

The Blue & Gray

December

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Ping Pong Club Holds Annual Doubles Tourney

By: Travis Gassner

Wednesday, November 15th was another exciting night for the "pongers" of MHS, as the Ping-Pong Club's 4th Annual Doubles Tournament went down. Balls were soaring and paddles were cracking, and although numbers were low, there was still stiff competition all about and loads of fun.

Club President Travis Gassner commented on the tournament saying, "The best of the best of MHS showed up to play, making each match extremely competitive and crucial." He added, "I mean, Bryson McTighe even shattered his paddle on the gym floor because he couldn't handle the intensity."

Ten total doubles teams showed up for the tournament, ranging from guys teaming up with guys, girls teaming up with girls, and a lone co-ed team. After the opening round of play concluded, senior Jason Pappas and St. Rose junior, Chris Marx, earned the number one seed going into the playoffs. Seniors Travis Gassner and Bryson McTighe claimed the two seed, and seniors Kent Ochse and Pat Swift grabbed the third.



Bryson McTighe and Travis Gassner teamed up for the competition.

Surprisingly, former "King of Ping" Alex Otchy, and his partner Steve Schatzman made a very early exit in tournament play.

All three top seeded teams easily won their quarterfinal matches and moved onto the semifinals, where the most significant match was Gassner and McTighe facing off against Swift and Ochse. Swift and Ochse squeaked by with the win, taking the three game series 2-1, with the third and final game as close as could be, ending with the score of 11-9.

Swift and Ochse were then greeted by Pappas and Marx in the championship round. Although Swift and Ochse posed an early threat by winning the opening game, this Spring Lake-dominated final followed suit with the

number one seed of Pappas and Marx coming out on top. "A lot of great players competed in the tournament so every match was exciting," said Bryson McTighe commenting on the overall success of the tournament.

The next Ping-Pong Club meeting will be held on December 6th at its usual time of 6:30 in the gym..

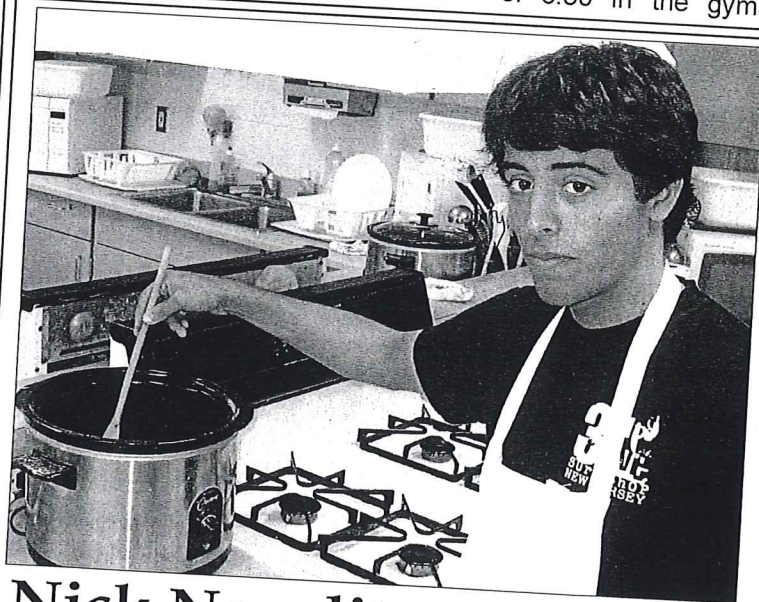
SOAR Launches Jewelry Project

By: Kaitlyn Turi

On November 13th, 14th and 16th Mrs. Caci and seventeen students learned about jewelry making and participated in constructing their own jewelry pieces. They were visited by professional jewelry makers after school in the evening, who talked about their careers. Celia Berg talked to the group about life in the jewelry business for years, working for Christian Dior. Her most prominent responsibility is doing work enameling ivory and bone. Krislyn Sorour owns Under Moon, a jewelry store on Main Street in Belmar. She talked to the students about being a store owner and selling her own jewelry

in the store. For learning purposes she simplified the process of getting started, and told them to begin on a small scale. "I liked her the best. She showed us that jewelry could be your job, not just a hobby," said senior Cara Kovats.

Engineer Shelly Berry taught the students about the history of jewelry; going back to ancient times she told them that jewelry started out as bones and animal teeth. Jewelry made of gold and silver didn't come about until the Egyptians began making it around 3,000 years ago. Egyptians were also the first to incorporate stones into their jewelry. She talked about different stages of jewelry history taking the



Nick Napalitano Named Chef of the Month!

