On February 1st the final curtain went down at the Inserra Theater for the 2020 SJR winter musical, *The Addams Family*. The second musical of the year for SJR, this production was bigger with a larger ensemble.

The show, based on *The Addams Family*, a popular musical comedy with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and the book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, depicted a ghoulish American family with an affinity for all things macabre. It ran for ten days and was a departure from SJR's traditional musicals to appeal to wider range of audiences. And so it did. Seniors, grandchildren, students and families attended various productions.

Two senior citizen shows were very well attended and a specially-priced student show allowed SJR and local students to attend right after school. Grandparents, parents and kids alike were seen and heard snapping their fingers to the familiar *Addams Family* theme song from the TV show they know well.

The performers liked it to too. After competitive auditions, seniors Ralph Ignacio and Mark Rivera emerged as Gomez, the Castilian patriarch of the family who has the only name that is not ghoulish. Unique to SJR's production, Gomez's ancestor's portraits came alive in Harry Potter fashion with Ralph and Mark each portraying the other's relative when not on stage as Gomez. Uncle Fester, Gomez' bald, eccentric brother "of no specific gender" and clothed in a monk-styled robe was played by seniors Michael Bloom and Declan Henry. Michael and Declan brought down the house in their portrayal of Fester, who declares that he is in love with the moon and eventually ventures off by rocket to romance her. But before he leaves, Uncle Fester hits the money note and real meaning of the show early on when he reflects on "What's normal?" and asks "Who's to say, who's to say?"

Fester gets it right: "What is normal?" The audiences tend to think the Beineke's are the norm until they fall in love with the Addams family and realize that "normal family" can have many meanings.

Freshman Jeffrey Guneratne and Senior Ross Foothorap played the devilish brother Pugsley who tries to foil Wednesday's plan to marry a "normal" boy, Lucas Beineke played by extraordinary guys Aiden Woods, a sophomore and Ben Hajek, a junior. Senior Jack Piccirillo and junior Mac Connors, were the "normal" adults in the room, trying to make sense out of the whole Addams family experience as they played the father, Mal Beineke.

Last but certainly not least, Lurch, the family butler portrayed by Matt Webb, Adam Mladjenovic, and Dimitri Pierre, ever present on the stage with few perceptible lines, stole the audiences' hearts when he finally finds his voice and sings. Not to be left out, Thing, the family helping hand, opened the show by terrorizing the mailman as he delivered letters to the mailbox from which Thing, the hand of the propmaster, emerged.

For ten days SJR was all Addams Family. The lobby design recreated the scary mansion, with candles, rose bouquets sans petals and opportunities for family selfies behind elaborate and macabre picture frames. Never missing an opportunity to teach while entertaining, the lobby committee adorned the windows with key words from the show like "Family and "Normal."

Even the concession stand had themed treats. The lounge was converted into "Gomez' Goodies" with treats like grandma's potion in a souvenir chalice, Fester's moon pies, Alice's sun chips and traditional kiss the cast bags transformed with eyeballs, skeletons and gummy worms.
Google’s Data Collection Caused Controversy

By Gavin Hughes ‘20

Google recently bought Fitbit, the Silicon Valley activity tracking company that raised over $1.5 billion in 2018. Google purchased the company for $2.1 billion and in the process, received all the data inside of Fitbit, including the personal analytics of the 28 million people worldwide using Fitbit. This data includes daily activities and routines.

The company set out to help improve people’s daily habits. Google sees the purchase as an opportunity to get into the health market like Apple. Apple already had a head start in the wearable device field with their three series of Apple Watches.

Fitbit went public at $45 per share in 2015 but ever since the immense popularity of the Apple Watch, the stock has plummeted. Over the second half of the decade the stock of Fitbit dropped to $6.56 per share.

Although Google is looking to catch up to Apple in the health market, they aren’t new to the game. In 2007, Anne Wojcicki founded the genetic testing company 23 & Me with a little help from her then boyfriend and later spouse Sergey Brin. Brin is the co-founder of Google and invested $3.9 million in 23 & Me. Throughout it’s early growth, the genetic testing company were helped by Google on numerous occasions. But what seemed to be two spouses helping out each other could have turned into something much bigger.

