

From freshman phenom to senior strikeout queen

By Eric Belair

“Strike Three, You’re Out.”

That’s the phrase opposing batters usually hear when Jessica Palmitesso is on the mound. Jessica, a senior on the Fulton softball team, is a force to be reckoned with when she is pitching, and not many girls find a way to get a hit off this pitching ace.

Last Saturday at Chittenango High School, an impressive milestone was struck out by Palmitesso when this five-year varsity starter became the school’s first-ever member of the 1,000-strikeout club in a 7-1 win over the Bears. In this game, she had fifteen strikeouts and only allowed one hit.

Softball became part of Jessica’s life at a young age. Many children, along with Palmitesso, start playing softball at Kiwanis. She started playing in third grade, but did not hit the mound to start pitching until fifth grade. By the time she was in eighth grade, she was the starting pitcher on the varsity softball team.

As her former Coach Corry Zion recalled, “I knew Jessica would become something special the first day I saw her pitch.” The coach’s first impression would prove to be a prophecy of sorts, as Jessica made an instant impact on the varsity with 196 strikeouts. She followed it up by leading the conference in strikeouts as a freshman, a season highlighted by a 21 strikeout performance in an extra inning game. Always a workhorse on the hill, she pitched 113 1/3 innings with an astounding 1.05 earned run average.

Throughout Jessica’s softball career, she has played with numerous travel teams, and has even been on call if a pitcher is needed. Summer is normally a time to kick back and relax, but not for Palmitesso. The summer is Jessica’s busy time; summer means that it is time to hit the road to play more softball.

The summer going into Jessica’s tenth grade year was the busiest ever. Palmitesso played for a total of six different travel teams that year; including teams based from all over New York State. Playing a sport several times a week and traveling almost every weekend for a tournament puts a great amount of wear and tear on the body, and the hectic schedule eventu-

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The sight of senior Jessica Palmitesso winding up for a pitch has been frightening opponents for the past five seasons as she has racked up a school record 1,004 strikeouts. (Taylor Harvey photo)

Opinion

Demise of dinosaurs is an unsolved mystery

By Brandon Teetsel

We've all, at one point in time or another, picked up a book all about those extinct reptiles. Dinosaurs: big ones, small ones, herbivores, ones that can fly, dinosaurs can do it all.

Or should I say, they did it all.

These monstrous creatures were the dominant vertebrae from the Triassic period (about 230 million years ago) until the end of the Cretaceous period (about 65 million years ago). The word "dinosaur" was coined

by the English paleontologist Richard Owen, in 1842. It derives the Greek word *deinos*, which means "terrible, powerful, wonderful", and the word *saurus*, meaning "lizard." Obviously they're extinct now, but what exactly caused this?

There are many theories in the world about what happened to these reptilian creatures. Some of the more popular theories include that of a massive asteroid crashed down onto Earth, diseases killing them off, drastic climate change, and volcanic eruptions. Whatever did cause the extinction of dinosaurs, it killed off around 70% of all the species on Earth as well.

The greenhouse effect comes into play with two of these theories, the asteroid and volcanic eruption theory. Could it be that an asteroid that was 4-9 miles wide, struck the Earth, killing off many dinosaurs with the initial impact, then causing dust and steam to spew into the air? The dust and steam would envelope the Earth, making sunlight unable to reach the Earth for six months. Even in their prime, dinosaurs could



not live with the colder climate and lack of food. The same effects happen with the volcanic eruptions, having dust, ash, and various chemicals to block out the sun, and make the air poisonous for the dinosaurs. Many people believe that the asteroid is what killed the dinosaurs, but where is the massive crater? Over the years, it is possible that through erosion and the shifting of tectonic plates, the crater has been covered up. The asteroid struck the Earth at the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, in the Gulf of Mexico.

Another theory is that disease killed off the dinosaurs. As time progressed, more and more land bridges arose, and dinosaurs from other continents traveled all over. Different diseases infected other dinosaurs, killing them off. Diseases were exchanged, eventually wiping out each and every dinosaur.

In short, there are many different theories about what happened to our scaly friends. Some think it was a massive asteroid, others think outbreaks of serious diseases became their demise. We may never know for certain what happened to these massive behemoths, but one thing is for sure, as technology progresses, we learn more and more about our planet's past.

