

# The Log

Christopher Columbus High School

Quarter 2 Review

January 2025

## How One College Athlete Became A Guiding Light For Columbus Students

By Eddie Lopez

Amidst the constant commotion of college application season, a small section of the C Building serves as a sanctuary for college applicants. With its fitting logo (a lighthouse), the college corner is a beacon of hope guiding Columbus students through the college storm.

Mrs. Heather de la Osa, college counselor for students with last names L-Z, can be found running around campus raising awareness of the college application process. When she takes a break from her constant hustle, she is found in her office handling the never-ending questions from Columbus students eager to perfect their college applications and get into the school of their choice.

Her journey to guidance started about 1,000 miles north of Miami in the city of Baltimore, Maryland.

Although she was born and raised in Maryland, her heroism in the...

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## A Quarter in Review



Mrs. de la Osa takes a picture after a successful workshop  
(Photo credit: cchs\_collegecareerguidance on instagram)

## Mas Midwest College Tour: My Take

By Matthew Leon

The Mas Program recently had students on a trip to the Midwest region of the US, to see colleges across the country. This was a great opportunity for prospective students to figure out where they want to apply to college in the near future. This article will show the good and bad aspects of each college visited (in my opinion), with student input included.

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Arch named "Gateway to the Future," at Purdue.  
(Photo Credit: Matthew Leon)

## Gears & Grades: Maximilian Garcia's Dual Pursuit

By Oscar Pinto

Maximilian "Max" Garcia, a Christopher Columbus High School sophomore, has already made a name for himself by becoming the USF2000 (United States Formula 2000) champion earlier this school year, impressing the school and the wider community. Sponsored by Pabst Racing, Max knows how to balance life in the fast lane while staying focused on his academics.

Still, Max's journey from local

karting competitions to the national racing stage is nothing short of extraordinary. At just 16, he is already driving on the same tracks where professional racers have made their names. Growing up in a family deeply rooted in motorsports, Max quickly found his place behind the wheel. His rise in the world of racing has been swift, but it comes with immense dedication and countless hours of training—both physical and mental.

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## Columbus Basketball Aims For Four Straight After Dominant Start



24-25 Season Team Photo. (Photo Credit: MaxPreps)

By Ale Menendez

Heading into the 2024-25 basketball season, the Explorers have set their sights on a National Title, but haven't forgotten their day to day composure and mindset that has made them the team they are today. It's no secret that coming off of 3 straight state championships and one national championship, it can be hard to continue to bring the same intensity and motivation to win. But this team hasn't let anything block their sites of their ultimate goal of a state champi-

onship and eventually, a national title.

In their first home game of the year, the explorers' skills were on display for the home crowd as they made a statement against DME Academy in an 81-55 win. With a show stopping dunk by Jackson Richardson with just 3 minutes left in the 4th quarter, the crowd absolutely erupted, as the Explorers cruised to victory at home. No small part in this home victory was Duke commit Cayden Boozer, whose playmaking and defensive intensity allowed for Columbus to achieve this.

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## Hall of Fame Ceremony Inducts More Columbus Legends

By Sven Stumbauer

In the halls of Columbus, the term “Legend” is thrown around a lot due to so many notable figures continuing to build up the school, and they played a memorable part in creating it. As a result, the school granted those who contributed greatly to Columbus and the greater community of Explorer Nation by enshrining them in the school’s Hall of Fame. Here’s the scoop on the latest Hall of Fame Ceremony, which unfolded on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024 and in its way, made history as a unique iteration of the storied tradition.

The first inductee of the night was Maximo Alvarez, the patriarch of the Alvarez family and a major contributor to the Columbus community. He was born in Cuba, attended the Maristas School during the 1950s, and came to the USA as part of the famous Pedro Pan program at just thirteen years old.

He is the President of Sunshine Gasoline Distributors, which supplies gas to hundreds of gas stations in Florida and is one of the leaders in that field within the Sunshine State. Arguably just as notable, he was appointed by Governor DeSantis to FSU’s Board of Trustees and most recently was behind the groundbreaking of the current renovation program for the A Building.

During an incredibly emotional and heartwarming acceptance speech, Mr. Alvarez laid out thanks to many people, but in particular, to the group that served as his guiding light.

“I am passionate about certain things that I will always carry in my heart, and that thing is Los Maristas,” Alvarez said. “Those are the people who deserve so much because they cemented those family values that I learned at home. I will never, ever be able to pay back what I was given when I came to this country and got to receive a Catholic education. We need to ensure that we continue the Marist Tradition, as it’s our guiding light.”

The event continued with the induction of an alumni parent, Mr. Jorge Rico, an individual whose impact in Columbus is more significant than meets the eye. Over his time in service to Columbus, Mr. Rico has worked in various roles behind the scenes as a Board Member, a member of the school’s Development Committee, and a Strategic Advisor.

Additionally, he has a wealth of experience in the health sector with over 35 years of experience and sits as a member of the Board of Directors at several institutions. Most notably on Columbus’ campus, Mr.

Rico is the visionary behind the Mary Our Good Mother Statue on the third floor of the L Building along with the DQ Plaza it is surrounded by, which was built in memory of Cross Country runner and Columbus Alumnus Danny “DQ” Quesada ‘19 who sadly passed away from cystic fibrosis.

When introducing Mr. Rico to the stage, Mr. Kruczek highlighted his vision behind the creation of the DQ Plaza.

“Jorge’s desire was to ensure that the story of Danny lived on: a story of perseverance even in the face of incredible adversity,” Kruczek said. “Together, we decided that the third floor of the L Building would be a fitting location for both the statue and the DQ Plaza, serving as a daily reminder of Danny’s indomitable spirit. In the years of its existence, the plaza and statue have inspired countless students, kept Danny’s memory alive, and continue to remind us to strive forward with faith and determination in our lives.”

Mr. Rico’s contributions to Columbus span far and wide, and it’s an honor that his vision has been able to grace the school’s campus in such a significant way for the Columbus family.

Following Mr. Rico, Carlos Rodriguez ‘82 was set to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. A graduate of Harvard, Mr. Rodriguez has made a tangible impact on Columbus’ reputation across the world. Most notably, he served as the CEO of ADP, a Fortune 500 Company, being one of the handful of notable Explorers to achieve the feat.

Under his leadership, ADP was selected as one of “FORTUNE” Magazine’s “World’s Most Admired Companies” for 12 straight years and was featured on Business Insider as one of the best CEOs of large companies.

Once Mr. Rodriguez was inducted into the Hall of Fame, Mr. Kruczek approached the podium to present a posthumous induction of Br. Julio Vitorres. He passed away in 2022 and before then, Kruczek noted that he had an indelible mark on the lives he influenced, most notably through his service to the Marist brothers for 71 years.

He served at Columbus for over 25 years and served in several countries and other US States such as New Jersey and Texas. His contributions to Columbus are numerous, the most notable being that he founded the Explorers Soccer Team. Additionally, he was the architect behind the immensely popular Mother and Son Mass and the Father and Son Mass and served in additional capacities, such as managing the Columbus bookstore and



The Castaways Against Cancer being inducted to the Hall of Fame.  
(Photo Credit: Castaways Instagram)

in administration positions in the Library and the Office.

One of Brother Julio’s closest companions, especially during his time at Columbus, Brother Brady, laid out a litany of praise for the late inductee, highlighting his respect for his most admirable qualities.

“I met Br. Julio probably in the 1980s and that was when he came to Marist High School in New Jersey... he was always a very passionate and enthusiastic brother and he loved what he did. He loved the brothers, the boys, being a teacher, and being very involved. His passionate love for his vocation was truly second to none.” Brady said.

Brother Julio’s contributions to Columbus are staggering, and even though he may not have lived to see his induction, it is only right to acknowledge the greatness of such an accomplished man whose actions continue to uplift Columbus in the present day.

After the bittersweet induction of Brother Julio, history would be made at the Hall of Fame Ceremony with the first-ever organization to be inducted: The Castaways Against Cancer. For over 25 years, this group of “sea hippies” have fervently kayaked, cycled, and ran from Miami to Key West to fund cancer research and hopefully find a cure.

At the ceremony, Mr. O’Brien and Mr. Pino went on stage to accept the award, but they were accompanied by other Castaways such as Mr. Hermida, Mr. Kumer and Mr. Scholer who have undeniably influenced the trajectory of the group.

When asked to talk about the Castaways’ success and the significance of the group’s induction, Mr. Hermida had some choice words about the distinction.

“It’s a historic moment,” he said. “We started with Mr. O’Brien and some fellow teachers and we saw them as these renegades who went out into the wild and paddled. Then we found out it was to raise money for cancer research, and we realized that it was for a good cause. They did

it humbly, quietly, and grew to be the biggest fundraising organization in the Marist system. I believe it’s well deserved and long overdue and I’m so glad to be part of the ride, pun intended.”

While the Hall of Fame Ceremony usually ended with the last induction, this year, another award was given to a very deserving candidate for the very first time. This award is the “In the Way of Mary” Award, granted to an outstanding faculty member who carries the legacy of Mary Our Good Mother through servant leadership and silent yet notable contribution to the Columbus community. This year’s recipient was the great Brother Edmund Sheehan.

Although currently known as Columbus’ librarian, Br. Edmund has notably served as one of Columbus’ principles and has also been inducted into Columbus’ Hall of Fame.

When he found out that he had received the Inaugural In the Way of Mary Award, Brother Edmund was especially surprised.

“I am startled to have received this award. However, I am certainly grateful to Columbus for its recognition of the brothers’ work,” Brother Edmund said.

In a surprise move at the ceremony, Carlos Rodriguez, class of 82, made a contribution to assist a scholarship in honor of Brother Edmund Sheehan. This scholarship will support future students for generations, covering tuition, meals, and providing student experiences. Brother Edmund’s legacy in Columbus has already been cemented as one of the greatest of all time according to all in attendance. Yet he is still promoting a significant impact on the campus as a friendly face and a phenomenal individual in any capacity.

Overall, this Hall of Fame Ceremony was truly one for the history books, as are all ceremonies of similar ilk. Its significance to the Columbus community is incredible, and here’s to all the inductees enshrined and all inductees in the future.

## Career Day Gives Juniors a Glimpse Into the Future

By Ale Menendez

On Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, Columbus students got to step out of the classroom and participate in one of Columbus's most unique and important experiences: Career Day. This event provided students with an active representation of the "Columbus Brotherhood" that is so often emphasized. It allowed students to learn more about the career they would like to pursue by learning from experts in every field.

Before the event, students were given a survey asking what career field they would be most interested in. This allowed for students to be placed into groups of various fields, such as law, business, and more. These groups would then sit in on presentations, discussions, and Q&As with Columbus Alumni who have taken a step out into the real world and seen what these careers are like.

"It inspired me to pursue entrepreneurship as a career and think more about what specific major I want to pursue in college. I don't think anything can give you that kind of insight besides talking to guys, especially from Columbus, that have gone out there and done it," said Junior Nico Haddad.

And it's this real-world experience that allows for career day to be such

an important day on the calendar for all Columbus students, especially upperclassmen. But it's not just Columbus students who enjoy participating in a career day. It may be the Alumni who get more of a kick out of being back on their home turf.

"It's a great experience," said Alumni and lawyer Jose Fuentes. "I always love the opportunity to come back to the school and see the growth, but the core of this place remains the same, and that's what makes it so special."

And Columbus allowed Fuentes to build and shape his career.

"The brotherhood. And just the bond, faculty, and being surrounded by people who genuinely care about your well-being (helps you)," he said.

This Columbus Spirit that Fuentes describes is present throughout the halls during career day. Alumni giving high fives left and right, re-connecting with some of their old teachers and friends, and most importantly, teaching the next generation of explorers how to represent Columbus well and succeed in whatever career they choose to pursue.

In terms of the "behind the scenes" operation that allows career day to run so smoothly, Mrs. Colleen Anderson and Dr. Burrus both handle it perfectly. From coordinating which



Alumni pose in front of the Mas building on Career Day  
(Photo Credit: @Columbuson instagram)

Alumni's to invite to allowing students to participate in whichever presentation they enjoy most, they make this experience as enjoyable and informative as possible for Columbus students.

"I joined Dr. Burrus in organizing Career Day three years ago. We have made quite a few changes. Some of the more noticeable changes are that we went from the senior class participating to the Junior class, as well as we have given students the ability to select which career path interests them the most."

Mrs. Anderson also notes the im-

portance of connecting with Alumni.

"I truly feel one thing, connecting our Alumni with the students is imperative. The Columbus network is one of the strongest networking groups around," she said.

There's no family like the Columbus Brotherhood, and Career Day clearly plays an important role in allowing for the Explorers of today to connect with the Explorers of tomorrow by getting a taste of what future career they would like to pursue.

## New Location, Same Celebration: Veterans Day Event Recap



Members of the Patriot Club pose with a bagpiper. (Photo Credit: Br. Eladio)

By Eddie Lopez

Construction in between the A and B building did not stop the Columbus community from celebrating our veterans in the annual Veteran's Day celebration on Friday Nov. 8.

Despite the relocation from Patriot Plaza, the Eagle and Flag monument, a symbol of the ultimate sacrifice and unwavering patriotism remained a constant as veteran alumni, faculty and students alike gathered to listen to keynote speaker Lane Jackson, class of 2000 share his experience in the military.

