

PHOCUS

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October 2010 Edition

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A Tight Race: Sestak vs. Toomey

By Benjamin Yahalomi '11

Sestak versus Toomey:

The Pennsylvania Senate election continues to be highly contested. Pat Toomey's conservative policies and disdain for Washington has appealed to rural and Republican voters, whereas Joe Sestak's anti-incumbency rhetoric and liberal policies continue to appeal to moderates and urban dwellers. Every recent poll has shown Toomey in the lead, but recently that lead has narrowed: now 3 points according to Susquehanna Polling and Research. Toomey's slogan "More Jobs, Less Government" has been a big hit in this swing state. Rural and urban Pennsylvanians alike, hit hard by the economic recession, are angry at Washington's inability to stop the economic crisis. As a consistent fiscal conservative

who supported both Bush tax cuts and opposed the Medicare prescription drug benefit, Toomey appeals to an electorate that increasingly feels neglected. According



to Michael Young, former Penn State politics and public affairs professor, and current managing partner of Michael Young Strategic Research, "If Toomey is elected, he'll be the most conservative candidate elected to office since before the New Deal. We haven't seen anyone this conservative

in a long time." This election will have a major impact nationally. With no moderate candidate from either party, the election of either Sestak or Toomey will mean the

voiced his opinions on the Pennsylvania Senate race. Sonjay, a supporter of Pennsylvania Democratic candidates, believes it is an uphill battle for Sestak, Toomey, and Lentz. He wrote, "Sestak's going to lose, so will Onorato. Maybe Lentz will pull it out, but he has a slim chance." He then described his reasoning for supporting Sestak in the race. "Sestak has consistently shown that he has the charisma necessary to fight

the higher forces such as big business and the high-profile pundits who are plaguing the Senate today. Take for example his race against Specter; he ran the race he thought was right, even though his party was

Student Opinions on the Election:

I spoke to Sonjay Singh, 12th grader, who

see Election on page 2

Welcome New FCS Teachers

By Sami Resnik '12 and Zach Barron '12

This year Friends' Central has welcomed a few new teachers into the faculty. Mr. Colin Angevine, a graduate of the class of '05, taught Erica "Doc" Harnett's Latin class for the first few weeks of school. Though Mr. Angevine was covering for Doc during the month of September, he is teaching Computer Science this year. As a student at FCS, he ironically did not take computer science classes, though he wishes he did. As a teen Mr. Angevine loved to create websites. He notes that at times he would work from, "3:10 in the afternoon

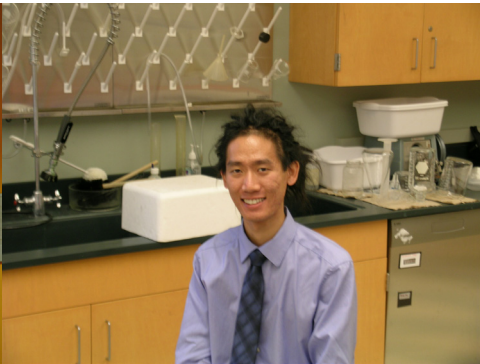
until 3:10 in the morning," creating various websites. This love of technology and computers would eventually lead him to create the website Lingua Zone with the Middle School Latin



teacher Magistra Roberts. Lingua Zone is a website for language learning which has become so popular that even teachers in India and Romania are using it. Mr. Angevine excitedly explained that working on Lingua Zone "is a wonderful way to fuse my passions of language learning and computer science." Besides computers,

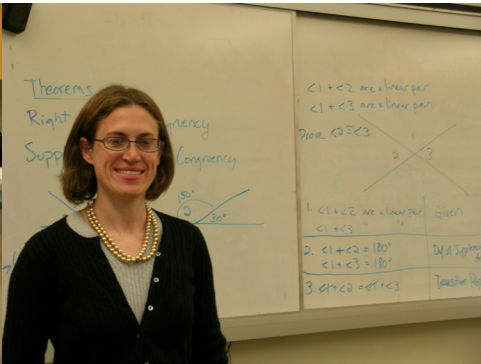
he enjoys snowboarding, dancing, and cooking.

The second new faculty member is already known for his unique hairstyle. Mr. Kaz Uyehara, a native Philadelphian and



graduate of Swarthmore College, is the new science intern and teacher of a Foundations section. He will also be helping out with the science core team and in science labs. Though Mr. Uyehara wants to get a PhD in the future, he needs something productive to do before he goes to graduate school. He notes that he

"wants to do something positive for those around him while staying involved in science," hence he is working at Friends' Central. Though Mr. Uyehara is teaching Foundations, his main focus



in science is on biology. He focuses on biodiversity and how it relates to an ecosystem functioning. He is trying to prove that the more species there are in an ecosystem, the more stable it is. His point: "We need to stop species' extinction." At FCS, Mr. Uyehara is going to research this, and he wants dedicated students to help out. All

in all, lest you think Mr. Uyehara is all science and no fun, I received this e-mail a couple days ago: "If you want non-academic snippets: I am an Assistant Scoutmaster of my former Boy Scout troop, I like to run, I do martial arts, I am learning to play the Japanese flute, I have a serious meditation practice (and have Zen Buddhist beliefs), I watch every Eagles game, and my favorite Disney movie is *Aladdin*."

The third fresh and new face you may see hanging around the FCS faculty room this year is Ms. Priscilla Lukens. Ms. Lukens is Friends' Central's new math teacher, taking

see Teachers on page 7

from Election on page 1 against him. We couldn't pass a decent health-care bill because we conceded too much to the other side. Sestak's the kind of guy who will fight for his beliefs and won't give up anything." On Toomey's slogan and campaign promises, Sonjay wrote, "Toomey's slogan is obviously simple-minded. It's meant to appeal to rural Pennsylvanians who have been hit hard by the recession and honestly, haven't gotten much help from the Bush or Obama administrations."

