



Water for Elephants: Movie or Novel?

"It's a mere hiccup at first, an instant of hesitation. How old are you? Oh, I'm-you start confidently but then you stop. You were going to say thirty-three but you're not. You're thirty-five. And then you're bothered because you wonder if this is the beginning of the end. It is, of course, but it's decades before you admit it."

Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen, is a memorable book by all means. It is written really well, except, some say it even starts off slow. Which, I guess I could agree with. But in the end, the book was easily one of the best written stories of love, defying the rules, and being what every teenage stand for; free.

The adventure starts off with "90 or 93" year old Jacob in a nursing home. As he reflects on his life, the reader can feel that his life was a difficult time. This part took a while, causing the book to seem as if it were going to be a slow, cruel book to read. However, as soon as a new man sits at Jacob's dinner table and tells the women of his amazing tales of the circus and how he would bring water to the elephants. This is where the book begins.

As the Jacob begins to recall his life, putting the book down and turning the light off become more and more difficult. His love with the trainer's wife, Marlena, and their barred love somehow defies all clichés. The pain and strength they give each other throughout the book touch the reader's heart without making the audience gag. Life threats and being red lighted are always in the back of Jacob's mind as he must protect himself, Marlena, and his friends of outcasts.

With such an amazingly well written book, it was hard to believe that the movie wasn't going to ruin it. It was surprising when the movie did nothing but accurately paint the pictures that were in my head on the screen. It created the feel of the Prohibition era. It created the old time circus

ert Pattinson was going to be playing Jacob, I was frustrated. I almost idolized him and now a vampire was going to ruin it. Well, I was wrong. Extremely wrong, actually. He fit the powerful, yet soft role perfectly. Reese Witherspoon managed to pull off playing the strong, but weak heroine Marlena without fault. Even though they were perfectly casted separately, the chemistry between the two characters wasn't as strong as it was in the book. But individually, they were flawless.

I was disappointed when I noticed that they totally cut Uncle Al out of the entire plot, considering he was the ring leader-no pun on words. August was the only villain, which I was really happy to see. But I would have been nice to have the real puppet master in the movie. I was also frustrated when Jacob didn't appear all throughout the movie. However, neither one of these critics demolished the enjoyment of the audience.

The matureness required to understand the relationships and even the events in the novel, or even the movie, are easily reachable for teenagers. It is completely relatable for kids in high school. Most kids have been in love with someone they aren't really allowed to. It's possible that a bunch of people have even wanted something that is bluntly too impossible to reach. And even more have chased it. In some ways The Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth is a lot like Manasquan High School. No matter what happens, friends stick together. And we all are chasing our dreams. No matter how much everyone wants to get out, there's something that draws them back in. So if you're ready to have some fun on an adventure of betrayal, love, pain, loss, and most of all fun, read the book. It'll be worth it.

Overall, the movie and the book complimented each other effortlessly. This unstoppable duo is surely to rival that of The Notebook. And we all thought that was impossible. So let your mind be blown and take a walk on the unfathomable side of life.

**"LIFE
IS THE MOST
SPECTACULAR**

If you like Water for Elephants try these books also by Sara Gruen

The Voice



By: Caity O'Donnell

"The one thing that really stands out about this show is the fact that it stands exactly for what it says 'The Voice.'"

- Christina Aguilera

TEAM CHRISTINA TEAM CEE LO

Tarralyn Ramsey	Vicci Martinez
Frenchie Davis	Kelsey Rey
Beverly McClellan	Tje Austin
Lily Elise	Nakia
Cherie Oakley	Tori & Taylor
Raquel Castro	Emily Valentine
Julia Eason	Curtis Grimes
Justin Grennan	Niki Dawson

TEAM ADAM TEAM BLAKE

Jeff Jenkins	Patrick Thomas
Rebecca Loebe	Elenowen
Javier Colon	Xenia
Angela Wolff	Jared Blake
Devon Barley	Tyler Robinson
Casey Weston	Dia Frampton
Tim Mahoney	Serabee
Casey Desmond	Sara Oromchi

