

## Income scarce for Grimsley athletic department

By Brian Schiller  
Staff Writer

Many students are unaware of the complexity of Grimsley's sports department. One would think that all there might be to do would be teaching some P.E. classes and coaching a couple of teams after school. In reality there is a lot more to the sports department than is immediately obvious, and this year some of these hidden areas will be facing a very rocky road.

As you think back over the past several months, try to recall the many home football games that you attended. You probably can't remember very many because the majority of the home games were plagued by stormy weather that cut the size of the crowds considerably. In fact, some of the home games such as the one against Eden-Morehead didn't bring in enough money in gate receipts to pay for the officials at the game.

As a result of the unusually low attendance the sports department did not receive 60%-80% of the revenue that is usually made during the football season. With football being the principal source of income as the most popular of the three sports for which the school currently charges admission at the games, the lost ticket sales took a considerable bite out of the department's available funds.

The money lost was substantial enough that the school will have to charge for admittance to wrestling matches this year. It is also highly likely that there will be an admittance fee for volleyball and baseball games starting with the 1996-97 school year. Though the school has been authorized in past years to charge for admittance to volleyball, wrestling, and baseball games it has been a measure that the school has avoided.

It has always been a priority of the sports department to keep sports events as affordable and as accessible to students as possible. Grimsley has not followed the paths of many other schools that now charge admittance to most sports events. Some states also charge the students that participate in less popular sports because the teams cannot be funded by the schools.

Even if students do have to start paying to get into many sports events all of the department's financial problems will be far from solved. In order to man ticket booths and monitor the many entrances to the gym more people would have to be paid to work during the games. In many instances this cost would entirely eliminate any profit to be made by charging admittance. Another problem arises in the possibility that students may balk at the possibility of having to pay to go to some games. Obviously, if nobody goes than no tickets will be sold.

"I would continue to go but not as often because it would begin to get very expensive," said Tara Brinkley, a junior.

"More people would probably use the season passes instead of buying tickets at the door," said Meaghan Graves, a junior.

Unfortunately, there is simply a limit on the number of people that are able to attend any after school games. Many conflicts including work and other afternoon obligations prevent parents and students from coming to the gym after school. One of the main constraints on student attendance is the sheer number of students that participate in sports themselves.

"A lot of sports are hurt because about 500 students are already participating in sports events or practices," said Grimsley Athletic Director Bob Sawyer.

The sports department also has several other sources for money besides ticket sales.

## Link sets example as student-athlete

By Mark Robinson  
Reporter

Along with being one of Grimsley's most prestigious athletes, Jamie Link, a senior, is also one of Grimsley's most high achieving students. She excels with the nation's best in both the swimming pool, and in the classroom. Last year Link was the conference champion in the 50 yard free style and 100 yard free style. Along with winning both races she set new conference time records in both. She was also named Swimmer of the Year. In addition to these great achievements she was a Junior Marshall, and she is currently president of National Honor Society.

Link has been swimming for 10 years. She started swimming at age seven at Green Valley in a recreational summer league. The following year she began swimming year round.

"My favorite part about swimming is the competition," Link said. She gets to see a lot of other swimmers because she swims year round. The only break she gets is two to three weeks in August. "It's basically an all year commitment," Link said.

"The hardest part about swimming so much is getting out of bed a 5:30 in the morning," Link said. Link, who swims six days a week, wakes up so early in order to get in an early morning practice before school.

One area is the sales of the season passes to students and their families. Another source of income is the Whirlie Booster Club. The money that comes from this source is reserved for capital improvements, such as new nets and equipment for the volleyball team, so the department avoids spending the money on day to day expenses. Hopefully some expenses, such as replacing equipment, can



Link has turned in superb performances at both the local and regional level.

Link is a member of three swim teams. Grimsley, Green Valley, and Greensboro Swimming Association (GSA).

She is one of three captains of the Whirlie swim team and she has already set goals for this year. "My goals for this season are to qualify for nationals and to be the high school state champion," said Link. She has a very good chance to achieve both of her goals.

