



Notre Dame junior wide receiver Golden Tate, JPII Class of 2007, was named Walter Camp First Team All-American and captured the Biletnikoff Award as the nation's top wide receiver. He recently capped off the best receiving season in Notre Dame football history with 93 receptions for 1,496 yards and 15 touchdowns. He added two rushing touchdowns, one punt return for a score and totaled 1,915 all-purpose yards, second most in Irish single-season history. He'll enter the NFL draft next spring.

CAREER CHANGE LANDS MR. PAGE AT JPPII

Bob Page left the high-flying world of corporate banking and landed in a classroom at Pope John Paul II High School. "This is just a great time in these kids' lives," Mr. Page said of his students. "Kids at this age are so hopeful and optimistic and motivated. You can have such an impact at this age too."



Bob Page

Mr. Page is in his fourth year at JPPII, teaching economics and government, after a 20 year career in banking. After graduating from the University of Virginia with a degree in economics, Mr. Page came to Nashville to work for what was then known as First American Bank. His job was structuring and syndicating large corporate loans. "Some of them would get as large as \$250 million."

"I enjoyed the people I worked with and I certainly enjoyed structuring the loans," Mr. Page said. "You felt good when you won the deal and you also felt good when you finally syndicated the deal. It was a real team effort."

But after about 10 years in banking, Mr. Page launched a second career as a teacher. He earned a master's degree in secondary education from the Peabody School at Vanderbilt University. As a teacher at Franklin High School from 1995 to 1997, Mr. Page was named an outstanding teacher by the senior class and student council.

Mr. Page left teaching to go back to banking. He returned to teaching when he took the job at JPPII. "When I left teaching I knew I'd come back, it was just a matter of time."

"I thought the people I met (at JPPII) were fabulous," Mr. Page said. "You just connect with people and want to be

around them."

"The thing I like about this school is it's both challenging and also nurturing," Mr. Page said. "The teachers are just there for the kids. ... (The students) just know all the teachers here are here to support them."

Mr. Page is in his classroom at 7 a.m. every day and is available for students who need extra help or tutoring. He finds that the students often can help each other. "Mostly what I try to do is (let) them do some peer tutoring and just interject when needed."

Mr. Page appreciates the academic atmosphere at JPPII. "I really like the fact that the school does challenge these kids and the expectations are high."

When Mr. Page isn't helping students in the classroom, he's helping them on the lacrosse field. After growing up on Long Island in New York, Mr. Page received one of the first athletic scholarships given at Virginia for lacrosse. Since he's been in Nashville, he's helped coach at several schools, including Montgomery Bell Academy, Father Ryan and University School of Nashville. In his third year at the helm of JPPII's team, he coached the Knights to a state championship last spring.

Lacrosse features physical play like football and finesse and movement like basketball, Mr. Page said. "There's checking in it, there's a lot of scores, a lot of creativity," he said. "A lot of kids do pick it up and just fall in love with it."

The Knights will be looking to repeat as state champions next spring, Mr. Page said. More colleges in the Southeast are picking up the sport, he said. "There's going to be great opportunities for our kids. Several seniors should have an opportunity to play in college."

"That's just another reason to come to JPPII," Mr. Page said.

other.

"It's remarkable the way the students, maybe pick up something about the character's personality," she added.

In the spring, the students will participate in a similar project, recreating the peace conference at the end of World War I. "We look at World War I because we know the peace conference did not create a lasting peace," Ms. Phillips said. "We hope they can understand the mistakes, the concerns that were overlooked that led the world into another global conflict."

"The students do enjoy it," she said.



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COLLEGE PREP 101: A GUIDE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS

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Most colleges, however, value depth over breadth. It's better to be a four-year member of the debate team and indicate greater achievement and leadership in the debate club each year than to dabble with debate one year and something else the next. Also, being part of an athletic team is terrific, but these days varsity athletes are expected to play their sports year-round with club play and off season requirements; be careful your son or daughter isn't playing too many sports to the exclusion of other good activities, the most important of which is serious study. Kids wear down!