"Many people believe that the asteroid is what killed the dinosaurs, but where is the massive crater? Over the years, it is possible that through erosion and the shifting of tectonic plates, the crater has been covered up."

Holiday weekend means blockbuster movies



It's Thursday and we have a long weekend. This weekend there will be four new movies playing in theaters; *Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time*, *Sex and the City 2*, *Micmacs*, and *Survival of the Dead*.

Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time is an action/adventure/romance movie that stars Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton, and Ben Kingsley. The plot of this movie is based on the Prince of Persia video game. The video

game follows an adventurer who teams up with a rival princess. He teams up with this princess in an effort to prevent a dark force from obtaining an ancient dagger that would destroy the world.

Sex and the City 2 is the sequel to the first movie about four friends who are basically inseparable. This movie is a romantic comedy that stars Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon, and Kim Cattrall. The plot to this sequel is that the four best friends need to take a break from the stress in their lives. They decide to take a girls trip to Monaco where Samantha's ex is filming for a movie.

Micmacs is a comedy/crime movie that stars Dany Boon and Andre Dussoulier. This movie is about a man who was in the hospital be-

cause he had a bullet in his head and wants to go against all weapons and people who manufacture weapons. He is taken in by a crew of junkyard dealers, who help him plot his revenge. This movie is limited and will only be playing at certain theaters at certain times.

Survival of the Dead is a horror movie that stars Alan Van Sprang and Kenneth Welsh. The plot of this movie is about national guardsmen who think they have found a refuge from a zombie army. Little do they know that they were entering themselves between two warring families about what should become of the undead.

As always check your local listings for locations and times of the movie you would like to see because they are not all playing at all theaters. If you are not happy with these movies on Memorial Day weekend, head over to the drive in and check out *How to Train Your Dragon*, *She's Out of My League* and *Iron Man 2*.

RaiderNet Daily

returns on Tuesday, June 1
due to the Memorial Day weekend

Have a safe and happy time!

Hurler has battled past adversity to shine on the hill

(from page 1)

ally caught up to her.

Jessica finally met her match: an injury.

A shoulder injury to her pitching arm involved three months of physical therapy. Things were looking up again, but then Jessica tore a ligament in her right wrist. This needed surgery, also taking three months of physical therapy. These obstacles may have hindered some playing, but they have helped improve Palmitesso's game. It has been a year and a half since her surgery and she is just getting back to full strength. When asked about this Jessica stated, "It has been tough and it has been challenging, but it was worth it."

Palmitesso has always carried herself with great poise on the mound, as stated by Coach Zion, who was in attendance in Chittenango on Saturday to watch her former standout reach the 1,000 strikeout plateau. "'She was as commanding as I've seen her, captivating the crowd with power and confidence,'" Zion commented. "Watching her grace as a spectator, and not her coach, was something I cannot explain in words. It's quite different watching someone of her calibre throw the ball when you are not worrying about everyone one and everything else during the game."

Transformers star won't be back

It has been almost a year since the last *Transformers* movie was released, and we all know how much of a success that movie. The first two movies combined brought in over \$721 million. It was one of the biggest hits of the summer of '09. I am not saying it was all because of Megan Fox, but we all know she had a lot to do with it. However, the word going around is that she will not be in the next *Transformers* movie.

It has not been confirmed what exactly has happened that made Fox leave the franchise, but writers say it probably has a lot to do with her publicly calling Director Michael Bay a tyrant, and comparing him to Adolf Hitler. In the end, it was the director's call to let her go. Bay claims, "She has a lot of growing up to do." He also noted that, "it fits the story line to give Shia a new love interest." Critics also explain how much Michael Bay cares about his story line. So the next logical question is, who is going to replace her, but then again does it really even matter?

It is still unclear as to how the movie will take Fox out of the franchise, whether it is by killing her off or just pretending she was never there at all. It is also unclear who will be replacing the famous actress.

The next *Transformers* is scheduled to come out on July 1, 2011 and it will be interesting to see how well this one does without its famous co-star Megan Fox, compared to the previous two movies.