Prior to the ceremonies commencement, the crowd gathered to listen to Mr. Cooper's rendition of the national anthem using his saxophone and a performance from local bagpiper Jason Wright. Mike Carricarte class of 1959 and decorated Army Ranger joined in on the morning's performances, delivering a recital of God Bless America alongside Wilbur Bell, Air Force veteran.

Juan Perez, former Miami-Dade Police director added to the celebration remarking on the sacrifice our nation's heroes make not just abroad but in domestic land as well. His

words preceded the keynote speaker's introduction by the famous Columbus teacher and alumni, John Lynsey.

Keynote speaker Lane Jackson played football during his time at Columbus and later got a nomination to the United States Naval Academy where he continued his football career as a three year starter and captain for the Midshipman.

After his time in Annapolis, he made his transition into the military by going through the grueling Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training (BUD/S) needed to become a Navy SEAL. He was assigned to SEAL team eight where he spent his career in the teams and was later honorably discharged from the Navy in 2011.

Jackson made his way back to Columbus currently coaching the linebacker unit on the football team.

During his speech, Jackson recalled a win in his time on the Columbus football team as one of the first moments realizing the foundation of teamwork and getting a taste of success. Jackson displayed his love for his country and community noting that everyone makes a sacrifice for their country in their own rite.

"We should all be filled with gratitude for so many things, but today is dedicated to those that made greater sacrifices than you did and that's

what Veterans Day is about, to remember those sacrifices that armed service members did for us as a nation," Jackson told CCNN.

He was presented with the signature camouflage shirt from the Patriot Club from club president Benjamin Pagliery and vice president Vincent Keane.

The Columbus community and administration realizes the impact of having a veteran presence on campus and hopes to display the true meaning of patriotism.

"Hearing Lane speak, that was from the heart. Those were powerful words from someone who has lived it. The reason we do this event is to honor our veterans but it is also for our students as we want them to understand the commitment that veterans make and why they do it," said President Kruczek.

"It's a great chance to look back at the alumni who made the sacrifice to go back into the military. For me personally, it's a special time to think about what I want to look forward to in my country and what I want my future to look like as well." Said Patriot Club president Benjamin Pagliery.

With another year in the books for the Veterans Day celebration, Columbus shines the light on those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and reminds students the reason they have Monday off.

## Columbus' Annual Turkey Drive Returns

By Joseph Alonso

Christopher Columbus High School is keeping with the annual tradition of giving back with its Thanksgiving Turkey Drive. This yearly event brings in turkeys to be given to families in need, as well as to the school's associates, a group which includes cafeteria staff, maintenance workers, and other vital members of the team in general.

The food drive takes place in front of the school cafeteria and Marist Circle, making it a hub where students, faculty, and staff can donate. The turkeys that are collected are then given out as gestures of appreciation to those who support the community at the school.

"It's a tremendous effort on behalf of Christopher Columbus High School because it shows that we truly understand what Thanksgiving is," said Principal David Pugh.

In itself, the drive brings the

school community together and instills in them a sense of giving back to those who contribute to its daily functioning.

"It's an opportunity to show how grateful we are to them, and I just think that it's our mission."

He also highlighted the longstanding tradition, saying,

"... and to know that Brother Eladio has been doing this for over 30 years is an amazing thing."

The turkey drive is spearheaded by the Squires, a student organization dedicated to service, and Campus Ministry. Danny Alvarez, a senior and the Squires President shared his thoughts on the event.

"The drive is the perfect place where we can really give back to those who mean the most in our community," he said.

Javier Aragon, a Campus Ministry Leader, expressed personal gratitude for the associates.

"They are like my second fami-



Columbus volunteers along with members of MDPD gather around the donation truck. (Photo Credit: @columbushs\_miami on instagram)

ly, and giving them turkey is pretty important to me because I know that they need it," Aragon said.

Mr. Robert Lewis, Squire moderator, and counselor, reflected on the history and impact of the drive.

"This is a tradition [Brother Eladio] started with Mr. Gonzalez many years ago, and it's truly an honor to be a small part of this beautiful moment of Thanksgiving," Lewis said.

The turkey drive has become a

hallmark of the school's Thanksgiving season, embodying the spirit of gratitude and service.

Mr. Lewis added, "My hope is that all those that participate in the ceremony learn the small lesson [of making a difference, even in the smallest ways]."

By coming together, the Columbus community continues to make a meaningful impact each year.

## Explorerpalooza: Rock Hits by a Band of Teachers



The Band performing together. (Photo Credit: Evin Diaz)

By Javi Albite and Joseph Alonso

Another month-long Columbus Walkathon fundraiser has passed, with the teachers' rock concert, Explorerpalooza, being a staple of this tradition. From Mr. Marinelli taking over the mic to sing "All the Small Things" to Mr. Ulloa going all in on the guitar solo for "Free Bird," there wasn't a dull moment watching these teachers play their hearts out on Oct. 16.

The Walkathon Fundraiser helps raise money for different causes around the school and is an important school tradition, evolving from a normal raffle fundraiser to what

it is today. But more than just the walk, the teacher rock concert has become a student favorite. Teachers, who students usually only see in the classroom, turn into rockstars, giving everyone a chance to see them in a whole new way.

"Explorerpalooza is a celebration of everything that made Walkathon so popular." English teacher and guitarist Mr. Ulloa said. "It's weird, it's wacky, and it's wild. As students back in the early 00's, we all loved the insanity of Walkathon and how much the teachers bought into that insanity. It's just faculty and staff having fun and raising money for their students."

### Ms. Medico and Her Love for No Doubt

During the No Doubt performance, Spanish teacher Ms. Medico joined in to sing the vocals for the song "Spiderwebs." She has always been a huge fan of the band since the '90s and wanted to use this opportunity to try something different.

"I actually don't sing, I wanted to do something different and it was one way to I guess break out of my comfort zone and that was quite impressive. I did that," she said.

### Mr. Ulloa Stole the Show with "Free Bird"

Mr. Ulloa has been playing the guitar for the past 25 years and his talents really shined through that evening, especially during the "Free Bird" performance. The song's iconic four-minute-long guitar solo was played in its entirety by Mr. Ulloa in dedication to a faculty member who had recently passed away.

"To me, I mean, the finale was awesome. You can't go wrong with "Free Bird" and Ulloa shredding on the guitar. And it was dedicated to our faculty member who passed away, Foyo, that was his favorite song," said Mr. Marinelli.

Mr. Ulloa's skills on the guitar were impressive, but what made the moment even more special was seeing how far he had come. His performance showed just how much he had grown as a musician over the years.

### Mr. Chacon and His Musical Talents

Mr. Chacon lent his vocals to every song played during the concert. But besides singing, he's also played

the piano and guitar from a young age.

"I've been a musician for a very long time. Pianist since the age of 5 and then I started picking up the guitar in high school and then I was in a bunch of bands in college," he said.

He also reflected on the deeper meaning of the event beyond just the music.

"We are such a special faculty," Chacon said. "Our willingness to get outside of our comfort zone and do something totally outrageous for the school community is amazing in and of itself. Yes, we are an academic institution, but we are also a family like no other."

### A Special Connection to Students

For students, seeing their teachers in a new light is part of what makes this event so special.

Mr. Ulloa, reflecting on the student reactions, said, "I think students love this because we, the faculty, are not people to them. I don't mean that we are disrespected, but that they think of us as characters in an ever-evolving narrative of Christopher Columbus High School."

As the concert ended, it was clear that this year's Walkathon concert was not

just about the music, but about the connection between the faculty and the students.

The event was a reminder that while school is about education, it's also about community and family—and sometimes, that means rocking out on stage for a good cause.

## Seniors vs. Faculty: A Dodgeball Showdown for the Ages

By Allan Tompkins

Last year, the seniors and faculty faced off in what seemed like a dynastic rivalry in basketball, ending with the seniors barely clinching a 51-50 win. This year was no different as the faculty faced off against the seniors once again, but this time, with revenge on their minds. It all came down to an intense game of dodgeball in which students could get away with throwing something at their teachers and not get sent to the dean for it.

### Round 1 (Elimination)

The first two rounds were elimination rounds between 3 teams of seniors to find out who would be worthy to face the faculty. Referees Mr. Ortega and Mr. Pino would keep track of every single ball thrown, making sure no player who got hit would remain in the game. Round 1 began and right off the bat, the seniors did not take it easy on each other. Jose Gomez led the left side of the gym while Andres Gotera led the right. As the multicolored dodgeballs zipped across the basketball court, the teams began losing more and more players in what looked like an exchange of gunfire across a battlefield. The teams began adopting a pattern of moving up, throwing the balls, and then returning to the end of the court to dodge the opposing team's throws.

As the battle continued, one player stood out who sealed the win for his team: Jayden Leon. With less than one minute left in the game, Leon rushed to the center of the court and launched a ball over to a player in front of him letting his guard down to an opposing senior on his left who threw a ball directly to his chest. As the ball bounced off of his body, what seemed like an out, Leon caught the ball, leading to a sudden roar in the crowd. With only three players left on one team, and seven on the other, Gotera's team ended up winning the first round, taking them to face off the final senior team, led by Mario Magana, in Round 2.

### Round 2 (Elimination)

In the second round, both teams definitely played more conservatively, staying toward the back of the court to avoid getting hit. While not as close, nor as exciting as the first round, the atmosphere was still tense and the teams fought with all they had.

As Magana's team began losing more and more players without getting many of Gotera's team out, victory was near. Dylan Gill on Magana's team earned the MVP of Round 2 as he got numerous outs while also being the last standing member of the team before getting hit in the head to end the game and make Gotera's team undefeated.

### Round 3 (Faculty)

As Gotera's team remained on the court for a third time, the highly anticipated faculty took their positions on the left side of the gym. Mr. Diaz and Mr. Ulloa wore matching red, white and blue headbands and took their marks on the line as if they were about to run a 40-yard dash. The second Ms. Alonso yelled, "Go!" both teams rushed to grab as many balls as they could and the battle began. Within a minute, half of the faculty was eliminated by the dominating seniors, yet hope was far from gone.

"I zigged, zagged and dodged but unfortunately, my legs didn't work the way I wanted them to," said math teacher Mr. Sanchez.

Without a doubt, the clear MVP of the faculty was Mr. Pino. He not only had a cannon for an arm, but he also strategized against vulnerable players on the opposing team who had just thrown the ball, which dealt a considerable number against Gotera's team. Not far behind him was Mr. Garrigo who showed bravery by staying most of the game toward the front line, intimidating the seniors with his fast throws.

For over two minutes, the four remaining faculty members: Mr. Diaz, Mr. Garrigo, Mr. Pino, and Mr. Hernandez tried their best to survive



The faculty are prepared for their matchup.  
(Photo Credit: Melissa Alonso, Student Activities Moderator)

against the ten remaining seniors and after a hard-fought battle, the faculty fell short to the likes of Gotera's undefeated team. While the seniors rejoiced in their victory, they weren't finished as they confidently requested one more game which the faculty happily accepted; this was their final chance at revenge for last year's disappointing loss.

Mr. Moro reflected on his performance with optimism, "I did not do as well as I anticipated but I had a lot of fun. The energy was high, everyone was laughing and in the end, that matters more than winning or losing."

### Round 4 (Faculty)

For the last time, both teams lined up on their sides and once again rushed for the balls. This time, the faculty took a less offensive strategy and played it safe to preserve as many players as possible. Pino and Garrigo continued to dominate, yet the seniors focused their attacks on them, knowing they were the faculty's stronger players and eventually getting both of them out. The entire crowd was on the edge of their seats as three players remained for the faculty while only 1 was left for the seniors.

Mr. Cooper, who lasted until the end played an impressive game as he seemed to be getting more and more seniors out without getting hit once.

When asked how he felt about being the last faculty member stand-

ing, Mr. Cooper replied with, "It was amazing; it really reminded me of my time playing dodgeball in elementary school."

With less than a minute left in the game, a lowball was thrown to the last senior, yet was said to have been deflected by a ball. Play resumed for about 15 more seconds before Mr. Ortega abruptly stopped the game and claimed the ball actually hit the senior's foot, making the faculty the winners. The students flooded the gym with a wave of boos as the faculty happily accepted their long-deserved victory.

Overall, the competitive yet fun atmosphere of the games captivated the audience and really had everyone guessing who would be the winner.

"Doing activities with the teachers outside of school makes senior year more special," said captain, Andres Gotera. "It was even more fun when we dominated every team with our teamwork."

Every year, both faculty and seniors challenge each other to new and different games to determine who can come out on top. Last year, the faculty lost, while this year, the faculty tied. With this trend, the only thing left is a long-awaited win from the faculty which just might be seen next year. The only question is, will the seniors be ready?

## Walk-a-thon Spirit Continues Thanks to Teachers

By Daniel Zukovski

In a spirited celebration of tradition, Christopher Columbus High School hosted its annual Walkathon, a cherished event that has been bringing students together for over 30 years. "It's the beginning of the year where students are getting back into the swing of things, and we thought,

'Let's just let loose and have a great time,'" said Michael Marinelli, who announced the festivities.

Despite the event's enthusiasm, student participation has mainly been freshmen in recent years. "It's been like this every year," noted student Vincent Keane, pointing out that most attendees are freshmen, with fewer upperclassmen joining in

as time goes on.

Teachers and Staff at the school are committed to revitalizing the Walkathon spirit. Carlos Moro, math teacher, emphasized the importance of innovation.

This year, many teachers jumped into the sales of food. Some teachers sold Sushi Sake Fried Rice. Ms. McGrath sold her famous fudge and Mrs. Hernandez sold a spam concoction.