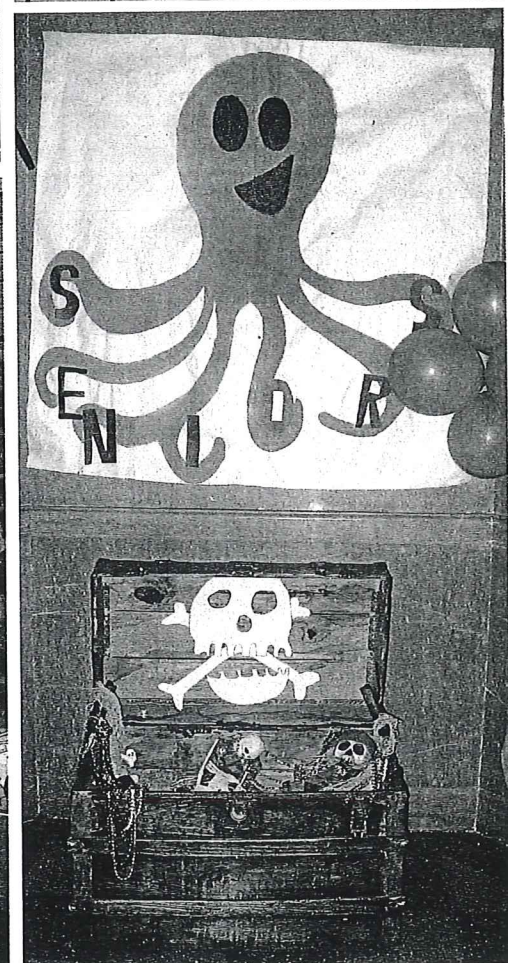
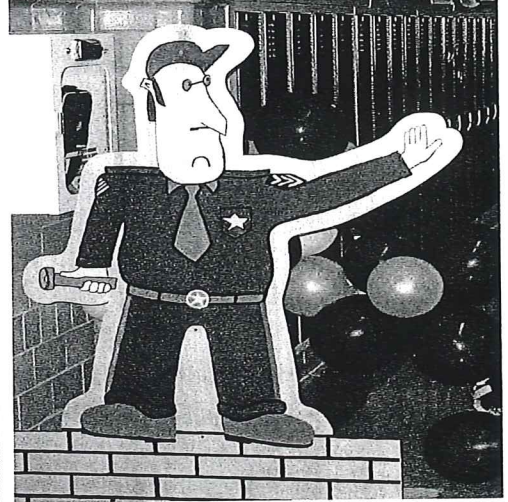
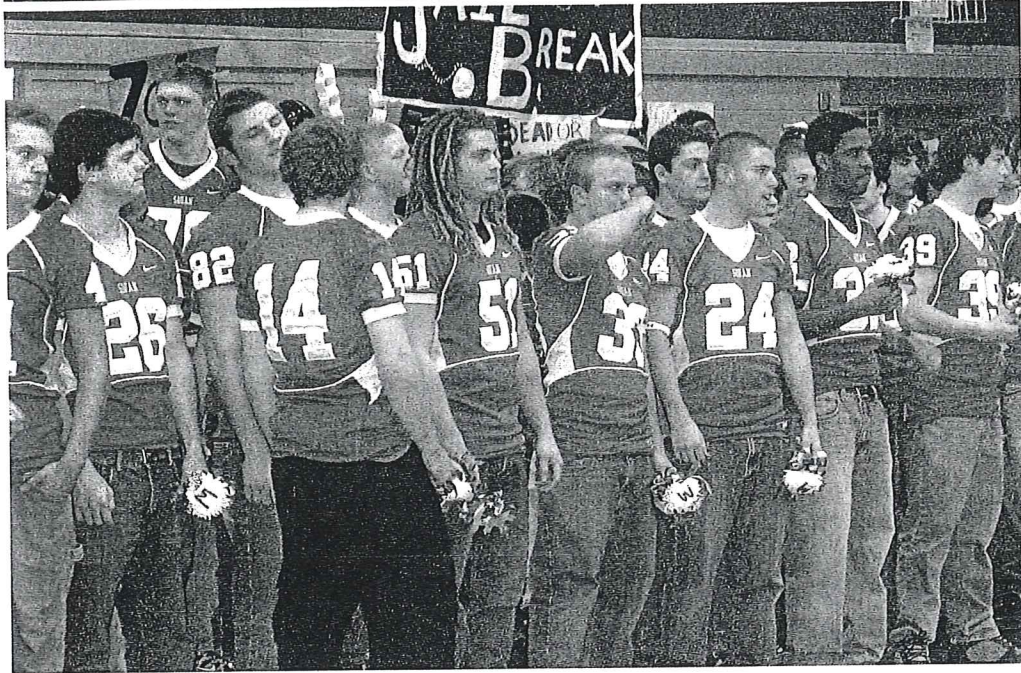
"Nick is always ready to help his fellow classmates and is very skilled," commented Ms. Yuhas.

