

“Pride of Methacton”
Warrior Athletics – November/December Celebrations
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The “Pride of Methacton” newsletter is a monthly publication which delivers to our schools and community updates on the commendable achievements of our athletic programs and milestones reached by individual athletes. Please enjoy this installment of the “Pride of Methacton”, which focuses its attention on an introduction into our winter sports season. This month’s edition also includes our fall all-academic and citizen team.

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Methacton Girls Swimming:

Coach: Stephanie Saucy (4th year)

Update: Girls swimming is off to a great start. The upper class and a strong sophomore class will provide much help in earning points and putting together strong relays. The 15 swimmers new this year to the team makes the team the largest in awhile and show much promise in the next few years. There are 13 incoming freshmen, many of which have no prior swimming experience. This puts a different dynamic on the team. They are no likely to provide many points at this early time but could provide much needed depth in the upcoming months and especially in the next year or two.

Methacton Boys Swimming:

Methacton Boy's swimming is off to a great start for the 2018-19 season! The team is led by senior captains: Jon Groff, Will Tornambe, and Steven Zeng. The Warriors are 2-1 after two home meets last week (115-34 against Pottsgrove & 103-45 against Pope John Paul) and one away meet this week (Spring Ford 77-93). During the first week and a half of competition, four boys have hit district qualifying times in individual events: Tommy Gibbs (FR) - 100 Butterfly; Jan Perez Bonilla (SO) - 100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle, & 100 Butterfly; Jon Groff (SR) - 50 Freestyle; and Noah Caplan (SR) - 100 Breaststroke. Two relays have also qualified for districts: 200 Free Relay - Gibbs, Caplan, Groff,

Perez-Bonilla; 400 Free Relay - Groff, Zeng, Gibbs, Caplan. Many of the boys on the team have been swimming personal best races in just the first three meets of the season! As a team, we are excited how fast everyone is swimming and can't wait to see how we compare to the rest of the PAC. From a coaching perspective, we are proud that the boys are seeing their hard work pay off, and while we are still really early in the season, we are excited about their performances over the next couple of months. Congratulations to Noah Caplan for receiving his acceptance letter from Wheaton College (Massachusetts), where he will continue to swim at the collegiate level.

Methacton Diving:

The team has come out hot with a significant improvement from last year. We have added four new divers to the team with Meaghan Drum and Keira Halfpenny (both freshman) battling it out for the top place on the team, with Hayden Aubrey (senior) and Sami Burstein (sophomore) in the mix. The boys team has also been striving for personal records and new dives, improving significantly from last year. Gage Caputo (junior) and Max Markowitz (senior) closely fighting for second and third places. Travis Henrick (sophomore) has already made a district qualifying score of 235.60.

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Methacton Boys Indoor Track:

The start of the winter season saw a record turnout (72) for the 2018-19 Warriors. To kick it off the MHS squad competed well at Ursinus, Lehigh, and Ocean Breeze in the Bishop Laughlin Games. Performances of note include: Ty Darby who qualified for the Meet of Champions in the 60 Meter Dash, Matt Varghese, 4:38 opener in the Mile, Charles D'Orazio and Jack Kapralick 1000 Meter PRS at 2:48, Aaron Sanchez 19-11.5 in the Long Jump. The next competition for Methacton is Saturday, December 22 at Lehigh.

Methacton Girls Indoor Track:

Coach: Rob Ronzano (21st season)

The Girls Winter Track and Field Team has a completely new look for the 2018-2019 season. The large graduating class of 2018 left many gaping holes in the program, but they are quickly being filled by the incoming freshman and new recruits to the program. Over 70% of the team is comprised of athletes in their first year of high school competition.

Although the majority of the team is young, the veteran leadership has been evident in the first few meets of the season. Junior Camille Dunham qualified for the Meet of Champions in both the Long Jump and the Triple Jump in the first meet. Fellow junior, Corrine Meyer, also qualified for the post season meet in the High Jump in the same meet. Senior Nickie Anelli (Pole Vault) and sophomore Madi Eastmure (60M Hurdles) qualified for the MOC in the second meet at Lehigh University. Other athletes that have started off the season with impressive performances are Juliana Keenan (200/400), Shannon O'Brien (400), Kristen Riddell (400/800) and Devon Petrei (800/Mile). The girls travel to Penn State this weekend. They will head to Lehigh University and Staten Island later in the month.

