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# COMMON SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL OF AMERICAN STUDIES AT LEHMAN COLLEGE



Vol. V... No. 2

SEPTEMBER 2007

FREE

## THE BOLLATI EFFECT RIPPLES THROUGH SPORTS

By David Morreti & Michael Hamlet

In the last week of June the American Studies basketball team traveled to Albright, Pennsylvania, for a basketball camp in order to prepare for the season. In the last two minutes of the ninth and final game held at the camp, team member Matt Bollati('08) was driving to the basket, dribbling with his left, when he planted both feet to jump toward the hoop for a lay up. As he did this his knee just "ripped apart," recalls Matt, "I could not bend my knee it was "pretty painful."

Matt got surgery on his ACL, an important tendon if you wish to bend your knee, and knew then that he would not be able to play basketball during his last season at the high school.

Matt was to attempt to live up to alumnus Dimitri Boyukliev's('07) role; now he will not have the opportunity. Bollati says he's not the "best player out there," but he and his teammates Carl Gayle('08)



Will Bollati('08) only be collecting Carl Gayle's('08) towels this season?

And Mike Dei('09) agree that everyone on the team is important.

Also, these three teammates agree that everyone on the team must now "step up" more than ever. "Especially the Gardner opportunity. Bollati says he's not twins" exclaimed Carl.

"I don't respect Carl as a person, I respect him as a basketball player", responded one half of the Gardner twins, Travis. He went on to say "I take that as a compliment."

When asked about Matt not being on the team, Dei stated that

the team would need to "find a way to get around it." Carl also said that he has learned a lot from Matt Bollati and that he has a "warrior like defense."

"Mike Hamlet('08) is a great player with a lot of heart and Eric Berman('08) will be very important to the team this upcoming season" added Carl Gayle.

"Matt Bollati's injury was a killer" commented head Basketball coach at HSAS, Chris Ballerini. He went on to state that despite this loss to the team "we are excited for the upcoming season... our main focus is winning games and getting back to the post season."

Overall, the teammates are optimistic about the upcoming season; although Bollati said he would be at the games to help and be head cheerleader, he limps through the hall of our school with an expression of disappointment because he cannot play for his final year. ☪

## HSAS BASEBALL PREVIEW

By Jasper Klein

Coming off a 4-12 season in the Bronx B Division, the HSAS baseball team is determined to win. Last year's seniors Aaron Greenwald('07) and Karl Roman('07) led the team on the playing field by having exceptional offensive seasons. This year's team will have to win without those valuable bats in their lineup.

The team will be missing, in total, five seniors from last year. This opens up many positions on the team, especially in the outfield for any one who is ready to step up. Right now the main body of the team's guaranteed returnees is mostly comprised of juniors. Third baseman Andrew Michalski('09) is coming off a fantastic offensive and defensive season where he batted .326.

Pitchers Ryan Allison('09) and Saddam Alma('09) are going to carry a large portion of the pitching this season. Alma spent the summer working on control and mechanics at the Big Apple Games, as well as Allison, who is looking to improve his curveball and develop reliable third and fourth pitches. The top candidate for shortstop, Esteban Gavaria, has been working on his defensive skills. The team will be better if last year's team MVP, pitcher Matt Bollati('08), will be

ready for the season as he comes off of a recent knee injury. If he is not ready, who will become the ace of the pitching staff?

"I am ready to step up and be the ace for the next two years," says Ryan Allison.

Of course, there may be a lot of new talent in this year's freshman class. The first practices will show Coach Blitz whether there are new prospects.

This season's team has a new look with many of its returning players getting much more playing time than they have had in the past. Although many important players were lost to graduation, more returning athletes look promising and they have already brought a new feel to the team.

When asked about the upcoming season, Coach Blitz, a Stuyvesant alumnus, said, "We will succeed."

Perhaps this will be a promising season for the team who has struggled so much in the past. For practice and tryout schedules all athletes should see Mr. Blitz in his office. ☪



J. Klein('09), Coach Blitz, R. Allison('09), M. Forrest('10) and M. Bollati('08)

## IF THE MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY BORO CHAMPS WERE THIS MONTH

- As of 9/25/2007
- Bronx Science - 38pts
- American Studies - 40pts
- Dewitt Clinton - 72pts
- Harry S. Truman - 142pts
- Herbert Lehman - 206pts
- Evander Childs - 229pts
- John F. Kennedy - 250pts
- Walton - 303pts

In Cross Country, The Lower The Score Better

**DO YOU** ever find yourself doodling on the margins of your paper? Do you recite poetry as you walk to school? Are you a photographer looking for someone to publish your work? You're in luck! Our school publishes a magazine once a year called Uncommon Sense. So, send your work to us by e-mail or drop it off in the Uncommon Sense mailbox located in the office.

### Uncommon Sense Staff

\*to submit: email us at [uncommon.sense@yahoo.com](mailto:uncommon.sense@yahoo.com) or place it in the uncommon sense mailbox in the main office  
\* to be a staff writer or editor: meetings are every other Monday after school in Room 126

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting is October 1<sup>st</sup>**