While these investments and acquisitions on Google’s behalf sound like sound business decisions, the responsibility that comes with owning millions of American’s personal and genetic data is huge. The US Food and Drug Association (FDA) warned about the dangers in handing your data over to 23 & Me.

Google’s obsession with medical data and the profit that comes with health solutions isn’t new and will start to increase as humans become more in touch with technology. A Wall Street Journal article published on November 1st 2019 titled Google’s ‘Project Nightingale’ Gathers Personal Data on Millions of Americans exposes the hubris and hunger Google has for our private medical data.

The article explains how Google has infiltrated thousands of hospitals around America in 21 different states and secretly collected health records. Google teamed up with Ascension (America’s second largest health-care system) in order to collect data on millions of hospital patients. “Google began Project Nightingale in secret last year with St. Louis-based Ascension, a Catholic chain of 2,600 hospitals, doctors’ offices and other facilities…”

The article also goes on to explain how and why the search engine giant has directed it’s attention to spying on sick American’s, writing “Neither patients nor doctors have been notified. At least 150 Google employees already have access to much of the data on tens of millions of patients, according to a person familiar with the matter and the documents.”

How this is legal honestly baffles me but it’s never good when millions of American’s personal medical data is in the hands of two conglomerates like Google and Ascension. Morally and ethically this crosses so many boarders. What confuses me even more is the hypocrisy that Ascension calls itself a Catholic company. Their website claims the company is “following the healing ministry of Jesus” and the only link they have is talks about “protecting” their patients health care and data.
For The Guardian’s second food review, Jack Lynch ‘21 and Ryan Collins ‘20 didn’t venture far going up Chestnut Ridge Road to Phil’s Pizzeria. Again the goal of these reviews is to give Saint Joes students informed opinions of the many food options near the school. This small pizzeria is tucked in the strip mall right next to the school. It is a favorite spot for students after half a day to grab lunch.

“The employees love seeing the Saint Joe’s students,” says Chris Flug ‘20, “They understand that a large part of their business comes from the school and are appreciative. The service is second to none.”

Although the restaurant has such a good reputation we wanted to see if it was able to live up to the expectations we had coming in. Both of us have gone to Phil’s before, however hadn’t gone there in about a year. Before the review we both had positive experiences and were hoping this wouldn’t change.

We walked inside and were created by the friendly employees and were told to sit wherever we wanted. Within minutes a waiter had come to take our order and to bring us water. Although Phil’s has a large assortment of Italian cuisine we decided to order what most SJR students would, the pizza. Jack ordered two plain slices while Ryan ordered two pepperoni.

“What really sets this place apart is the service,” said Lynch ‘21, “They really care whether you are having an enjoyable meal and really try to make your dining pleasant. They were super friendly and made you feel like family.”

The food came out quickly and steaming hot. We couldn’t wait to dig into the slices. The pepperoni slices were covered in the meat which we both thought was a positive. If you have to pay extra for pepperoni you want to get your money’s worth. The slices were greasy, but not overwhelmingly greasy like some pizzeria’s make their pizza. After finishing our food we asked for the check which, you guessed it, got to the table in a very short time. What surprised us most was the price. It was very affordable with two pepperoni slices costing 5.90 and Jack’s two plain slices with a drink costing about $7.

Although the price was a positive, the taste is what really sets this place apart. Both of us had nothing left on our plates at the end. We both had such a positive experience.

Although both Jack and Ryan prefer diner food, this pizza was unbelievable. The cheese didn’t melt off the pizza and the slice stayed intact while eating. It’s never a good thing when you make a mess when eating pizza. The crust was crispy and was just the right amount of crunch. We couldn’t recommend a better place close to SJR. This pizzeria is a must if you are in the area. Make sure to stop by and tell them The Guardian sent you!
SJR Students Attend March For Life in Washington D.C.

By Chris Minnich ‘20

On January 24th, 2020 the March for Life had its 47th rally since abortion was legalized after the decision in the Roe vs. Wade case by the Supreme Court. The march in Washington D.C. was historic because it was the first time a sitting President attended and spoke at the rally. President Trump participated in a way that no other President has in the past for the right to life cause. There was also the largest number of people in attendance for the DC march in its history. Eight SJR students attended the march with Mr. LoGiudice.

