

# Friday marks the end of the third quarter at GRB

The third quarter is coming to an end quickly. Final quarter grades will be set in stone this Friday, April 8. Although many students have been working diligently in the past ten weeks, many others find themselves behind on their schoolwork.

In the ten weeks between the second and third report cards, students frequently see their grade point averages drop by at least a few points. The mid-year slump causes many students to slack on their school work. During the first and second quarter, students are more motivated to do their school work due to the fact that they wish to impress their teachers and classmates early on, and many times work is easier in the beginning of the school year rather than halfway through. The third quarter usually marks the time when review for major tests begins, and students are caught up in a sudden wave of unwanted homework.

Due to the recent start of spring sports, many

athletes find themselves too consumed in team activities to finish their homework or study. These students have trouble adjusting themselves to their busy schedules, and are advised to work and focus on more efficient time management.

Also, cabin fever strikes a majority of teenagers in early spring. After months of intense ice storms and blizzards in Central New York, many students find themselves ditching their textbooks for outdoor activities at the first sign of spring. Usually, the fourth quarter forces students to return to their original work-rate and diligence due to concern for Regents exams, AP exams, and class finals. However, the third quarter grades are crucial for any student's high school career.

With less than one week left to hand in late work or study for end-of-quarter exams, students need to realize the importance of maintaining an impressive grade point average.

College-bound juniors should be especially conscious of the fact that their grades need to be in prime condition come the end of this year. Many juniors will begin to look into and visit colleges during the spring and summer months, and will no doubt be asked about their grade point averages.

The grades of these students in the spring months of school have a large influence on whether or not a college will be interested in taking them. Junior year grades are a major contributor to college acceptance or rejections. The official class rank for the class of 2012 will also be decided based on the grade point averages of the students at the end of their junior year.

These next few days will be vital for all students concerned about their grades, and the end result will hopefully reflect the effort of each individual student.

*By Kayla Distin*

## **RaiderNet** *Daily*

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## March weather had something for everyone

It was quite the diverse month of weather here in Central New York. It seemed as if the temperature levels were constantly on a rollercoaster ride and the precipitation type wasn't the same two times in a row throughout March. This turned out to be quite a turnaround after the harsh winter conditions we have experienced almost regularly over the last few months.

Beginning with temperatures, we had twelve days with above-average high temperatures; that's about one-third of the month. We hit our peak with these balmy temperatures on March 17 and 18. On both of those days we had a high of 61. No record temperatures were recorded at all in the month of March though, so the heat wasn't so extravagant historically.

In the precipitation department, we had quite the hodgepodge of conditions here in Fulton. According to CoCoRaHS, we picked up nearly four inches of regular rain, but still another roughly nine inches of plain snow. Clearly it seems as if the big snow events are done for this year based on these observations, but you can never be sure.

Although most people dreaded just hearing the word snow in the month of March let alone waking up to see it outside, it was good for one thing meteorologically: the record books.

Based on measurements from Syracuse's Hancock International Airport, the winter of 2010-11 has been the fourth snowiest of all-time with a total of 178.6 inches. This was also enough for Syracuse to take the lead in the Golden Snowball Award competition held among the big metropolises in New York State, and it looks like they will be the champion once again. Syracuse has won this award for nine out of the last ten winters. Accumulation-wise here in Fulton, we picked up about 220 inches

altogether this winter season.

As you are probably thinking, this data could be telling us that winter conditions for the most part are winding down here in Central New York. But you also have to remember something: this is Central New York. The weather can change at any time, like the forecast, mind you, so just be prepared for it.

*By Carson Metcalf*

*Certain information for this article was obtained from CoCoRaHS and WSYR-TV.*



Raider defenders converge on a Clinton player during action from last Tuesday's season opener. Pictured left to right are Deanna Anderson, Kate Rothrock and Andrea Gould. The girls will be looking for their second win of the season tonight when they travel to New Hartford. (James Ireland photo)

## Opinion

# Is "Raider Nation" in a serious decline?

By Max Fobes

With a deep history running through Raider athletics including state and section titles as well as years of watching playoff wins and sectional repeats, it seems that the Fulton Red Raiders are on the downfall.

Some blame coaching, others look at the loss of key players over the years, while many even believe school budgets are cutting down the once infinite potential. The Fulton Red Raiders

have long been a strong competitor in Section 3 high school sports.

This year, at least, it just seems that times have changed.

