

'Tis the Season



(Above) Six-year-old Reagan Bordas sits on Santa's lap at the West Point Club Monday while Santa's helper, Michelle Bigger, gives a gift to Reagan. Cookies and soft drinks were handed out after the annual Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation tree lighting ceremony. (Left) Cadet carolers and community members braved frigid weather and gathered around the West Point Christmas tree in the area near Sedgwick Monument.

PHOTOS BY KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

After Navy, Army faces SMU in first bowl in 14 years

By Brian Gunning
Army Athletic Communications

Two football programs boasting storied histories will square off on the gridiron for the first time in more than 40 years when Army battles Southern Methodist University in the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 30 at Gerald J. Ford Stadium in Dallas.

Army, which accepted its first postseason bowl bid since 1996 earlier last week, learned of its opponent for the game Dec. 4 after SMU accepted an invitation to the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl following its 17-7 loss to Central Florida in the Conference USA

championship game.

SMU captured C-USA's West Division title by posting a 6-2 league mark. The Mustangs stand 7-6 overall. Seven of their opponents earned bowl bids this season.

The Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl will pit one of the nation's most prolific rushing offenses, Army's triple-option attack, opposite one of the country's most dynamic passing systems, SMU's high-octane run-and-shoot scheme.

Army enters its regular-season finale against Navy Saturday with a 6-5 record, the program's highest win total since the 1996 squad went 10-2.

The Black Knights boast the 10th ranked rushing offense in the nation (260.27 yards/game) led by Yearling fullback Jared Hassin. Hassin ranks 54th nationally, averaging 80.09 yards per contest.

The Black Knights' defense ranks 26th in the country, giving up 332.64 yards per game.

Firstie defensive end Josh McNary, Army's all-time leader in sacks, is tied for ninth in the country with 0.86 sacks per game.

SMU is led by bruising running back Zach Line, who has run for 1,391 yards and 10 touchdowns this season, and talented quarterback Kyle Padron, who is averaging 271.2 passing yards per contest.

Dangerous wideout Aldrick Robinson tops Conference USA with 60 receptions and has hauled in 13 touchdown passes.

In addition to playing in its home stadium, SMU will serve as the home team as the Conference USA representative.

Army has captured both of its previous meetings with SMU, winning 14-13 in 1928 at West Point and 24-6 in Dallas in 1967.

Tickets for the game can be purchased online at www.goarmysports.com, the Army Ticket Office or by calling 1-877-TIX-ARMY. For more information on the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl, visit www.ArmedForcesBowl.com.

AFAP update: Progress on behavioral health service, TBI care

Commentary by Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
IMCOM Commander

When I became the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management a year ago, I undertook an important responsibility—overseeing the Army Family Action Plan process. This successful, long-running program enables Soldiers, civilians and Family members to communicate with Army leaders about issues affecting their quality of life.

Following up on the issues that are so important to the members of the Army

community gives momentum to the AFAP process and reinforces the promises made in the Army Family Covenant.

One of those promises is to improve Family readiness by increasing access and quality of healthcare. Through the AFAP process, the Army continues to make great strides in addressing a number of wellness and medical issues, including a shortage of behavioral health services. As a result of innovative and aggressive recruitment efforts, the Army had on board more than 3,900 behavioral health providers, including psychologists, psychiatrists, psychiatric

nurses and social workers, as of June 30. This was an increase of almost 400 health professionals to provide the services Army community members need for treatment and recovery.

In addition, the Army's Medical Command has established a new Tele-Health Division, which provides behavioral health services such as tele-psychiatry, tele-psychology, medical evaluation boards, mental status evaluations, tele-neuropsychology and a school-based mental health program.

These real-time services are provided via video-conferencing through a network of 53 active sites across five regional medical commands.

Tele-behavioral health services are also provided to deployed Soldiers and civilians through e-mail exchanges in the AKO tele-consultations service. To date, the Army has provided more than 7,000 consultations in 41 countries and in 39 specialties, including behavioral health, through this service. This expanding array of tele-health services gives the Army community greater access to behavioral healthcare even in geographically dispersed areas and greater continuity of care when they relocate.

The Army is also making progress in addressing the issue that calls for the establishment of comprehensive, integrated rehabilitation programs for traumatic brain injury patients at military medical centers.

To date, traumatic brain injury programs at 37 facilities have achieved full validation, programs at 10 have achieved initial validation and seven other facilities are in the process of being validated.

Programs at four Reserve and National Guard projection platforms—Forts Shelby and McCoy, Camp Atterbury and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, have been validated, to better care for our Reserve and Guard Soldiers.

The AFAP General Officer Steering Committee, comprised of Department of Defense officials, Army leaders and field

representatives, determines the status of Army-wide AFAP issues. At the last meeting June 30, the GOSC resolved 27 of 40 quality-of-life issues and directed continued action on the issues mentioned above, as well as other issues of vital concern to Army community members.

The next GOSC will be held Feb. 1 in Washington, D.C. I will continue to hold review sessions in which Army staff experts report on the progress on their issues and will keep you informed.

You can also check on the progress of AFAP issues at the Army OneSource website (www.mymilitaryonesource.com), going to the Family Program and Services menu and selecting the AFAP Active Issue Search feature.

AFAP is a crucial tool for Army community members and leaders to communicate and work together to improve the well-being and quality of life for us all. About 90 percent of issues are resolved at the local level, while the rest are elevated to higher levels.

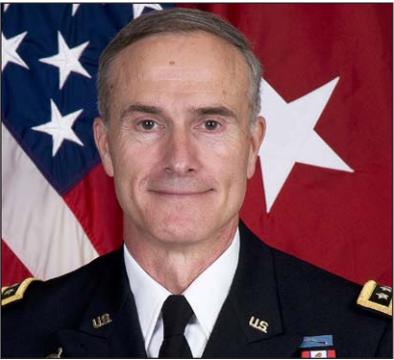
However, regardless of the level at which they are worked, all issues begin at the community level. Every issue is raised by a community member who has taken the time and effort to identify an issue and set about making a change for the better.

I encourage you to learn more about the AFAP process and follow the progress on issues that are currently being worked. Even more important, become involved in AFAP forums in your own community. When you see something that can be made better, take action.

Become part of the solution for improving the quality of life for your fellow Soldiers, civilians and Family members.

(Editor's Note: West Point's AFAP is Feb. 22-24. For more information about AFAP, to submit an issue or register for the conference, go to www.westpointmwr.com/afap.htm, or contact Christina Overstreet, AFAP coordinator, at Christina.overstreet@usma.edu.)

Happy Holidays from the Superintendent



This holiday season is the perfect time to say thank you to everyone at West Point for your support of the mission—helping us to build leaders of character for service to our Nation.

As we settle in at our holiday destinations for this time of celebration and cheer, we remember the young men and women in uniform, and their Families, who cannot yet be together.

They are the guardians of our freedom, and their selfless service and character, their courage and competence, is steadfast and inspiring.

Thousands of members of the Long Gray Line lead those Soldiers around the world, and your work here helps to set the conditions for their mission success.

Take care in your travels so that you and your loved ones remain safe over the holiday season. We are very proud to live in this remarkable community, and grateful for your own service to West Point each and every day.

