

# THE ARGO

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## SPECIAL SPORTS ISSUE

### Girls' Basketball Wins State Title

by Maureen Benitz

For the first time under the coaching team of Mrs. Klinger and Mr. Shifman, the Girls' Basketball Team won the Prep B State Title. The girls defeated Wardlaw Hartridge at the Hun School on Wednesday, February 26 by a score of 60-43. Winning this state title, in addition to winning the conference title, proved to the team that when you work hard, good things happen. Ending their season with an amazing record of 26-2, the team had a great season.

The state finals game was high speed from the beginning. Although Wardlaw had an early lead, the Prep girls picked up the tempo and took control of the game. After the first half, the Prep girls were winning by a score of 27-19. The team never looked back.

Senior Liz Alexander had a game high of nineteen points in her last high school game. Junior Jackie



Sienkiewicz also contributed with twelve points. Junior Jenn Franklin had 13 points, including 3 beautiful three pointers. Senior Catie Somers had nine points and notched many rebounds, both offensively and defensively.

A key part of the game

plan was to limit Wardlaw's point guard, Sarah Williamson's points. By rotating Priya Radhakrishna, Alyssa Botwinik and Emily Wilson on Williamson, the point guard was worn down and limited to only

fourteen points.

This championship was the result of hard work throughout the season. At every practice and game, the team knew that they were playing to win. Suffering only two tough losses this season, the girls learned the

how hard work can pay off.

Next year's team will be strong again, but the losses of Liz Alexander and Catie Somers will be felt. Jenn, Jackie, Priya and Alyssa will have to step up to compensate for the senior loss. Congratulations to the team on a great season.

### Oke's Last Season a Success

#### Maikos and Ziznewski Reach 1000 Points

by Mark Markowski

The Boys' Basketball Team finished their season with 14 wins, 11 losses, two 1000 point scorers and the coach with the most wins in New Jersey high school basketball. For three long months, the team battled through fatigue and minor injuries. In recent years, the team has been on the rise and this season was no different.

The first half of the year was a complete success with ten wins and four

losses. The warm sunshine and the tough competition of Boca Raton seasoned the team for the second half of their schedule. The Argonauts were fueled with a renewed team unity which was evident in their unselfish play and sharp ball movement. Their disgruntled attitudes were checked at the door and a movement of no nonsense basketball took place.

Emotions ran high when Somerset Tech came into the Field House for a Saturday

afternoon game. The stands were filled with former students and players to watch their friend, Dick O'Connell, win his 700<sup>th</sup> game. The celebration was short lived since there were still a handful of games to play.

The last leg of the season was emphasized by Joe Ziznewski's and Jason Maikos's quest for a thousand points. By the last game of the season, these two veterans earned well

over a 1000 points each.

The state tournament for the boys came to a disappointing end against Morristown Beard in the second round. The earning of a fourth seed in the tournament was a better representation of just how hard the team worked throughout the year. One game does not decide the outcome of an entire season. The five seniors had a year full of ups and downs, but ended their careers off with a winning

season.

The outlook for the next season is very positive with a good core returning. Coach Neal will take over the position of head coach, but the presence of Dick O'Connell will be missed in the RPS community.



# The Spikers Slam States

by Angela Lin

Champions in their own right, the Girls' Volleyball Team displayed true talent and charisma as they fought for the state title last weekend at Morristown Beard. The Spikers retained the NJ Prep B Conference Championship title after a season of victory, and entered the tournament seeded a comfortable fourth behind Collegiate, Lacordaire and Saddle River. Having gained valuable experience against challenging opposition at the Choate Invitational Tournament, the Prep B teams seemed less of a menace. Through intensity and determination, the Spikers proved themselves worthy of competition.

Rallying cries of "Pride and Pigtails" carried the girls through eight games of undefeated pool play to the semi-final round. There they met Saddle River, the one team that kept the Spikers from an undefeated Prep B record. Quickly defeating them in

two games, the team once again met rival school Collegiate in a repeat of last year's finals.

