



The Argo

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Rutgers Preparatory School

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An Eyewitness Account of Cambodia's Killing Fields

by Bobbie Kader

On Friday January 8th, Sokchay Chiv, a Sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania, gave Rutgers Prep students an eyewitness account of terror in Cambodia during the 1970's.

Chiv was born in 1969 in Cambodia to a large family, the youngest of eight siblings. His father was a doctor and his mother was a housewife. The family owned several acres of land and some animals.

Then the Cambodian Civil War broke out and in 1975 the Khmer Rouge took over. Chiv's father was taken to Phnom Penh to work in the concentration camps because the Khmer Rouge persecuted people who were educated. His older brothers and sisters were also forced to work in the rice fields and concentration camps. Chiv was left at home because he was too young. The people in the camps were sometimes forced to dig up fields to bury bodies, possibly even their own. An entire family was given one bowl of rice for an entire day. They were rarely given meat, so for protein the Cambodians ate insects, tarantulas and grasshoppers.

Besides the physical

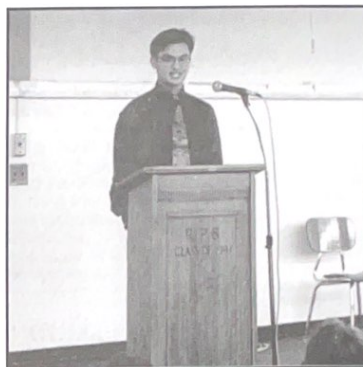
torture, they were emotionally scarred. They were in constant fear and Chiv never saw his father again. His family still does not know whether he is alive or not. Chiv told the audience about how people were dragged from the village at night and they would never be seen again. One time, he saw a soldier tortured by the Khmer Rouge and later shot to death by a seventeen year-old girl.

In 1978, the Chiv family was caught in the crossfire between the Khmer Rouge and the North Vietnamese troops. They hid in a tunnel until the Vietnamese soldiers brought them out. Soon after, they set out for refugee camps in Thailand. During the long trip through the jungle into Thailand, the Chiv family had to avoid land mines and booby traps while walking barefoot. They once saw a man get caught in the bungee stakes, which they too had to avoid.

The family came to a bloody pond. There were body parts and skulls floating in the water. Chiv spoke of how excruciating an experience it was to wade through decayed bodies. Upon arriving in neighboring Thailand, their

family smuggled them in and arranged for them to come to the United States. In 1980, Chiv's family found a sponsor in Chicago and by 1981 they were living in California. Chiv went on to the Dunn School where Dr. Steven Loy was the Headmaster. Chiv became an excellent student and participated in varsity athletics. He is now studying pre-med to follow in his father's footsteps. He hopes to return to Cambodia when, and if, the situation gets better.

To give students a better understanding of Chiv's account and the events behind his story, the Administration showed the movie "The Killing Fields". The movie was based on the true story of two journalists, one of whom was forced to stay behind when all the other members of the media were being evacuated. Dith Pran, the journalist left behind, was forced



Sokchay Chiv, who escaped from Cambodia in 1978, spoke to the Rutgers Prep Community about his experiences in his country.

to work in the rice fields, eat field animals, and experience many hardships to escape to Thailand. Thus, the movie mirrored

Chiv's life. The students enjoyed the movie and were very sympathetic to Chiv's experiences.

Spirit Week a Success

by Luis Garcia

Spirit Week was held from January 29 to February 4. The idea to have a Spirit Week was presented to School Council by Andrea McLaughlin. The idea was accepted and organized by the Spirit Week Committee which was comprised of Andrea McLaughlin, Marnee Richman, Tara Auciello, Jon Vafai, Uma Ayyala, Chris Davis, Abby Michaels, and Violette Renard.

