

Interactive screen to replace vintage records

By **Carlie Jo Fusco**

The high school commons now has updated floors and a new concession stand.

However, with the updates, the high school's sports record boards disappeared from the commons and collected dust under the auditorium stage.

High school Principal Joel Diederichs said that the athletic record system is in between stages of being updated as well.

"We're working on a project right now to redesign the commons," he said. "The goal with that is to have an interactive touch-screen board up there, and that's how they'll [the records] be displayed."

Mr. Diederichs adds that this is all a part of the process for an improved commons area.

"It was just a part of the design phase to update the commons," he said. "There's different phases with that. We got

the new flooring in, the new concession stands are in, that's all a part of it. Now we look to update the trophy cases. It's just all a part of the process."

While fans may be able to look on the website Varsity Bound and its namesake predecessor Quik Stats for statistics and schedules of Durant sports teams, there is a conflict with how far the statistics go back on the website. As of right now, the website only shows statistics as far back as 2006-2007 for some sports.

Mr. Diederichs, also the varsity head football coach, said that while it is a struggle to calculate school records for each sport, the individual coaches should be accountable for the knowledge of their team's or players' records.

"For example for football, we use online stats like Quik Stats or Varsity Bound," he said. "Those [records before 2006-2007]

are kept through the individual coaches."

Head varsity boys' basketball coach Matt Straube said that other than Varsity Bound, he only has the record boards to go off of.

"I've been coaching in the Quik Stats era," he said. "So all I know is from there and the [record] board."

Head varsity girls' track and field coach Doug Frett has been coaching the team since 2009. He said he doesn't remember getting any digital or documented records when he took the position.

"I have updated the record board when there is a new record set," said Coach Frett. "As far as I know, this is the only record resource we have."

Head varsity girls' basketball coach Ross DeLong, who has been coaching the girls' team for the last five years, said that while being a relatively newer coach to the

program, he relies on Varsity Bound and his own stat sheets he's held onto for the last few years.

"Everything that has happened recently is on Varsity Bound," Coach DeLong said.

"I do save all my stat sheets over the years."

Coach DeLong said he relies on the record boards for older records but believes it is an issue that they were hidden under the stage.

"I only rely on the boards for everything before 2007," he said. "I didn't know they were under the stage, which is good to know. That's a problem."

After a suggestion from Coach DeLong, the record boards were brought out of the auditorium earlier this month and propped up on top of the trophy cases that line the south side of the commons.



Photos by **Mackenzie Oberlander**

Colyn Dean and Isabelle DeLong face off against the Regina Regals during road games on December 6. Both girls' and boys' varsity basketball teams were 1-4 to start the season. DeLong also made Durant history, breaking the girls' scoring record with 37 points on December 9 against the North Cedar Knights.

Former Durant goalies tune into USA's run at World Cup

By **Garrett Pearlman**

Two former Durant High School soccer goalies hope the USA's performance in the recent World Cup will bring a spotlight to the sport, which is overshadowed by the three other major sports of football, basketball, and baseball.

The USA men's soccer team (USMNT) has reached 11 World Cups including this year's but have never won a World Cup title.

The farthest the men's team has gone was the semifinals in 1930, in which it placed third overall.

A former Durant student and four-year soccer player for Muscatine High School, Logan Wolf, said that he tried to watch the World Cup games when possible.

"I like to watch them not only because I'm a soccer fan but also because it's a worldwide event that even non-soccer fans tune into," said Wolf.

"I think soccer is a game that has so much more depth to it than people realize, and I just enjoy watching it because I played it, and I understand how the game works."

Wolf can already see the impact of the USA men's team making it to the round of 16 earlier this month, especially when the last time it made it this far was in 2014, which was two World Cups ago.

Although soccer's popularity seemed to rise a bit, he thinks that it would've been even more popular if the men's team made it farther into the bracket.

The men's team was eliminated when it lost to the Netherlands 3-1.

"I think the popularity of the game

would sky rocket if the USMNT made a run in the World Cup," said Wolf. "People that don't even follow soccer are tuning in just to support the US team."

Wolf has played soccer for 14 years yet still wants to stay involved with soccer with plans to play club and intramural soccer at Iowa State University where he is attending his freshman year. Wolf would even consider coaching in the future.

"I would like to come back to Muscatine and coach and/or use my goalkeeper experience to help other goalies get better," said Wolf.

Another Durant goalie, graduate Abbey Rhoades, will try to continue to play soccer in college even through her adversities.

"I am still playing soccer at Clarke University, which is an NAIA school," said Rhoades, who is in her sophomore year as the team's goalie.

"I have to get surgery over winter break to remove tissue in my knee, so I am out for the spring season, but I will be back for our regular season next fall."

Rhoades' favorite player on the USA men's team is Matt Turner, the team's goalie. Another former goalie from that team has also caught her attention.

"My all-time favorite player would have to be Tim Howard," said Rhoades.

"I had a book about his life throughout childhood all the way to him becoming a goalie. I used to watch him play, and I would learn things from it. He was a really big inspiration for me to continue soccer past high school.

Rhoades even agreed with Wolf in seeing soccer's popularity rise.

"I have already seen people that do not normally like soccer start watching since the USMNT were in the group stage," said Rhoades.

Rhoades is majoring in Health, Wellness, and Behavioral Science Pre-Physical Therapy.

"My plans for the future are to continue at Clarke in the Physical Therapy Doctorate program and then hopefully become a physical therapist for an athletic team," she said.

This year's World Cup took place in Qatar during November and December while it normally takes place in June and July.

The format includes 32 qualifying teams to start off. These teams were evenly divided into eight groups.

The top two teams from each group moved on to the single elimination round of 16.

Arty's Ice Cream and Grill's boys' basketball player of the month



609 W. 5th St.
Wilton, IA 52778
563-732-2222

Senior Lane Felske is playing center for the Wildcats this winter. Felske wants to average 10 point and 10 rebounds a game. He said, "I am feeling really confident about our team this year." Felske thinks that the Wildcats have a great team and are going to have an amazing season. After the first four games, Felske was leading the team in rebounds with 29



Felske

Peel's Inc. wrestler of the month



755 W. Iowa 80 Road
Walcott, IA 52773
(563) 468-5460

Sophomore Wyatt Cole is wrestling at the weight class of 132 pounds. His goal for the season is to make a run at state and hopes to get a lot of pins. Cole manages to stay motivated with the help of his dad. He says, "My dad has helped me the most and be the best I can be."



Cole

Today's Dentistry coach of the month



502 9th Ave.
Durant, IA 52747
(563) 785-4541

Mr. Michael Cronk is teaching junior high and high school English courses in his first year at Durant. He is also JV boys' basketball coach and varsity assistant coach. Mr. Cronk was the varsity basketball coach at Ottumwa High School before coming to Durant High School and has spent several years coaching AAU basketball as well. He said coaching basketball is his "favorite thing to do in the world."



Cronk

Apex Ink and Apparel's girls' basketball player of the month



708 5th St., Durant, IA 52747
563-785-6223

Sophomore Adison Daufeldt is playing post for the Wildcats this winter. She says, "In my opinion, we have worked hard all summer, and I feel as a whole team we have improved so much from summer to now, and I feel we will have a very successful season."



Daufeldt