"The Voice" is a vocal competition series modeled after Holland's top-rated talent discovery show, "The Voice of Holland." Hosted by Carson Daly, the show features four musician coaches: Christina Aguilera, Cee Lo Green, Adam Levine and Blake Shelton, who will coach only the most talented vocalists. The show's format features three stages of competition: the first begins with the blind audition, and then the competition enters into a battle phase, and finally, the live performance. The show's casting team is working with the music industry and searching the country for the best singers to bring to the blind audition process. During the blind auditions, the decisions from the coaches are based solely on voice and not look. The coaches hear the contestants perform, but they don't get to see them – due to rotating chairs. If a coach is impressed by a contestant's voice they press a button to select the contestant. If more than one coach selects the talent then

the power shifts to the contestant to choose who he/she wants to work with. Once the teams are set the battle is on. Coaches will dedicate their time and energy to making their singers the best they can be. During the battle rounds the coaches will pit two of their own team members against each other to sing the same song together in front of a studio audience. After to vocal face-off, the coaches then must choose which singer advances. At the end of the battle episodes, only the strongest members of each coach's roster remain and proceed to the live stage shows. In this final performance phase of the competition, the top contestants from each team will compete against each other during a live broadcast. The television audience will vote to save one contestant on coach will have his/her best contestant left standing to compete in the finale. From these four, one will be named "The Voice" – and will receive the grand prize of a recording contract and \$100,000.

Bamboozle

continued from previous page

his recorded one. He puts so much soul and passion into his words and notes. Instead of just singing the songs, he belts them out, and incorporates vocal runs; resulting in a jazzy-bluesy feel. It's utterly phenomenal. He even had a few little dance moves he and his band memorized and randomly threw in during the show. It was a sight you had to see.

Once Bruno was finished, the crowd literally ran across the venue to the Jumbo Stage to see the band A Day to Remember. The crowd was crazy; mosh pits were opening up everywhere you looked. A seventeen year old girl named Sam, who weighed no more than 90 pounds, had to be crowd surfed out of the pit due to partial asphyxiation and her body literally being crushed. Aside from the violent crowd, the band was really wonderful live. They were hyped up, jumping around and the lead singer, Jeremy McKinnon, went inside a huge, clear blow up balloon and rolled himself over the crowd, while still singing on key! It was intense and made for one of the most fun performances to watch of the night.

And last, but certainly not least, at 9:35 on the dot, Lil Wayne, one

thousand feet from the safety barricades, up by playing a recording of his jail card stats with flashing lights blaring. As soon as the crowd got a look at him, in his black hoodie and blue baseball cap, it was complete lunacy. Girls were screaming and guys were shouting as the rapper took his place.

He performed for over an hour, playing his popular songs, such as "Every Girl" and "We Be Steady Mobbin'," and "A Milli." He rapped out his verses of the songs "I'm Going In," "Bill Gates," and "Look at Me Now."

When he sang, "Got Money," he brought out his friend Mack Maine to perform with him, and later when he did, "Money To Blow," he had his long time comrade Birdman come out and perform with him as well.

He continued his pattern of rapping his verses of songs, displayed in his performances of "Miss Me" and "Forever."

Then, he adorned his guitar and played a few chords to his songs, "Prom Queen," and wildly redeemed, "Drop The World." The crowd was still going crazy, but surprisingly there was still room to breathe. No one was too pushy and everyone generally had space, even ten rows from the stage.

He finished off the night by playing his latest hit, "6 Foot

Starting off on the MSX2, Metal Gear was released in 1987 and quickly became a very popular game, selling a plethora of units across the country. However, the game really became a true classic in 1998 with the release of Metal Gear Solid on the PlayStation.

To truly understand Metal Gear Solid, we have to do a quick overview and explain some characters. Back in the 1960's, the U.S. Army had one soldier who was considered to be the best soldier in the world. This soldier claimed the title Big Boss and it was always considered a suicide mission for any other soldier who tried to fight him. After several years, the U.S. government decided to attempt to clone Big Boss so there would be an army of Big Bosses. This plan started out with the idea of making 7 clones, but after a brief time, 5 were destroyed and only 2 remained. One of which is the main protagonist of Metal Gear Solid, and the other is the antagonist. Solid Snake is the protagonist and controllable character.

The events that occur during Metal Gear Solid are often referred to as the Shadow Moses

Incident and take place on a small island on the Alaskan Fox Archipelago. Solid Snake's twin brother, Liquid Snake is threatening the U.S. government with nuclear warfare unless they fulfill the demand of Big Boss's body. Liquid Snake and other members of the group FOXHOUND want the remains of Big Boss so they have the ability to clone him and try to make the army that the U.S. government previously tried to create.

The Secretary of Defense decides to send Solid Snake to Shadow Moses Island under the command of Roy Campbell. Solid Snake infiltrates the facility when he arrives and tries to locate DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) chief Donald Anderson and ArmsTech President Kenneth Baker, both of which have been taken hostage by FOXHOUND.

