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the grizzly

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The New Normal: A Spotlight on Women's Wrestling

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Here's the truth: It's hard being a female athlete in our country. We live in a world where WNBA players make 1.5% of what the average NBA player makes. An absolutely mind-boggling statistic. The inequality doesn't end there. The U.S. women's soccer team didn't receive equal payment until February of this year, despite the women having won four World Cups while the Men's team struggled to make the tournament every four years. The fight for equality in women's sports is still ongoing, however, strides are being made to close the gap right here in Collegeville.

On April 4th, 2022, Ursinus College announced the creation of a women's wrestling program. The school will become the eighth college in the state of Pennsylvania and the first in the Centennial Conference to sponsor the sport, cementing its participation in what is considered to be the fastest growing



Image courtesy of Ursinus College

sport in America. The creation of the program would serve to be a monumental moment in the history of women's sports at Ursinus College, breaking gender boundaries and empowering the women at this school.

"I believe the creation of the Women's Wrestling program is a huge step for women here at Ursinus College," emphasized rising sophomore Laura Bradley. "Wrestling is a tough sport, mentally and physically, so having female wrestlers on campus helps display the strength

and power women have."

Laura Bradley, the program's lone returner, got her start in wrestling her sophomore year at Upper Dublin High School, in Fort Washington, PA. Looking to go outside her comfort zone, Bradley took on the challenge of being Upper Dublin's lone female wrestler.

"I was the only girl on the team my first year, which felt intimidating. However, I immediately fell in love with the sport and stuck with it throughout high school."

After a decorated career at Upper Dublin, Bradley was recruited to wrestle at Ursinus under coach Joe Jamison. Amidst the creation of the women's program, Bradley finds herself set to headline the team next season. She shows a lot of promise to be the anchor for this team, as she brings much needed experience and tenacity to the mat.

Bradley is looking to follow in the footsteps of graduating wrestler Sydney Bowman. Bowman wrestled for the team in just her final year at Ursinus, however, she

is surely no stranger to the sport.

"I started wrestling in elementary school after my younger brother joined our local rec team," highlighted Bowman. "It looked fun, so I decided to try it out. My brother quit, and I stuck with it ever since!"

The tenured wrestler shined in her senior season at Ursinus, showing the wrestling world that women are just as strong and motivated as their male counterparts.

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Her success served as a prime example of how women are more than capable of taking the mat, and it is abysmal how the sport was gatekept for all these years. Despite making headlines for the men's team, Bowman will not get a chance to compete for the newly implemented women's program as she is graduating this

coming May.

"It's really bitter-sweet," Bowman expressed. "I'm so glad to have started it, and I know that this was the right year to do it, but I'm sad to leave before everything gets going. I'm proud of the legacy we were able to create and so excited to see it grow."

Bowman will leave behind a shining legacy at Ursinus College, having been

one of the first women to take to the mat. She will serve as a role model for generations of Ursinus women's wrestlers, and she can't wait to see all the success that the women's wrestling program will garner.

While the implementation of the women's wrestling program is an amazing feat in the history of women's sports, Laura Bradley and

Sydney Bowman don't view it as groundbreaking. They see it as the new normal. Bradley told me that in the future, she sees women's wrestling becoming a reality at schools around the world. There are a plethora of schools that have either created a program, or are in the process of making one, and it is only a matter of time before women's wres-

ting becomes one of the major American sports. This is the new normal, and with the drive and determination demonstrated from Laura Bradley, we could be serving as witnesses to a program of potential greatness here in Collegeville.

A Conversation with The New Division of Inclusion and Community

Chase Portaro

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Although inclusion efforts have been central to Ursinus's mission for a long time, the new Division of Inclusion and Equity was just officially structured this past February. Todd McKinney, Associate Dean of Students said, "One of the things that's really neat about this new entity – this new collaboration – is we're already interconnected, and now we can do that in a way that is more official, more stated."

McKinney is part of a team of ten within the new Division of Inclusion and Community Engagement, and The Grizzly sat down with them to discuss how they've connected inclusion efforts across campus in a formal capacity.