We arrived at St. Elizabeth’s Parish in Wyckoff where we celebrated Mass and ate breakfast together before boarding the bus with parishioners from St. Elizabeth’s. The SJR students that participated were from all four grades. Our bus arrived in Washington DC around noon and we then joined the crowd which consisted of thousands of people from many different parts of the nation. It was exciting to see people of all ages gathering together and carrying banners while singing their songs in support of the pro-life movement.

As we were making our way over to where the speeches were being made, the President passed us in his motorcade. In President Trump’s speech at the National Mall he said that he has provided the most pro-life administration in the country’s history.

He also said “We’re here for a very simple reason: to defend the right of every child, born and unborn, to fulfill their God-given potential.” Trump stated that it was very important that we protect the sanctity of every human life. He ended his speech by saying “We cannot know what our citizens yet unborn will achieve, the dreams they will imagine, the masterpieces they will create, the discoveries they will make. But we know this: Every life brings love into this world. Every child brings joy to a family. Every person is worth protecting.” Seeing the President at the rally gave hope to the protesters that they will see Roe v. Wade be overturned. After Trump gave his speech, the thousands of people in the National Mall left to go and join the march. We joined the march and walked towards the Capitol and we were fortunate to have great weather.

Once we were finished at the march we went to the Vatican Embassy also known as the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See located on Embassy Row. We were welcomed by Br. Joe Britt, CFX for a tour of the embassy. Br. Joe Britt was a former teacher at SJR and he now works in the Vatican Embassy. On the tour Br. Joe shared the history of the embassy and the Ambassadors and the many pieces of artwork on display. We were able to see the chapel in the embassy and the beautiful Marian mosaic of Our Lady, Mary Seat of Wisdom. Our tour covered two floors and each room had beautiful artwork and we also saw a beautiful stained glass window. Br. Joe Britt shared stories about sitting at the dining room table with Pope Francis on his 2015 visit to the United States. He also shared stories of being at SJR.

The march for the rights of the preborn is a very important event every year and so is the message that life should be defended at all stages. We witnessed thousands of people taking time to gather and acknowledge that all lives are precious and should be protected. In my senior year at SJR I am very grateful for the opportunity given to me to attend this event and I regret not participating in the past. I recommend that all students attend the March for Life annually and show their support for the right to life. All students should consider joining the Respect for Life Club and continue the conversation about the sanctity of life.
By Ashton Samson ‘23

1. Parasite (Bong Joon Ho)

In 2019, the latest trend in Hollywood seems to be finding opportunities to communicate creative and insightful storylines. Bong Joon Ho, a South Korean director, continues that trend, delivering the best film of the year by crafting a perfect amalgamation of dark humor in the first act and social commentary in its final act. Parasite gains its power from defying expectations, making the audience think it is a comedy at first until it unfolds, through excellent acting, genius symbolism in its imagery and masterful social commentary, a somber denouement. This reveals its main theme of desperation hidden in each of its characters as they latch on to each other hopeful for a better future.

2. The Irishman (Martin Scorsese)

Scorsese’s new gangster epic is good old-fashioned mob fun and is equal parts reflective, bleak and most importantly, a phenomenal curtain call to a genre that the master has been telling stories in for his whole life. He invited his usual suspects, Robert De Niro, Joe Pesci, Harvey Keitel and working with him for the first time, Al Pacino, to tag along with him for the last of many parties. This final party differs from the others and is better because of the unique perspective that old age brings as these “oldfellas” come together to show the immorality of the mob life and the negative effects that it can have on one’s family.

3. Once Upon a Time… in Hollywood (Quentin Tarantino)

Tarantino’s brilliant new film is one seeping in nostalgia for the lost era of Golden Age Hollywood and features actors who have long worked with and cherished the director’s work. This new tribute to Hollywood is used as a means for the world that Tarantino grew up in to be found again. Tarantino joyfully recreates the world of 1969 with great accuracy and crafts a thrillingly unrestrained ending that recreates history. In doing so, he allows the world to live on the way his generation remembered it, instead of watching it tumble downhill. Tarantino is at his best here with a movie that is all the better because he shows that film is a great medium to share your memories, good or bad, and allow them to live on for all eternity.

