

POINTER VIEW®

A Directorate of
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DUI checkpoint
is scheduled for
Saturday.

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SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WEST POINT, THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

DECEMBER 8, 2011



Branch celebration

Among the results coming out of Branch Night Dec. 1, 239 cadets chose Infantry—the most sought after of the 16 branches. Class of 2012 Cadet Timothy Tieng erupted with joy after discovering he was among those cadets. See Pages 3-4 for story and photos.

MIKE STRASSER/PV

Construction starting at Keller Hospital

By the Directorate of Public Works

A Corps of Engineers contractor is expected to begin construction on the Keller Army Community Hospital addition Monday.

The contractor will begin by establishing the limits of the construction site/staging area and begin site preparation activities.

This will initially eliminate approximately 60 parking spaces. The spaces that are targeted to be closed for parking during the initial phase are located in the southeastern lot—the area is the one-way staff entrance with parallel parking spots and the south portion of the intermediate lot (See photo).

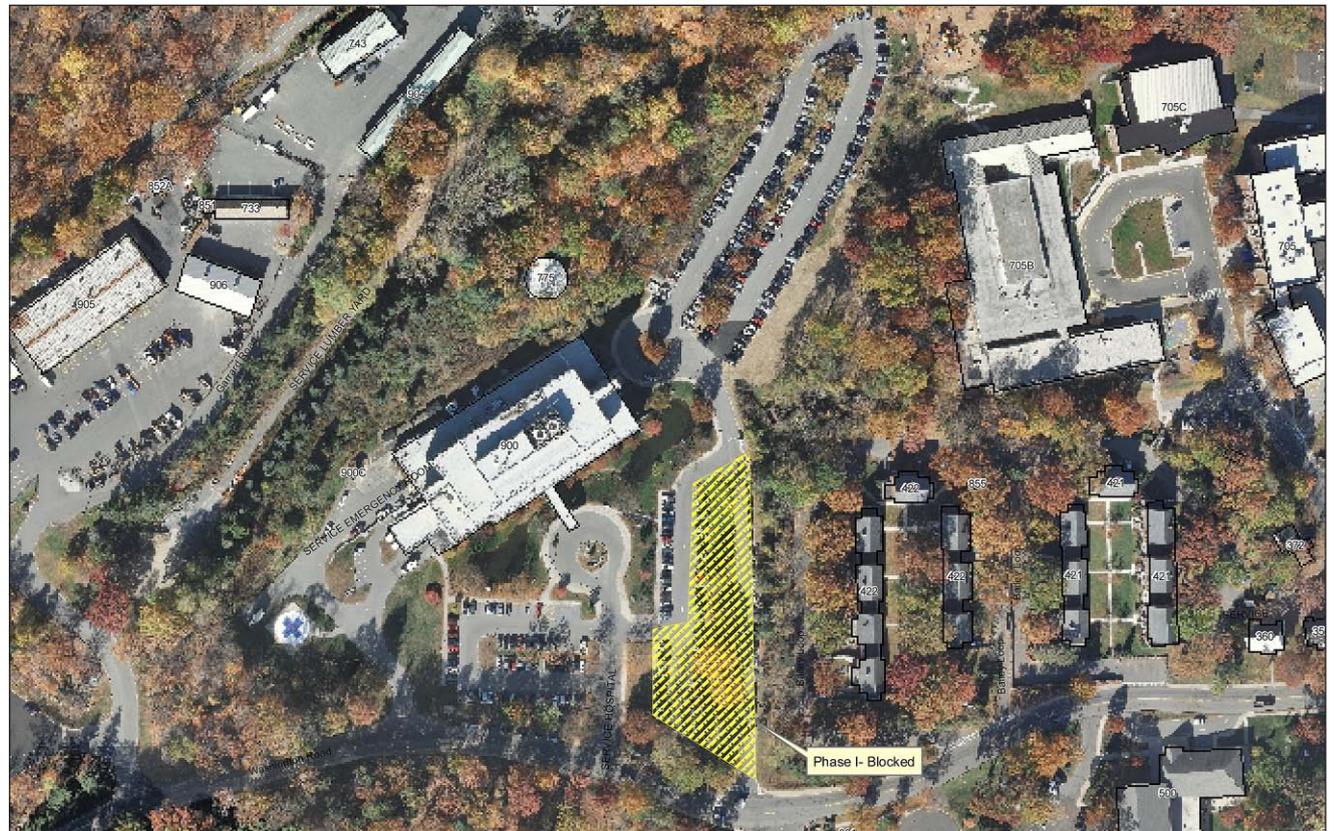
Patient parking will continue to be located primarily in front of the facility, with additional parking at the rear lot.