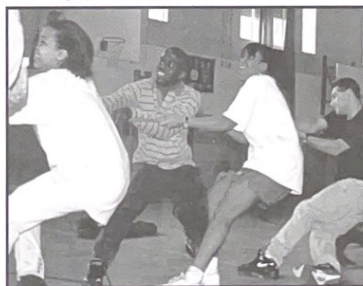
The intent of Spirit Week was to bring the student body closer together, and to heighten the spirit of the entire school community. With this in mind, over seventy percent of the student and teacher population cooperated to make the week fun and successful. Each day of the week was dedicated to a specific theme which the students adhered to in order to score points for their grades. Friday's theme was "Maroon and White Day". Students were permitted to dress as they would on a normal dress down day, except they had to wear something with both maroon and white. Monday was "Super Dress Code Day" where students had to dress in clothes that would be considered

"above and beyond" the normal dress code. On Tuesday, the students were allowed to wear sweatshirts with their favorite college or sports team on it instead of a sweater. Wednesday was the most colorful day with the students dressing like people from California. The final day, Thursday, was "RPS Day". Everyone was permitted to dress down if they wore an item of clothing with "Rutgers Prep" on it. To fulfill this requirement, School Council sold Rutgers Prep boxer shorts for ten dollars which were worth double the points if worn.

Spirit Week con-

cluded with the RPS Olympics which ran for an hour on Thursday. The Olympics had four activities for the grades to compete in: Volleyball, Tug of War, Crab Races, and Scooter Races. The week was also spotted with other activities such as the Lounge Decorating Contest. The grades also received points with attendance at afterschool events.

The winner of the week was the Sophomores with 500 points and the Seniors coming in a close second with 495 points. The Juniors obtained 315 points and the Freshman finished with 245 points.



Seniors participate in Tug-of-War during Spirit Week

Willkommen, Bienvenue!

by Julie Ciamporcero

After numerous reschedulings due to conflicts with Model UN and basketball games, the Winter Cabaret finally took place on Friday, January 29, at 9 p.m. Several weeks of auditions produced a crop of talented acts from within the Prep community. A highlight of the evening was the performance of Erin Armstead, who played "Winter Wonderland" on her flute while hula-hooping. The audience was also treated to the poetry of Eireann Corrigan and a dramatic reading of "The Story of Babar" by Paul Constantinides. Melissa Stass and Andowah Newton both sang to the accompaniment of Prep music teacher Mrs. Mary Szeles. Aliya Walker received an ovation for her acapella rendition of "Heaven Knows". Kavita Patel brought down the house with her own presentation, "Reminiscence," which one audience member exclaimed was "so good it was almost like she was lip-synching".

Finally, "The Petunua Girls," a sing-and-dance troupe comprised of Randi Schwartz, Sharon Salamon, Catherine Sarafian, and Coulby Smaldone brought back childhood memories with their revival of music and dance steps from the 1980's.

The production was emceed by Sara Catona, who provided extra humor despite "trying not to be funny". The Tech crew, responsible for transforming the lounge area into an effective theater, was comprised of Aix Salamon, Anthony Accardi, Brian Lessing, Keath Winter, Rajiv Singh, Daniel Koncur, and Amy Smith.

Julie Ciamporcero served as producer/director/stage manager, with Mrs. Barbara Herzberg as the drama faculty advisor. The next production by the Drama Club will be the female version of Neil Simon's *Odd Couple*.

Random Drug Testing Violates Rights

by Amy Halpin

When we go to school do we give up our constitutional right to privacy? When it comes to drug testing the answer is yes. When we enter a school, public or private, we give up some of our rights. The administration has the right, at any time and for any reason to conduct random locker searches or urine tests. What kind of atmosphere does this create? It is not fair to subject innocent students to the embarrassment of drug tests, especially if there is no reason to suspect that that person has used or is using drugs.

Some people would argue that if you have nothing to hide, you should not mind being tested, but any random search without probable cause is a violation of civil liberties. We do not allow the police to search houses randomly every time someone in our neighborhood is suspected of a crime. The constitution pro-

tests against this kind of violation yet schools are allowed to violate innocent people, when they have no reason to suspect that person of a crime.

Drugs are a major problem in some schools, so much so that the administration justifies violating the privacy and civil liberties of its student body. This argument might stand up if drug testing could be proven as a solution to the drug problem. This has not happened. Random drug testing might weed out a few of the students who use drugs, but some people will always manage to get around it. Drug testing does not solve the real problem. It does not curb the demand for drugs or catch the dealers. Anyone who thinks that the threat of tests will act as a deterrent is kidding themselves. If we really want to start solving the drug problem we must start searching for more creative solutions be-

cause the ones that we are trying are clearly not working. We must make it easier for people to help themselves off drugs, instead of treating them like criminals.