students through Medieval, renaissance, and Elizabethan eras, all the way up to present.

When Shelly Berry was finished talking about the history of jewelry she gave a lesson on bending wires

to make earrings. All of the students made their own bracelet and pair of earrings.

The Jewelry SOAR Project was a huge success and a lot of fun!



Floats Flood Manasquan Main Street

Despite the heavy rain on Wednesday, November 22, 2006 that cancelled the annual Bonfire, the Homecoming parade still went on. In continued tradition, the class floats were judged by faculty, adding points to the classes' cumulative pep rally scores. Ultimately, the seniors earned a first place win over the freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and the art club.

Fugitive Frosh

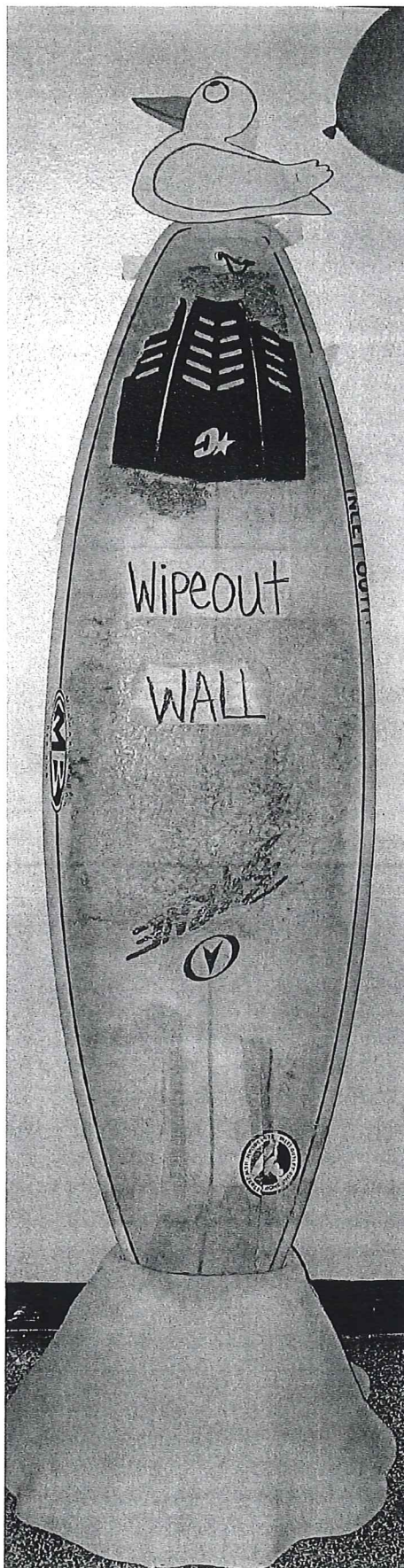
By: Kaitlyn Turi

The Freshman float really came together despite some frightening, last minute miscommunications. They had been provided with a car trailer instead of a flatbed, and didn't fix the mistake until the night before the parade. But in the end they were left with a 20 foot long flatbed to create their float. Freshman students constructed a jail cell that can hold between five and six students, who were dressed in convict stripes. They also took the "human" cut outs from the upstairs hallway doors and placed them on their float. A tape playing siren sounds and police lights were also worked into the float. Tyler Pappas, Danica Kovats, Jackie McKelvey, Mike Frasco, Amy Agoliatj, Kerri Spillane, Toniann Fernandez, Jordan Craig and Matt Sanders all worked very hard. "This is one of the best Freshman classes we've had," said class advisor, Mr. Driscoll. "They worked hard and worked well together."