Another Friends' Central student, Adam Posner, also believes Republicans will be succesful in Pennsylvania. He wrote, "Looking towards

the 2010 elections I am very optimistic for the Republican Party. I believe that Americans have gotten a taste of what Obama and the Democrats have to offer, and I believe that they are very unhappy with it. I am fairly confident that Republican candidates across the Unites States, and in both the House and the Senate, (including Pat Toomey) will experience victory as a result of this level of practical awareness that has been raised."

Source : http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2010/10/the_senate_race_challenges_pen.html

Ms. Mazullo: Ready to Help

By Hannah Albertine '12

For all of you who don't know, Friends' Central has a learning specialist named Ms. Dottie Mazullo on staff. You may be asking yourself, "We have a teacher named Ms. Mazullo?" or "What exactly does a learning specialist do?" To find out more, I ventured to her second floor office in the Wood Building.

Located between the newly renovated girls bathroom, the Upper School office, and the gargyle room, Ms. Mazullo's office is hard to miss. I knocked on the door plastered with Mickey Mouse memorabilia , curious as to what other possible interior

decorations I would find.

Sure enough, Ms. Mazullo welcomed me in and offered me a seat. To my surprise, there was even more Mickey Mouse then I had anticipated. Aside from her affinity for Disney, Ms. Mazullo is a trained learning specialist and spends her time helping students develop ways that will help them with homework and tests.

Ms. Mazullo has a background in speech and language therapy and has worked in education for 22 years. At Friends' Central, her job is to identify "learning challenges" then come up with strategies to help students. Learning challenges can

range from disorganization to slow reading. Ms. Mazullo commented, "I'm available if you're experiencing difficulties of any kind and could benefit from some help. Every student whom I meet with is extremely bright but needs specific focus with education."

Ms. Mazullo is ready to help with anything, and encourages everyone to stop by with questions or just to chat! She is also the faculty person to see about extra time and all that jazz. Go check it out!

P.S There's usually some candy involved!



Look Out Lower Merion. The FCS Upper School Squash Team is Here!

By Daniel Banko '13

A few years ago, the Friends' Central Middle School added squash as one of our after-school winter sports. But there was a problem: squash players who graduated to the Upper School and still wanted to play had to join a squash team outside of school because there was no Upper

School squash team! Finally, after a few years of waiting, this winter season will be the first season that Friends' Central has an Upper School squash team! The team will be led by Ms. Lukens, our is the new math teacher. I asked Ms. Lukens about the new team, and she said that it will be a new experience for her! (Although Ms. Lukens was a competitive squash player

in high school, she hasn't coached before.) She says she is "excited--kids think it is cool to play for a team and they will have a lot of fun." Every weekday at 3:30 during the winter, the squash team will board a bus and drive down to the Healthplex, where Ms. Lukens says that she plans that the practices will consist of a lot of drilling. Ms. Lukens says she doesn't know if this

year the team will be able to compete against other schools, as it's too soon to tell, but says she is optimistic that next year they will.

So what is squash? Squash is a two or four player sport in which the players wield racquets and alternate striking the ball against a wall. The first player to miss or strike the ball out of bounds loses the point. Ms. Lukens

says that the game requires a lot of power and agility. It's called squash because of the ball's "squashy" construction. Will you join the squash team this year?



“Hasta Luego,” Spanish Exchange Students

By Ben Fogel '13

The Spanish Exchange was “una experiencia inolvidable.” That is, “an unforgettable experience.” For three weeks, beginning Saturday, September 3rd, 19 Spanish students found their homes with 18 Friends' Central students. Every other year (alternating with the French exchange), a handful of FCS students host Spanish students from a school in Spain's 4th largest city, Sevilla. In this year of the exchange, 19 Spaniards aged 16-18 took the 3,646 mile journey to Philadelphia (that's 5,867 kilometers to them).

During the time they were here, they experienced life as American teenagers. To the surprise of some, the lives of American teenagers are different than American life as portrayed in Hollywood movies. Many of the exchange students were familiar with *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* (1990-1996), starring Philadelphia native Will

Smith. *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, along with many other American television shows, is very popular in Spain. Much to the Spaniards' dismay, life for the average American teenager is not as kooky and exciting as the lives of “Will Smith” and “Carlton Banks” from the show.

The Spanish students and the FCS students quickly became close friends. The Sunday that they arrived, every student and his or her American counterpart (or their “American brothers and sisters,” as they would call them) assembled for a group barbecue to start interacting and building relationships with each other. It was a fun experience for all...until we decided to play volleyball. At first, we all played together with mixed Spanish and American teams, until someone decided Americans vs. the Spaniards would be a great idea. We were absolutely embarrassed

by the Spaniards' skilled volleyball playing, cheering generously when we even managed to touch the ball.

They did, however, have size on their side having a few guys over 6' including one, Alejandro Jimenez

Jimenez who is 6'6"! Besides the initial barbecue, the Spaniards and American students spent much of their free time bonding together. Whether it was shopping on South Street or at the King of

Prussia Mall, going to see their first baseball game, or just hanging out and partying, the Spaniards and the FCS students created a loving bond. Andie Belkoff ('12), junior on the Exchange, exclaimed, “I think the exchange is an awesome experience. It's amazing how close you can get to someone in a mere three weeks. My exchange student

truly is my Spanish sister!” It is truly remarkable that two strangers living in the same household can develop a close friendship in such a short amount of time.

While the Friends' Central students were in school, the Spaniards went on day and even overnight trips to explore the East Coast of the United States. They visited our nation's capital, Washington D.C., to see such monuments and museums as the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the White House, the Air and Space museum and many more. One of their favorite trips, though, was their day trip to the Big Apple, New York City. Having the opportunity to see the bright lights and big screens of Times Square and walk around Central Park was fascinating to the Spaniards, who commented positively on their experiences in the city. Back in Philly, they visited museums such as the Art Museum and the Museum of Archeology and Anthropology. They

see Spanish on page 3



Top 10 Fashions of Fall 2010

By Sami Resnik '12

This fall, fashion has taken a refreshing turn. Fashion has become as wearable as it has ever been. From minimalist structure to cargo pants, everyone has a chance to look stylish! Take a look at the top 10 trends this fall that you won't want to miss:

1) Camel and Beige

These simple colors are great for coats and bags.