We are lucky that we do not have drug testing in our school. Many of my friends do and they have to worry all the time about being pulled out of class and forced to take a urine test if they look tired because they were up late studying for a test. This is hardly conducive to a learning environment. If the school feels that they need to test a student for drugs they should have to go through the same kind of process that the police go through. They should have to prove that there is sufficient evidence to believe that person is guilty. Don't we at least deserve the benefit of the doubt? After all, we are innocent until proven guilty in this country, not the other way around.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I write in response to Bobbie Kader's recent article, "Senior Seminar Blues."

I cannot agree with the author that Senior Seminar should be abolished. First, I believe reading sample applications and essays is, in fact, a most valuable experience for seniors. By reading and discussing others' essays and applications, I hope seniors develop an insight into how admissions officers react to certain pieces of a file and form a refined sense of how best to present themselves to those admissions officers.

Secondly, we have done much more than just read applications. We have discussed many aspects of the college application process: deadlines, tests, financial aid, choosing a college to name a few. I believe these are criti-

cal topics and appropriately covered during the senior year. I would however, appreciate any feedback on how specific topics might be covered. Judging by the number of seniors who missed them, I am open to developing a new presentation on deadlines.

Finally, let me close by saying that I, in fact, agree with the author on two of her three points. I should spend time with freshmen. Because course selection is the most critical consideration for a college, important decisions are made early in high school. Further, "[Mrs. Rollins] is a god-send." Thank you for telling the school.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my views.

Sincerely,
Peter Richardson
Director of College Guidance

Progression or Regression? "The College Slave Trade"

by Drew Rafalaf

With applying to college, the subject of affirmative action has become very important and prevalent to the seniors' lives over the past year. The subject isn't one studied in class or read about in the paper anymore, but now impacts on their lives. The major problem with affirmative action does not lie in its intent to create a diverse student population. Unfortunately, the line between affirmative action and "quotas" is so blurred that its affect has been termed by some to be reverse discrimination. Reverse discrimination entails that if black and white students with the same qualifications apply to a college, a certain amount of black students are admitted before the white ones to fulfill the quota.

This quota filling is becoming more prevalent and active in college admissions departments around the country as reported by *The New York Times* last weekend. Though affirmative action is completely legal, quota filling was found to be illegal by the Supreme Court. Colleges are now offering minority students, primarily Afro-American, incentives akin to those that are offered to athletes. Many colleges are doing everything from waiving the application fee, to inviting the students down for an expense-free weekend, to giving complete college scholarships that would not otherwise be awarded. What is more surprising is that these incentives are not only being offered to inner-city, or poorer black families, but affluent middle class

ones. The colleges are acting to create the now-popular, multi-ethnic student population, but at the expense of black and white students alike.

For non-minority students, these actions are apparently discriminatory, especially for those who are having their own trouble paying for college. This money is being taken out of money that may have been awarded to them. For minorities, though this may be beneficial on the surface, the whole act is demoralizing and racist in a sense. The col-

leges are fighting amongst themselves to fill their quotas. They are buying and selling people, or what they see to be statistics.

Afro-Americans have been fighting for independence and completely equal recognition in our society, and the "college slave trade" is only counterproductive. Hopefully, with new light being shed on this problem, some type of reform will occur due to complaints from all ethnic groups.

Pro-Gays in the Military

by Deborah Rothberg

In the American Heritage Dictionary, the word prejudice is defined as "1) a strong feeling for or against something formed before one knows the facts; bias 2) irrational hostility toward members of a particular race, religion, or group." Our country is prejudiced towards gay people. Gay people make up 10% of the United States population; this is millions and millions of people. These millions of people should be entitled to the same rights and freedoms as any other citizen of the United States, and one of these is the right to serve in their country's military.

Why should a gay person have to lie to be able to serve their country? Sexual preference has nothing to do with how one performs on a battlefield.

Making one say what their sexual preference is is also an unfair violation of a person's right to privacy. Admittance into the military should be based on ability, not who you choose to have sex with.

Sexual conduct is not allowed, under any circumstances, in the military. The punishment for breaking this rule is being thrown out. These same rules would apply to gay people. Why would a gay person want to risk being thrown out of the army, just because they live with people of their same sex?

