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West Aurora Blackhawk Sports Boosters
2112 West Galena Blvd., Suite 8-187
Aurora, Illinois 60506

WINTER NEWSLETTER

- Raffle Information
- Merchandise
- Team Summaries
- Scholar Athletes

Varsity Scholar

Athletes Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better and a Varsity award winner

Karolina Bartkowiak
 Chad Becker
 Heather Brinkmann
 Sara Carley
 Elizabeth Chollet
 Ellen Christensen
 Kevin Costin
 Danielle DeCarlo
 Karina Diaz
 Kimberly Engen
 Jeffrey Etter
 Matthew Etter
 Jeffrey Fitzgerald
 Anna Franco
 Julie Guzzardi
 Stephanie Halloran
 Theo Hicks
 Ann Hutches
 Kathleen Hutches
 Zeynali Khurshidov
 Sarah Kilroy
 Daniel Lage
 Cailey Lanahan
 Hans Lauzen
 Phil Lindgren
 Kathryn McDonnell
 Aaron Mendoza
 Chelsey Moore
 Katrina Moy
 Melissa Nelson
 Jenny Nguyen
 Daniel Newhouse
 Galen Norman

Jessica Patterson
 Heather Pierce
 Katherine Rangel
 Donnie Renner
 Shannon Roache
 Michael Roggeman
 Robyn Rowe
 David Skaggs
 Charlotte Smith
 Kelli Smith
 Tyler Thompson
 Emily Timmons
 Charity Vitkus
 Mason Walgrave
 Sean Walgrave
 Madison Whitt
 Allison Zabelin
 Joshua Zinzer

Scholar Athletes

Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better and a lower level award winner

Michele Bauer
 Maggie Becker
 Gonzalo Bilbao
 Parker Boland
 Ashley Brown
 Corey Buzzard
 Gloria Castaneda
 Kara Connelly
 Katherine Davids
 Joshua Dieter
 Kristina Falk
 Nikki Falk
 Ramica Ford
 Matt Genslinger
 Chris Groleau

Michael Groleau
 Jordan Heiss
 Brian Ho
 Lindsay Johansen
 Gillian King
 Kyla Lingel
 Marco Martinez
 Seth McKinley
 Lauren Michels
 Brianna Miller
 Sam O'Brien
 Andrew Peters
 Katryna Refomado
 Michael Schwerdtfeger
 Taylor Scott
 Allison Sherman
 Max Souvannasing
 George Sterling
 Jennifer Stutz
 Kasey Swanson
 Mark Torres
 Jordan Torri
 Kaitlin Van Scooter
 Payam Vatani
 Emily Voirin
 Avery Volz
 Kelsey Wiltse

DVC All-Academic

Athletes Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better and a Varsity award winner

Steven Acuff
 Adam Ahlden
 Karolina Bartkowiak
 Chad Becker
 Nichole Becker
 Kolette Bohr

Alex Boll
 Heather Brinkmann
 Shannon Brooks
 Sara Carley
 Elizabeth Chollet
 Ellen Christensen
 Kevin Costin
 Danielle DeCarlo
 Karina Diaz
 Kimberly Engen
 Jeffrey Etter
 Matthew Etter
 Lauren Fairbanks
 Jeffrey Fitzgerald
 Anna Franco
 Kevin Glock
 Maggie Gray
 Julie Guzzardi
 Stephanie Halloran
 David Heiss
 Lauren Henry
 Theo Hicks
 Annie Hutches
 Kathleen Hutches
 Zeynali Khurshidov
 Sarah Kilroy
 Daniel Lage
 Cailey Lanahan
 Hans Lauzen
 Phil Lindgren
 Jorge Martinez
 Kathryn McDonnell
 Aaron Mendoza
 Amanda Mikuski
 Chelsey Moore
 Katrina Moy
 Melissa Nelson