4. Jojo Rabbit (Taika Waititi)

Waititi’s new film is an example of a satire done right. The movie combines what’s needed for a good satire, comedy and social commentary to tell a powerful story about a boy who learns about acceptance, hope and how to be a true hero. At first, his only friends are the Nazis and when he starts interrogating a Jewish teenager, he learns that there isn’t really anything different between them. In fact, they are pretty similar. What follows won’t be spoiled here, but needless to say it is hilarious, melancholy and endearing. Jojo Rabbit is one for the ages.

5. Little Women (Greta Gerwig)

Greta Gerwig’s simply superb second film is immensely faithful to the beloved novel, all while recreating a new one for a new generation. The novel originally had a different ending that had to align with the period’s societal norms. Now that period is surely over and we can accept Louisa May Alcott’s original ending, which was to allow her heroine, Jo March, to choose writing over marriage and defy norms for women at the time. Gerwig chooses this ending and in doing so, gives an ode to not only women’s rights, but also to writing. She gave the endearing story the ending that it always deserved, alongside the perfect cast.
Addams Family: the Production

Counter-clockwise from top right (All pictures L-R);
Declan Henry ’20 on stage portraying the hilarious Uncle Fester;
Kylie McVey and Jeffery Guteratne ’23 shown during one of the show’s performances;
Erin Teasdale and Jack Piccirillo ’20 as Alice and Mal Beineke;
The cast of the Addams Family shown during the opening number;
Matthew Webb ’20 and Ralph Ignacio ’20 as Lurch and Gomez.

All photos by Joanie Troast.
Addams Family: the Production

Clockwise from top left (All pictures L-R):
During the scene, Full Disclosure, the entire cast is shown at the dining table;
Matthew Webb as Lurch and Anna Calev as Alice during Alice’s solo in Full Disclosure;
Senior Marc Rivera as Gomez during his final performance on the SJR stage;
Members of the Addams family on stage during Uncle Fester’s crazy introduction.

All photos by Joanie Troast.
By Dean Tobin ’20, Carlos Buelvas ’20 and Ross Foothorap ’20

The Process of College Recruiting

There are nearly eight million student-athletes who compete each year in high school sports. Of those, only about two percent are recruited to play their chosen sport on the college level. At St. Joe’s that number has been significantly higher, a fact that speaks volumes about the school’s exceptional athletic tradition.

So, when does the recruitment process begin? How do athletes get the attention of college coaches? What do student-athletes look for in their schools? What are the qualities coaches seek in their recruits? The answers are as varied as the different sports and the students who play them.

For senior wrestler Justin Bierdumpfel, the recruiting process began at the beginning of his junior year. At that time, he visited several different colleges and spoke to coaches about the benefits of each school and its wrestling program. However, the N.C.A.A. has a limit on the number of college visits an athlete is allowed to make, so Bierdumpfel thought outside the box. He attended matches and wrestling camps at colleges he thought he might be interested in so that he could obtain more information about the institutions and programs.

“Entering my freshman year, I began to compete on the national level in freestyle wrestling,” he added. “I think that sort of exposure is a key element in the recruiting process today.” “The process was stressful at times,” Bierdumpfel admitted, “especially when I needed to have my school recommendations and applications completed very early on. However, my teachers Mr. Maniscalco and Mr. Kievit, as well as Mr. Stoto and Mrs. Moore, were very helpful.”

In June of 2019, Bierdumpfel decided to commit to Brown University. “Aside from athletics and Brown’s outstanding academic reputation, I wanted to attend an eastern college so that my family could come to matches and visit.”

Bierdumpfel won’t be the only athlete attending an Ivy League school next year. Senior Joshua Negrete has been committed to the University of Pennsylvania to play soccer since this past summer. He also received offers from a number of prestigious schools, including Cornell, Princeton, Yale, the University of New Hampshire and the United States Military Academy. The highly skilled defender began the recruitment process at the start of his junior year, when he sent out his first email to a college coach. From there, he began to visit the schools and invite recruiters to his New York City Football Club Development Academy games. Knowing he was being scouted from the sidelines gave Negrete the motivation to maintain a high level of play on the field. “It seriously affected my play,” he said. “I was committed to staying in shape by eating right, working on my fitness, and working extra hard in games. My mindset changed to make me a leader on and off the field.”

