



# The Lance

Holy Cross  
High School  
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## The People's Pope

By Brian Lavelle '15

The unconventional methods and teachings of Pope Francis appear to be having the effect of bringing people, who may not have been active churchgoers for many years or even decades, back into the church. This may be due to the fact that The Pope's heavily publicized teachings are having his intended effect of portraying the Church as a more warm and accepting environment.

The effect of Pope Francis can be seen all around the world, from the massive crowds in Vatican City to the filling up of pews across the United States. Despite being the highest ranking Catholic in the world The Pope has remained highly personable and tries to stay close to his followers, especially the poor. His impromptu actions such as walking into a large crowd to bless a disfigured man have caused headaches for his security team but have caught the attention of Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

The Pope's teachings have had the biggest impact on young Catholics. The Pope has attracted the attention of young people especially in his some-what

controversial views on homosexuality. "Who am I to judge" says Pope Francis. Although he is not denying the sinfulness of homosexuality, this phrase shows a more accepting and forgiving nature that is especially influential when coming from The Pope.

It was even revealed recently that the Pope himself may have

are very "Jesus-like" and much different from those of the Popes before him. Priests themselves have noted the rise in church attendance a recent study has shown. In a survey of 250 Catholic priests, 51% of them reported a significant rise in churchgoing. In a follow-up study it seems that these numbers have remained months after the election



(Photo courtesy of popularresistance.org)

ventured out into the streets of Rome under the guise of a normal priest to mingle with the poor and hungry. "Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor." says Pope Francis, who has not only given these teachings but has acted upon them himself. Many have remarked that the words and actions of Pope Francis

of the pope. The Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Timothy Dolan says that he sees "the Pope Francis effect" frequently when walking the streets of New York. Only time will tell if the impact Pope Francis has had on the church will last in years to come. For now it does appear that his teachings are influencing a wide range of Catholics across the world.

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## S.A.D.D. Takes Action

By Brandon Seibert '14

S.A.D.D, Students Against Destructive Decisions, has some great activities planned for this upcoming March that tackle the issue of distracted driving.

S.A.D.D is a student based organization focused on deterring adolescents from making destructive decisions. The group's primary focus for the month of March is distracted driving. "Distracted driving is anything that takes a driver's focus off the road," says Mrs. Vodopivc, the leader of S.A.D.D and a Holy Cross faculty member.

According to Mrs. Vodopivc, S.A.D.D. will use interesting techniques to educate students about the harmful effects of distracted driving. One way they plan on doing this is by having a texting-while-driving simulator. The exercise will ask students to operate a videogame-like driving machine while typing a text message. The object of the exercise is to teach students that texting and driving can yield detrimental results.

One brand new method S.A.D.D. is using to spread the message is celebrity influence. "I don't want to spoil it just yet but we are bringing in a guest from the Oprah Show to share his or her story," says Mrs. Vodopivc.

Other than distracted driving month, S.A.D.D. holds many other awareness events. September is Red Ribbon month for drunk driving victims. Also, on October 9th



(Photo courtesy of bryanterrell.com)

S.A.D.D. held Nation Unity Day, on which people wear orange to stand up to bullying.

S.A.D.D. meets every Monday and Students are encouraged to join and stop destructive decisions by teens. Overall it is a fantastic way to show school spirit and, more importantly, to save lives.

## The Lance

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# Oscar Nominations and Predictions

By *Liam McCaul '15*

Every year, toward the end of February and into March, comes the Oscars Award Show, which is the longest running and most prestigious award show ever, celebrating the best films and performances from the past year.