Daniel Newhouse
 Jenny Nguyen
 Erin Noonan
 Galen Norman
 Andrew Olinger
 Jessica Patterson
 Ian Pickett
 Heather Pierce
 Max Popp
 Miles Porter
 Katherine Rangel
 Meagan Remington
 Donnie Renner
 Shannon Roache
 Michael Roggeman
 Jonathan Rosa
 Robyn Rowe
 Brad Scatterday
 David Skaggs
 Charlotte Smith
 Kelli Smith
 Christina Stengle
 Nathan Strusz
 Gabby Tatar
 Uriel Terrazas
 Tyler Thompson
 Emily Timmons
 Meredith Van Kampen
 Brandon Vicory
 Charity Vitkus
 Mason Walgrave
 Sean Walgrave
 Madison Whitt
 Brian Winders
 Allison Zabelin
 Joshua Zinzer



Be a **PART** of it!

Supporting District 129 Athletes

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Rick Torri

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Deb Thompson VP
Wendy Pickett, VP
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John Heiss, Golf Outing
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Merchandise
Joyce Heiss, VP
Karen Giles

Members at Large
Neil Ormond
Linda Barber

**A MESSAGE FROM
OUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

Dear Blackhawk Boosters & Friends:

Thank you for your tremendous support throughout a very successful 2006 fall sports season. You are an important part of the athletic program in School District 129 – from middle school through high school. The coaches and athletes are fortunate to have such a strong group of dedicated boosters to support them. On their behalf, I thank you!

There were many causes for celebration during the fall season. Those highlights were tributes to the long, proud history of Blackhawk athletics and signs of growth and future prosperity. Some of the proudest moments from the fall included:

- the 1000th football game in West Aurora history
- Girls' tennis winning the DVC championship, its 14th consecutive IHSA Sectional Title, and placing 8th at the state tournament
- the first winning record in the DuPage Valley Conference for Boys' Golf, including a 3rd place finish
- and, the boys' soccer team was recently named the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches' Association Myro Rys Sportsmanship Award winners.

Several individual athletes and coaches have received recognition for their efforts. In September, softball coach Donna Proctor was named the Aurora Sectional Illinois High School Softball Coaches' Association Coach of the Year. Joe Sustersic, head soccer coach, was named the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches' Association Sectional Coach of the Year. Several athletes have been named to the DuPage Valley Conference all-conference teams. Please check out our website, <http://www.sd129.org/athletics/latestnews.asp?id=51>, for a list of those athletes.

Winter sports are well underway. Coaches and athletes in basketball, girls' bowling, boys' swimming and diving, cheerleading, poms, and wrestling are working hard for the upcoming season. Some highlights on the upcoming winter schedule include:

Girls' Basketball in the Wheaton North Invite – December 26 through December 29

Wrestling at the DeKalb Invite on December 29 and 30

Boys' Basketball at Pontiac Holiday Tournament on December 28 and 29

Boys' Swimming and Diving at the Neuqua Valley Invite on December 15 and 16

And, girls' bowling will host the Blackhawk Invite on December 16 and IHSA Sectionals on February 3.

Please check the website, www.sd129.org/athletics, for event information and schedules. Please join us this year and make yourself a part of Blackhawk Athletics.

Sincerely,
Dan Bridges, Athletic Director

**BOOSTERS
GRANT
WISHES**

FOUNDED IN 1970.

The West Aurora Blackhawk Sports Boosters is the official athletics fundraising organization of West Aurora High School. Since its inception, the Boosters have raised more than \$850,000 toward support of athletic scholarships, equipment and supplies. This year, thanks to your contribution, the Boosters have proudly provided \$51,000 to support our coaches' 'Wish List' requests!

