

Arts and Entertainment

Meredith Strong: Athletics

Katy Koop, staff writer

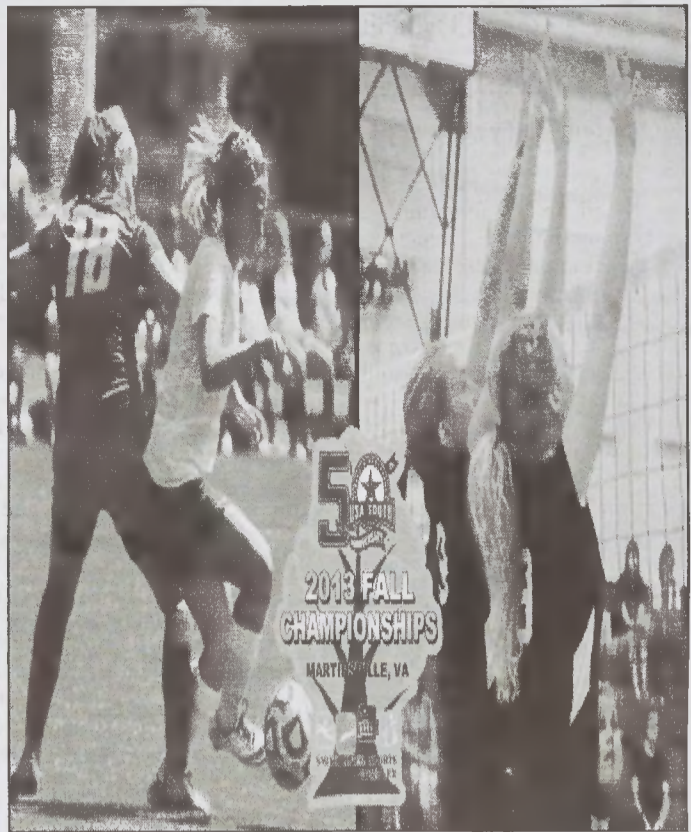
Meredith College Athletics has gone strong this semester, whether through soccer, cross country, or volleyball.

The Meredith Cross Country team won the USA South Conference Championship title for the first time in the program's history, and head coach Amy Olsen garnered Coach of the Year honors. In addition, Sophomore Allie Gallagher earned Runner of the Year, and freshman Ann Chapin Meekins earned Rookie of the Year. Seven of the twelve cross country runners in last Saturday's championships earned All-Conference accolades, including five first team recipients, and all 12 finished in the top-50 among all female competitors. Gallagher and Meekins will lead the top-seven harriers in the NCAA South/Southeast Regional competition Saturday, Nov. 16, in Newport News, V.A.

Volleyball finished the season ranked second in the USA South's North Division and boasts 21 wins thus far this season, the most since 1999. On volleyball, Clarke Glendenning, class of 2014, says, "our team has definitely grown a lot over this season. We were seeded fourth in the division and finished second! We also beat Averett this year,

which we have never done in all the 4 years I've been here; that's a huge accomplishment for us. We also beat our rivals, William Peace, twice this season. We changed from being a good team to be a cut-throat winning team." Soccer advanced to the semifinals for the sixth time in seven seasons since joining the league. Ila Torfin, class of 2014, was among five soccer players from Meredith College to earn USA South Honors and had this to say about her involvement in soccer, "It taught me how to manage time, make quick and efficient decisions, and how to work well with others effectively to meet a goal. I would probably be a completely different person if I hadn't played soccer all four years."

Assistant Athletic Director/Sports Information Director, Wendy Jones, says, "Last year five of our seven athletic teams finished the regular season in the top-half of their respective sport, and lacrosse ranked fifth out of nine conference teams in their inaugural season. Meredith student-athletes received 27 All-Conference selections, one Rookie of the Year and one Player of the Year accolade, and 11 league weekly honors. We are on track this year to match or exceed these totals with 14 All-Conference selections already this fall and 21 weekly selections."



via meredith.edu

Cleaning House: Ruhl Style

Marlena Brown, staff writer

The first thing you're probably thinking is: why make a theatre production about cleaning homes? It sounds ridiculous, but playwright, Sarah Ruhl, has written a production that is anything but ridiculous. It's hilarious, comical and downright depressing at times. But that's the beauty of theatre: it's supposed to evoke all of those suppressed emotions that we keep pent up until appropriate to be released. The cast of "The Clean House" certainly did just that, and also left room for interpretation and thought for the audience members after the production.