2) Old fashioned schoolgirl look

High socks and pleated skirts are comfy and cute.



3) 60's glam: Mad Men style

Those who watch the popular AMC series *Mad Men* will be excited to wear this glamorous style.

4) Cargo Pants

Every celebrity from Victoria Beckham to Rihanna has been seen wearing Cargo pants.

5) Ruffles

On shirts, jackets, and even dresses - ruffles are on everything.

6) Military inspired

Worn in the most peaceful way possible, the military inspired look is everywhere. Cropped jackets, coats, army boots and the color green is one of the most popular looks this fall. Maybe best worn when *not* in school!

7) Plaid is back

Easy to wear, plaid is a trend that is here to stay.

8) Leather jackets/ Motorcycle look

This rocker-chic look is fun to wear wherever you go.



9) Lace

Ladylike and simple, lace is the perfect way to dress an outfit up.

10) Big knit

sweaters

These chunky sweaters will not only look chic, but will keep you warm throughout the winter.

Sources: <http://www.glamour.com> and <http://www.teenvogue.com>

from Spanish on page 2 also visited signature Philadelphia sights such as Boat House Row, South Street, and the steps of the Art Museum which Rocky so famously climbed.

The 2010 Spanish Exchange produced countless memories for the Spanish and FCS students that will last them a lifetime. Spanish student Alvaro Gayoso Aycart said about the exchange, "It was awesome...I want to repeat

[the exchange], and I'll come back to Philadelphia this summer." Besides the students, the teachers and families hosting the students enjoyed the presence of the Spaniards during their time here. The FCS students will have the opportunity in March to fly to Spain and stay with their Spanish counterparts for 2.5 weeks. They will start off in Madrid for a few days and make their way over to the south-west part of Spain to stay in

Sevilla.

Whether it was chomping down on a cheesesteak, watching Ryan Howard slam a home run, or just sitting in a circle together talking and laughing about school, friends, the movies and everything else going on in any teenager's life, the 2010 Spanish Exchange has been memorable for all. They will be missed dearly by many at Friends' Central. Goodbye and until next time, *adios y hasta luego!*

When Our Parents Killed Our Dog on Christmas

By Oliver Goodman '13 & Rachel Goodman '11

While there are many Goodman family tales that have already been inducted into our hall of fame, "How Dad Killed the Dog on Christmas" is easily the quickest to be admitted. Although we had traditionally dubbed ourselves as ingenious scheme masters (with some notable attempts from our younger sister, Molly), we must admit that our parents' performance three Christmases ago suggests that our knack for sneaky plan-making may, in fact, be hereditary.

Christmas, Mom came home with a cardboard box that she proudly placed on the dining room table. "Guess what it is?" she screamed, and then without even a pause, "Oh, it's a kitten!" As a family who proudly boasts about our "dog

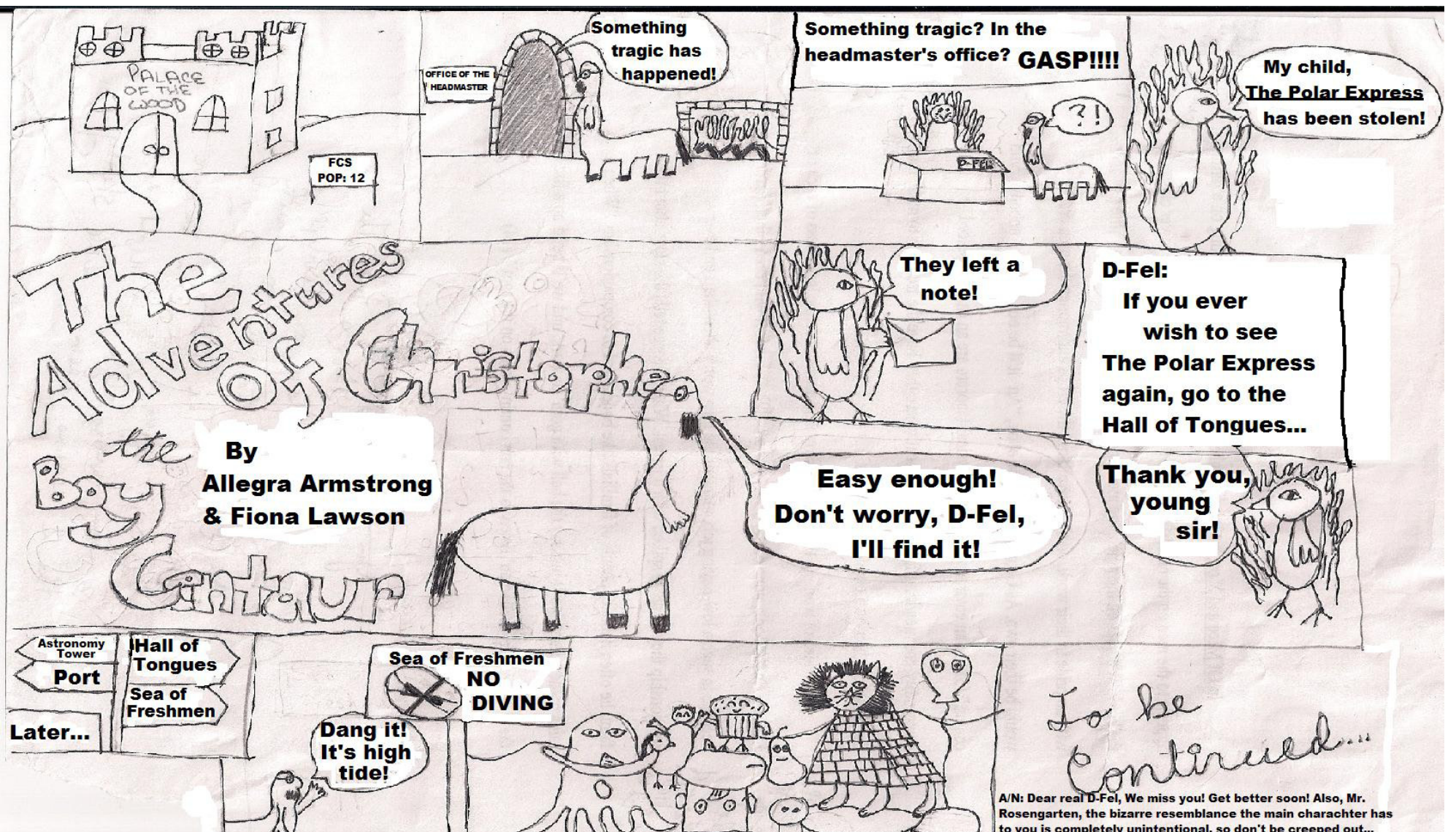
a lot more sense Christmas morning. Like always, we woke up early and opened our presents. Unlike always, we were then instructed to say our final goodbyes to Scarlett, who our Dad had deemed too sick to live another day. We did as we were told, but as we sobbed and blew our noses into Scarlett's fur (not seeing the point of living without our beloved dog), we were shocked to see Molly, Mom, and Dad laughing together and dragging a string around the house for the kitten to play with. Dad kissed the kitten goodbye, searched for a Jewish vet who would be open, and took Scarlett to be put down...on Christmas.



person" persona, a family who thoroughly loved our dog, Scarlett, we were all confused to learn of our new addition, a small black and white creature we named Stinkey.

Two weeks before

This surprise made



Philadelphia



Back in the Playoffs Once Again

By Daniel Yahalomi '14 and Max Ginsberg '14

Well, if you haven't heard, the Phillies have clinched the NL East and have earned a spot in the playoffs for the fourth straight season. This mark sets an all-time Phillies record for consecutive playoff appearances. Over the course of the seemingly endless 162 game season, the Phillies have had to deal with multiple injuries to their key players. But it has been the un-hittable pitching combination of the Phillies' Big three, Roy Halladay, Roy Oswalt, and Cole Hamels that has helped to carry the Phillies to where they are today. In addition the Phillies received help from two underrated players, right fielder Jayson Werth, and catcher Carlos Ruiz, who have provided the run support that has helped the team win games. Everybody knows you are going to get big numbers out of players like Ryan Howard, Chase Utley, and Shane Victorino, but the depth of the Phillies is what puts them on a level above other teams. Manuel applauds Werth's effort and determination to get better, as he states, "He comes to play every day and wants to prove he can contribute something."

The Phillies had to play well in the final months of the regular season because they were shaky at the beginning of the year. Two months ago, the Phillies were 58-48. They were trailing the Atlanta Braves by two games in the division, and were in 3rd place in the wild card standings. Things didn't look good. Since then, the Phillies are 39-17, and the club is going into the playoffs with an overall season record of 97-65 which is the best record in baseball. If the Phillies can ride the momentum of their final two months of the regular season, we should be on our way to our third straight World Series. Gotta' love those Phils.



Philadelphia Phillies' 3rd Basemen Placido Polanco, Pitcher Roy Halladay and Catcher Carlos Ruiz celebrate after the Phillies clinched their 4th straight National League East Title on September 28 @ Nationals' Park.

Photo from Philly.com

Focus Congratulates Roy Halladay No-Hitter in Major League Baseball and his 2nd of the



2010 NLCS Schedule Phillies vs Giants



Game 1: Sat Oct 16 @ Philadelphia -7:30

Game 2: Sun Oct 17 @ Philadelphia - 8:00

Game 3: Tues Oct 19 @ San Francisco - 4:00

Game 4: Wed Oct 20 @ San Francisco -7:30

*Game 5: Thurs Oct 21 @ San Francisco -7:30

*Game 6: Sat Oct 23 @ Philadelphia -3:30

*Game 7: Sun Oct 24 @ Philadelphia - 7:30

*if Necessary



The Phillies celebrate on the mound after the final out during Game 3 of the NLDS in Cincinnati.

Photo from <http://sports.yahoo.com>

NLDS Game

Two outs in the top of the ninth, Phillies up 2-0 with Scott Rolen coming up to bat. Cole Hamels is working on the complete game shutout, which would be the Phillies second shutout in three NLDS games. The 0-2 pitch, Swing and a miss on some high heat and the Phillies are going back to the NLCS for the third consecutive year.

Before the NLDS began, Phillies manager Charlie Manuel opted for the eight day series which gave him the opportunity to use Halladay, Oswalt, and Hamels on their regular rest. This turned out to be one great decision which in turn led to a Phillies sweep against the Cincinnati Reds in three games. Game three featured Johnny Queto against Cole Hamels, the third of the Phillies aces. The Phillies scored first in the top of the 1st to take a 1-0 lead and then gave the ball to Cole. He did not disappoint. Hamels ran through the Reds lineup not allowing a run. However the Phillies were not able to produce any insurance runs until the fifth inning. When Chase Utley came up to bat in the 5th inning, he added to the Phillies lead by hitting a solo home run which landed in the front row of the right field bleachers, to give the Phillies a 2-0 lead.

Pitching was one main reason why the Phillies swept the Reds. Game 1 had Halladay's no hitter. Game 2 had a rocky start by Oswalt but the bullpen picked him up which lead to the

Red October 2010

NLDS Game 1 by Matthew Karliner ‘11

The stadium was buzzing, 46,411 Phillies fans were waving white rally towels in unison, all waiting for the next pitch. Roy “Doc” Halladay was just one out away from throwing his second no-hitter of the 2010 season, a feat that guarantees anyone a place in Cooperstown. After the pitch was bounced right in front of the plate, Carlos “Chooch” Ruiz on a knee threw out Reds’ Brandon Phillips at first base, securing the game one victory in the 2010 NLDS. The moment was even more joyous for Roy Halladay, who pitched a perfect game..