After only a few hours, Solid Snake finds his way into Donald

as Anderson is about to tell Solid Snake about how to disarm REX, Anderson dies of what appears to be a heart attack. In an adjacent cell, another hostage, Meryl Silverburgh, gets free and helps Solid Snake out of the cell where he found Donald Anderson.

Solid Snake then proceeds to find the second hostage Kenneth Baker, who is tied up to a pillar that is wired with massive amounts of plastic explosives. As Solid Snake tries to free Baker, Revolver Ocelot shows up and starts to fire at Solid Snake. Revolver Ocelot is another longtime member of FOXHOUND and attempts to kill Solid Snake until the Cyborg Ninja arrives and cuts off one of Ocelot's hands as well as freeing Baker. After a short conversation, Baker started to suffer from a heart attack



that seems oddly similar to that of Donald Andersons. Snake then contacts Meryl and has her open a door that can help him get to another informant named Dr. Emmerich.

On his way to try to get to Dr. Emmerich, Solid Snake encounters an M-1 tank controlled by Vulcan Raven, another FOXHOUND member, which he destroys very quickly with a chaff grenade to terminate the tanks sensors, and a grenade into the cockpit. This is, however, not the last time Vulcan Raven is seen.

Solid Snake finds Dr. Emmerich's lab, and also encounters the Cyborg Ninja once again. In an act of insanity, the Cyborg Ninja attempts to defeat Solid Snake. Although the Cyborg Ninja is unsuccessful, Solid Snake learns that the Cyborg Ninja is an old war buddy who has the nick name Gray Fox. The Cyborg Ninja leaves and Solid Snake begins a

Otacon agrees to help Solid Snake remotely, giving him diagrams, maps, and health supplies if needed. Solid Snake contacts Meryl and they both set off to go to the location where Metal Gear REX is kept. As they are on their way, they run into several other threats including Psycho Mantis, a FOXHOUND member who can read minds, an expert sniper called Sniper Wolf, and a second appearance of Vulcan Raven. After defeating all of the people and obstacles in the way, Solid Snake makes it to the hanger where Metal Gear REX is kept. Liquid Snake takes command of Metal Gear REX and starts attacking Solid Snake. After some battling, Gray Fox shows up again and saves Solid Snake from being crushed from being crushed by Metal Gear REX's giant foot, being

killed in the process. Solid Snake destroys Metal Gear REX and has a battle with Liquid Snake on top of the body of Metal Gear REX. Solid Snake wins by knocking Liquid Snake off, and now has to make a hasty exit because of a self-destruct timer that has been set. Depending on previous actions

made in the game, Solid Snake saves either Meryl or Otacon. Solid Snake is just about to leave the facility when he discovers that Liquid Snake still has not died. After some battling, Liquid Snake dies of what appears to be a heart attack. Solid Snake learns that all the deaths that appeared to be heart attacks are actually murders by a virus called FoxDie. Solid Snake also learns that he has been infected with this virus, but the time is undetermined, which means he could possibly die at any time. Solid Snake makes it away alive, but is declared killed in action so he can enjoy his retirement.

Metal Gear Solid has made several sequels and has a total of 9 main series releases and several other miniature release as well as remakes of the best-selling games in the series. The game has sold over 6 million copies and scored 94 out of 100 on MetaCritic. Metal Gear Solid is also considered one of the best games of all time and not

WHAT IF...

BY HANNAH ROESLER, ANNIE ZAPPULLA, AND MELISSA MASTRORILLI

*If you were to die
in a public place,
exactly what spot
would you choose?*

*If you could put
anyone in prison, who
would it be?*

*If you could do any
job in the world for
one day, what would it
be?*



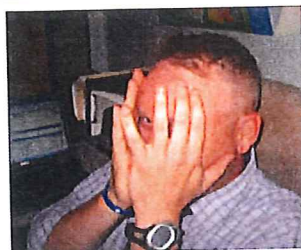
Reagan Murphy, Senior
"On the pyramids in Egypt"



Carey Ambrosio, Senior
"The ocean"



Nico English, Junior
"On the beach in Tahiti"



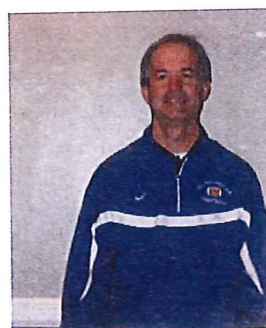
Mr. VanPelt
"Driscoll's Tailor"



