

Athletes score contracts with universities

BY BLAIRE BLOOMQUIST
Staff Writer

Numerous high school athletes imagine playing their sports at the college level, but few will ever get the chance. Many will chase their ambitions and climb up the sports mountain, but they will fall short. Carey Goodman, Erin Sykes, and Lionel Shoffner are part of an elite group of high school athletes

that are hoping to make their dreams a reality. These select athletes are earning partial scholarships to play their sports at Division I schools. All are anticipating that they will be able to contribute to their respective teams their freshman year.

Goodman, who always dreamed of playing as a Blue Devil, will enjoy that opportunity. She will be attending Duke University next fall and

play soccer as a forward. Although, balancing academics and athletics at a prestigious university will prove challenging, Goodman has maintained a balance between sports and academics ever since she started playing on a club team in eighth grade. She hopes to continue this balance throughout college.

"Work as hard as you can to achieve your goals, because any dream

can become a reality with hard work and effort," said Goodman. She intends to study either math or economics while meeting the demands of the team. Goodman has already selected a roommate, who is a member of the team. Additionally, she is excited to play for head coach, Robbie Church, because she experienced a very positive recruiting process with him.

Shoffner will continue to play football at Elon University as a full-back and linebacker; he has ten years of football experience. In order to play at the next level, Shoffner has been training harder while working to maintain and improve his grades. His most memorable athletic experiences of playing at Grimsley were: having a chance at the State Championship title last year and playing an undefeated regular



Top, L-R: Mr. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Parrish, Mr. and Mrs. Shoffner. Bottom L-R: Kelvin Murphy, Joseph Parrish, Lionel Shoffner. The boys all signed contracts to play football at the collegiate level. Adter finishing their undefeated season at GHS, they will compete at Campbell, Campbell, and Elon respectively.



Top, L-R: Coach Herk DeGraw, Interim Principal John Eldridge, and Coach Kevin Conaway. Bottom, L-R: Mr. Goodman, Carey Goodman, and Mrs. Goodman pose after Carey Goodman signed an official letter of intent to play soccer at Duke University. Goodman led the Whirlies in both goals and assists last season.

season this year. Shoffner's determined his choice of schools after a long and stressful process of considering all the possibilities with his parents and narrowing down his options. "Don't decide too quickly, play the field with colleges and make sure it's well-suited for you," said Shoffner of his decision. Shoffner is eager to contribute to the Phoenix in the coming season. Sykes will attend Duquesne Univer-

sity in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on a swimming scholarship. While attending Duquesne, she plans on studying History and International relations. "My decision to attend the university was based upon the liberal arts program, the location of the campus, and the swim team," said Sykes. She will continue to swim long distances such as the 500 and the 1000 yard freestyle. New team mates will join her from all over

the country, one being a friend from Raleigh. All three of these Grimsley athletes represent a select group. It will be interesting to track their progress in college and perhaps even as participants in the Olympics or professional sports. It is not easy to win an athletic scholarship to college. Competition is fierce, so counselors recommend students make their choice on academics foremost.

Skateboarding ranks high among teens

Students experiment with an unusual sport in an effort to escape the ordinary.

BY DEAN FOX
Sports Editor

Students who do not experience the adrenaline rush from popular sports like football and basketball often seek more extreme activities like skateboarding. In fact, serious skaters spend several days a week honing their skills through practice.

"I skate every day of the week," said freshman Tommy Malekoff, who has been skating for over two years.

One reason why skaters tend to enjoy their pastime is because it involves no regulations or officials.

"I like skating because there is no point except to do whatever you want," said senior Stuart Mize. "Traditional sports aren't as

much fun because they have rules."

Skaters consider their performances as art forms open to experimentation and creativity.

"There's always room for innovation in skateboarding," said Malekoff. "It will continue to change and progress, while regular sports tend to stay the same."

Some even take pictures and film videos of each other for fun.

"Video and photography are two of the biggest parts of skateboarding because they extend the creative aspect," said Malekoff, who explained his video clips eventually become part of full-length videos comprised of several talented skaters.

Also important, skateboarding provides a social activity.

"I started skating five or six years ago because a lot of my friends skated, and it seemed like fun," said

senior Julian Groover, who enjoys the casual aspect of the sport.

Skateboarders can choose from a variety of places to perfect their art. Some enjoy skate parks, where ramps and other skating structures are set up, and others prefer to skate in more "natural" places, such as in parking lots or around buildings.

"I usually skate at local businesses and colleges, and I occasionally go to the skate park," said Groover.

The park, located on E. Lee St., is named 915. Youth of all ages, from four or five to twenty or even older, come in to 915 skatepark to skate. The older youth also use 915 as a meeting place to skate around the city. 915 also has a shop of skateboards and shoes.

While skateboarding is most commonly a casual sport, competitions do occur in skate parks or venues considered good skate spots.

Mize, on the other

hand, has participated in a competitive event.

"At 915, when I was a freshman, I skated in a contest and took fourth," said Mize.

Judges of such contests consider the skaters' skill level, the number of tricks performed, and overall technique.

Though the consensus among skaters is that the sport is fun and innocent, some individuals view it as a

counterculture and a community problem. Business owners call police when skaters gather for sport near their buildings, as do officials at universities. Skating is illegal in many parts of town where it impedes commerce or traffic; therefore, those partaking can be legitimately forced to leave the areas in which they were skating.

"I've had the cops called on me dozens of times, and friends have been arrested for skating before," said Groover.

Mize and Malekoff have each had run-ins with police as well, but they agree it is not a big concern because they believe there is nothing wrong with skating, and no law should prevent them from enjoying their sport.

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