People feel it will affect the unity of the army and that morale will be lowered. When the government was considering desegregating the military, so that black and

white people would work and live together, these same arguments were heard. I thought America was past this type of prejudice. We accomplished nothing by keeping black people out of the army and we accomplish nothing by keeping gay people out of the military.

The issue here clearly goes much deeper than whether or not a gay person should be admitted into the military, though. America is supposed to be a patchwork quilt; a place where people of all types can live and work together. It is time that we stop putting down everything that is different, and start living together on the foundations that our country is based.

The Argo

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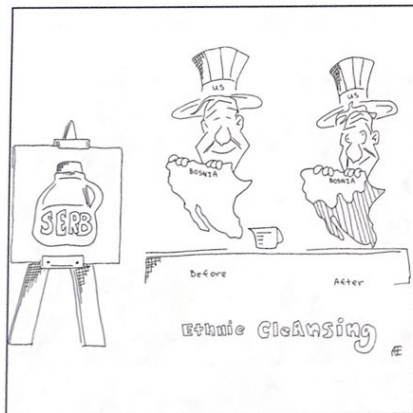
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Model United Nations

by Sara Catona

On February 5th, 25 students accompanied by Mrs. Edmonson and Mrs. Wacker travelled to Washington D.C. to attend the 30th annual North American Invitational Model United Nations sponsored by Georgetown University. Rutgers Prep represented Haiti and Bangladesh. Both of these third world nations have recently been tragedy stricken, so the students had both a challenging and exciting time passing resolutions that would rebuild the nations.

Upon arriving in Washington D.C., the Rutgers Prep delegations were met by 2500 students. One student, Bobbie Kader, remarked, "Model UN allowed me to meet many people from across the country and from South America. I had a great time." The convention

began with meetings running from 7:30 to 11:30 the first night. At the meetings, the delegations discussed different aspects of their nation's economy and government. Although committee meetings lasted up to seven hours each day, the group had plenty of free time to explore D.C. Students visited such areas as Union Station, Georgetown, and various monuments.

One highlight for the Bangladesh delegation was a consul briefing at the Bangladesh embassy. Two members of the consul staff answered questions that helped the delegation represent the country more effectively in the various committee meetings. Yugoslavia, Somalia, Haitian refugees, human rights, peaceful uses of space, women's rights, and the role



Bobbie Kader, Reena Patel, Sara Catona, Catherine Sarafian, and Coulby Smaldone with representative of the Bangladesh Embassy.

of the Security Council were some of the many topics discussed in committees. Since Prep only participated in the General Assembly, we were limited to twelve committees. Next year the

club hopes to participate in the Economic and Social Council or the Security Council.

The weather cooperated and the Model United Nations group was able to travel to

Washington and return without winter snow. After four days, highlighted by a formal banquet and a dance on Sunday, a tired but better informed club arrived back at Prep on Monday.

School Council Election Results

PRESIDENT.....Uma Ayyala
VICE-PRESIDENT.....Matt Hobbs
SECRETARY.....Tara Auciello
TREASURER.....Ria Rasalan

Politics and Piano

by Amy Smith

Many of us at Prep may know him as one of George Bush's most ardent supporters in the most recent presidential election, but Junior classman Paul Constantinides has another love that many of us may not know about.

Paul is a pianist. He started playing in the Spring of 1983 and has been playing continually since then. He first started playing the piano because it was something that he had always wanted to do. He chose this over other instruments because the piano had always interested him as an instrument, and he liked the way that it sounded. Paul plays classical music, arrangements that includes artists from Beethoven to Scriabin. He enjoys playing the piano, practicing about 3 to 4 hours every week.

Paul has recently applied to the prestigious New Jersey Governor's School for Creative Arts in the piano. This is the first time in at least five years since anyone from Prep has applied to Governor's School for a musical instrument.

In addition to Paul's nomination, other juniors have been nominated for various other summer programs. Anthony Accardi has been nominated for the Governor's School in Sciences, Steven Lenard and Rajiv Singh have

been nominated for the Governor's School in Public Issues and the Environment, respectively. The prestigious Governor's School in Writing is being pursued by nominee Amy Smith, and finally, Uma Ayyala has been nominated to attend the Lawrenceville Scholars Program in 20th century issues. All of us at Prep wish the nominees the best of luck.