Just a few years ago Fulton was looking at a number one ranked wrestling team as well as the best football team in the section and nearly in New York State. Slowly the dynasty began to fall with different coaches, new players and changed attitudes all contributing to the Raider slide. This school year marked Coach Conner's first away from football in nearly three decades due to family concerns. In addition both the former varsity boys and girls basketball coaches have moved up and out, making room for a new era of Raider basketball. G. Ray Bodley teacher and former Red Raider basketball coach Mr. Kent went on to coach West Genesee to 11 straight wins before their first loss after the Raiders won six games during his final season. It's always easy to blame the coach, but in this case Fulton's loss proved to be the Wildcats gain.

The Red Raiders took a beating beginning in the early fall. Raider football fell short of sectionals for the first time in years with a historic turn-around from league champions, finishing 1-7 overall. Boys' soccer also came up short also, finishing 5-7-1 in the division and losing in the first round of sectionals. Girls Soccer showed an improvement and advanced to the second round of the sectionals but posted an 8-10 record to summarize the entire fall for the Red Raiders.

Looking at a new season, a fresh start Fulton athletics had hope for winter sports. Counting on wrestling and girls volleyball teams to stay ahead of the pack, there was not much glory otherwise this winter. The varsity girls and boys varsity basketball teams finished with a combined 5-31 record, the girls with four of the five wins. Ice hockey also caught an edge losing 14 out of 20 games this year. The boys and girls bowling teams sit at ground level in the popularity totem pole, but have been the only two clubs to stand out with continuous excellent perfor-



mances with records of 12-1 and 10-2 and a combined two year mark of 49-5-1. Meanwhile Fulton's most successful team, the varsity wrestlers, have remained at the top of the Section 3 pack, winning the Section 3 Duals, Class A and Division I titles. But a tough performance at the Union-Endicott Duals that saw them lose three of four as well as another out of section loss means that the Raiders did not rank as high statewide when all was said and done.

In all, Raider varsity teams are a combined 97-122-4 heading into the spring season, compiling a .363 winning percentage in the fall (31-54-3) and a .488 winning percentage during the winter (66-68-1). Take away the combined 42-7 record of the bowling and wrestling teams, and Raider sides are 55-115-4, a paltry winning mark of .337.

During the previous fall and winter campaigns the Raiders were 129-104-5, a respectable winning percentage of .542 that included a 94-53-3 record in the winter months, a winning mark in excess of 63%.

But putting the statistics aside, it all comes down to pride. The athletes, above all, must take responsibility if they want change, and it will not just change overnight. The dedication, hard-work, and toughness that use to be seems to be non-existent these days. Outside of how well off our city is, or who the new guy coaching the team is, some of the student body must take responsibility for the "Raider Nation Down-

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Sophomore athlete Cody Dick**

fall."

Sophomore athlete Cody Dick related to the weakness Raider Sports has shown in just two years. When asked simply about pride he stated, "Kids don't show that passion for the sport any more, or the will to get better. We are just in a generation where we are accepting mediocrity and not doing anything about it."

Football coach and biology teacher Mr. Rothrock, has also noted the decline, saying that, "The amount of kids that actually participate in school sports has greatly decreased these last few years. When we are matched up against another big school, (continued on page 3)

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## Reflections

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# It's up to everyone to help restore "Raider Nation"

(from page two)

take Jamesville-Dewitt for example, they have such a greater percentage of athletes in their school compared to us. It's like we barely stand a chance."

"With a smaller amount of kids to play there is less team competition for positions on the field," he went on to say. "Work ethic has definitely changed, but the burden of succeeding is on the few kids that actually choose to participate. Playing a sport takes great discipline, following coach's rules and academic eligibility guidelines, that can be hard work. Most kids find it easier just not to play at all."

English teacher Mr. Senecal, who is also the advisor for both the yearbook and school newspaper, agrees with both assessments, saying, "I see it in the classroom and I see it in the clubs and sports teams as well. We have a huge school population, but only a minority of the students participate in anything. For example people love to complain about the yearbook, but how many of them have actually tried to help us make it better, even though it's easy to submit photos online? The same holds true with sports. I heard a lot of students mocking the football team last fall, including a lot of able-bodied boys who could have helped make it a better team. The bottom line is that it is a commitment, and I see fewer and fewer dedicated students compared to when I came here 25 years ago."

It is an honor to play wearing the Red Raider uniform, the speared white, the royal red and green. Even to be a spectator you should enjoy

## Former record setter at it again

It hasn't taken former Raider standout Jessica Palmitesso long to get the hang of taking her game to the next level. Less than one year away from placing her name in the Fulton record books, the SUNY Oswego freshman did the same for her new club on Sunday when she fired a five-inning, no-hitter on the hill for the Laker softball team.