Everyone was wondering how Roy would perform in game 1. It was his first time as starting playoff pitcher- he had previously pitched more than 300 regular season games as starting pitcher without making it into the playoffs. Halladay threw a 1-2-3 first and in the bottom of that same inning the Phillies added a run to take a 1-0 lead after Victorino doubled, then stole third and scored on a sacrifice fly. After another stellar 2nd inning by the Doc, the Phillies went into the bottom of the 2nd hoping to extend on their 1-0 lead. With 2 outs and Volquez hoping for a quick inning, he walked Ruiz; and then after a miss-play by 2nd basemen Phillips, the Phillies had 1st and 2nd with two out and Halladay coming up to bat. He helped his own cause by striking a first fastball right into left field, and then falling in front of the diving Gomes to give him his first playoff hit and first playoff RBI in the same at bat. Jimmy Rollins singled in Halladay and Wilson Valdez, filling in for the injured Polanco, to give the Phillies a 4-0 lead, which was more than

enough for Halladay. He was cruising up and down the Reds’ lineup and had retired 15 straight going into the top of the 5th with a perfect game in tact. Jay Bruce came up to bat and worked out a walk, ending the perfect game at 4 2/3 innings but the no-hitter was intact. Halladay was still cruising into the top of the 9th and got the first two out quickly, and after a nice play by his catcher, Ruiz who threw the ball to Howard at first completed the no-hitter.

Lost in the excitement of Halladay’s no-hitter was the Phillies offense. They scored 1 run in the 1st and 3 in the 2nd...and that was it. The offense just was nowhere to be found for the last 7 innings of the game. The Phillies did not get a hit since the last 50% of the game. Without the Phillips mistake in the 2nd, the Reds would have escaped the 2nd without giving up a run and the Phillies would have won 1-0. The offense that night was reminiscent of the offensive slumps that were occupying not too long ago in the future. There would be times the offense was non stoppable and that night was just not one of them. At least for the Phillies, Doc Halladay was his stellar self leading the Phillies to a 1-0 series lead. History is in the Phillies favor, the last 7 playoff series when the Phillies won Game 1, they are 6-1 in them. Game 2 has Roy Oswalt facing Bronson Arroyo at Citizens Bank Park.

Halladay on throwing the 2nd Baseball Postseason history the 2010 season!



NLDS Game 2 by Ben Fogel ‘13

The Cincinnati Reds first postseason hit since 1995, was Brandon Phillips leadoff home run. By the bottom half of the 5th the Reds rattled the Phillies starting pitcher Roy Oswalt to tack on 3 more runs to take a commanding 4-0 lead. On the other side of the ball Reds pitcher Bronson Arroyo dominated the Phillies through the first half of the game. In the bottom half of the 5th, after two Red's errors and a few clutch hits, Chase Utley lined a two run single to right. The Phillies continued their run production in the 6th when the “flying Hawaiian”, Shane Victorino drew a two-out bases loaded walk. The Phillies weren’t done there. In the bottom of the 7th after Cincinnati Reds right fielder Jay Bruce misplayed a sharp Jimmy Rollins hit, his relay to 2nd baseman Brandon Phillips was dropped for the Reds 3rd and 4th errors of the night. In the process Chase Utley and Jayson Werth scored for two unconventional RBI’s for Jimmy Rollins. Jimmy Rollins then went on to score on a fielder’s choice hit by Carlos Ruiz. The Phillies clawed their way back from a 4-0 deficit to take a commanding 6-4 lead going into the 8th. Our fighting Phil’s still weren’t done when Jayson Werth singled home Chase Utley. The Phillies 3 run lead was just enough for our hometown heroes to pull out the win. After the game, Phil’s first baseman Ryan Howard commented, “It was just a weird, weird, awkward day,” which was the general consensus of all players that day. It was not the Phillies best played game, but it was a win all the same. In the playoffs one thing matters and one thing matters only, who in the end can end up on top with the win. This reminds all of us all of Frank Sinatra’s famed song, *High Hopes*, made famous by Harry Kalas. With the Phillies up 2 games to none, this will surely set the stage for them for a NLDS victory.

3 by Matthew Karliner ‘11

comeback win. In game 3, Hamels pitched just as well as Halladay did. In all three games the starters gave up a total of four runs while giving up only 11 hits. The pitching staff kept the Reds 3-4-5 hitters, Votto, Rolen, Gomes/Nix, almost hitless. They were 2-30 and only had 1 run and 1 RBI in the three games. When the pitching staff did make a mistake, the defense was there to back them up. Werth and Victorino made many spectacular catches to save extra base hits, which kept the Reds off the board in both game 1 and 3.