"Every year we try to do something different," Moro said. "Last year we did Wrestlemania. This

year we're doing a concert for the students so they can still have that 'main attraction.'"

As older traditions fade, new activities are being introduced, fostering connections within the Columbus community. The Walkathon remains vital to school culture, adapting to engage students while celebrating its longstanding legacy.

With fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm, Christopher Columbus High School aims to ensure that Walkathon continues to unite students for many more years to come.

## The Daily Math Tutor: Mu Alpha Theta

By Brandon Spaulding

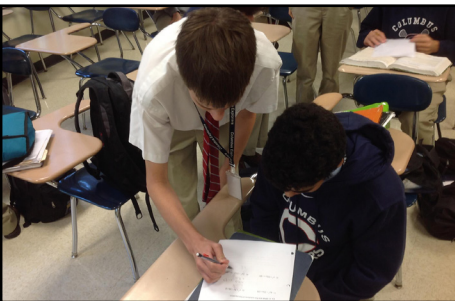
The National Math Honor Society is a student-leadership organization for students who are in honors and AP math courses and are committed to academic excellence and devotion. Beyond leadership positions, the honor society helps the school at large.

The society is led by Moderator Mr. Carlos Moro in room C-14 and each member of this organization can tutor in room C-14 and the Desmond Center, from Monday to Friday before and after school.

### The Benefits of the National Math Honor Society

Students in the program realize how beneficial the Math Honor Society is for the student population.

“The Math Honor Society helps students by relieving that stress that they have over math because it’s a lot of information and it’s actually one of the hardest subjects. And when kids have those questions we’re here to help them out. So, I think that the more help they have the less workload



(Photo credit: Mr. Moro)

and stress they’ll have and it’s just a chain reaction of helping kids out,” he said.

“NHS is the best way to improve your math skills no matter where you are or what grade level you are in,” said Student Secretary Roy Rodriguez.

Mathematics is one of the largest branches of education. There are tens of courses/levels in the Math Department. As students graduate from grade to grade, they will learn skills from one course and apply them to another higher course.

“I believe the Math Honor Society is a way to bond between all students, regardless of grade or class level, and helps make math as a subject seem less scary for everyone. Because of the Math Honor Society, Columbus cannot only be better academically but be better and stronger as a community as well,” said Society President Daniel Casamayor.

If students cannot grasp the skills they are taught in one grade, then they will struggle in other grades. Math is only possible to master if one decides to practice repeatedly. With the availability of resources from the Math Honor Society, the success of every student can be guaranteed.

“The Math Honor Society gives struggling students a safe space to learn and/or review,” said Mr. Moro.

With the tutoring offered by the National Math Honor Society, students can hone their math skills to better prepare for college and future courses.



(Photo credit: Mr. Moro)

es. On another note, it is also a place where safety and guidance are the two most important principles.

“With the tutors’ guidance, students can not only learn themselves but can also teach or help others as well,” said Mr. Moro.

Tutoring should be an entertaining and engaging experience, instead of stressful or monotonous. Students should be encouraged to connect with each other to bond and learn together to thrive.

“Struggling students benefit greatly from their peer knowledge,” said Mr. Moro.

Everyone goes through struggles in their lives. In school subjects, it is no different. Some students’ parents may not have the ability to afford a tutor, as it may cost up to \$115 an hour. With

the free tutoring offered by the Math Honor Society, students can learn effectively without their parents having to pay extra.

“I’ve seen tutors teach concepts to students better than me sometimes,” said Mr. Moro.

In closing, there are vast advantages of the Math Honor Society. With no cost, daily assistance, and a positive work environment, any student can excel in math courses at Christopher Columbus High School. It is available every day before school and after school, so do not miss out on gaining lasting lessons from the Math Honor Society.

“In the great words of Yoda, do or do not, there is no try,” said Mr. Moro.

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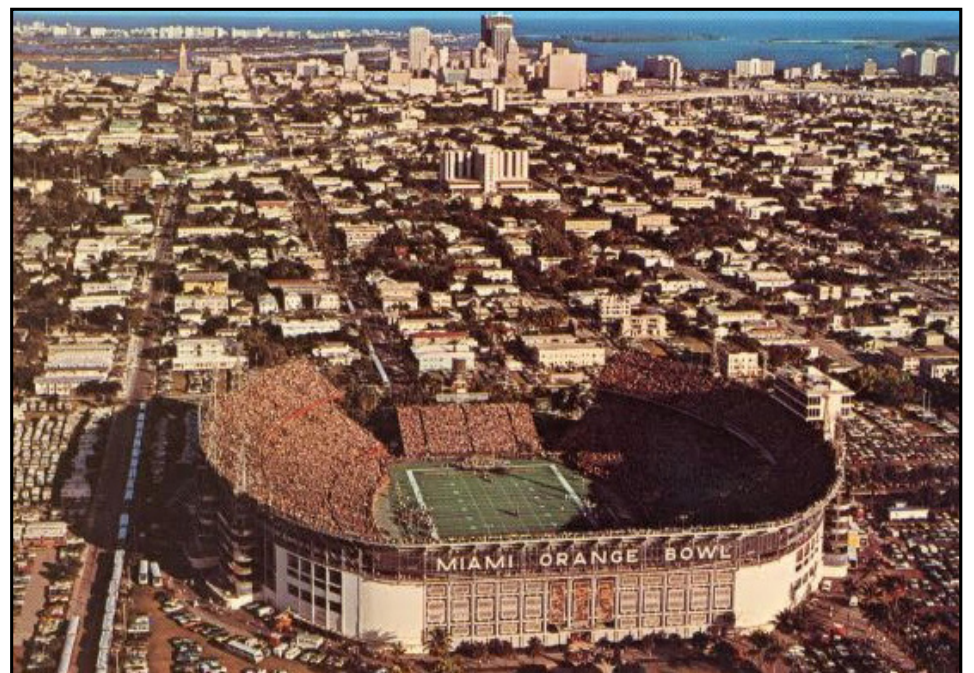
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## The Orange Bowl - An Alumni Contribution

By Abel Sanchez

Abel Sanchez, Class of 1990 provides some local history in this month’s edition of history in Miami. Running his history account @miamistadium on instagram, Sanchez finds hidden gems in local history and connects generations of Miamians to memories and stories that you can’t find anywhere else. With the first edition of this section in The Log, he covers the legendary Orange Bowl stadium.

The Miami Orange Bowl was a beloved and historic venue with a rich history of sports and concerts. Built during the Depression-era with funds from the Work Progress Administration (WPA) and officially dedicated December 10, 1937 as Roddy Burdine Stadium in honor of deceased pioneering Miami citizen, Roddey Burdine. The OB hosted five Super Bowls and 16 college national championships games while serving as home to the Miami Hurricanes (1937-2007) Miami Dolphins (1966-1986) and annual Orange Bowl Classic (1938-1996) until it was finally demolished in 2008.



Aerial view looking over the Miami Orange Bowl.  
 (Photo Credit: State Archives of Florida)

The OB was a tremendous home field advantage, an intense environment known for its rowdy fans and sheer volume as it literally shook on game days. Many great artists played shows here as well, from The Allman Brothers, The Police and Michael Jackson to Prince and Metallica. The surrounding neighborhood of Little

Havana made the pre and post-game experience all the more special as fans oft had to do the infamous “\$10 No Block” parking at residents homes. LoanDepot Park now resides on the seventeen acres where the OB once stood.

# The Log

# Features

Christopher Columbus High School

Quarter 2 Review

January 2025

## Championing College Dreams

### *How One College Athlete Became A Guiding Light For Columbus Students*

By Eddie Lopez

Amidst the constant commotion of college application season, a small section of the C Building serves as a sanctuary for college applicants. With its fitting logo (a lighthouse), the college corner is a beacon of hope guiding Columbus students through the college storm.

Mrs. Heather de la Osa, college counselor for students with last names L-Z, can be found running around campus raising awareness of the college application process. When she takes a break from her constant hustle, she is found in her office handling the never-ending questions from Columbus students eager to perfect their college applications and get into the school of their choice.

Her journey to guidance started about 1,000 miles north of Miami in the city of Baltimore, Maryland.

Although she was born and raised in Maryland, her heroism in the academic world can be traced back to her Spartan bloodline, which she gets from her father, taking great pride in his birthplace of Sparta, Greece.

Much like Columbus, she attended an all-girls Catholic school for seven years and played lacrosse. Being of warrior blood, it was only natural that she was a great athlete and was actually recruited to play Division One Lacrosse.

"My team was pretty good in high school so I was able to get recruited to college. From there I went to play lacrosse at Vanderbilt University," said de la Osa.

Pretty good is an understatement as her alma mater Notre Dame Prep became IAAM (Interscholastic Athletics Association of Maryland) champions in 2003 finishing with a record of 14-4-1 and ranked third in the nation. She finished her high school career as a three-year letter winner.

At Vanderbilt, she built on her accomplishments starting a total of 25 games playing against well noted schools such as Johns Hopkins University, Princeton and Syracuse.

Along with the success of her playing career, Mrs. de la Osa knew that the structure and rigidity of the student athlete life as well as the collaboration needed to perform as a functioning team were always things that called to her.

"I loved being a student athlete as it provided a lot of structure for me as a student. For example, having study hall at a certain time, dinner at a certain time, nutrition and practice at a certain time as well all gave structure



Mrs. de la Osa takes a picture after a successful workshop  
(Photo credit: cchs\_collegecareerguidance on instagram)

to my day. I loved being a part of a team, something bigger than myself and in a sport like lacrosse, you can't win a game by yourself so I really had to depend on my teammates. I learned a lot about working with other people, having a common goal and made a lot of wonderful friendships along the way," said de la Osa.

After her chapter at Vanderbilt closed in 2008, Mrs. de la Osa moved on to the University of Miami for her master's degree. It was in the hallways of the Coral Gables campus that she realized her calling to make a difference bigger than herself.

Her background in athletics opened a door for her to become a part of the UM athletics department in 2012.

"I knew I wanted to work with students and I still loved sports, so soon after graduation, I started working in UM's athletics department. Even though I was on the athletic side, I was an academic advisor so I wasn't talking to them about sports, or their nutrition. We were talking about their classes, graduation, support services, tutoring, majors and career exploration. The population that I worked with just happened to be student athletes," said de la Osa.

Since moving to Miami, she constantly heard great things about Columbus. Her inquiries about the brotherhood opened up a new opportunity for a job and after nine years of working for the University of Miami, she decided to take the job at Columbus as a college counselor.

"I had heard about Columbus for many many years and had a lot of friends that came and went through Columbus who are such great people. I had also heard of the support [Columbus] provides for its students and the support of the brotherhood and the camaraderie that is here at the school and I wanted to be a part of

it. An opportunity became available and I was lucky enough to be offered a job," she said.

It has now been three years since she made her debut in the college corner. Three years full of memories and experiences. But, one aspect of her job in particular she finds is the most gratifying.

"Every day we get to work with students and learn about the wonderful things and accomplishments that they are doing and there is so much diversity in those accomplishments. That is the most gratifying part of my job, just hearing all of the amazing things our students do," said de la Osa.

Along with the gratifying nature of hearing her student's accomplishments, she enjoys another angle of working for a high school system, which is even more pronounced in the nature of Columbus.

"One of the reasons I love working at a high school as opposed to a college is that there are so many things outside of the classroom that I think make core memories for the students here," de la Osa said. "I will never forget my first week of being on campus for orientation and students were gathered in the gym and Mr. Marinelli and Mr. Pugh were just hyping everyone up and it was this moment of like, 'man this is what it is all about.' Providing that excitement for the students and being a part of those core memories," she added.

Offering students aid ranging from personal, and academic, to athletic, with events spanning from in-house college fairs to statewide college tours, Mrs. de la Osa understands the importance of her role at Columbus and hopes that students take advantage of the resources provided to them.

"We are working closely with our seniors because we are in the midst

of application season right now. I'm hoping that all of our seniors are benefiting and taking advantage of us," said de la Osa.

Most students are already doing exactly that and understand the profound impact Ms. de la Osa and the college corner have had on them.

"I really didn't know where to start in my application journey but I was always seeing the newsletters on the boards around school that said we could stop by at any time to the college corner. The very first time I went in, Mrs. de la Osa was super welcoming, and super nice and she helped me a lot with getting everything set up. It has been amazing throughout my college journey because she has helped me so much with my essay, applying in general and having everything in order," said senior Nicholas Rivas.

"She really pushed me in the right direction. The constructive criticism that she gives is very helpful for anyone creating a college application in general. Maia Learning and the Common App along with all of the other resources that she and her colleagues have created for any student at Columbus to have access to have helped a ton. Any senior or junior interested in setting up and completing their application should take advantage of the resources available to strengthen their application," said senior Mathias Leroux.

Not only have students taken note of the amazing job she does as a counselor, but administration as well, noting the connections she is able to make with the students.

"[Mrs. de la Osa] is someone who is dedicated and committed to the success of her students. She has an incredible personality; she is a hard worker and she is determined and really wants what's best for all of her boys. She brings tremendous knowledge and experience to Columbus and in addition to obviously the college admissions, she works closely with student-athletes for NCAA eligibility. She, along with her team, really does a phenomenal job. The fact that the students feel so welcomed at that college corner, is really exciting," said Dr. Vila.

If there is one thing to be learned from Mrs. de la Osa, it is her relentless pursuit of greatness that not only translates to greatness of her own, but that of others. She hopes that students realize their potential and reach their ultimate goals.