From our Family to yours, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Lt. Gen. David H. Huntoon, Jr.
U.S. Military Academy Superintendent

The Supt

Solution to Weekly Sudoku

5	6	4	8	7	2	1	3	9
9	3	8	4	1	6	7	2	5
2	7	1	9	3	5	8	4	6
7	4	9	1	8	3	6	5	2
8	5	6	7	2	4	3	9	1
3	1	2	6	5	9	4	8	7
6	8	3	5	9	1	2	7	4
1	2	5	3	4	7	9	6	8
4	9	7	2	6	8	5	1	3

See SUDOKU PUZZLE, Page 12

POINTER VIEW®

The Army civilian enterprise newspaper, the Pointer View, is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Pointer View are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of the Army or West Point.

The Pointer View® is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. The editorial content of the Pointer View is the responsibility of the West Point Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 600, West Point, New York 10996, (845) 938-2015.

The Pointer View is printed weekly by the Times Herald-Record, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive contract with West Point. The Times Herald-Record is responsible for all commercial advertising.

Lt. Gen. David H. Huntoon, Jr.
Superintendent

Joseph V. Tombrello
Acting Director,
Public Affairs Office

Linda L. Mastin
Chief, Web & Print Publications Branch
938-8366

Eric S. Bartelt
Managing Editor, 938-2015

Tommy Gilligan
Asst. Editor/Photo, 938-8825

Mike Strasser
Asst. Editor/Copy, 938-3079

Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer, 938-3684

Printed weekly by the
TIMES HERALD-RECORD
40 Mulberry Street, Middletown, NY 10940
recordonline.com

For information, call (845) 341-1100

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army or the Times Herald-Record.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source.

West Point
The United States Military Academy

Website: www.pointerinterview.com

Comm's Reading Club delves deep into 'War'

“First squad goes thirty-eight days without taking a shower or changing their clothes, and by the end their uniforms are so impregnated with salt that they can stand up by themselves. The men’s sweat reeks of ammonia because they’ve long since burned off all their fat and are now breaking down muscle.”

– excerpt from Sebastian Junger’s “War”

Story and photo by Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor/Copy

In the course of 15 months, author Sebastian Junger and photographer Tim Hetherington made five trips into the Korengal Valley. Dubbed the “Afghanistan of Afghanistan” by Junger, the Korengal had a reputation of affecting Soldiers adversely—a combination of fierce fighting, bouts of boredom and fatigue.

“Pretty much everyone who died in the valley died when they least expected it, usually shot in the head or throat, so it could make the men weird about the most mundane tasks ... The men just never knew, which meant that anything they did was potentially the last thing they’d ever do,” Junger wrote in the novel “War.” The Vanity Fair correspondent embedded with 2nd Platoon, Company B of the 173rd Airborne Brigade to document the paratroopers’ mission, but emerged with much broader themes.

“War” was the topic of discussion Nov. 29 at the second Comm’s Reading Club meeting of the semester. Joined with Hetherington, the collaborators first sat for an informal Q&A with the club’s mentors—senior officers who would later discuss with cadets the topics relating to the book and the documentary, “Restrepo,” which was an outpost named in honor of a fallen combat medic.

Junger and Hetherington shared observations of war objectively, noting the troops doing the fighting wore uniforms nowhere near the standards of a garrison Soldier because they were “victims of their circumstances,” Junger said. In the novel, he wrote they would counter an attack shirtless, with cigarettes dangling from their mouths.

“But even shredded uniforms couldn’t betray the fact they were great Soldiers,” Junger told the West Point officers.

More than 250 cadets gathered at Eisenhower Hall to discuss the book’s topics with about 50 mentors—most of whom recently returned from deployments in Iraq or Afghanistan. Conversations delved deep into talk of leadership functions, combat and other subjects. Junger and Hetherington rotated among the tables to add to the dialogue.

Cow Thomas Crosby was interested in Junger’s ability to stay neutral in the midst of combat—never surrendering his role as

an observer, yet forming strong bonds with the platoon.

“He explained that he had wanted to (fight) and then he had to figure out what it was that made him want to pick up a weapon,” Crosby said. “He told us it was the longing to be a part of the group. It was the one thing that the Soldiers had together that he didn’t. And no matter how close they got, there was still that divide, but he had to keep that to remain objective.”

The novel is interspersed with research vignettes at pivotal moments.

As Junger details the first firefight he witnessed, he segues into scientific prose on reaction times, if a person could literally dodge a bullet, and later on the effects of adrenaline and other chemical reactions in the brain.

The book is sectioned into wider themes: Fear, Killing and Love, and he spends ample time exploring into those universals.

“At my table, we used the “Fear, Love and Killing” topic to discuss the nature of emotions encountered on the battlefield and afterward,” Firstie Dan Alvey said. “We discussed, for example, how you will grow to love the men you are surrounded by, but that it has a limit in that you cannot allow that to lead to preferential treatment.”

Junger revealed to the club his original intent—before deeming it too weird—was to write the entire book without any reference at all to Afghanistan. Dealing with universal themes requires no particular setting or situation.

“What we wanted to get out was not an analysis of Afghanistan ... but more universal about what war is like,” Junger said.

Junger had previously reported on war, terrorism and human rights out of Kosovo, Bosnia, Sierra Leone and Liberia, and made previous trips to Afghanistan.

This was his first experience with real combat. Likewise, Hetherington had photographed war zones before, but was overwhelmed by what he witnessed in the Korengal.

“I thought it would be a quiet assignment in the valley, actually,” Hetherington said. “The attention at that time was still mostly in Iraq. I was taken aback by the amount of fighting going on in Afghanistan. It was a real war, with a real body count and a real ‘hearts and mind’ battle going on.”

One table discussed the book’s true



Author Sebastian Junger and photographer Tim Hetherington (not in photo) discussed their collaboration on the book “War” and documentary “Restrepo” during the second Comm’s Reading Club meeting of the semester. More than 250 cadets and 40 mentors came to Eisenhower Hall Nov. 29. Over the course of 15 months, they made five trips to the Korengal Valley in Afghanistan to embed with the 2nd Platoon, Company B of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Through words and photos, they captured some universal truths about combat, fear, love and war through the lives of paratroopers occupying the remote outpost in Afghanistan.

audience. Cow Joseph Amoroso first thought it was written to take those unfamiliar with combat troops and the war fought in the Korengal Valley head-first into the narrative of battle.

Amoroso came to the conclusion that the book also serves as a testament to Battle Company and the journalists who followed them into the valley.

He said it was as much Junger’s story as it was the Soldiers who fought and died there.

“The story of ‘War’ was like no other war book or war movie I have ever encountered,” Amoroso said. “It is a different kind of war, unit and environment that makes the whole story surreal. I was humbled when reading the book and hope to someday be half as brave as the men of Battle Company.”

The purpose of the reading club is for

members to expand their knowledge base by reading more history as well as current events, according to Lt. Col. John Nawoichyk, Corps of Cadets operations officer.

First with the novel “Black Hearts” and now with “War,” cadets are provided a forum to discuss with senior officers the lessons learned from these books and develop a broader understanding of their subjects.

“Part of being a professional officer is to continue your educational process,” Nawoichyk said. “That includes professional reading. The goal of this is simple: to promote the professional development of our first and second class cadets by engaging them with critical lessons learned by other junior officers in combat. The overarching goal is to get them to start thinking about some of these issues they may face not long after graduation.”

New lab promotes further cadet, faculty research

Story and photo by Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor/Copy

The Nuclear Science and Engineering Research Center staff at West Point and leadership from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency celebrated the opening of a new laboratory in Bartlett Hall Dec. 2.

DTRA, the Department of Defense's combat support agency for countering threats of weapons of mass destruction, established a partnership with the U.S. Military Academy in 2007 to leverage cadet and faculty expertise in solving problems of interest to the agency and DOD. The NSERC supports the Nuclear Technologies Directorate of DTRA's research and development enterprise.

The Combating WMD Laboratory will further cadet and faculty research for DTRA, according to NSERC director Lt. Col. Bill Czajkowski, allowing the agency to focus on areas of more immediate concern to the nation as well as educating and inspiring cadets.

"Through this new facility, cadets and faculty will have the opportunity to work on research on the cutting edge of radiation detection," Czajkowski said. "We're excited by the new capabilities and the opportunities it will provide."

Involving cadets in DTRA research at West Point provides valuable experience and insight into DOD's Combating WMD community, Czajkowski said, which in turn develops the nuclear research and operations officers of tomorrow.

In years past, research was limited by resources available, but the dedicated state-of-the-art facility will widen the potential for what West Point can generate for the DOD.

"Initially, the focus was on projects that didn't involve a lot of resources, because they weren't there. A lot was done with modeling and simulation work; computer-based studies of different aspects of combating WMD," Maj. Mike Shannon, research scientist, said. "As the center has matured, we've recognized the opportunities and the need to give the cadets more hands-on research. Obviously, the cadets are Soldiers at heart and want to go out and do things, and we saw the need to do some more experimental work and actually get into the laboratory more."

Getting cadets and faculty out of the classroom and into the new lab will begin in January, according to Shannon, with the primary focus on radiation detection research. However, the research NSERC has provided is multidisciplinary, with contributions coming from several departments. Cadets and faculty have conducted NSERC/DTRA-sponsored research at locations across America to include the Air Force Institute of Technology, Department of Energy national laboratories and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center. The multidisciplinary aspect is most evident in summer academic development trips; for example, one Russian language cadet served as an interpreter with a foreign area office within an onsite weapons inspection team in Kazakhstan.

"(The cadet) worked there with that officer as another set of eyes and ears who could understand the language and just talk to people for him basically, and help him out with day to day issues," Shannon said. "We also have two geography

majors working on very geography-specific problems; it has nothing to do with (radiological) sensors or heavy-duty technology, but it's very interesting, in terms of understanding the enemy's environment and how they think."

Czajkowski, Shannon and Neil Galvin form the nucleus of NSERC at West Point, all assigned by DTRA to build relations with academic departments to promote cadet and faculty research projects. They are only the second staff in the three-year history of the center. With their office located inside the Physics Department, they also extend their expertise as sponsors to cadets working on independent studies in that field.

Col. Jeffrey Musk, acting director of the Nuclear Technologies Directorate at DTRA, was the first director of NSERC. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Combating WMD Laboratory, he recalled the humble origins of the fledgling center—just a couple of chairs and desks in a remote locale of the building.

"Since that time, it's grown not just to be a physics-centric activity here at West Point, but to include all the departments in the academy and also every other enterprise down at DTRA with the exception of the business enterprise," Musk said.

The Combating WMD Laboratory contains state-of-the-art radiation detection systems and high fidelity signal processing equipment, as well as other tools required to conduct radiation-based research.

"The main focus of this facility is to draw out a world-class venue for conducting radiation detection research. This facility is a symbol of DTRA's commitment to West Point and the expansion of the role of NSERC into experimental research efforts," Czajkowski said.

To date, the NSERC and DTRA has funded approximately 40 academic individual advanced development assignments for cadets in the U.S. and abroad, 15 faculty research projects, eight honors theses and nearly 20 course-level cadet projects. The NSERC is currently developing plans to include Air Force and Naval Academy cadets and midshipmen with future research projects.



Col. Jeffrey Musk, acting director of the Nuclear Technologies Directorate at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and Jim Heusmann, chief of the DTRA Nuclear Detection Technology Division, cut the ribbon and welcomed invited guests to the open house of the new Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction Laboratory in Bartlett Hall Dec. 2.

Exchange cadets share thoughts on Army-Navy game

By Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor/Copy

Less than a week away, Army pride is swelling at West Point in anticipation of the Army-Navy Football game in Philadelphia Saturday. It may be a bit cold and damp in the Hudson Valley right now, but the spirit is palpable.

However, down in Annapolis, it's a little quieter, according to one West Point cadet currently studying there with the exchange program.

"It's kind of strange," Cow Nick Coronato said last week. "The midshipmen here don't seem very excited for the game yet. It's almost as if they think this year will be another victory for Navy, guaranteed. I think they may have grown bored of winning year after year, so it's about time Army caught them by surprise and came home from Philly with a win."

Traditionally, the West Point cadets stationed in Annapolis support their team with a spirit mission or two. Likewise, the Midshipmen here will do the same. There are nine students currently studying at each academy.

"We've got some top secret plans in the works to show our Army spirit," Coronato said. "The easiest way to show some Army pride is to poke fun at the plebes; they can't really respond to our jokes. We try to keep it professional in terms

of supporting West Point, and show the Mids that we are not willing to sink to their level."

Cow Scott Mead said the spirit missions are nothing compared to how Navy is feeling about meeting a resurgent Army squad.

"Army's record right now is more of a blow to Navy pride than anything," Mead said. "There's already a decent bit of worry that Army will take it this year."

Some West Point cadets laid the foundation for Army pride in September during a secret spirit mission at the Naval Academy, and it proved to be a morale boost to the cadets there.

"The midshipmen were actually pretty confused," Mead said. "They were a bit taken aback by the fact that a spirit mission went down outside Army-Navy week. I'm not sure they understand year-round school spirit."

Coronato is looking forward to Saturday's game, especially since a win would make life a little better this semester for him.

"Living here at the Naval Academy for the past few months has definitely made the Army-Navy game a little more significant. The friends I've made here can tease me for the rest of my life if Army doesn't pull off a win this year," Coronato said. "They were rooting for Army when we played Air Force,

hoping that we could upset Air Force and give Navy a chance to keep the Commander-in-Chief's trophy. But now they've lost the trophy, so the only way to redeem their season is to beat us, and we're not ready to let that happen."

Coronato has gotten an insider's look into the Navy team, but has been keeping tabs of the Black Knights' progress this year and believes the contest will be close in Philly next week.

"I hope the football team and the Corps know that this is truly our year to take a win from the Mids," Coronato said. "The Navy football team has been extremely inconsistent this year, with huge losses to teams like Maryland and Duke, who Army crushed, of course. They've been sloppy with their fundamentals for much of the season, and the brigade has lost all faith in their team. They think Army will be another routine game. It's going to be a close matchup for sure, but Army's got the heart to pull off a great victory and silence the Mids for the next year."

And for the Black Knights, friends and colleagues back at West Point, Mead predicted:

"Fourth quarter is ours."

(Editor's Note: A request was sent out to the nine Midshipmen currently studying at West Point and to the nine cadets in Annapolis to share their thoughts about Army-Navy Week for this story.)