■ Insist on a regular cycle for sleep. Teens don't get enough of it. Furthermore, they disrupt their body clocks on weekends by staying up late and then sleeping late in the mornings, which makes Mondays almost useless as their bodies re-adjust.

■ Help your child develop a love of reading. Read to your children when they're young, visit the library often, subscribe to magazines of interest as they get older, read books on long car trips together instead of watching DVDs, become a reader yourself to model its importance to your children, insist on definitive bedtimes but allow reading in bed, and read the books your children must read for school so you can discuss with them. Reading ability is the single best predictor of future academic success.

■ Limit screen time. The average teenager watches three hours of T.V. per day, not counting time on the Internet.

■ Ensure that missing class is a rarity. No matter how diligent your child is making up missed work, the discussions, questions, and back and forth between teacher and child is irreplaceable.

■ Encourage your child and pray for him or her. The teenage years are rife with uncertainty, awkwardness, worry and stress. Prayer will help us keep things in perspective and our teen will be comforted knowing we're praying for him or her. We can take comfort in knowing our child's future is in God's hands.

JPII hosts grandparents



JPII freshman Reed Davis enjoys breakfast with his grandparents, Micky and Kay Davis, during the school's annual Grandparents' Breakfast on Friday, Nov. 20. Also visiting were his other grandparents, Selenia and Tom Birmingham. An overflow crowd was on hand to share the morning with their grandchildren at JPPII.



JANUARY 2010

Headmaster Faustin Weber ■ 615-822-2375 ■ www.jp2hs.org

COLLEGE PREP 101: A GUIDE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS

Recently the faculty of JPPII sponsored a seminar designed to help parents get their middle school children ready for college. This article, the second of two parts, is a condensed summary of what was said; for a more complete Power Point presentation, go to <http://www.jp2hs.org/files/filesystem/College101.Web.ppt>.

If I'm a parent of a middle school child, how do I best prepare my child for college? What are some practical things I can do as a parent to put my child in the best possible position for college? Here are a few tips:

■ Emphasize foundations. Middle school parents might worry their child is falling behind if he or she is not taking advanced courses in middle school. Don't worry – a thorough understanding of Algebra I and Comp I is more important. Not only will a firm foundation make the curricular "house" sturdier throughout high school, remember that the ACT does not measure proficiency in Calculus!

■ Once in high school, insist your child takes the most difficult

curriculum he or she can handle. Honors and A.P. classes will not only help with the "strength of curriculum" admissions criteria, it will help your child improve ACT performance.

■ Grades, though important, matter less than we may think, so be forgiving on grades, but unforgiving on effort. If your child is truly taking demanding courses, he or she will stumble from time to time. That's OK. Focus on consistent effort and the grades will take care of themselves in the long run.

■ Help your child develop good homework habits. Though it varies based on the child and the curriculum, we believe 10 minutes per grade level is a good minimum, so that eighth graders should be doing a minimum of 80 minutes, even if "he doesn't have any." There's always reading to do, notes to review, a test to prepare for.

■ Help your child say "no." Students take on too many commitments, hoping that a long resume will impress colleges.

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THREE SIGN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Three seniors at Pope John Paul II High School – Tanner Taddeo, Anthony Dowdy and Ashley Hammer – recently signed national letters of intent to continue their athletic careers in college.

Taddeo and Dowdy both signed to play golf collegiately. Taddeo, the son of Donna and Trell Taddeo, will play for the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., and Dowdy, the son of Andrea Stroud and Scott Dowdy, will compete for Charleston Southern University in Charleston, S.C.,

The two seniors helped lead the Knights golf team to a second place finish in the region and a sixth place finish in the state tournament this year. Taddeo finished fifth in the individual standings at the state tournament.