By Zachary Froio

Her coaches have always been fond of her style of game. Through the many teams that Jessica has played for, there have been a number of coaches who have helped out and had major impacts. Heidi Hazen has been Jessica's pitching coach for several years, and Nick Spataro, coach of the Liverpool Blue Reign, which is her main travel team, has also been a major influence. Throughout the years Jessica has had many different coaches, but the one consistent coach is Jessica's father, Ted Palmitesso. Mr. Palmitesso has been coaching, helping and catching Jessica since she started. He is always there on the sidelines for words of advice and encouragement for his daughter.

Throughout the countless number of games that Jessica has played, she has captured some favorite memories. In one of Palmitesso's travel tournaments, she pitched six games in one weekend and finished with a perfect 6-0 record. This helped her team qualify for the Pony National Tournament in North Carolina. Jessica also has some great moments from high school. One came off the mound when she hit a home run off of rival Phoenix pitcher Jill Murphy. Another came just a few weeks ago when Palmitesso pitched two complete games, only a few days apart, and counted 18 strikeouts and then 19 strikeouts against Cortland and Mexico respectively. These were both career highs and school records in strikeouts for a single seven-inning game.

Jessica's outstanding career has not gone unrecognized. She has been awarded several MVP Awards and All-Tournament Team Selections for participation in tournaments. For her varsity career, awards started coming in eighth grade, as Palmitesso has received First Team All-League honors in eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade while pitching the Raiders to five consecutive sectional bids. Jessica has also been selected to the All-CNY Team, making the third team as a ninth grader and in eleventh grade she was a second team selection. Palmitesso is also a three time Athlete of the Week recipient. She has been chosen by the *Palladium Times*, our local newspaper, with this honor in eleventh and twelfth grade. But the highest status came in ninth grade, as Jessica was the News Channel 9 Athlete of the Week.

After high school Jessica will be attending SUNY Brockport and pursuing her softball career. She has made her mark in the Fulton softball program and in the history books as this pitching ace joined the 1,000-strikeout club. "It feels awesome. I achieved my goal of 1,000 strikeouts that I set for myself after my great freshman season. It's a great accomplishment that not many people can say that they've done."

Currently standing at 1004 career K's, Jessica will look to build on her total as the Raiders begin their run for a sectional title this afternoon at 4 p.m. when they host Chittenango, the same team she set the strikeout record against on Saturday. Fulton will be looking for a season sweep of the Bears as they take their first step toward a potential Section 3 crown.

GRB Environmental Club Second Annual Recycled Battery Drive

Thursday, May 27 during advisory
the advisory/seminar with the greatest
total weight wins breakfast!
Dry cell batteries only

Upcoming events:

Tuesday & Wednesday, June 1-2: Class of 2011 Senior Portraits in the auditorium.

Saturday, June 5: Senior trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park.

Monday, June 7: GRB academic awards ceremony, 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 10: Bodley Bash after school

Hawks vs. Flyers: let the Stanley Cup finals begin



Zach Froio
(7-7)



Ryan Kesterke
(8-6)



Pat Olvecky
(7-7)



Mr. Senecal
(6-8)



Both teams are definitely on a roll right now. Despite just barely making it into the playoffs with the shootout win over the New York Rangers in the last game of the regular season, Philadelphia is not a team to take lightly. The Flyers just took out the Habs in only five games, and before that they came back from a 3-0 deficit in the series against the Boston Bruins. With Gagne and Carter back on the ice, Philly has one heck of an offence. And with Leighton standing tall in the net after Bouche got hurt, the Flyers are definitely a force to be reckoned with.

However, on the other side there are the Chicago Blackhawks, who have been playing good all season. They finished second in the west and have just swept the number one seed San Jose Sharks. The Blackhawks have many young stars who may not have the most experience, but they definitely have the talent, and they have a strong case of playoff fever. The Chicago offence is on a roll right now and that has a lot to do with young star Jonathan Toews, who is leading the playoffs in scoring with an outstanding 26 points.

