Cross Country Championship tops athletic honors

They continued their success by winning a Regional Championship and advancing to the Section Finals where they were defeated by eventual State Champions Auburndale.

The Knights and Lady Knights Basketball season is underway. For a complete schedule of games, click on the Lourdes Academy Calendar at lourdesacademyoshkosh.org.

Lourdes family welcomes 100th member

On Saturday, November 30, the Weisse/Hughes family welcomed its 100th family member - Nolan Hughes, weighing in at 8 pounds. The count started with Mrs. Janet Weisse, who sent her 13 children through Lourdes Academy, and has continued through four generations of living relatives.

Nolan’s parents are Mike and Audra Hughes and grand-parents are Bill and Margaret (Weisse) Hughes, both of the Class of 1978. Congratulations on this milestone event!

The Girls Cross Country team, consisting of (from left) Nora Keller, Angela Moore, Cecily Vandenhouten, Abigail Moore, Maeve McDonald, Katie Van Scyoc and Emily Foley, earned the Division 3 State Championship.

Lourdes Academy capped off a tremendous Fall sports season on November 2, 2013, when the Girls Cross Country team won the WIAA Division 3 State Championship in Wisconsin Rapids. The victory marked the third state championship in the past four years for the Lady Knights who were coached by Paul Brown. The Lady Knights were also Trailways Conference Champions and Sectional Champions led by Conference Runner of the Year Nora Keller (’15). For the Knights, Lucas Weber (’16) was also named Trailways Conference Runner of the Year.

The 2013 Knights Football team completed a successful season by winning the Trailways Conference Title, finishing undefeated in conference and advancing to the WIAA State Playoffs. The Knights advanced to Level Three before bowing out to St. Mary’s Springs. The Trailways Conference awarded Zach Weiher (’15) Defensive Player of the Year, Adam Krause (’14) Offensive Lineman of the Year, and John Fehring (’14) Defensive Linemen of the Year.

On the court the Lady Knights Volleyball team captured the third Trailways Conference Championship of the Fall.

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Ambas brings Filipino culture to Oshkosh

One thing Marlo Ambas (’01) remembers most about his childhood is that his family was always entertaining, and when friends and family would gather, there was no shortage of food. As immigrants from the Philippines, Ambas’s parents served dishes that were unique to the Filipino culture. In fact, that’s how most of his friends were introduced to Filipino dishes.

“If people have tried Filipino food, it’s usually because they are friends with a Filipino family,” Ambas said. “Growing up, my friends were a little intimidated at first, but once they had a chance to try the food, they thought it was awesome.”

Armed with his mother’s recipes and recipes borrowed from other regions in the Philippines, Ambas and his wife, Patricia Eckerman Ambas, opened Manila Resto in downtown Oshkosh in 2012.

“Opening a restaurant in Oshkosh was about sharing the Filipino culture,” Ambas said. “Manila gives us the opportunity to showcase and expose people to the food in ways that haven’t been done here in the United States. I always went to larger cities for ethnic cuisine. Being part of this community, we believe Oshkosh deserves something like this.”

Ambas credits his faith in God, and the support of his wife and family for his success. He’s also quick to mention that several Lourdes alumni were instrumental in helping him get his business off the ground. Kevin Purtell (’76) helped Ambas secure a location in Oshkosh’s historic downtown district.

“Kevin Purtell was a big influence from the beginning,” Ambas said. “If it wasn’t for his work calling people and researching downtown, we would not have been able to land the perfect spot.”

Scott Peck (’97) helped generate exposure for the new business through Family Services Parent Connection’s fund raiser, Dancing for Little Stars, which Ambas and his wife participated in. And John (’76) and Jay (’78) Supple, owners of Supple Restaurant Group, provided insights when the business was starting. Ambas also worked for the Supples through high school and college.

“We are happy to be giving back to the community and the people who have given so much to us. It’s great to see more people who want to put Filipino food back on the map.”

The Manila is located at 107 Algoma Blvd. in downtown Oshkosh.

Please stay in touch

The Shield will be published in print quarterly for the first year then will be sent electronically. We’d love to stay in touch. Please provide your email address so we can continue to share the good news at Lourdes Academy. Log on to the alumni link under “News” at lourdesacademyoshkosh.org. One newsletter was sent to each household. If you would like additional copies sent to individual members of your household, please contact Linda Wolfgram at 920-426-3626, ext. 541 or lwolfgram@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org with your information.

Lourdes participates in Parental Choice

Lourdes Academy is currently participating in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). This program allows students whose family income is below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and who reside outside of the Milwaukee and Racine unified school districts to attend participating private or religious schools at no cost. Lourdes Academy on behalf of each student’s parent or guardian, receives a payment provided by the state of up to $6,442 for each eligible choice student.