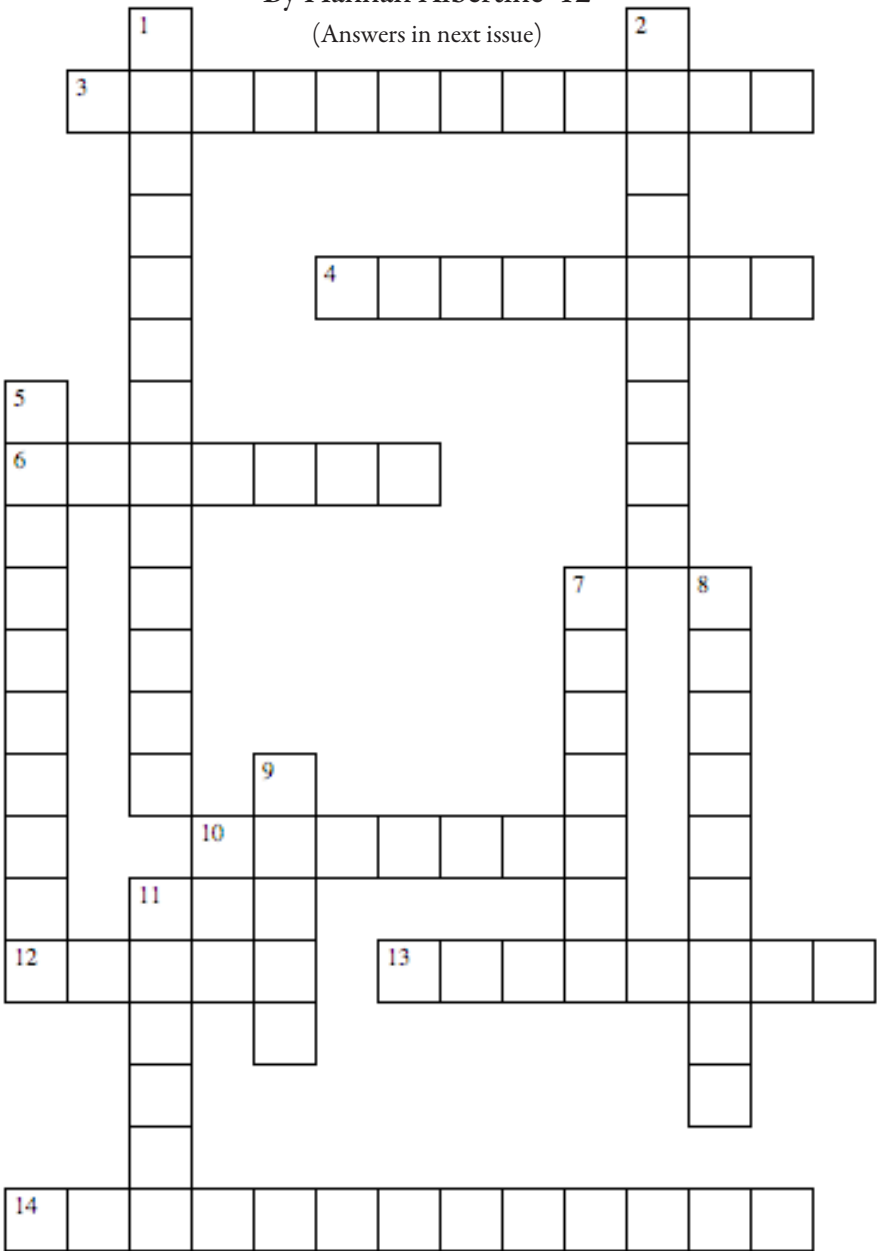
The offense came back alive for game 2, but was half awake for game 3. Even though the Phillies had eight hits off Reds pitching, they left eight men on base. Utley had the only Phillies RBI of the night because the first run was due to a throwing error by Reds 3rd basemen, Philly favorite Scott Rolen, which caused 1st basemen Joey Votto to be pushed off the bag and led Polanco to score from third with two outs.

The Phillies advanced to their third straight NLCS on Sunday night and will host either the Giants or the Braves (Giants lead series 2-1) on Saturday the 16th. Start time is TBA. In the NLCS the Phillies will be able to have Halladay, Oswalt, Hamels going in games 1-3 and 5-7 and most likely Joe Blanton in game 4. As Roy Halladay said, “It was fun, but it’s only going to get funner.”

Come to Shimada on
Saturday to watch the Phillies
take on the Giants.
Hot Dogs, Snacks and Drinks
will be sold. Go Phillies!
--Sponsored by your Student
Council

FCS Crossword Puzzle!

By Hannah Albertine '12
(Answers in next issue)



Across

Down

- 3

Rock the _____
- 4

Sticker
- 6

June 10th, 2011
- 10

Mr. Gruber
- 12

The Wood Building is made out of.....
- 13

1845
- 14

69th Street
- 1

The Play
- 2

Mr. Darling
- 5

FCS original mascot
- 7

Dinosaur
- 8

Cafeteria on Wheels
- 9

_____-Tolcott
- 11

The Catcher In the Rye

November and December Movie Preview

By Louis Lesser
once again.

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Due Date (11/5) – Following the success of *The Hangover*, director Todd Phillips and Zack Galifianakis return, with Robert Downey Jr. in tow. The plot is about an expectant father, who, due to unfortunate circumstances, must drive cross-country with a struggling actor, in order to arrive home to see his child’s birth.

127 Hours (11/5) – James Franco stars in director Danny Boyle’s follow-up to his massive hit, *Slumdog Millionaire*, as Aron Ralston, a real mountain climber who defies the odds in Utah. Considering the success of the predecessor, expect this movie to perform well come awards season.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (11/19) – One of the most beloved franchises of a generation reaches its climax, or, at least partly. The adaptation of the seventh Harry Potter book will mark the beginning of the end of this pop culture sensation, and is quoted to be the most faithful adaptation of the books yet.

Unstoppable (11/12) – Denzel fans, rejoice. While his last train themed film, *The Taking of Pelham 123*, was not a bona-fide success, this film, from frequent Washington partner Tony Scott, also features Chris Pine (*Star Trek*), and looks to bring Denzel back in the action spotlight

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (12/10) – The third film in the series is also the first movie not to be released by Walt Disney Pictures (the film is being distributed by 20th Century Fox), and the first in 3D. Based on the fifth book in the “Chronicles,” this movie follows the two youngest Pevensies on a naval rescue mission. Look to see if this popular franchise remains profitable under new management.

How Do You Know (12/17) – Partially filmed just downtown this past year, Reese Witherspoon and Paul Rudd star in the newest producer from director James L. Brooks, known for his work *As Good As It Gets* and as a producer of *The Simpsons*. Early praise has said this movie just might be a winner.

Gulliver’s Travels (12/22) – Jack Black headlines a comedic cast in another retelling of Jonathan Swift’s famous book. The only difference between previous adaptations is that this version is meant to be funny, and Jack Black hasn’t had top billing by himself since *Tenacious D & The Pick of Destiny*, so look to see if he can handle the weight of the film relying mostly on his performance.