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Methacton Boys Basketball:

Team: Methacton

Head coach: Jeff Derstine - 9th Season at Methacton

Last year's record: 18-8

Key returners:

David Duda, 6'3" Senior, Guard
Jeff Woodward, 6'9" Junior, Center
Marcus Girardo, 6'1" Senior, Guard
Brett Eberly, 5'11" Junior, Guard
Owen Kropp, 6'0" Junior, Guard
Ben Christian, 6'3" Senior, Forward
Conor Smith, 6'0" Senior, Guard
Aiden Hazlett, 6'4" Senior, Center

Players to watch:

Erik Timko, 6'2" Junior, Guard
Zander Laconi, 6'1" Junior, Forward
Steven Penjuka, 6'2" Sophomore, Guard
Brett Byrne, 5'11" Freshman, Guard

Coach's outlook: The 2018-2019 Methacton Warriors return a strong and experienced group of players. Having lost only one starter in Noah Kitaw, the core of this team has been playing together for two full years. David Duda, Jeff Woodward, Brett Eberly, Marcus Girardo, Owen Kropp, Ben Christian, Conor Smith, and Aiden Hazlett gained valuable experience last season and look to provide strong leadership for the team this year. In addition to the returning core, there is a talented group of newcomers led by Junior Erik Timko, that will look to step on the floor and make an immediate impact. While we expect the competition to be extremely tough this season, we look forward to challenge of a competing for a PAC Championship and earning the opportunity to play post-season basketball in March! The Methacton Boys Basketball team would like to add a note of appreciation to all of our fans, including the "TRIBE", for the incredible energy, enthusiasm, and support that they provide all season long! GO WARRIORS!

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Methacton Girls Basketball:

The Girls Basketball team is currently off to a great start with a record of 4-1 overall and 1-1 in the PAC. The team won the Lady Warrior Classic Tip-Off Tournament for the fifth time in the eleven-year history of the tournament. They defeated local rival Lansdale Catholic in the title game 54-43. Senior Abby Penjuka and Freshman Nicole Timko were named to the All-Tournament team for their great performances in the two games. Nicole Timko currently leads the team in scoring averaging 12.2 ppg. Junior Sydney Hargrove has put up 9.2 ppg. Abby Penjuka 8.2 ppg. Junior Sydney Tornetta 7.2 ppg and the fifth starter Junior Caroline Pellicano 5.2 ppg Senior Sara Markley,

Sophomore Alli Hazlett and Freshman Tori Bockrath have all provided valuable minutes and scoring off the bench. The team will be heading to Wildwood, NJ over the holidays to participate in the Wildwood Boardwalk Basketball Classic at the Wildwood Convention Center. The tournament brackets feature teams from NJ, PA, MD and MA this year. The Lady Warriors will be there 12/29 and 12/30. The team is looking forward to this annual trip that we are doing for the 13th straight year.

The JV team has a 1-4 record on the season. Sophomore Alli Hazlett is averaging 9.0 ppg to lead the team. Freshmen Nina Martino 5.6 ppg, Tori Bockrath 4.0 ppg and Caitlin Woolbert 4.0 ppg have also made great contributions in the games so far.

Methacton Wrestling:

Head coach: Brad Clark, 2nd year

Last year's record: PAC 2-3, Overall 11-10

Wrestlers to watch: Tonee Ellis, SR, Wt Class 220, Kibwe McNair JR 132, Roman Moser Jr 152, Jorge Carmona SR 120. Will Rebert SR 126,

Outlook: We are led by a strong core of Seniors, Followed by a tough Junior Class. We are looking to compete with the top teams in the PAC, district, and region. We are led by five returning regional qualifiers Tonee Ellis, Kibwe McNair, Roman Moser, Jorge Carmona, and Will Rebert. Three returning three qualifiers Tonee Ellis, Kibwe McNair, and Roman Moser

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Please contact me with any suggestions or feedback regarding this publication. The Athletic Office is working hard to continue to strengthen our relationship with the school community by providing the best possible communication.

Paul Spiewak, Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities