

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

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St. Augustine High School

Saints Begins the Super Season



By Liam Haskett ('22)
STAFF WRITER

Finally, after what has seemed like years of uncertainty, random cancellations, and constantly pushing back start dates, many sports have been allowed to return to play. As the cases dropped throughout California and the vaccine began to be administered on a larger scale, Saintsmen began to wonder if this would result in the return of high school sports.

On January 25, California Governor Gavin Newsom lifted the stay-at-home order, setting in motion the return of CIF sports. Many sports had achieved the green light to start practicing in the purple tier at the state level, even though they previously existed in the red or yellow tiers. As of Tuesday, March 16, San Diego has moved into the red tier, allowing the return of a wider range of sports. This set off a scramble as Saints' eager coaches and athletes jumped at the chance to return to play.

In the weeks following the removal of the stay-at-home order, cases across Southern California dropped below the adjusted 14.0 case rate. This allowed outdoor contact sports such as football, lacrosse, and rugby to begin ramping up. With the last two weeks yielding case rates below 10.0, indoor sports such as basketball and volleyball are also ready to compete.

However, the starting point for each sport is determined by the season in which they are traditionally played. Fall sports such as cross country are well into their season, with two losses to San Diego High School and Patrick Henry High School.



The Saints football team defeated Helix in the first game of the season. Joaquin Torre ('21)

They have since rebounded and won against Crawford High School and High Tech High to climb back to a .500 record so far.

Sophomore Jimmy Markowicz has improved upon his breakout freshman season and has been a solid runner for the team so far.

The football team kicked off their season on March 12 at Helix. The season will be shortened with only 6 total games, along with no playoffs. The team has adapted to as many safety precautions as possible; players must wear masks at all

times when their helmets are off, and only a limited number of players are allowed in the locker rooms at all times. They are also required to test players for COVID-19 once a week. The team will have no home games as Mesa College was unwilling to host due to the pandemic.

However, the team continues to have the “next man up” mentality and believes they will be able to face any obstacle throughout the season, foreseen or otherwise. The team has remained prepared up to this point, practicing as much as possible without contact, as well as attending con-

sistent lifts and conditioning sessions spanning all the way back to June or July. They are extremely prepared, which allows them to maintain the confidence they have now going into the season.

The confidence they have in themselves is not without merit, as they knocked off the defending Open Division champions and #1-ranked Helix Highlanders by a score of 21-13 behind a strong defensive performance and effective run game. Senior quarterback Richard Colmenero III only needed to throw six passes all game but capitalized on his chances, throwing a 50-yard strike to junior wide receiver Ayo Shotomide. He also scored on a 1-yard quarterback sneak.

Junior running back Isaiah Pressley carried the load well, getting 24 carries and racking up 91 yards, allowing the Saints to dominate on offense. On defense, it was quite the show, as Helix's freshman quarterback completed only 31 percent of his passes and threw two interceptions. Senior Malcolm Williams returned one of the interceptions four yards for a score. Running back Christian Washington did his best to keep his team in the game but Saints' dominance was too much for him to overcome, as the defense held strong against a final drive and the Saints emerged victoriously.

Rugby is an interesting case, as it is not technically part of CIF. Instead, they are a part of another organization called SCIRF (Southern California Interscholastic Rugby Federation). They plan to allow teams to participate in a shorter season, similar to CIF's plan, but because it is an indepen-

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“The Office” to Get a Second Act



By Manny Butler ('22)
EDITOR

The coronavirus presented the Saints community with many challenges over the past year, and the drama and band programs are no exception. With the ability to perform in front of an audience being taken away, the Saints theater arts program had to adapt to entertain the masses.

Amidst the uncertainty, the drama program considered all their options and decided that a filmed production, rather than a live play, would be the best way to allow Saints' actors to perform while keeping themselves and their audience safe. Thus, Saints' take on *The Office*'s tenth episode of its second season, titled “Christmas Party,” was born.

Mr. Manley decided that he and Mr. Blumer would produce the show. Mr. Manley then asked senior David Gurrola to direct the film, his first time in such a role.

“It's very different for a lot of reasons,” Gurrola said. When comparing the different methods used in theater and film, he added, “With a stage production, you see people every day and get to work with them without worrying about a strict set schedule, but when you film, it's important to make sure everyone knows the schedule because we need to use our time effi-

ciently.”

Despite his lack of directorial experience, Gurrola and his team of behind-the-camera workers filmed the entire episode in a manner very similar to *The Office*, using very quick takes that allowed the editors to format it so it resembles the show.

One of the key student contributors was senior JD Delacruz, who not only appeared in the show as Oscar but also filmed many of the scenes himself.

“It was a good experience,” Delacruz said, “but kind of difficult because I was more concerned with what happened in the scene than with my performance.” He also added that he preferred setting up shots from behind the camera over acting in the show.

The clear star of the show, however, was senior Malcolm Williams, who won the role of Michael Scott despite having no previous acting experience at Saints and immediately proved himself worthy by injecting multiple hysterical improvised dialogue into his scenes. He admirably captured the essence of Michael Scott while nailing his lines and perfecting his demeanor.

When an announcement aired on March 15 declaring that the popularity of the first Saints Office special had motivated the thespians to produce yet another episode, many Saintsmen were overjoyed



The second Saints production of *The Office* is currently in the works sahs.org

to learn that they can look forward to many more hysterical moments. If any Saintsmen are interested in participating in the upcoming reboot, see Mr. Manley in room 223 for an application. As the announcement said, they are searching for “film editors, sound engineers, grips, gaffers, production assistants, and somebody to yell, ‘Quiet on the set!’”

The band was also busy during the hol-

idays preparing and putting on a Christmas concert. The musicians received the news that they could begin practicing together in November as long as it was outside, and thanks to the members keeping up with their practice, they were able to bounce back strong.

