

Renovations proceed rapidly during dry autumn



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HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

*A back hoe removes tree roots in front of room 4's window.
Photo by Hannah Nguyen*

Editorial

Who wears the pants?

The student body has witnessed a crackdown in dress code within the last few years. Increasingly, restrictions on skirt length, outerwear and footwear have become topics of discussion.

Shirt untucked? Dress code violation. No belt? Dress code violation.

These changes aren't necessarily a bad thing, but many are taking issue with the way many of these policies are enacted and announced. Some enforcement policies, like clamping down on certain styles of shoes and hoodies, make sense to students. But other dress code violations, like the emphasis on skirt length raise concern within the student body.

Unfair punishment distribution is also a hot button issue. Many female students call to attention how some seem to get away with any skirt length while others are put under fire for any skirt they wear. How strictly teachers enforce skirt length rules versus boy's hair length and facial hair is also deemed unfair by many female students.

Furthermore, what parts of the dress code apply during special events like Spirit Week and jeans days? Why are students permitted to wear jeans but girls are still prohibited from wearing crop tops or "too short" skirts?

Dakota Whitlock '20 can only remember one or two time boys had to stay after morning assembly to discuss the dress code in his four years in the upper school. "It was really basic: just things like hair length, no piercing, proper collared shirts and tucked in shirts."

On the other hand, female students have had one this year already—an elaborate affair where all the female teachers stayed behind to address skirt length in particular. Embarrassingly, Dr. Elizabeth Martin had come that day to talk about a service opportunity, was present for the whole meeting.

The biggest problems girls have with the dress code, already mentioned above, were only magnified by what can be seen as missteps. The reasoning behind the most recent crackdown—protecting the girls, maintaining a level of propriety, and parent complaints—raised eyebrows through the rows.

Aside from the aforementioned dress code issues, one area where students have a lot to say is the topic of formal dress.

Recently, we saw the introduction of blazers for the girls. Yes, this makes the dress code more equal. Yes, now all of the students look uniform. But, if that is our guiding principle of uniformity, where are the pants?

Currently, the formal dress code prohibits female students from wearing pants. Special issue Lands End skirts are required, and for cold days leggings or tights are recommended. But in Roanoke where temperatures easily drop below freezing in the wintertime, is that enough? Girls say no—even the thickest tights do not guard against the cold as well as khakis.

Aside from these practical concerns, restricting female students to skirts raises another question: is it even fair?

Boys can wear pants on formal dress days, and they look professional. Why is that not the same for girls?

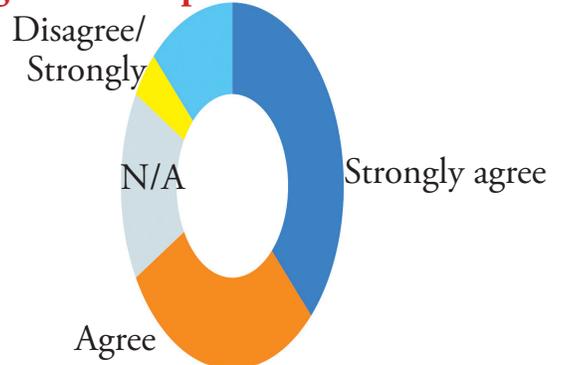
Schools like St Anne's-Belfield School allow female students to wear slacks on their equivalent of formal dress days, and many other private schools are doing the same thing to modernize their uniforms.

Will North Cross ever follow in these schools' footsteps? That remains a question that can only be answered by senior staff and the head of school.



Drawing by Chloe Hunt; Graphic by Kevin Dinh

Survey: On formal days, the dress code should allow girls to wear pants:



The biggest problem with the dress code for girls is:

- The index card rule (9)
- Enforcement of dress code by men (6)
- Banning of open-toed shoes (4)
- Banning of leggings (2)
- Lack of options for tops (1)
- Other (2 boys did not answer questions)

Survey Monkey survey was conducted over three days at the end of September. A glitch in delivery meant a modest 24 results were obtained.