"I want our students to know that they can do anything, whatever they want to do, the options are endless. Whatever interests and passions they have, it's out there. They need to find that passion and drive for something they are passionate about and that can be different for every student."

## Mrs. Foyo's Enduring Impact

By Allan Tompkins

For 45 years, Mrs. Foyo has been a staple of the Christopher Columbus High School Math Department. At a stage in her career where the children of her former students are entering her classroom, Mrs. Foyo has not only helped thousands of students better understand math, but she has and will continue to inspire a sense of optimism all around her.

Mrs. Foyo's love for her students is unquantifiable, and she has said that her passion for teaching since she started has always made her job feel so easy and fun. From her time as principal of summer school to department chair of math to even the tutoring sessions she offers every weekend to kids needing help with math or SAT prep, Mrs. Foyo exemplifies a teacher who goes the extra mile to help students feel more confident in their knowledge.

Mrs. Leonard, her co-worker and best friend of 26 years, expressed gratitude toward Foyo's support of her and the rest of the math department throughout her time as chair.

"Anything that we ever brought up to the administration, she always backed up and pushed for, which I was always so thankful for," said Mrs. Leonard.

While Columbus students appreci-

ate Mrs. Foyo and her ability to make teaching exciting, they don't realize the past that she's been through. Mrs. Foyo is not only a widow to a husband who taught at Columbus just as long as she did, but she is also the mother to a son who passed away. Despite these devastating losses in her life, Mrs. Foyo looks back at her husband and son with a smile on her face and prefers recalling the happier moments that she was so fortunate to have with them.

"In my personal life, I'm very optimistic. I always try to take an obstacle and try to find the good side of it and what I'm learning from it," said Foyo.

Mrs. Foyo's journey is one of quiet resilience and profound strength, underscoring her role as a pillar not only in the Math Department but in the wider Columbus community. Every lesson she teaches and every word of encouragement she offers is filled with a depth that comes from overcoming life's most challenging moments. Her presence in the classroom goes beyond numbers and equations, embodying a model of perseverance that resonates deeply with both students and colleagues.

When asked what makes Foyo such an invaluable part of Columbus, Principal Pugh considers her one of the greatest embodiments of the five Marist Pillars of presence, simplicity,



Mrs. Foyo posing with her late husband, Fred Foyo, when he was named Track Coach of the Year  
(Photo credit: Christopher Columbus High School Social Media)

family spirit, love of work, and the way of Mary.

"For me, she's one of those rocks that's created stability and family spirit in this community," said Pugh.

Mrs. Foyo's ability to stand out and impact so many young men, especially as a female teacher, is an achievement that should not go unnoticed, as she has shaped so many lives in such a positive way.

"She's my role model. I wish I could have that [optimism] if I had gone through what she has been

through because I don't know if I would've continued moving on. She's just been such a great teacher," said Mrs. Leonard.

As she nears retirement, Mrs. Foyo's impact is clear—her optimism, unwavering support, and compassionate leadership have left an indelible mark on Columbus. Her life's work transcends the classroom, reaching into the hearts of those she has inspired to persevere through their own challenges with the same courage and grace.

## How Marist Youth Impacts Lives at Columbus

By David de Paz



(Photo Credit: @maristyouth on instagram)

Every Tuesday night, Columbus students and students from other high schools gather for a Marist Youth meeting to strengthen their faith and bond as a group.

At a typical meeting, they start with a fun activity to help everyone bond, especially newcomers. They pray to connect with God, followed by a guest speaker and a student sharing their personal faith journey.

These meetings seem to have a profound effect on the students who participate, not just in their spiritual lives, but in their personal lives as well.

In a year-end survey using a 1-to-5 agreement scale, students reflected on how Marist Youth impacted their lives.

"It helps people because when you live by those beliefs, you aren't just

being a better person to the people around you, but also happier yourself," said junior Lucas Perez-Soto.

Not only does it impact the students, but it impacts the moderators as well.

"It's what I see happening in the lives of these men and women; I'm so inspired by that. That's what keeps me doing it," says Brother Tom Long.

Although Marist Youth might seem daunting to attend for someone who's never gone before, it is a very welcoming place where people can freely express themselves and share their faith journeys with other people.

"People who go there, no matter what school they go to, gender or whatever, I think they're always super nice to you," says junior Christopher Beceiro.

Overall, it's a great experience available to both Columbus students and students from other schools, and students are always encouraged and welcome to join.

As Brother Tom said: "Take a risk, just check it out. If you don't like it, fine, you don't have to come back. So what, that was one hour and a half of your life that might've not been the best spent. But who knows? It just might be something that you're going to like and you're going to enjoy."

## Drama Performs Toward Success

By Joseph Alonso

Christopher Columbus High School's drama program has excelled this year, paving the way for an even brighter future. With high-performing abilities and unwavering commitment, students continue to wow audiences.

Mrs. McGrath, a teacher and moderator for the drama program, couldn't be prouder.

"Drama has performed well above and beyond my expectations," she said. "The kids always surprise me with their creativity and their ability to do well under pressure. I'm just really proud of them."

The team's hard work has paid off, earning top honors and superior ratings at competitions this year. According to Victor Barreda, '25, an officer of the drama team,

"This year we got more superiors on deck. Recently, we've got top honors and perfect scores from adjudication from Broadway judges."

He noted that the team's scores have steadily improved, setting them up for even greater success in the future.

Looking ahead, the team is preparing for the state competition. Mrs. McGrath shared her perspective on what's to come:

"Theater's subjective, so you think

you might be doing well or maybe you're not, and you won't find out until you get there. But the kids work hard. I always know that they work hard. We've qualified for nationals, and every single year, we've competed."

Victor is equally confident about the team's prospects. "Every event that goes to states scores superior, and it's our highest of the year," he said. "We're expecting beyond great things."

The spring play is another exciting chapter for the program. Auditions will be held soon, and Mrs. McGrath is encouraging students to get involved.

"In drama, in theater, there's a place for everybody. Whether you're on the stage or off the stage, whether you've done it before or not... Columbus is a brotherhood, but drama is your family," she said. "We're having another meeting the Wednesday we get back from school, and then we're gonna hold auditions that Thursday for the spring show."

Victor also emphasized the value of joining the drama program. "Try out theater," he said.

As the Columbus drama team rounds out the year, passion and dedication promise a fantastic finish. With states and the spring play on the horizon, they are ready to shine brighter than ever.



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# Gears & Grades: Maximillian Garcia's Dual Pursuit

By Robert Chica and Joseph Alonso

Maximilian “Max” Garcia, a Christopher Columbus High School sophomore, has already made a name for himself by becoming the USF2000 (United States Formula 2000) champion earlier this school year, impressing the school and the wider community. Sponsored by Pabst Racing, Max knows how to balance life in the fast lane while staying focused on his academics.

Still, Max’s journey from local karting competitions to the national racing stage is nothing short of extraordinary. At just 16, he is already driving on the same tracks where professional racers have made their names. Growing up in a family deeply rooted in motorsports, Max quickly found his place behind the wheel. His rise in the world of racing has been swift, but it comes with immense dedication and countless hours of training—both physical and mental.

His father, the president of Home-

stead Miami Speedway, instilled his interest in racing right from his childhood days. “I’ve been in and around tracks since I was born...,” Max related, remembering how this atmosphere filled him with an urge to participate in this sporting event.

His early experiences in the high-pressure world of professional racing set the scene for a career that is taking flight. Max’s presence on the track is not only about skill but also a product of his mental preparation. The balance of maintaining composure under pressure and performing at peak physical condition is a combination that sets him apart. This discipline also helps him keep his focus when juggling both his racing career and academics.

However, juggling the two creates a big challenge.

“It’s tough, but since most things are online, you can do most things remotely. But working in class is always better because you get that in-person experience,” said Garcia.



Max Garcia celebrates his win at the Indy Road Course.  
(Photo Credit: Gavin Baker Photography Instagram: @gavinbakerphoto)



Max Garcia at the start of his racing season  
(Photo Credit: Gavin Baker Photography Instagram: @gavinbakerphoto)

pionship that he clinched earlier this year.

“The most important and fulfilling moment in my racing career so far was this year winning a championship race when all I needed to do was get 7th or above,” he remembered, highlighting his ability to keep calm under pressure.

For Max, the thrill of competition and the ambition to win fuel his racing drive.

“[I race] for the thrill of winning. When you go to a race and lose, you leave empty and dissatisfied, but it pushes you to win the next one,” he said.

Max Garcia’s journey as a student-athlete showcases not only his immense talent but also his determi-

nation and maturity.

Balancing the demands of professional racing with academic responsibilities is no easy feat, yet Max continues to excel in both. His commitment, backed by the unwavering support of his family and school, paints a promising future for this rising star.

With his eyes set on qualifying for the Indy 500 while still in high school, it’s clear that Max is driven by ambition, passion, and a love for the sport. The road ahead is bright, and Max is ready to take on whatever comes next.

On that note, his freshman-year World History instructor Mr. Mendoza explains, “Max has shown great maturity throughout his freshmen year. Balancing his time on the track, making sure to turn his assignments in on time and getting good grades on his exams.”

Physical training plays a crucial role in Max’s success. He explained that it’s not just about building strength but also developing mental toughness.

“Honestly, it’s all about always getting stronger, working on endurance, and focusing on core strength more than just the upper body,” he explained.

Other than keeping his body fit,

Max dedicates much time to his mental preparation: what worked during the previous races and what needs fine-tuning.

But when it comes to role models, Max finds in professional drivers an example to follow.

“Will Power: based on his aggression and how he drives freely without the worry of crashing a car and his knowledge of working with the car’s abilities and engineers giving good feedback to make the car better in qualifying and placing for the race,” Max said, admiring Power’s bold driving style and his insightful feedback to engineers.

One of the biggest achievements to date by Max was the USF2000 cham-



Max Garcia presenting his 1st place trophy at the USF2000  
(Photo Credit: Gavin Baker Photography Instagram: @gavinbakerphoto)

# Columbus Goes to Japan

By Carlos Gutierrez

On Nov. 22, Columbus went to Japan for the first time on an educational tour field trip (EFTours). This is a recap of my time there.

Early the first morning, my classmates and I took a flight from Miami to Toronto and later Toronto to Tokyo (not getting there until the next day, local time; JST), eventually taking another flight to Osaka from Tokyo's Haneda Airport, arriving around 8 PM JST. And then the journey began.

Flying from Tokyo to Osaka, half of the group was split up, however, since I was with the group that made it to Osaka, I was able to drop off my luggage in my hotel room early. Our group first stopped in Dotonbori Market, a bustling marketplace in Osaka, Osaka Prefecture, where my friends and I stopped at Sukiya--a Japanese curry and beef bowl restaurant--for dinner. It was also here that we met with our guide Aki-san, and our bus driver, Sousumi-san. A bit after we returned to the hotel, the other group finally made their way to the hotel.

The next day, we woke up, had breakfast and drove to the historic Osaka Castle, a site of notable cultural significance dating back to the late 16th century. After this tour, we drove back to Dotonbori, this time, two of my friends and I went to Chibo, an okonomiyaki (Japanese cabbage pancake) spot, where we all split the "Dotonbori Okonomiyaki". Later, we drove to Kyoto, Kyoto Prefecture, and stopped at Mt. Inari, where my friends and I hiked up to the peak, before eating ramen for dinner at Abura Soba Nekomata in the Kiyomizu district.

The next day, we participated in a traditional Japanese matcha tea ceremony, followed by the Kiyomizu-Dera Temple and then the Kinkaku-ji Temple or, "Temple of the Golden Pavilion". After, we went to the Teramachi Market in Kyoto for a few



(Photo Credit: Carlos Gutierrez)

hours where me and my friends ate fried chicken and ice cream and they bought Pokémon booster packs from the gachapon machines. For dinner that night, we went to a tonkatsu restaurant in Tsukiyama.

The next morning, we had a four-hour bus ride to Takayama, Gifu Prefecture, and my friends and I stopped at Hida Takayama Cafe for lunch, where we got Hida beef steak rice bowls which were delicious and probably some of the best steak I have ever had. Then, we meditated at the Soyuji Hondo Zazen temple for half an hour. We then drove to the hotel and walked to Kofune, a small soba restaurant. Later that night, I felt one of the small earthquakes that struck the Gifu-Ishikawa area, which was a first for me.

The following morning, we went back to the village area from the previous day, where my friends and I bought croissants and saw the 1,200-year-old ginkgo tree and a triple pagoda (Hida Kikobun-ji Temple). Then, we baked/grilled our own rice crackers at Yume Kojo Hida before we drove to Kanazawa. Along the way, we stopped at the mountain village of Shirakawa-go, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its

building style known as gasshō-zukuri. This was one of my favorite parts of the trip, where my friends and I walked around the small village, enjoying the nature and atmosphere--as well as some soft serve and sausages. The whole group then hiked up one of the mountainsides, where we were able to view the whole of the village. Before we left Shirakawa-go, we stopped at the open-air museum of Shirakawa-go Gassho-Zukuri Minka-en, where we were able to see ponds, historic small buildings, and the forests. When we arrived in Kanazawa, the group stopped at Kanazawa Nagomitei Hokuto for dinner, where we had tonkatsu with shredded cabbage salad, hot mustard and this sweet sauce for the pork as the main dish and an assortment of traditional Japanese sides like rice, miso soup, chawanmushi, miso soup, cold soba noodles with soup and tsukemono (Japanese pickled vegetables).