Dan Lambert, Junior
"Spencer Arnold"



Dan Ehrola, Junior
"Mr. Fagen"



Mr. Cahill



Nico Pecoraro, Junior
"Pro Surfer"

Kyle Wainwright, Senior
"CEO of Exxon"



Katie Jahnsen, Sophomore
"Wizard"



Nora Donovan, Junior
"Hitman"



Stefan Baier

Samm Eichmann

Shelby Bellaran

James Margetis

Tariq Turner

Meghan Burke

Tresay Lopez-Perez

Colby Mura

Amanda Soto

6/2/1993

6/3/1993

6/5/1993

6/6/1993

6/6/1993

6/7/1993

6/9/1993

6/9/1993

6/10/1993

Rebecca Smith

Jessica West

Grace Cassidy

Maureen Docker

Bridget Slattery

Emily Kleinfeld

Evan White

Daniel Best

Victoria Place

6/11/1993

6/11/1993

6/14/1993

6/14/1993

6/15/1993

6/20/1993

6/21/1993

6/23/1993

6/25/1993

A TOUCH OF FRESHMAN SOPHOMORE JUNIOR SENIOR CLASS Nicknames!

Freshman



Alexa Zupko

Pam



Jake Vernaglia

Fish



Kieran Swanson

K Swan



Emma Stark

Donny



Donald Gordon

Ringo

Sophomore



Marcelo Garcia

Mars



Marianne Tully & Anne Pringle

Culli & Mare



Kristin Barag



Tommy Dett & Brody C

Logo, Design, and Photography
By: Courtney Jones

Junior

Tyler Caccavale,
Pat Scatuorchio,
Matt Trubenbach



TC

Pat
Scat

RPG

Big
Daddy
Nasty



Young
Palz



Christian Morgan

Brick
Walsh



Bryan Walsh

Senior

Sara Hyatt

Lauren Emich



Shinn

Charlie Borges



Hannibal

Nick McWilliams



Lawn

Tariq Turner



Sush

Will Raver

Dan Lambert



Scambert



Taylor Klodowski

TK



Danielle Lopez

D-Lo

Marlon Meehleib

By Paige Alden
&
Gwynne Alden

Horoscopes

Page design: Mary Cavagnaro

Worried about changing horoscopes? Relax, the change only applies to anyone **born after the change year**. This means anyone born in 2011 or later will use the red dates. They also can have the newest sign!

Aries

(Mar. 21-Apr. 19) **(April 18-May 13)** You may

experience some stumbling this month over people and other things in general. You may feel lost or abandoned for a while. Well, you are not lost or abandoned. Things on an inner level pressure you into solitude. It will be a saving grace time for good things to come.



Gemini

(May 21-Jun. 20)

(June 21-July 20) This may not be the time for amusement and entertainment. At least the type you want. Your needs may need to be adjusted according to someone else's. This can be done is you a nice open conversation that is truthful. For your health, don't eat too many sweets, it's a sensitive time for your digestion so be careful!



Cancer

(June 21-July 20) **(July 20-Aug. 10)** Even if your everyday life is

(September 23 -October 22)

(Oct. 30 - Nov. 23) You seem to be looking for different places to be comfort. What you need right now is tranquility. You must remember to let others close to you when you change your ways. Doing that you will receive harmony and cooperation in your life and relationships. Be sure to show your kindness!



Taurus

(Apr. 20-May 20.)

(May 13-June 21) You are planning for future goals to happen but they can't happen yet. Don't let this stand in the way of your desires! The time for starting new things and goals is just beginning.



Leo

(July 21-Aug. 22) **(Aug. 10-Sept. 16)** Money and the desires that come with it will jump at you. You are thinking about lost loves you've had in the past and realize they led you to spiritual ideas. Things will get better and you will be yourself again.



Virgo

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **(Sept. 16-**

Oct. 30) It's a good time to shift away from yourself and focus on others and achieve communication with others. This will help fulfill your lifestyle. Any tensions you have will have the lesson to be learned. Stick with the truth and don't let any foreign ideas enter your mind.



Libra



Sagittarius

(November 22 -December 21) **(Dec. 17 - Jan. 20)** You may be feeling like home is need-

ing you very much right now. Or is home the place you want to run from? Is the past and recent money situations coming up again in your life that you can't avoid? Unfortunately, these problems will keep coming up, but you do have the ability to change them.



Scorpio

(October 23 -November 21) **(Nov. 23 - Nov. 29)** When

you see subjects of art and beauty, you tend to have many great desires. Be very careful with that and only use money when you've brought necessities. You tend to seek pleasure, so try to be more sociable and make sure to tell others how much you love them.