ACTUAL SIZE: The index card is supposed to be a guideline for girls to know whether their skirt is too high above the knee. The survey revealed that the index card rule is the "biggest problem" with the dress code according to some students. Graphic by Kevin Dinh

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The Willis Hall Herald is the official student newspaper of North Cross School. A member of CSPA, the Herald has won Gold and Silver medals. We welcome letters to the editor, which must be signed. Visit us online at our page at www.northcross.org.

Dr. Proctor orchestrates renovations

New science labs show sign of future classrooms

By Tobi Bankole and Chloe Hunt

Gesturing expressively, Head of Schools Dr. Christian J. Proctor describes what kind of opportunities the famed renovation—a \$16.5 million project—will bring.

“I’m excited to have a better environment for the students,” he said. “We want to create the best facilities possible.”

The bustle in and around the high school this school year will be a side effect of this goal, but despite the renovation’s setbacks, Dr. Proctor is optimistic. He says that everything is moving smoothly given initial doubts about timing, budgeting and overall feasibility. A few pieces of the project were done over the summer, and construction will continue throughout the school year. The projected completion date for Willis Hall is before Labor Day next year.

“It’s unfortunate that we weren’t able to do all of the renovations this summer. We’ve had to do some now and the rest of them will come next year,” said Proctor. “There’s so much construction going on in the area that we couldn’t get mechanical subcontractors – heating, electrical, plumbing – we couldn’t get them to do all the work this summer and so we had to get on the schedule for next summer.”

Nonetheless, Willis Hall has been outfitted with a new roof, bathrooms and science labs. The front of the building where the teacher workroom, college counselling and the front office were located has been torn down in preparation for construc-

tion of a student center between the high school and lower school.

“The construction between Willis and Ellis halls should be completed by the end of January. At the end of January is the big switch. The library moves into the new library, all the offices have to empty out and go in certain places. Crosswalk has to move into some new digs temporarily, and then we tear all of this [Old Slack] down except for the [cement part of the] theater,” said Proctor.

In addition to people temporarily relocating, the musical will now be Nov. 15-16.

One exciting thing for seniors is that the senior lounge has been redone. It now has new carpeting, paint, and furniture. And by next year, another senior-only space will be added: the senior lawn, on which only seniors will be able to walk. A few other features of the new campus are a student center, administrative suite and CrossWalk classroom space

“I think the most exciting part will be the new Willis Hall when we see it after next summer,” said Proctor. “It’s gonna be carpet, and you’re gonna have nice windows, all new floors, all new furniture, technology.”

A makeover this drastic doesn’t come cheap. North Cross is planning on raising \$14 million of the \$16.5 million needed for the project, and has elected to finance the last \$2.5 million short term. So far, the capital campaign has managed to raise a little over \$11 million pledges in cash, and the financial department is still meeting with individuals about their gifts. After that has wrapped up,