Hammer, the daughter of Greg and Mary Jo Hammer, has signed to play softball for Belmont University in Nashville. She is a four-year starter at shortstop for the Lady Knights softball



Three JPPII seniors signed national letters of intent to continue their athletic careers in college. Anthony Dowdy, seated left, Ashley Hammer, center, and Tanner Taddeo. On hand for the signing ceremony were: (standing L-R) Buddy and Jean Shaw, Anthony's grandparents, Greg and Mary Jo Hammer, and Donna and Trell Taddeo. Anthony's parents, Andrea Stroud and Scott Dowdy, were unable to attend the signing ceremony at the school.

team, and also is a starter for JPPII's volleyball and basketball teams.



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BOB PAGE

GOLDEN TATE
WINS HONORS

GRANDPARENTS'
BREAKFAST

Admissions Office
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STUDENTS RECREATE ENLIGHTENMENT AGE

Some of the greatest thinkers in the history of Western Civilization gathered in the JPPII library this fall as the AP European History class held its annual salon. The 51 students in the two AP European History classes this year each represented a person from the 18th century Enlightenment period, dressed in period costume, and discussed the big questions in life with other giant thinkers of that important time in history.

"The salon is supposed to simulate a social gathering of all these famous people, intellectual thinkers of the age, and they talk about their ideas," said Karen Phillips,

who teaches the AP European History course with Gordon Sutla and serves as JPPII's Dean of Studies. "The purpose of doing an event like this ... is to try to make it more memorable. ... We engage all the senses in this activity to make it more memorable so students learn it more effectively."

The students have to use in a creative way what they've learned about the person they are representing, Ms. Phillips said. "We're looking for preparation and research. So I'm looking for substance in the comments that they make" and for how the students engage each

ALUMNI NEWS

Miles will report to Charleston, S.C., where he will be attending the Navy's nuclear power school. Miles hopes to be assigned to one of the Navy's fast attack submarines upon completing 18 months of power school. After serving one tour of duty in the fleet Miles hopes to attend Officers Candidate School and return to submarine duty as an officer.

Meredith Graves has been doing psychological research and last spring presented a poster at the Southeastern Psychological Association conference in New Orleans and this spring hopefully will be presenting at the Eastern Psychological Association conference in Manhattan.

Anthony Mantegani is playing soccer at Maryville. They won their conference this year with Anthony ending the season with six goals and three assists.

Taylor Crawley is now a junior at UT-Knoxville majoring in Business/Marketing. He is a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity where he won athlete of the year as a sophomore and has been involved in many philanthropy projects.

Class of 2008

Geoffrey Blum spent the summer touring Greece, Italy and France! He is a sophomore at Centre College majoring in Physics and Classics. He is active with the Quiz Bowl Team and the Theatre Company. Geoff's little sister, Mary Margaret, hopes to join the JPII family next year as a freshman.

Ellis Taylor is in her second year at Clemson University in the College of Architecture. She has been on the dean's list each semester. Of the 75 students accepted into the college in her class, only 35 remain.

Rachel Wilkins was selected as a University of Alabama Athletic Hostess. She works with suite owners, alumni and former athletes prior to home games. She also hosted a fundraiser prior to the UT vs. Alabama game, called the Backyard Bash. She raised \$5,000 for juvenile arthritis. She is also part of a photo shoot that is on the cover of the recruitment brochure for students from Tennessee that attend Alabama.

Hannah McMunn is a pre-service teacher at Austin Peay State University teaching English to 7-12 concentration on British Literature. She is majoring in English with a minor in education.

Class of 2009

After graduating, **Justin Crawley** was selected to the TSWA All-State soccer team. He is also a pre-med student at Belmont majoring in chemistry with a minor in math. He has also been selected from his freshman class as one of 25 to participate in a three-year English research study in College Writing.

Lauren Hanson will be starting for the Bellarmine University softball team in left field in the spring.

Taylor Harrison of Millsaps College was named to the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference All-Sportsmanship teams for the fall 2009 sports season. Each head coach was asked to elect one member from his or her team who displayed good sportsmanship throughout the season. Taylor was named to the men's soccer team.

