

Hook, Line and Sinker

With Tony Hooker

To quote the noted philosopher, Forrest Gump, they go together like peas and carrots.

For 9 years, Ethan March and Stuart Wolf teamed up together on the grid iron. This year, their contributions along the defensive line were a main reason why the VGH Blue Devils returned to the IHSA playoffs after a one year absence. Their coach, Joe Stokowski, concurred. "Both were special players. Stuart used his length and experience and March used his quickness and motor. They committed extensive time in the weight room and ran track in the pursuit of becoming faster, and obviously their hard work paid major dividends this season." I recently caught up with the two Heritage seniors to reflect on the past and to look forward.

How long have you been playing football?

<SW> I've been playing since fourth grade.

 I started in St Joe when I was eight, so eleven years of football.

What was it like, playing with those guys for all those years? Can you believe it's over?

<SW> It's crazy. Growing up, you think you have so much more time to go, but then you blink and it's the last

five seconds of your last game and you think back and wish you had known it was going to go by so fast.

 It's hard to believe that four years have already gone by. When I started at St Joe, I started on the D line, but I moved back to linebacker my second year and played there until my last year.

You put together a good season. I'm sure you were disappointed when it ended, but now that you've had a chance to look back, has your perspective changed.

<SW> It's like coach said at the banquet, in June we had no clue that we were going to make the playoffs. Starting the season off, we seniors set examples for the younger kids and were really motivated. I think that's what got us there.

 This year was a lot better than I thought it was going to be. We had a bad loss in week three that put us in a bad position, but we pushed through and made the playoffs.

Who were some of the kids you looked up to when you were a freshman?

There were a lot of them! Jacob Coffin, who's still playing D III college football right now. Max Daly, Dalton James, Spenser Eversole. I

looked at those guys and thought, "Wow, if I could be half the player they are."

You turned out to be pretty decent players yourself. I am sure that there are little kids who are wishing that they can play like Stuart Wolf or Ethan March someday.

What was your favorite moment of your career?

<SW> My favorite moment was every single down that I got to play with the defensive line this year. Every single play was so much fun with them.

What did you think about Quincy's (nose tackle, Quincy Roberts) touchdown?

<SW> I was jumping up and down and screaming like a little girl! <laughs> I couldn't believe it was happening!

Is there one moment that stands out from your career over all the others?

<SW> Being a part of the team that made it to the second round my sophomore year. Working hard in practice and helping that team get better. Being a part of all that was really cool.

 Probably the Johnson City game, my sophomore year. It was Halloween night and it was pouring down rain. There was mud everywhere. It was like you were on skates out there! <laughs> I was on kickoff and kickoff return and that was usually the only time I saw the field because we had a loaded team. I got to get in the game and carry the ball and you couldn't cut or anything out there. It was great!

What advice would you give to someone who's just getting started as an eighth grader?

<SW> Work hard. Ease into it. When you first start, weightlifting is a very taxing thing to do. It's hard, getting up and going every day. Take it seriously and work hard. Don't let yourself tell yourself no. There will be days that you won't want to go to practice. You're going to be exhausted mentally and physically and you're not going to want to go to practice or weight lifting, but you just have to go and do it, and afterward you'll feel amazing.

 Always get in the weight room, as much as you can. Always do everything you can with the heaviest weight you can use and keep your proper form. Always look up to the older kids. I always looked up to Max Daly and Spenser Eversole.

Villa Grove HS Honor Roll

VILLA GROVE HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

First Quarter, 2017-2018

A student must have at least a 4.50 grade point average for High Honors. A student will be eligible for Honors having at least a 4.00 average with no grade lower than "C", nor more than one "C". Two grades of "C" are permitted if both occur in weighted courses. Only courses offering one-half unit of credit per semester are considered. Names marked * denotes no grade lower than "A".

HIGH HONORS:

Senior Class: Gabriella Agius*, MacKenzie Campbell, Paige Dalzell, Breleigh Eversole*, James Gulick*, Stephanie Heasley, Abigail Hopkins*, Austin Hopkins, Hannah Hudson*, Jenni Jarboe, Dakota Jochums, Gracy Kestner, Makalah Koeberlein, Holly Olson*, Jessica Rose*, Madeline Shunk*, Samantha Trinkle, Ryan Tufano, Meredith Vandeventer*, Noah Wershila

Junior Class: Taylor Buesing, James Cox, Ashley Fulk, Chelsea Harrison*, Tristan Harrison, Tommie Hooker, Mokaylee Knell, Christopher Levine*, Kaitlyn Morse, Taylor Risken, Jared Stevens, Alexis Vandeventer, Jackson Vandeventer, Sophia Wegeng

Sophomore Class: Beau Beesley, Sydney Eisenmenger, Christina Finkel, Jaden Grimm, Grace Hutchison, Jamie Kern, Molly Mixell*, Natalia Nagy*, Austin Piercy, Samuel Reno*, Savannah Shanks, Ierik Sorenson, Samantha Stevens, Jackson Wiessing* Amber Williams