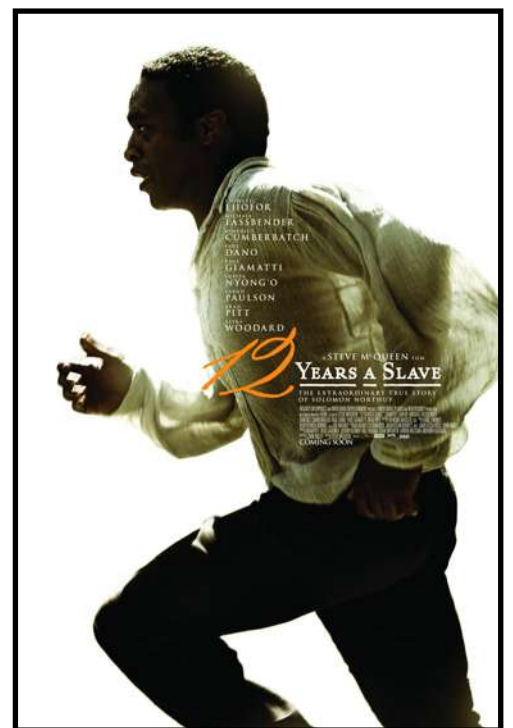
The Oscars will be celebrated for the 86<sup>th</sup>

time on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be hosted by daytime talk show host Ellen DeGeneres.

Many films this year have multiple nominations, as is displayed by the films *Gravity* and *American Hustle*, which have 10 nominations each. The Golden Globe Awards in January gave a good preview of what was going to be nominated and what could win. The top films this year are *Gravity*, *American Hustle*, *The Wolf of Wall Street*, *12 Years a Slave*, *Her*, *Captain Phillips*, *Dallas Buyers Club*, *Philomena*, and *Nebraska*. These are all nominated for Best Picture and the directors to *American Hustle*, *The Wolf of Wall Street*, *12 Years a Slave*, *Nebraska*, and *Gravity* are all nominated for Best Director. Usually, the Best Picture and Best Director go together, but at the Golden Globes they were split. The frontrunners at the Oscars seem to be *12 Years a Slave* and *American Hustle*. I believe that *12 Years a Slave* will take it home for best picture because it's a drama while *American Hustle* is a

comedy, and dramas usually take home this award.

I also think that this is the year that Leonardo DiCaprio breaks his Oscar-less curse with a win for his performance in *The Wolf of Wall Street*. The big deal has been that even though DiCaprio has played great roles in iconic movies such as *Titanic* and *Gangs of New York*, he has never won an Oscar. This is the opposite of critically acclaimed actress Meryl Streep who is looking for her 4<sup>th</sup> Academy Award as Best Actress in *August: Osage County*. Although Streep is in the record books for her number of nomination and wins, this year belongs to Sandra Bullock from *Gravity*, Amy Adams from *American Hustle* or Kate Blanchett from *Blue Jasmine*. It could go to any of the three in my opinion, but Blanchett won at the Golden Globes, which leads me to believe she is the frontrunner. Some of the names in the category for Best Supporting Actor include Bradley Cooper, Jared Leto, and Jonah Hill, but it looks like new actor Barkhad Abdi, who was a limo driver before being asked to play the leader of Haitian raiders in the movie *Captain Phillips*, is my pick for Best Supporting Actor. Also it looks like the obvious choice in Best Supporting Actress is Jennifer Lawrence from *American Hustle*. However, the Oscars are full of surprises, so we'll have to wait until March 2<sup>nd</sup> to see how everything unfolds.



(Above: Theatrical poster for *12 Years A Slave*.  
Photo courtesy of *impatwards.com*)

# Paint It White: The Destruction of 5 Pointz



**Left:** 5 Pointz before and after being whitewashed (Source - Gettysburg Images)

**Below:** Rear of 5 Pointz building (Source - Google Images)

By Anthony Alvarez '15

Since the 1970's New York City has been a target for graffiti artists. There was once a time where a person could not go anywhere without finding walls completely covered by the "art". Since its decline in the late 1980's however, urban artists struggle to find space to work and display their art safely.

In 1993 the Phun Phactory was established in order to quell the remaining Urban Artists in Long Island City from defacing public property. To continue their work, many artists flocked to the "legal" art site, which earned the new name "5 Pointz". Since its establishment 5 Pointz has earned the reputation as a "Graffiti Mecca" for all urban artists. It has not only bolstered tourism in LIC but it has also given artists a place to showcase their work in a legal showcase.