Go Army, Beat Navy ... Go Army, Beat Navy ... Go Army, Beat Navy ... Go Army, Beat Navy ...

West Point students predicting Army win in Philly

Story and photo by Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor/Copy

In a particularly unpleasant moment after Army's loss to Notre Dame, Grant Nawoichyk was accosted by an overzealous Irish fan singing the school's fight song in his face.

If he wasn't a true believer of Army football this wouldn't have been so bad, but the 10-year-old West Point Middle School student takes every loss hard. He is, after all, Army's No. 1 fan and says this with all sincerity.

"I got a coin for it—not joking—from the athletics director," Grant said. "I've been a fan ever since I was born."

While he can't quantify the games he's seen, Grant is pretty sure he's been to most of them this decade.

"Grant is a die-hard Army sports fan," his father, Lt. Col. John Nawoichyk said. "He's been to all the home games, and only missed two away games this season."

His father compares Grant to a younger version of Col. Daniel Ragsdale, a highly energetic presence and fixture among the Corps of Cadets during Army football games.

"I think he's great. He lives and breathes Army football," Ragsdale said. "When we've come up just short a few times, he's devastated by it and I can relate in a very direct way to that."

Grant regularly attends practices and loves talking to the players, some of whom his family sponsors and invites over to their home often.

"I love watching practices and seeing the drills they do," Grant said. "It's just fun. And after practices, they're all tired and I'll be there giving them high fives. They're all friendly."

To see Grant not in black and gold is indicative of a rare or special occasion.

"He will only wear Army clothes. In fact, for his school picture he had to wear a collared shirt, so of course, he wore a collared Army shirt," his father said.

Fellow fifth-grader Julia Flowers attests to Grant's preferred wardrobe.

"I've never not seen Grant wearing Army gear," she said.

Julia has also seen a fair share of Army games in her 11 years at West Point, and never gets tired of it.

"It's a great experience; seeing the crowds, cheering the team when they win," Julia said. "Even if they don't get the best score, you're still happy to have seen the

game. It can be overwhelming."

Julia is also a supporter of the junior varsity squad, and attends games to watch her cousin, a yearling on the team. Nawoichyk said Army Athletics is embedded in the middle school.

Morning announcements often include a "Go Army" message and students have opportunities to meet and talk with cadet-athletes.

Every Friday before a game, students are allowed to wear Army gear.

"I think that is unique with all the sports programs here," he said. "The role models these athletes become to all these kids, and I don't think they all realize it, is evident in the way they interact with them. I think it's just great. If you go to the school, probably 90 percent of the kids have a favorite Army team and follow the players."

Both Julia and Grant are Army football fans and are enthusiastic to talk about their team. But when asked to name a favorite player, it was quite evident Grant could immediately rattle off a few names, but chose not to. It's about the team, not individuals. Julia also deflected the question.

Both predicted a win over Navy on Saturday. Grant is thinking 30-25 in Army's favor, while Julia called it 27-23 for Army.

"I think this is our year," Grant said. "Before, with Coach Brock, I think he just made a couple of mistakes. With Coach Ellerson, last year we did really well. This year, we're going to our first bowl game since 1996."

"I'm feeling pretty confident about Army this year," Julia said.

In the days before the big game, the Black Knights will receive a lot of pep talks; from coaches, mentors, senior leaders and from each other. If Grant and Julia had the chance to rally the team, this is what they'd say:

Grant: "Go out there, use all your skills and never give up. Use all your effort and take the halftime to get all your energy back. If the first half is bad, think about the second half as a whole new game."

Julia: "Play your hardest, don't give up and keep your chins held high."



Grant Nawoichyk and Julia Flowers are lifelong Army football fans.



Visit our Flickr page
for more
West Point photos
www.flickr.com/photos/west_point/sets/

Spirit mission sends 'Go Army' message to Annapolis

By Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor/Copy

It's a longstanding tradition between the two rival academies to exchange spirited pranks in the weeks leading up to the Army-Navy football game. Only this year, a group of motivated cadets used the element of surprise on the Midshipmen, planning and executing a spirit mission months before the typical shenanigans ensue.

In the cover of darkness one mid-September morning, a group of more than 20 cadets sprang into action, saturating the Naval Academy with a large arsenal of "Go Army, Beat Navy" material. The intent, according to one cadet involved, was to stoke the friendly fires of competition between the two academies. The Midshipmen encountered even played along with a mock capture filmed for a spirit video.

"It was all about esprit de corps," he said. "I considered it a very successful mission. We had fun, no harm was done and by 5 a.m., it was getting cleaned up and everyone was moving on with their lives."

Col. Daniel Ragsdale, special advisor to the dean and former Vice Dean for Education, gives the cadets credit for their motivation and resourcefulness in planning and executing the spirit mission.

"It was truly a great mission, from beginning to end," Ragsdale said. "The cadets, ably led by Firstie Mike Kohne, planned it in detail, rehearsed it like professionals and had a lot of fun doing it. It was all in good spirit."

Like any good psychological operations campaign, the cadets of "Operation Leviathan" delivered their message loud and clear. They showered the campus with about 2,000 "Go Army" ping pong balls, posted "Beat Navy" flyers throughout the barracks and other buildings, and also draped walls and fences with similar-themed banners. Even classroom chalkboards had the "Go Army, Beat Navy" battle cry scrawled boldly for the Midshipmen's first lesson of the day.

The cadets covered a lot of ground during their spirit mission, but even more intriguing is what they covered some of that ground with.

"In two prominent areas, the cadets overseeded two distinct Army 'A's with winter rye grass seeds," Ragsdale said. "The thought was that over time the grass would grow out these huge Army A's in these areas, but a flock of seagulls ate the seeds. The next morning there were so many seagulls on the field they had to

cancel intramurals that day."

Ragsdale was pleased to report no damages or injuries resulted from the spirit mission. It also provided a good morale boost to the cadets attending the Naval Academy as part of the exchange program. He also said this operation "provided legitimate leader development opportunities for the cadets who took part in this highly successful mission."

"The Mids weren't expecting it at all," said Cow Nicholas Coronato, currently studying this semester in Annapolis. "They woke up to a little Army decoration around the Yard, and I think it hurt their feelings. They made us clean most of it up, but that is a good sign that they didn't like it. As usual, the Brigade of Midshipmen was caught sleeping as Army struck first."

It was with the help of this advanced party inside the Naval Academy that secured the mission's success, Ragsdale said. If the Midshipmen were to retaliate, Ragsdale believes they would employ the same tactic of inside help with exchange students.

"Similar to what we did, the Naval Midshipmen here could help their buddies, or they may do it alone," Ragsdale said. "The Corps of Cadets is hyper-vigilant during this time for any type of shenanigans during the day or night."

The history of spirit missions between the two academies is as storied as the Army-Navy game itself. Last year during Navy Week, the Navy Midshipmen managed to rearrange the seats on the Plain to read, "Go Navy, Beat Army." Ragsdale said there's been times when West Point was attacked by ping pong balls and sponges shaped like boats. One year, Navy managed to take the Army mules hostage. West Point cadets have "liberated" the Navy goats numerous times in the past.

