

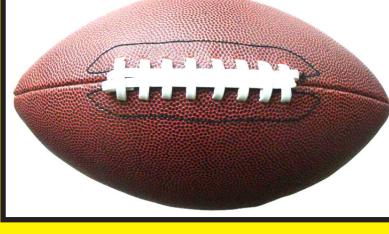
THE TRIBAL TIMES

Vol. 4 Issue 4

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All HOPE Lost:

Clayton County seniors fight to keep opportunity of college education through in-state sponsored scholarship

by Bridget Spencer

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, (SACS), has threatened to take accreditation away from the Clayton County School District.

Imagine a student who has been in high school for four years and has kept a solid 3.0 grade point average. The student then finds out that he or she is eligible for the HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) Scholarship, but in the 2008 graduation year, he or she cannot receive it.

This is the predicament for the nearly 53,000 students in the Clayton County school district. "I hope the situation turns around soon. The school board is being questioned now. It simply would not be fair for us if this follows through," Riverdale High School senior Solomon Nguyen said.

SACS says that the decision making process for the school system is tainted. They assert to have found overwhelming amounts of evidence that support their claim.

"We sent a special review team to investigate after the

board members performed their investigation. They came back claiming that Clayton County was not meeting six of the seven accreditation standards," Vice President of Communications at SACS Jennifer Oliver said.

There was a previous inspection in 2003 in which the school board was accused of interfering with daily operation of schools.

"It's time for the parents to step it up. This is a wake up call for parents to be more aware of the curriculum and under what conditions their children are being taught," Math Teacher Larry Lewis said. No public school in Georgia has ever lost its accreditation, so this will be not only a tremendous loss, but a first in the state.

Colleges will not accept applications from a discredited school.

"It is not the students' faults. Problems have simply piled up over the years and they have been ignoring them. I would be devastated if someone told me I couldn't get HOPE because my school is not

accredited. HOPE is the only way for many people to even get into college, senior Imani Tuck said.

Clayton County residents are thinking that a new board

is the answer.

"They have until Sept. 1 to address the issues presented. We want them to respond. We do not want them to lose accreditation," Oliver said.

MISSING



Name: Accreditation
last seen in Clayton County

REWARD: HOPE

Georgette Eva

Red Cross partners with Indians to pool blood

by Chase Eriksen

Working closely with the McEachern Beta Club, the American Red Cross collected over 50 units of blood during last month's drive.

Students and faculty alike converged in the mezzanine of the new gym to give blood.

"Knowing that I could save up to three lives with my donation is motivation enough to donate," senior Emily Beccel said.

Blood is produced in the bone marrow, a jellylike substance inside the bones. In adults, the spine, ribs, and pelvis are the primary blood suppliers.

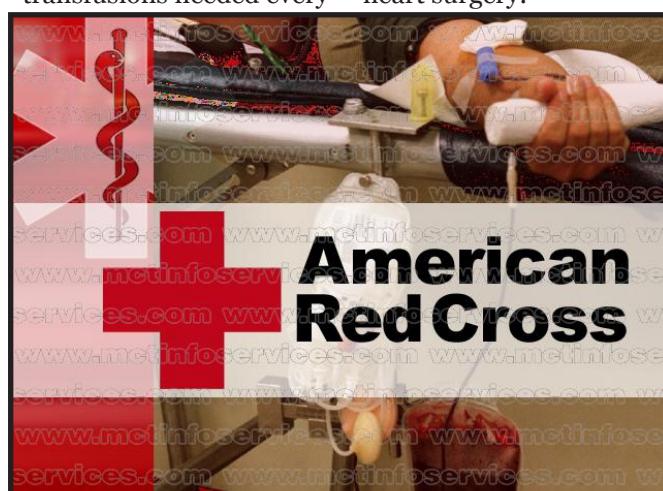
Different blood cells have different life spans; red blood cells last about 120 days in the blood stream, platelets about 10 days, and various white blood cells can last years. Each of these cells can be donated individually or all as one unit.

Although all blood is made of the same basic elements, not all is alike.

There are eight common red blood cell types. Combined with the other two components of blood, platelets and plasma, McEachern students contributed to the 38,000 transfusions needed every

increasing at the rate of 6 percent per year.

On average, 4-100 units of blood may be needed for one accident victim while 2-6 units are commonly needed for open heart surgery.



The American Red Cross collects blood for thousands of needy patients across the country.

day in the United States.