Unfortunately, after a unanimous vote by the New York City Planning Commission, the landmark will be torn down to make room for a \$400 million residential project. The decision has caused public outrage not only in New York, but around the globe. This urban landmark has been home to tourists and a destination for many artists from around the world. Workers in the area will also be greatly affected as the rate of tourism in the area as the rate of tourism is expected to plummet.

Many people have viewed the demolition of 5 Pointz as a barbaric act, and therefore are doing everything in their power to stop the demolition. Citizens have taken legal action and have started to sign petitions in order to establish 5 Pointz as a landmark, which would protect the site from its impending demolition. Additionally, a group of artists from 5 Pointz sued the developers under the Visual Artists Rights Act, unfortunately the court ruled against the artists and the lawsuit was lost.

In an effort to ensure 5 Pointz's demolition, the owner of the complex ordered the building to be "Whited Out" on November 19, 2013, destroying the home of many of the priceless art pieces as a result. This destruction has unfortunately almost completely sealed the fate of this beloved landmark, and has made its demise imminent. Queens, New York, and the world will mourn the loss of this beloved landmark, as urban artists will be forced to find new places to safely display their art. Such as the new Condominiums set to built upon the location of 5 Pointz. This 400 million dollar building plan which will create 1,000 new units of housing in LIC (210 of those will become affordable housing), will also house a space of 10,000 square feet which would be dedicated exclusively for curated urban art. Though many people will miss 5 Pointz, its imminent demolition will follow in the pattern of constant reconstruction which not only keeps the city safe but also allows for growth in architecture, society,

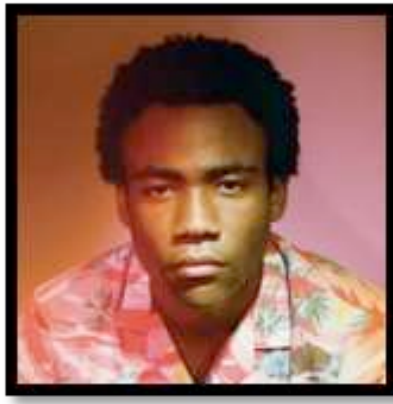


## Music Worth Listening To: *Because the Internet*

By Brandon Chow '15

“Because the Internet” released on iTunes on December 10, 2013, and it is the sophomore studio album of actor/comedian turned rapper, Donald Glover. Glover, who performs under the stage name Childish Gambino, has gained a cult following over the past few years mainly through his role as Troy Barnes on the hit NBC sit-com *Community*, and because of his smaller side gig as a rapper. After self-publishing numerous mix tapes and an EP, Gambino generated a lot of buzz in 2011 with the release of his first studio album, “Camp”. In general, “Camp” received positive reviews and critics praised Gambino for his clever wordplay, energetic delivery, and infectious personality. The success of “Camp” in 2011 and Gambino’s “ROYALTY” mix tape in 2012 persuaded Glover to focus on his career as a rapper. Instead of recording a project while juggling the responsibilities of acting, writing, and stand-up comedy, “Because the Internet” is Gambino’s first project that he got to pour all his time and effort into, and it really shows.

Right off the bat one can tell that “Because the Internet” has a much darker and melancholy tone than any of Gambino’s previous works. The album’s name was inspired by Gambino’s views on the rise of technology in recent years and some of the dangers it has imposed on society. References to the digital-age and the internet are interspersed through each song, creating an interesting concept album. Gambino even released a 72-page screenplay, which he wrote by himself, to accompany the album. The screen play follows the story of “The Boy” and adds a whole new layer and perspective to the already spectacular album. The screenplay gives context to each song and nicely ties up the project. Throughout the album Gambino raps about his relationships with others, himself, and the rap industry. In the song “Sweatpants” Gambino combines braggadocios lines (“More green than my Whole Foods and I’m too fly, Jeff Goldblum”) with lines about his struggle to justify his