“For me, the academic program was a major factor in my decision, because if soccer doesn’t work out, I want to be well-prepared for whatever comes next,” Negrete said. “I also looked for a medium-sized college with a city vibe because I enjoy New York since I travel there every day for training and games. And as a result of my visit, I felt an immediate connection to the students and the campus at UPenn.”

One essential intangible that college coaches value highly is leadership, and senior Troy Santise is someone who knows all about leading by example. As both the captain of the SJR lacrosse team and a member of the National Honor Society, the attack man embodies integrity and perseverance. Santise spends many hours training each day because it has always been his ambition to play college lacrosse.

“Knowing you are being recruited serves as a constant reminder to be at your best, and that someone is always watching,” he said. Santise feels he was noticed by college scouts as result of both his high school play, and the summer tournaments and showcases in which he participated. Despite his extraordinary talent and leadership on the lacrosse field, Santise says that “academics was the most important factor in my decision” to attend Vassar College.

Senior baseball player and captain, Andrew McDermott, also represents great athletic and academic abilities. Those talents brought him admissions offers from thirteen schools, among them, Villanova, Bucknell, Lehigh and Lafayette. Most of McDermott’s exposure to college scouts came through the highly reputable Wladyka Baseball program, which led him to compete in many camps and showcases, including the Diamond Nation’s seventh annual Garden State Underclass Games. The result was an offer from Quinnipiac University in July of 2019.

“A lot of thought that went into my decision,” McDermott said. “Outside of baseball, the major things I looked for were the size of the school – I preferred a medium-size university – its academic reputation, the feel of the campus, the type of people who attend and the distance from home. Quinnipiac seems like the perfect fit.”

The recruiting experience for football players can be different from athletes in other sports, however. Sometimes, players and coaches reach out to the colleges they are interested in; in other cases, college coaches are lining up to
The Process of College Recruiting Cont.

recruit specific players. “The process for the class of 2021 is underway now,” said SJR head football coach Dan Marangi. “Coaches are stopping by, fact-gathering, mining different programs for information about prospective players.”

Aside from Division I prospects who typically receive competing offers from several schools, Marangi describes the process as a collaborative one that involves the coaching staff, parents, guidance counselors and student-athletes. Together, they try to identify a list of schools where the student-athlete will have a good chance to play and to receive a strong education in his major field.

“I always encourage kids to think about one simple question,” says Marangi. “If you couldn’t play football, would you still want to attend this school? If the answer is ‘no’, I would recommend that school be eliminated from consideration.”

For football, the “early signing day” comes in December, and several members of the Class of 2020 signed letters of intent before Christmas. A second signing day follows in February for those who hadn’t made up their minds in December, or who might have received late offers.

“One of the things that helps St. Joe’s in this process is that our kids tend to stay in the college they choose and finish their education,” said Marangi. “Recruiters know that if they make an offer to an SJR player, chances are they have someone who will help their program for four years.”

Terrence Spence will be attending Holy Cross next year as a football recruit. For him the process was a very intense one. Following the completion of the 2018 season, Spence began assembling a list of schools he was interested in from both an athletic and academic perspective. Then the “back and forth” between recruiting schools and the student-athlete began.

“From April of 2019 through the end of June, I was on the phone or visiting as many as twenty different Patriot and Ivy league schools,” said Spence. Those conversations are essential, he said, “in building a relationship with the coaches who are recruiting you”. Ultimately, Spence says he made “a lot of visits” and choose Holy Cross as the best fit academically and athletically after meeting with coaches and professors, and evaluating the facilities and alumni connections the Holy Cross community had to offer.

Finding the best fit for an athlete is important, and some of the best counselors for doing so are coaches. Cross-country and track coach Mr. DeVito ’97, who also teaches history at SJR, always looks out for his runners.

“First we will identify schools that they are interested in and where they could run competitively, whether that be locally or out of the area,” he said in describing the process for his student-athletes. “Then, we would reach out to those schools via email or their online questionnaires and keep in contact with them throughout the season.”