2010 Fall TV Preview

By Jack Kornblatt '13 and Keira Sultan '12

One of the things that has characterized NBC this fall television season is a few old faces and a lot of new ones. While quality programs like *The Office* and *30 Rock* return for yet another season, the majority of the National Broadcasting Company’s lineup features new shows. NBC hopes to stage a comeback in the broadcasting arena; its viewership has fallen, and it is now ranked 4th out of all US broadcast companies. While it has been able to create a broadcasting niche with comedy shows like *The Office*, it hasn’t had a smash hit like *House* on Fox and *Grey’s Anatomy* on ABC in years. Below are previews of some of NBC’s most highly anticipated shows.

What is *The Event*? For weeks NBC has been airing commercials featuring

this tantalizing tag line for their new suspense thriller *The Event*. The show tells the story of the President of the United States and the conflict between him and a group of mountain prisoners who are known to be not of terrestrial



origin. Caught in this is Sean Walker, whose girlfriend’s disappearance has led him to uncover an assassination plot against the president. *The Event* airs on NBC on Monday from 9-10 P.M.

Often times when people call a company for customer service, they are routed to India where they must deal with hard to understand accents and a cultural divide. *Outsourced* tells the story of Todd

Dempsey, an American sent to India to manage a call center comprised of several strange and foreign individuals. Dealing with language barriers, quiet employees, and an assistant manager poised to get him fired, Todd is in for an interesting experience, in this smart new comedy from NBC airing from 9:30 to 10:00 P.M.

This season of *The Office* represents a turning point in the series, as it is Steve Carell’s last. While many question whether the show will be funny next year without Carell, this season is poised to be the funniest yet. Featuring several guest

stars, including all of Michael’s previous girlfriends, the official return of Holly Flax, and a rival salesman from Pam’s past, *The Office* is expected to create huge laughs every Thursday from 9-9:30 on NBC.

One of the most successful franchises on television is *Law and Order*. Now, after the cancellation of the original show, series creator Dick Wolf has come out with a brand new show, *Law and Order: Los Angeles*. As the first *Law and Order* to take place outside New York City, this new series brings with it an entirely new set of

situations, crimes, and plots. Featuring the tag line “Welcome to the Wild West,” *Law and Order: Los Angeles* airs on Wednesdays from 10-11:00 P.M. on NBC.

see TV on page 7



Sports Poll of the Month: *FOCUS* surveyed the 9th-12th grade and asked:
What is your favorite Philadelphia Sports Moment of the last 20 Years?

- Phillies Win 2008 World Series - 97/86.6%
- Eagles Make it to 2005 Super Bowl - 5/4.5%
- Flyers Return to Stanley Cup in 2010 - 4/3.6%
- Allen Iverson Leads Sixers to 2001 NBA Finals - 4/3.6%
- Joey Chestnut Wins the Wing Bowl - 2/1.8%

Write in Votes:

- 1) Chris Pronger steals game puck last season
- 2) Roy Halladay throws a perfect game
- 3) Chase Utley’s World Series Parade Speech
- 4) Chase Utley’s first at bat of his career with the Phillies is a grand slam
- 5) Philadelphia Soul with the AFL Championship
- 6) Aaron McKie wins the 2001 NBA Sixth Man Award
- 7) FCS wins soccer championship in 2004

Advice Column

By Anonymous

Dearest Jane,

I’m a freshman, and the girl I am currently “crushing on” is a senior. I believe myself to be quite the stud but I keep receiving these immensely discouraging comments from my friends. Please help me decide what to do.

Sincerely,
Luv4senior-itas

Dear Luv4senior-itas,

I have written a number of tips below with the intention of preserving your high self-esteem and possibly the formation of your face. I understand that we all harbor fantasies but this is NOT Cougar Town; so

- 1. Do aim for someone significantly less aged. Take advantage of the fact that you still have bounce in your step and flow to your hair.
- 2. Do realize your chance of success is no fatter than Paris Hilton eating air as

sustenance.

But if you still insist on asking this girl out, I suggest the following:

- 3. Do ask her out with *lots* of eye witnesses present. It is probable that she will be generous with words and actions if there is a crowd.
- 4. Do avoid senior boys and always carry pepper spray for protection afterwards.

Yours Truly,
Jane D

from Teachers on page 1 the reigns from Mr. Coval of last year. She teaches mostly underclassmen with multiple sections of both Geometry and Algebra II. Ms. Lukens is very familiar with Friends’ Central as she is a Philly native from Center City. She says that FCS drew her attention immediately because of “the Quaker values and sense of community”. She went on to say that her favorite thing about FCS is “how everyone treats each other with respect and integrity”. Ms. Lukens’s previous job as a saleswoman at the company Super Derivatives is very

different from being a high school teacher; however she seems to have made the transition quite well. Ms. Lukens contributions to the FCS community stretch past the math department, as she is already making *Focus* headlines as the coach of the first ever squash team. Details of the squash team can be found on page 2, in an article written by Daniel Banko. Please help welcome these promising and multi-faceted new teachers into our community!



from TV on page 6

You walk into the school on Wednesday morning and throughout your morning classes you overhear three different groups of people belting out Britney Spears’ “Stronger.” What is going on? It’s the *Glee*

possibly the only show that will make you want to cry one moment, then hysterically laugh the next, all the while feeling an irrepressible urge to get right up and join the characters in song and dance. In this season of *Glee*, the club is working towards winning the national glee club competition that they lost

Standing at 4’9, she may be the smallest of all the glee club members, but as was discovered during the season premiere when she sang “What I Did for Love “ from *Chorus Line*, her voice is also arguably the biggest.