rapping to other people (“Rich kid a\*\*hole, paint me as a villain”). Production wise, “Because the Internet” has a wintery mood to it and rightfully so, as Gambino does a good amount of soul-searching in his songs. For example, on the tracks “Shadows” and “Flight of the Navigator” he expresses his fears of being alone and dying. My favorite song on the album so far is “Telegraph Ave. (‘Oakland’ by Lloyd)”, where Gambino tells the story of driving a long way to an old flame’s house only to find, upon arrival, that she no longer feels the same way about him. The track opens with two softly sung R&B-like verses before Gambino goes into a mesmerizing loose-limbed flow that displays his versatility as an artist.

My only gripe with the album is that Gambino tends to be a bit mawkish and a little corny in some songs/lines on this record.

In my opinion “Because the Internet” is Gambino’s best work yet and is definitely worth a listen. Gambino drastically improves from “Camp”, toning down his voice inflection and increasing the depth of his lyrics and overall production. Gambino keeps the awesome flow and nerdy wit that I originally fell in love with, while also bringing his incredible storytelling and singing abilities to the table. This album is a refreshing and innovative addition to today’s rap game, and I’d recommend “Because the Internet” to any hip-hop head since it offers an amazing listening experience.

### FAVORITE TRACKS:

“Crawl”, “Telegraph Ave. (‘Oakland’ by Lloyd)”, “Worldstar”, “The Worst Guys”, “Sweatpants”, “Shadows”, “The Party”, “3005”, “Urn” and “Life: The Biggest Troll (Andrew Auernheimer)”

## Twitter vs. Instagram, Which is Better?

By Anthony Benanti '15

While Twitter is a great social networking site that is undoubtedly the most popular one today, Instagram is a simple but effective network that is used heavily as well. While Twitter has a wide range of services, Instagram focuses mainly on pictures. However, this has not stopped the service from being almost as popular as Twitter. Many people believe that Twitter is better because it is much easier to embed links and interact with others. However, Instagram is just as effective at bringing people together. With the ability to tag other users in photos, it is incredibly simple to connect with others. The only thing that the service is lacking is the ability to embed links, which can only work if the link is in your bio. Both services are able to be accessed within each other, such as posting a photo on Twitter that redirects to Instagram. Although they have many features in common, it is not easy to compare the two services. Both are very popular and still rapidly growing, but they are for different needs and wants. Twitter is more text focused, and Instagram is more attractive to the people who like to express themselves through photography.



(Photo Source - [geek.digesttouch.com](http://geek.digesttouch.com))

# Safe Use of Social Media



(Photos courtesy of vandelaydesign.com)

By Chris Cadigan '15

Social media is a very hot-button issue in today's society because almost everyone has an account of some kind. Whether it is Twitter, or Facebook many use these sites to connect to friends and family. These sites are especially popular with teens. This being said it is very important for teenagers to learn how to safely use social media and post things that are appropriate.

Many teens do not realize that their schools, college admissions officers and employers can see their posts. Teens often post irresponsibly on their accounts. Some post pictures of themselves drinking, partying, and doing drugs. These posts can have serious repercussions. There have been many stories about teens across America who have been suspended or expelled from school for their posts on social media. Colleges now factor a prospective student's social media activity when making admissions decisions. Students who have great GPAs may not be accepted into their dream college because of reckless and irresponsible posts on social media. Many employers use social media to make personnel decisions such as who to promote or even who to hire. Reckless posts and misuse of social media can have a major effect on a teen's future.

Many teens set their accounts to be private. They believe this will stop colleges and employers from being able to see their activity. They are incorrect in that assumption. Many colleges and companies have the same technology as local police departments. This allows them to view any account they want even if they are private. So, even if an account is private teens should still be wary about what they are posting because it is still visible to their school, colleges and future employers.

