

SPORTS X-TREME

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DC Sports Players Do Generous Deeds

by Harper Dunn, 5S and Katie Kennedy, 5C

In the last few weeks, DC sports teams have taken a big step towards helping out the community. DC's soccer team, DC United, recently held a big event where they shaved their heads for St. Baldricks, a cancer foundation. Among the DC United players involved were Perry Kitchen, center fielder; Ben Olsen, coach; Kofi Opare, defender, and Bobby Boswell, defender.

St. Baldricks is a volunteer-driven cancer foundation committed to finding cures for childhood cancers. St. Baldrick's regularly holds head-shaving events that help raise awareness and money for cancer-curing research. That's why these players did this very generous deed.

Another recent generous deed involved Braden Holtby, the Washington Capitals starting goalie. Last month, Holtby paired up with the Make-a-Wish foundation to make 13-year-old Caleb Graham's hockey dreams come true. Caleb's wish was to skate with Holtby, and the Make-a-Wish foundation made Caleb's wish come true. In addition to skating with Braden Holtby, Caleb and his family also got to go to a Capital's game against the Dallas Stars, at the Verizon Center.

Caleb Graham has a life threatening heart condition, so he has had to undergo many surgeries. Caleb lives in Healy, Alaska and has been skating since he was five years old.



DC United players go bald to raise money and awareness for fight against childhood cancers.



Caps Braden Holtby (right) makes 13-year-old Caleb Graham's (center) wish come true.

Just like Holtby, Caleb is a goaltender. He has played for the last two years on the Healy Coal Kings. Caleb got to eat breakfast and skate with Holtby at practice. He also got a tour of the locker room and was presented with a custom jersey and got to watch warmups from the bench.

These two generous actions may give you a hint of how kind DC sports players are.

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**Congratulations to Duke--
the 2015 NCAA Men's B-Ball Champs!**



Lafayette March Madness

by Elena Houghton and Robin Handley, 5C



Lafayette March Madness rocked the house! Both the boys and girls won the championship for the school. The girls beat Oyster Adams' B team and A team to win. The boys had to go through three teams-- Janney's A team, Janney's B team, and the championship game. There, they had to come back from being down 25-12 at the half, but come back they did. They probably played the best basketball of their season, winning 42-36 against H.D. Cooke.

Then the Lafayette alumni came and played the Lafayette students. Only two of the former students showed up though--Eli Moore and Elijah Johnson. So the players scrimmaged with one alumnus on each team. Eli Moore's team won by three points after Elijah's team was down 13 points with 46 seconds left to play.

Then the staff played the kids. Substitute teacher Ms. Edwards played along with Ms. Styles, the kindergarten helper and L. A. P Instructor. Also, Pre K teacher Mr. Johnson got his ballin' on. Even the principal, Dr. Broquard, got in on some of the action. The staff won with help from two fifth grade students, Isaiah Barnes and John Joire.

Finally, the last game of the annual Lafayette March Madness was the parents vs. teachers. The star for the parents was Mr. Jackson, and for the teachers it was an all-around good game. The teachers were just more athletic and ready to play than the parents. Also, the teachers had the touch on the 3-pointer and were hustling on fast-breaks. The only bright spot for the parents, was their 3-point shooting. The teachers won by 8 points.

Be ready for next year because this March Madness tradition is too popular to end!

The Kentucky Wildcats Fall Short

by Jonah Frumkin, 5G

When the NCAA tournament began this year, the Kentucky Wildcats were undefeated in NCAA men's college basketball. The Wildcats were the #1 seed with three other #1 seeds in the tournament. Only seven teams in men's college basketball history have had a perfect season and won the NCAA tournament. The last team to accomplish this was Indiana in 1976. Indiana had a perfect season with a 32-0 record.

Kentucky was the #1 seed in the East Conference for the tournament. In their first game, they beat Hampton (the 16th seed) by a score of 79-56. That game was pretty easy for them, they were outscoring and out rebounding them. The next game was against the Cincinnati Bearcats (the 8th seed). Kentucky knocked them off 64-51. The next game was in Cleveland, Ohio against the West Virginia Mountaineers. That game was just out of control. Kentucky was on fire! The score was a crushing 78-39.

After that they advanced to the Elite Eight and went on to face the Notre Dame Irish (the third seed). That game was very close with lead changes all throughout the game. In the end, Kentucky ended up winning 68-66 with Andrew Harrison's clutch free-throws in the final seconds. That meant that they won the regional part and that they get to go to the Final Four.

