



The High School View

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Islanders keep the Cup at home

BY NICK CARPENTER AND CAMDEN TOWNES

Last weekend, the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) football team traveled to Nantucket to battle the Whalers in a game that has occurred every fall since 1978. With three seconds left on the clock, the Vineyarders kicked a game-winning field goal, emerging with the Island Cup and a final score of 24-21.

The football team's victory against Nantucket earned the Vineyarders the league title for the first time since 2008, brought their season record to 5-3, and positioned them as contenders for the upcoming playoffs.

The Vineyarders faced some tough losses this season, but worked to keep their focus and optimism.

"Losing one game doesn't define a season," said senior Aiden Conley. "Knowing all the opportunities ahead, even after a tough game, we were still motivated to reach those goals."

A hands-on coaching ap-

proach was crucial leading up to the Island Cup game. "The past [few] weeks of practices were demanding," said Head Coach Tony Mottola. "We challenged [the players] to raise our level of play, and the kids really responded."

The coaching wasn't the only thing going well for the team this year; the effort in practice was also crucial. "This year, I feel we've really tapped into being a better team. We've had a lot more competition put into

practice," said senior Heyttor Nunes. "Everyone just wants it to keep going and going, and it transfers into our games."

The team also spent a significant amount of time together to develop their bonding. Aiden said, "We have been doing a lot of school-spirit stuff together, like the bonfire and team dinners. We prepared in every way possible."

The Island Cup has held significance for the football team, but also the broader communities on both islands. Senior cheerleading captain Hawanny Ribeiro said, "It's interesting to see [our energy] when it comes to facing other teams. Specifically with Nantucket, you see a big change."

This year, many fans traveled to Nantucket to watch the teams compete. "It's the environment and the community [that's important]," said Heyttor. "Whether you're from Nantucket or Martha's

Vineyard, everyone is at the game, and everyone wants their side to win."

Other MVRHS teams were successful as well. Both varsity girls and boys soccer won their games, each bringing home an inaugural Golden Anchor trophy, and ushering in a new tradition similar to the Island Cup. JV boys and girls soccer were successful in their matches as well. The field hockey team played a tough match, and lost to the Whalers, 6 - 0.

The Vineyard sports teams were greeted by the sirens of fire trucks and police cars as the ferry docked in Vineyard Haven. "Winning the Cup and bringing it back to this Island is surreal and special," said Mottola. It is clear that both the school and greater Island communities are looking forward to continuing the tradition of the Battle in the Atlantic between the Vineyarders' and Whalers' fall teams in the years to come. **HSV**



The football team poses with the Island Cup after their victory over the Nantucket Whalers.

Foreign exchange students navigate life on-Island

BY: PICKLE EVILLE, FREYA STEARNS, AND IZZY ANTHONY

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) welcomed four foreign exchange students to the school this year. Junior Ellen Neergaard-Kofod is here from Denmark, senior Sabrina Paracchino from Italy, junior Camille Gagou from France, and junior Paula Geschke from Germany. Despite being a long way from home, all four have expressed excitement about their new international experience.

Paula has dreamed of being an exchange student since she was little. "I always wanted to go abroad and explore other cultures and the world. I made the decision when I was 10 years old to go abroad with a

school or university," she said. Sabrina has also wanted to be a part of an exchange program for a long time. "At first I wanted to improve my English writing and reading skills, but now that I'm here, I would love to create new friendships to bring back home, and create another life in another country," she said.

Students reflected on the differences between school here and at home. All four are used to longer school days, for example, where they spend the whole day with the same group of students, while teachers switch from class to class. They also feel the teacher-student relationships here are much more personal.

"It's definitely not [as] strict here," said Paula. "It's very common [here] to talk to your



From left, Sabrina Paracchino, Ellen Neergaard-Kofod, and Camille Gagou.

teacher in a nice and friendly way. You don't really have that in Germany."

"Here it is very positive," said Camille. "When you're [here] at school as a student, you're human, and teachers

are human."

As for extracurricular involvement, Camille, Sabrina, and Ellen are on the cheerleading team, and Paula is on the cross-country team. These activities

have allowed students the opportunity not only to meet other people and diversify their involvement in the community, but also to explore other areas in Massachusetts when they travel

with the teams.

The students didn't know what to expect from life in America, and have been surprised with some aspects of Vineyard life.

At first, Camille was nervous about joining her host family. "I was scared because they have three kids, so I was scared of them not liking me, and feeling like I was stealing a part of their house," she said. "Actually, the kids really like me, and are happy to have me as a big sister."

Sabrina said she does miss her friends and her daily routine back home. Paula misses her room at home, and Ellen and Camille miss their families. Despite these minor bouts with homesickness, they are all adjusting well to life on the Island and at MVRHS.

"I really love American high school," said Ellen. "It's everything you could ever dream of." **HSV**

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