The storyline is as simple as this: There once was a Portuguese maid, Matilde, who longed to be a comedian, but could not afford to attain her dreams so she decides to become the house keeper of a married couple. Oh, but that's not all! From there, the married couple, Lane and Charles, happen to both be surgeons who work at the same hospital, and the

husband is having an affair with one of his patients, Ana, whom he met giving a mastectomy. Also, Ana is twice his age, but quite a beauty who is whimsical and has a desire to live life to the fullest. While all this is occurring, Lane is completely in denial about the affair and must constantly worry about her sister, Virginia's, psychotic obsession with cleanliness, perfection and maintaining her methodical regiment of a lifestyle. And through all of this, one minor detail helps propel the storyline to the climax, and eventual resolution: Matilde doesn't clean because it makes her depressed.

Virginia, having nothing better to do, volunteers cheerily to clean in place of Matilde without Lane's knowledge. Yet, Matilde's inability to keep things clean is in essence, what helps shed light on Charles' secret, detox Virginia of her obsessive mannerisms and help Lane grow to become a compassionate individual. Matilde is "cleaning house", so to speak.

Once Lane discovers the affair between Charles and Ana, she becomes bitter, resentful and antagonistic towards others, particularly Virginia. Matilde is the explorer in the storyline, going wherever opportunity whisks her away to. During all of this, Ana is ill and will eventually die of an onset return of breast cancer and Charles makes a desperate effort to save Ana. While Charles is gone, Lane cares for Ana, attending to her every need and learning in the process how to forgive and truly love others. Virginia becomes the source of assistance and care that Lane deeply needs at this point. Matilde though, is symbolic of being more than a maid: she is a help, a source of relief, and an encouragement to step out of your comfort zone and be a better person.

Cleaning houses may not be of particular interest, but gutting out the negativity and despair that consumes an individual is certainly worth paying attention to. So go clean that house, and make it shine like the top of the Chrysler Building!

NFL Thanksgiving Games 2013

Maitlyn Healy, A&E and sports editor

NFL games on Thanksgiving Day are as much of an American tradition as Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. This year six teams will entertain full-bellied Americans in the hopes of improving their records.

The first game will begin at 12:30 p.m. as the Green Bay Packers travel to Detroit to take on the Lions. The Lions are looking to turn the Thanksgiving table seeing as they have lost their last nine appearances on Turkey Day. The Lions finished 4-12 last season, while the Packers finished at an impressive 11-5. Through two very close games, the Packers swept the Lions last season. The Lions are hoping that the addition of Reggie Bush this season will give them a long-awaited Thanksgiving victory.

The second game of the day is the Oakland Raiders at Dallas to take on America's team at 4:30 p.m. The Cowboys playing on Thanksgiving is as

predictable as mom's famous pumpkin pie; their all-time record on this day is 28-16-1. Tony Romo has an impressive 5-1 record in Thanksgiving games, and improving to 6-1 is likely seeing as the Raiders are in a rebuilding year. These teams went head-to-head on Thanksgiving in 2009; the Cowboys won 24-7 and will probably win again this year.

At 8:30 p.m. the final game of the day will showcase the bitter rivalry of the Pittsburgh Steelers against the reigning Super Bowl Champions, the Baltimore Ravens. The Ravens have an impressive home record but have had a less than impressive start to the 2013 season. Lucky for them, the Steelers have also had a less than perfect start. Records, however, do not seem to matter much when these two teams match up. We can predict a physical, name-calling game by both the players and the fans as we wrap up Thanksgiving 2013. This game is sure to be the perfect energizer for Black Friday shoppers.



via theboysareback.wordpress.com