"Stealing the goats is pretty epic," Cow Justin Weeks said. "Going into where the goats are held without being caught and then pulling two goats out of there must have been pretty tough."

Weeks said the Corps of Cadets is aware that pranks are forthcoming.

"Retaliation only makes this more fun," Weeks said.

"There will always be spirit missions," Ragsdale guaranteed. "It's tradition."



(Above) Cadets make their way around the Naval Academy conducting a fairly traditional spirit mission, only months early, in support of the Army-Navy football game. (Inset) A package of orange ping pong balls bear the message "Go Army, Beat Navy." Nearly 2,000 of these were scattered around the academy.

COURTESY PHOTOS



FMWR Blurbs

SFAC Training Seminars

The Soldier and Family Assistance Center and the Warrior Transition Unit Training Seminars are scheduled at 1 p.m. Thursdays in the SFAC Common Area.

The upcoming seminars include:

- Today, Holiday Finances;
- Dec. 16, SFAC Holiday party (held at ACS, Bldg. 622).

For more information, call 938-0632.

Family Spaghetti Night

The West Point Club presents a Family Spaghetti Night from 5:30-8 p.m. tonight.

Enjoy fine Italian dining in the Club's Pierce Dining Room.

To make a reservation, call 938-5120.

ACS Employment Readiness Workshops

Army Community Service is offering several Employment Readiness Workshops in December including:

- 3-4:30 p.m. Friday—Interview and Dress for Success. Discuss interview procedures, types and questions. Also discuss appropriate attire for interviews and the workplace;

- 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday—Career Plan Development. Learn a step-by-step method toward developing your career identity, conducting a skill assessment and finding employment opportunities.

All workshops take place in the ACS Training Room in Bldg. 622.

For more information, call 938-5658.

Big Game Hunting Season

Sign-outs and permit sales for Big Game Hunting Season take place from 5 a.m.-5 p.m. through Sunday at the Victor Constant Ski Slope Rental Building, Route 218.

For more information, call 938-8810.

West Point Community Project Angel Tree

The West Point Community Project Angel Tree is ongoing through Monday at the West Point PX.

Pick a decoration with the age and gender of a West Point child and purchase an age appropriate gift.

Put the gift and the decoration from the tree in the box and make a child's Christmas morning special.

For more information, call 938-6497.

Art EDGE! Intro to Linocut

The Art EDGE! Intro to Linocut program is free for children in grades 6-12.

There is a class Wednesday at the Youth Center.

Linocut classes are taught by FMWR Art Specialist Maggie Oakes.

Enroll at Parent Central (Lee CDC behind Subway) or call 938-4458.

DODEA Survey

The Department of Defense Education Activity will administer its Customer Satisfaction Survey through Wednesday.

The CSS provides valuable feedback to DODEA from its most important customers—students and parents—about the quality of education it provides and areas needing improvement.

The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and is available online at www.dodea.edu.

Once on the website, click on the Customer Satisfaction Survey graphic to complete the sponsor's survey.

West Point Community Holiday Party

The West Point Club would like to host your holiday department party from 2-8 p.m. Dec. 16 in the Grand Ballroom.

There will be a holiday buffet with music and dancing.

Reserve your department tables today.

To make reservations, call 938-5120.

Fit EDGE! Fitness Rangers

The Fit EDGE! Fitness Rangers program consists of six classes and is open to children in grades 3-5 at the Lee Area CDC.

Classes will be held Mondays and Fridays

through Dec. 17.

Students will learn stretching, relays, aerobics, jump rope, kickboxing and Zumba.

Enroll at CYSS Parent Central at 938-4458.

FMWR Fitness Center now offers Pilates classes

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fitness Center will offer both private and duet Pilates training classes.

To set up an appointment, call Tara Gregorio at (617) 512-9501.

FMWR Community Skate Program

The FMWR Community Skate Program begins Sunday at Tate Rink and continues every Sunday through Feb. 27.

Program hours are 3:30-5:15 p.m.

Admission is free, but patrons must provide their own skates.

In case of inclement weather, patrons can call the FMWR information tape at 938-2991 for updates for that day.

NEW INFO

Sealed Bid Sale

FMWR Services Division is holding a Sealed Bid Sale on items that include a Dodge Pickup Truck, exercise bikes, a golf club car and Polycom Viewstation from Monday through Dec. 16.

For more information, call 938-8229.

Youth Services Arts and Crafts Winter Camp

A Child, Youth and School Services Arts and Crafts Winter Camp runs from 9 a.m.-noon Dec. 21-27.

Classes are available to youth in grades 6-12 who are eligible to register with CYSS.

Students will make their own iron on T-shirt, design a lamp shade, learn watercolor texture painting and build a cool sounding rain stick.

Youth must register by Tuesday to participate.

For more information, call 938-3727.

West Point Golf Shop coupon

Buy an annual golf course pass for 2011 and get a 20 percent off coupon to use in the Pro Shop (during the month of December) on top of the discounted merchandise.

For more information, call 938-2435.

Crandall Pool December hours

Crandall Pool indoor swim hours for December are noon-1:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

The pool is closed for the Army-Navy football game Saturday, every Sunday and Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

During the holiday break, from Dec. 18-Jan. 2, the pool will open for noontime swim hours only noon-1:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

The pool will reopen at noon Jan. 3.

Check the information tape at 938-2985 for any additional changes to the December schedule.

2011 AFAP Conference

Make your voice heard. The annual installation Army Family Action Plan Conference is Feb. 22-24.

If you have a suggestion for how the Army can improve your quality of life, we want to hear about it.

Submit an AFAP issue to be reviewed at the conference.

In addition, Soldiers, Family members, civilian employees, retirees and youth are invited to participate as delegates.

For more information, to submit an issue or register for the conference, visit www.westpointmwr.com/afap.htm or call Christina Overstreet at 938-3655 or e-mail christina.overstreet@usma.edu.

West Point Club closure

The West Point Club will be closed Sunday for its holiday party.

What's Happening

Garrison Retirement Ceremony

There will be a Garrison Retirement Ceremony at 3:30 p.m. today at Crest Hall in Eisenhower Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Gift Shop sale

The West Point Gift Shop, located in the Visitors Center, will have its annual 30 percent off sale Wednesday. Store hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and the sale is only for in-store purchases. For more information, call 446-3085.

Holiday Luncheon concert

The 2010 Holiday Luncheon concert takes place at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 16 at the Thayer Hotel. The West Point/Highland Falls Rotary Club invites the community to the event that includes the O'Neill High School Select Chorus.

To make reservations and purchase tickets, call Charlie Murphy at 446-7704 or e-mail bcm621@gmail.com.

Christmas and Carols Service

The West Point Post Chapel is hosting a Christmas and Carols Service at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 19.

West Point Commissary holiday hours

During the holiday season, the West Point Commissary will be closed on certain dates.

The following dates are as follows:

- Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), open at normal time, but closes at 3 p.m.;

Keller Corner

Flu vaccine schedule

Flu vaccines are now available for all TRICARE beneficiaries, during the hours of 8-11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the KACH Immunization Clinic.

Mammograms

The Keller Army Community Hospital Mammography section upgrade is complete. If you were due for a mammogram in September, October or November and have seen your HCP for a mammography order, call 938-2714 to schedule your exam.

Medical Emergency

If you have a medical emergency, call 911.