Running on adrenaline and pure sugar, the varsity players handled pressure well, remembering the point of volleyball: having fun. Excitement mounted with each side-out. A killer hit by Susan Slim, dig by Allison Albino, or awesome block by Nicole Fiumefreddo, brought cheers from the crowd. Each time someone stepped up to the service line, spectators fell silent, awaiting a possible ace. Angela Lin and Allie Schecter guided offense with their setting skills while "Pookie" Jones and Aarti Patel played consistently as outside spikers. Completing the varsity lineup were Nicole Smith and Arienne Carrington who helped the team tremendously as middle blockers. Though the Spikers eventually lost the competitive title, they gained unity

amidst sentimental tears, vowing to return even stronger in next year's state tournament.

Physically drained but at an emotional climax unparalleled all season, senior captains Allison, Nicole and Sue accepted the trophy for second place. However, good news was yet to come. After a day of excellence and outstanding accomplishment, three players were named to the Division

B All-State team: Nicole Fiumefreddo, Angela and Sue. They were chosen to play in a match versus the Division A All-State team at Kent Place. On Wednesday, Nicole and Angela joined players from Collegiate and Lacordaire in a three-game match ending with a Division B win.

If the team was close-knit, it only grew closer after States. They stayed true to the yearly post-tourna-

ment ritual of Chinese food and a lock-in during which spirits ran high.

The volleyball team truly plays with heart, their love of the game showing both on and off the court. The thought of losing three talented seniors is only comforted by the solid potential of upcoming players and the promise that another season awaits.



## Wrestling: A Strong Finish

by Alon Tabak

In the beginning of the season, it appeared that this season would be a rebuilding one. It was far from it. The team finished with a 7-4 record. Senior Captains Craig Feinberg and Henri Renard's leadership added to the learning process the team was faced with.

Victories over the Frisch School, Peddie, and Montclair Kimberly were definitely the high points of the season. Finishing second in the conference was an achievement as well. With five champions and five second place finishers, the team came up short by nine points. The Prep team also ended the season with two wrestlers placing in the state tournament. Craig

Feinberg placed second and Alon Tabak took third.

The two captains, Craig Feinberg and Henri Renard, deserve a lot of credit. Craig led the team on and off the mat. Finishing with an 18-5 record, Craig made the team proud. Aside from his placing in states, Craig took second place at the Hillsborough Tournament, second place at the County Tournament, second at the Conference, and first place at the Wardlaw Tournament. Henri, wrestling with an injury, showed motivation and heart for the sport by coming to practice and helping everyone improve.

The addition of Coaches Santowasso and

Lamb made Coach Dougherty's staff second to none. The experience of coaches in multiple weight classes allowed everyone to benefit.

The team has high hopes for next season. Returning juniors Alon Tabak, Khanjan Nagarkar, sophomores, Marvin Quesada, Jim Russo, Chris Wether, Homin Lee, and freshmen John Berkley, Fred Kim, Eric Lemmo, Andrew Hobbs, and Andrew Venezia make next season look bright.

The team would like to thank Craig Feinberg, Henri Renard, and Herb Roberts for their work and wish them luck in the future.

## THE ARGO

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## Swimming to the Easterns

by Kerry Smith

The swim team had a successful season, ending with a winning record of 6-5. Coach Forney and Assistant Coach Jodi Joyce led the team in their winning season. The toughest loss was at Metuchen when it came down to the last relay, but the team bounced back for strong wins over Trenton and Piscataway. The team placed fourth in Con-

ferences at Pennington with medals in the 200 yd. medley relay, the 200 yd. free relay, and the 100 yd. breaststroke by Winston Chow. Many swimmers were strong in States with personal best times and some went on to compete at Easterns at LaSalle University. With the help of veterans and new faces, the team went all the way to Easterns.