

Girls' volleyball team plays for a cure – as a teammate hopes for one

Chloe Knue | Staff Writer

When the Mason High School volleyball team played for a cure to beat breast cancer on September 13, the teams were also rais-

ing awareness for another cause, one that hits close to home – Leukemia.

Junior Liz Lothrop was diagnosed with Leukemia in 2008.

According to the varsity womens' volleyball coach Tiann Keesling, Lothrop is an inspiration to both her and Lothrop's fellow teammates.

"These girls know Liz on a person level," Keesling said. "Some have watched her daily battle, which makes this even more special. She is an inspiration."

According to varsity



Lothrop

volleyball player, junior Anna Carley, she said—Lothrop is a great teammate.

"Liz is one of the most upbeat and enthusiastic people I know," Carley said. "She is a hard worker who always wants to get better and improve her game."

According to Lothrop, it is hard for her to view herself as an inspiration. Although honored, Lothrop said she is just glad to be a part of a team that she is so close with.

"We are such a close team," Lothrop said. "I am lucky to have a coach and teammates that don't treat me any different because I'm going through treatment."

According to Keesling, she feels strongly about the Volley for a Cure event.

"Many people realize that a cure is needed for breast cancer and hosting a volleyball game is a great way to promote it," Keesling said. "Most people at Mason know what Liz has been through, and they know of her struggle."

When the volleyball team stepped out onto the court on the night of Volley for the Cure they were raising awareness for two causes breast cancer, and Leukemia for their friend and teammate.

"I think Volley for the Cure is an awesome event," Lothrop said. "It is a great way to bring together people for an important cause."

Girls' tennis pushes for a strong GMC finish

Katelyn Cain | Sports Editor

As of September 23, the girls' varsity green tennis team has a record of 12-2 and a second place standing in the GMC, a place the team wants to improve upon through the GMC tournament, which started September 28 and ends on October 1, and is a tournament that will decide what team wins the conference, according to sophomore singles player Nina Cepeda. "We know that [the GMC] schools will be really tough to beat, but winning the tournament is definitely possible for us," Cepeda said. "But we have an amazing team this year. We have improved tremendously since last year; we just have to stay determined and support each other."

According to Cepeda, the team has not won the GMC since 2007, and that is motivation for the team to push hard to achieve a first place finish.

"We really just want to finish up the season with a better result than last year, and we have a better attitude this season to really push hard to see how far we can go," Cepeda said.

Cepeda said that despite the team reaching towards doing well in the GMC tournament, the team has their sights on a larger goal.

"As a team, we really want to reach State," Cepeda said. "I think it's something that we can achieve if we stay motivated and don't let up. And, if we do well in the GMC tournament, that would give us a huge confidence boost and propell us toward great results."

SPORTS COLUMN

Despite a career-halting scandal, Michael Vick is back in the NFL; a rich and changed man



James Nosek | Staff Writer

You got to love a good scandal.

Tiger Woods anybody? Nobody wants to hear

about winning championships or breaking records, we want sex scandals, arrests and murders.

But the true story that comes out of a scandal is the aftermath. With Michael Vick signing his six year, 100 million dollar contract in early September, it helps to put his life in perspective. Here is a guy who four years ago was in a Kansas jail house for close to 548 days after he was charged with dog fighting.

And despite Vick breaking his right hand against the Giants last Sunday, the story behind his return is very heartwarming and inspirational, of course without the killing of innocent pit bulls. His charity work this offseason, including donating a million dollars to the Animal Hospital Foundation of America, has been the force behind his positive return into the public's eye.

For the 2011 season he even told the Philadelphia Daily News that he will donate five bags of dog food to local animal shelters every time he is tackled. Being Michael Vick that might not happen, because he's like tackling a pit bull, no pun intended, but it is a bold statement.

When I heard about his community work, I was put off for a second, "Mick Vick, helping the community?" Because when I think of Vick, there are three incidents that come to mind: the marijuana bottle incident in the airport, when he gave the bird to his own fans at the Georgia Dome and his dog fighting incident.

The "new-improved" Vick is something we are still getting used to, but he wants to turn-around his life, no question about it.

It's cliché to say, but everybody deserves a second chance; like the Blind Melon lyric, "When life is hard, you have to change," and I think Michael Dwayne Vick has done that.