The next day we went to the Japanese garden of Kenroku-en by Kanazawa Castle, and seeking to warm ourselves from the cold, rainy weather outside, we stopped at Kenrokutei, a tea house where I had a matcha latte, dorayaki (Japanese pancake wrapped around sweet red bean paste) and higashi (a dry Japanese candy made of 100% sugar). After going to the Castle area, the group went to Omicho Market, where a group of my friends and I went to a Japanese steakhouse for lunch, and then we drove to Sakuda Gold Lead Workshop, a crafts and gift shop that used gold and silver leaf to make items like chopsticks (what we made), jewelry, and small souvenirs. Then after, we had some free time before our dinner at an all-you-can-eat restaurant in a mall where we had an informal Thanksgiving.

The following day, we took the bullet train to Tokyo, where we had some free time to eat and shop in Shibuya's Jingūmae district. Sadly, our drive to Kanazawa Station would be the last time we would see the best

bus driver, Sousumi-san on our trip. We then drove to the forested Meiji Jingu Shrine, and later in the evening, we had free time to roam around the Dembo-in Temple area and check out the small shops and streets nearby. That night, we had dinner at a hotpot restaurant before heading back to the hotel.

The next day, which was our last full day, we went first to see the replica of the Statue of Liberty in Odaiba, and then we crossed the bridge to visit the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Mirai), afterward, we had some free time around the DiverCity Tokyo Plaza. We then drove back to Shibuya, where we had a lot of free time, mostly to shop in the bustling district's many clothing stores and gift shops. For dinner, we went to an all-you-can-eat barbecue spot, followed by karaoke later that night.

The next morning, we woke up to



(Photo Credit: Carlos Gutierrez)

leave our hotels for the last time, as most of the guys and I went to watch a sumo show--which was on the stage of the hotpot restaurant two nights before--while the rest of the group went to Akihabara. We then took a train to meet up with them, where we had free time to eat lunch and do any last-minute shopping. We then drove to Tokyo's Narita Airport, and after we said bye to Aki-san, we boarded our plane around 7 PM JST. We arrived in Toronto around 6 PM EST, and we boarded our flight around 7 PM EST, departing closer to 8 PM, and arrived back in Miami at around 11 PM.

Overall, this trip was very fulfilling, with all of the different cultural activities, and many of them were new to me. I will remember this trip from all the shopping to the eating, to the bus rides and late-night 7-Eleven and FamilyMart runs, to the many flights and hikes we took.



(Photo Credit: Carlos Gutierrez)

# Swinging for Success: Marcelo Gonzalez

By Lucas Fernandez Galvan

Among the student body at Columbus, junior Marcelo Gonzalez stands out not only as an honor student but also as a dedicated athlete who has found his passion on the golf course.

Having transferred from Belen, Marcelo quickly embraced the spirit of Columbus, discovering a welcoming community that has enriched both his academic and athletic pursuits.

Marcelo speaks highly of his Columbus experience. “The teachers are a lot more connected with the students, and the administration is there to help you for the future,” he shares.

This sense of connection has allowed Marcelo to thrive academically, despite the demanding schedule of balancing honors courses and golf practice.

Marcelo’s journey with golf began with a simple family outing. About three years ago, his grandfather introduced him to the sport at the Miccosukee range, sparking what would become a true passion. “I just got addicted,” he said, smiling at the memory.

Now, as a committed member of Columbus’ golf team, Marcelo channels this passion into every practice, every game. “The pressure I feel while playing in tournaments is my favorite part,” he said.

Coach Marinelli, who has worked closely with Marcelo on the golf team, has seen Marcelo’s growth as both an athlete and a teammate.

“I have known Marcelo for two and a half years and have seen tremendous strides from his initial tryout with us last year,” Marinelli said.

Despite being relatively new to the game, Marcelo has shown impressive growth and perseverance.

“He’s still very new to an extremely challenging game, and with that comes growing pains,” he said. “He works on his game constantly, sometimes even being too hard on himself for not having the success he would like.”

Coach Marinelli knows his impact goes beyond the greens. “Marcelo is a kid who brings a competitive fire that some golfers do not possess. He works harder than anyone, which brings out the best in other players. The will to win and perform well is always his goal, which can be contagious to our players. That is the type of golfer you want in your program.”

Balancing the demands of school and athletics is a major challenge. Marcelo’s dedication to his studies is clear, and he often stays up late to study.

“My parents always made it clear that academics come first,” he says.

For Marcelo, goals are crystal clear: he’s aiming for a 4.7 weighted GPA and an SAT score of 1300 or above this year, determined to set himself up for a successful college journey.

But beyond grades and scores, Marcelo believes that golf has given him life skills.

“In golf, you need to control your emotions and look ahead,” he said.

Looking ahead, Marcelo remains



Marcelo Gonzalez doing what he does best at a Columbus golf match.  
 (Photo Credit: Marcelo Gonzalez)

open to where his golf journey might take him. With dreams of potentially playing at the collegiate level, he remains focused on improving his game and taking things one day at a time.

His advice to fellow student-athletes

at Columbus is simple: “Maintain a good balance.”

Marcelo Gonzalez proves that with passion, discipline and a strong support system, students can excel in academics and athletics.

COLUMBUS COMMITTED ATHLETES			
Player	School	Sport	Position
Rafael Diaz	University of Miami	Baseball	Third Baseman
Matthew Rios	University of South Alabama	Baseball	Pitcher
Michael Say	Miami Dade College	Baseball	Pitcher
Samuel Alonso	Florida International University	Baseball	Pitcher
Jason Vazquez	Iona University	Baseball	Pitcher
Daniel Castillo	Iona University	Baseball	Pitcher
Mario Magana	University of Miami	Baseball	Shortstop
Jose Correa	College of Central Florida	Baseball	Outfield
Rene Ramirez	University of South Alabama	Baseball	First Base
JJ Gomez	Bucknell University	Football	Wide Receiver
Dylan Gill	West Georgia University	Football	Linebacker
Agyeman Addae	University of Central Florida	Football	Running Back
Hector Chavez	Florida Atlantic University	Football	Linebacker
Bryce Fitzgerald	University of Miami	Football	Safety/Receiver
Cameron Boozer	Duke University	Basketball	Center
Cayden Boozer	Duke University	Basketball	Shooting Guard

(Graphic by Ale Menendez)

## Columbus Basketball Aims For Four Straight After Dominant Start to the Season

By Ale Menendez

Heading into the 2024-25 basketball season, the Explorers have set their sights on a National Title, but haven't forgotten their day to day composure and mindset that has made them the team they are today. It's no secret that coming off of 3 straight state championships and one national championship, it can be hard to continue to bring the same intensity and motivation to win. But this team hasn't let anything block their sites of their ultimate goal of a state championship and eventually, a national title.

In their first home game of the year, the Explorers' skills were on display for the home crowd as they made a statement against DME Academy in an 81-55 win. With a show stopping dunk by Jackson Richardson with just 3 minutes left in the 4th quarter, the crowd absolutely erupted, as the Explorers cruised to victory at home.

No small part in this home victory was Duke commit Cayden Boozer, whose playmaking and defensive intensity allowed for Columbus to achieve this win. "It's great to win at home," says Cayden. "We want to keep this home court advantage and use the momentum as a stepping stone for the rest of the season." The Explorers certainly did carry this mo-



24-25 Season Team Photo. (Photo Credit: MaxPreps)

mentum into their tournament the following weekend at Miami-Dade.

Going 2-0 in tournament play, they were able to display their skill set and ability to win against great competition, as they beat the number 2 team in the country in Gonzaga (Washington) by a score of 85-79. Not only did this win allow for national recognition as perhaps the number one team in the country, but more importantly, it allowed for an increase in focus and morale in the lockerroom that clearly translated onto the court, as the Explorers have gone 6-0 since this win, including a gritty win against the prolific IMG Academy by a score of 77-71.

When asked about what the team's goals have been this year, Cayden said "Well last year we really fell short in Chipotle Nationals. So this year we're trying to go win it and make history for the school. Before we got here the school didn't have a state championship in Basketball so I think it would be really amazing if we could get four in a row." It's this hard working, never letting up mentality that has allowed Columbus Basketball to be so great for the last three years, and a big part of why this success has carried on into this year as they look ahead and fight on.

Although it's no question that the players are an absolutely essential part

of this team, one cannot forget the impact that Coach Andrew Moran has had on this team, both this year and in the past. "I think that all the new guys that we have this year want to win, and I know that the guys we've always had want to win. Everybody is always hungry to win and striving to get another Championship," says Moran.

With such huge expectations, it's the simple things that Coach Moran continues to instill in his players. "We want to be able to rebound the basketball, set the tone on defense, and get out in transition, because that's when we're at our best."

In a world where basketball has become more of a "players" sport rather than a "team" one, Coach Moran has his team playing for each other, and not for themselves. This group mentality and brotherhood has led to much success on the court for the team, and is a huge reason why they continue to perform at such a high level.

As the Explorers move on to face teams like Monteverde academy, whom they lost to last year in the national tournament, and hometown rival Riviera Prep, they continue to maintain their always hungry mentality in hopes of bringing a fourth straight state championship and second national championship into the Columbus rafters.

## Explorers on the Water: The Columbus Rowing Club



(Photo Credits: Columbus Rowing Club)

By Brandon Spaulding

The Columbus Rowing Club, led by moderators David Pugh and Andres Mendoza, is one of the newest additions to the school and competes in rowing races across Miami-Dade.

"The rowing club is a great club to join in Columbus because it gives you the chance to join and be a part of the sport. Unlike football and

basketball where they put you on a bench, in rowing you are put on a boat no matter how inexperienced you are," says Gabby Mendoza, club president.

The club partners with the Miami Rowing Club (MRC), which was founded in 1973 providing competitive youth rowing programs for high school students.

Partnering with MRC exposes Columbus students to the team sport

that necessitates self-restraint, perseverance, and devotion. Students will experience complete body workouts and have the opportunity to compete in local, state, regional, and national competitions.

"It felt nice bringing something that I enjoy like rowing to Columbus, and I'm happy that other people can share the same opportunities that I do with the school," said Vice President Arthur Leal.

The MRC was founded by rowing veteran Cuban exiles that competed for the old country's clubs and shared a passion for the sport. This achievement rapidly attracted rowers from US colleges along with local novice rowers as well.

"It's pretty cool because from MRC, we came over and made a club at Columbus so we can help kids or get kids to join the MRC. We put little advertisements for kids to come up to check out the club or see what it's like to be there during the day," said Rocco Bevilacqua, a member of the club.

This rowing club would be an excellent way to expose people to the rules and regulations of the sport. Not only is it a wonderful time to be out on the water, but it also serves an important purpose.

"It's important to me because I see it as a great full body workout and a really competitive sport as well. You get to travel, which is really cool, and you meet a lot of cool people from all over the country and the world," said Bevilacqua.

Physical and mental health are crucial. Not only can you get a full body workout, but you can create new connections with people you meet while traveling and competing.

The Columbus Rowing Club presents itself as another option to stay fit at Columbus and with the club's outlook, it could be a prominent sport in no time.



(Photo Credits: Columbus Rowing Club)

# Columbus Football Shifts Focus to Next Season: Playoffs Recap



Featured Left to Right during South Dade game: Agyeman Addae - Alexander Fitzgibbons - Jason Barket  
(Photo Credits: Jason Fernandez)

By Eddie Lopez

With two games left for Columbus football to bring a third state championship to Westchester, the group looked to Venice High School as the last obstacle to reach the state title game. Falling short in a heartbreaking loss with a final of 27-33, Columbus now shifts their focus on heading into the new season with a clean slate.

Though it is not the outcome the team would like, it is important to look at the journey Columbus took to become regional champs beating Spanish River, South Dade and Western High School by a total 71 points through the first three matchups.

## Spanish River 56-8

The Offensive Player of the week was Jason Barket with a 83% completion rate and 2 Touchdowns Passing. The Defensive and Co-Special Teams Players of the Week were Hector Chavez with 1 Interception return for a touchdown and 2 fumble recoveries for a score. As well as Shaddai Carter with 2 punt blocks which changed the course of the game.

Columbus came out of the gate swinging with a touchdown on a QB keeper by Vicente Gonzalez within the first 2 minutes of the game. Shaddai Carter came up huge on special teams, blocking two punts just in the first quarter

alone. Hector Chavez brought both blocks home and even had a pick six of his own accounting for 18 of the 56 points himself.

Receivers Bryce Fitzgerald, JJ Gomez and Javi Mirabal each had a touchdown of their own totaling 170 yards receiving, the highest this season. Jason Barket took control of the game and found his groove connecting with JJ Gomez for his first touchdown which continued into their next drive where he found Barreiro for a 6-yard touchdown.

Totaling 300+ yards for the first time this season as well as great play from the defense added up to success for the first playoff matchup.

## South Dade 28-7

The Offensive Player of the week was Agyeman Addae with 164 yards rushing and a touchdown. The Defensive Players of the Week were Hector Chavez with 9 Total tackles and a fumble recovery. As well as Dylan Gill with 10 total tackles and a tackle for loss

Columbus would face off against South Dade for the second time this year and much like the previous week they got off to a quick start with Vicente Gonzalez finding tight end Remy Goins for a 13 yard touchdown. South Dade answered back with a rushing touchdown of their own, but Columbus would soon score again on a pass to Khamari Marceus and never looked

back.