Social media has had a positive effect on society as a whole because people can connect with each other instantly. This has made them extremely popular. It is because of this popularity that colleges and companies view the accounts of those affiliated with them. As long as teens post responsibly they should not have to worry about their posts being seen.

## Anime Preview: *No Game, No Life*

By Vincent Lee '15

Spring is approaching fast, because without even noticing, half the school year's already gone. To many anime lovers, I can empathize with the fact you'd rather be watching anime and not be picking up a book to study off from it. Tests are coming around the corner. But that's just the hell before the heaven, isn't it? Good news? A bunch of new animes are in store for all of you anime lovers this Spring. Better news? We have the Mid-Winter Break and more importantly, the Easter Break at April. That is the month when the anime "No Game, No Life" premieres.

"No Game, No Life" focuses on the story of Sora and Shiro, a brother and a sister. They are known as NEET (Not Employed, In Education, or in Training) hikikomoris (Japanese for "Shut In") who spend their time indoors playing games and watching TV ALL day. Sounds like what I was shooting for just now when break time comes. There are many stories where an event totally flips one's lifestyle upside down in a given degree, and that's apparent in "No Game, No Life". That is because one day, they are summoned into an alternate world by a boy named "God", who has eliminated warfare there. Everything in this world is decided through "games". Fun! To top it all off, humans in this realm are backed into one city by other races. By races, I mean goblins, dragons, and demons. That sounds just like the anime "Problem Children Are Coming From Another World, Aren't They?". In that anime, three people with powers known as "gifts" are summoned into a realm known as Little Garden by a girl named "Black Rabbit". The three find themselves in a bad position as the group they join is

backed into a corner by other groups in Little Garden, just like humanity in the alternate world in "No Game, No Life". The question for "No Game, No Life" is simple: Can Sora and Shiro save humanity in the alternate dimension or die trying along with the rest of them?



(Photo courtesy of animeshinbun.com)



(Photo courtesy of zerochan.net)



(Photo courtesy of teenpix.portalpopup.com)

# The Best of C.E.S. 2014

By Brandon Chow '15

Each year, the Consumer Electronics Association produces the Consumer Electronics Show, or CES. For those who don't already know, CES is an event where manufacturers, developers and suppliers from the consumer electronics industry come together to display the latest innovations in technology. With over 3,200 exhibits and more than 150,000 attendees from all over the world, CES is truly a spectacle to behold. CES is held in Las Vegas, Nevada in early January. This year's show took place over a four day span, lasting from January 7-10, and it did not disappoint. Here are some of my favorite items that were shown at CES 2014:

**Onewheel** – The people over at Future Motion are looking to shake up the electrical transportation market with their latest product, which is called Onewheel. Onewheel is a motorized skateboard that comes equipped with the “most advanced motion sensing, hub motor and battery technology available.” The board is completely control free, as users simply lean forward to speed up, and lean back to slow down. Additionally, Onewheel has a max speed of 12 mph and is fitted with a 48V Lithium battery that can give up to 6 miles of ride time on one charge. What's even cooler is that the board's battery has a recharge time of 20 minutes when using the company's “ultra-charger”, which can plug into any standard outlet. Just like snowboarding or surfing, Onewheel offers an incredibly smooth ride. Onewheel's Kickstarter campaign currently has 506 backers who have pledged nearly \$290,000, which is much more than the product's original \$100,000 goal. The only problem with Onewheel is its price point, as its Kickstarter campaign indicates that product will retail in the \$1,500 to \$2,000 range. For something that feels like you're riding a hover board, I think the price seems reasonable.