Pisces

(February 19 -March 20) **(March 11 - April 18)** Your thinking may be a bit blurry this

month and even next. Because of this, you inner self has taken itself to other places. Hold off on your inspirations for a while, even though you may be having a lot. Nothing



Aquarius

(January 20 -February 18)

(Feb. 16 - March 11) Instead of continuing to ask questions like, where did all of my money go? And, when can I get more money? Try then to avoid those situations by giving to others who need it more than you do. Find out more ways to give, that no one else knows about. Keep in mind that those who give, will get back.



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS

The Final Inning for Softball Seniors

By Al Califano

Upon approaching the last few games, Mrs. Certo, the coach of Manasquan's varsity softball team, reflects upon the closing of this year's season. While evaluating the team's accomplishments, Mrs. Certo couldn't help but focus on the six seniors leaving the team this year. Seniors Sarah Kirk, Kendall Miller, Elizabeth Krajewski, Alicia Morris, and Katie Bisazza have surely made their mark in a prominent season for Manasquan Softball.

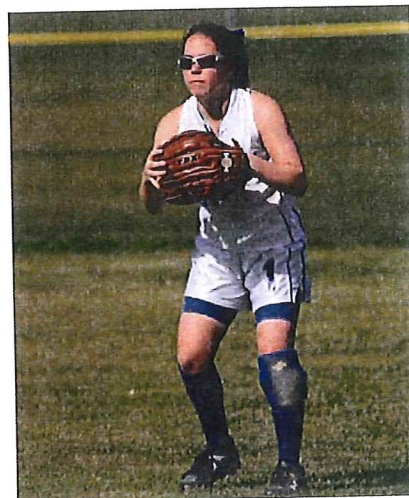
Sarah Kirk, an incoming freshman recruit for Franklin and Marshall Softball, was a standout on the varsity team for the past four years. Joining the team as a freshman, Sarah has been a consistent asset for the team- ultimately breaking the hitting record with her first hit of the 2011 season. Mrs. Certo has additional expectations for the possibility of Sarah breaking the stealing record, as well, before the season's close. "I have had a great experience on the team for all four years. I hope the pride and suc-

cess of the program keeps growing," Sarah Kirk says, reflecting upon her softball career.

Kendall Miller is also a testament to the team's success, as she shone this year as the Varsity team's catcher. Next year, Kendall will be playing softball at Rutgers University. Other senior standouts include Alicia Morris, the starting third basemen, Liz Krajewski on First Base, Katie Bisazza, outfielder, and newcomer Caitlin Mohen- a transfer acting as the DP. Additionally, Caitlin is in the first base and pitching rotations for Manasquan and will be playing softball for the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

However, with an overall record of 10 wins and 10 losses, Manasquan has high hopes for the next few weeks. "We are going to be starting the Shore Conference tournament and state tournament, hopefully next week," says Mrs. Certo. Unfortunately, losing this past weekend's game against Matawan excludes them from the Monmouth County Tournament.

However, the team pulled through in their win against Toms River North. So, please go support Manasquan Softball, as we wish them the best of luck during the final games of their season! We all look forward to seeing their final results!



Senior Sarah Kirk, shows off her fielding skills in stylish shades.

Michaela Read, Julia Ford Lead Spring Track

By: Karen Cindea



The Girl's Track Team placed 16th place in the Monmouth County Track Meet this year. Recently at the Monmouth County Track Meet, some of the runners set new school records. Coach Z has been

Julia Ford arrived at the track meet that Friday determined to be a champion. Stepping on the runway to the triple jump pit she was ready to slap a new school record right on Manasquan High School's wall, and when Julia jumped a 34'8, breaking the school record of 33'11, she was

told The Blue & Gray. Well, the excitement only escalated when Michaela Read had surprising news as well.