Juniors in Wonderland

By: Katya Palsi

When asked about the float competition, juniors Jared Schwartz, Amanda Lombardi, and Megan Horn all answered in unison, "What competition?" Needless to say, the class representatives and others who worked on the junior float were very proud, as they should have been. The theme of the junior float was "Juniors in Wonderland." The float was mostly red, representing the junior class's color. About 15 people got together four times a week at Abby Forman's house to work hard on this masterpiece. During the float get-togethers there was singing and laughter along with Jared Schwartz scarfing down a few tasty treats. As Amanda Lombardi said "some people come to work, others- aka- Jared- come to eat." They may not have won, but they had a good time.



Viva Las Sophs

By: John Zimmerman

Viva Las Sophs! The Las Vegas themed sophomore class float struck awe into the hearts of many after hours of work. Pat Gallagher headed the construction of the float by lending his time and house. Prior to the parade, Miss West, adviser to the sophomore class, said that everyone would be in overwhelming amazement when the float was revealed. She was right. With music blasting on Thanksgiving eve, everyone was excited by the sophomore class float.

Under the Seaniors

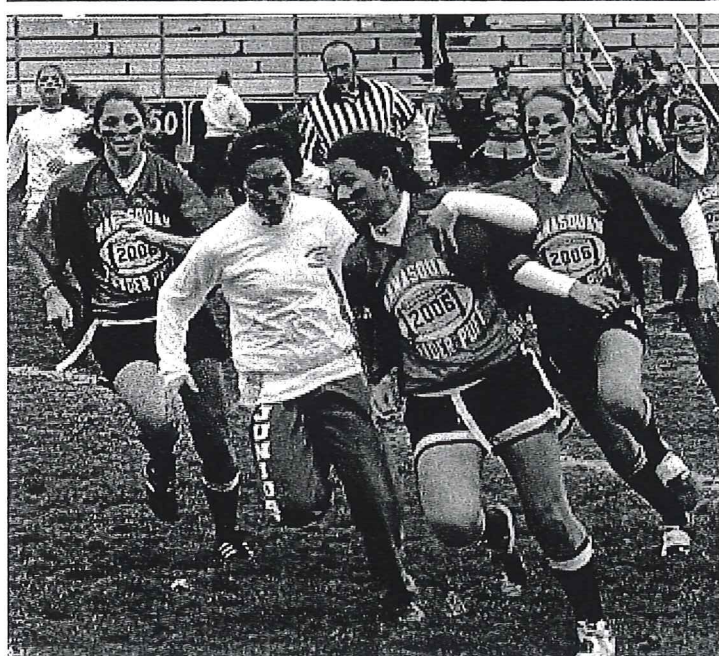
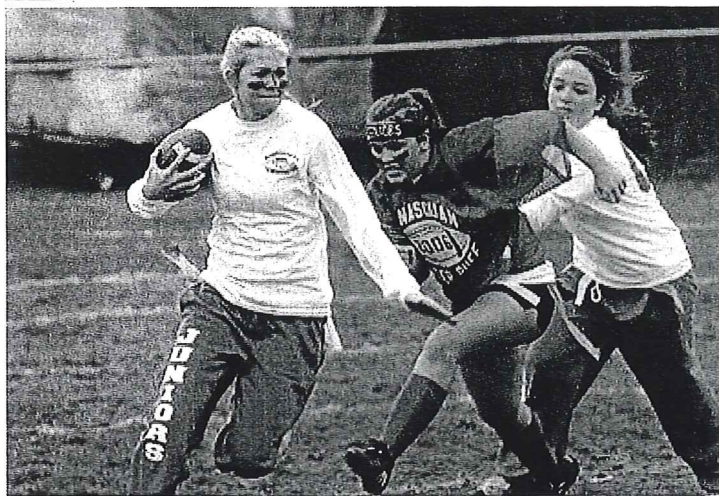
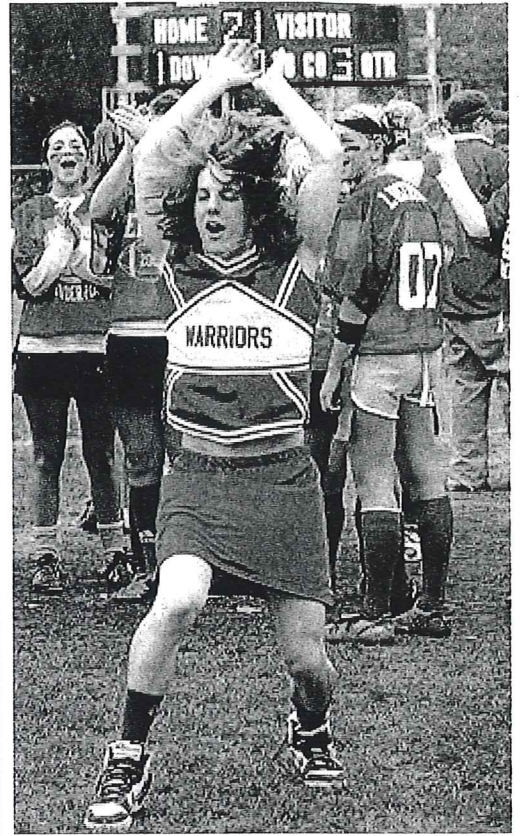
By: Maggie Ward