**Atlas: Fitness Tracker** – For me, the coolest fitness gadget from CES has to be the Atlas fitness tracker. Setting it apart from the current fitness trackers, Atlas is a wearable device that can actually track your motions and identify what exercise you are doing. With this sweet technology, the Atlas can keep track of your reps, calories burned and heart rate, while also providing feedback on your technique and form. Atlas users can get even more information for their workouts using Atlas' phone application. The Atlas app contains a wealth of useful data that greatly benefits users by telling them which of their muscles need a rest and which ones they should be working on. Furthermore, the wrist-worn device comes with a beautiful LED screen that gives the user real-time feedback, allowing for immediate adjustments to be made during one's workout. Atlas' Indiegogo campaign had a goal of \$125,000 and they've successfully met that, as the product currently has more than 1,200 backers who have pledged nearly \$170,000. The Atlas fitness tracker doesn't have a set price point, but it seems like the item will retail for somewhere around \$400 or \$500. As a person who wants to get more in shape this year, the Atlas is definitely a product I'll be looking out for.

**Omni** – The final product that caught my attention at CES 2014 was the Virtuix Omni – a product that looks to revolutionize the future of gaming. The Omni is the world's first virtual reality interface, as it immerses users into video games in an unprecedented fashion. The Omni allows players to actually run, walk or jump in place while controlling the motions of their in-game characters. With a special pair of shoes, Omni users slide right across its frictionless surface, staying in place while the product's safety harness around the waist prevents people from falling off the Omni. The Omni's base uses motion and capacity tracking to identify and react to what players are doing. In addition, the Omni is compatible with any PC game as long as it uses a keyboard for movement control. Surprisingly, the Omni only costs \$499. However, one has to keep in mind that this price does not include the price of the Oculus Rift, which is the virtual reality headset that is needed to use to the Omni. Virtuix says that the Omni can be used for a multitude of applications outside of gaming. For example, the Omni can be very useful in running military simulations for soldiers, or it can be used for virtual architecture or tourism. Overall, the Omni is a promising product that makes me very excited for the future of gaming.

Onewheel



(Photo courtesy of [kickstarter.com](http://kickstarter.com))

Atlas Fitness Tracker



(Photo courtesy of [gearmoose.com](http://gearmoose.com))

Omni



(Photo courtesy of [virtuix.com](http://virtuix.com))



# THE LANCE SPORTS



## MLB Offseason Moves

By Liam McCaul '15

As New York sports fans, we don't tolerate losing. No matter the team or the sport, this city and its passionate fans have come to expect success. Baseball fans, especially due to the success the Yankees and Mets have had in their history, expect to have a championship caliber team each year. However, 2013 was not a particularly good year in New York sports when both teams fell short of making the playoffs. The MLB Offseason has already changed the way we will look at the Yankees and Mets this year.

The Yankees missed the playoffs for only the second time in 19 years this year and in expected Yankees fashion, they began to spend. With repeated injuries and holes at various positions, the Yankees one job this offseason was to close the gaps and become competitive once again. It started with the newest catcher Brian McCann, who got a 5 year, \$85 million dollar deal with the Yankees. Then came the big one, the signing of Jacoby Ellsbury. The former Red Sox center fielder got a 7 year deal for \$153 million and many are saying it is a risky move on the Yankees part to sign someone long term, especially if he relies on his legs for production. Ellsbury stole 52 bases, and hit .298 for the Red Sox last year, which makes him a great investment in the short term provided he stays healthy. The Yankees also invested in utility infielder Kelly Johnson, in the event

All-Star second baseman Robinson Cano left. As predicted, Cano hit the jackpot, striking a record deal with the Seattle Mariners for 10 years and \$240 million. The Yankees lost their best player, so what do they do? They sign the next big free agent the same day! Carlos Beltran, the former Met will be coming to the Bronx this year getting a 3 year, \$45 million dollar deal done with the Yanks. Also, by resigning pitcher Hiroki Kuroda, the Yankees most consistent starter this year, GM Brian Cashman is accomplishing what he set out to do this offseason, but they were still not done. The coveted prize that was Japanese pitcher Masahiro Tanaka who went 24-0 for the Rakutan Golden Eagles, signed with the Yankees for 7 years and \$155 million. This provides the Yankees with a young, talented arm that they have been missing. This team is beginning to look like it might get back to winning championships. Stay tuned Yankees fans a very promising year is ahead.