While Philly may be doing good, they just do not have the skill level to play with the Chicago Blackhawks. I think the Chicago offence will

I am going to pick the Blackhawks to win the Stanley Cup over Philly this year in five games. Chicago's young gun offence will be more than enough to paralyze Philly's lack of defense. Captain Jonathan Toews, who also leads the playoffs in points, will be key in this series along with fellow young gun Pat Kane. These two dynamic duos have what it takes to shut a team down with their scoring abilities. Another factor is red-hot goaltender Antti Niemi, Philly's inability to create and hold pressure and lack of second chances in the offensive zone will be no sweat for Niemi as it has been so far so good. Although Philly's back up Michale Leighton has been playing spectacularly, holding Philly together, Chicago has what it takes to crack the goaltender and take the series and the cup early. This is Chicago's year and nothing is going to stop them, certainly not a seventh seed from the east trying to complete a Cinderella series. Chicago is overdue for a cup as the last one came in 1960-1961.

completely shut down Philly in six. Games However, Ryan is ahead of me by just one and he is picking Chicago, therefore I must pick Philly even though I might cry if they win.

With the NHL post season coming to a close only two teams remain, the Chicago Blackhawks and the Philadelphia Flyers.

Philadelphia made the playoffs on the last day of the season while Chicago was basically in the playoffs from the start. Philly has been plagued by injuries the whole year and only recently became healthy, which may be attributed to their success.

Chicago has retained the majority of their players throughout the season without injury problems. Chicago also has one of the most potent offenses in the NHL. Philly's scoring is spread throughout its offensive unit.

Both clubs defensive units can hold their own. The deciding factor in this match-up is goaltending. Michael Leighton of the Flyers has the capability to steal a game or two, but if Antti Niemi stands tall, then the Flyers will struggle to score.

Blackhawks in five.

After an amazing opening round where it seemed like every game came right down to the wire, quite frankly I have been disappointed with this year's playoffs. And no, it's not because of my dismal showing in the last two rounds because basically, I pick the teams I want to see win, not the teams I think will win.

In this case I'll be picking the team I dislike least, because the Hawks and Flyers are two of my least favorite NHL teams. Patrick Kane's punchout of a Buffalo cabdriver last off-season still doesn't sit well with me, and the Flyers history of dirty hockey isn't exactly the way I like to watch the fastest game on ice either.

That said, I'm going with the Hawks in six games, mainly because they were the better team in the regular season, and they have played better teams and beaten them handily in the playoffs. Both teams have solid goaltending and each has won eight of the last nine games. Chicago just seems to have a step on the competition in terms of speed, and it will show in this series.

Chris Pronger, a player I despise due to his habit of ditching teams, could be the difference maker for the Flyers, as he is playing in the finals for the third time in four seasons.

Opinion

The pros and cons of senior skip day

By Alicia Vann

Among many other traditions, including senior trip and senior dinner dance, senior skip day is something that can cause controversy. On one hand, some may think that senior skip day is justifiable. Some believe that if the school can take us out of classes for assemblies and testing, why can't seniors take themselves out of classes for a day? On the other hand, others feel that staying in school this close to finals, regents, and final projects, is critical for success.



Due to long assemblies and screwy school schedules, senior Brandon Teetsel believes that a senior skip day is in order. "Our school takes us out of classes for assemblies, presentations, and other miscellaneous things. As our senior year gets wrapped up, why can't we take ourselves out of class for once?" This year especially we have found ourselves down in the auditorium more often than not. Senior skip day has been seen as a time for the seniors to get together for one last time before the school year lets out.

A conflicting opinion states that maybe senior skip day isn't worth it. Some say that missing school this close to finals is not the smartest idea. For example, I know of many seniors, including myself, who are coming to school for a half day. With projects and finals approaching quickly, being in school is the one of the only places where I know I'll get work done, as opposed to staying home and doing other things.

Whether you agree or disagree, senior skip day is a tradition that will not be messed with. Some believe that the day is needed as a last "hooray" for the senior class. Others disapprove and believe that you should stay in school. Whatever your opinion, and seniors whatever your choice, do what you believe is right.

"Whether you agree or disagree, senior skip day is a tradition that will not be messed with. Some believe that the day is needed as a last "hooray" for the senior class. Others disapprove and believe that you should stay in school."

Bodley faculty not impressed by skip day

By Taylor Harvey

Spring is finally here. The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and the seniors are skipping. It's a tradition all at the high school have grown accustomed to, but is it really necessary or worth it? Some G. Ray Bodley High School teachers expressed their thoughts and concerns on this self-appointed vacation day.

