



G. Ray Bodley High School, Fulton, NY

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## Raiders primed for playoff double-header

*Special to RaiderNet Daily*

Fueled by their most impressive regular season in more than two decades, the Fulton boys basketball team heads into the winner take all thrills of the Section III playoffs tonight when the #7 seeded Raiders play host to #10 seed Oneida as part of a sectional doubleheader that kicks off at 6 pm Friday with the girls match-up against Utica Notre Dame. The house should be rocking as the Raiders look to extend their home court domination as the boys went 8-2 and the girls won nine of ten games on the familiar home confines while finishing with identical 13-7 records.

Friday's winner among the boys will advance against the winner of the #15 Oswego at #2 Watertown match-up to be staged on Tuesday, February 16 in the second round. An Oswego upset would produce a home game for either Fulton or Oneida, while a Watertown triumph would mean a trip to Jefferson County in the second round.

A win for the girls would send them against either #13 seeded Phoenix or #4 rated Christian Brothers Academy in second round play next Tuesday. An upset for the Firebirds would give either Fulton or UND a home game, while a CBA win would mean a match-up in Syracuse.

### Boys face unknown commodity

Like the Raiders, Oneida is a program on the rise with two straight trips to the Section III playoffs. The Indians posted an 11-8 overall mark and were 5-5 in the Tri-Valley League's Western division, finishing second to Utica Notre Dame. Coach Jeff Didio's side will rally behind 6-foot-3 junior forward Jeffrey Coulter, the team's leading scorer with 17 points per game. Coulter shot his way to double digit totals in every game this season and went over the 20 point mark on eight occasions, including season highs of 29, 28 and 27 against Notre Dame, Camden and Homer.

Josh Hood averages 11 points per outing while Erik Wuest and Ryan Garbry are out-



**It will take a full team effort for the Raiders to advance in the Section III playoffs including continued strong play from seniors Josh Hudson, Tyler Shaw and Justin Hood. The boys host Oneida on Friday night as part of a Class A playoff double-header starting at 6 pm when the girls take on Utica Notre-Dame. (Senecal photo)**

side threats on a team that has won five of its last eight games. Again like Fulton the Indians found themselves hovering at the .500 mark midway through the season before catching fire down the stretch.

Last year the TVL squad bested East Syracuse-Minoa in the opening round of the playoffs before being swept away by Christian Brothers Academy as part of a team that went 12-8 overall. One advantage the visitors may have is the fact that since they play in different leagues, Oneida is a mystery in terms of preparation. "We know very little about Oneida," Fulton Coach Matt Kipland noted. "The thing we do know according to stats is they have a good guard or two that can shoot the three. From what we hear they will attack the boards as well and get points that way."

Fulton's best regular season showing in over 20 years includes a milestone seven game winning streak that has seen the Raiders charge past a 6-7 start to the current 13-

7 mark. While Cody Green and Tyler Lee have delivered a powerful one, two punch, Fulton is far from being a two man show. A number of players have stepped up when the team needed it most as Josh Hudson, Justin Hood and Tyler Shaw have all enjoyed big moments during the recent stretch run.

Green has continued his march up Fulton's all-time scoring ledger after averaging 18 points per game this season. Currently standing at 1186 points, he is now second only to all-time scoring king Matt Cooper's 1351 point total. The senior has connected 67 times from beyond the three point line while eclipsing the 20 point plateau seven times, including a season high 33 point night against Chittenango. Lee has been just as dynamic while averaging 17 points and seven rebounds per outing including three double-doubles, and like Green has shot past the 20 point mark seven times this season with top efforts of 31 and 29 against Fowler and

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## Opinion

# Is Valentine's Day really necessary?

By Zachary Almeter

Valentine's Day used to be one of my favorite holidays as a kid, but now I see no point in it whatsoever. Do we really need one day to tell others how much we love them?

There are a couple of stories about how this holiday came about. One tells of a priest named St. Valentine who secretly wed couples who were forbidden to marry by the laws of the time. According to another, a man named Valentine who was much-loved by the children of the community was sent to prison for his religious beliefs, and the children wrote the first traditional Valentines to him while he was in prison. It is easy to see why someone would want to create a day to commemorate either of these supposed original St. Valentines, but I am not sure I like what this holiday has become.

Valentine's Day has, in the past, helped with the planning of organized crime. I am, of course, referring to Al Capone's infamous St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Additionally, all of the chocolate people are buying, receiving, and eating at this time is unacceptable. This is not helping the obesity epidemic.

In all seriousness, I sincerely doubt that we need one particular day to let others know how much you love them and to have others



tell you how much they love you. You can do that any day of the year. In fact, with all of the problems in this world already, you should do that whenever you can. Every day is- or should be - Valentine's Day.