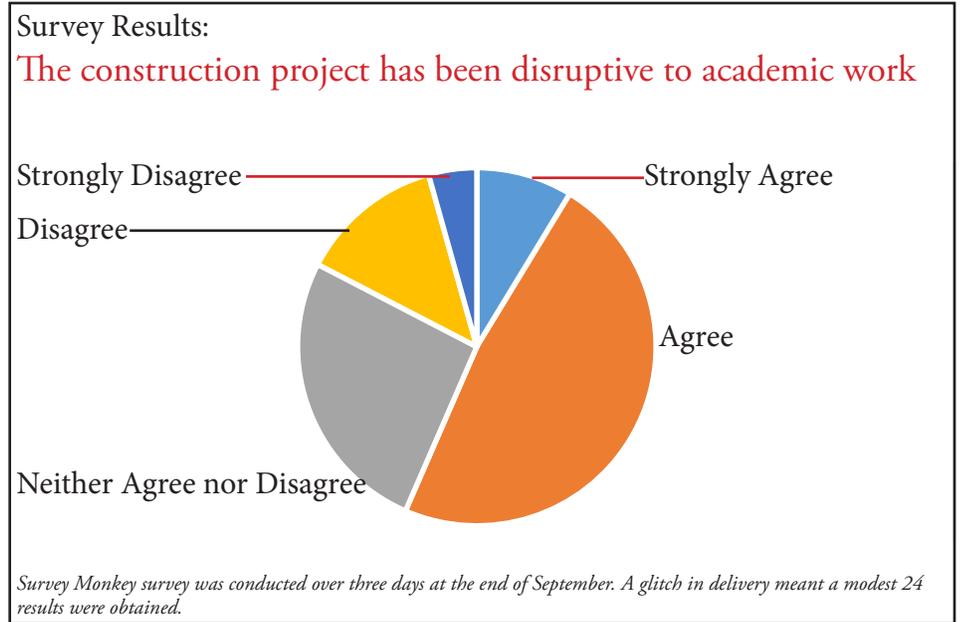


Chris the Builder: Dr. Proctor glances at the construction in front of Old Slack hall as he parades with seniors and their 4-year-old buddies during Halloween. Photo by Robert Robillard

Proctor plans to do a school-wide gift campaign. “We want to get it all done right now the right way, because it’ll be a lot more expensive if we do it in stages,” says Proctor. “But everything is coming along nicely.”



CURB REPEAL: Construction workers review the work done to extend the roof line over the main doorway. The new roof does not leak. Photo by Hannah Nguyen



Naginey hikes circuitous route to Roanoke



NAGINEY AND SON: *Above left, Dr. Timothy Naginey enjoys a moment with his son Liam '29 during convocation. Photo by Robert Robillard Above right, Dr. Naginey interacts with students before school one morning. He helps lead the guitar club and plans to help students write songs. Photo: Hannah Nguyen*

By WHH Staff

From a punk rock high school kid in Chesapeake, Virginia to a physicist pursuing a doctorate at Oxford University, Dr Tim Naginey has taken a long, winding road to Roanoke.

His story of perseverance and passion informs his teaching of physics.

"I didn't go to college right after high school because I wanted to pursue a career in music—I wanted to be a rockstar," Naginey said, "but that didn't work out, and it was four years of working at Home Depot, and I was sick of it. It really was a single book called *The Quantum World*. I read it during my lunch break one time when I was working at Home Depot, and I got really into it. I decided to study physics because of that book."

Such a drastic career change might be unheard of to some, but Naginey doesn't see it as impossible.

"I thought to myself, I'm reading physics for fun, so I might as well go to college for it and see how far I can go. It seems strange to some, but to me it was really natural," he said.

Naginey studied physics at a community college, then at Old Dominion University, where he completed his BS degree. Then he accepted a full scholarship offer to further his studies at Oxford University, one of the oldest and most prestigious schools in the world. Naginey says that the change in environment was more staggering than he initially expected.

"It was crazy living in England," Naginey said.

"I didn't think it would be that different. I think because there's a common language you assume the cultures are the same, but it's a completely different culture. Being a foreigner—being an alien—is a very strange experience. People making fun of the way you say things, or literally not even understanding what people are saying because the slang is so different is a very interesting experience, and I really wish that every American had the chance to experience it.

"I never felt more American than when I lived over there. You only really know all the things you don't like about your home country, but then when you move away you realize all the things you love about it."

Despite the culture shock, Naginey excelled in his accelerated course of study and left England after four years with a doctorate in physics.

"The actual project was computational physics, but I did my masters in theoretical chemistry and my PhD (technically a DPhil at Oxford) was mostly in the material science department," Naginey said. "I worked with three supervisors who were all physicists at Cambridge. It was a multidisciplinary thing. In this way it was almost like a liberal arts degree, but my job at the end of the day was computational electronic structure theory."

After his Oxford experience, Naginey moved back to Virginia to teach at Virginia Western. He tough in the STEM Center at Virginia Western for almost a year before coming to North Cross.

When comparing Roanoke to Oxford, Naginey thinks that the environment North Cross provides is a breath of fresh air.

"The small class size and the new classroom is really nice," he said, "but the thing I've been most surprised at it the level of engagement in most of the kids even in the first week; they're all responsive and interested, which makes it really easy and fun to teach."

Naginey also enjoys the attractions Roanoke has to offer, and is no stranger to taking advantage of them. His interests outside of physics range from being in nature to writing and playing music.

"My son (Liam '29) and I go hiking a lot, and we go camping every weekend we can," Naginey said. "When I first moved here I did the triple crown during the winter."