Vicente Gonzalez managed to escape the South Dade pressure and delivered one of the best plays from a QB all season on a clutch touchdown pass to JJ Gomez. Linebacker Dylan Gill put his shoulder down and delivered a huge hit on special teams making for a highlight-worthy clip. To end the third quarter and the scoring for Columbus as well, Agyeman Addae cut left to run in a 41-yard touchdown.

Overall, a well-rounded win for the team.

## Western 27-25

The Offensive Player of the Week was Bryce Fitzgerald with 6 catches for 146 yards and a touchdown. The Defensive Player of the Week was Hector Chavez with 18 tackles. The Special Teams Players of the Week were Shaddai Carter with the game changing field goal block return and Alexander Fitzgibbons with the game winning field goal.

If there is one thing that Columbus Football has experienced this season, is many games are determined in the final quarter. Facing off against Western, it was exactly that.

The scoring began late in the 1st quarter with a 70-yard pass from Jason Barket to Bryce Fitzgerald. Western was able to answer back in the 2nd quarter with a 35-yard touchdown of their own and with the help of their defense added an-

other score to their lead which they held until the 4th quarter when Vicente Gonzalez found Khamari Marceus for a highlight reel-worthy touchdown to tie the game.

Jalani Reams, Shaddai Carter and kicker Alexander Fitzgibbons played hero for Columbus in the last 4 minutes of the game. Reams blocked Western's Field goal attempt that would put them at a 3 point lead which Carter recovered and took all the way back for a Columbus touchdown. Western seemingly had an answer all afternoon and did just that, scoring on a deep pass the next drive to take the lead.

With the clock winding down, Columbus called on Fitzgibbons to deliver the final blow that sealed the game, taking the regional championship home to Westchester.

## Looking Ahead

With the offense taking shape totaling 936 yards and the defense totaling 180 tackles and 4 sacks in three games, the team had the assurance needed to head into the state semifinal but ultimately fell short.

Despite the defeat, fans should not be worried as under the guidance of Coach Dave Dunn, who has won three state championships and developed Division 1 talent, Columbus almost always seemingly finds a way to bounce back and make it back to the state title game.

# Columbus Wrestling Looks Ahead

By Ignacio Chazarreta

Coming off winning the pre-season classic against Archbishop McCarthy HS, the wrestling team started off with a bang. With a great margin of victory of 59-18 and with most wrestlers on varsity having two years of experience with the team, Columbus is ready to dominate the mat.

Last year, under the leadership of new head coach Jacob Grant, the team was able to send four wrestlers to the FHSAA state qualifiers to compete against the fiercest competition in the state.

This year, the team of notable wrestlers like Zachary Ruiz, Apollo Benito, Victor Zanolini, and Sebastian Morera look to make a big impact in their first match of the season against John Ferguson HS at Columbus.

## 2023 Recap

Last year, the Explorers finished off quite successfully, to say the least. With the retirement of legendary coach James "Jim" Husk, the team had a huge role to fill. Coach Husk had coached at Columbus for 19 years, and seeing him go was heart-breaking. With an outstanding record at Columbus of 421-76-1 and producing countless exceptional wres-

tlers who now wrestle at top college programs, his departure left a lasting legacy.

With coach Jacob Grant taking over, along with assistant coaches Andres Gonzalez and Damien Penichet, the team fought ahead to finish the season strong and moved on to districts.

At districts, the team had its most outstanding finish by sending all 14 wrestlers to regionals and winning the team district title. After some more hard work, the team had four wrestlers, Kenneth Canals, Apollo Benito, Alec Gonzalez and Zachary Ruiz move on to state qualifiers. Finally, both Alec Gonzalez and Zachary Ruiz were able to move on to the State Championship tournament, with both of them finishing in 7th place.

## Team Insight

Moving on to the team itself, this year there will be many successful returning wrestlers and many new ones ready to step into the spotlight. Last year, many of the top wrestlers graduated, leaving seniors Apollo Benito and Zachary Ruiz to step up to the job.

Apollo Benito, competing at 285 lbs, is also a varsity football player and will be looking to make his third appearance this year at the state-qualifying matchup to compete at the



(Photo Credit: Wrestling Coaching Staff)

highest level at states. Zachary Ruiz, who competed last year in one of the tougher weight classes at 150 lbs and was able to compete at states, makes his return to the team for his final season as well.

Additionally, Columbus has received a transfer from top wrestling prospect at Doral Academy, freshman Rocco Ruiz, who has already made a big name for himself after winning second place at states as an 8th grader.

Some wrestlers who hope to make a name for themselves this year are Victor Zanolini and Sebastian Morera, two of the top juniors on the team competing at 126 lbs and 190 lbs. Both of these wrestlers have shown significant dedication to the team on

and off the mat to make Columbus stronger this season.

## A Look into the Season

With last year's dominating wins in districts and new wrestlers ready to keep on winning, it has become very exciting. With a 3-1 start and also looking towards Alumni Night, the team hopes to win and impress. After this, the team will be looking to compete in top tournaments like the FHSAA Regional Duals, GMAC Tournament, and Under the Stars Dual, which will also be Senior Night.

With many top wrestlers in the state and an experienced team, Columbus hopes to rise in the ranks to create more state champions.

# Should the Miami Dolphins Move On from Tua Tagovailoa?

By Matthew Mejia

Recently, the Miami Dolphins have experienced a mix of struggle and success that have fans discussing the future of their team. As they work to become a playoff contender, one glaring question that stands out is should they move on from Tua Tagovailoa as their starting quarterback?

One of the biggest worries regarding Tua is his history of injuries. He has suffered multiple concussions in recent years, which not only threaten his career but also his long-term health. In specific we should take a look at the 2022 season where Tua experienced multiple serious concussions that sparked national debates about player safety in football.

On top of that, Tua's choice to not wear the Guardian Cap, a special helmet designed to reduce head injuries, shows great concern about his attitude toward his safety while playing football.

Tua's performance also raises concern as he can be inconsistent, often missing games due to his injuries, disrupting the team's momentum. This forces the team to rely on backup players during critical moments on three separate occasions. In 2021, Jacoby Brissett came in to relieve the

injured Tagovailoa; in 2022, Teddy Bridgewater and Skylar Thompson split the reps and now in 2024 where, fans saw Tyler Huntley take over after a subpar start from Skylar Thompson. Injuries aside, Tua has struggled in big games often falling short under pressure not only in cold weather games, as many believe, but in crucial games against the Bills as well, going just 1-8 against the division rival.

## Verdict

Durability is essential for a team aiming to win the Super Bowl. For the Dolphins, Tua's injury history raises significant concerns. They need a quarterback they can count on to play throughout the entire season, not be out three or four games a season.

Given Tua's track record, I believe it might be time for the Dolphins to look for new options. The NFL has many opportunities in free agency and the upcoming draft, where they could find a more durable quarterback.

The Dolphins have a great roster featuring star players like Tyreek Hill, Jaylen Waddle and Jalen Ramsey. They are in a position to win year in and year out, so they need a quarterback who can stay healthy and make that deep playoff push. If the team moves on from Tua it would allow them to spend a year or two develop-



Tua Tagovailoa (1) walks off the field after a loss to the Buffalo Bills win on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024. (Photo Credit: Al Diaz/Miami Herald/TNS)

ing a younger quarterback and then try to make that last push.

Acknowledging the arguments for keeping Tua as the starting quarterback is important. Giving Tua credit where he deserves, he is able to play impressively most of the time when he is healthy, showing he can effectively lead the Dolphin's high-powered offense. He is also a strong leader who has earned the respect of his teammates.

Though some people might say that with better protection and improved play calls, Tua could avoid further injuries, but in reality it doesn't address the main problem of his health and with one more hit he can be taken out permanently.

The risks that come with Tagov-

ailoa's health are significant and the Dolphins need a quarterback who can deliver more consistently. While Tua does show some signs of his talent and strong leadership skills, his injury history and inconsistency make him a way too risky choice for a team looking to win a Super Bowl right now. To secure their future success, the Miami Dolphins should seriously weigh the option of moving on from Tua and look for a quarterback who can stay healthy.

The time has come for the Dolphins to prioritize their future and make a tough decision for the good of their franchise.

# The Log Opinion

Christopher Columbus High School

Quarter 2 Review

January 2025

## Back to the Battle Bus: Fortnite's Remix of a Nostalgic Season



The Fortnite display at the Electronic Entertainment at the L.A. Convention Center.  
(Photo Credit: Ariana Ruiz/Prensa Internacional/Zuma Press/TNS)

By Allan Tompkins

Fortnite is known as one of the most influential video games of all time. Released in July 2017, it has provided kids and adults worldwide with countless late-night memories of playing with friends. Whether it be its boastful 400+ collaborations, its enticing storyline that has continued since 2017 or the intense battles that players experience in every match, Fortnite holds a special place in many people's hearts.

One thing, though, that has persisted amongst fans since the end of the first 10 seasons (Chapter 1) of Fortnite in 2019 has been for Fortnite to return to its roots with a Chapter 1-themed season. This wish from fans and players seemed more like a long shot than a reality and it wasn't for another 4 years until Fortnite finally granted their fans the one thing they wanted most. In November 2023, Fortnite OG was released, revisiting classic POIs (points of interest) such as Pleasant Park, Salty Springs and Retail Row.

Yet, what really made this season a money-maker for Fortnite was the 11.6 million people playing at once, officially becoming the highest player count the company, Epic Games, has ever seen since its launch. Unfortunately, the season was the shortest ever, spanning over a mere 29 days, which left fans with only a taste of nostalgia. Not too long after, they were already presenting Epic Games with the next question: When will Chapter 2 be brought back?

Similarly to Chapter 1 of Fortnite, Chapter 2 was revolutionary for the game: bringing an entirely new map and adding bosses, cars, collaborative seasons and mechanics such as swimming. Despite these exciting upgrades that made the entire chapter so memorable, the year 2020, when it came out, is one of the biggest reasons for its success. With everyone quarantined in their houses for over a year, the video game industry experienced

a boom in player count that led to what many people consider Fortnite's "Second Prime." That's why when Chapter 1 was brought back in 2023, players couldn't get enough of it and instantly demanded a similar experience by bringing back Chapter 2. Thankfully, they didn't have to wait nearly as long for this request as just one year later, Fortnite Chapter 2: Remix was released yet, with a twist.

### Collaborations

In the OG season remake, one of the only noticeable differences was how Fortnite combined certain OG Battle Pass skins to keep the original skins rare. Similarly, Chapter 2: Remix combined certain skins as well yet, some unfamiliar faces were featured. Inspired by their long-held admiration for collabs, Fortnite presented Snoop Dogg, Eminem and Ice Spice as 3 staples of the season. This, sort of random, addition to the season fits the theme of a remix as all three of the collaborators are rappers, yet it has certainly garnered mixed feelings amongst the community.

"The season's fun, don't get me wrong, and I like Snoop Dogg and Eminem being included, but Ice Spice just doesn't seem to have the same legendary status as the others. She feels out of place," said sophomore, Milo Delgado.

Along with these 3 featured rappers, at the end of the official launch trailer, players got a quick glimpse of a face that hasn't been seen in a long time: Juice WRLD. This collab has been anticipated for almost a year now and fans were ecstatic to see him on the big screen. It has been confirmed that his skin will be given out for free to all those who log on between 1:00 A.M. EST on November 30 and 1:00 A.M. EST on December 1 (the end of the season) as a commemoration for his passing back in 2019. Players are also expecting some sort of live-event concert from him sometime in the season similar to Travis Scott's in Chapter 2.

### Map Changes

As for the map, it looks just as good as it was left and it sure is refreshing to land at locations that haven't been revisited in years such as Misty Meadows, Slurpy Swamp and Sweaty Sands. Each rapper that was featured in the trailer will also get their own POI that will replace some of the Chapter 2 boss locations.

While originally known as The Agency in the center of the map, it has since been renamed as The Doggpound and houses Snoop Dogg who, as the other boss NPCs, will fight with you once you defeat him. Along with The Doggpound, Eminem's Mom's Spaghetti will replace The Grotto on November 7; Ice Spice's, Ice Isle will replace The Shark on November 14; and Juice WRLD's, WRLD Point will have its own unique spot on the map and is expected to release on November 21.

"I think it's cool how they're incorporating the collaborations into the map," said Federico Mora '27, "I can't wait to see what they do with it next."

### Weapon Changes

The weapons in Chapter 2: Remix have not changed from Chapter 2's original loot pool and include some fan favorites such as the pump and tactical shotgun, heavy sniper, remote explosives and rocket launcher. Despite all this great loot, the famous vaults that players would gain access to after defeating a boss have received a major downgrade. What used to have guaranteed epic and legendary loot now has a chance of simply dropping a cardboard box or a common weapon which is a very small reward for the large feat of defeating a boss.

"It's underwhelming to say the least," said Noah Santiago '26.

As for the loot that the bosses drop, Snoop Dogg drops "Snoop's Drum Gun" and also features a remade version of the classic boogie bombs that would make players dance if hit by. This time, though, instead of doing the classic emote, players do the famous 'Drop It Like It's Hot' dance. Eminem also has a mythic minigun that will rap his song, Rap God, whenever fired and Ice Spice has a rifle similar to one of the bosses, Skye's, in the original Chapter 2 season. The Ka-Boom Bow and Heavy Assault Rifle are two other notable weapons dropped by bosses, Dynamo TNTina and Meowdas.