Save These Dates



JANUARY 5
EARLY BIRD RAFFLE



JANUARY 19
WRESTLING SENIOR NIGHT



JANUARY 24
BOWLING SENIOR NIGHT



JANUARY 30
SWIMMING SENIOR NIGHT



FEBRUARY 2
EARLY BIRD RAFFLE



FEBRUARY 16
HALL OF FAME



FEBRUARY 23
BOYS BASKETBALL, CHEER-
LEADING & POMS SENIOR NIGHT



MARCH 10
RAFFLE & DINNER

**THANKS TO WEST AURORA BLACK-
HAWK SPORTS BOOSTERS**

The Fall Sports programs wish to pass on their sincere thanks to the Sports Boosters for the continued support. Items such as golf team bags, volleyball equipment, and new cheerleading mats help keep our West Aurora sports teams successfully competing. The Fall coaches also noted that without the Boosters volunteer help, whether it be ticket taking or running concessions, our West Aurora programs and events would not function as they are able to do now. Thanks Boosters and GO BLACKHAWKS!

www.sd129.org/athletics
Find Schedules and Directions



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Current News

Supporting District 129 Athletes

Want \$10k? Annual "Red and Blue" Raffle is here

You've seen the brightly colored shirts advertising it. You've heard the announcements at the sporting events for it. And you've likely heard the talk around town of what a wonderful event we had last year. It's back and better than ever - the Annual "Red & Blue" Raffle, sponsored by the West Aurora Blackhawk Sports Boosters.

This year's event culminates on March 10, 2007 at the Fox Valley Country Club. For a \$100 raffle ticket purchase, the recipient will receive entry into the \$10,000 grand prize raffle, a chance in the \$100 draw downs, and the opportunity to purchase 2 dinner tickets at \$20/each. The dinner event includes a buffet, drinks, entertainment, raffles, and both a silent AND live auction of some very special items. And an early raffle ticket purchase enters you in the early-bird drawings of \$250.

Over the last 3 years, the Raffle event has had over 200 people attend. It's an opportunity to enjoy a great dinner, drinks, dancing, and making new friends and re-acquainting with some old ones. Last year's entertainment featured the West Aurora Jazz Quartet. Dress for the event is casual. Tickets are available via the Raffle form (included in this newsletter and available on the Booster website), at each varsity boys basketball home game, and from ANY Sports Booster Board member.

The "Red & Blue" Raffle organizer is the Project's committee headed by Ed Kane. So please consider participating in the Boosters biggest fundraising event of the year. And just maybe become \$10,000 richer!

Hall of Pride Update

A quick look through the gym foyer and the high school hallways will let you know that things are changing in the way we honor our West Aurora athletic past. The work towards a Hall of Pride continues as hundreds of pictures and awards are being reworked as part of the preparation. To date, all the pictures have been digitally reproduced, giving them a consistent and updated look with pictures of State qualifiers being larger than the conference title photos. These items are being placed in the main foyer and in the south hallway with frames to be added soon. The Booster subcommittee, headed by John Sjudges, looks forward to displaying their vision and concepts in both areas. Look for the banners and signs designating future homes of such awards as regional, sectional, and super sectional plaques. The Hall of Pride will be consistent with the ongoing work by District 129 to upgrade its facilities. The Hall of Pride work is being funded by the generous support the West Aurora Booster Raffle participants.

H.S. Hoops Showdown

The West Aurora Blackhawks Boys' Basketball team has been invited to play in the 10th annual Meijer High School Hoops Showdown on Saturday, January 27th, 2007 at the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. There are two games scheduled for the evening. The first game features Chicago-Marshall and Schaumburg. West Aurora will play Batavia at approximately 8:00 PM. This is a rematch of the Sectional game last year. Tickets will be available through the West Aurora Athletic Department. Be sure to check the athletic website for ordering information.

Blackhawk Spiritwear - Just in Time for the Holidays

It's time for all Blackhawk Fans to show their spirit at all the winter sports that will be starting soon! Update your Blackhawk spiritwear by visiting the Sports Boosters merchandise shop located in the gym foyer to see our new apparel line, featuring new items and new designs, just in time for the winter season. Winter sports team shirts will be available as short sleeve t-shirts with new designs. A must have for all fans! And for a limited time, we will be featuring replica basketball jerseys - sure to be a hot item! We'll also have a return appearance by some popular fan items from football season including the Holloway jackets and stadium chairs. Due to manufacturing issues, the stadium chairs were in short supply during the football season, but we're happy to report that these issues have been resolved and we will have a new supply of the chairs available for sale. So, if you didn't get a chance to get these items during football season, now's your chance! The Merchandise Shop has been available at the Fall Sports Awards Night, the Winter Sports Intro Night, Girls' Basketball events, and Wrestling matches and will be at all Boys' Basketball Home games. Blackhawk spiritwear makes for great holiday presents - so buy early and often!