**"I sincerely doubt that we need one particular day to let others know how much you love them and to have others tell you how much they love you. You can do that any day of the year."**

## What's happening at G. Ray Bodley High School?

The next meeting of the **Fultonian Yearbook** is Monday after school in room 102. New members are welcome.

The Future Business Leaders of America will be sponsoring its first annual **"Snow Ball"** semi-formal dance on Friday, February 26 from 7 to 10 pm at the high school. Tickets are \$7 at the door and refreshments will be served wth music provided by Mystic Music DJ Service.

Any student who would like to help decorate for the dance will receive a \$2 off admission coupon to get into the dance for \$5. See Mrs. Ferlito in room 115 for more details.

Signups are underway for **boys lacrosse**. Varsity signups are with Mr. Beckwith in room 203 and JV signups are on Coach Popper's room 126.

The **German Club** is happy to spread the words "all you need is love." You can buy words of love and friendship during lunchbells today and tomorrow and they will be delivered to the recipients during guided study hall on Friday. Make someone's day with some valentine's words of love!

## What's for lunch?

**Today:** Turkey tacos with side salad, corn and peaches

**Friday:** Sloppy joe on a roll with baked beans, spinach, applesauce cup and valentine cookie

**Going someplace cool?  
Take  
RaiderNet Daily  
with you and get your picture  
taken for this year's  
Fultonian Yearbook feature  
"Where in the world  
is The Raider?"**

## New year, new you!

**Book now for the  
prom & dinner dance**

**Happy holidays!**

## Reflections

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## Love can be a four-legged word

Valentine's Day is the day when many remember and celebrate the almighty power of love. Many celebrate this day with a special partner or spouse. Some however, are currently searching for someone to spend this day and many more days with. Many people search for love on numerous dating websites, hoping that luck will have it that they will meet their soulmate. This type of search for love may be long, tiring, expensive or even seem hopeless, but it doesn't have to be.

If you are craving love this Valentines Day, your local dog shelter has plenty of options. Adopting a dog is the perfect way to ensure a long lasting relationship filled with unconditional love. Dogs are loving creatures that aim to please. Unlike a spouse, a dog can be easily trained and will look forward to your arrival every evening.

### Bizarre news of the day:

### The commercial was right

On Tuesday February 9, a man was randomly attacked in a Times Square Subway. It does not sound too weird until you find out what the weapon was: a Snickers bar. Eliexer Reyes, 35 years old, attacked Ian Sklarsky with a Snickers bar. Reyes was not provoked he just attacked Sklarsky, shoving the Snickers bar in Sklarsky's face and mouth while punching him.

Sklarsky had some pain, a bruised nose, and a cut lip after the attack. Reyes was charged with misdemeanor assault following his arrest which his lawyers didn't even comment on because of the strange situation. As their slogan goes: I guess you are really not you when you're hungry.

*compiled by Kim Rombough*



For thousands of years, dogs have been bred by humans to fit their needs. No dating website can match you with someone who was specifically designed to please. If you are selective when it comes to love, there are many options when choosing a dog. There are currently over 300 different breeds, varying in size, coat and personality.

If you are looking for a pup with intelligence, Border Collies or a Poodle are right for you. If you are seeking security or protection from a relationship, German Shepherds, Bullmastiffs or Doberman Pinschers are all great options.

Whether purebred or mutt, any dog is sure to provide you with love. With over 3 Million dogs entered in shelters each year, there is no reason why your next Valentine shouldn't have four legs. To find dogs available for adoption in our area, visit [www.Petfinder.com](http://www.Petfinder.com)

*By Liliana Rivera*

### This week in Raider Sports

**Today:** Bowling qualifiers (5 pm @ Lakeview Lanes)

**Friday:** Girls Bball vs. Utica Notre Dame (6 pm); Boys Bball vs. Oneida (7:30 pm)-Class A playoffs\*

**Sat. Feb. 13:** Wrestling Sectionals (10 am @ OCC)

**Fri. Feb. 20:** Hockey @ C-NS (1:30 pm @ Cicero)-Division I playoffs

\*depending on the outcome of Friday's games, the Raider basketball teams may be in action on Tuesday, Feb. 16



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## Raider Sports

# Home court advantage could be a key

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Mexico.

Hudson averages nine points and five rebounds per game while Hood averages eight and Shaw seven. But as a testament to the team's attitude of stepping up when needed, Hudson and Hood have contributed high performances of 21 points apiece against Chittenango and Homer respectively and Shaw drilled in 17 in the team's win over Georgetown.

As for common opponents, both teams played, and beat both Camden and Homer this season. The Indians topped Camden 64-57 and 60-58 and bested Homer 63-48 while the Raiders handled Camden 60-42 and topped Homer by a 55-35 count.