At the concert, the band played a combination of traditional and modern music to

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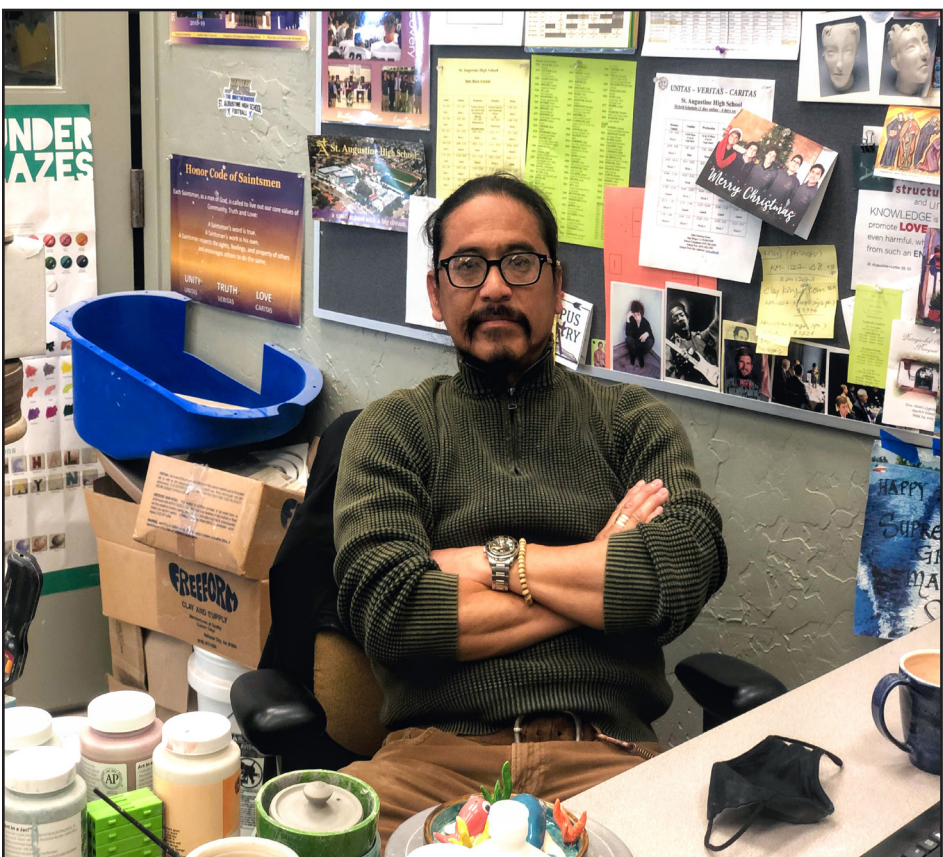
Mastering Ceramics with Master Kouta

 **By Kyle Wesseln ('21)**
STAFF WRITER

Sitting alone in a community college classroom, Kouta Shimazaki unlocked his spark. It was not a spark to somehow “change the world” or to “solve world peace,” but a spark of passion and love for ceramics, and eventually, teaching.

After experiencing the world of ceramics, Kouta says he “knew it was the only thing he wanted to do.” Following the spark, Kouta engaged in craft fairs and participated in some of the first art walks in San Diego. Succeeding his time at San Diego State University, he engaged in an extension course at SDSU and then began teaching in elementary and middle school. In 2008, Kouta found his way to Saints, where the art teacher at the time recruited him to establish a 3D art program. Here he is today, the teacher, or the Master, as most Saintsmen know him, of one of the most revered classes at Saints: Ceramics.

Ceramics is like no other class. There are no tests, no guidelines, and of course, no grades. The class itself is one infinite lesson, where each student develops his own identity and passion for creation. On the first day, students are given a ball of clay. From that point on, the class is in the student’s hands, literally. While lessons on throwing and trimming from Master Kouta are vital to the creation process, most of the class revolves around what the Saintsman wants to create. After hand-building for a few weeks, students learn how to use the wheel. On the wheel, students can take their skills to the next level, starting off making symmetrical cylinders, followed by anything from



Kouta Shimazaki has been teaching ceramics at Saints since 2008. *Angel Perez ('21)* plates to vases and much more.

To fully construct a piece, Saintsmen first create the initial design. After letting it dry until “leather hard,” students trim the piece using an assortment of tools. Once the piece is bone-dry, it is fired in the kiln. After the first fire, the piece is glazed and fired once more. The final result is an extension of a Saintsman’s creativity, and whether it be a life-like replica or an elaborately constructed vase, the entire process is rewarding to the fullest.

While the goal of Ceramics is to create a physical object, working with clay transforms into so much more.

“Ceramics is a negative of who you are. Clay represents the balance in life, push and pull, and teaches a lot about who you are physically and mentally,” Kouta said. “Clay is malleable, so whatever you do to the clay has an immediate effect.”

While a piece might have a large sturdy base to support it, when it goes into the kiln and is too thick, it blows up. Ceramics teaches Saintsmen to live life knowing that every action has a reaction, and just like working with clay if you push too hard, something ends up falling apart.

In the classroom, Saintsmen also learn more about themselves. Kouta mentioned

that “he learns a lot from students about life and himself,” and the environment and discussions inside of room 106 make the class what it is.

“Ceramics is unexplainably unique. We don’t talk about just ceramics, we explore every walk of life,” said senior Dominic Bacino, a regular in Kouta’s room during lunch.

In any discussion, whether it be over politics, especially with recent events, or a debate on the best Netflix shows, Kouta is always there to give his two cents on how the world works. And when you start to listen, the world starts to make more and more sense.

Despite the difficulties of the past year with online classes, stress from COVID, and for seniors, college applications, Ceramics remains a place of solace.

“After a long week of grinding and studying, it’s nice to find a release in a less rigorous class,” senior Daniel Widhopf said.

Following an impossible Ozdowski test or a long grind in AP Physics, Saintsmen have the opportunity to get in touch with their creative side to forget about impending deadlines and assignments they saved to finish before the next block.

“Ceramics is a great class because it gives me a much-needed period of relaxation and allows me to get in touch with my artistic side,” senior Eric Engelman said.

In essence, Ceramics provides Saintsmen with a platform to experience a new outlook on life and themselves. If you have the opportunity to take Ceramics, The Augustinian encourages you to take advantage of it as soon as possible for a life-changing experience.

Chaplain's Corner

 **By Fr. Max Villeneuve, O.S.A.**
COLUMNIST

The joy of Alleluia is near! A line often attributed to our Holy Father Augustine is, “We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!” It is a fitting distillation from his discourses on the psalms, and it has stuck with the Christian faith ever since.

After such a difficult year, it might be challenging to see ourselves as a people of “Alleluia.” We may instead be tempted to remain isolated in the deserts of our weariness.

A little over two years ago, the world watched in horror as the Notre Dame Cathedral burned in Paris. The initial footage showed the people crowding the banks of the Seine, aghast and speechless at the sight. Yet, after nightfall, something unexpected happened, and its presence confounded the news media. Many of the Parisian people, even as the red glow of the flames still lit up the night sky, gathered and began to sing hymns in honor of Notre Dame and to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It is this witness to hope, even amongst the most difficult conditions, that keeps us going as a Christian community. We heal the sick, we feed the hungry, we console the sorrowful, and, importantly, we sing — even to burning cathedrals! This is why Augustine was able to say that we are an Easter people.

There is a happy follow-up that you may have recently seen on the news. The same builders of Notre Dame centuries ago also planted groves of oak trees across the nation and set them apart should they one day be needed. Our ancestors in faith were practical people, realizing that if you build a cathedral with wood, it just might one day burn. Through this foresight centuries later, the oaks are now strong and mighty. They will be felled, and the cathedral will be rebuilt.

So, too, will this quintessential spirit be with us as we pass through this pandemic. How could it not be? We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.

Mr. Jezewak Leads Chastity Seminars

 **By Graeme Morland-Tellez ('21)**
EDITOR

On February 6, Saints opened the Chastity and Vocation Program to all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. The purpose of the Chastity and Vocation Program is to better align the modern lives of Saintsmen with the values and guidelines found in the shared Catholic faith. Although the event only physically took place on February 6, the participating students were able to take an appropriate and necessary step in discerning their own personal vocation—an intimate engagement that is simply timeless.