GO BLACKHAWKS!



Fall Sports Wrap-up

The West Aurora Fall sports teams enjoyed their most successful combined effort this year. Based on points awarded for all sports in DVC varsity competition, the boys placed 6th overall while the girls finished 5th, giving the Blackhawks an overall 5th place - their highest DVC Fall season ranking ever. The programs also finished the fall with an overall GPA of 2.98 - an outstanding mark for our Blackhawk student athletes. Here's how each team fared over their 2006 campaign.

Girls' Cross Country

The Girls' Cross Country team had a fine season, finishing 8th in the conference, 9th in their Regional, and 6th in the City Meet. Charlotte Smith was the lone Sectional Qualifier this year. The Fresh/Soph team got a 2nd place finish in the Joliet Invitational and a 3rd place finish in the City Meet. Coach Angela Cassetto was impressed by the leadership provided by her older athletes. She noted that most of the team improved their times during the course of the season.

Boys' Cross Country

The Boys' Cross Country team was very competitive in a strong region. The team finished 7th in the DVC, 10th in their Regional, and 5th in the City Meet. This season saw 2 Blackhawk runners qualify for Sectionals - Adam Ahlden and Phil Lindgren. Ahlden is the first runner in West Aurora history to be a sectional qualifier all four years. The fresh/soph team won the Yorkville Invite. Coach Sinnott is looking forward to most of his team returning next year.

Girls' Tennis

The Girls' Tennis program just keeps rolling. DVC Coach of the Year Brian Brook's team were champions of the DVC (18-4 overall) for the 8th time since joining the conference 10 years ago. They were Sectional Champs for the 14th straight year and their 8th place finish in the state was the 8th time in the last 10 years the Blackhawks finished in the state's top 8. Shannon Brooks and Brooke Henry finished 13th in the State and achieved 2nd team All-State honors. Katrina Moy in singles and Heather Pierce and Lauren Henry in doubles all finished 17th in the state and all were named to 3rd team All-State. On the DVC All Conference team were Shannon Brooks, Katrina Moy, Brooke Henry, Heather Pierce, Lauren Henry, and Sara Carley with Allison Zabelin receiving honorable mention.

Football

Coach Buck Drach's first season as Blackhawks head coach started off impressively with a decisive 33-0 win over our cross-town rivals East High. The program finished the season 2-7 overall, 0-7 in the DVC for an 8th place finish. The 2006 season included the 1000th football game for West Aurora High School. All Conference team members included Blackhawks Kevin Glock, Tyler Thompson, Terran Buck, with Special Mentions for Kevin Costin and Max Popp and Honorable Mentions for Alex Panozzo, Kyle Phelps, Donnie Renner, and Josh Zinzer. Kevin Glock was also named All State Honorable Mention and Tyler Thompson was named to the All State All Academic team.

Girls' Swimming & Diving

The Girls' Swimming & Diving team enjoyed a very respectable 2006 season. The Blackhawks finished 5th in conference and 8th in sectionals. Elizabeth Chollet qualified for state and finished 27th overall in Diving. Liz enjoyed the experience and is looking forward to returning to the state meet next year and perhaps taking along other divers and swimmers. Elizabeth Chollet was also named to the DVC All Conference team, joined by honorable mention members Kimberly Engen, Jackie Iglesias, and Andrea Mendoza.

Girls' Golf

The Girls' Golf team had an outstanding season in 2006. Their 11-3 overall record helped earn them a 3rd place finish in the conference. In addition, the Blackhawks took 1st place in the York Invitational. The team also placed 7th in the Region with Madison Whitt qualifying for State sectionals. Joining Madison Whitt on the DVC All Conference team were Karina Diaz and Maggie Gray, with Sarah Kilroy receiving special mention.