According to the American Red Cross, the number of patients who receive blood in the U.S. annually is 4.9 million, and the volume of blood transfused to patients is

Because blood cannot be manufactured, it can only come from willing donors. Unfortunately, there are several misconceptions about the donation process that frequently mislead potential donors.

Perhaps the blood donated at McEachern will give a newborn, a mother, a father, or a brother a chance at life.

SCA wins three

by Anica Wiebe

SCA delivers three achievement awards from this year's Convention.

The McEachern Student Council traveled to the Student Council convention on February 22 in Covington, Ga.

"It is an experience that brings our council and other schools councils together to get new ideas and to show others our ideas so that all the councils will learn from each other," junior Kevin Mabolade said.

SCA brought home three awards this year, one more award than the 2006-2007 school year.

McEachern was awarded Outstanding School Spirit for The Tribe. The Tribe is a committee that gets a group of people to go to sporting events at McEachern and show team spirit. This committee was created this year by SCA.

McEachern also received an award for Outstanding Student Recognition for Caught doing Something Good and an Outstanding Service Project award for Patriot Day, led by the junior class earlier this year.

"I received the Outstanding Service Project award on behalf of the council, I was happy to bring home another award for the team," junior class president Christo Taoshiani said.

Junior class vice president Suzanne Stroup won the speaking contest for her speech on Peace, Love and Leadership, the theme of the conference. The speech was judged by a panel, and beat two other competitors.

SCA was also recognized for its collection of over 61,000 of pop tabs by the sophomore class council.

"Winning these awards makes the Council as a whole feel like they accomplished something. We had big goals and we achieved them," advisor Angela Taylor said.

McEachern is working to build a stronger council for the future.

"Going to the convention helped me be a better leader. It was good insight for what I can do to improve my leadership skills," senior secretary Chasteney Richardson said.

OPINIONS

CHEATER CHEATER

Patriots, others accused of spygating on field

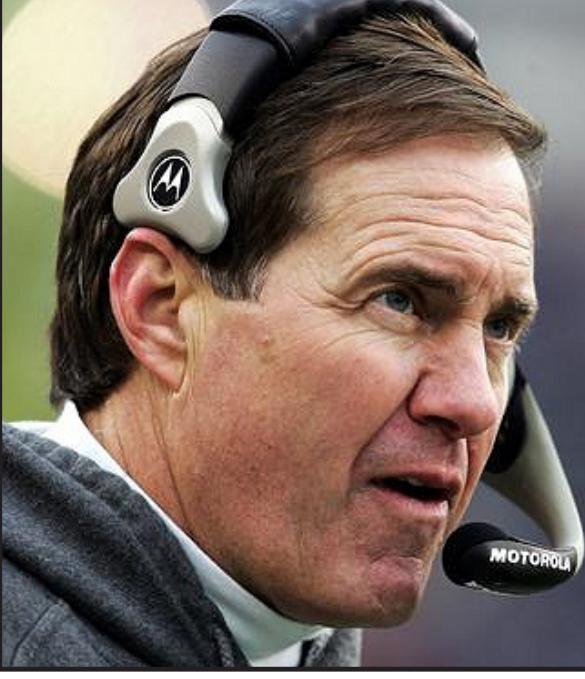
by Mike Kljucaric

National Football League officials expect to meet with ex-Patriots employee Matt Walsh in order to discuss the evidence he possesses that could prove the Patriots guilty of "spygating."

The term "spygating" refers to the illegal use of a video camera during a football game. Page 105 of the 2007 NFL Game Operations Manual states, "No video recording devices of any kind are permitted to be in use in the coaches' booth, on the field, or in the locker room during the game.... All video shooting locations must be enclosed on all sides with a roof

overhead."

During the Patriot's season-opener against the New York Jets, Coach Bill Belichick broke this rule when he authorized his staff to film the Jet's defensive signals from an on-field location. The Jets confiscated the video recordings and filed a complaint to the league office. For breaking this rule, Belichick was fined \$500,000, the largest



sum of money that a head coach has ever been fined in the NFL.