Freshmen Class: Kale Barrett, Madison Burwell*, Kyleigh Block, Sarah Brown, Samantha Campbell, Keagan Champagne, Paige Dahl*, Kaleb Drew, Kathryn Eisenmenger, Addison Fisher, Kaitlynn Gray, Matthew Gulick*, Alexa Howard*, Lydia Howard*, Michael McGarigle, Logan Nohren, Erin Shunk, Jalen Southard, Sara Stutz,

Robert Wicklander

HONORS:

Senior Class: Codie Baker, Reece Beesley, Emanuel Crafton, Jakob Crapse, Mack Floyd-Beyers, Hayden Hosler, Courtney Howard, Ethan Howard, Chase Hutchison, Corrie Poe, Dylan Shanks, Brooke Simmons, Justin Vincent

Junior Class: Jameson Arbuckle, Brianna Dale, Austin Grimm, Colton Little, Portia McCollom, Liam Richey, Tristan Thompson-Burton

Sophomore Class: Ragin Baker, Connor Block, Reagan Cheely, Nathan Chewning, Camilla Cooke, Kelsey Drew, Carson Ewing, Kimberly Faith, Reagan Finke, Liberty Floyd, Clayton Knierim, Austin Langellier, Isaac Montgomery, Manolin Richey, Haley Sappenfield, Liberty Watson, Taylor Wilson

Freshmen Class: Holley Cowman, Devin Ellis, Carson Howard, Jairus Kiser, Lily Lawrence, Daniel Olson, Blake Smith, Logan Wehrheim

Heritage Hosts VGH Winter Sports meet the Player Night



Fifty one players and fifteen cheerleaders made their 2017-18 season debuts at Meet the Player night, held at Heritage High School on November 10. The night, which began with the Heritage High School band showing off their competition routine, included little Hawk dancers, basketball scrimmages and a heartfelt tribute to all US Military veterans. (photos courtesy Shawn Hill White)



Reporting from VGHS

Just between Us



by Jake Gulick

Welcome back to another week of "Just Between Us." Last week at VGHS, the high school choir hosted the LOVC Choir festival. School choirs from across our division of the conference gathered in our gymnasium to practice music we have all been working on for weeks. We had a guest director come in and help us put everything together for our concert that night. By the end of the day, we had about 5 hours of rehearsal with the di-

rector and a 45-minute concert composed of 6 local schools. Songs included favorites like "Homeward Bound," and spirituals like "Ev'ry Time I Hear the Spirit." We had the opportunity to learn a lot from both the guest director and our peers at other schools.

On Friday, the school held a Veterans Day assembly to honor those who have served. Local veterans had invited to be honored at the assembly, and all grade levels participat-

ed in the activities. My favorite part of the assembly was when the high school band played an Armed Forces Medley that contained the official songs of each branch of the military. As we played each song, the soldiers from that branch of the military stood up to be honored. It was really cool to see how each branch was represented by Villa Grove. Another highlight of the assembly was when each veteran shared how long they served with the audience. The assembly was ultimately the best way to close out a long week. Next week, Jessica Rose will write the column as we get closer and closer to Thanksgiving Break. Thanks for reading!

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2017-18 VILLA GROVE/HERITAGE BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

record

Nov 20-24	@ Cerro Gordo Turkey Tourney
Nov 28	Uni High
Dec 01	Schlarman
Dec 05	@Westville
Dec 09	Sullivan (@ VG)
Dec 12	@Tuscola
Dec 15	Arthur Okaw Christian
Dec 27-29	BSN Classic
Jan 05	@ Decatur LSA
Jan 09	SJO
Jan 13	Judah Christian
Jan 16	@Chrisman
Jan 20-26	LOVC tourney @ Shiloh
Jan 27	LOVC tourney Championship (Arthur)
Feb 02	@Martinsville
Feb 06	Oblong
Feb 09	@Tri-County
Feb 10	@Cumberland Shootout
Feb 13	@Hutsonville
Feb 16	Cumberland

IHSA Regional Tournament

HEAD COACH Corey White

2017-18 VILLA GROVE/HERITAGE GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

record

Nov 13-17	@Lady Falcon/Bunny Classic
Nov 21	@Tuscola
Nov 27	Westville
Nov 28	Salt Fork
Nov 30	@Uni High
Dec 04	Judah Christian
Dec 07	@ALAH
Dec 12	Unity
Dec 14	@Cerro Gordo
Dec 27-29	@Bismarck Tourney
Jan 02	@Arcola
Jan 09	Chrisman
Jan 11	@Martinsville
Jan 13-19	@LOVC Tourney (@Cumberland)
Jan 20	@LOVC Tourney Championship (Arcola)
Jan 22	Hutsonville (senior night)
Jan 23	GRF (@Heritage)
Jan 25	Cumberland (@Heritage)
Jan 29	@Oblong
Feb 01	@ Tri-County
Feb 05-09	@IHSA Regional Tournament

HEAD COACH Dan Sappenfield

VILLA GROVE DEVILETTES

Dec 09	@Unity Competition
Dec 16	Villa Grove Competition
Jan 06	@Charlestone Competition
Jan 13	@Clinton Competition
Jan 20	@ IHSA Sectional Competition
Jan 27	@ IHSA State Finals (tentative)
Feb 03	@ Tuscola Competition
Feb 09-10	@IDTA State Competition (tentative)

HEAD COACH Cami Renfrow

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