Under the Seaniors is where everyone wants to be, right? This year's senior class worked extremely hard putting together a very intricate underwater scene on their float. Among the many students who offered their time and advice were Nora Wallace, Meghan Quigley, Jamie Gyftakis, and Emily Govel. The float consisted of wood planks, fish and other underwater creatures. On the seven foot wave, stood a life size Barbie doll surfing in an Indian headdress while doing the chop.

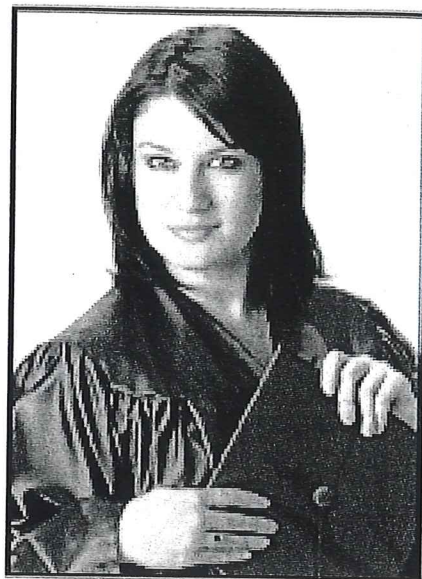
Art Club Artcade

By: Jamee Shea

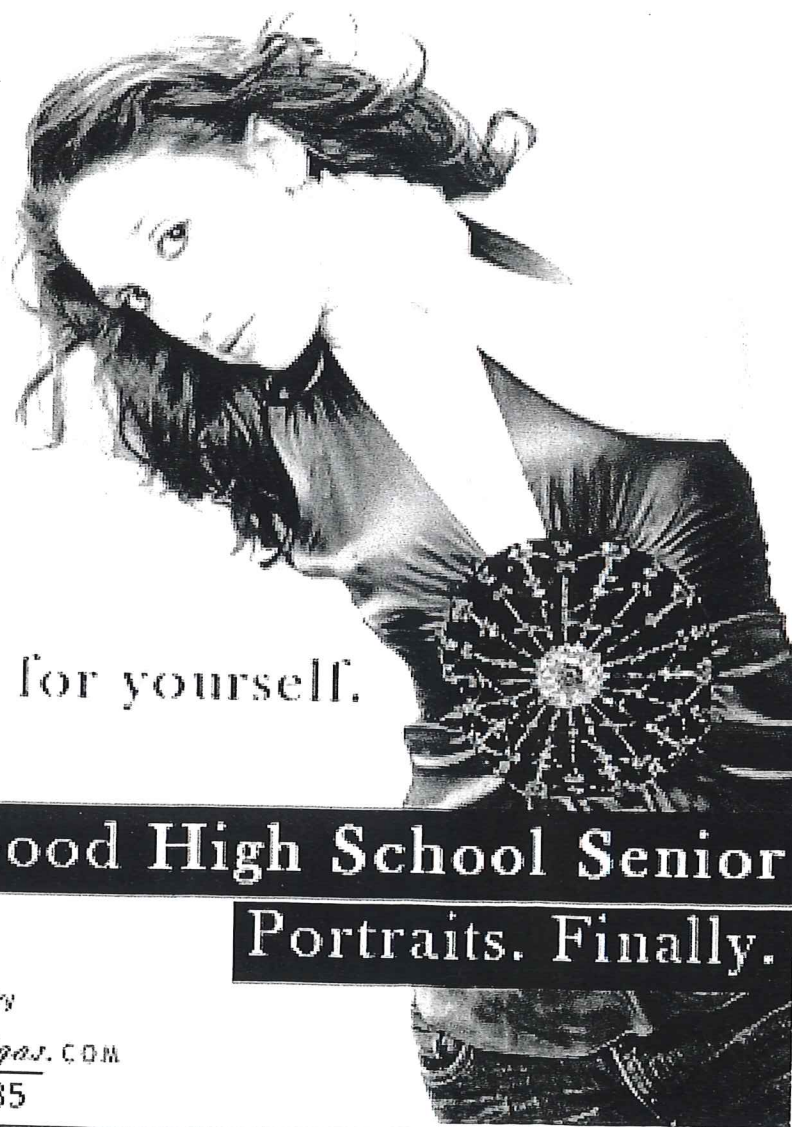
The Art Club's float this year had a theme everyone young and old should enjoy - the Classic Arcade. It included old favorites such as Pacman, Super Mario, Zelda, Galica, Sonic, and Tetris. However, there wasn't enough help during the creating stage, but in the end members worked well under the pressure and were able to get everything put together. Club advisor Mrs. Treney loves how creative her members were in making the float. Although they did not win best float, everyone in Art Club wowed the crowd at the parade.