Aside from the weapons, the famous Fortnite cars that were introduced in Chapter 2 Season 3 also experienced a noticeable change. As a tribute to Snoop Dogg, an exclusive car skin mimicking the 1966 Cadillac DeVille has been added to the game. The DeVille, along with the Whiplash model of cars has been modified with hydraulics that allow for the cars to jump: a dramatized version of the iconic lowriders which would bounce to the beat of the music being played inside.

### Battle Pass

Similar to the Chapter 1 OG season of combining some of the original skins for the Battle Pass, In Chapter 2: Remix, Fortnite remade 5 skins. These include Meowdas (a remix of Midas and Meowscles), Undercover Skye (Skye wearing a mask of her pet, Guff), Dynamo TNTina (a remix of Dynamo & TNTina), 1-Ball (a remade version of 8-Ball) and Chaos Director (a female version of Chaos Agent). These skins look great and along with a variety of emotes and gliders to choose from, this Battle Pass perfectly captures the essence of Chapter 2.

One of the more surprising parts of the Battle Pass that can be found on the bonus, Quest Rewards page was the new addition of shoes. This season's Battle Pass features the very first and new edition of Air Jordan 1 high tops that Fortnite claims are compatible with over 500 skins as of right now. They also claim that by the end of next year, they will be compatible with over 95% of skins in the game. This new add-on cosmetic for skins is definitely going to make for some creative and funny combinations between more serious skins who you would never see wearing Air Jordan 1s. On top of this, Fortnite will be able to branch out into a whole new world of collaborations with notable brands that can sponsor certain shoes.

### Recent News

With so many new updates being introduced to Fortnite, fans are overwhelmed with anticipation for the changes that are yet to come- and they had no idea what was next. A recent data leak of the Fortnite files has revealed that Fortnite Chapter 1 will be returning to Fortnite Battle Royale permanently. This experience will be available in both Build and Zero-Build modes and will feature the entire OG loot pool.

Each month will feature a season of Chapter 1 that will supposedly coordinate with map and weapon changes. This news is expected to be revealed by the end of the season, meaning that players might be able to wake up on Christmas morning and hop on Fortnite season 1 with their friends. All of this news is extremely exciting for Fortnite gamers across the globe and is going to be a pivotal moment in Fortnite's trajectory from here on out. It makes for the perfect blend of nostalgia and fresh content that will continue to be produced by Epic Games.

Chapter 2: Remix is less than a week old and is already a monumental season for Fortnite in terms of changes from traditional ideas. Whether it be the unexpected collaborations that Fortnite never fails to surprise everyone with or the upcoming news that can always be looked forward to, Fortnite is climbing its way back up into relevancy amongst the gaming community and has no plans of slowing down.

## Mas Midwest College Tour: My Take

By Matthew Leon

The Mas Program recently had students on a trip to the Midwest region of the US, to see colleges across the country. This was a great opportunity for prospective students to figure out where they want to apply to college in the near future. This article will show the good and bad aspects of each college visited (in my opinion), with student input included.



Building near the entrance to Northwestern Campus.  
(Photo Credit: Matthew Leon)

### Northwestern University

Northwestern University is located in Evanston, a college town a bit north of Chicago. The Campus is very nice—the buildings look brand new, and there is a lot of greenery as you walk through. The best part about this campus is that it is located on Lake Michigan, which gives you that amazing view of the water.



Green space near a main Library at Loyola  
(Photo Credit: Matthew Leon)

### Loyola University Chicago

Loyola's Chicago Campuses consist of a few locations; the standard Lake Shore Campus (located on Lake Michigan) and the Water Tower Campus which is on one of Chicago's main streets. The one we visited was the Lake Shore campus, which was very nice and welcoming. I didn't love how the Campus was integrated with the city of Chicago; if you walked far enough it was hard to tell whether you were still on campus or not. Loyola is also a Catholic University and they have a very nice Church on Campus. Overall, a nice campus with newer buildings and a lot of greenery and study space.



One of the main arch entrances to UChicago.  
(Photo Credit: Matthew Leon)

### University of Chicago

The University of Chicago has one of the best campus settings I've ever seen. The Campus is not only a registered botanical garden but also gives the feeling of separation from the bustle of Chicago life. When you're on campus, it feels like a whole new city. There is a lot of green space and nature flooding throughout the campus, and a lot of study space, chairs and buildings you can use. The buildings all look amazing, mostly covered in Ivy and plants. They also have some of the biggest libraries I've ever seen, like the Joe and Rika Mansueto Library. Overall, this is one of the best campuses to be at.



A view of the Golden Dome from far  
(Photo Credit: Matthew Leon)

### University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame had one of the nicest campuses on the tour in my opinion. There was a lot of green space and room to walk around or relax. It was very open and we were able to see students commuting to class. The buildings were all very nice, especially the Golden Dome which sits on one of the campus's main buildings. A gold statue of Mary sits on top of the dome, showing the faith aspect of the school. There is a cathedral on campus and a lot of ways to live a faithful

life outside of class. We were able to see dorms, and each dorm on campus has a Chapel inside, where mass is celebrated frequently. Overall, Notre Dame has a very impressive campus and is a very nice place to be at.

"Notre Dame felt like a fit to me because I just love it there. I love the weather, I love the cold, and I like how it's religious and it's not too big," says Gianmarco Diaz '28 when asked which school was his best fit.



Arch named "Gateway to the Future," at Purdue.  
(Photo Credit: Matthew Leon)

### Purdue University

Purdue has one of the largest campuses on the tour. We were only able to see parts of it, despite walking for large periods of time. The campus is 2,468 acres, or 3.85 square miles, which makes it hard to travel around without a vehicle. I also found the campus to be a bit gloomy and dark compared to others, and mostly just had brick buildings with no color. The middle part of the campus was pretty nice, with a more lively feel and some newer buildings. Some newer buildings looked nice, but overall not one of the better campuses we passed through in my opinion.



The Kelley School of Business at Indiana.  
(Photo Credit: Matthew Leon)

### Indiana University

Indiana had a very large campus, but it was maintained as an even more lively place than some of the smaller ones. There is a lot of green area on campus, especially in one of the main areas we visited, nearby the Kelley School of Business. The campus has a lot of areas to study and hang out, and the amount of nature makes it

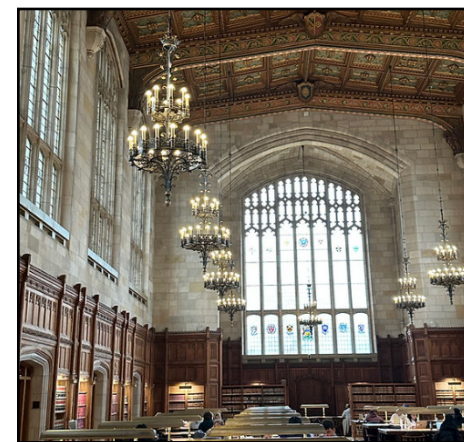
not feel like too much walking/biking to get around. On the tour, we also passed by some training/athletics areas for students, and there were specific buildings for these activities—one building we entered had 10 full basketball courts. All in all, Indiana has a very nice and large campus, and it looks like a great place to study.



Arch named "Gateway to the Future," at Purdue.  
(Photo Credit: Matthew Leon)

### The Ohio State University

Ohio State has a large campus, a bit smaller than other schools like Indiana and Purdue. The campus doesn't have an abundance of green areas and nature, but its buildings are mostly very nice and make the campus look great. One thing that we noticed was that it is very hard to find a single "M" on campus that isn't crossed out or covered with tape, which symbolizes the school's rivalry with Michigan. Also, the Football Stadium is very visible on campus, showing the school's close connection with students and the sports teams.



Inside the UMich Law School Library  
(Photo Credit: Matthew Leon)

### University of Michigan

University of Michigan has a large campus, spanning around 3,000 acres. Michigan's campus was very similar to Ohio State's, which had many buildings and a solid amount of nature. The buildings were very nice and some looked very fancy. We were able to see the inside of the Law School Library, and it was very elegant and neat inside. The campus was also home to a lot of superstition, like not stepping on the seal or walking in certain places.



# The Log Opinion

Christopher Columbus High School

Quarter 2 Review

January 2025

## The Pros and Cons of Setting New Year's Resolutions

By Sebastian Ordonez

New Year's resolutions, or the popular "New Year, New Me" mindset, are a chance for a fresh start. Some use this motivation to start new routines like working out or eating healthier. Others use it to stop consuming alcoholic beverages and smoking. And others use it to focus on self-spiritual growth.

Despite how they all seem different, they all have one thing in common: they are trying to change these habits with the extra motivation for the New Year.

This helps with setting new goals and kicks in some extra motivation to help start new hobbies and have better habits. And it can be a time of reflection on how you can improve yourself from past mistakes people have made in the year.

Although New Year's resolutions are great, not all resolutions are rainbows and sunshine. Many people make unrealistic resolutions paired with setting goals way too high which can lead to negative emotional responses if the goal isn't reached. Additionally, people are inconsistent and don't effectively plan to achieve their goals. Pros

New year resolutions come along with the pro of goal-setting motivation. Goals can be things like going the gym, getting better grades and picking up a new, positive hobby.

For Jason Fernandez, senior and



(Photo Credit: CC License)

CCNN National Champion, his resolutions focus more on himself.

"My new year resolves to eat healthier and spend more time with my family and enjoy my friend's company before I leave for college," he said.

Not only does it bring goal-setting motivation but before the process of goal-setting even begins,

one needs to think about goals in depth. A time of reflection is important for any individual before setting new goals. Many use this time of the year to reflect upon their previous year, both on their failures and successes to not only grow as a person but in whatever task they are devoting their time to.

Diego Landeta, a sophomore Basketball Player has this to say: "I have been reflecting on my life the past week and I am using this time of the year to make sustainable habits to better myself."

### Cons

Although resolutions seem like all positives, resolutions can bring lots of negatives. Negatives include a lack of planning, making unrealistic goals, having dreams too high that will eventually kill your motivation to get better, and giving you short-lived motivation that will neglect long-term habits.

Ohana Behavioral Health affirms this by saying, "Failing to achieve resolutions can harm self-esteem and lead to negative self-talk."

Many people have the habit of making unrealistic expectations. Habits like hitting the gym every single day which is unrealistic to some, because they have work, family, and other time constrictions. Another example of an unrealistic expectation is eating super healthy.

Eating healthy is a doable hab-

it but some people exaggerate it to an extreme. An extreme being they only eat vegetables or they are going to do crazy diets that they are not used to. These diets that their body is not used to could send the body into a shock that will end up hurting these individuals.

Emmanuel Rodriguez said, "Last year I tried doing the keto diet but it was not sustainable and I got sick the first week."

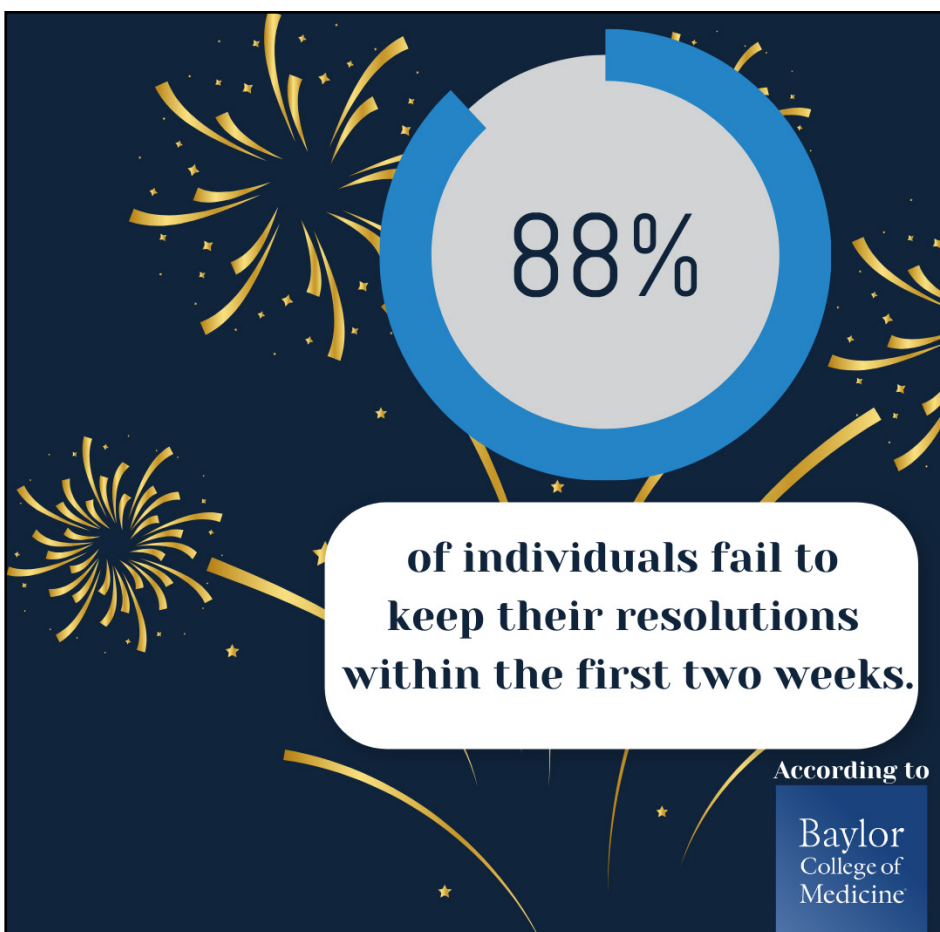
### My Opinion

New Year's resolutions have both pros and cons. Although they bring a plethora of positives, negatives can undoubtedly go to deteriorate many of the pros. Many people are inconsistent with this. Without a doubt, New Year's resolutions are a great way to start the year.