Class of 2005

Ashley Crum married Jared Allsbrooks on Nov. 21.

Anna Hartzheim did an internship at the Center for Great Apes in Wauchula, Fla., for three months. They house 42 orangutans and chimpanzees that have been used in the entertainment industry, research and were privately owned. The apes are able to live out the rest of their lives at the sanctuary.



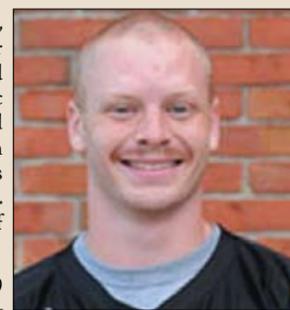
Jon Scott Rogers II graduated from Western Kentucky University in May 2009 with a degree in Sports Management and is currently working on his MBA at WKU. He will be traveling to France in January for an International Business Education abroad program at the University of Lyon and will also be attending International Banking Education in Geneva, Switzerland, while he is there. He is expected to graduate with his MBA in the summer of 2010.

Class of 2006

Jennifer Brogdon is doing an internship with The Nashville Sports Council.

Baron Fann and Brian Orgain will be studying abroad next semester in Spain. They are both working on a minor in Spanish.

For the second time this season, Centre College senior linebacker **Brian Sneed** has been named the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) Football Defensive Player of the Week. Brian was third in the conference in tackles (64) and fourth in fumbles recovered. He was named Defensive Player of the Year Runner Up.



Jordan Rippy was crowned 2009 Baylor University Homecoming Princess. Jordan is a senior accounting major and Business Fellow. She will finish her Masters of Accountancy in May 2011, and will start her career in public accounting in the Assurance Practice of Ernst & Young, LLP in Dallas.

Airman 1st Class Blake Mayo graduated Air Force Basic Military Training on Oct. 18, 2009, in San Antonio, Texas. He is in his technical training at Port Hueneme, Calif. He will be there until March 2010.

Class of 2007

Miles Ehmling is currently attending the Naval Boot Camp in Great Lakes, Ill. He will graduate from Boot Camp on Dec. 30, 2009. In January 2010

ALUMNI RETURN TO CAMPUS FOR BASKETBALL GAME

With many of JPII's alumni home from college for the Thanksgiving weekend, they were invited back to campus to enjoy the Knights boys and girls basketball teams claim victories over visiting Christian Community School on Friday, Nov. 27. It also gave everyone a chance to reconnect with classmates and friends.



Melinda Haney, Tyler Cothron, Tonia Buda and Jessica Simmons



Diane Sepe, Morgan Sulcer, Haley Watson, Stephanie Brown



Katherine Duzane and Amy Crutcher



Austin Dages and Chad Hooker

Musacchio named to All-Tourney team

Annie Musacchio of Belmont University in Nashville, JPII Class of 2006, scored the game-winning goal of the semifinal game of the Atlantic Sun Conference women's soccer tournament. She was named to the All-Tournament Team for the second time. She will graduate from the Belmont University Honors Program in May 2010 with a degree in Accounting and plans to attend the University of Notre Dame for a Masters Degree in Accounting in the fall.



Birkhead flying high

Brandon Birkhead, class of 2007, recently had his first sky dive. Brandon is a bio/chemistry major at University of Tennessee-Knoxville, busy studying for the MCAT, which he takes this spring. Then he will begin applying for medical school. Brandon has applied to work on a stem cell research project at Vanderbilt University this summer.



JPII PEOPLE: SCHOOL CONNECTION

We hope to highlight the high school careers of some of our students with reference to their "feeder school."

Hunter Middle School

This year's freshman class has a larger contingent from Hunter Middle School than JPII has ever had. Two of those freshmen, Olivia Drennan and Austin Mundy, have been going to school together since they started kindergarten at Madison Creek Elementary.