The triple crown is a 32-mile loop through Dragon's Tooth, McAfee Knob and Tinker Cliffs. Naginey says that his love of nature developed as a kind of balance to his work and studies.

"Being around nature, away from all of my work, just became a really therapeutic thing for me—and it's a really nice way for my son and I to spend a lot of time together."

In addition to hiking and camping, Naginey still enjoys music. He describes his work as folk and acoustic driven rock. His sound is similar to Neutral Milk Hotel. He still plays guitar and is involved in the guitar club this year. In this way, he's taken over more than one of Dr. Dudek's positions.

Faculty fight students for fun with Nerf arrows



DO YOUR HOMEWORK, OR ELSE! *Dr. Tim Naginey readies to shoot his Nerf-tipped arrow at students. Faculty lost to students, but Naginey defeated Chase Daniel '23 in a duel. IGS teacher Ryan DeMarco closes in on Noah Evans '23. Faculty won the duels, but the Senior A Team won the group competition. Photos by Tammie Le*

Philly native adds to math faculty, loves music

By WHH Staff

Like Dr Naginey, Augie Asta is another new STEM teacher with a passion for music.

Originally an English major who loved musicals and playing piano accompaniment, Asta did not become a math teacher by choice. He earned his bachelor's degree at Temple University, where he majored in English. When he graduated, he took a job teaching in Philadelphia. In a series of coincidences, the schools needed him to teach math, and so began a new phase of his life.

While working, he earned his master's degree in teaching at St. Joseph's University, where he studied math pedagogy. Now, Asta teaches Algebra I, PreCalculus and AP Statistics.

Students in his algebra one class like Tanner Vogel '22 think that he teaches differently than other math teachers they've had.

"He's really enthusiastic about his subject," said Vogel. "And in class he asks us a lot of questions."



WHOLE SUM FUN: *Augie Asta gets challenged by Dylan Snyder '20 to a one-on-one matchup that Snyder won. Asta teaches teaches Snyder in AP Statistics period 3. Photo by Tammie Le*

A native of Philadelphia, Asta recently made the move to Roanoke after a detour to North Carolina with his wife, who works online. He had previously worked at a large public school in Greensboro, NC, but prefers North Cross' small size and close community.

Though he's settling in Roanoke for the time being with his wife and dog, one problem in all the moving from place to place and living on the second floor of a

building is the inability to have a real piano. For now, Asta gets by playing an electric keyboard to hone his musical abilities.

Students may get a glimpse of his ability on piano during the upcoming musical, where he might play accompaniment. Performers in the musical are looking forward to that if it ever comes to pass.

"Even though I don't have him as a teacher, it's always a little weird and exciting to

see how teachers are outside of the classroom," said Yazmeen Imam '20.

Later this year Asta plans to help chaperone the ILMUNC delegation in his native Philadelphia. The timing is right, since the trip would begin on his birthday, Jan. 29.

"Mr. Asta brings a wealth of experience to North Cross School," dean of students, Stephen Belderes, said. "After an extensive search, it became perfectly clear that Mr.

Asta belongs here."

"Prior to NCS he taught in North Carolina where he was involved in a vibrant chess club," Belderes said. "In addition to his classroom responsibilities he is interested in building on previous successes of our chess program. We are incredibly excited to have Mr. Asta join our community."

Belderes also spoke to the integrity of their math department.

"At the core of any good math department are dedicated faculty. I remain impressed with the quality of our faculty across all divisions," Belderes said. "Their commitment to maintaining the highest standards allows students to flourish mathematically across all areas. One goal of our program is to not only teach mathematics, but also make connections to other areas within academia and the real-world. Mathematics is truly a universal language for all to share."

Students experience *Glass Menagerie*

By Kevin Dinh

The comical illustration to the right is a part of Amy Jackson's new Fine Arts distinction program, open to many artistic possibilities and visual connections based on literature in this case.

The illustration depicts *The Glass Menagerie* with Andrew Eigenfeld as Laura, Cole Thompson and Brendon Honaker as Jim O'Connor(s). It was a project assigned by Art Department Chair Amy Jackson as a part of the new art initiative to connect art and literature. The students are made to read the play as a summer reading project, and had watched the play on Oct. 24. They also did various art projects related to the book.