The definition of a vocation is a strong impulse or inclination to follow a particular activity or career. However, it would be impossible to reduce the spiritual significance of a vocation to a simple dictionary definition. A vocation is a divine and unique call from God. The Saints program primarily prepared students to answer a vocation to the life of marriage. Despite the actual call itself, the true struggle lies in the discernment of the vocation. The Chastity and Vocation Program at Saints provides students with the stable ground to take the next step in such a process of discernment.

The Chastity and Vocation Program was led by Mr. Michael Jezewak, a dedicated religion teacher and leader at Saints. Mr. Jezewak was inspired by a quote by Dr. Timothy O’Malley from the University of Notre Dame that read, “Formation for the Sacrament of Marriage extends well beyond the period of engagement. It ought to begin when the child is born into a family and end with death. It is an education into love.”

However, what made the Saints program special and unique is that the event is attended by both the student and their



Mr. Jezewak hopes to guide Saintsmen in living out their vocations. *Angel Perez ('21)*

parents. The entirety of the event somewhat aligns with the Iceberg Theory, which dictates that the small tip of an iceberg is often nothing in comparison to the colossal glacial structure underneath the surface of the water. For those who may not have understood this Hemingwayesque reference, the actual on-campus event only served to set the stage for deeper and further discussion between students and parents at home. While the presentation at Saints may introduce a modern topic with alarming statistics, the bulk of the experience is found in the subsequent profound discussion between parent and son that took place later at home.

Such an intentional structure not only encourages healthy discussions in safe spots, but it ensures that such conversa-

tions are educated and productive in providing students with the necessary steps in discerning their individual vocation.

The actual structure of the event worked to serve the specific needs of each grade level. Therefore, the event was tailored and carried out in a different way for the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.

The freshman talk was entitled “Starting the Discussion,” and it revolved around the modern abuse of pornography and its damaging and lasting effects. It is no secret that consuming pornography reflects in the deformation of the mind; it translates to an immediate objectification and a flurry of unrealistic and harmful expectations in relationships.

ASB: Adapting, Surviving, and Bringing Saints Together



Malcolm Williams has assisted with many ASB events this year. *Courtesy of ASB*

 **By Patrick O'Leary ('23)**
EDITOR

Despite the challenging circumstances of COVID-19 during the past school year, the Saints ASB, under the diligent guidance of Mr. Osberg, has been working hard to bring a sense of normalcy and fun to the campus. Their dedicated work and creative thinking have helped to overcome many restrictions from the CDC and administration to carry on old traditions and begin new ones.

One of the more challenging aspects of the past semester was the shortened lunch periods when events are commonly held. Regulations also prevent the Saints student government from distributing food, momentarily halting birthday donuts and Marty's giveaways. ASB has

responded by replacing their food prizes and fundraisers with gift cards and Saints merchandise, like the Christmas sweaters and Halloween t-shirts. Lunch events have continued with new precautions of masks and social distancing; these restrictions have forced ASB to come up with creative displays, like the pumpkin drop, freshman fashion show, turkey bowling, dunk contests, and sports trivia competitions. In recent weeks the administration has put a moratorium on all lunch events in an attempt to prevent outbreaks, but Saints is hopeful for their recontinuation as vaccinations continue to roll out.

Mr. Osberg commented on the increased difficulty to get work done, saying, "Everything takes five times the work it would in a normal year." Much of the struggle can be attributed to activities be-

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ing harder to approve and easier to shut down, often needing to be okayed multiple times. Furthermore, the situation can change so quickly that an idea may be approved upon its conception but canceled days before it can occur. ASB must be sensitive, not only to the concerns of parents, teachers, and students but also to neighbors. Because of neighborhood complaints over COVID concerns, the annual turkey trot could not take place in its usual way through the streets of North Park; instead, it was replaced with a relay race across the football field. Even though the turkey trot looked so different from past years, it was still a huge success, and Mr. Osberg suggested it might be run similarly in future years, with both a relay race and two-mile run.

Another new addition to the Saints daily life has been the music played during breaks. It began as a suggestion by students, originally consisting of music chosen by teachers, but now, it is open to any student willing to send in a clean playlist to Mr. Osberg.

With fewer events and fundraisers, ASB has found it more difficult to raise money for the orphanage. They have raised over four thousand five hundred this year so far, which is a commendable total, but still lower than a normal year, according

to Mr. Osberg. In a normal year, functions like the hypnotist car shows would raise upwards of thirty-five hundred dollars on their own, but both were canceled. To find a new source of money, Saints organized many wildly popular esports tournaments. In fact, the presence of esports on campus has grown so much that several members of ASB, led by President Joseph Selfani, are bringing an esports lab to Saints. The student-led project is coming soon and will be an exciting addition to the Saints Esports Club. With the NCAA March Madness tournament scheduled to begin in a few short weeks, the Saints bracket challenge will begin as well. Organized by Mr. Lamerato, this is a chance for every Saintman to prove his clairvoyance. All the proceeds will go to the orphanage, and the winner will win a cash prize.

Mr. Osberg praised ASB for their hard work in adapting to the abnormal times. He described his role as a shepherd, never striking ideas down but helping to make them realistic and possible. "My job is to bring fun to Saints," Mr. Osberg said, "and to help students bring fun to Saints." He especially commended the seniors for their leadership, stepping up to take charge and holding themselves responsible for mak-

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Aviators Unite, Saintsmen Take Flight

 **By Jerome Santiago ('21)**
STAFF WRITER

Saintsmen are known for excelling in academics, athletics, and extracurriculars, but three in particular have gone above and beyond, literally. These students have taken on the extraordinary hobby of flight. Saintsmen Donovan Gadler, Christian Garcia, and Zane Friscia have dedicated time and energy outside of school, sports, and extracurricular activities to learn how to become pilots.

All three of these Saintsmen are following a similar training path in order to acquire their private pilot license. All student pilots require a certified flying instructor (CFI) in order to begin instruction. A student pilot must complete a ground school course and have 40-50 hours of dual and solo flight training. Half of these hours are completed with a CFI, while the other half is flown solo. After these hours, a student pilot must complete a series of tests from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). These tests include a written exam, an oral and situational exam, and a flight test. After the training and exams are complete, a student pilot is awarded a private pilot license.

Senior Donovan Gadler recently began his journey towards earning a private pilot license. Gadler began flying last year in August. After being awarded the title of Eagle Scout, Gadler decided to use his surplus of free time to learn how to fly. Currently, Gadler has com-



Donovan Gadler began the process for his pilot license in August. *Donovan Gadler ('21)*

pleted 21 hours of flight training with his CFI and had the opportunity to take his first solo flight on March 13. Throughout his trips that stretch from San Diego to Ramona, he stated that flying in the rain was one of his best experiences.

"It's really cool flying in the rain because you are able to see the rain falling from a perspective you could never see from the ground," Gadler said.

