



## MEN'S HOOPS AT HSAS OFF TO A SOUND START

By Eric Berman('08)

"Is this a JV team?" asked one of the referees as the HSAS boys basketball players walked out onto the court to scrimmage with Walton on November 13th. The difference was obvious: every player on Walton was over six feet tall and every player on American Studies was under six feet tall.

American Studies quickly showed the referee that they belonged on the court alongside the Division "A" Walton team. We made up for the lack of size with speed, quickness, and tough defense. Despite a valiant effort, the team technically lost the preseason scrimmage. When asked about the team's performance, Brandon Nguyen('11) thought that, "we need to work on rebounding and defense."

The team took lessons from the tough loss against Walton when they followed the scrimmage with another against a Queens Division "A" school, Grover Cleveland



C. Gayle('08) drive to the hoop at the first home game

Tigers.

Despite having only six players, the HSAS Senators came out and shocked the Queens champion by taking an early lead throughout the first quarter. The dominant performance of the first period was then cancelled out by the Senators' lackluster performance in the

second period. Grover Cleveland's Tigers cut the Senator's lead from eight points to one.

The Senators' fell behind, trailing by double digits. They spent the rest of the scrimmage trying to battle back. Despite their efforts, the team couldn't maintain the intensity of the first quarter nor

could they regain the lead.

Although the Senators lost both scrimmages, forward Travis Gardner('09), who led the team with 25 points against Grover Cleveland, is still optimistic. "I see a bright future for us," said Gardner. "We shouldn't let people count us out."

Then came our game against Bronx Leadership Academy. It was "the most marvelous and spectacular performance that I have ever witnessed from a group of high school players," exclaimed official team entourage member Utak West('08).

Although it was a strong performance, the head coach believed that there were still areas to improve upon. "We need to work on boxing out," said Coach Ballerini. "Our team is too small to try to jump with some of these guys."

After the win against BLA, American Studies played their home opener yesterday against Taft. With only seven players our team was defeated 99-63 in the Apex. ❧

## RED SOX IN THE BRONX

By Jasper Klien('09)

Why would someone in a Bronx high school be a Boston Red Sox fan, especially, with Yankee Stadium only a short subway ride away.

The New York Yankees are the most successful franchise in sports history and are located in the same borough as the High School of American Studies. Although the environment is ideal for Yankee fans, for some reason the Red Sox Nation has expanded into our school.

The Red Sox fans are among us and with the Red Sox winning the World Series, their fans are showing their colors. These people are brave to be fans of a team that is hated by the majority of New York City. These fans are getting confident as they openly root for the Red Sox in the halls of the school, and on the streets.

The Yankees v. Red Sox rivalry is not only on the field, but it is a rivalry among the fans. Long time Yankee faithful and a season ticket holder at Yankee Stadium, Mr. Blitz, expressed that he "hates the Red Sox and he hates the Red Sox fans."

Other teachers in our school such as Mr. Thoman, who is a New England native, and spent a portion of his

early life in Boston, was heard saying that he "detests the Red Sox." He also added that his "entire family are Red Sox fans."

Mr. Thoman clearly broke away from his family's baseball tradition as he told Common Sense that the, "Red Sox fans are the worst example of what a good baseball fan should be." He continued to say that "Red Sox fans are rude, obnoxious, and that includes my own family."

It's fair to say that student Red Sox fans are not entirely accepted by these members of the staff.

When asked, Peter Nauffts('11) says that he is a red sox fan mostly because his "dad is from Boston and (he) is a big Red Sox fan." Peter added that he "is a New England Patriots fan as well."

Some, such as Mr. Thoman, strayed away from the Red Sox despite his family ties. But others have fallen into Red Sox nation because of family like Peter Nauffts.

After the recent World Series win over the Colorado Rockies, student Nick Berkowitz('08) was asked why he is a Red Sox fan.

"My parents have always encouraged me to support the Sox," Nick told *Common Sense*.

Isaac De Los Santos('11) expressed his reason for being a Sox fan in the Bronx stating, "my father was a Sox fan and I mostly watched their games." ❧



N. Berkowitz is not alone at HSAS when it comes to Red Sox pride.

Mr. Mansdorf, who went to college in Boston says, "back when I lived in Boston I was sympathetic to the Red Sox because they hadn't won in so long." He now feels since "they have won I can't stand them. I think their fans are arrogant."

The staff seems not to be in favor of the Red Sox but there is a small number in the student body who show their loyalty to the Sox.

Many of these fans have been raised in Red Sox homes. Maybe these students will eventually follow Mr. Thoman's path of breaking away from the Red Sox family tradition or maybe one day they will raise their own kids to be Sox fans. ❧

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