"I love that all of the Upper School students have the shared experience of the summer reading book," said Jackson during an email interview. "I enjoy hearing what themes and events stood out to students and seeing the creative ways they choose to represent them visually. For *The Glass Menagerie*, students did pieces that ranged from traditional painting and drawing to projects with shadows and animation.

"I am most interested in students making connections and learning to convey ideas visually," Jackson said. "They also need to learn technical skills in order to present messages in an effective and compelling way. Putting these things together means



we 'think about big ideas' and 'make cool things' every day."

When the project was first assigned, the group was not sure about what to do, so it ended up being a massive procrastination that lasted for weeks. Not until before the day the project was due did the group come up with the idea of posing and taking pictures. Eigenfeld and Honaker originally wanted to

be Jim O'Connor(s) and all agreed that Thompson should be Laura because of his long hair, but it ended up being Eigenfeld instead because Thompson refused to become Laura. The group chose to pose and take the picture at the corner of Jackson's room. The idea of a Photoshop illustration of the photo did not spark until a few minutes before the period ended. The backdrop,

the dress, the outfits, everything was chosen through Google images, and it was chosen carefully to bring a 19th-century feel to the table. When the project was finished and presented, the entire group expected the illustration to be a comedy gag, but it turned out that Jackson chose to present the image during assembly along with all other projects the students made.

Fine Arts program recognizes distinguished artists

By WHH Staff

The new Fine Arts Distinction, paralleling that of Global Studies and STEM programs, strives to recognize all of the students who participate heavily in fine art, music and theatre.

One of those students is Ryan Huddleston '21.

"The new fine arts distinction program sounds like a really inclusive and fun activity to really boost the recognition of the arts in our school," Huddleston said. "The arts at our school are very open to everyone. They ensure that all the students here are included and are always reaching out to gain full potential."

Huddleston has not only participating in many musicals and plays as leading roles, but he also took chorus and currently takes art. Next year, he plans on taking AP Art.

Another student who is excited about the dis-

"It encourages high level performance, and fosters connections between different components of the arts and other disciplines." - Amy Jackson

inction is Annie Slemple '22.

"I am beyond excited for the new fine arts program here at North Cross," Slemple said. "Since coming to North Cross, I have really discovered my passion and dedication for art."

Fine Arts Department Chair Amy Jackson directs the program and teaches upper school art classes.

"I look forward to art with Mrs. Jackson everyday. I've always wanted to be apart of a global studies group or a STEM group, but the dedication wasn't there," Slemple said. "And now that we have a fine arts distinction program, I am so happy for the opportunities and excitement this program will bring for me and my fellow classmates."

Jackson directs the program and teaches all levels of fine arts classes from introduction to AP.

"I have had interest for a number of years in an arts program that highlights student talent and immersion in the arts both at NCS and in the community," Jackson said in an email interview, "It encourages high level performance, and fosters connections between different components of the arts and other disciplines. I am very excited to add a Fine Arts Distinction alongside the Global Studies and STEM programs!"



HAT: Left, Geist Pollock controls the ball before passing to the middle where Will Martin (above) heads it toward the goal. Pollock scored three times against South West Home School. Photos by Robillard

New students add to defending-champ soccer

By WHH Staff

Since they were 5 years old, three boys have been playing soccer together and now they're playing for the Raiders.

Juniors Cole Thompson, Andrew Sexton and Andrew Eigenfeld had been separated from each other since grade 9, when they were all at Staunton River together. Thompson arrived at North Cross last year. Andrew Sexton switched to Salem High last year. Eigenfeld remained at Staunton River by himself last year and was the only boy who continued to play team-soccer.

Thompson said that he did not want to play last year, because he didn't have any friends. So he recruited his old teammates.

"Andrew E. has played the most of the group early," coach James Brown said in an email interview. "He attended the team camp with us back in July, so he was able to get a jump start on learning the system. With Andrew's great size and speed we have been able to use him in a number of different positions. He has done well and as he continues to learn. He will only get better and better."