Bouncing back quickly from a game one loss to New Paltz, Palmitesso tamed the visitors by tossing Oswego State's first no-hitter in nine years. The shutout performance was also the first for a Laker pitcher in over two years when Oswego blanked Wheelock College by a 7-0 count.

A groundball out in the top of the fifth inning preserved both the shutout and the no-hitter for the Lakers, who improved to 5-8 overall and 1-1 in the SUNYAC Conference with the twinbill split.

Last season Jessica established the school record for Fulton by finishing her career with 1,015 strikeouts, one of, if not the highest total in Section 3 history.

watching your school compete as well as being there to cheer them toward victory. A small percentage of kids see it that way any more, the complete turnaround from what Fulton athletics once stood for.

With spring sports upon us there is yet another light at the end of the tunnel. In the past both the baseball and lacrosse programs have struggled, while our track team has lost some valuable players from last season. There stands hope, however, as these athletes are working hard pushing late into the school year and looking for accomplishments. As a member of our city, the community and G. Ray Bodley High School, come show your support this spring. It's our job to preserve "The Raider Nation."

### Quote of the day:

"He who trims himself to suit everyone will soon whittle himself away."

~Raymond Hull

**Prom tickets on sale  
\$30 from Mr. Lacey  
Don't wait! Sale ends on April 15**

### This week in Raider Sports

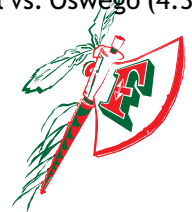
**Today:** Boys Lax vs. Homer (JV-4:30/V-5 p.m.); Girls Lax @ Whitesboro (JV-5 p.m./V-6:30).

**Wednesday, April 6:** Track vs. Hannibal (3:30); Tennis vs. Homer (4:30); Softball @ J-D (4:30).

**Thursday, April 7:** Boys Lax vs. J-D (JV-4:30/V-5 p.m.); V Baseball @ Oswego (4:30); JV Baseball vs. Oswego (4:30).

**Friday, April 8:** V Baseball vs. Fowler (4:30); Tennis vs. J-D (4 p.m.); Girls Lax vs. J-D (JV-5 p.m./V-6:30).

**Saturday, April 9:** JV girls lax vs. Carthage (9:30 a.m.).



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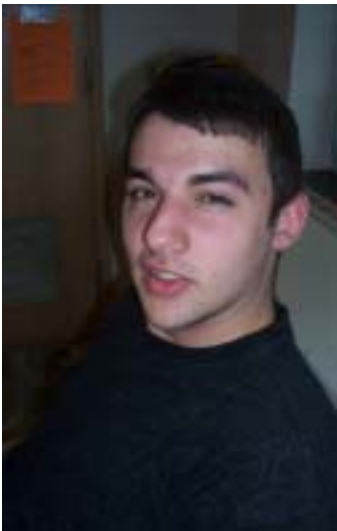


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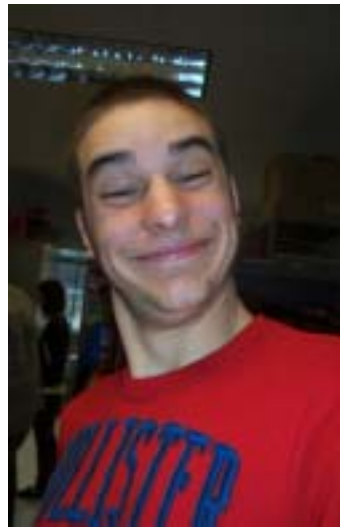
School of Thought compiled by Max Fobes

# What would be your dream vacation?



"Somewhere in Asia, probably Japan."

Kyle Parker



"To go watch the Masters in Augusta."

Matt Liberti



"South America, which is where I'm going in one week!."

Danielle Hursh



"Disney World."

Zach Loura

## Meteorology and you

By Carson Metcalf



Today:



Cloudy with rain showers. Temperatures falling into the upper-30s by afternoon. Record high: 76 (2010). Avg. high: 51.

Tonight:



Mainly clear skies. Low in the mid-20s. Record low: 15 (1982). Avg. low: 31.

Tomorrow:



Cloudy with a scattered rain shower. High in the mid-40s. Record high: (no data). Avg. high: 52

*GRB junior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ [www.centralnewyorkweather.com](http://www.centralnewyorkweather.com) Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.*