Although aviation does not align with

his career goals, Gadler wishes to continue flying and plans to earn Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) clearance, allowing him to fly under harsh weather conditions.

Similarly, junior Christian Garcia decided to use his free time to start pursuing his dream of becoming a pilot in the Air Force. After flying for only 4 months, Garcia has already completed 17 hours of flight training with his CFI.

"In the middle of COVID season, there weren't any sports going on, so I decided to start flying. I've always thought about becoming a pilot in the Air Force," Garcia said. Garcia currently flies at the Montgomery-Gibbs Airport in Kearny Mesa, and, although aviation is a hobby for now, Garcia has set his sights on flying jets for the Air Force.

COVID-19 has inspired some student pilots to begin their journey, but, on the other hand, COVID-19 has brought senior Zane Friscia's flight training to a halt. Friscia has been flying since his freshman year. Saints alumni Jack and James Downey introduced Friscia to aviation, which inspired his great interest.

The consistency of his training has been shaky due to sports, school, and his job. Friscia has been flying on and off since freshman year, achieving a total of 18 flight hours along with 2 helicopter flight hours. Friscia was about to embark on his first solo flight from Montgomery-Gibbs Airport to Hemet Airport in Riverside, but the flight was postponed due to COVID-19.

Friscia stated that flying is thrilling because, "When you're up there, it feels like a rollercoaster." Although aviation is a hobby for Friscia at the moment, he is open to the idea of flying in the Air Force.

These Saintmen followed their passions and encourage other Saintsmen to soar above obstacles and reach for the heavens.

Social Media Trumps Freedom of the Press



By Kai da Luz ('21)
EDITOR

When someone as powerful as the president of the United States of America can be silenced by a little birdy, voices are bound to rise. Twitter’s permanent suspension of Trump’s account made some Americans cheer and others jeer. Many are asking whether it is legally justifiable and constitutional. Opinions vary, but it might be helpful to first take a dive into the fabrics of our American history.

The year is 1734 in New York. The American colonies are bustling with activity, excitement, and ideas, and people are spreading their wings in the new environment whose precedents were still taking shape. Copies of *The New York Weekly Journal*, an opinion-based newspaper printed by John Peter Zenger, flow freely through the streets until the fateful November afternoon when this suddenly halted.

Zenger had been voicing his and others’ negative opinions concerning William Cosby, the colonial governor of the region. Cosby quickly arrested Zenger and got Attorney General Richard Bradley to charge him with libel the following year. Cosby pleaded that Zenger’s publication was full of “scandalous, virulent, false and seditious reflections.” It did not take long for the jury to acquit Zenger from the accusations of libel, and the consensus put forth in the Zenger case was that information proved true cannot be considered libel or unlawful publication. Thus, the American precedent of freedom of the press was born.

Whether it was the *Near v. Minnesota* case of 1931 or the *New York Times Company v. Sullivan* case of 1964, the principle of freedom of the press laid out in the Zenger case has shone through. As we have moved into the 21st century, however, something else has spawned into existence: the Internet. The Internet and the advanced technology that comes with it are involved in almost every aspect of our daily lives. We have transitioned from the traditional spokesmen



President Donald Trump was banned from Twitter on Jan. 8, 2021. BBC

on the public square to a web of personal reporters. Information can be dispersed faster than ever in this “New World” of seemingly endless connection, yet many fear that these pathways are at risk. This emotion exploded when now-former President Trump had his Twitter account suspended in the conclusion of the Capitol riot. Now, it seems like more and more accounts and organizations are getting suspended on social media and other platforms since the January move by Twitter. One of these includes the primarily conservative social media platform, Parler, which was essentially blocked off from public access by companies including Apple and Google earlier this year. With so many voices screaming so loudly all at once, the bigger picture can often become obscure. We at The Augustinian like to take a step back and investigate.

To get a better perspective on this issue, The Augustinian sat down with Mindy Morton, a partner in the Intellectual Property Litigation group at Procopio. Morton attended the University of California at Berkeley and then proceeded to excel at Yale Law School. She started out in New York working on some of the cases of Floyd Abrams, one of the most famous constitutional lawyers specializing in First Amendment law. In 2005 and 2006, Morton began working more closely on Internet issues pertaining to the First Amendment.

“The precedents are not as established from a legal perspective in comparison to other First Amendment cases. It’s always in flux,” Morton said.

Morton began by making an important distinction between the government and private companies pertaining to the First Amendment.

“If you are standing on the corner of a public square or writing on your computer with Facebook, the government still cannot regulate speech as it is protected under the First Amendment from government intrusion.”

Essentially, private companies have the right to limit their platforms and decide who says what on their forum.

Morton continued by highlighting Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996, which serves as the basis for protecting freedom of speech and expression

on the Internet. Section 230 states that social media companies are not liable for the posts or opinions of their users. Because of Section 230, speech is able to flow through Twitter and Instagram seamlessly for the most part. In addition, users do not have the right to prevent Internet or social media companies from taking down their own posts.

“All of these companies have terms of use that you sign when joining their programs. The ‘Terms and Conditions’ that you accept without another thought give the companies every right to control whatever flows on their platforms,” Morton said.

In the case of our former president, Morton believes that the issue is not up for debate when looking at it from a legal perspective.

“It really is not a constitutional issue. You’ll see politicians on TV proclaiming that his first Amendment rights were violated, and they were not. He has the right to talk, but social media companies are not beholden to carry what he is saying,” Morton said. “Whatever the President of the United States says is newsworthy, so it can be really tough for these companies to craft such a policy because people want to know what he is saying.”

Morton acknowledged that Section 230 has been targeted again and again by members of Congress and believes that it can be overturned soon.

“The upset disposition towards what is happening here is not limited to the conservative side. Democrats are also upset because they feel social media companies are not doing a good enough job limiting hate speech.”

The truth is, speech has evolved, yet our legislation for guiding that speech on the Internet hasn’t moved a muscle since 1996.

“The Internet has allowed people to have a much larger reach than they ever could before. People won’t stop and listen to you on the public square anymore,” Morton said.

In an age when many people hardly read the paper or watch the news on the television, social media reporters have unknowingly become many of our first sources of information

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In-Person Learning Strategy Proves Successful



By Joseph Selfani ('21)
EDITOR

In July of 2020, when the debate around whether schools should open was prevalent, *The Economist* published an article titled, “Let Them Learn—the risks of keeping schools closed far outweigh the benefits.” A peek in the journal reveals some staggering facts.

1. Over \$10 trillion (yes, trillion) of lifetime earnings will be cut from children affected by the school closures, and
- 2.. Students will be behind in class by more than half a school year

It specifically called out San Diego and Los Angeles’s decision to take students online, which they claim will waste millions of young minds.

It’s been eight months since *The Economist* article was published, and their predictions were, in fact, underestimating the costs. In February, *The Wall Street Journal* featured an article titled “The Long-Term Economic Costs of Lost Schooling,” stating that over \$25 to \$30 trillion dollars of total economic output will be lost from school closures and that 6%-9% of household income of the affected students will be lost. To add insult to injury, an October 2020 Stanford study into 18 states where remote learning is prevalent and found that, on average, about 116 school days of reading and 215 school days of math have been lost. San Diego public schools have been struggling to adapt to Zoom as well, with failure rates reaching upwards of 30% according to KPBS.