Boys' Golf

The Boys' Golf team was the best in Coach Jay Bauer's 14 years as its coach. They finished 4th in the DVC with a 5-2 dual meet record, the most conference wins in our 10 years of DVC participation. The Blackhawks finished 2nd in the Aurora City Tournament, 4th out of 22 in the Aurora Central Catholic Tournament, and 8th in their State sectional. Brandon Vicory and Matt Etter were all-conference athletes with Kurtis Luedtke chosen as special mention. Vicory also qualified for sectionals and finished the season with a 39.18 average for 9 holes in 28 rounds of competition, becoming the 12th member of the 30 Club and 7th on all-time low average list in Blackhawk history, chasing Tom Tierney's 37.74 average in 1973-74. Coach Bauer expects another fine year in 2007 with the return of 8 members from this year's team.

Boys' Soccer

The 2006 Boys' Soccer program started the season with the motto "Expect Results" and results they produced. For the first time in the program's 26 year history, the Blackhawks won both of its season tournaments - The Morris tournament, outscoring their opponents 24-1, and the Morton tournament, one of the state's most famous tournaments. Their 14-7 record was one win short of the school's all-time wins mark and helped earn them a 6th place conference finish. Jose Alfaro was selected for the 4th time to the First Team All Conference, a very rare accomplishment, as well as being named to the All State team. Fredy Ortiz set a new single season goals scored record with 28 goals, was also a 1st team All Conference member, and was selected to the All Sectional team. Coach Joe Sustersic was named Coach of the Year in Section 3. And the West Aurora Soccer program as a whole was recognized on the state level by becoming recipients of the Myro Rys Sportsmanship Award for the entire State of Illinois. Coach Sustersic noted there are some big shoes to fill next year, but expects that the members of the program who saw varsity time, along with members of our successful sophomore and freshman teams, to step up to the raised expectations and continue moving the soccer program to even greater results.

Girls' Volleyball

The Girls' Volleyball program, as described by 1st year Head Coach Janice Coy, underwent an overhaul. The program introduced not only a new head coach, but 2 new coaches in Kari Nicholson and Jen Furuglyas as well as a more grueling pre-season training program. The team stepped up to the challenge, showed a great deal of leadership and class, and adopted a more positive attitude. The results were a 15-20-1 overall record, the most wins for the girls program in the last 6 years, including a 5-9 DVC record for 5th place in the conference. This year's team was lead by Utah-bound Karolina Bartkowiak (258 kills) and Lauren Fairbanks (216 kills, team lead in digs). Bartkowiak received All Conference honors, with Fairbanks and Amanda Mikuski receiving honorable mention. With several returning members from this year's team, Coach Coy expects even greater achievements from next year's program.

Cheerleading

Coach Chrissy Poppen's squads came out of a very successful summer program at both the varsity and junior varsity levels to lead the cheering at the football games this fall. With 5 home games, including the East-West game, Homecoming, and Senior Night, the atmosphere created by the crowds, the band, and our cheerleaders was almost collegiate. Coach Poppen was impressed by how her squads were able to come together, with her JV squad successfully blending in the new Freshman cheerleaders and getting great leadership from her "veterans" in bringing the varsity team together with several new members. Coach wanted to note the exceptional leadership of the Senior Captains - Kolette Bohr and Shada Rogers. The cheerleaders are now gearing up for the basketball season - look for them as they get the crowd into the game!

Poms/Dance Team

The Poms/Dance teams had another successful fall season. Coach Lindsay Townsend's squads are now preparing for the basketball and competition seasons. Their first winter performance was at Winter Sports Intro Night. On December 5th, the varsity team competes in the DVC Showcase. Additionally, the JV and varsity squads will compete in three Halftime Illinois Competitions in January and February. So stay in your seats at the basketball half times and watch some exciting and polished poms performances this winter.