KACH Holiday Closures

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed:

- Dec. 17—Closing at 11 a.m.;
- Dec. 24—Christmas holiday observed;
- Dec. 27—Training holiday;
- Dec. 31—New Years Day observed;

- Christmas (Dec. 25), closed;
- New Year's Day (Jan. 1), closed.

WPWC Gift Shoppe

The West Point Women's Club Gift Shoppe is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. every Wednesday.

Also, stop by the Shoppe's holiday shopping day from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

The Gift Shoppe will not be opened on Wednesdays in January.

Weekend Sales Associates needed

The DUSA Gift Shop located at the West Point Museum is in need of weekend sales associates.

Applications are available in the Gift Shop.

For more information, call Tanisha McInerney at 446-0566.

NEW INFO

Ceramic class

The West Point Craft Shop is holding its first ceramic class from 5:30-6:30 p.m. tonight.

Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center closure

The Arvin CPDC will be closed Saturday to provide the Directorate of Public Works an opportunity to complete deferred maintenance on the entranceways and main level flooring while the Corps of Cadets is away at the Army-Navy football game in Philadelphia.

- Jan. 3—Training holiday.

The emergency room will remain open.

See your Primary Care Manager

It's a good idea to schedule an appointment with your Primary Care Manager after you've had any kind of emergency care.

This is especially important if you were hospitalized after visiting a civilian emergency room.

Your PCM can help you continue on the return trip to good health by entering referrals for Health Net Federal Services to process.

To make a primary care appointment, call 938-7992.

Arvin will resume normal facility operating hours Sunday. If you have any questions, call Artie Coughlin at 938-4351.

Celebrate Christmas at Knox's Headquarters

For two Christmases, John and Catherine Ellison shared their home with officers and Soldiers of the Continental Army, including Gen. Henry Knox and his wife, Lucy.

From 6-8 p.m. Dec. 18, celebrate the era with a tour of the 1754 Ellison House that is decorated for Christmas and staffed by Revolutionary War era costumed interpreters.

Knox's Headquarters is located at 289 Forge Hill Road in Vails Gate, at the corner of Route 94 and Forge Hill Road.

For more information, call (845) 561-1765, ext. 22.

Jewish worship service changes

During the winter break, the Jewish Chapel will not conduct Friday evening Shabbat worship services Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

The chapel will be open during the week in accordance with normal holiday work hour scheduling, but will not conduct the weekly evening worship.

However, services will be conducted Friday and Dec. 17, as well as Jan. 7, when classes are back in session.

Thank you for your understanding.

For a list of regional synagogues/temples in the area, contact the Jewish Chapel staff at 938-2710.

MLK birthday observance

A Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday observance takes place from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 12 at the West Point Grand Ballroom.

The event's guest speaker is McDonald's Global Diversity Officer Patricia Sowell Harris.

For more information, contacts for the event are Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Morgan at 938-8456, Sgt. 1st Class Dwayne Key at 938-2581, Maj. Casey Moes at 938-2494 and Capt. Elizabeth Mason at 938-7082.

Command Channel 8/23

Dec. 9-16

Army Newswatch
(broadcast times)
Thursday, Friday and Monday through Dec. 16
8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Point
(broadcast times)
Thursday, Friday and Monday through Dec. 16
8 a.m., 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Spirit Videos
(broadcast times)
Thursday and Friday
From 8 a.m.-6 p.m. each day (on the hour).

UPCOMING IKE HALL SHOWS

• **Sunday, 3 p.m. — Cats.** This is a last minute change in the Ike Hall schedule. Tickets are on sale now at Ikehall.com, the box office or call Telecharge at 800-233-3123.

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

5			8				3	
	3		4			7		
2		1						6
		9	1			6	5	
	1	2			9	4		
6						2		4
		5			7		6	
	9				8			3

Difficulty: Medium

See SUDOKU SOLUTION, Page 2

DPW CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

- Elevator upgrades to the south elevator in Thayer Hall (Bldg. 601) is 50 percent complete. We anticipate that work will be completed by the end of December;
- The contractor has started the repair/reconstruction of the retaining wall located along Knox Road, behind Bldg. 622. Work is expected to take 45 days to complete;
- The temporary blocking of four CPA parking spaces behind Lincoln Hall is expected to continue until Dec. 20. The repairs to Cullum Hall, which has necessitated the parking restrictions, are taking longer than anticipated to complete. Work should conclude by mid-January.

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752.

Friday—Hereafter, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday—Closed.

Dec. 17—Red, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 18—Skyline, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE ALSO CAN BE FOUND AT

WWW.AAFES.COM.

Omilusik proves indispensable, brings tenaciousness

Story and photos by Eric S. Bartelt
Managing Editor

Every athlete who plays a sport likes to win. Winning has many factors, such as talent, good luck and work ethic but in many situations, it's the little extra, it's the drive to make things happen that can take a team or individual to victory and end up being the difference between a win or loss.

Army hockey has a player who fits that billing, a player who competes as hard as anyone on the ice and, pound for pound, according to his coach, is as solid as any player in Atlantic Hockey.

Firstie Cody Omilusik is a player who doesn't consider himself the most talented on his team, yet every year he is one of the team leaders in goals and points. To his coach, Brian Riley, it's about Omilusik's passion to go places that most players want to avoid.

"(Omilusik) is a tenacious forechecker who plays the body and is not afraid to get to what hockey people call 'the dirty areas,' in front of the net and score those dirty goals," Riley said. "He's willing to go in and battle for rebounds and score goals on one leg, on his knees or on his stomach.

"He's a great role model for our younger guys to watch," Riley added. "I don't think you can have enough Cody Omilusiks because he's willing to do whatever it takes to win. With him, you never have to question him playing as hard as he can and giving it everything he has. He's accountable for his actions. I just wish we had more guys like Cody Omilusik."

Omilusik is not only a player who gives everything he has on the ice; he's also a player who can be counted on in all situations. Last season, he led the team with 18 goals and nine power play goals while also adding a shorthanded tally. In his Army career, including this season, Omilusik has tallied 20 power play goals and five shorthanded goals, which makes him one of Army's most indispensable players.

"He logs all sorts of ice time ... he kills penalties, he's on the power play and he's a guy who'll be on the ice in the last minute of the game, whether we're up a goal or down



Firstie forward Cody Omilusik leads Army in goals (6) and is second in points (12) this season. He finished last year with a team-high 18 goals.

a goal," Riley said. "You're fortunate to have a couple of guys every year that you look to on the team (to do all those things) and, to be quite honest, he's been everything and more than I had ever imagined.

"He didn't have quite the notoriety that some recruits get," he added. "But I know there's not a coach in the country that wouldn't want to have Cody Omilusik on his team."

Omilusik's play on special teams can be chalked up to his time in junior hockey, when one of his coaches talked about the importance of special teams play.

"One of my junior hockey coaches said it best, 'when you're on the power play, it doesn't mean that you're out there to take plays off ... you should be working harder when you're on the power play than you do when you're 5-on-5 because you should score when you're up one guy,'" Omilusik said. "That's a big part of having success is when you get five guys out there who are willing to work as hard as they can on the power play and get the chances and opportunities to score goals. We can't take it for granted."