In the final four Kentucky went to play the Wisconsin Badgers. Now they were already 38-0 and two games away from winning the tournament. That game was pretty close and both teams played great. The game wasn't that good for the Wildcats in the beginning and middle of the first half. But then they tied it up to leave the first half at 36-36. Then in the second half the winning team kept on switching. Finally Wisconsin pulled away with a lead but still Kentucky came back and took the lead. In the final minutes Wisconsin made their move and held the Wildcats to a 71-64 win, and that win brought the Kentucky Wildcats' undefeated season to an end.





Chris Bosh

NBA Playoff Race

by Elena Houghton and Robin Handley, 5C

There are several games going on that will determine the eighth in both the West and East conferences. The Oklahoma City Thunder are in the spot for the eighth right now in the West. They have 40 wins and 30 losses and are 2 ½ games ahead of the Phoenix Suns. Oklahoma City is fighting injury, and Russell Westbrook is leading the league in triple doubles with 9.

The New Orleans Pelicans are a half game behind the Suns but star power forward Anthony Davis is battling shoulder and ankle injuries. Finally, the Dallas Mavericks have fallen to the seventh spot in the play-offs. Our predictions are that the Thunder are going to stay at the 8th seed, and New Orleans is going to fall back down and not make the play-offs.

Right now in the East, the Boston Celtics are in the eighth spot, half a game up on the Charlotte Bobcats, a game up on the Indiana Pacers and one and a half games up on the Brooklyn Nets. The Pacers have been amazing since February, going 13-8, and since there is a very slight chance that Paul George, their best player who has been out all season, might come back to play, we predict that the Pacers will probably make the playoffs. Do you agree?

What's Up With The Wizards?!

by Elena Houghton and Robin Handley, 5C

The Wizards are going into the playoffs! With the Hornets loss to the Boston Celtics, the Wizards have clinched their second straight playoff berth. They will probably end up as a five or six seed.

They have had injuries to Bradley Beal and Kris Humphries, but have still stayed in it. With players like starting all-star point guard John Wall partly injured, however, it's difficult to stay afloat completely.

Still, they have gotten back into their flow and have started playing like the Wizards we know and love. That's pretty good, but in their last few games, they have unfortunately been playing without much energy. To go far in the play-offs the Wizards must pick up the pace.



Bradley Beal high fiving his teammates.

Ms.Campbell and Ms.Skubel's Bracket Busters

by Harper Dunn, 5S, and Katie Kennedy, 5C

This year for the NCAA tournament, Ms.Campbell and Ms.Skubel's 5th grade classes have filled out brackets in class. Every day that there were games, these classes checked to see if their brackets were correct. If they guessed correctly, they colored the team name they put in green, if they guessed wrong, they colored the team name they put in red.

"I really liked it, because I got to see what other people thought," said ReRe Lowengrub. "It is a really great addition to normal ELA," added Paloma Benach.

On top of Ms.Campbell's bracket was Georgetown, but Georgetown went out early in the tournament. "Now, I think Kentucky will win." Ms.Campbell said. "I started doing this with my students because it's fun for me and the students," Ms.Campbell said. We both think that it is a fun alternative for regular class that gets kids involved in the madness!

Ed. Note: Like a lot of people, Ms. Campbell was wrong about Kentucky. They fell to Wisconsin, 71-64.



Nats Injury Update

by Christopher O'Brien, 5S

Several injuries have occurred to Nats players during Spring Training. Among them:

Jayson Werth underwent surgery on his right shoulder on January 9. He had arthroscopic surgery on his AC joint done at the Mayo Clinic. He will miss 2-3 months of the season.

Denard Span had surgery to repair a damaged right core muscle injury on March 9. He will likely be out until mid-May.

Anthony Rendon has been experiencing discomfort in his left knee after landing on it making a diving play. It is not known if he will play in opening day.

Hopefully, even with these injuries, the Nats will get back on track and have a good 2015 season.



Denard Span's bat and glove will be missed until mid-May.



WASHINGTON NATIONALS • VIERA, FLORIDA

SPRING TRAINING BALLPARK



 **Space Coast Stadium**

Space Coast Stadium was built in 1993 and is located at 5800 Stadium Parkway in Viera, Florida. The stadium serves as the spring training facility for the Washington Nationals as well as the regular season facility for the Brevard County Manatees, the Florida State League affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers.

Space Coast Stadium is named in honor of NASA's achievements over the past three plus decades, and this theme is echoed in every corner of the ballpark. The stadium can seat up to 8,100 fans, with every seat providing a great view of the field.



