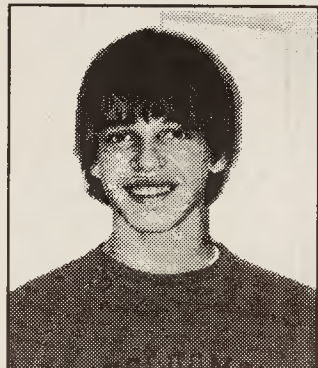


Up close with senior athletes

By Emily Saunders
Reporter



Leung photo

Davis Hammer

Sport: Men's Tennis
Position: 1
Sports Accomplishments: All-Conference, Regional Qualifier freshman-junior years
Favorite sports memory: "Beating Reynolds in second round of state playoffs."
Age when sport first played: 10
Favorite teacher: McNees
Biggest rival: Alex Pomer
Pre-game rituals: "Change in the parking lot, cat, then warm up."
Hardest class taken: "Calculus AB...wow, that stuff gets confusing."
Best advice to give to a younger player: "I own you."
Top college choices: NC State School of Design
Future prospects of ten years: "Building your house."
Hidden talent: Spoon basketball in physics
Current mode of transportation: Gold '92 Volvo 240
Dream car: "I already have it."
Favorite restaurant: Lucky 32
Favorite comfort food: Chocolate
Favorite movie: "Braveheart"
Favorite musical group: ABBA
Favorite ACC team: UNC
French fries or onion rings: Freedom fries
Cats or dogs: "Dogs...so much more fun."
Playground swings or slide: Monkey bars
Favorite store: Harris Teeter
Creamy peanut butter or crunchy: Crunchy
Fudge sauce or whipped cream: "I am allergic to lettuce."
Markers or crayons: Colored pencils
TV show never to miss: "UNC basketball...Go Heels."
Most prized possession: Helicopter air freshener
Last movie seen in theatres: "Passion of Christ"... a little gory, but that's deep stuff."
Clubs involved in: "Ultimate Frisbee...who needs anything else?"
What will be missed most about GHS: Collaborative period
Quote to live by: "Never let your schooling interfere with your education."



Leung photo

Jennifer Maynard

Sport: Women's Lacrosse
Position: Point (Defense)
Sports accomplishments: Captain
Favorite sports memory: "Not losing every game at the 2003 International draw tournament in New Jersey."
Age when sport first played: 15
Favorite teacher: McNees
Biggest rival: "East Chapel Hill's women's lacrosse team."
Pre-game rituals: "Eating a ham and cheese sandwich."
Hardest class taken: "IB History of the Americas, because I couldn't stay awake."
Top college choices: Guilford or Roanoke College
Favorite ACC team: "NC State; it's the only ACC school I got accepted to."
Best April Fool's prank: "Telling my mother I was pregnant."
Last movie seen in theatres: "'Starsky and Hutch'--- not great, but worth the money."
Current mode of transportation: "'95 Dodge Intrepid—the ugly gold one missing a hubcap."
Dream car: "'95 Gold Dodge Intrepid missing a hubcap."
Favorite restaurant: Jack's Corner Deli
Favorite movie: "A Clockwork Orange"
Favorite musical group: Modes and Mouse
Favorite store: "Target, definitely Target; it's like Wal-Mart, but classier."
Favorite comfort food: "Chicken gyro from Jack's Corner deli."
Favorite pizza topping: Pineapple
TV show never to miss: Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Playground swings or slide: Swings
Creamy peanut butter or crunchy: "Crunchy, it's more filling and noisier."
Cats or dogs: "Cats, you don't have to take them outside to pee."
Crossword puzzle or word search: "Word search, it requires no actual knowledge of vocabulary."
Spinach or broccoli: Broccoli
Most prized possession: "My boyfriend."

Batter up! Baseball swings as an old American favorite

Baseball for Dummies explores America's favorite pastime while considering its recent decline in popularity.

By Emily Saunders
Reporter

Beyond three bases, home plate, and a bat, little is known about the more precise rules of America's favorite pastime. With the basics of baseball, people can enjoy the sport by taking their friends and families to a ballgame.

Baseball consists of a series of nine innings. An inning is part of the game in which the teams switch between offense and defense, with three outs allowed per team. For half an inning, each team takes the field or goes to bat. The visiting team is first up at bat. The lineup, or the order in which the players step up to the plate, involves nine hitters. If three outs do not occur, the lineup starts again.

The pitcher, trying to strike the lineup out as soon as possible, can throw a wide variety of pitches. The most elementary of these pitches is a fastball. Other types include a curveball, slider, changeup, knuckle ball, or a fork ball. The pitcher ideally throws in the region between the batter's knees and armpits. When the batter either misses or does not swing at all, the umpire calls a strike. After the third strike, the batter is

out. If the pitch does not fall in the strike zone, and the batter does not swing, the umpire will award the batter by calling a ball. After the fourth ball, the batter takes a base, which is called walking.

The concept of stealing a base is not unknown, but knowing when and how to do so requires strategy. Base runners can steal a base as the pitcher is throwing a ball, but the catcher attempts to stop the runner by throwing the ball to an infielder to tag the runner. If the catcher does not retrieve the ball, the player at bat can steal a base as well. In these situations, if the pitcher is to blame, the umpire calls a wild pitch. However, if the catcher is at fault, it is a passed ball. The slightest mistake by an infielder, or even a split-second hesitation, can be all the time a runner needs to advance.

A feature of baseball that differs from basketball or football is the lack of a time limit.

"[There is] no clock, so [you] can't run out the game like football... It isn't as popular as football or basketball because some see the game as 'boring' or 'slow' to watch," said junior left and right fielder Tom Fahy.

The winds of change can gust through the game of baseball at any second of play. Senior pitcher and first baseman Phillip Jones describes this feeling.

"The great thing about baseball is that you can fail two out of three

times and still be great. You can strike out your first two at-bats and totally redeem yourself in the third and have a good batting average... You never know what is going to happen, so each pitch is vital, like stepping into the unknown. The most exciting thing is the fact that you are never out of a game, no matter how far behind you are. Baseball is a game of rallies," said Jones.

While the players may debate over which position is the most difficult to play, sometimes watching from the sidelines can be a harder spot than any on the field.

"[The hardest part about baseball is the fact that I have] no control on the field. All I can do is tell the players what to do and how to do it, but I can't go out and strike someone out or get a base hit myself," said Coach Sonny Gann.

Both Fahy and Jones would like to see a higher rate of attendance at games. They offered similar reasons as to why they believe the stands are not packed and as to why they should be.

"I feel people do not come [to games] because they find it boring, but all I can say to that is that it is and has been America's game for well over 100 years. People should attend to support their friends and to see a good group of guys doing something they love. Baseball is a good sport to attend...[and] going to games is a great experience," said Jones.

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