It is just an unrealistic thing for people to do that will last them the whole year.

According to Drive research, they say that only 9% of Americans who make resolutions successfully keep them for the entire year.

Resolutions are missing one big thing, consistency. Although resolutions aren't realistic for the most part, it is a good motivation for those who will actually take their resolution seriously and work for it consistently.



Statistic via Baylor College of Medicine.  
(Graphic designed by The Log staff)

# The Log

# Creative Writing

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## The Titan Wraith Ep.1 "Tavern"

by Juan-Pablo Pina

Ahab could tell the tavern was incredibly loud, even from outside in the pouring rain. He was a grizzled and old man who bore his fair share of scars and wrinkles. He wore a weathered cowboy hat, a red cotton shirt, and sage green cargo pants. Strapped over his back was a massive Marine Model 18955BL while a small dagger sat comfortably in a sheath scrapped to his pants.

From inside the tavern, Ahab could hear the thundering stomps of dancing folk along with the joyous music from the performers. But through it all was the droning sound of people chatting and shouting all throughout. Ahab wasn't a man fond of such places, places that stank of ale and were crowded, although he did appreciate their friendly and rustic charm. But the noise...

No matter, for he knew how and when to zone in to or out of his environments. So with a deep breath, he walked in, and confidently strode his way through the tavern until he managed to find a seat at the bar. The warm glow from the lights on the ceiling created a familiar and welcoming atmosphere that Ahab was more than happy to relish in silence.

"Scuse me, barkeep? Mind sliding me a drink?" said Ahab, his gruff voice, mixed with his western accent, making him sound like an old forgermaster. The barkeep, a boy who was probably a bit under 19 or 18 years of age, obliged and, after filling up a wooden cup with what looked like standard horsetail ale, passed it to the older man. Ahab thanked him with a quick and subtle nod, along with a raise of his cup, before finally having a drink. It tasted good, a bit like green tea, although it had more of a sugary and grassy pop to it.

For a time, Ahab was at peace. It was good to be here, simply enjoying himself and giving himself a break from the constant grind of his work. He loved his job, although he did need a moment to himself every now and then. And yet, despite this place's peace, it was only a matter of time before someone...

"Oy! I know you! You're Ahab! The 'dragonslayer'! Oy, lads! The dragonslayer's here!" said a man, his accent making him sound almost like a pirate.

Yep.

Ahab hated it when people did this. Then again, he wasn't surprised.

He was the most ruthless, wisest, and successful big game hunter the country of Saurodale had ever seen. Anything from Struthiomimus to giants like Spinosaurus was eventually felled by 'the dragonslayer'. Sometimes he would even allow himself to be employed by those looking to free their ranches and pastures from the

ravages of wildlife. For the most part, however, he was a nomad who killed for the sport, for the glory of knowing that a man could bring down a dragon, and he managed to keep this up by selling certain spoils of his hard work like horns or slabs of exotic meat. Almost every creature Ahab set his sights on was, in time, killed.

Almost.

There was one animal that Ahab hadn't killed just yet.

"Ahab? The dragonslayer?" prompted someone from the other end of the bar.

"Aye! It's the one and only Ahab! He's right here!" responded the man next to Ahab.

"Now this I ought to see," said someone else, though they were far closer. Eventually, a crowd started to close around Ahab with people cracking jokes, commenting, and asking questions from every angle. But then there came a voice that said something very interesting. It said...

"Mr. Ahab! The Titan Wraith has been attacking my cattle!"

Ahab's eyes widened before he unsheathed his dagger and raised it before slamming it down on the bar, a tremendous thunder ringing out that silenced everyone.

The dragonslayer sat up straight, straightened his cowboy hat, and asked in an almost crocodilian voice, "Who said that?"

Nobody dared to answer him with only a few mutters of confusion audible.

"It was I, Mr. Ahab! I! Not any of these lads," said a squeaky, almost wimpy voice with an English accent.

"Show yourself, then," snarled Ahab as he turned around on his stool.

From the crowd came a skinny man in a black tunic with a white undershirt. He was what was commonly called a "posh countryman", people who lived the honest lives of farmers and ranchers yet did so with glamor and strict manners. Because of this duality, posh countrymen were usually seen as selfish liars. So when Ahab saw one walk out of the crowd, he quickly became cautious.

"Name?" prompted Ahab, again in his almost crocodilian voice.

"My name is Arthur Grant, but please call me Arthur. I'm a rancher from the south who supplies the southern monarchs with"- "get to the point, Arthur," interrupted the dragonslayer, cutting Arthur off.

"My herds have recently been getting attacked by what I believe to be the Titan Wraith, at least going off of the evidence I or the watchmen gather when we go to investigate the noises in the night," said Arthur, his voice sounding nervous.

Ahab just nodded and thought. Could it really be the Titan Wraith? He knew the damned beast liked to go after easy prey, so this was no sur-



Artwork by Juan-Pablo Pina

prise. But he was getting this from a posh countryman. Was he really going to believe one of these people? Then again, this was the Titan Wraith he was talking about.

"Meet me outside. The rest of you can bugger off," grunted Ahab. Arthur began to walk out but stopped due to the crowd's unmovingness. It was like they were still waiting for Ahab to say something.

The dragonslayer raised an eyebrow before swinging his arms up and shouting, "What are y'all waitin' for? I said to piss off!"

Finally the crowd dispersed, and Ahab and Arthur were allowed to walk out of the tavern. Ahab simply leaned against the concrete wall while Arthur sat atop his horse. Both men grabbed a pipe from a bag Arthur had slung over his shoulder and smoked it, the gray wisps dissipating once they floated into the rain outside the refuge of the roof.

"So what makes you think you're dealing with the Titan Wraith and not some other big carnivore? You know there are Acrocanthosaurus around your lands, right?" said Ahab, raising the front of his cowboy hat.

"True, but Acrocanthosaurus usually hunt in pairs. Whatever has been attacking my cattle hunts alone, at least judging by the footprints we count," said Arthur, briefly taking the pipe out of his mouth. Ahab simply nodded.

"What about the conditions this thing usually attacks under? Weather, lighting, that sort of thing," continued the dragonslayer, looking up at the darkened sky that continued to pour rain.

"Usually at night, however, I have heard it will strike just before the sun dips below the hills. Pretty much anytime it can get enough cover is when that vermin attacks," said Arthur, sounding as though he would be punished for speaking these words.

"Right. Any other defining fea-

tures? Smells, sounds, the like?" asked Ahab. Arthur's story was convincing, that was for sure, but it also sounded like any other Mapusaurus or Tarbosaurus that could easily be sedated and moved by the authorities.

"Aye, Sir. The size of the footprints is one, I could almost fit a whole calf in them. Another factor is the color I usually see. Granted, it's in very low light and I or the watchmen only have a lamp, but I still manage to get a glimpse of its hide," said Arthur. Ahab dropped his pipe and his eyes immediately widened when the rancher mentioned the color.

"And what might that be?" prompted the dragonslayer suddenly seeming as if he was ready to pounce like a jungle cat.

"White, Mr. Ahab. It's white," deadpanned Arthur.

The old hunter's face lit up with a sinister yet enthusiastic grin. Could it be? Was his damned 15 ton snowflake back for another round? Ahab immediately stretched out an open hand to Arthur.

"You've got yourself a deal, Arthur. I'll swing by tomorrow at dusk so you can point me in the right direction. Uh, er, where might your ranch be, again?" said the dragonslayer enthusiastically.

"Wh-what? Preposterous, man! I must give you fair compensation!" retorted Arthur, flabbergasted and shocked.

"If you're telling the truth, and there'll be hell to pay if you ain't, then this hunt is compensation enough," said Ahab, his voice briefly changing to an almost reptilian growl in the middle. Arthur was clearly surprised.

"Very well. It's roughly three kilometers from the palace of southern monarchs. You'll be stopped by inspecting guards if you take the road, though, and they probably won't think too highly of a man with a dagger and firearm like yours. So I'd suggest you take the moonshiner's trail. It's a shortcut that goes through the woods and passes right in front of the ranch. I'll tell the watchmen to alert me of your arrival if I'm not out there myself," said Arthur before putting his smoking pipe away. Ahab grabbed the one he had dropped on the cold cobblestone floor and passed it to the rancher.

"So, I'll see you tomorrow at sundown?" prompted the dragonslayer.

"Yes. I'll see you then," said Arthur before riding off on his horse, quickly turning into a shadow in the rain that Ahab could barely even tell was there.

The old hunter looked up at the dark and rainy sky with its swirling clouds and flashes of lightning. If Arthur was telling true, then maybe Ahab could finally bag that damned kill. Maybe he could finally end this wretched game of cat-and-mouse that he had been forced to play for so long by that wily vermin. Maybe it was finally time he got to take down the Titan Wraith...

# The Log

# Creative Writing

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## The Twig

The Log's Satire News

# Mr. O'Brien Achieves Nirvana

By Ale Menendez

It's no secret that Mr. Steve O'Brien (OB) is a legend in the halls at Columbus. From his founding of the Castaways Against Cancer program to his dedication as a teacher and coach, OB is certainly regarded as one of the GOATs. But something about him that widely goes unnoticed is his use of mindfulness and yoga. Something that goes even further unnoticed is his lifelong journey of achieving "nirvana."

According to Webster, Nirvana is a transcendent state in which there is neither suffering, desire, nor sense of self, and the subject is released from the effects of karma and the cycle of death and rebirth.

"I'm not exactly sure when I started yoga," said OB when asked about his journey. "I think I was at a Grateful Dead concert with my buddy Mr. Scholer, and some long hair hippie dude told us that we had to try it."

After practicing yoga and mindfulness for over 30 years at Columbus, Mr. O'Brien has already seen some positive results.

"I used to rage for probably about six periods a day. But you know, now I'd say that I only average about two."

However, on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 9, Mr. Hermida noticed something strange while walking over to OB's room for his usual morning chat.

"I knocked on the door of his class like always," said Mr. Hermida. "But I saw something that I never had before. He was levitating. At first I thought I could be seeing things, after all, I don't get much sleep having to stay up and grade my student's essays, but after I rubbed my eyes, it was clear that he was actually floating in the air."

After calling over his A-building buddies in Cowboy and Mr. Morrissey, Mr. Hermida further explored the scene and asked his colleagues about what this could mean.

"The only Nirvana I know is that band," said Mr. Connell.

But after realizing that this certainly wasn't about rock, the three further tried to investigate the scene. But as soon as they opened the door, Mr. O'Brien dropped to the ground and greeted them like nothing had happened.

"I asked him if he was alright," said Mr. Hermida. "But all he said was that he was fine and asked if I could help him get his computer started. I guess some things never change."

Still, Mr. O'Brien denies anything ever happened.

"I don't know what you guys are talking about," said OB when asked about how it feels to have finally achieved Nirvana. "I have not achieved Nirvana at all, if I did do you really think that I'd still be working here? Oh, don't tell Mr. Pugh I



Mr. O'Brien caught floating in his class.

(Photo Credit: Ale Menendez; Editing Credit: Jason Fernandez)

said that either."

But "Nirvana-gate," as the students have called it, continues as a mystery. OB still denies it, and no one else has caught him floating

again.

If you want to be like Mr. O'Brien, stop by the Mindfulness Club after school on Tuesdays.

# BREAKING NEWS: Columbus Finishes New Pool Atop L Building

By Ale Menendez

It's no secret that recently, there have been many building improvements at Christopher Columbus High School. In just a few years, there have been huge renovations to the Basketball Gym, the construction of the new L Building, and now the remodeling of the A building and courtyard. And although all of these renovations are impressive in their own right, there has been one construction that has gone under the radar that is arguably more impactful in the lives of Columbus students.

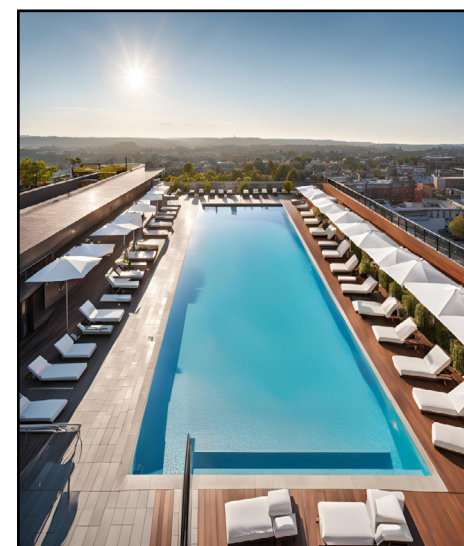
On the last Friday of each week, starting at about 4 o'clock (in or-

der not to attract attention from students) and working until they run out of sunlight, groups of workers have been digging a pool on the roof of the L Building. This construction was completed during Winter Break and will be open to students when school resumes on January 6th.

The activities in this Olympic sized swimming pool range from pool basketball to competitive swimming. What's more is that it will be open after school every day and the first 30 students to arrive will be let in.

Freshmen especially should go check out the pool as it will be exclusively available to them in the

first week back from winter break. All they have to do is head down to the L building elevator and press all 4 floor buttons at the exact same time and they will be transported up to the roof. Tickets to the pool will be available at any time during the day in any teachers classroom in the L building. But hurry up freshmen, because there are only 30 tickets available, and they will run out fast!



(Artwork Generated with Canva)

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