When they were in the sixth grade at Hunter, Olivia said, she knew of only one other student who was headed to JPII. But as they headed into their eighth grade year, there was an explosion of interest and nearly 15 are now at JPII.



Olivia Drennan

It really helped to know other freshman before they showed up on the JPII campus, Olivia said. The annual freshman retreat also helped give the class a head start getting to know each other. "It was a blast," Austin said.



Austin Mundy

Both Olivia and Austin were familiar with JPII before they enrolled. Olivia's brother Johnny is a senior at JPII and her sister Jordan is a junior. Austin was friends with Mark Vanderslice, another freshman this year from St. Joseph, whose brother Will was already a student at JPII and Matthew Lascara, who came to JPII this year from St. Joseph.

"People said it's a geek school," Austin said of his friends' reaction to his decision to come to JPII. "But it's really not," Olivia added. When they're not in class, both Olivia and Austin are busy with extracurricular activities. Olivia plays on the volleyball team and is planning to play lacrosse in the spring. She also sings in the school chorus. Austin plays basketball and baseball.

To students considering coming to JPII in the future, Austin advised: "Be serious about your academics and be prepared." "But don't think it's going to be too hard," Olivia added.

JPII People ... Olivia Drennan and Austin Mundy!

View Points

Knights hockey off to blazing start

The JPII Knights hockey team, which has been in the state championship game the last three years winning two titles, is burning up the ice once again racing out to a 10-0 record to start the Greater Nashville Area Scholastic Hockey league regular season. The Knights haven't missed a beat in Pete Nieman's first season as the team's head coach.

"We set ourselves some pretty tall goals at the beginning of the season, and basically we've been following through," said Coach Nieman, who comes to JPII after serving as an assistant for Father Ryan. "It's a team effort across the board."

So far this season, the Knights have outscored their opponents 71-5. Leading the way on offense has been junior Clark Henson, who has 17 goals and four assists through the first 10 games. "He's a guy who just skates with a lot of heart," said Coach Nieman. "He's a tough player, a scrappy player." Second on the team in scoring is captain Steven Lewandowski, a senior, who has 12 goals and five assists, including a three-goal hat trick in a 3-0 Knights win over Hendersonville on Dec. 5. Lewandowski "has really stepped up to the plate and made a lot of things happen," Coach Nieman said.

But the scoring has come from up and down the roster, Coach Nieman said. "We didn't want to rely on a single person," he said. "We've built four solid lines across the board." The team's defense corps, led by seniors Eddie Leonard and Thomas Griffin, has helped goalies Taylor Holmes and Denver Williams rack up five shutouts, allowing less than a goal a game.

This season, for the first time, JPII has a junior varsity team. Several Knights are playing on a Nashville Youth Hockey League team coached by Dean Campeotto, one of JPII's assistant coaches. "We wanted to find a place not only to ensure our guys now in the program could play but build a pipeline into the high school program," Coach Nieman said. "It's achieving what we wanted, a place to develop skills."

After last season, "I was planning on taking a break from hockey," Coach Nieman said. But then he got a call about taking over for Bjorn Svedin, who had lead JPII to back to back state championships and one second place finish in his three years at the team's helm. "It was a very, very impressive program," Coach Nieman said of the Knights.

"I couldn't be happier," Coach Nieman said, "with the way the team has come together."



UPCOMING EVENTS

PLACEMENT EXAMS

8:30 A.M.-NOON
JAN. 23
CALL 822-2375
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Schedule 'Coffee with the Headmaster'

The families of prospective students are invited to share "Coffee with the Headmaster." Every Tuesday, 8:30-9:30 a.m., JPII Headmaster Faustin Weber will be available to share coffee and conversation with anyone interested in learning more about the school. Select faculty and students will also be on hand to answer questions and talk about the school's curriculum, the admission process, the school's Catholic/Christian values, and the culture of scholarship at JPII. For more information, call the school's admissions office at (615) 822-2375 or send an e-mail to info@jp2hs.org.