The keys to victory are fundamental according to Kimpland, who said that the Raiders need to, "Keep our composure. Use our home court to our advantage, but at the same time make sure we play within ourselves." Winning the battle of the boards to eliminate second chance points will also be important, along with forcing challenged two point tries, as the coach said, "We don't want to give their shooters open and set threes, as that is what they will look for."

For the second year in a row Fulton will host an opening round tournament game. Last February the home court advantage helped propel the Raiders past Vernon-Verona-Sherrill, and Coach Kimpland hopes for more of the same this time around. "Whenever you can host a sectional game it is great for everyone that is and will be involved in the program. It builds a sense of excitement not only within the program but community as well," he said. "These kids are very comfortable playing in our gym and we have played our best basketball here."

One need only look back to last Friday when Fulton topped highly regarded Jamesville-Dewitt, much to the delight of the Red Raider faithful. It's always great to play where you practice! The crowd and most importantly the student section 'The Tribe,' really helps our efforts," he noted. "I think any time we can keep our fans in the game and excited the place gets extremely loud. It's one of the best places in the league to play."

### **UND brings proud history to match-up**

The same holds true for Coach Derek

Lyons and the Red Raider girls, who were nearly unbeatable at home while going 9-1. "This is an exciting time for the community and for Fulton Basketball, and being able to host a double header with the boys really puts it at another level," he commented. "Three years ago we were able to host a home playoff game and the student body and community really came out to support us and without a doubt made it a memorable experience for the players. The students and the community really come together for these big events, and we fully expect to have the home court advantage, and I know the team appreciates it and will feed off it."

The benefits could reach far beyond Friday's outcomes, as Lyons noted that, "this is a great opportunity to showcase both pro-

13 points and five rebounds per game as well as 20 blocked shots during a season when she torched Rome Free Academy for 51 points in two outings. Kate Sehring averages nearly 10 points per game while Stephanie Salerno leads the team with 56 assists and 23 steals.

Lyons believes that, "the biggest thing, without a doubt, is rebounding and finishing our scoring opportunities. In games we've done those things, we have been difficult to beat." With that in mind he needs big performances from junior Nicole Hansen and senior Emilee Hyde, the team rebounding leaders at nine and seven per game respectively. "Nicole Hansen and Emilee Hyde will have to play physical and tough defense and complete defensive possessions with the

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**Girls Basketball Coach Derek Lyons**

grams and all of the hard work of the players and coaches, and can definitely be a recruiting tool for the young athletes in our community to come join the basketball programs."

But the veteran coach knows that his team cannot afford to get too caught up in the hoopla of hosting a playoff game, as Utica Notre Dame comes in with a powerful pedigree despite their seemingly pedestrian 8-10 mark. "UND, like all teams in the tournament will be tough. They play a tough schedule and have experience against good competition, just like we do," Lyons commented. "We know they are solid in the post, and play a physical style."

Despite compiling an 18-20 record over the past two seasons, the Jugglers are a team with a proud history. In the five year stretch between 2009-2014 Utica Notre Dame went 89-20 with three Section III titles, two runner-up performances and a New York State crown in 2014. Coach Olivia Tooley's girls grew up watching their predecessors own the court, and that type of attitude will be tough to overcome should the Jugglers get off to a good start tonight.

Claire Sehring leads the UND cause with

rebound," Lyons stated. "If we give up offensive rebounds it will be a tough night. Also, we need Sydney Gilmore to be our floor general and play composed and under control."

Gilmore leads the team with 73 assists and 18 connections from beyond the arc while averaging just under 10 points per game, although the figure is deceptive as she came on strong down the stretch. The junior finished in double figures in nine of the final 12 games and helped spearhead a Fulton charge that saw the girls win seven of the last nine games, including six in a row. Hansen averages 13 points per game and has developed an outside touch this season with 16 from three point range and has also been a defensive force with 83 blocks, better than four per game. Erin Nicholson also provides help from long range with 15 threes, while Hyde and Mckenna Chesbro average seven and five points per game for the Raiders.

It has been a long time since both Fulton basketball teams hosted a playoff game in the same season, let alone on the same night. Both Kimpland and Lyons are hoping that with the backing of "The Tribe," that this could become an annual event. It all starts Friday night at 6 pm.

## What would be the perfect Valentines day gift?



"The boyfriend should serve the girlfriend for a day like a servant."

Gabriel Lanza



"Just spending the day together (Lane agrees). "

Hunter Hartranft & Lane Perl



"Netflix and Dominos pizza."

Bailey Perry



"A mirror so I can enjoy the view."

Scott Littleton

## Meteorology and you

Today:



Cloudy with snow

**14°**

Average: 33°  
Record: 61° (1932)

Tonight:



Mostly cloudy  
Chance snow showers

**15°**

Average: 15°  
Record: -19° (1979)

Tomorrow:



Chance snow showers

**27°**

Average: 32°  
Record: 61° (1932)



*Former GRB student and current SUNY Oswego senior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist. Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.*