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COLLEGE SPORTS



OSU Set to Face Off Against the Gators

By: Boomer Ward

Coming into the weekend of Dec. 2, the BCS Championship game looked set as Ohio State vs. USC. All USC had to do was beat cross-town rival, the UCLA Bruins. However, they couldn't get past the pesky Bruins, and the debate as to who should play Ohio State began.

That debate however finished the next day when the new BCS rankings came out. This time the national championship nod went to the Gators of Florida, instead of the Michigan Wolverines. In the past three weeks, there have been three #2 teams, but now there is only one.

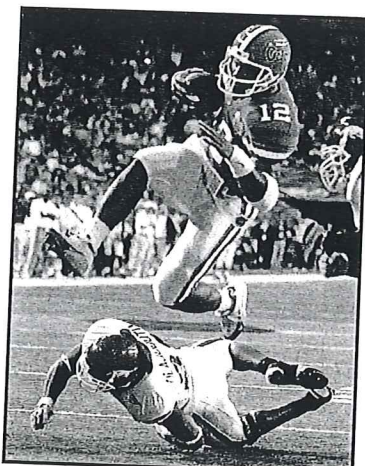
On January 8, in Glendale, Arizona, the Buckeyes will take on the Gators to determine this year's national championship. The match-up features two of the best offenses in the nation, and two experienced and battle-tested quarterbacks.

The Buckeyes head into the national championship with a perfect 12-0 record and the #1 ranking in the country. Heisman front-runner QB Troy Smith leads this talented cast. Smith has had a huge year through the air with many good wide-receivers including Ted Ginn and Anthony Gonzalez. OSU also has a solid running game with Antonio Pittman, who rushed for over 1100 yards this season. The defense is lead by sophomore

line-backer James Laurinaitis.

The Gators are also a very strong team, having lost only 1 game with the toughest schedule in America. After the big victory in the SEC championship game, the Gators looked poised to give the Buckeyes a run for their money. QB Chris Leak has had a solid year, passing for 22 TD's. Freshman QB Tim Tebow also provides a spark when he comes into the game for Leak. Tebow has over 400 yards rushing and 11 total TD. Percy Harvin is another freshman sparkplug for the Gator offense. Harvin has 406 yards on the ground and 367 receiving yards. The Gators, like always, have a very-talented and deep defense.

Even though there is a lot of time between now and the game, when the time comes to play this game, it will be worth the wait.



Florida QB Chris Leak jumps into the end zone against Arkansas.



Troy Smith (#10) of Ohio State will face Chris Leak (#12) and the Florida Gators in the national championship.

Blue and Gray Top 10's

College Football

College Basketball

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
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- 10.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Thanksgiving 2006

Manasquan Warriors Vs. Wall Knights



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35

The 48-hour delay due to bad weather did not hinder the crowd of well over 3,500 from attending the annual Thanksgiving rivalry game between Manasquan and Wall. Coming off two big state playoff wins, the Warriors were ready for the Knights and used their dangerous offense and devastating defense to easily win 35-7. Mike Mele ran for 153 yards on 23 carries with two touchdowns, while quarterback Alex Otchy went 5-for-6 with 100 yards and two touchdowns also. Other touchdowns came from seniors Eddie Kirschenbaum, Kelly Mahon, Brad Newman, and junior Chazz Coursey. Newman also recorded three sacks to help shut down the Wall offense.



W
7