Eigenfeld, a former striker, who said he now gets placed at right-midfield in the new system, has scored three times and assisted on five goals for a total of 11 points in 19 games.

"Andrew S. and Cole also give us more experience and depth," Coach Brown said. "This is important as we manage our way through a difficult regular season. Having fresh bodies to continually throw at teams is always a plus. With only one senior, our junior class has to really step up and lead. They have been able to help in this leadership thus far. When the three of them are on the field together, it is evident that they have played with one another for a while."

Both Sexton and Thompson have scored one



NEW ANDREWS: Andrew Sexton (left) and Andrew Eigenfeld explain the differences between being students and playing soccer at public schools and North Cross. Photo by Robert Robillard

goal each.

The boys also face transitions academically.

Now, Sexton takes two AP classes—AP Physics and AP English after taking AP U.S. History last year at Salem. He expressed disdain for Salem's grading system, which only assigns an A to 94% or above.

"Salem was a lot harder because of their grading scale," Sexton said. "So like 94.5% is an A . . . 79 is a D and here it's one point from a B".

Eigenfeld is also taking AP English.

Despite their promising abilities, none hopes to play soccer in college.

"I used to," Sexton said during the interview, "but not much anymore."

Meanwhile, the team is doing well. So far, the defending state champions have a record of 13-4-1 after tying Carlisle in a storm-shortened game.

The veteran members of the team say they work to build team chemistry with the new players.

"We need to move the ball quicker," said Spencer Brown '21, who will return to play center-mid-

field after suffering a stress fracture in his foot. He said the team needs to stop dribbling into trouble and pass the ball more often.

Brown, who scored the winning goal in the state championship, has 12 points to his credit this year.

Rees Wenk '22, who shares right-midfield responsibilities with Eigenfeld, noted the fact that the tie with Carlisle felt unjust, but it happens with rivalries.

"Especially Carlisle," Wenk said. "[The rivalry] feels kinda salty."

The team will not have to play any rivalry matches for a while. During Homecoming week, they only played Southwest Virginia Home School, who they defeated 4-1 on a hat trick by Geist Pollock. Then, they played a succession of tough Division I teams - a schedule designed to prepare the squad for the rigors of post-season play. The team knows it will not be easy to repeat.

"Feels like there is a target on our back," Brown said "Every team tries harder when they play us."

Conference champs play for state respect



CELEBRATING SENIORS: Mashall Rasul, Kinsley Alcorn, Kylie Schaefer, Sally Terrill, Kate Bishop, Sarah Bishop, Margaret Tower, Chloe Hunt, Riley Hoff, Aaryaa Pandey, Yazmeen Imam, Caroline Lystash, Amy Bagliani, Reagan Karlen and Genny Chandel pose with seniors who hold roses on Senior Day. Photo by Hannah Nguyen

By Chloe Hunt

The team of underdogs heads to states this week.

Girls' tennis was not expected to win much. For the first state poll, they did not even place in the top ten, receiving only a few votes.

The top six, which has changed a round a bit, consists of three underclassmen, two of whom have not been playing tennis for that long. Yet, tennis has had a successful season.

The girls dominated the Blue Ridge Conference Singles Tournament, held on

the courts of rival Virginia Episcopal School (VES). The top-three girls filled semi-finals and finals with Chloe Hunt '21 coming in 3rd, Kylie Schaefer '23 in 2nd, and Caroline Lystash '20 defeating her teammate 8-3 earning Conference Player of the Year.

Returning to the same courts three days later, the girls suffered a 5-4 team loss, but the Raiders regrouped for the conference championship on Oct. 26, reversing the score after a tough and long fight. The

Raider pulled out a 5-4 win to win the BRC championship. Hunt, Lystash, and Schaefer all won in singles. Lystash and Hunt won at No. 1 doubles 8-3, and Reagan Karlen '22 and Schaefer won No. 2 doubles 9-7.

Karlen not only helped the team pull off the win, but she has talked about the great relationships formed on the tennis team.

"Being on the tennis team means so much to me. I say this time and time again, but the tennis team is a family. We're always there for

each other and we can always count on one another," Karlen said. "This season has especially meant a lot to me because I have become so much closer with my teammates than I ever thought I would."