With all this chaos occurring in the re-



San Diego Unified School District has yet to return to in-person learning. KPBS

tion claimed that it will cost an average of \$1,778,139 to reopen schools. The president of the San Diego School board, John Evans, said in July 2020 that he will need about \$50 million to stay open the whole school year, and he implored Congress to provide that funding. Despite the original CARES Act providing \$13.5 billion for K-12 schools, education leaders say it is not enough according to *The Washington Post*, which leads to the second point: politics.

It is such a shame that the malicious game of politics has meddled in the issue of reopening schools, especially during an election year. This statement is not to ridicule one side of the political spectrum, but in fact to criticize both sides for putting their special interests over the need of students and taking advantage of a pressing issue for political points. In Europe, schools were shut down as a last resort and opened as a first priority. In California, people could drink in bars while public school students struggled with online learning. Not to mention the interest of public school teacher unions conflicting with those of students. Many schools in America took the route of shutting down not for the safety of their students, but for the security of their immediate finances and political gain.

To our fellow Saints, as you walk on campus today greeting your friends and spending time learning in the classroom, remember to thank your teachers and the administration for the sacrifices they made. In the end, the long-term benefits of resuming primarily in-person learning for students will pay back a hundred times over in the future.

remote education system, it comes as no shock to hear that students and teachers at Saints are fairing much, much better. Out of the ten Saints teachers asked, all of them stated that they are either on par or at worst a week or two behind on their learning compared to last year.

“My AP United States History class is actually ahead by a couple of weeks compared to last year’s class,” Mr. Christian da Luz said.

Those teachers with cohorts have also managed to stay on-pace compared to last year.

“The English classes are doing about 65-70% of their work in class and the rest is done in cohorts. In terms of pacing, we’re on the same part of Othello as we were last year,” Mr. Chesser said.

With the success of a complete education being provided at St. Augustine High School, the fact of the matter is that Saints students will thrive in a generation held back by closed schools and remote learning. It means that the 6%-9% of income lost as a result of online schooling will not affect Saints students, but their peers from other schools.

So the question remains: why, after warnings from *The Economist* and many other reputable sources, did schools decide to remain close at the expense of their students?

The first, and perhaps the most obvious, is cost. A document from the Association of School Business Officials International and The School Superintendents Associa-

Coloring California with Coronavirus



By Nicholas Sajor ('21)
STAFF WRITER

As COVID-19 has affected our nation and state over the past year, government officials have enacted a variety of measures aimed at keeping Californians healthy and uninfected. To clarify the differences in restrictions among this vast state’s 58 counties, a color-coding system has been used to show the danger level of each unique area.

The colored tier system contains four levels, and a county’s category depends on its infection rate per 100,000 people and a 7-day average of positive COVID tests. All counties started in the lowest yellow tier, and as conditions worsened many have moved up into the orange, red, and most restrictive purple ranking. As 11 counties are currently in the purple tier and case numbers continue to fluctuate, the importance of these levels and the need for everyone to understand them cannot be overstated.

Starting with the least restrictive tier, the “minimal” yellow distinction is conferred upon those counties which have controlled COVID to the point that normal life can resume. In counties with these case levels, all businesses can be open with indoor activities, no mandatory masks, and full capacity. However, no county has been endowed with this classification in several months with the exception of Alpine County.

The next two levels are “moderate” orange and “substantial” red, each of which enacts stricter safety protocols. Mainly, both tiers require certain businesses to perform activities outside only based on their risk levels.

The “widespread” purple rank,

WIDESPREAD Most non-essential indoor business operations are closed.	More than 7 Daily new cases (per 100k)
SUBSTANTIAL Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed.	4-7 Daily new cases (per 100k)
MODERATE Some business operations are open with modifications.	1-3.9 Daily new cases (per 100k)
MINIMAL Most business operations are open with modifications.	Less than 1 Daily new cases (per 100k)

The color-coded COVID protocols are outlined. *California Department of Public Health*

which is overwhelmingly common at this time, utilizes the most strict and effective measures to control COVID’s spread. Almost all non-essential businesses are limited to outside-only use, and the widespread placement of counties in this tier demonstrated the severity of California’s outbreak levels. Also, counties in this tier have a stay-at-home order for anyone who is not an essential worker during the hours of 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM.

While the color-based tier list mainly deals with business-related activities and does not affect personal behavior, there has been another action used to contain COVID on a statewide level. A stay-at-home order was also implemented on December 3, 2020, for California based on the particular regions and the Intensive Care Unit capacity.

California has been divided up into five regions, each containing about twelve counties. In addition to the colored tier list for each county, these regions signify which areas gain restrictions. If a region’s ICU bed capacity falls below 15%, a regional stay-at-home order becomes effective. This order mandates mask usage for all people, except those who meet specific exemptions, as well as universal social distancing.

Currently, San Diego San Diego County is in the red tier as of March 16 with limited capacity for restaurants, gyms, museums, movie theaters, and several other types of business. As we continue to face the death and disease brought by COVID-19, let’s all follow the safety guidelines so lives can be saved and ours can return to normal as soon as possible.

► SPORTS

Continued from Page 1

dent league, logistical challenges must still be overcome in order for a season to occur. They are still unsure whether the season will happen, but hopes are high.

The Saints swim team is experiencing one of their best seasons in recent years. Racing to two blowout victories against both Christian High School and Coronado High School, the Saints swim team has received early success and looks forward to ending the season with a positive record. The Saints swim team has already had many swimmers and relays achieve qualifying times for both the League Championship and the CIF Competition. “It is honestly just strength in numbers,” senior Graeme Morland-Tellez said, “The underclassmen on this team are not only contributing greatly currently, but they are promising a strong future for the program.”

Saints golf has come out swinging this season, winning against La Jolla Country Day and Point Loma with only one loss to Canyon Crest. The team is anchored by junior Jacob Paule and freshman newcomer Billy Davis. Next week, St. Augustine golf will host one of the primer varsity golf tournaments in San Diego, the San Diego Country Club High School Invitational.

While many of the teams at Saints have had more time to adjust, lacrosse, baseball, and soccer are just beginning their seasons. As these teams wrap up tryouts and move towards their initial matches, the Saints community looks forward to three more herds of athletes for which to root. Regardless of the setbacks that these players faced due to the circumstances posed by COVID, coaches and team members alike hope to come back better than ever in this unprecedented “super season” as it is so-called

due to the combination of multiple sports seasons.

Basketball and volleyball also got the green light to begin their seasons, hosting their respective tryouts on Saturday, March 13. As was the case with indoor sports, their seasons were highly uncertain initially, but both have begun practicing after school this week and are excited by the prospect of competing.

