

Anything goes during Powderpuff halftime, almost

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Contributing Writer

During Homecoming week, football fans move their Friday night routine to Monday to watch the junior and senior girls play in the annual Powderpuff football game.

This year, fans will also get to experience Almost Anything Goes (AAG), a relay race between freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors and faculty, during half-time of the game.

Student council advisor Chris Pagnani says the move was made in an effort to increase student interest in AAG since attendance in prior years has been low.

"For whatever reason, in the past for AAG, the student interest has not been as high," Pagnani said. "Attendance is always so high for Powderpuff. We figured we'd try to take some of that crowd and get them to see AAG, and then hopefully in future years, more people will be interested in it because they'll have seen it."

Junior Katie Sharp agrees that this adjustment will be beneficial for the AAG competition.

"I think this new change will be good for the popularity of AAG because not everyone is aware of all the extra things that happen at school," Sharp said.

According to student council vice president Jake Sloan, this year's games will include a three-legged race, a balloon relay and a bean bag toss.

There will also be a shoe game where students take off their shoes, mix them up and put them back on as fast as they can.

AAG 2010 will feature fewer events than in the past. The number of events will be cut down to five or six from the usual ten.

"Since we have to continue [the second half of the football game] afterwards, we're trying to trim it down a little bit," Pagnani said. "I think it's also easier to get new kids excited about joining [AAG] since it's not as big of a time commitment."

Junior Mike McGinn, who participated in last year's games, feels that students should take part in AAG.

"It's a lot of fun because we got to meet people from our class that we didn't know before," McGinn said.



Logue file photo

CHEERING FOR VICTORY. Last year's senior team gets pumped up and ready for battle before the Almost Anything Goes (AAG) competition. AAG will now take place during halftime of the Powderpuff football game.

The competition between classes will heighten as the junior and senior girls battle for the title of Powderpuff champions.

Senior Louisa Dimopoulos is looking forward to competing in the game this year.

"[Powderpuff] is the only time I ever get the experience of playing where the actual football team plays," Dimopoulos said. "It's exciting to hear our names called out and see our friends cheering for us."

Dimopoulos thinks that students should watch because it is different from a typical football game.

"There is still competition between the juniors and seniors, but [Powderpuff] is only one game, a one time

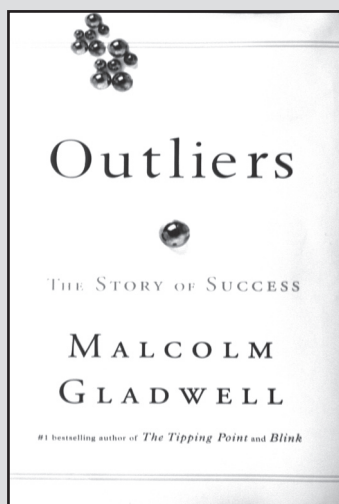
thing," Dimopoulos said.

According to Sloan, proceeds from the AAG and Powderpuff concessions will be contributed to the Homecoming fund, which will be sent to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

"We want to reach out more into the community," student council president Nicole Mathes said. "[We chose St. Jude because] when anything has to do with kids, we have softer hearts."

The Homecoming festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the Powderpuff game and continue during half-time with the AAG competition on Monday, Sept. 27 at Hale Hildebrandt Field.

Warm up with a good book in the crisp autumn season



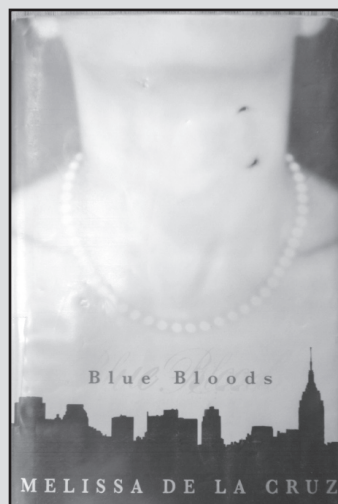
Junior Ian Assmann recommends "Outliers" by Malcolm Gladwell

"Outliers" revolves around the idea that being born in the right place at the right time has a lot to do with determining how accomplished someone will be.

Being an outlier, someone who stands out because of a special, unique talent, can also lead to success. Released earlier this year, "Outliers" has been on the New York Times nonfiction best-seller list for 93 consecutive weeks.

Assmann likes "Outliers" because it explains how people become so prosperous.

"[The information] was interesting and brand new to me and explained how people become so successful at what they do," Assmann said.



Freshman Irina Andriyeva recommends "Blue Bloods" by Melissa De La Cruz

Schuyler Van Alen and her best friend Oliver are trying to find out the cause of a mysterious death. When marks appear on Schuyler's arms, she is invited to a committee where she learns that she is a vampire. As other deaths continue, Schuyler discovers something that no one will believe.

The first in the series, "Blue Bloods" is a Reluctant Young Adult Readers Quick Pick and a Chicago Best of the Best book.

According to Andriyeva, "Blue Bloods" is filled with non-stop drama.

"It's really suspenseful," Andriyeva said. "You find out that there's someone part of the good guys, who's actually the bad guy."

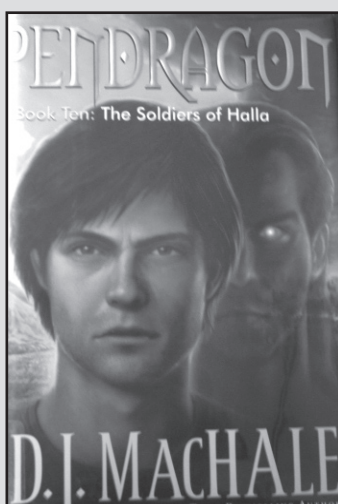
Senior Tim Chan recommends "The Soldiers of Halla" by D.J. MacHale

The 10th and final book in the Pendragon series, "The Soldiers of Halla," follows Bobby Pendragon's journey to save Halla from being destroyed by Saint Dane, a supporter of evil in human nature. Saint Dane wants to destroy the people of Halla, as well, in hopes of remaking the territory into his own, dark creation.

This book has received several accolades including being named a New York Times best seller.

According to Chan, "The Soldiers of Halla" has an outcome that will leave readers satisfied.

"['Soldiers of Halla'] is amazing. It's the best conclusion to a series I've ever read," Chan said. "There are no loopholes, and everything is drawn together in the end."



Junior Sadhana Krishnamoorthy recommends "Carpe Diem" by Autumn Cornwell

In "Carpe Diem," 16-year-old Vassar Spores has her whole life planned out, but all that changes when her world-travelling grandmother blackmails Vassar's parents into forcing their daughter to backpack through Southeast Asia alone. Throughout her journey, Vassar is faced with challenges she isn't prepared for.

"Carpe Diem" has received positive reviews from Publishers Weekly, The Washington Post and School Library Journal.

Krishnamoorthy recommends this book because it teaches a lesson that readers can use on a daily basis.

"['Carpe Diem'] teaches a good moral to seize the day and live life to the fullest," Krishnamoorthy said.