Ashley Hender-

son, Director of the Institute of Inclusion and Equity, is another member of the new division. Henderson works directly with students in the IIE. She explained, "We create and sponsor co-curricular programs. . . to bring vibrant experiences to the campus where students have either a sense of being 'home away from home,' or are given exposure to various cultures."

Henderson also works with Ursinus's summer bridge program, 'The Crigler Program for Student Success,' to ease the college transition for students from marginalized backgrounds. She said, "Being able to build community early on is definitely important for students who represent historically excluded backgrounds at a predominantly white

institution."

Monique Kelly is the College and Community Engagement Specialist. She explained, "I broadly support all of the efforts of the Vice President [Dr. Heather Lobban-Viravong, VP of Inclusion and Community Engagement]." Currently, Kelly is involved with the 'Welcome Home Project,' which she said, "is both a partnership with external communities, as well as on-campus events and programming to promote our relationship with the Indigenous peoples – The Delaware Tribe of Indians and the Lenape People."

Christian Rice, Assistant Dean of Civic Engagement, leads UCARE, which stands for The Ursinus Center for Advocacy, Responsibility, and Engagement.

UCARE seeks to involve students in community service through co-curricular opportunities. Rice explained, "It's always been a centerpiece of the program to really highlight diversity – that means putting on a lot of events annually that speak to diversity issues." Rice believes Ursinus offers students unique ways to get involved in inclusion efforts. "In my view, the sweet spot at a liberal arts institution like our own is co-curricular programming, in which there is a leadership model where students eventually become empowered in that organization to feel as if they have ownership of it."

Reverend Terri Ofori, the College Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life at Ursinus also believes co-curricular activi-

ties are gateways for student activism. She explained, "We're going to make sure we interface with all the departments on campus and recognize that this is a community, and this is a holistic approach. So, we may have some strategic outcomes for things like co-curricular athletic events – we may have to move into that realm. But the good thing is that everyone here represents the classroom and outside of the classroom."

Ofori draws inspiration from Ella Baker's involvement in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which was the principal organization for student activism in the 1960's Civil Rights Movement.

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She said, “Ms. Baker focused on secular student-centered leadership principles to bring about community transformation.” Ofori also explores how spirituality can enhance conversations across identities. “There is an opportunity for educational institutions to play a leadership role in constructively engaging the connection between diversity and spirituality that was used as the bedrock for cooperation. . . in the struggle for civil rights.”

Ursinus’s own “Beloved Community” is

one way the college seeks to provide students those opportunities that connect diversity and spirituality. The Beloved Community originates from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ofori said, “Dr. King saw the mission of racial reconciliation as reflective of the abiding love of God for all humanity, joined in the ‘Beloved Community.’” Dee Singley, Director of Disability Services, said “As a team, we have been trying to infuse the idea of the Beloved Community throughout the entire campus. . . we try to model it. . . and then we have also offered particular events

that can be tagged as ‘Beloved Community’ events.”

In addition to the Beloved Community, Singley works to ensure Ursinus is accessible for students with disabilities. Singley explained, “With disability services moving under Inclusion and Community Engagement, we’re really moving from a medical model of disability to a social model of disability to try to break those barriers for students navigating various impacts from disability.”

The division’s formation is a sign that community inclusion is paramount to Ursinus’s success among

faculty, but Singley said, “I would want to put it back on the students for more accountability – for students to take control and feel empowered throughout their time here at Ursinus and forward. I always ask ‘Where are the student leaders, and how can we use those leaders to be the people who spread the word?’”

There are many opportunities for students to work alongside faculty within the new Division of Inclusion and Community Engagement. Henderson said, “If we went around to everyone’s office, not only would we have possibilities for jobs, but also lead-

ership roles between the Chapel Leaders, the Bonner leaders, Scholars in Service, UC Possibilities, Conversations About and Across Difference lunches, UC ambassadors, IIE ambassadors, Radiance, Peer Advocates, and Crigler Mentors.”

If you are searching for ways to make the most out of your four years here, the new Division of Inclusion and Community Engagement might be a great place to start!