Another downside of a COVID sports season is the inability of schools across San Diego to field a freshman team. In turn, many Saints sports have decided not to create a freshman team, which means very few freshmen will be able to participate in sports this year. This will create an entirely different dynamic for the class of 2024, as many players will be able to participate in sports as a sophomore without any experience.

Despite the obstacles that must be overcome, the atmosphere at Saints is entirely different from a few weeks ago. Everyone is looking forward to the coming few months of sports, which will make the end of the 2020-21 school year something to remember as this powerful community demonstrated its strength and adaptability through this rapid return to the world of athletics.

► ARTS

Continued from Page 1

highlight some of the best of both aspects of the season, playing the classic favorite, “The Christmas Song,” and contemporary hit “All I Want For Christmas Is You,” among others. They performed on the gym roof to accommodate a socially-distanced, in-person audience and live-streamed the festivities for those who were unable to be there.

lead a four-year journey. He plans on revolving the senior presentation about the downfalls of the modern hookup culture, one that is sometimes found in high school but primarily seen in college.

The ideal vision is that an individual participates in the journey that is the Chastity and Vocations Program from the time they are a freshman to their tenure as seniors. In this light, they will be able to grow in the image of God.

“My hope is that every Saintsman who goes through the Chastity and Vocations Program cultivates habits in his daily life that help him to live out his vocation for communion, in whatever form that communion takes, but that vocation will involve chastity in one form or another,” Jezewak said. “I pray that they overcome temptations all around modern culture and the culture of young men.”

The Chastity and Vocations Program is just another step in the direction of producing young men prepared to participate in the world under the necessary religious pretense.

► ASB

Continued from Page 3

ing things happen. Osberg talked about missing the flow of the year, with football games in the fall, basketball in the winter, dances throughout the year, and seeing the faces of the new freshmen, the future of Saints. It’s been a long year, but Saints has survived as a community. With sports coming back, there is once again hope for a return to normal, or at least, a departure from the abnormal.

► SOCIAL MEDIA

Continued from Page 4

in our daily lives. It is important that we remain conscious consumers of information so that we don’t “dive down a rabbit hole” upon hearing information from our favorite account on Instagram. While, yes, private companies have the right to censor any speech that they deem unfit to their prerogative, we should not waver in our resolve. It is important to acknowledge the inherent bias in any news we ascertain from social media sources or other Internet hubs unless we want to be easily swayed by exaggerated falsehoods every so often. While the Freedom of the Press so heralded in our country does not extend to our personal reporters on social media, their voices should not be silenced. If we become discouraged, the silence that will ensue will unplug us from what is going on in our world, resulting in a crime that trumps the rest: ignorance.

My fellow Saintsmen,


At 7:53 A.M. on January 12, 2021, fellow senior ASB member and friend, Mr. Malcolm Williams, was unfairly given a dress code by Mr. Osberg for rocking a fresh goatee. While I believe dress codes are a necessary tool in ensuring that students wear sharp apparel and represent the school well, I believe that recent dress codes have been unlawfully given to students as facial hair should not count since they are hidden behind a mask. Students who don’t show facial hair through their masks should not be dress coded. Using my powers granted to me by Article 2 section 2 of the Saints Constitution, I, Joseph Selfani, ASB Executive President, along with ASB Moderator Mr. Osberg hereby grant a full, free, and absolute pardon unto Mr. Malcolm Williams for his dress code. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of March in the year 2021.

Best, Joseph Selfani, Executive President

Capitolizing on Perceived Voter Fraud



The Capitol was rioted by a mob of violent protestors on Jan. 6, 2021. CNN

**By Aidan Rickwa ('22)**
STAFF WRITER

On January 6, 2021, the U.S. Capitol Building was breached by a mob whose participants had come from President Trump’s rally a few blocks away. Their mission was to stall or end the certification of the election results which declared that Trump had lost the election to Joseph Biden. President Trump was angry and claimed that he had “won by a landslide,” even though in reality, he lost fair and square. He tried for weeks and told his followers to rally and stop the certification of the election results. President Trump continued his proclamations throughout the

entire election process, insisting that it would be rigged and that there would be corruption before the final bell had rung. His hopes did not waver even after Attorney General William Barr announced that the U.S. Justice Department’s investigation found no evidence of corruption or rigging or widespread voter fraud. As January 6 approached, many groups arrived in Washington D.C. preparing to rally. A storm was brewing.

At around 11:50 A.M., hundreds of people gathered on the lawn in front of the Capitol despite Trump’s placement at the White House where he would soon speak. At around noon, President Trump spoke to the rally and stated about fifteen minutes into his

speech, “You have to show strength,” to the people gathered in a final push to overturn the election results.


Near 1:00 A.M. Trump’s speech was still continuing as those at the Capitol began to harass some of the officers and became aggressive, quickly and violently overwhelming the police and the barricades outside. The mob then moved to the steps and, just a few minutes later, Capitol police arrived with riot gear to help control the riot that was enveloping. As Trump’s speech ended he called out to his supporters to “walk down Pennsylvania Avenue” towards the Capitol. Meanwhile, inside the Capitol, Congress had begun their session to certify the Electoral

College and seemed unaware of the violent raiders, which were just outside. Meanwhile, the northeast, east, and northwest barricades were breached.

The first raiders broke into the Capitol and two minutes later the Senate was called into recess. Raiders entered through broken windows and open doors. They moved swiftly trying to find where the Senate was, including chasing an officer upstairs to where entrances were. The raiders were then just outside the Senate chamber as the senators tried to move to somewhere safe. Three hours passed before the sergeant-at-arms finally declared the building was secure. During the raid, five people were killed and dozens more were injured as the mob entered into chaotic fervor and a powerful state of mob fury. The media and newspapers had constant coverage for days after the election and used footage taken by the raiders themselves in order to determine the scope of the tumultuous events that occurred, and many people have been identified with those who stole or assaulted facing investigation or arrest.

After the riot, Trump was impeached for the second time during his time in office for “incitement of insurrection,” and, despite this article’s adoption by the House of Representatives, the Senate voted to acquit Trump of this charge. President Biden made note of the Capitol raid in his Inaugural speech, and it served as another example of the unity he hoped to promote in the United States through his campaign. Regardless of where one falls on the political spectrum, such mob mentality ultimately threatened the election system and the democracy that has existed since the dawn of this great nation.

Inaugurating a New Era with President Biden

**By Patrick O'Leary ('23)**
STAFF WRITER

As the U.S. enters the third month of President Biden’s first term in the Oval Office, it is essential to look back on the tumultuous series of events that surrounded such a momentous occasion.