The 5-foot-10-inch, 185-pound forward from Traverse City, Mich., leads

the team with six goals this season and is second in points with 12. While the team has been off to a slow start with a 4-8-1 record, Omilusik and his linemates have gained steam as the season's progressed.

Injuries played a factor in the slow start, especially as Omilusik was trying to find new linemates after the graduation of his previous linemates, Eric Sefchik and Owen Meyer. With Yearling center Mike Santee back healthy, Omilusik has found a niche with new partners Santee and Cow forward Danny Colvin, who leads the team with 13 points.

"I think those three guys like playing with each other and they complement each other well," Riley said. "We have two high energy guys in Santee and Omilusik and then have a skilled forward in Danny Colvin, who has great hands and excellent vision. Colvin possesses good offensive qualities that make him an offensive threat each time he's out on the ice."

Much of Omilusik's success, he will say, is from his teammates because he views himself, like Riley does, as more of an energy player than a big-time talent.

"Day in and day out, I want to work as hard as I can and give the team everything I've got," Omilusik said. "I'm definitely not the most skilled player on the team by a long shot. There are guys who can do things I can only dream of doing ... and I would say having good linemates like the last two years in Owen Meyer and Eric Sefchik and now

(with Colvin and Santee), I have to hand it to them because they kept me up when it would have been hard (to get those goals). I've got to give credit to them."

Omilusik has played with many talented guys, which has in turn led to many great moments in his career.

He was a part of Army's 2007-08 Atlantic Hockey regular season championship team, when he scored nine goals as a plebe. He has scored many important goals to include his two-goal game in an upset against #2-ranked Miami (Ohio) in 2008-09 and the game-winner against a Top 20-ranked Air Force team his plebe year that he still ranks as his top memory on the ice.

"It was the first time I had played against Air Force, so needless to say, the adrenaline was pumping (with a sold out Tate Rink) and to go out and get the game-winning goal in a 2-1 game Friday night and then set up my linemate Kenny Rowe on Saturday night for another game-winning goal—I'll never forget that feeling," Omilusik said. "It's a great thing we got pictures of it, so I can look back and be right back in that moment—those moments will be with me forever."

There are still some golden moments ahead before Omilusik finishes his Army career, as the Black Knights play an exhibition game Dec. 28 against the Russian Red Army junior team at Tate Rink and then an outdoor game against American International Feb. 19 in Hartford, Conn.

"That's an awesome opportunity for us (to play the Russians). We know they're going to be a good group of kids, probably very talented with a few NHL prospects on their team," Omilusik said. "It's a great opportunity for them to come into our barn and we can show them how we play hockey over here in America.

"(As for the outdoor game), when they first started doing that, I was like, 'I would love to have a chance to do that before I leave here,' ... and sure enough, here it is and I'll get the opportunity to play—I'm very excited for the opportunity to do it."

While the season hasn't started quite like he expected, the hope is that with the tight-knit group, team chemistry and some good health that Army will take its play to the next level.

"I'm hoping we're on the right track now (going 2-2-1 in the last five games), and I feel like we are," Omilusik explained. "When playoff time comes and it's crunch time, I believe this team will come together and do some damage and I'm looking forward to that.

"For us, it's sticking through the tough times and being confident in what we're doing ... when you're losing back-to-back games, it really takes a toll on your confidence, individually and as a team," the team co-captain added. "So it's about keeping everyone positive and showing guys we're still going to come to practice, we're going to work our butts off and the wins will come."



Cow forward Danny Colvin leads Army with 13 points and is second in goals with five.

West Point boys travel team earned 2010 Turkey Tipoff championship



Members of the West Point sixth grade boys travel team celebrate after earning a 4-0 record and the 2010 Turkey Tipoff Tournament championship Nov. 26-28. Team members include (front row, left to right) Robby Rapp, Joel Baskerville, Alex Dilger, Davon Nixon, (middle row, left to right) Jackson McInvale, Avery McCulloh, Lawrence Borce and Scott Wallace. In the back row are coaches David Wallace, Doug McInvale and J.R. Borce.

Story and photo submitted by Child, Youth and School Services

West Point's sixth grade boys travel basketball team competed during the holiday weekend, Nov. 26-28, in the 2010 Turkey Tipoff Tournament in Highland Mills, N.Y. All eight travel team players are students at the West Point Middle School and faced teams from Orange and Rockland counties in the three-day event.

"We like to play basketball together at recess in school, so it was awesome to win the tournament with my friends," Jackson McInvale, team point guard, said.

Like the old adage goes, 'defense wins championships,' and the West Point boys relied on strong team defense in each of its four contests. The West Point team amassed more than a dozen blocks and steals against teams from St. Gregory's, St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's on its way to the tournament championship.

"I am proud of the way they represented themselves as young men," head coach Doug McInvale, a faculty member in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, said.

"We had just as many comments about the team's sportsmanship and discipline as we did their excellent basketball play."

McInvale is assisted by David Wallace (Dept. of Law) and J.R. Borce (Dept. of Military Instruction).

"The boys really played together as a team," Wallace said. Borce added, "The team improved every time they stepped on the court and will continue to improve their skills throughout the season."

This year, West Point fields boys and girls travel teams that are extensions of the Child, Youth and School Services sports program, directed by Brian Szeli.

Both teams play in the local Catholic Youth Organization league within the sixth grade division.

The travel season lasts until early March 2011.

The ground work for this opportunity was organized in recent years by members of the community who began reaching out to local area teams to play occasionally.

The partnership initiated with the CYO this year promises to be a meaningful and lasting one for youth sports in the community.

CLUB RESULTS

• **Triathlon**—Fifteen members of the West Point Triathlon Team traveled to Key West, Fla., Sunday for the final USA Triathlon sanctioned event of 2010.

There were 673 registered athletes from across North America. However, both the male and female overall champions were from West Point as Yearling Alex Habecker and Plebe Jessica Clay were first to finish the Olympic-distance course.

Habecker came out of the water tied for first before turning up the pace during the bike leg. He set a 10K personal record for the run en route to a 2:02:42 finish time, the team's fastest time of the fall. The victory was Habecker's first overall title of his career.

Clay has been a triathlon phenom since her arrival at West Point. She led wire-to-wire, beating her nearest competitor by almost two minutes. According to the preliminary USA Triathlon rankings, six cadets will likely be named All-American's. The All-American candidates are Habecker, Clay, Yearling Brian Trainor, Cow Marcie Nordt and Firsties Brendan Fox and Lauren Looper.

Sports calendar

Dec. 9-16
Corps

FRIDAY—HOCKEY VS. BENTLEY, TATE RINK, 7:05 P.M.

SATURDAY—FOOTBALL VS. **Navy** IN PHILADELPHIA, LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD, 2:30 P.M. (TELEVISED: CBS)

Club

FRIDAY—BOXING AT **Navy**, ANNAPOLIS, MD., 4 P.M.



Army comes up short at IZOD

Army Firstie forward Jeremy Hence (#15) leaps past Penn guard Tyler Bernardini to score two of his team-leading 15 points in a 68-52 loss Dec. 4 at the IZOD Center at the Meadowlands, N.J. Army's record dropped to 4-4, while Penn improved to 4-3. Hence continued his streak of double figure points to all eight games this season.