Mr. DeVito has had several runners recruited by DII, DIII, and NAIA schools. His last track commit, Zack Basile ’14, went to Ohio State just a few years ago, and won the 2018 individual N.C.A.A. championship in the long jump. Though every sport is different, every individual unique and every path a separate journey, two things are clear. The first is that certain innate personal qualities - motivation, hard work, consistency, leadership, luck, research, dedication and preparation - are absolutely essential attributes for any student-athlete who expects to continue his career in college.

The second is that student-athletes who are successful in matching their athletic aspirations to the college of their dreams all share a single, unshakable confidence in themselves and their abilities. It is the strength that will sustain them through the challenges, disappointments and stress they will inevitably face along the way. In the end, it is the one essential ingredient for success.

National Signing Day took place on November 13th for many athletes.
Feature

Will The Patriots Dynasty Survive Another Season?

By Ryan Buck ‘21

The superteam of the decade has endured the earliest end to a season in 10 years, losing in the wild card playoff round. The New England Patriots have been #1 in the AFC East conference for the past 11 seasons, winning 3 super bowls in the past decade. They have consistently made it to the playoffs, but what happened to the end of their most recent season?

What allowed the worst-ranked team, the Miami Dolphins, to win the last regular-season game forcing the Patriots to play the wildcard round, instead of skipping to the divisional round? What does this mean for the future of the powerful organization? What key components on all sides of the ball may disappear before the 2020 season?

The season record shows great success but when you look behind the curtain there are some clear surprises. When the Patriots were halfway to a perfect season, the Ravens handed them a loss due to the defense allowing Lamar Jackson to scramble out of the pocket. Moving into December the season still was great until Houston capitalized on lackluster defense and an unproductive offense. Only a week after that loss the Chiefs embarrassed the Patriots and their fans at Gillette Stadium. This is not the New England way; what happened behind the closed locker room doors we are unsure of, but we do know is that the team leaders were not thrilled.

Football is not a game of sweet endings and fairy tale heroes, but many will cope with this news easily. The ultimate duo of Belichick and Brady may be crash landing due to the conclusion of this season. The iconic Patriots head coach may consider free agency as their owner, Robert Kraft, may pressure him into re-signing Brady in a very expensive contract. Over the years, Kraft has sided with his big-name players over his Hall of Fame coach, so if there is no compromise made, history will repeat itself, resulting in Belichick possibly leaving New England. To the New England fans, this would be devastating, to almost any other fan, this would be ideal. Belichick has the talent to turn a decent team stats-wise into the best team in the league, same with Brady to his receivers. If you lose one of these key components the whole dynamic would be crushed.

Currently, the fear of the unknown still lies in the public, and an emotional aspect is being brought around regarding Tom Brady’s departure. Joe Montana, the legend quarterback, advised that Tom Brady should try to stay if possible. Montana experienced a trade late in his career when Kansas City picked him up. He was grateful for the organization but also felt remorse leaving his original home so late in his career. Even though Montana directed this to Tom Brady, his suite at Gillette Stadium was cleaned out, possibly too much. I hope this is just spring cleaning but everything is too open to be sure.

Apart from all the downside that came from the completion of this season, there were some positives, especially from St. Joe’s alumni, the McCourty twins. Devin McCourty had a very consistent year, like usual, and for the 10th season in a row with the Patriots he was a staple in their defense. Now being an upcoming free agent, he may elect to retire with a very respectable career as a three-time Superbowl champion; however, a recent interview with ESPN’s Mike Reiss debunked this in his conversation with McCourty, to which Devin said he would even consider a discount to stay at home in New England, showing loyalty to his organization. Jason, however, has one more year with the Patriots until his contract is up which leaves him some time to decide his next move. The powerful duo had a great year on defense and may look to retire both as New England Patriots in the future.
Two Setbacks Hold SJR Back From Fifteenth Win

The Saint Joseph Regional Green Knights are on a two game losing streak, causing a slight setback in the team’s morale. The Green Knights have tied the season series between Paramus Catholic and Don Bosco Prep. After head coach Michael Doherty ’82 earned his five hundredth career win, SJR has had one win and two losses. St. Joe’s has a 13-3 record.