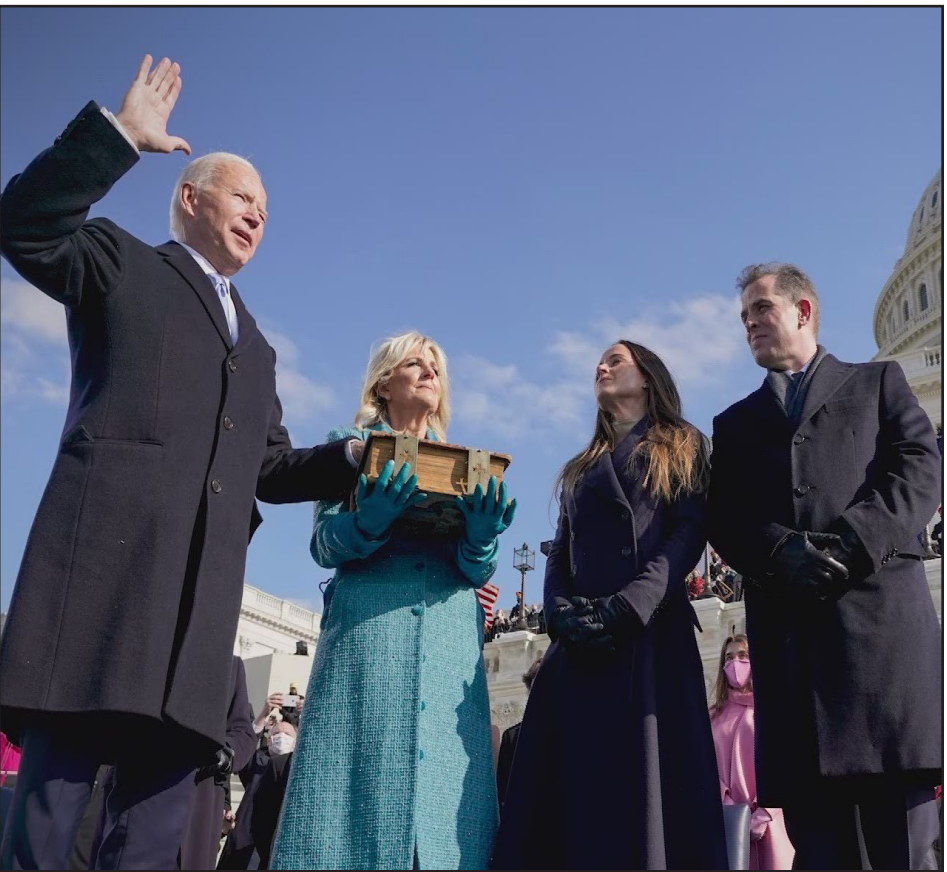
On Wednesday, January 21, 2021, President-elect Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. was sworn in as the forty-sixth president of the United States of America. On the steps of the Capitol building that just weeks earlier was stormed and defaced by domestic terrorists, Biden placed his hand on a massive one-hundred-twenty-seven-year-old Bible and vowed to fulfill the duties of the office and defend the Constitution to the best of his ability—the same words as every president before him.

In light of recent division and violence, the day was centered around unity and healing. In his first address to the nation as president, Biden identified the various problems facing the country that he would be responsible for tackling during his presidency: the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic racism, climate change, and economic disparity. He used the failed January insurrection as an example to indicate the strength of democracy that will always prevail.

Biden even quoted St. Augustine, saying, “A people is a multitude defined by the common objects of their love.” He urged Americans to focus on the qualities that they all value and strive towards: “Opportunity. Security. Liberty. Dignity. Respect. Honor. And the truth.”

Biden stressed the need to debate and disagree while still remembering that both sides are part of the same country; he called for Republicans and Democrats to confront the nation’s problems together, saying, “Politics doesn’t have to be a raging fire destroying everything in its path.”

Biden’s inauguration marked several historical moments; Joe Biden is the second Catholic to be elected president,



President Biden was inaugurated on Jan 20., 2021. WFAA

after John F. Kennedy, and his running mate, Kamala Harris, is the first woman, the first African-American, and the first Asian-American to hold a nationally elected office.

The momentous occasion was limited to only around a thousand spectators due to COVID-19 protocols and security concerns. All viewers were required to wear masks and social distance. However, one face was conspicuously absent from the lineup of our nation’s leaders: former president Donald Trump became the first president since Andrew Johnson in 1869 not to attend the inauguration of his successor. President Trump still maintains his baseless claims that widespread voter fraud rigged the election in favor of Joe Biden, and while he did acknowledge that his term as president was over, he has yet to concede. While the former

president may not have been in the audience, the ceremony was attended by many other bipartisan leaders, including former Vice President Mike Pence, congressional leaders Mitch McConnell and Nancy Pelosi, and former presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama.

In addition to the unusually small crowd, twenty-five thousand members of the National Guard were on duty as part of extra security measures. The Capitol was drastically undermanned several weeks ago, but law enforcement leaders did not intend to repeat their mistake. The entire National Mall was closed, as well as the White House and many surrounding streets. Despite the violence and tension of weeks prior, minimal crowds gathered in Washington D.C., and few protests occurred across the nation.

The foreboding image of military

imposition was alleviated by a beautiful field of flags in the National Mall. Representing the inauguration theme of “America United,” the 191,500 flags incorporated all fifty states and six US territories and took the place of the 200,000 citizens that would have attended the ceremony during normal times.

To further cater to an audience watching from the comfort of their own homes, the inauguration was followed by “Celebrating America,” a television special hosted by Tom Hanks featuring stories from citizens about their experiences during the pandemic and other recent events. Both the inauguration and television special featured many famous musicians, including Lady Gaga, Jenifer Lopez, Garth Brooks, Justin Timberlake, Bon Jovi, Foo Fighters, and Katy Perry. Most of the performances focused on healing and looking to the future with optimism.

After winning both Senate races in Georgia, the Democrats control a majority of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, allowing President Biden to push his agenda very quickly with minimal resistance. Biden got straight to work hours after taking office, signing seventeen executive orders that covered a wide range of topics. Biden also rejoined the Paris Climate Accord and World Health Organization, reversed many actions by former President Trump, such as his infamous travel bans, and aimed to provide economic relief, extending the pause on student loan payments and evictions. He also began a “100 Day Masking Challenge” geared at slowing the rapidly spreading coronavirus.

With the death toll soaring over 500,000 domestically and millions out of work, the new president will need to act quickly to alleviate the deadly pandemic along with the even deadlier ripple effects it may have on this nation’s future.



Wherever School Is This Fall, We're Here for You

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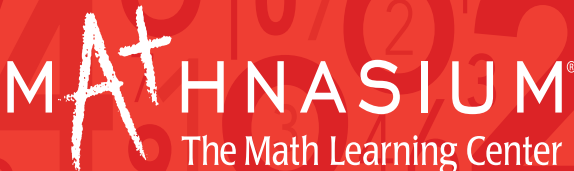
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El Cajon, CA 92020



March Madness: Teacher's Edition



By Graeme Morland-Tellez ('21)
EDITOR

The month of March brings forth many things: the tidings of spring, college acceptance letters, and the anniversary of the day that Saintsman were banished to an entire semester of pure online pain. However, there is something more important that occurs during this blessed month—a world-renowned tournament known as March Madness. *The Augustinian* has decided to embrace the festive spirit of March and create a small tournament of our own between many of our dear faculty members on campus. To those who believe that the following piece is a “copy” of some forsaken podcast made last year, I have never heard of such an audio recording, and I promise it will pale in comparison to what I have conjured. We also encourage all to take this with a grain of salt and understand that this is meant to simply initiate deep rivalries between teachers on campus. The rankings were heavily thought out, as was each match-up. This was not the result of personal biases or vendettas. It was also not an intentional method to receive good grades, but, rather, this is simply a product of my mind.