Although none are really sure of when the tradition of senior skip day began, most sources say it goes back to the 1960's. In the past, this day was a way for seniors to express their assertiveness and daring, knowing full well that they would take whatever consequences came their way for skipping. But as the years have gone by, skip day has evolved with the times. Seniors still organize a day to skip school together, but most have written notes from their parents that make skip day just another excused absence. Whether this change is the cowardly escape route of a generation of pansies or a smart way to skip and avoid the consequences, I'll let you determine for yourself. But it can clearly be said that this time-honored tradition lacks the risk and excitement that was once a central part of the custom.



While skip day has become easier for seniors, it has become proportionally as difficult for administrators and teachers at the high school. Administrators can do nothing about seniors skipping without the threat of getting into trouble for their actions. At the same time, the school can be held responsible if a student is hurt while skipping school. This reasoning is quite nonsensical and leaves the administrators in a bind. Their hands are tied and they can seemingly do nothing to prevent or stop senior skip day from occurring.

Teachers are also inconvenienced on skip day. Although few senior classes have a regents exam to prepare for, teachers expressed that they still have a lot to teach with a limited number of days to do so. Their curriculum can be quite flexible, but it is still tedious to schedule around an unwarranted day off.

In talking to numerous teachers at GRB, it seems that many share the opinion that skip day is unnecessary. Math Department Chair Mrs. Downing said, "Seniors already have Senior Dinner Dance, Senior Day, the senior trip, and various other scheduled activities. They should take advantage of these instead of skipping." Math teacher Mrs. Ryan had similar sentiments adding, "Where does it end?" It seems that today's generation of seniors have ever-higher expectations despite the many opportunities for fun they are given.

Today the halls of GRB will seem rather empty with numerous seniors absent, but as Science Department Chair Mr. Gillard pointed out, "The responsible students who care will be here. They may be more deserving of a day off, but they will be the ones in school."

Another thing to keep in mind this senior skip day is that regardless of where you are and who you are with, remember to make good decisions. A common theme in many teachers' opinions on this day was the desire for the safety of their students. Whether you are relaxing on the beach or drooling your way through class, make the most of your day while being safe and responsible.

"Where does it end?" It seems that today's generation of seniors have ever-higher expectations despite the many opportunities for fun they are given."

School of Thought compiled by Sarese Gibson

Do you think there should be a senior skip day?



"Yeah because its a senior tradition."
Jessica Palmitesso



"Yes because we're seniors and we're boss. We deserve a day off."
Jamie Hoegler



"Yes because we've been guinea pigs for so long that its time the junior class ought to have some tradition like other classes."
Krysta Woodcock



"Yes, I agree with Jessica. It's tradition!"
Kerri Knopp

GRB announcements for Thursday, May 27

A reminder to juniors that senior portraits for the 2011 yearbook will take place next Tuesday and Wednesday in the auditorium. Ask your advisor for a schedule, or check the schedules posted near the cafeteria and office.

Registration for varsity golf is now taking place. Please see Mr. Ascenzi in the guidance office to sign up.

All boys interested in trying out for JV and varsity basketball next season, sign-ups will continue until the end of next week in room 214.

There will be a mandatory cheerleading meeting next Tuesday, June 1 at 2:35 in the main foyer with information about the next fundraiser and summer camp. This meeting is for all interested cheer candidates. Anyone unable to attend should contact Mrs. Rodriguez or Mrs. Howell at the junior high.

Signups are now underway for this year's Battle of the Athletes, which will take place on June 9 at the junior high fields starting at 3 o'clock. The event is open to any students who played on a JV or varsity sport this year. Sign ups end on June 4th and cost \$1, which gets you a t-shirt and a team. Spaces are limited so sign up soon.

Attention seniors: bring in copies of pictures you would like to make part of the senior slide show. If you'd like them returned, please write your seminar teacher's name on the back. All pictures are due to Mr. Perry by June 4.

Meteorology and you
by Carson Metcalf

Today: Sun and clouds with a scattered shower or thunderstorm. High in the low-80s.

Tonight: Cloudy with a scattered shower or storm. Low around 60.

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy. High in the mid-70s.

Memorial Day Parade (10 a.m. Saturday) Sun and clouds. Temperatures in the low to mid-60s.

Log **onto**
www.centralnewyork
weather.com for the latest
updates throughout the
long weekend.