Riley Hoff '20 and Lystash said their favorite memory from this season was winning conference.

Lystash was named 1st team all-conference alongside Schaefer, while Hunt was named 2nd-team.

"I have had a great time this season, so it is hard to

see these five years come to an end," Lystash said. "I really enjoyed winning conference this year with such a great team."

"The girls on the team are some of my closest friends, and I don't know what I would do without them," Karlen said. "Making it to States has been a big deal for us, and I think it really represents how far we've come as a team."

Wednesday, the No. 7 ranked Raiders play at No. 2 Norfolk Collegiate.

Lystash wins BRC tournament in all-NCS final

By WHH Staff

Caroline Lystash '20 won the BRC singles title over teammate Kylie Schaefer '23 (8-3) last Saturday at VES, which will allow NCS to host the event next year.

Previously, Emma Cartledge '17 and Charlotte Cartledge have won the singles title.

Chloe Hunt '21 won the consolation match to secure third place, making the tournament a clean sweep for the Raiders.

The girls' tennis team has been ranked No. 7 in VISAA Div. II, impressive for a team comprised of five underclassmen.

No. 1 singles player Lystash has been on the team for five years, and is undefeated in singles.

"We have a really good team this year," Lystash said. "I think we are going to win it [the conference championship.]"

Indeed, the Raiders won. Last year, the team lost to Virginia Episcopal School, but the Raiders are ranked ahead of VES, and the young players are gaining competitive toughness heading toward playoffs.

"Reagan Karlen is a very consistent player, and is an integral part of the team," Lystash said, "as well as juniors Chloe Hunt and Genny Chandel."



DOUBLE TROUBLE: No. 1 Caroline Lystash and No. 3 Chloe Hunt warm up their serves before defeating Carlisle. The girls play together at No. 1 doubles. Reagan Karlen prepares to play at No. 5 singles. Photo by Robert Robillard

5 boys finish New Covenant course under 20 minutes at Conference Championships

Daly places 4th, helps XC place 3rd in tough VIC

By Kevin Dinh
Climbing the 2.55-mile to the top of Poage Mt. culminated six years of tough training in the cross-country program for Patrick Daly '20, the team leader.

"The last mountain run was bitter-sweet," Daly said, "because it is my favorite workout and really checks our fitness before states and knowing it was my last time running it.

"It was great to see how well our team did and put in a really great hard effort . . . I was very excited to break the record set by Harry Pearson by 10 seconds."

Coach Ed Dickenson said the mountain run goes from pavement to gravel up 27% grades in various places. "Patrick killed it," he said.

The team bonds over the rigorous run, taking team photos at the top, including a mini version of the unofficial team mascot - the sloth.

Initiated by Kerrigan Chaney '24, who recently placed fourth in the state championships for middle school girls, the sloth adds levity to the grind.

"We didn't choose the sloth," said Michael Habib '20, "the sloth chose us."

Daly recounts it with glee.

"We chose sloth as our mascot because during track and field Kerrigan carried her sloth to practice one day and we loved it. Sam [Karlen] and I thought sloth was so funny, and then she brought it to the cross country team and now it is the team animal."

The boys are approaching their final race of the season by making goals.

Habib hopes to place as all-state and help the team get top-three.

"This year at states," Daly said, "I hope to achieve a top-10 place after receiving 4th at conference."



SENIORITY: Patrick Daly stays calm to earn all-VIC honors with a 5k time of 17:47 on the New Covenant course. Photo by Declan Daly

How tough is the Raider home 5k course?

	Best 2019 5K Time	NCS Home Course PR
Patrick Daly	17:23.01	19:13
Michael Habib	18:28.00	19:51
Kyle Thompson	18:42.79	19:51
Henry Robinson	18:59:41	21:13
Sam Karlen	19:58.74	21:35
Daniel O'Brien (VES)	15:18.11	17:54 (Course record)

Robinson adds depth to XC

By WHH Staff

The boys cross-country team enters the final meet of the season with one of the deeper pools of talent in recent years.

Henry Robinson '22 transferred from Patrick Henry and began summer workouts with the team after a rugged regimen of hiking and backpacking with a National Outdoor Leadership School in Wyoming.