Round 1

1v32
Daddy ain’t losing Round 1. It’s crazy how that works.

17v16
Jezewak tried to talk his way out of this one; Pruter had other plans.

9v24
UPSET ALERT. It has become evident that Freestone is just a hairier version of Spiderman—he can climb mountains fearlessly and is probably extremely flexible. In other words, Dent can throw as many rugby balls as he wants, but he is no match for Spiderman with a mustache.

8v25
Coacher was not wearing the proper outerwear, and, well, JOB got mad.

5v28
Let’s be honest, Okuley is one of the nicest guys on campus and would likely show up to the fight with a large smile and a “pocketful of sunshine.” Walp is moving forward.

12v21
This one was difficult. Chesser is a fan of Georgia Football, and we all know how they get. Also, one can take a single step into the da Luz Dojo and see the collection of Medieval weapons and armor. In conclusion, medieval barbarity triumphs over southern charm.

13v20
Isaak is 6’8 and almost always completely fueled by a Big Gulp of Coca-Cola. Isaak advances.

4v29
Ozdowski once said, “You can knock me down as much as you like, but I am just going to keep getting up, except I will be even more pissed off.” The “Wizard of Oz” advances.

3v30
If you have ever been late to the rooftop cohort without a note, you already know the outcome of this one. Every time Alcoser gets a crazy look in his eye with his wild “mad scientist” hair, the world literally stops turning.

14v19
If you think Kouta is a wildcard and unpredictable, you have not met Wallace. Wallace advances.

11v22
This one was close. In the end, Horne was too polite and gentleman-like to stop the Ukrainian force that is Vlad.



6v27
UPSET ALERT. It is not every day that the #27 seed knocks out the #6 seed. However, Carolyn has spent nearly the entire year training with Crazy Alcoser during cohort. She has likely witnessed and learned from the many times that Alcoser has ripped into a kid for their cohort tardiness.

7v26
This long-held teacher rivalry finally meets the battleground. Let’s just say there is a reason his nickname is “Yoked-um.” Yoakum advances.

10v23
This one was close. Manley held his ground for a while, but Crachy’s passive-aggressive sarcasm eventually overwhelmed him.

15v18
Fr. Max wears sandals and shorts in nearly freezing temperatures. Oh, and he has God on his side. Fr. Max advances.

2v31
The fan-favorite Vignol would have definitely smacked Hecht if he showed up. However, Vignol has dedicated much of his time and training for the upcoming Turkey Trot in order to set a new school record. Hecht advances.

Round 2

1v16
Daddy showed up late to the fight blasting Counting Crows out of his creeper van. He then proceeded to win with ease, spend an hour curling in the gym, verbally rip apart some nearby freshman rats, and head back up to Agua Caliente with Stella and Little Boy.

8v24
Freestone’s athletic prowess was too much for the old stallion that is JOB. JOB’s defeat was similar to the end of *Avengers: Endgame* when Thanos disintegrated into dust.

5v12
Saintsman Kai da Luz personally requested that his father be eliminated in this round. To Mr. da Luz, I apologize, but this one was out of my hands. You should have a serious confrontation with Kai about why he would possibly want you to be eliminated.

4v13
Ozdowski vs. Isaak. Calculus vs. Algebra. Professional Football vs. Professional Golf. Ozdowski wins a close battle. That’s all the harder it is.

3v14
UPSET ALERT. Alcoser’s crazed ferocity was no match for the proud Irishman. You know what they say, “Patrick was a Saint... Wallace ain’t!” Wallace advances.

22v27
Carolyn tried to “make friends” with Uncle Bachynsky. Vlad had other plans. Uncle B

advances.

7v10
UPSET ALERT. Yoakum showed up late to the fight without an admin slip. Let’s just say that may be one of Crachy’s pet peeves. If Crachy can handle her three kids, she can handle Yoakum.

2v15
Hecht was no match for a religious Chicagoan dressed in Dodgers gear and sandals. Fr. Max advances.

Round 3

1v24
Imagine a world where the #24 seed wins outright against the #1 seed. Now, slap yourself and never do that again. If Daddy can fight off repeated acts of domestic terrorism in his classroom, he should have no problem with Freestone. Ahviously, Daddy is moving forward.

4v5
This one was tough. This was a well-fought battle until the very end. It is hard to explain what happened, but just know that Ozdowski is moving forward.

14v22
An intra-religion department battle. Vlad held his ground, but it was all over after Wallace heard about Vlad’s Kermit-inspired impersonation of him. It was a swift victory after that. Luck O’ The Irish.

10v15
What the Bible does not tell you is that Moses forgot the tablet that contained Commandment XI, a simple rule that described a prophecy in which Crachy steam-rolls past Father Max. Oh well, God’s word is God’s word.

Final Four

1v4
CHOKO JOB BY DADDY! From a physical perspective, Daddy likely would have had this one in the bag. However, prior to the fight, Ozdowski mentally exhausted Daddy and caused him to have an emotional breakdown which, in turn, eliminated him from the tournament (No Tears Policy). How in the world did this happen, one might wonder. Well, I will tell you. Prior to the battle, Daddy was caught using Calcchat extensively on an assignment and subsequently endured what is known as the notorious “Ozdowski Rage,” a verbal rampage destined to strip any once strong-willed Saintsman to his brittle core— just ask Selfani about it. Ozdowski pulls off the upset and advances.

10v14
What is the one thing that could stop the strong momentum of an Irish religion teacher destined to win it all? A ticked-off Crachy who is having a rough morn-

ing. Wielding swords of sarcasm and fists of (verbal) fury, Crachy halts Wallace’s strong tournament push and advances to the championship.

Championship

4v10
The championship round began with Ozdowski in a four-point stance, a position that long haunted many opposing offensive linemen, and such a beginning was eventually followed by an end. Crachy battled her heart out but sadly fell short to the man who is known as the “Wizard of Oz.” Ozdowski’s mental strength really led to his first-ever championship victory. He has done it all. The man had to do college-level calculus without a calculator. Let that sink in. There are kids (like Kai da Luz) who can barely spend a single second without clutching their TI-Nspire CAS, and Ozdowski was out there integrating inverse trigonometric functions with nothing but a pencil. As far as I am concerned, Ozdowski has gone to and from war. Crachy held her own, however. Her excessive and taxing “follow-up questions” almost led Ozdowski to a loss.

Overall, congratulations to Mr. Ozdowski for reigning victorious in the highly strategic teacher-versus-teacher March Madness tournament!



Mr. Ozdowski
4th Seed
Winner





Mrs. Crachy
10th Seed
Runner-Up