The Patriots franchise

was further punished with a fine of \$250,000 and the loss of a first-round draft pick. Shortly after handing down this punishment, Roger Goodell, the commissioner of the NFL, ordered the Patriots to turn in all notes, tapes, and other materials related to the incident. The NFL later stated that they destroyed the materials in question, though they never released information on what exactly the

illicit materials contained. Walsh, who was fired from the Patriot's staff in 2003 for tape-recording conversations with vice president of personnel Scott Pioli, states that he has more evidence of further wrong-doing by the Patriots. Walsh allegedly was ordered by the Patriot's coaching staff to illegally film a walk-through practice of the St. Louis Rams the day before the Rams played the Patriots in Super Bowl 36. The Patriots won the title match, even though the Rams were favored to win by more than two touchdowns.

Walsh has not yet been interviewed by the NFL for fear of being sued by the Patriots or any other

party. Walsh claims to have signed a confidentiality agreement with the Patriots, but the Patriots deny that such a contract was ever drafted.

The information and physical evidence that Walsh might have could affect not only the Patriots, but the entire league. In order to discover whether or not the methods of some NFL teams are unsportsmanlike and under-handed, Matt Walsh must be interviewed and whatever evidence he has in his possession must be scrutinized. The NFL should do all in its power to grant Walsh the indemnity that he desires in return for his cooperation in the spygating investigation.

Reality TV show infestation

by Elexius Roach

America's lack of writers calls for television alternatives spreading the reality show epidemic.

March 2007 marked the beginning of the writer's strike and the dawn of a new television age: the reality show.

Due to the absence of script writers, many television networks have been forced to resort to television that literally makes itself. With reality television, individuals are placed in unique situations where they must set out to overcome various obstacles or another individual, often including some celebrity.

With their innate ability to encourage vulgarity and promiscuity, reality shows have become both popular and agitating. Some shows try to infer that they're completely unscripted but any viewer can see that some situations are

too perfect to be so.

The outrageousness of some reality shows draws followers. "I like to watch it; it's good entertainment, but it's too much for me when they start to degrade other people," said senior Jamillah Henderson.

Others disagree. "There's too much reality TV. People get caught up in it," junior Derek Montgomery said.

Still, television networks including MTV, Fox, The CW and most notoriously VH1 play a variety of popular reality television shows including Flavor of Love 3, Rock of Love 2, Pageant Place, The Gauntlet 3, Making the Band 4 and many others which acquire millions of dollars each year.

"Even though they try to make it seem like it's a reality show, all of it is planned out just to make money," senior Jamillah Henderson said.

Still, semi-unscripted shows run rampant, and with less scripted televi-

sion, the reality show is bound to infest American television airways.

The fallacy of the true reality show isn't being addressed. True reality is unique, unimpressible and unscripted.

Paying to watch the lives of those who appear to have more than the average American should inspire a need to make more money or change one's lifestyle, but today's reality shows prove otherwise. Reality television has devolved and is now simply the manifestation of the average American's need to feel as though they can share in the spontaneous lifestyles of the rich and the weird.

Watching a show that inspires one's need to fulfill that spontaneity in their own lifestyle only proves how average the viewer really is.

If being average means being realistic, average is about to be the new black.

The Tribal Times



The Tribal Times is the official newspaper of John McEachern High School in Powder Springs, Ga. and serves as an open forum for students' opinions and ideas. The opinions expressed in the editorials are those of the accredited author. These opinions do not represent those of *The Tribal Times* staff or the school administration.

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Baby Bump Trend Begins

by Chelsea Baasch

The new fad in Hollywood isn't a new diet or a high fashion trend, it's the baby bump.

More and more celebrities are taking advantage of adding a new member to their family.

"I do believe that celebrities have the desire to be parents, however, they aren't as hands on as most parents would be due to their busy schedules," junior Crissy Treccia said.

Most celebrities don't demonstrate good parenting skills. They are either too consumed with the work life or, like Britney Spears, don't have the ability to take care of themselves, let alone a child. "Celebrities and people in general should make accommodations in their work, social, or other obligations that center around the needs of their children," teacher Sarah Jones said, who is expecting her baby girl in the spring. Some of the choices celebrities make endanger themselves and their loved ones including their newborn children.