That rigor made Robinson tough enough for Middle School Hill and the Raiders' demanding schedule. Robinson's best 5K this year was 18:59 at the CHARCS invitational. Like most runners, Robinson's time on the Raiders' home course is about a minute slower.

"Henry came to the team with a

level of experience and dedication that added immediately to the depth of our boys' team," said head coach Ed Dickenson. "From the first day, he trained with the front group and supported his teammates and our team philosophy with total enthusiasm. He is one of those athletes who commits himself to the team effort and knows how to push himself to the next level. He knows how to dig in during tough practices and keep going even when he is at his limit, and that is a special quality. We needed another runner to add depth to our top 5, and Henry (and Kyle Thomson) showed total commitment . . . to carry on the best traditions of our cross country team."



DEPTH OF FIELD: Henry Robinson stays close to team leaders Patrick Daly and Michael Habib in an early season meet. Photo by Robert Robillard

Football hosts state semifinal game

By WHH Staff

Most Raiders' fans know the big names who score most of the points on an offense averaging almost 40 points per game.

We know Zae Baines '20 is one of the most widely recognized football talents in the history of the school.

While Head Coach Stephen Alexander emphasizes the way in which stellar players like Baines play well as a group. "It helps that those talented players play well together," he said.

"Zae is probably the best athlete that I've coached in my career," Alexander said. "He's very gifted in terms of his size, speed, quickness and athleticism. He's typically the best player on the field almost every game."

Maybe people don't know how many touchdowns he has scored this season (12), but we know he will be playing at rising FBS power Temple University next year.

"It's inspiring to be playing with Zae because he's going to a DI school," said cornerback Juwan Jackson '21. "I get to be on the field with

a DI talent."

We know Baines might have even more touchdowns if defenses didn't spend so much time trying to double and triple-team him.

The team has a balanced passing and rushing attack because the healthy Isaac Harris '20 is distracting defenses with his powerful running. Maybe people can't keep track of how many touchdowns (21) he has scored, but we know he is a big deal since the Roanoke Times has put his picture in the paper on three different occasions and featured him in a major story.

"He's healthy, and he's strong," Alexander said about Harris, "and he's quicker than he's ever been. He's added a very valuable dimension to our offense."

We are starting to notice that quarterback Gabe Zappia '21 set a single-game record for passing yards (436) against the second-ranked team in VISAA Division II. He has passed for 25 TDs this year and rushed for two by himself.

"Gabe has done a good job of ma-



RUN ONE? *Issac Harris responds to a signal from the coaches against Blue Ridge. Harris averages about 15 carries and 130 yards per game. Photo by Hannah Nguyen*

turing from last year," Alexander said. "And he's more accurate. He has a very good group of seniors who he can throw to. Again, football is very dependent on the players working well together. Gabe is playing well, and so are his receivers."

Most of us do not focus on what happens after the big names score all those touchdowns. That's when Vedant Muse '22 converts the point-after-attempt. Because of all the scoring, Muse has attempted 60 PATs and converted 49. He kicked his first field goal of the season in a loss to Trinity Episcopal.

In other words, Muse is one of the top four scorers on the team with 52 points.

"Vedant has been a very pleasant surprise for us at place kicker," Alexander said. "He joined the team late in the summer and has provided with a level of consistency at kicker that we have not had in awhile. We're excited to see him develop in the next two years."

Muse learned to kick by playing soccer, and he also shares kick-off duties with Baines. Recently, he started learning some of the other positions to be ready to substitute for other players in case of injury. For now, he gets to specialize.

"I always wanted to be a kicker," Muse said, "and I have been kicking for a long time. So I asked coach and he let me try."

8 seniors help keep team on track for title run



TAKE A KNEE: *Seniors Isaac Harris, Zae Baines, Amareon King, Jaedyn Young, Solomon Crockett-Eans, Aden Britton, Brendan Honaker and Aimar Boller pose with families for a photo during the Senior Day ceremony at halftime against Christ Church School on Nov. 2. The Raiders won the game 28-14 to move onto the state semifinal game. Photo by Robert Robillard*