The New York Mets are not seen as big money spenders in the offseason although they usually sign, or are at least considered bidders, for one big free agent per year. With the Mets feeling good about their starting rotation since the emergence of Matt Harvey and Zack Wheeler, their attention has been focused on fixing their outfield, which spawned multiple combinations and not much

production for most of the season. First, the Mets signed Chris Young, an outfielder who has hit a consistent 15-20 home runs per year even with injury problems the past two seasons. He received a one-year deal with the Mets for \$7.25 million to help a lifeless outfield. The Mets big free agent signing this year came from across town when they signed Curtis Granderson. The Grandy-man, as named by John Sterling, was injured for most of 2013 with the Yankees and only played in 61 games. However, Granderson will give David Wright some protection in the lineup and a great glove in the outfield for the Mets. In the two years prior, Granderson hit 84 home runs for the Yankees and was one of their top producers. This is a very exciting signing for the Mets because they have Granderson for 4 years and if they can get some more help for this team, plus the return of Matt Harvey in 2015, the Mets can become serious contenders once again. After signing Bartolo Colon to a 2 year \$20 million dollar deal and resigning Jeremy Hefner, the Mets are also considering Corey Hart, Cesar Izturis, Freddy Garcia, and Chris Perez. They are also in trade talks trying to deal Daniel Murphy. Mets fans have not been able to see their team in the playoffs since 2006, but the young talent and drastic improvements at each position has this team in a good shape for years to come.



(Left: Yankees acquired Masahiro Tanaka, Jacoby Ellsbury and Brian McCann this offseason. Above: Former Yankee Curtis Granderson signs with Mets. Photos courtesy of cbs.com)

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# Sochi Olympic Games Recap

By Dylan Chow '15

This past February the United States competed in the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

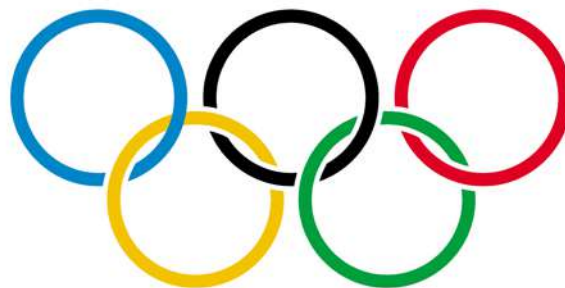
During these Olympics, Team USA had its ups and downs. Highly favored American snowboarder Shaun White failed to place on the podium and win his third straight gold medal in the Snowboard Men's Halfpipe, despite getting the highest overall score in the qualifiers at 95.25. After losing in the semifinals to Team Canada, the U.S. Men's Hockey Team fell 5-0 to Finland in the bronze medal game, failing to medal after getting silver in Vancouver. Another dismal showing at the games includes the U.S. speedskating teams where one of the sport's legends, Shani Davis, concluded his career finishing in 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in two speedskating events. In ladies snowboard cross semifinals Lindsay Jacobellis repeated her blunder from Vancouver by obtaining a large lead ahead of the pack and losing it at the end by falling near the finish lines. Probably the most heartbreaking of them all, the US women's hockey team, leading 2-0 in the third period, squander the lead losses to Canada in overtime of the gold medal game.

Luckily many Americans did rise to the occasion throughout these games. Of the nine gold medals won by Team USA, first-time Olympians won seven. Freestyle skiers, Joss Christensen, David Wise, and Maddie Bowman won gold medals in men's slopestyle, men's halfpipe and women's halfpipe respectively. Eighteen-year-old alpine skier Mikaela Shiffrin won gold in the slalom in her first Olympic appearance. Alpine skier, Ted Ligety became the first American man to win two Olympic golds in alpine skiing. Another alpine skier, 5-time olympian Bode Miller, won bronze in

the Super-G, making him the oldest alpine skier to medal at the age of 36. In the new slopestyle events in snowboarding, Sage Kotsenburg and Jamie Anderson took home the gold. Fellow snowboarder, Kaitlyn Farrington, won gold in the women's halfpipe. In ice dancing, Meryl Davis and Charlie White won the first-ever American gold in that event.