May Grizzly Grins

Fun Dates:

1st -- World Laughter Day

8th -- Mother’s Day

20th -- National Pizza Party Day

30th -- Memorial Day

“Every summer has a story”

- Unknown

Are you traveling anywhere fun? We’d love to hear all about it. Email us your pictures: grizzly@ursinus.edu. They may just be featured in our Fall issue.

Have a fantastic summer from all of us at *The Grizzly!*

Note from the News Editor!

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It has been a pleasure to serve as the News Editor for *The Grizzly!* Anyone can be a good writer, as long as you put the thought, energy, and dedication into a piece. I have seen many writers come and go this academic year, and not one of them has failed to surprise me. I hope to see more writers join our team next year.

I will no longer be the News Editor next year, but you’ll find me in Sports! I am honored to succeed our current Sports Editor, Ro Murphy ‘22. She has taught me what it takes to have *The Grizzly* grit on this campus.

Dancing the Night Away: UCDC's Spring Concert

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Thursday, April 21, to Saturday, April 23, the Ursinus College Dance Company (UCDC) put its hard work on display for the community to enjoy. Its show featured six dances spanning a variety of genres, including modern, tap, hip hop, and African dance. After spending the last semester working on choreography, lighting design, and rehearsals, audiences viewed the pieces in the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center on the Lenfest Theater Stage.

The dances are all original works by dance faculty members along with guest artist Jessica Anthony and student choreographer Elizabeth Kandler '23. Ursinus Dance Department choreographers include Dr. Karen Clemente, Dana Powers-Klooster, Jeannine Osayande, and Joshua Polk. Professor Powers-Klooster explained that the choreography process differs depending on the artist. Some decide on set movements while others encourage more collaboration in design. "Some choreographers

will come to the first rehearsal with a clear idea for the piece," she said. "While others may let the concept reveal itself throughout the process."

For Professor Powers-Klooster, working with others in the choreography process was her favorite aspect of preparation for the concert. "I am always so proud to see my students develop artistically throughout the process," she exclaimed. "I also love working with the different designers—it is such a gift to be surrounded by such talented and creative people." Gabby Price '25 echoed this sentiment by stating "everyone has been very welcoming and helpful to me throughout this process and I feel like I've become more a part of the dance community by being part of this performance."

Gabby performed in two dances, a modern piece called Under Wing, and a tap piece called Present Tense; Past Imperfect, which begins the program. While Under Wing, choreographed by Jessica Anthony, had set movements from beginning to end, dancers could include their own experiences

in the choreography of Present Tense; Past Imperfect. "It is about each dancers' personal stories and coming together as a community," Price stated. "So, a section of the dance is about our own stories and we all choreographed our own solos."

Other dances in the program include For Now, a modern piece, I Am Woman, a hip hop piece, and an African dance called A Love Letter to Myself. Kalina Witkowska '23 is performing in Present Tense; Past Imperfect and Under Wing, as well as another modern piece called Bravado. Witkowska has been involved with UCDC since their freshman year at Ursinus, and still enjoys the rush of performing on stage with the Company. "I have loved dancing with my fellow dancers," they said. "It has been a long semester but there is no feeling like the pride you feel when performing together."

After many hours of preparation for the show, the dancers were excited to finally share their work with the community. Price felt that tech rehearsals pushed the performers



Courtesy of Jenni Berrios

to a new level, and Witkowska agreed that "the past two weeks of rehearsals have proven how once a dancer locks into "the zone" magic really happens on the stage."

Price hopes that audiences can find an escape from day-to-day drudgery in their world of dance in the Lenfest. Witkowska said they want

onlookers to recognize the courage of the dancers for sharing their vulnerability with us. Professor Powers-Klooster agreed with Witkowska's feelings, saying she hopes that audiences can "leave feeling inspired and reflective." Congratulations to all those who worked on creating such an amazing show!

That's All Folks - Goodbye Dr. Throop!