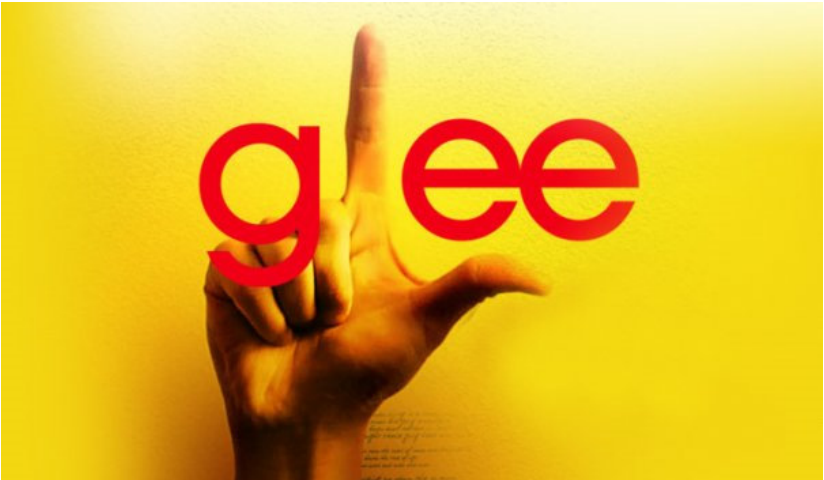
Not the biggest fan of musicals? Are you the type of person who finds yourself thinking about how unrealistic it is that a group of students would just suddenly burst down the halls in song and dance without any notice from anyone around them? Are you searching for a more realistic, violent, and historically based show? Then *Boardwalk* is probably more of the show for you.

focuses on the political corruption at the start of the Prohibition in 1919. By illustrating the life of characters who are involved in political as well as organized crime, primarily around Atlantic City, it examines the effect of prohibition on American culture; namely the lucrative business of alcohol trafficking it created, which

and fallible. For those who are more used to modern entertainment, where constant action needs to be flowing in order to keep up the audience’s interest, you may find yourself becoming bored with the slow plot development. However, perseverance pays off for the true film buff or historian. Once you get engaged in the show, and consider all the

unique characters and their personalities (such as the main character played by character, actor Steven Buscemi, whose complex

acting makes it impossible to tell whether he is good or evil), you can put some butter on the popcorn and enjoy the show!



sensation. Whether you’re a hardcore devoted “gleek” or a newcomer to the show, you should put it on your agenda to tune into ABC on Tuesdays at 8 o’clock. *Glee*, the musical television phenomena about a high school glee club is quite

the previous season to their talented rival club, “Vocal Adrenaline.” Although they could not manage to pull off first place last year, they now have Sunshine on their side to help them; a new exchange student from the Philippines.



led to organized crime and the growth of the mob. It also provides a snapshot of what major mob figures, such as Al Capone, were like when they were unknown, and makes them more human

Boardwalk Empire

Phoenix In the Phast Lane

by Jamie Ulrich '12

Joey Brodsky '12 – Boys' Soccer

After a year on the Radnor High soccer team, Joey Brodsky ('12) has returned to the Phoenix this fall and is making an impact. His superior speed and agility allow him to track down opposing players quickly, while his skill and field vision help him create scoring opportunities on offense. An exciting player to watch, Brodsky looks like a young version of French superstar Thierry Henry. His dynamic play on both offense and defense make him a respected player in the FSL, while his passion and lack of fear for contact strike fear in opponents.

In addition to being a top player, Joey has earned the respect of his teammates and coaches. Coach Campbell was quick to praise his junior star, saying, "His work rate and leadership both on the field and in training have set an example for the younger players on the squad." A valued member of the community, Joey has developed into an admired player and person.



Alexa Fusselbaugh '13 – Field Hockey

This sophomore sensation is tearing up the hockey field with her terrific play as of late. The hybrid forward-midfielder sets the pace on offense and attacks the goal with a ferocity that few would expect from the mild-mannered Alexa. Despite being one of the youngest players on the team, Alexa makes her presence known with her aggressive style of play blended with superb skill. Few would suspect that such a young player would have such a significant impact on every game, yet Alexa proves them wrong time and time again.

Head Coach Jody Mayer commented, "There is never a practice or game where Fuss isn't focused on improving. She works hard all the time." Mayer went on to say "She recently told me that unless she was bleeding or had an internal injury, she didn't want to come off the field, no matter how tired she was." It's this combination of guts and ability that makes Alexa "Fuss" Fusselbaugh an exciting player to watch and a person worthy of admiration. Look for Alexa to help lead the team into contention for the Friends Schools League title in the coming years.



Philadelphia Sixers 2010-2011 Preview

By Wesley Kaminsky '11

It was a disastrous season for the Sixers last season. After reaching the playoffs the previous two seasons, they had aspirations to return to the post-season. Nothing went right for them though, which lead to a 27-55 record. Changes needed to be made, and they were.

The first thing the Sixers did was fire Eddie Jordan and replace him with a veteran, proven coach; they chose Doug Collins. In addition to hiring Collins, the

Sixers lucked out by landing the second pick in the NBA draft. With that pick, the Sixers took Evan Turner, the reigning Naismith player of the year. Turner seems to be extremely "pro-ready," and he strikes comparisons to Brandon Roy. The Sixers would not mind that in the least bit.

The Sixers also unloaded the contract of Samuel Dalembert to the Kings in exchange for Andres Nocioni and Spencer Hawes.

The Sixers got the best value they could out

of Dalembert, and Nocioni brings toughness to their team. He's the kind of player who is not afraid to throw an elbow or take a hard foul. The Sixers were lacking a player like that. Not only did they ship out Dalembert, but also longtime Sixer Willie Green and fourth year forward Jason Smith to the Hornets. In return, the Sixers received veteran forward Darius Songalia, and first round 2010 first round pick Craig Brackins from Iowa State.

If Evan Turner is impressive in his rookie

season, the Sixers may very well find themselves back into the playoff hunt. A potential trio of Jrue Holiday, Evan Turner, and Andre Iguodala could be dangerous. This is a big year for Holiday, a good defender, who showed promise in his rookie season. Now he is the starting point guard, and the Sixers are expecting big things out of him. It would also be nice to see something out of Elton Brand who has been a big disappointment since signing with the Sixers two summers ago.

Don't expect a lot out of the Sixers this season, but after a nightmare season last year, there is some light at the end of the tunnel.

Prediction: 36-46

All images taken from <http://sports.yahoo.com>.



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