"The most memorable race I have competed in was when I qualified for nationals my sophomore year," Link said.

Since swimming season is going on now until March, you can go to the pool and see just how well Link swims. If you do not get to see her swim for Grimsley don't worry because she competes on other teams all year.

be delayed or kept at a minimum.

"The equipment is all in good shape. It is one of the strengths of our program," said Sawyer.

The student body needs to remember the tight budget that the sports department will now be operating on in the upcoming months. Hopefully, everyone will take the time to attend some of the games held at Grimsley.

## Surprising NFL season will only get better

By Simon Newman  
Staff Writer

The NFL this year has had more than its share of surprises and disappointments.

The NFL has had some unexpected performances from previously unknown players. Simultaneously, some former powerhouses have been huge disappointments due to injuries or poor showings from some of their superb performers. This year the NFL championship is completely up for grabs, not like past years when only Dallas and San Francisco had a chance.

Some of the year's biggest surprises have come from teams who have become accustomed to dismal seasons. A prime example of that is from Cincinnati Bengal quarterback Jeff Blake. He has beaten many teams with the deep pass that he throws perfectly. Blake has made his team a true force and has turned around their tradition of being pathetic (now East Carolina finally has something about which they can brag). Another quarterback who has turned many heads this year is Carolina Panthers QB Kerry Collins. He has stepped up in his debut season to mold Carolina into a truly competitive team. Giving Collins the starting job over starting quarterback Frank Reich was probably the best decision that coach Dom Capers has made all year. Their stunning victory over the defending champion San Francisco 49ers will go down as one of the most stunning upsets of this decade.

Another surprise has come from the AFC, where the Kansas City Chiefs and the Oakland Raiders are being classified as true contenders. They have been mentioned in the same sentence as Dallas and San Francisco. Many feel that these teams have the best chance at giving the AFC the Super Bowl champions, something that they have been missing for many years.

Along with the surprises have also come the disappointments this year. The biggest disappointments have come

from the quarterback position. Who would have thought that Rodney Peete would lead the Eagles to the playoffs and that both the expansion teams would be starting a quarterback who had begun the year on the bench? The benching of Cunningham came as a surprise to all. The famed athlete started the season shaky, earning him a spot on the bench by first-year coach Ray Rhodes.

Both expansion teams have seen the need to bench their high-priced quarterbacks this year. Both Frank Reich and Steve Buerlein have lost the spotlight. Their replacements have brought life to the newly formed teams and give them a solid base for the future. Many people have been surprised by the fact that Kerry Collins and Mark Brunell have become the starting quarterbacks of their respective teams by the season's end.

This year's absolute disappointment: the Cleveland Browns. Expected by many to win their division, the Browns have quickly fallen into the cellar of the AFC. They have not even been able to defeat the dismal Houston Oilers this year. Their shoddy play has led to the benching of Vinny Testaverde for rookie Eric Zeier. The only spotlight that the team has attained this year is from their planned move to Baltimore next year. Art Modell has taken the life out of the many loyal fans in Cleveland.

Some disappointments have come from players who changed uniforms this past off-season. Both Andre Rison and Alvin Harper, the most esteemed free agents, have been unable to produce the numbers that their new teams need. Both came with expensive price tags but have failed to play up to their value. Rison was supposed to make Cleveland great but has been unable to hold onto the important throws. Harper's preseason injury has kept him to a subpar performance this year. Another disappointing free agent signing was Ricky Watters signing with the Philadelphia

Eagles. He was supposed to be the star of the team but has fallen into mediocrity. The only thing that he brought with him from San Francisco was controversy.

This NFL season has been one of the most surprising ones that we have witnessed. The NFL title has not been limited to just two teams this year, but has been expanded to incorporate a majority of the league. This year's Super Bowl looks to be a lot closer than the thrashing that San Diego received from San Francisco last January. Look for the playoffs this year to be one of the most surprising of the decade.

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