For example extremely popular rap musician Eminem was ar-

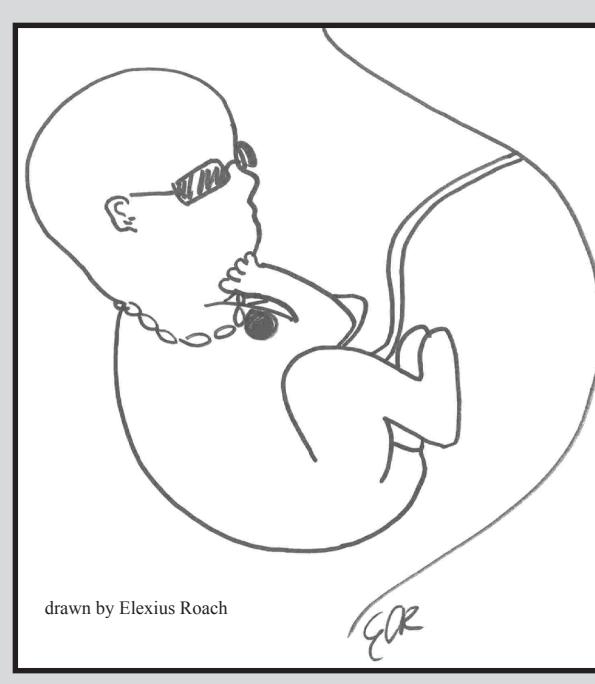
rested for attacking a bartender with a gun. He said he believed the bartender was flirting with his wife, Kim. Many child psychiatrists would consider this aggressive.

Grammy-winning husband Keith Urban as they watched Roger Federer at the Australian Open. Halle Berry was spotted at the Four Seasons hotel sporting her baby bump as well. Women aren't the only ones getting attention. Famous actor Scott Baio, Chachi from the hit TV show Happy Days, has a new show, Scott Baio is 46 and Pregnant, showing the trials and tribulations his wife and he go through.

On the other hand, many celebrity relationships are short lived. According to Readers Digest, 50 percent of the people in America who get married end up getting divorced. Of those who stay together, half say they are not very happy. Divorce is almost always stressful for children.

Divorce strains parent-child relationships, leads to loss of contact with one parent, creates economic hardships, and increases conflict between parents. Divorce clearly increases the risk that children will suffer from psychological and behavioral problems.

With celebrities constantly separating and remarrying, their children are put through emotional trauma. Celebrities should not be consumed by this baby fad just to get public attention and then submit their children to neglect.



sive behavior hazardous to the mental stability of his 10-year-old daughter Hailey.

As another upset, many celebrities crave publicity, although some of the publicized attention from the paparazzi is unwanted. Lately, celebrities are dying to show off what magazines and the media have deemed the 'baby bump'.

Nicole Kidman stepped out to show off her baby bump with her

Kick-off your shoes with *Footloose*

Welcome to Bomont, where dancing is treason

by Suzanne Stroup



Based on the true life events in an Oklahoma town, dancing is a crime in *Footloose* the musical.

McEachern's production of *Footloose* stars seniors Jon Butts as Ren McCormack, the new kid from Chicago who just can't stand still, and Kye Handy as Ariel Moore, the rebellious preacher's daughter who will do anything to escape from her father's grip. Together the plan to throw a dance which turns their town, Bomont, upside down, since dancing is against the law.

"The characters in *Footloose* have one trait in common: they are survivors. Their circumstances – no matter how tragic – have not defeated them, and, as a consequence, we, the audience, find them likeable, sympathetic, and...human," the libretto (script), by Walter Bobbie, said.

"If dancing was a crime, I'd march right into city hall and dance on their tables, which would hopefully change their minds," Butts said, with much of the same vitality that Ren has about the issue.

In the show, Reverend Shaw Moore, portrayed by senior Adam Forrest, is the power and the law. Anything he says goes, and dancing is outlawed when a tragic accident occurs. Although everyone in the town knows this, the local group of teenagers tries to change his mind about the subject. "If dancing was really a crime, I would stand up to the government and fight for my freedom, and I'm sure if Betty were a teenager, she would have been right on that bandwagon," junior Katie Pflugradt, who plays Betty Blast, said.

According to [imdb.com](#), "the movie and subsequently the musical, were based on the 1978 events in a small Oklahoma town



would be upset and would fight for what

they believe in. They would try to change the status quo, just as Ren does in *Footloose*. He makes a very good point (illustrated best in the song "Dancing is Not a Crime") and others follow him.

Though he definitely has critics, as all great leaders do, he keeps going no

matter how far the matter takes him away from his comfort zone. "Ren tries to lead a revolution in Bomont, and though the older people in the town don't agree with his position in the matter, they at least listen to his point, just as people here should if dancing were really a crime," musical director Zach White said.