Phoebe Tompkins

Dr. Susanna Throop has been a glowing light in the Ursinus College History department since 2009. Throughout her tenure at Ursinus, she has been a monument of achievement, earning the respect and admiration of her students and fellow faculty members. In the past few years she has taught courses, in History, GWSS, English, and CIE. She is cited in nine publications to date and will undoubtedly have many more in her lifetime. In May 2020 she was awarded the H. Lloyd Jones Award for Distinguished Advising and Mentoring and as someone lucky enough to call her an advisor, I wholeheartedly agree with the sentiment. She takes the time to know her students and advisees as individuals and she always went the extra mile for us when it was necessary. Good luck in your journey after leaving Ursinus. Be well, and in the words of Dr Throop herself, until next time folks.

The Man Behind The Grizzly: Doron Taussig

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At Ursinus, it is no secret that professors do more than just teach. They get to know students – mentoring, cheer-leading, and inspiring them to learn and be their best selves, both in the classroom and out. Doron Taussig, a journalism professor in the Media & Communications department and faculty advisor for *The Grizzly*, embodies all the best qualities that an educator should be. Outside of the classroom, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Chelsea and their three children: Sam, Leo, and Hana. For leisure, he likes to read and coach youth sports.

He found his way to Collegetown after spending ample time in the city writing and editing for a few different publications. As he finishes his fourth year at Ursinus, he deserves to be recognized for his commitment to students and their higher education experience. After leaving school, Taussig knew that he wanted

to pursue a profession that allowed him to make a living but also do what he loved most: writing.

After college, Taussig moved to Philadelphia to begin his journalism career, writing for a once popular and now dead Philadelphia city newspaper. He explains that the most interesting part about his path is that he didn't have any education in the journalism field since he received a degree in Sociology from Wesleyan University, in Middletown, Connecticut.

He found himself so intrigued with the media world, Taussig decided to head back to school at Temple University to study just that. While in his Master's Program, Taussig stated that he was given an opportunity to teach a class which showed him how exciting the education field could be. "When I tried it, I was immediately like, 'I'm going to be better at this than actual journalism. I just knew that this was a

better fit for me."

Taussig earned his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and then found an open position at Ursinus. He attributed his fast transition into the profession partly because of his wife being a middle school teacher, showing him simple ways to minimize mistakes like the proper way to design a class or syllabus.

"We talk about what works as a lede in class to get people interested and I think I learned that and how to structure the information and present it in a way that makes sense and in a way that people can follow. I think I learned that in journalism and that transitioned into the classroom reasonably well." This strategy has obviously worked out well because he does an exceptional job keeping his students interested in the material all while also challenging their abilities.

The Editor-in-Chief of *The Grizzly*, Layla M.



Courtesy of Doron Taussig

Halterman '23 explains that working with Taussig has been a highlight of her academic career. "Not only is Doron unrivaled as a mentor, but he is also a seasoned journalist that I truly enjoy learning from. He is my biggest ally, pushing me to do better because he knows I can. He continues to provide steadfast support to me and does so with unfailing generosity. Without his relentless belief in me, I would not be the

reporter and editor I am today."

This is proof that Taussig leaves a positive, indelible mark on students here at Ursinus.

On behalf of *The Grizzly* staff: Thank you, Doron, for all you do today and everyday! Your hard work and dedication is truly appreciated and never goes unnoticed.

A Note from the Features Editor

Thank you so much for staying tuned this year and staying up to date on the features section! It's been an honor to both write and edit. I'll return next year as your features editor once more. Have a great summer!

-Marie Sykes

Bring Back the Old Jazzman's

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With the recent addition of Starbucks on campus in the Fall of 2020, there has been much debate among students when they walk past the well-loved Jazzman's in Lower Wismer: do we still need it?

Starbucks might be a shiny brand-new addition to the Ursinus campus, but Jazzman's holds a special place in the hearts of many upper-classmen. They remember a time when the massive Commons building didn't exist, and their only caffeinated refuge was the trusty Jazzman's Café. Senior Kaitlyn McGinley feels the same way, stating, "I mean, sure, we can all agree that Jazzman's is stuck in a time warp, but it feels like

home, and that's what I love about it." The beloved café has seen better days aesthetically speaking, but that doesn't seem to stop them from making delicious food for students and faculty alike. On a weekday morning, you can still find Lower filled with students catching up with friends, studying, or even grabbing a bite to eat!