Our school's very own track star Michaela Read placed sixth in the Monmouth County Relays for the 100 hurdles. Running a 15.96,

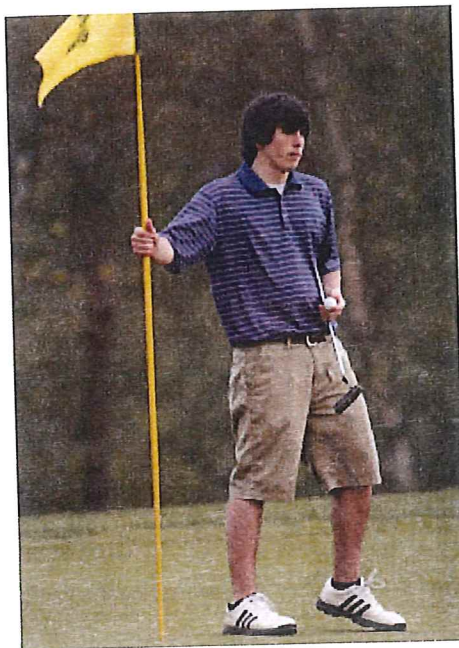
Michaela Read soared over the finish line to claim her title in the County. Previously,



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS

Golf Team Improves With the Season 8-8 record is best in years

By Katie Quinn



Senior Tim Sweeney lifts the pin as a fellow golfer strikes his first putt.

This golf team has had two main goals, this year. For the underclassmen, that goal was to improve their own games and as a collective group, preparing for next year's competition. As for the senior members of the golf team, the goal for this year was simple: enjoy it. As the season draws slowly to a close, it appears evident that both of those goals are becoming a reality.

Following the graduation of standout golfers, Nick Kull and C.J. Davis, the golf team was forced to

Sweeney—have each become leaders to the rest of their teammates, some of whom are newcomers to Manasquan High School golf. In addition to the senior members of the team, Nolan Jordan, Paul Geissler, and Hunter Sabins are contributing to the team effort. Though each member of the team has worked individually, practicing together and playing as a group, the team has formed a quick bond.

As far as records go, Manasquan has stayed even, with a record of 7-7. Within the Class C Central, Manasquan is ranked below Point Borough, Wall, and Monsignor Donovan, but above Jackson Liberty and Point Beach. The competition within the division has proven to be very intense, much more so than outsiders to the game would expect. While participating in the Monmouth County Tournament, Manasquan did not reach the top eight or have a finisher in

the top 25, against competitors such as Wall and St. Rose. However, the team has continued to grow. As sophomore Paul Geissler, put it, "We have had some really good matches and some really bad matches." In the next few matches, as well as in next year, the team hopes to improve on its consistency.

Most importantly, the team has clearly enjoyed their season thus far. While playing at the Howell County Golf Course and other away matches, the team has experienced some great days of golf. Though a competitive game, Manasquan golf is something that the senior players can look back on, remembering their time playing alongside teammates, with Coach Cahill, and in competitions. Looking forward to the remaining matches, the senior members will be sure to treasure every birdie, par, and bogey—every swing of the club.





Boys Lacrosse Keeps the Fight Strong

By Annie Zappulla, Hannah Roesler, and Melissa Mastrorilli



The MHS Boys Lacrosse team dove into the season with many new varsity players and even players taking their first shot at the sport. After having to replace a huge senior class that dominated the starting lineup

were a force to be reckoned with early in the season when they gained their second win against their St. Rose rivals with an impressive score of 13-1.

Despite all of these praise-worthy wins, there were some minor obstacles in the season. This includes the first game against the Crimson Knights, which started off close in the first half with both teams battling to take control of the game but resulted in a devastating victory for Wall, as they cruised through the second half and won 15-4.

The Warriors and Knights met again in the first round of the Shore Conference tournament. The game was looking good for Manasquan as Conor Reilly scored in the first half, giving us a 1-0 lead. It wasn't until the 10:28 mark of the second quarter until Wall managed to step ahead with two goals. The Knights took even more opportunities to score by adding three more goals to the scoreboard. With just 3:37 seconds left, the Knights made one last goal that closed out the game with a 6-1 loss for Manasquan.

Even with these two major set-backs, Manasquan displayed their dedication and talent with a conquering win against Brick Memorial. With two more games left, we hope the Manasquan Boy's Lacrosse team can strive to the top and keep up the effort that has been so apparent throughout the 2011 season.

last season, only three regular starters returned from last season.

With an overall record of 8-5, the team is improving with every practice and game. According to junior Zack Vasilenko, "We are really trying hard this season, and I think we are getting better every game." This is definitely the case, as the team suffered a hard-hitting 15-5 loss to Red Bank Regional but came back just two days later with a 10-7 win against Jackson Liberty.

The varsity team is abundant with freshman players who are showing their potential with people Joe Murphy, who scored three goals in one of the season's kick-off games against the Jackson Liberty Lions. That same game, standout player Conor Reilly scored two goals and four assists. Connor Grogan also flourished with two goals and an assist while Dennis Maher put in two goals.

In addition, Liam Sell-