Several American athletes who didn't win gold also achieved great feats. Three-time Olympian Erin Hamlin became the first female or male luger to win a medal in the single luge event, bringing home bronze. For the first time in 62 years, the U.S. medaled in the two-man bobsled under the one-two tandem of Steven Holcomb and Steven Langton who also won bronze. Lastly Noelle Pikus-Pace and Matthew Antoine won silver and bronze respectively, giving the U. S. their first medal in skeleton since 2002.

Overall it was a decent Olympic games for the United States, finishing second in medal count. Young American athletes from these games hope to use this Olympic experience to help them prepare for the 2018 games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. The United States medal count finished as follows: 8 gold, 7 silver, and 12 bronze.



(Photo courtesy of [ccsuvt.org](http://ccsuvt.org))

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# HC's Varsity Football Team Looks Promising

By John Flynn '15

Why is the team optimistic for next year? There were many contributors from the 2012 J.V. football team, which included junior Sal DiCamillo, who was responsible for making an unbelievable block that led to senior Brandon Jackson's 65 yard game clinching punt return touchdown against St. Francis Prep. There was some good vibe within their running backs. Although the team's two top running backs this season were seniors,

Jordan Franklin and Brandon Pelzer, junior Prince Klutsey had a very good season, and head coach Tom Pugh believes he'll continue to improve in 2014. While the offensive output by the Knights wasn't great, they boasted the #2 scoring defense in the CHSFL. Also, with the 2013 J.V. team coming off an AA championship title this season, there is hope that members of that team will move up and contribute with gutsy defense.

But, why would only a few keys lead to possibly great things? Well, look at the rest of the league. Obviously St. Anthony's is the team to beat next year. But, a big reason Chaminade defeated St. Anthony's in the championship was the fact that they had the best QB in the league, who could be compared to Colin Kaepernick of the NFL's San Francisco 49ers, but he's headed to college. While St. Francis Prep went undefeated in the

regular season, they faced a relatively weak schedule. Another major power, Iona Prep, lost to the Knights at home, and the Knights think they can beat Iona Prep again if they play each other next year. The Knights believe they can take advantage of these powers and get to their promised land, the AAA championship game, and the chance at winning their first varsity league championship since the unbeaten team of 1977.



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# Look Out for HC's Varsity "B" Basketball Team

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*By Chris Luadando '15*

Reporting on Holy Cross' Varsity B team has been an eye opening experience. After reporting on our Varsity team last year, it is amazing how differently the two teams play.

While Varsity played with size and power, the Varsity B team utilizes a much smaller lineup. However, they make up for their lack of size with impressive speed. The games are lower scoring, because the defense is greater. It's remarkable that the crowds for these games are so small, since this team can put on just as much of a show as the Varsity team. They ended the season with a winning record, and lost the championship game in the Matthew

Giannuzzi Tournament. Holy Cross' team is one of the best in the league. After watching a team of players approaching seven feet, it's refreshing to see such a good game played under the basket. Holy Cross plays one of the fastest, smartest, and most agile teams in the league. Quan, the leader of the team, is one of the most vocal players on offense and has great insight into the game. Chikpe often plays the role of the leader on defense. At center, he has the best view of the court to call out picks and open players. The other members of the starting five all play quickly, pushing fast breaks and getting open. This team also has a

remarkable three-point percentage, with Brandon Dipinto and "Alabama" leading the team. Jeffery is one of the fastest players I've ever seen. If he moved any faster he would leave the ball behind! With seniors getting the most playing time, it will be interesting to see how the team performs next year. Dipinto may have to take Quan's place as the point guard, and Talles will most likely take over at center. Jeffery will probably start as the second guard, and the remaining places will have to be taken up by incoming juniors.