Only the top 25 schools with the most student applications were eligible to participate in this new program and receive a portion of the 500 available choice student spots. Lourdes Academy received 119 verified applications - the third most of any school or school system applying for the program. From this applicant pool a total of 29 students in grades 1-12 were selected by a drawing held by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to be eligible to attend Lourdes Academy.

Based on the guidelines of the WPCP, each of our current 29 students will be eligible to attend Lourdes Academy until they graduate.

“This program is truly a blessing for many of our families who believe strongly in a quality faith-filled education but struggle to afford the cost of tuition even with the tuition assistance that they are awarded,” said Lourdes Academy President Bob Biebel. “We strongly believe that the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program provides the opportunity for numerous hard working families to receive the gift of choice when considering the all important question of education. On behalf of Lourdes Academy we thank all those whose hard work and determination over the years made this program possible.”

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, 500 additional students will become eligible, and Lourdes Academy once again plans to apply for participation in the program. Applications for next year will begin on February 1, 2014.
By Señor Steve Weber, Teacher

As a Lourdes Academy grad (Class of ’87) and a current teacher here, I was asked to write an article about those two experiences. I began to think about all the teachers I had while a student here, too many to name. I’m sure everyone’s experience was different.

Teachers were liked and disliked for various reasons, not too different from today. Some teachers were labeled as “easy” and some were “hard,” and of course as a student, I tried to take as many classes from “easy” teachers as possible.

But it wasn’t until I graduated from Lourdes that I appreciated the “hard” teachers. Those teachers challenged me, encouraged me to do my best, kept hounding me to tuck my shirt in, and disciplined me when I wasn’t behaving like I was capable. This is what I appreciated the most about my teachers back then. I don’t think I ever appreciated the things that I didn’t have to work hard to get, then or now.

At Lourdes Academy, the teachers and staff still challenge the students. We know that life outside this building will not be easy. We know that our students will eventually see what we see when they become older and wiser. We know that we will probably never be thanked or appreciated with words because most students realize what they had here only after graduation.

I decided to be a teacher here because I know the value of the education I received. I am proud to be able to pass it on to future Knights. It’s my way of saying thank you.

Mark your calendars

Catholic Schools Week
Sun., January 26 – Sat., February 1

All-System Mass
Tues., January 28 • 1 p.m.
St. Raphael the Archangel Church
830 S. Westhaven Dr.

Red & White Knight - Knights Basketball vs. Oakfield
Thurs., January 30
6 p.m. JV, 7:30 p.m. Varsity
Castle Gym, 110 N. Sawyer St.

All-System Scooter Hockey Tournament
Fri., January 31 • 5 p.m.
Lourdes Academy 6-12
110 N. Sawyer Street

Stuff the Bus Live Remote to Benefit the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry
Sat., February 1 • 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Festival Foods, 2415 Westowne Ave.

Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day
Tues., February 11

Think Pink Knight – Lady Knights Basketball vs. Montello
Fri., February 14
6 p.m. JV, 7:30 p.m. Varsity
Castle Gym, 110 N. Sawyer St.

Tarzan – Lourdes Academy Musical
Thursday, March 27 • 7 p.m.
Friday, March 28 • 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 29 • 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Grand Opera House, 100 High Ave.

2014 Lourdes Academy Awards Recognition Dinner
Friday, April 11 • 5:30 p.m.
LaSure’s Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St.

Lourdes accepting award nominations

On Friday, April 11, 2014, Lourdes Academy will hold its fourth annual Awards Recognition Dinner. Nominations for these awards are being accepted through January 14, 2014. If you know someone who fits the following criteria, we’d love to hear about them.

Distinguished Stewardship Award

Staff person or volunteer within the school community who has shown exemplary commitment to our schools; is a leader in fulfilling our mission to prepare students for life, college and a relationship with God; and has made a positive impact on our system.

Outstanding Alumni Award

Alumnus of Lourdes Academy who graduated at least 10 years ago who has experienced distinguished career and/or personal achievements, is involved in service activities within their community, and has shown a strong commitment to Lourdes or Catholic education.

Athletic Hall of Fame

Athlete of Lourdes Academy who graduated at least five years ago and who has demonstrated distinguished achievement in interscholastic athletic competition sponsored by Lourdes. Or, a coach who has retired from coaching at Lourdes Academy at least five years ago, who has been involved with the same sports program for a minimum of three years, and who has demonstrated a high degree of success within their sports program(s).

For a nomination form and complete list of award criteria, visit the Alumni link at lourdesacademyoshkosh.org. For questions or more information on the nominations or the Awards Recognition Dinner, contact Carla Huizenga at 920-426-3626, ext. 540 or carla.huizenga@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org.
Planning a reunion?
Lourdes can help.

Lourdes Academy is available to assist classes planning reunions. Contact Lourdes to obtain a class list or to learn how you can hold your event at Lourdes Academy.

Class Lists – Linda Wolfgram
920-426-3626, ext. 541
lwolfgram@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org

Facilities Usage – Reed Tyriver
920-235-5670
rtyriver@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org


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