their attention. Visits to colleges in person should also be made at this time so the athlete can get a feel for the school before pursuing a career at that institution.

Once the athlete has made a connection with a coach, there are certain rules for contact between the prospective student-athlete and coach. Coaches are only allowed to email the athlete until July 1st before the athlete's junior year of high school, which is when phone calls are allowed to be made. Until this point, no face to face communication may be initiated; it must be coincidental if anything. After July 1st, the athlete may have no more than 3 face to face interactions with a single coach, which includes anything more than "hello". Each college coach is allotted 7 evaluation opportunities for each prospective student-athlete. This means that the coach is allowed to come watch a practice, game/match, tournament etc. only 7 times throughout the recruiting process.

When the athlete becomes serious about a

particular school, they are allowed one all expenses paid official visit to 5 schools of their choice. They must use these visits wisely to get a feel for what it is like to live on campus at that school. From this point, they continue forward similarly to a regularly-applying student. They must register with the NCAA clearinghouse if they are planning on being a Division I or Division II athlete. They then send their SAT/ACT scores to the schools of their choice, as well as their transcripts and letters of recommendation. There's just one catch: it must be done by October of their senior year. Athletes must get this information to the school before the National Letter of Intent Signing day so that the school is able to determine how much financial aid the athlete can receive. Once the school has received the information and has accepted the student, the student will be sent their National Letter of Intent to be signed between the dates of November 12th and 19th.

Let it be noted that at any point in this process, the athlete may never receive any gifts or benefits in exchange for their attendance to the school. This does not adhere with NCAA compliance laws and will result in immediate removal of the coach and athlete from the athletics program.

Over the past few years, a number of Berlin High student athletes have gone through this process, and signed Letters of Intent to play for college programs. Many have gone on to excel collegiately, both in the classroom and in the athletic arena.