The Battle of the Bands

Rutgers Prep is not known for its interschool social events, but on January 8th the Junior class held a "Battle of the Bands" in order to raise money for their Prom Fund. Organized by Dan Cantor and Junior class officers, Lauren Lineback and Violette Renard, the show was held in Baldwin Hall, beginning at 7:30. The feature included four bands: Paradox, Aftershock, Peachfuzz, and Bedlam. The bands were North Brunswick based, except for Paradox which includes two Rutgers Prep students, drummer Greg Forney and guitarist Christopher Pink. While the other bands played songs from such groups as the Spin Doctors and Soundgarden, Paradox played songs ranging from Led Zepplin to the Eagles. The bands also played some original music.

The event was successful, packing the house with about 200 people. The Junior Class raised 750 dollars.

Poet Visits For Writing Day

by Alana Karen

After numerous reschedulings due to unexpected snow days, Writing Day finally took place on February 17th. Students in all grades were able to learn more about writing while enjoying related activities.

Lower Schoolers visited Baldwin Hall where different booths were set up. The booths were manned by volunteers from the Upper School and parents of Lower and Middle Schoolers. Parents of students donated materials and time to help the younger children create masterpieces using writing skills. Students made Valentine Cards, their own cartoon, or secret messages using lemon juice and an iron. Kindergartners and first graders received special attention

when some Upper Schoolers read to them or helped them write their own stories.

Selected students from the Upper School attended workshops throughout the day hosted by visiting poet, Catherine Doty. Catherine Doty has been at many writing conferences that Prep students have attended, including the Dodge Poetry Festival. She has written such poems as "Sunburn" and "Eggs", both of which she presented to the Upper Schoolers at different points in the day. The seminars included analyzing a packet of poems written about poetry, writing poems on a certain theme, and sharing them with the group. Dedicated poets were able to get a double dose of Ms. Doty's skilled literary

advice by spending lunch with her. This enabled ideas discussed during the morning workshops to be analyzed further.

Later on in the day, a volunteer assembly was held in the Upper School. Students were able to read the poems they had written during the day. Ms. Doty treated the attendees to an oral reading of some of her works. She was given a necklace by Mr. Kendall, inducting her into the "Varsity Prep Writing Team" as an honorary member.

Writing Day was a success because of all of the student and faculty helpers, and because of the dedicated orchestration of the entire day by Mr. Kendall.



Catherine Doty, visiting poet, works with participants of writing day.

Boys Basketball Season Review

by Mark Nastus

When practice began for the Prep Varsity Basketball team four months ago, many aspects of the season were undecided. However, one thing that was pretty much decided was that the team had little chance of being successful. Now, as the season comes to a close, the record may agree, but every Prep player should walk away with his head up high.

The team ended the season with a 6-15 record, but this could have easily been 15-6. Oke, assisted by Coach Scott Neal, had his team rearing to go by December. The team seemed to start off slowly, but by the second half of the season truly began to gel as a team. The team was led by captains Chuck Somers and Tim Ruiz, both having impressive stats of their own. Chuck had a year-end total of 273 points and contributed to 40 steals, while Tim had 272 points and 292 rebounds. Sophomore sensation, Mike Maccia, drained 58 three-point shots and had a total of 289 points. Mark Nastus, while leading the team in turnovers, also led the team in steals, 38, and assists, 64. Geoff Fear played 20 games and was a large help on defense. Sophomore Dan Gonzalez was an intricate playmaker off the bench. Jay Brown and Pat Cahiwat saw limited action but were impressive when



Chuck Somers goes for a layup

they played.

The season was highlighted by victories over Morristown Beard, MKA, Saddle River, Ranney, and Gill-St. Bernard's, as well as an overtime loss to top ranked Blair Academy. Personal highlights included Chuck Somers' 28 points against Morristown Beard and Mike Maccia's 27 points against Pennington.

The team won it's first

Round Game in the state tournament due to a technicality. The technicality was an ineligible player on Saddle River's team. Therefore, Prep was pushed into a quarterfinal match with top-seeded Princeton Day School. Their luck ran out there, however, losing by a crushing 75 to 39. All in all, they were impressive down the stretch and did have their moments this season.