Students rave about the bagels and breakfast sandwiches from there. Many students say that it's more cost-efficient to go there as you get more bang for your buck. Junior Jenny Ronzoni, said "the bagels there are huge, and the egg-to-bagel ratio is perfect. The drinks at Jazzman's are a hit as well." Senior Britney Dyzel

said she often runs over to Lower to grab her favorite pomegranate drink because "Starbucks is constantly out of refreshers." However, Senior Brooke Hurley doesn't find herself wandering to Jazzman's all that often. She wishes that she did because she finds it much more convenient than its competitor. She said, "I like that they have kiosks to order from. Sometimes waiting in long lines to grab food makes me late to class." Bears know that they'll always have a reliable meal waiting for them during the week at Jazzman's.

As seniors' final days at Ursinus come to a close, we often find ourselves reminiscing on our

favorite meals spent together at UC, many of which were at Jazzman's. It is crazy to think that Jazzman's used to be the go-to spot for us upper-classmen. While some students still believe Jazzman's is the best café on campus, others simply appreciate it for the memories they hold there. With the days being numbered, I encourage you to swing by Jazzman's for one last cup of coffee and breakfast sandwich before we hit the stage for graduation!

A Note From the Opinions Editor:

It has been a pleasure reading the opinions of students across campus. Though I am planning on studying abroad Dublin, Ireland in the Fall, I look forward to resuming involvement with *The Grizzly* in the Spring!

BB cont. from pg. 8

matches on their trip, the team will also have leisure time to enjoy in these beautiful and culture filled countries. Spending time outside the US will be foreign to some, but it will give them all the experience of a lifetime.

“How close we are as a team already will make this trip one to remember for sure and just makes me so excited to experience this with this group of guys.”

—Ryan Hughes
Class of 2023

Hughes had an interesting perspective.

Coach cont. from pg. 8

allowed us to achieve a lot of things together, we had so much adversity to get over. The size of the school, and everything like that, I really miss the people I played with. I use this in my recruiting, I always say to my recruits, ‘we want two tables at your wedding.’ Because that is what we had here (at Ursinus) My best friends in the world are my college teammates, they’re the God-Parents to my kids. Again, the reason that I got into coaching is because of what we had here at Ursinus, it was that special.”

Coach Donahue finished his playing career in 1984 and was willing to do anything to make his dream of being a basketball coach come true. Immediately after graduating, Donahue started coaching wherever, however, he could. In

“My family has been a part of a Croatian club back home since I was young so it will be interesting to see the culture and traditions in these countries.”

“My number one priority is making sure we bring a Centennial Conference championship back to Ursinus. Going into these matchups, we will be focused on us. Getting better as a team offensively and defensively.”

—Ryan Hughes
Class of 2023

Additionally, the team will get a chance to experience the beautiful Plitvice National Park. Hughes spoke about this too,

saying, “The places we’ll go when we are free are going to be incredible.” Ryan concluded that “this trip will make memories of a lifetime that nobody on this team will ever forget.”

brought them their second, third, and fourth Ivy League championships in school history, and they had made the NCAA tournaments in those same three years, making it all the way to the Sweet Sixteen in 2010.

After Cornell, Coach Donahue made his way to Boston College, part of the ACC, arguably the most competitive conference in all of college basketball. There he coached future NBA player Reggie Jackson, and made the 2nd round of the NIT in his first season. His time at Boston College lasted 4 years.

Boston College served as a learning experience for Coach Donahue, as the ACC is as big as it gets for Division I basketball. He experienced both highs and lows, including the first time in his head coaching

A Note from the Sports Editor:

It has been an honor to be the editor of the Sports section for the past two years. I started my journey with *The Grizzly* as a writer, and somehow ended up serving as the Sports Editor. As I reflect on my time here at Ursinus, I am grateful for all of the people that I have met, the lessons I have learned, and the memories that I have made.