Nationals Spring Training

by Katie Kennedy, 5C, and Harper Dunn, 5S

During Spring Training, the Nationals have a small stadium in Viera, Florida where they prepare for the 2015 season. On a typical spring training day, the Nationals normally have a practice game, do drills, and practice in the batting cages. Then, just like at a normal game, hundreds of fans pour into the stands. Before and after the game, players will go to the stands and sign autographs for fans. Lots of teams on the northeast section of America practice in Florida, so there are about four games every week, because it is very easy for the players to get from one stadium to another. Teams that play farther to the west normally have training in places like Arizona. So these teams do not usually play each other in the pre-season.

We hope you got a little taste at what spring training is, and if you are ever able to go to experience it for yourself, make sure to get the full experience.

Many Early NFL Retirements Are Due to Injuries

by Matt Evans, and Josh Solomon, 5C



Chris Borland

Many NFL retirements have been announced and a lot of the players who are retiring are under 30 years old. Usually, these types of retirements occur because of an injury. One of the most frequent injuries to cause an athlete to retire is a head injury or concussion. Two players who had to deal with this in the past season are Chris Borland and Patrick Willis, both on the 49ers. Both of these players were a threat to other football teams so their retirement must have been a disappointment to the 49ers.

Also, the Tennessee Titans lost their starting quarterback, Jake Locker, who is also under 30. In fact, he is just 26 years old. Jake Locker played four pretty good seasons with the Titans.

Some of the biggest retirements of 2014 are Champ Bailey, Jason Collins, Dallas Clark, Nick Hardwick, and Jabari Greer. Each of these players' retirements will affect their teams. One reason is that the teams will need to find players to replace them. Also, each team will be less of a threat because all these retirees were players who made a difference. These retirements have been a big deal and subject of a lot of discussion during the offseason.

The NFL is working on changes in rules and in equipment that may help prevent these kinds of injuries. Let's hope that the NFL can prevent this from happening again, so your favorite player doesn't retire because of an injury.



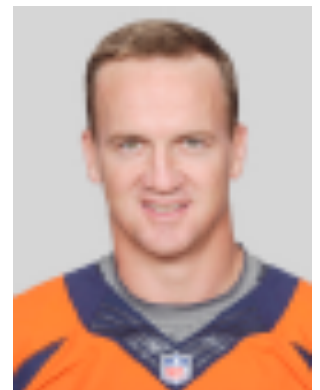
Jake Locker

Peyton Manning's New Contract

by Alli Bowman, 5G, and Katie Kennedy, 5C

The Colorado Broncos' quarterback Peyton Manning just signed a new contract for the 2015 NFL season. On this contract, Manning took a four million dollar salary cut, to provide more money for the team. Peyton Manning will have a base salary of 15 million dollars, instead of his old 19 million dollar base pay salary. "I don't talk about my contract," Manning said. "I never have in 18 years, and I'm not going to start now."

One reason, that this salary cut could be happening is the fact that Peyton Manning is one of the oldest players in the NFL. Manning is currently 39 years old. Two years older than Tom Brady, and five years older than his younger brother Eli Manning. This will be Manning's 17th season in the NFL which means over the years, he has had some health issues. For a long time, people have been questioning Manning's health as well as wondering about the possibility of when he would retire. Will this be the season Manning finally leaves the Broncos and the NFL? Or will he stay another year? Fifteen million dollars is a lot to turn down. Well, we'll all have to wait and find out.



Will 39-year-old QB Peyton Manning leave the Broncos or will he stay another year? 15 million dollars says he'll stay!



Douglas and Raisman Return

by Hannah Bocian, 5S

If you watched the 2012 Summer Olympics, you may remember the Fierce Five, the USA women's gold medal winning gymnastics team that created quite a buzz. Aly Raisman and Gabby Douglas also won other individual medals. Raisman got a bronze on beam and won gold on floor and became the first American woman to win a floor gold medal.

Gabby Douglas won the prestigious all-around competition and became the first African American to win that title. Well, the famous gymnasts have decided to make a comeback for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics! They are on the national 2015 team. Their first international competition since the Olympics will be the 2015 City of Jesolo Trophy. Hopefully they will be back and better than ever!



Aly Raisman won gold



Gabby Douglas won the prestigious all-around competition.

Why Maryland's Woman's Team Is So Good

by Akul Pappajohn, 5S

It took mighty UConn to defeat Maryland in the final four, 81-55. It will be UConn's third trip in a row to the final game, so Maryland was up against a powerhouse. But, in spite of what many consider a blowout, Maryland has nothing to be ashamed of.

The Maryland Women's team is super good, and they played very well throughout the tournament. First, the Maryland women beat perfect-but-not-so-perfect Princeton, 85-70. Their next game was against Duke, their arch rival, and they won that, 65-55. Next, they went on to play Tennessee in the Elite Eight and easily defeated No. 2 Tennessee, 58-48.