State Champs- Prep Wrestling 92-93

by Dan Cantor

For the first time ever, RPS wrestling won the state championship. The team, having lost to Dwight Englewood in the confrences and never having beaten them in the states, had their work cut out for them in the state tournament. A great effort by everyone was rewarded with the victory over Dwight Englewood and the team's first State Championship.

Individually on the season, Seniors Paul Kermizian, Kevin McGowan, Sim Jaganathan, and Brian Brazil had a good year. Both Paul and Kevin finished first in our conference along with Junior captain Steve Lenard and sophomore Billy Bocra. Freshman wonder, Dava Papa, finished the season with 18 wins, a freshman record. We expect great things from him as he already begins to think about next year. Showing a great

effort on the year were first year varsity wrestlers Matt Hobbs, Rohin Singh, and Daniel Cantor who will all be expected back next year for another great season.

The team thanks veterans Cai Campbell and Pete Alfinito who assisted in coaching throughout the season while head coach Bob Dougherty was limited by a shoulder injury.

Volleyball

by Violette Renard

The Girls Volleyball team is having a great season. They have played against many different teams with various levels of ability. Only two schools have beaten them, Collegiate, at their Spikers Tournament, and Kent, who played our Volleyball Team last Thursday, causing a disappointing loss for the varsity players. Their most recent matches, against PDS and Peddie were successful wins for the team, and now their efforts are focused on upcoming games with Collegiate and Lawrenceville. With the State Title approaching, the team is expected to be successful.

Congratulations to the State Champion Varsity Wrestling Team!!

Swimming Team Hangs Tough

by Sara Papa and Catherine Sarafian

This season has been an especially hard one for the Rutgers Prep Swim Team. Unfortunately, the thrill of team winning hasn't been felt as much as in previous years with a record of 3 wins and 5 losses. This year, an abundance of underclassmen, lacking experience, provided the team with much enthusiasm. Captains Amy Holliday and Luis Garcia led the team to a surprising third place at the Prep B Conference at Morristown Beard. Many personal bests were recorded at the meet.

After the conference meet, there still remained two dual meets. One was against Pennington, the swim team's rival. Unfortunately, Prep was beaten by one point, which although the margin was small, was a great loss for the team. The county meet was held on February 6. The boys did better than previous years and took sixth in the 400 free relay;

swimmers were Greg Fomey, Luis Garcia, Matt Needleman, Ryan Neely. At the end of the season came girls' and boys' states. Although the girls' team has come in first and second in the previous year, they were not expecting to do as well this year. Many other schools were much stronger and performed very well. The team's overall performance was disappointing, but their individual showings were outstanding. Boys' states were held the week after girls' and again the boys did better than expected with a seventh place finish in the 100 fly by Luis Garcia.

Compared to other years, all the members of the swim team, whose overall performance was okay, had an exceptionally good year, considering all the obstacles they had to endure. They should be commended for their hard work and enthusiasm.



Cherie Gallini goes for the shot while teammate Andrea McLaughlin looks on.

Girls Basketball Shines

by Jill Glazewski

The RPS Girls Basketball team headed into the State tournament with a record of 12-5. The team easily dominated Stuart Country Day in the Quarterfinals 48-16.

The season has been a triumphant one, with long awaited wins over MKA and arch rival Gill St. Bernards. Prep made it into the County Tournament, but lost first round to Hillsborough. Consistency and teamwork backed by confidence have been the keys to success this season in

comparison to past years. Guards Cherie Gallini and Gia Bocra have provided strong handling as well as outside shooting. Jill Glazewski and Andrea McLaughlin have dominated the posts in both scoring and rebounding. Sophomore Tara Auciello has provided both steals and outside shooting in the guard spot, while Eircaan Corrigan and Erin Armstead have done fine jobs in the posts. Other players contributing are Diana Licinski, Reena Patel, Stacy

Burton and Andowah Newton. The season ended when Prep lost to Princeton Day School in the state semifinals 46-34. Despite an early 8-0 lead in the first quarter and a 14-13 lead at the half, the second half didn't go Prep's way. With key Seniors players Jill Glazewski and Andrea McLaughlin on the bench in foul trouble, and PDS going on a run, Prep's dream of winning the championship were put to sleep for another year.