"Let the dancing out. If you want to dance in the middle of a test, stand up and dance! If you want to dance while you're sitting at a stoplight, you get out of that car and shake it. Just dance your heart out," Butts said. Dance is a form of self-expression and if that creativity is stifled, we may be blocking ourselves and others from either reaching out goals or from changing the world for the better.

Footloose premieres on March 27 and runs through the 29 in the PAC at 7 p.m. See White or Steve Jones in the PAC for ticket information.

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Gas prices and environmental concerns

encourage consumers to read into

Hybrid hype

by Georgette Eva



With gas prices erratically ranging from high to low and global warming evidence on the rise, car drivers are schmoozing up to the idea of the hybrid car.

Hybrids combine the best of both worlds by using a gas engine along with a battery to reduce the amount of emissions and to speed-up the electrically-powered engine. The driver still refuels the tank, but the amount of gas lasts longer.

"Hybrid cars are a wonderful option when making decisions about going green," AP Environmental Science teacher Gretchen Davis said. "We are considering a hybrid as our next car purchase."

The hybrid brings more miles to the gallon, reducing oil dependency and

greenhouse gas emissions. Most hybrids produce about 30-50 percent less greenhouse gases than a normal vehicle, but although environmentally friendly, the hybrid's consumer rate has been stifled by the hefty price.

"Although expensive, the hybrid will pay for itself in the long run," senior Ian Williams said.

Consumers find that a hybrid usually costs \$4,000 more than a normal car, but the hybrid will save up to \$5,500

Top hybrids like the Toyota Prius cost around \$22,000 and get 51-60 miles per gallon (mpg) while regular gasoline engines get around 20-30 mpg.

Normal cars have a fuel tank which supplies the gas to the engine, which turns the transmission and then turns the wheels. Electric cars are similarly run but are battery operated, providing electricity for the motor. These electric cars pro-

but either can act independently of one another. The series hybrid doesn't use gas to directly power the car but uses the gas engine to turn the generator, which charges the batteries or powers an electric motor.

At traffic lights, the hybrid gas-engine shuts off, switching to the electric motor while the car is not moving. It burns less gas during traffic, and it doesn't need to be plugged in because it regenerates the power through the gas engine or by braking.

According to hybrid-cars.

com, each day, cars and trucks use about 8.2 million barrels of oil, but if the fuel economy is improved by five miles per hour, the U.S. will be able to save 1.5 million barrels a day.



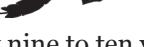
in annual gas costs. Many states take a \$3,000 deduction on federal income tax while some states like Maine offer a sales tax exemption for purchasing a hybrid.

duce no pollution but run considerably slower (between 60-100 miles per charge).

Parallel hybrid cars use a fuel tank and electric motor to turn the transmission simultaneously

Missy: Macland Road stray dog cared for by community

by Alison Parker



Approximately nine to ten years ago, Powder Springs was impacted with the gift of Missy.

A natural Heinz 57, Missy is a stray dog who has been living in the shopping complex on the corner of Macland and New Macland Road. She never belonged to any one person but rather to the entire community of Macland Crossing.

McEachern librarian Linda Savage noticed very quickly when Missy arrived. "I drive past that complex everyday on my way home and of course you look around while sitting at a stop light," Savage said. "Sometimes I would drive by and look to make sure she was being taken care of," Savage said.

For the first few years that Missy lived on Macland, she never roamed too far from the parking lot she knew. Secret Haven, a store in the complex began to take care of Missy but never really took her in as their own. During Missy's stay with Secret Haven she had a

liter of puppies. Once the puppies had been given good homes, Secret Haven had Missy spayed. When the time came for Secret Haven to move, Georgia Outdoor Equipment, another store, stepped up and provided care for Missy. With plenty of food and water plus a warm dog house to protect her from the elements, Missy made a home of the Macland Crossing complex.

Savage continued to check on Missy to make sure she was alright to find that Missy was taken care of and well loved. When Savage saw that Georgia Outdoor Equipment was moving, she worried that they would leave Missy behind like Secret Haven had done. "What am I going to do? How could I keep her and take care of her," Savage wondered. Savage was relieved to discover that Georgia Outdoor Equipment had taken Missy with them and has given her a nice fenced-in yard and plenty of love.

"Sometimes I would drive by and look to make sure she was being taken care of,"

- Linda Savage

Kyle Hockman: From Spartan to Indian

by Jack Culler



For the first time in 24 seasons, next fall the McEachern Indians will have a new head football coach roaming the sidelines.