After coming off an eighteen point win against Northern Valley High School - Demarest, SJR faced off against the Paramus Catholic Paladins in Montvale on January 30. Instead of defeating the Paladins twice this season, St. Joe’s came up short and lost to Paramus Catholic 61-58. SJR suffered their second loss of the season.

The losing continued when the Green Knights played the Don Bosco Preparatory Ironmen at Don Bosco Preparatory High School in Ramsey, NJ. This time, St. Joe’s lost to the Ironmen 65-61.

The Green Knights will play the Bergen Catholic Crusaders, Cresskill Cougars, the Bergenfield Bears, and the DePaul Catholic Spartans as SJR begins to wrap up their 2019-2020 season. SJR will play the Crusaders at Bergen Catholic on Thursday, February 6 at 7:00 PM, as St. Joe’s is aiming to tie the season series with the Crusaders after losing to them 78-70 at home on January 16.

On January 21st, the Green Knights defeated Norman Thomas Academy, and then moved on to defeat Northern Valley Demarest on the 23rd. The team then suffered a major series of losses against Paramus Catholic and Bergen Catholic.

After a tough week, the team rebounded and defeated Cresskill and Bergenfield. Coach Doherty looks to rebuild confidence as the team heads into a difficult matchup against DePaul Catholic on February 13th. The team has definitely had its ups and downs throughout the past few weeks, but looks to continue what has been a successful season.
SJR Hockey Wins the Egan Cup Championship

By Dean Tobin ‘20

On Tuesday, January 28th, the SJR Ice Hockey team made history as the first SJR team to win the Egan Cup Conference Championship ever.

This game was a well-fought battle against the highly respectable Saint John Vianney, who has beaten them the previous two championships. The game started off very close, but after two close periods, they were able to secure the 5-2 victory. Players that were able to score a goal were Justin Hughes ‘21 and Thor Hansen ’21. Justin Rauch ‘20 also found the back of the net, as he scored a hat-trick.

The Green Knights also had three other wins in the last couple of weeks. The first was a clash against Saint Joseph (Metuchen). James DeVito ’20, Thor Hansen ’21, and Logan May ’22 all scored a goal, ending the game in a 3-0 victory for SJR.

The team also traveled to N.Y. to play a game against Rye Country Day School. With a goal from Logan May ’22 at the start, the game was tied 1-1 going into the third period. However, another goal from the skilled sophomore and a goal from Aidan Garabed ’20 led the Green Knights to a 3-1 win. A week later, SJR also picked up an 8-1 victory against Old Tappan High School as part of a Big North Conference league game.

SJR has recently competed in a very fast-paced game against the Bergen Catholic Crusaders in the semi-final round of the Bergen County Tournament at the Ice Vault in Wayne New Jersey. Unfortunately, the Green Knights lost this battle by a score of 3-2, but they are still fighting harder than they ever have before.

On Thursday, February 6th, SJR honored their nine seniors at Sport-O-Rama Ice Rinks in Monsey, N.Y. in their annual Senior Night. The 4-year players were greeted with individual speeches, posters, and pictures with their families. Following the pre-game ceremony, The Green Knights then faced Pascack Valley following the pre-game ceremony. The game ended in a 7-0 win for SJR. Victor Diaz ‘20 and Thor Hansen ’21 both scored two goals, and James DeVito ’20, Joseph Iannuzzi ’20, and Thomas Hilliard ’22 each scored one goal.

A few days later, SJR took on Tenafly in their last season game. The score ended in a 3-0 win, with Victor Diaz ‘20, James DeVito ’20, and Eric Bocchino ’20 putting one puck in the net each. All three goalies, Jake Serey ’20, Tomas Spero ’21, and Nick Wronski ’23, have played an outstanding few months and are excited for the last few weeks ahead.

SJR now has a record of 19-1-1, the best record it has had at this point in the season for years. They have been playing some of their best hockey in the most important games. Luckily, they have more of these games coming up. With Big North and State Playoff games still unannounced, it is still unknown who they are going to play. However, these tournaments bring a do-or-die situation to the next few games.