Thank you to everyone who has made an impact in my life. To the next Sports Editor, Ava Compagnoni ‘23,

enjoy every moment of representing your fellow athletes and soak every second of it in! I wish everyone at *The Grizzly* the best of luck in the future!

career that he experienced a losing season after a winning season. He then accepted his current job, as the head coach at the University of Pennsylvania. Here, Coach Donahue has entered the conversation about legendary Ivy league coaches. He has just wrapped up his 6th year with the program, and is already setting records. Coach Donahue is the only person in Ivy League history to win conference championships with two different schools (Cornell and Penn), and is just the 7th coach in Ancient Eight history to amass 100 conference victories. In 2018-19, he defeated the defending National Champions, Villanova, during the middle of a remarkable season that ended with his program in March Madness.

Nowadays, Coach still

thinks of Ursinus often, and still credits much of his coaching career to his experiences here as a Bear, and even before here as a high schooler.

“I probably knew that I wanted to (make basketball my life) even before I got to Ursinus. While I was in high school, I was coaching third, fourth, and fifth graders. So even before I had decided to go to Ursinus, I always had my eye on what the coaches were doing. I also took a lot from how Skip coached us. Organized, detail-oriented, understanding the ins and outs of the game, it really just gave me even more motivation to want to be a coach.”

D3 Baller to D1 Coach

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Ursinus has a long history of success at the Division III level in athletics. The field hockey teams of the 50s, the basketball teams of the early 80s, the wrestling teams of the 2000s, and these just scratch the surface. However, we don't usually see our successful athletes transitioning to a higher level of athletics after graduating from here, whether that be moving on to the Division I or professional level. In the past 20 years, however, Ursinus has had some successful graduates break into high-level sports, most notably being Dan Mullen, class of '94, who most recently was the head football coach at the University of Florida, and Steve Donahue, class of '84, who is the head Men's Basketball coach at the University of Pennsylvania. A couple of weeks ago, I was fortunate enough to sit down for an interview with Coach Donahue, and his fellow teammate from his time here at Ursinus, Mike Brophy.

Coach Donahue was a part of the legendary 1980s Ursinus men's basketball teams, and specifically the '81 team that reached the final four and finished third in the nation (the team also

finished top eight in the nation in 1982). This team has recently been immortalized here on campus, with the new multi-purpose basketball team rooms that have been built in Helfferich Hall, named after the incredible coach of those Ursinus teams, Skip Weryly. This new team room is now a staple of Ursinus's beautiful campus, and it speaks volumes to the commitment that Ursinus is making to its athletics programs, aiming to give our athletes and community as a whole the best possible future.

The men's basketball teams of the early 80's were truly remarkable in the sense of bringing Ursinus's community together. During the season, they were lucky to have 80 fans in the crowd, but by the time they made the national tournament, thousands of members of our community were attending, and everyone else was closely watching.

Coach Donahue worded it perfectly: "The group of guys that you felt such a closeness to, and the family atmosphere is what turned me on to staying in coaching. You just don't get that close knit feeling, where everyone is pulling for each other very often. And it obviously

See **Coach** on pg. 7



Courtesy of David Morgan

Ballin' in Europe

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Finding a way to get out of summer mode and into the season can be tricky for some teams. Most teams participate together throughout the year, but this upcoming summer the Men's Basketball team has a chance to visit Europe and play in Croatia and Slovenia. Not only will this prepare the team for the upcoming season, it also gives

the guys a great opportunity to bond.

Last season, the team went 13-13 overall and 9-9 in conference play. But the team is always looking to improve their skills. Ryan Hughes '22 explained that this trip will be a fabulous opportunity to grow and build connections. "How close we are as a team already will make this trip one to remember for sure and just makes me so excited to experience this with this group of guys."

Hughes is coming off a great season, leading the team in minutes played and points per game. He seemed very excited yet focused, stating, "My number one priority is making sure we bring a Centennial Conference championship back to Ursinus. Going into these matchups, we will be focused on us. Getting better as a team offensively and defensively."

With just a few

See **BB** on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Tuesday

Track&Field@ All Day
Baseball@ 3:30pm
Men's Tennis@ 3:30pm

Track&Field@ All Day
Baseball@ 3:30pm

Track&Field@ All Day
Women's Golf@ All day
Baseball@ 12pm
Men's Lax@ 12pm
Softball@ 1pm
Tennis@ 1pm
Baseball@ 3pm
Softball@ 3pm
Women's Lax@ 3pm