



AMERICAN STUDIES STUDENTS FOLLOW LOCAL NFL

By Devin Mullin('10)

The state of New York is fortunate enough to have three professional football teams. There are the Buffalo Bills, the New York Giants, and the New York Jets. The hopes of many New Yorkers are riding on these teams' chances of making the play-offs.

As of week 14 the Bills who are 5 and 8 have already eliminated themselves from contention, but the Jets and Giants still have a feasible shot at play-offs.

The Jets, with a record of 7 and 6, were only a game out of first in their division, and the Giants were two games back in their's with an identical record of 7 and 6 in week 14.

Common Sense is out to find out what the students of HSAS think about their prospects.

Matt Blaisdell('12) offered his opinion, saying "the Jets have no chance, because they're a one dimensional team."

This view was contrasted by Matt Forest('10) who said that "the Jets have the potential because of their miraculous rookie quarterback."

Aforementioned miraculous rookie quarterback, Mark Sanchez, didn't appear in a recent victory



Students at HSAS face off over local NFL rivalries.

over the Buccaneers, because he was resting an injured knee, but hopefully he will return for the remaining weeks.

The Jet's remaining games then were against the 6 and 7 Falcons, the 13 and 0 Colts and the 9 and 4 Bengals.

Students also sounded off about the Giants' play-off hopes.

Malik Akbar('11) says that "the Giants can make it, but they can't afford to give away any easy wins."

James Novick Smith('13)

believed the opposite weeks ago, saying "the Giants won't make it; they have the Eagles next week and they're not winning that game."

This turned out to be a wise prediction as the Giants lost to the Eagles 45 to 38.

The Giants' remaining games are against the 4 and 9 Redskins, the 5 and 8 Panthers and the 11 and 2 Vikings.

All these opinions may be tainted by these students' team affiliations. Malik said that he was a Giants fan and James is in fact an

Eagles fan often seen bravely sporting their jersey.

Because of these biases *Common Sense* went to someone with intricate knowledge of football who would also use cold, hard mathematical logic to make his decisions.

We speak of course of Mr. Baker.

When asked about the chances of these New York teams Mr. Baker said "in mathematical terms it's about 0. The Giants do have an outside chance though."

Considering his elimination of the Jets and Giants *Common Sense* wondered who Mr. Baker believed would make the Super Bowl.

Mr. Baker shared that the smart money would say the Indianapolis Colts versus the New Orleans Saints, both of whom are undefeated.

However, in football the top two seeds almost never play in the Super Bowl, which Mr. Baker knows very well.

This leaves Mr. Baker and many other informed sports fans to believe the Super Bowl will have a surprise team in the mix.

Go Teams(?) ☞

NOTHING BUT NETS By Andy Bell-Baltaci('12)

The New Jersey Nets started the 2009-'10 season with a record that will forever live in infamy: 0-18. At a recent game one fan even held up a sarcastic sign that read "Run for One," referring to the fact that the New Jersey fans would be "happy" to get just one win.

Long overdue, they did get that first win in Game #19, beating the previous losing opening record by one game.

During this stretch, the Nets fired head coach Lawrence Frank, hoping to get a fresh start. Another way they hope to have a fresh start is by moving to Brooklyn, NY.

"I'm really excited. For the first time I'll be supporting a local basketball team."

– Henry Comes('10)

Yes, Brooklyn. The Nets hope to be the "Brooklyn Nets" by June 2012 in a \$4.9 billion project named the Atlantic Yards Project, which has met opposition by nearby residents but would provide New York with not one, but two local basketball teams.

Recent Brooklyn transplant Henry Comes('10) liked the idea: "I'm really excited, and for the first time I'll be supporting a local

basketball team." He added he plans on getting "Nets jerseys and hats."

Mr. Blitz, whom everyone knows for his classic South Brooklyn accent, stated, "I think it would be great if the project went through."

He acknowledges that it will be "very expensive, and there are a lot of roadblocks, but it would do great things for the neighborhood."

"I don't care about the New Jersey Nets. They can move to Canada for all I care."

– Max Blaisdell('12)

Charles Roberts('11), who does not live in Brooklyn, still expressed his interest for the Nets and also had some words to say about the Knicks, who are currently the only team that wears "New York" on its road jerseys:

"I would go to Nets games in Brooklyn if they moved. They have a lot of talent but they're young and inexperienced. I think at the end of the year the Nets will have as many wins as the Knicks."

Because of the Nets' atrocious record, many students stated that they had no interest in the Nets and



Pictures taken by A. Bell-Baltaci('12)

wouldn't care what they did.

Jonathan Maythaler('13) said spitefully, "I think (the Nets) are terrible and they should just give up on life."

Max Blaisdell('12) said angrily, "I don't care about the New Jersey Nets. They can move to Canada for all I care."

Well, Canada is not in the cards, at least for now. But the project, which seats 18,000, according to the *New York Times*, is not yet a done deal. It is still being opposed by the Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn group.

Despite this opposition, the Nets are only a few minor steps away from finalizing a deal that would make Brooklyn their future home.

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One time Brooklyn resident, Mr. Blitz(above) & newly transplanted Henry Comes('10)(below) ponder the new Brooklyn stadium.