Maryland's star players are Mincey Laurin, Lexie Brown, and Briona Jones. Maryland is a team on the rise, so next year the gap between them and UConn will not be so big. **GO MARYLAND!**



Coach Brenda Frese is one of the reasons that Maryland is so good.



Maryland's Shatori Walker-Kimbrough shoots against Tennessee's Alexa Middleton during an Elite Eight game in the NCAA women's tournament.



Awesome! That was Maryland this year!

Soccer, the World's Sport:

Champions League Update

by John Joire, 5G

In Europe, the Champions League has just finished the round of 16. Only 8 teams have advanced to the quarter-finals. The teams that have advanced are Paris Saint-Germain, Bayern Munchen, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Monaco FC, Juventus, Atletico Madrid, and Porto FC. In the last leg of the Round of 16, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea played and the score was 2-2. Paris Saint-Germain won in the aggregate on away goals. Paris Saint-Germain had 2 away goals and Chelsea had 1. Real Madrid played FC Schalke. Real Madrid won in the aggregate 5-4. Barcelona beat Manchester City in the aggregate 3-1. Monaco won against Arsenal in the aggregate 3-2. Borussia Dortmund lost against Juventus 1-5. Atletico Madrid almost lost to Bayern Leverkusen all the way down to penalty kicks. FC Porto literally turned the Swiss club FC Basel into "Swiss cheese." They won in the aggregate 5-1 crushing Basel in the last leg, 4-0. Finally, Bayern Munchen beat the Ukrainian club Shakhtar Donetsk 7-0. The games that will be played in the quarter-finals are Paris Saint-Germain vs. Barcelona, Juventus vs. Monaco FC, Real Madrid vs. Atletico Madrid, and Bayern Munchen vs. Porto FC. Tune in to the quarter-finals, which will start on April 14.



World Sports: Cricket

The Unknown Sport

by John Joire, 5G

The sport cricket is not well known in the United States. It is even little known in Africa and South America. Just where the sport of cricket originated is unclear, but



Cricket looks a little like baseball in that there is a batter, and a pitcher called a bowler. There are 11 players on each of the two teams like in football.

there is evidence that strongly suggests it was created in Southeast England.

This year, the Cricket World Cup is taking place in Australia and New Zealand. The teams that are in it are New Zealand, Australia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, England, Afghanistan, Scotland, India, South Africa, Pakistan, West Indies, Ireland, Zimbabwe, and United Arab Emirates. There are two pools in the cricket world cup. Pool A and Pool B. The top of Pool A is New Zealand, and the top of Pool B is India. The Cricket World Cup has been going on for 40 years. Cricket is one of the most unknown sports in the Americas. You can help make it more popular by sharing things about the sport or watching it when it is shown on TV.

May 2nd--a Big Day in Sports

by Elena Houghton and Robin Handley, 5C

May 2nd is a big day in the world of sports. It is going to be the date of four major sports events. The fight that was just announced will make it a huge day for boxing, Manny Pacquiao will fight Floyd Mayweather in this featherweight bout. Many people consider Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather to be the best boxers in the business today. Mayweather is 47-0 and Manny is 57-5-2. The match is going to make 74 million dollars from ticket sales. The cheapest tickets are 2,500 dollars!



Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather are two of the world's best boxers.

Big Event # 3

There is also the biggest horse race of the year, the Kentucky Derby. It's a huge honor to be in it, and an even bigger honor to win it. California Chrome won it last year. This year's favorites have names like American Pharoah, Dortmund, Carpe Diem and Firing Line! It is a very short race, so don't be late if you intend to watch it on TV!

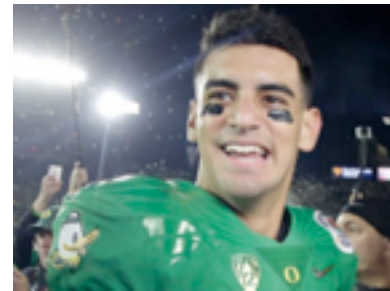
Big Event # 4

Lastly, an old favorite: Red Sox vs. Yankees. One of the biggest rivalries in the MLB heats up with their game scheduled on that day. So make sure to tune in to May 2nd sports!

Big Event # 2

The NFL draft's last day will also be underway with NFL teams drafting the top college prospects for their teams. This year's NFL draft may turn out to be one of the most tense since there might be some hopeful college prospects who, sadly, don't get picked, ending their football careers. The program is on ESPN and will take a lot of time, but the scouts' eye might pay off for the 2015-2016 season.

Oregon QB and Number One NFL draft prospect, Marcus Mariota (right).



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