Kyle Hockman, former Campbell High School head coach, will take the reigns next season as successor to Coach Dorsey. But don't be fooled, although Coach Dorsey will still be the athletic director, Coach Hockman has made it clear that some changes will be made.

A new offense is among the changes that he has directly addressed already. The "spread offense", an exciting scheme in which the offense is literally spread apart to exploit the defense, could be the breakthrough that McEachern needs to succeed. "On the field, we will look the same but our style of play will be very different. It will be an exciting brand of football," Hockman said.

Although many believe next year could be a rebuilding season, with a new coach and a young team, Coach Hockman believes next year's team has the ability to succeed immediately. "With

proper discipline and guidance from a coaching staff and support from fellow students and the community, this team can definitely win games next season. We definitely have enough talent," Hockman said.

Coach Hockman has been known to have thriving first seasons with new teams. In 2006, his first season as head coach of Campbell, he lead the Spartans to a 9-3 record, not to mention a 10-0 shut-out over McEachern. His overall record at Campbell was an impressive 15-7, and the Indians hope to see more of the same in 2008. "Cobb County is a very competitive football region. Moving to a school within the region has advantages because we will be preparing for opponents I'm already familiar with," Hockman said.

Achievement never comes without hard work and dedication, and Coach Hockman certainly plans to instill this in the players. "This summer will involve lots of hard work. Starting with a new system we will put in much more time than normal to get caught up to our opponents that have been working together all winter and last year,"

Hockman said. While the new coach is ready to transform his players into serious competitors, he also has plans to make them better in other walks of life. "My goal for these players is to help them help themselves. I want them to improve in all areas - as people, as students, as players, and as citizens," Hockman said.

"I'm excited about the new coach," junior cornerback James Doe said. "He seems like he is really determined to win a state championship. He is the best person available to lead this team."

The season is still six months away, and the Indians undoubtedly have plenty of work ahead of them. Still, Coach Hockman can't help but to look forward to next season. "Grayson is going to be our toughest opponent next season for sure. They are a very big team and we are going to have to come together as a team and stand up against them. It's going to be a real challenge," Hockman said.

Regardless of the team's record next season, the hiring of Coach Hockman has brought about a new era to McEachern Football.



Standing in the shadow of the Indian, new head football coach, Kyle Hockman, is already taking steps to prepare the team for the upcoming season. With spring conditioning already underway, the team hopes to improve on last season's record.

* This photograph is a combination of two separate photographs.

Sending their final farewells:

What the senior players have to say about Coach Dorsey



He always gave inspiring speeches to fire us up.
~ Brett Dodd



Coach Dorsey could always push us to the limit.
~ Keith Parker



Coach Dorsey always knew what he wanted, and usually got it!
~ Travis Cole

photos by Chase Eriksen

One kick short of soccer playoffs

by Jack Culler



Head Coach Mike Lockridge and the varsity boy's soccer team entered this season with a bang by shutting out the prestigious Sequoyah Chiefs, 1-0.

The boy's began this season with a tough non-region schedule packed with notable soccer programs such as Sequoyah, Wheeler, Kell, and Chapel Hill.

Following the non-region schedule, region powerhouses such as Kennesaw Mountain,

Harrison, Campbell, and Etowah promise to test the team's strength.

"We have the toughest region in the state, hands down," junior defenseman Wale Odukomiya said. "Our road to the playoffs is a much more difficult than other teams such as Hillgrove who have an easier region schedule."

Despite the rigorous schedule, the team is still determined to make noise in the 5AAAAA region this season. Although the Indians haven't been region champions in five years, members of the

team seem optimistic.

"We definitely have enough talent to contend against the powerful teams in our region," senior defenseman Luis Uranga said.

A lot of the talent on this year's squad resides in the class of 2011. Freshmen Vilmer Ventura, Jake Newland, and LaRoy Jackson have all made notable contributions to the team's initial success.

"We are a young team, but that doesn't mean we can't win games and get to the playoffs," Coach Lockridge said. Last

year's team graduated an all-area goalkeeper and four senior strikers.

With any good team comes senior leadership, and the 2008 Indians definitely encompass this characteristic. Senior

captains Luis Uranga and Joel Harris have both been playing for four seasons including this one, and they both know what it takes to win in a competitive atmosphere.

"Our two main con-

cerns are consistency and scoring goals. If we can consistently score goals and play good defense, we can definitely contend with the top teams in our region," Odukomiya said.



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