TOMMY GILLIGAN/PV

Army Black Knights 2010 Record: 6-5; Overall Football Bowl Subdivision Rankings



PASSING YARDS	RUSHING YARDS	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST
120th 77.9 Overall	9th 260.3 Overall	52nd 28.5 Overall	55th 24.6 Overall

Navy Midshipmen 2010 Record: 8-3 overall, Overall FBS Rankings

PASSING YARDS	RUSHING YARDS	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST
118th 111.5 Overall	5th 302.5 Overall	40th 31.0 Overall	45th 22.8 Overall

Black Knights add next chapter to Army-Navy rivalry

By Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor/Copy

In its 111th iteration since commencing in 1890, the history of the Army-Navy game looms large at both academies.

At West Point, it's hard to turn a corner without catching sight of a "Go Army, Beat Navy" sign somewhere. So it's pretty easy to get caught up in the excitement this rivalry incites.

Army head coach Rich Ellerson said it's OK for the team to embrace this excitement and enjoy the moment.

"We need not be overwhelmed by it, not be intimidated by it, and I don't think we will be," Ellerson said. "We're not just talking about that. That's the focus in our preparation."

It's focus, precision and discipline that defines Army football, Ellerson said during last week's press conference at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia. On a bad day, the lack of those elements have more to do with the loss than a bad play or miscue.

"It's been how well we've been able to execute and how precise and disciplined we've been," Ellerson said. "Those are things that—when we've been frustrated—have frustrated us. When we've been excited—and we've been excited a lot this year—we've seen a team that's playing with precision and discipline and effort and ball-consciousness, and that looks like Army football."

It's been nearly three weeks since the Army players have taken the field competitively. Having shaken off the setback at Yankee Stadium against Notre Dame, the Black Knights return to the big stage in Philly to add another chapter to the Army-Navy rivalry.

Will this be the team to end the eight-year losing streak against the Midshipmen?

"That's always a conversation, but going into this game we're just going to play our game and everything is going to work out for itself," Firstie slotback Patrick Mealy said. "We will be successful based on how we play our game. If we do what we're supposed to do, be where we're supposed to be, it's going to work out."

For a handful of senior players, it'll be the last chance for redemption against a team they've never beaten. Firstie linebacker Stephen Anderson was sidelined with a knee injury during last year's contest.

"After that game, I knew I was going to come back stronger, and I knew I was not going to miss the game this year because of anything," the Black Knights' captain said. "I have been blessed with a speedy recovery and being injury-free this year. I've been blessed with the opportunity to take advantage of it Saturday."

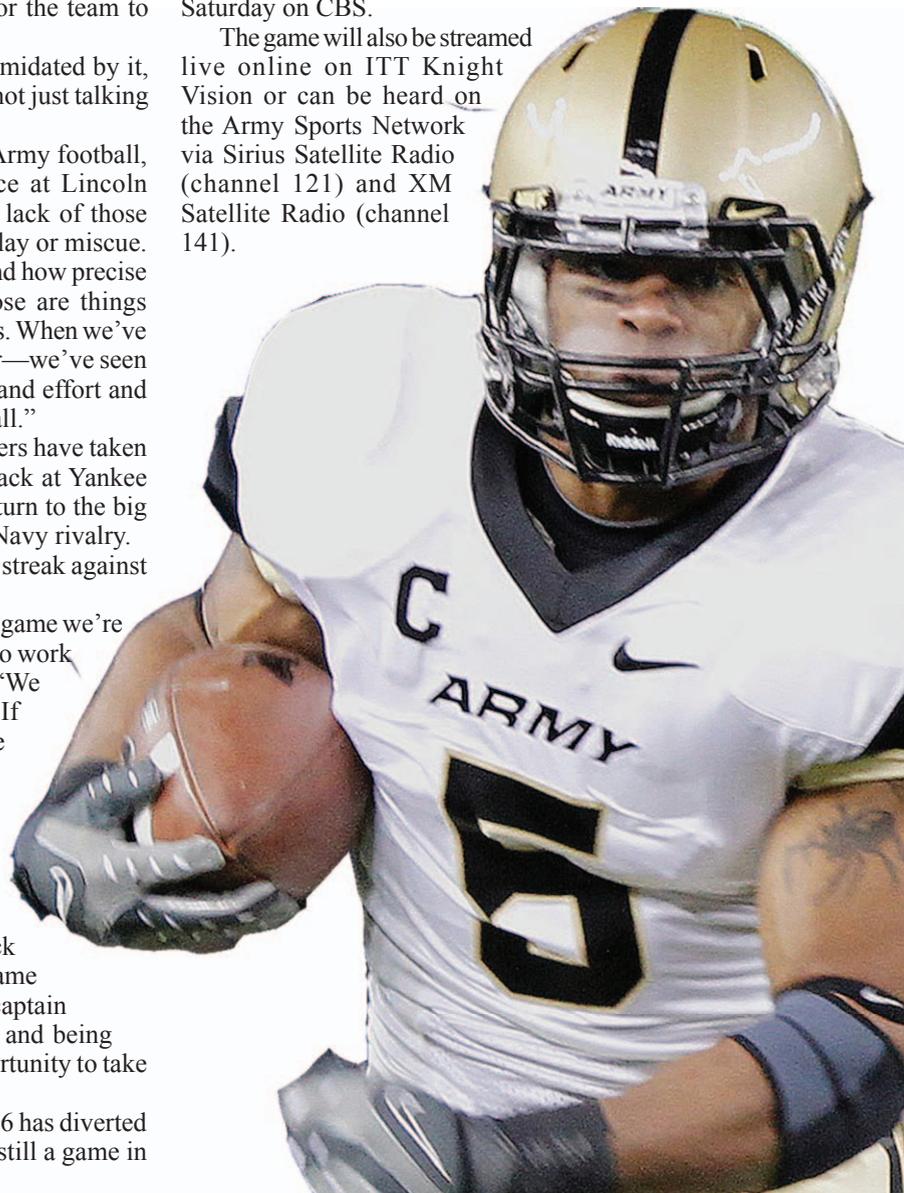
The buzz about Army's first bowl berth since 1996 has diverted a lot of the attention to Texas already, when there's still a game in Philadelphia left in the regular season.

As they've done all season long, the Black Knights are keeping their sights on one game, one win.

"The bowl game took a huge weight off our backs. We achieved that goal, but we have to play this game first," Mealy said. "To me, the bowl game was just something extra. We have to take care of this first, and then we can worry about the bowl game. That's how teams get beat; you never want to look forward."

The 111th Army-Navy game will be televised at 2:30 p.m. Saturday on CBS.

The game will also be streamed live online on ITT Knight Vision or can be heard on the Army Sports Network via Sirius Satellite Radio (channel 121) and XM Satellite Radio (channel 141).



ARMY

by the numbers

82 Tackles this season by Firstie linebacker Stephen Anderson

881 Yards rushed by Yearling fullback Jared Hassin (team leading rusher)

8 Army's current losing streak to Navy

111 Games played between Army and Navy since commencing in 1890

NAVY

by the numbers

806 Yards rushed by Senior quarterback Ricky Dobbs (13 rushing scores)

5 Navy is 5th in the nation on rushing offense, averaging 302.55 yards per game

111 Tackles this season by Tyler Simmons to lead Navy