From December to approximately February, the impact on parking will be diminished by identified military members of the MEDDAC staff parking elsewhere during construction. Subsequent phases of construction will affect additional MEDDAC staff. Community members should expect traffic congestion in and around the hospital.

All community members are reminded that parking for patients is the first priority.

With the limited parking and the increased traffic around Keller Hospital, all personnel from other offices on post with business at Keller during the normal duty day are encouraged to make use of the post-wide shuttle.

For more information, call Leigh Ann Lelyveld at 938-6441 for engineering and construction issues. For issues concerning MEDDAC staff, call Maj. Christopher Kiss at 938-6631.



A look at the approximately 60 parking spaces, in yellow, that will be eliminated during Keller Army Community Hospital's construction. PROVIDED BY MARTHA HINOTE/DPW

From the desk of Highland Falls Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio to the Corps

Dear Editor:

If I may, the following is my letter addressed to the Corps of Cadets and the USMA Football team.

Since the first Army-Navy game in 1890, the tradition and excitement of this annual football classic has captured America's imagination.

Played on neutral turf, it symbolizes the greatness of our armed forces. For four quarters of play, you and the midshipmen go to battle. In the end, you will stand side by side for the playing of the alma maters of both of the academies, realizing that you will be comrades in the more serious battles that lie ahead.

We, in Highland Falls, are very excited about your team. We are filled with pride for the

team and the entire Corps of Cadets. You have much to be proud of. Duty, Honor, Country are exemplified on the field, at the academy, as well as in our community.

You are a great example for our young people to follow.

To those who are watching the game for the first time, this game is ripe for cliché and doubt. It will hit you in the heart. Army, Navy, you are our National Treasures.

Have fun, you deserve it, and yes ...

GO ARMY BEAT NAVY!

Sincerely,
Joseph E. D'Onofrio

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 15

POINTER VIEW

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After 41 months of hard work, anticipation was stamped on the faces of each cadet in the Class of 2012 as they awaited branch notification at Eisenhower Hall Dec. 1.



Class of 2012 Cadet Tanya Mccorkle shows off her Military Intelligence insignia during Branch Night at Eisenhower Hall Dec. 1. Mccorkle, Company B-3, was among 53 cadets from her class to branch Military Intelligence. Visit the West Point Public Affairs Flickr site at www.flickr.com/photos/west_point/ to see more Branch Night photos.

Fates sealed, then opened at Branch Night

Story and photos by Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor

For the Class of 2012, this was the big one. *The moment*. They began their West Point experience some 41 months ago—wading through a sea of unknowns—and now probably the most significant of those unknowns was revealed during Branch Night.

At the branch notification ceremony on Dec. 1, the Class of 2012 discovered how they will serve as officers in the U.S. Army—whether it be Infantry, Quartermaster, Air Defense or any of the 16 branches.

After the sealed manila envelopes were distributed, cadets found it impossible to glean any sort of details from within. All they could do was anxiously wait ... minutes seemingly felt like an eternity ... until the order was given to open them.

“No pressure, no pressure ...,” Lt. Gen. David H. Huntoon Jr., West Point superintendent, reassured a row of cadets as he made his way around the auditorium.

Though the final selection is unknown, the branches are not unfamiliar to cadets, said Col. Glenn Goldman, Department of Military Instruction director.

Through the West Point academic curriculum, junior leader panels, summer training and branch activities, cadets receive a wealth of information to make informed decisions.

“It’s not unknown in the sense they are exposed to everything through our military science program and our training,” Goldman said. “We are teaching them how everything fits together, and what we try to do is manage the talent so that the skills are applied to the right branch.”

Still, Branch Night remains an unknown in the sense that until those envelopes are open, cadets will have the lingering question about who they’ll be working for in the Army.

“Branch Night is the culmination of what cadets do here at West Point, and to me, they’re now gaining their identity,” Goldman said. “They went from civilian to cadet candidate to new cadet and then accepted into the Corps of Cadets. Now they start the transition to Army officer and part of that is branch identification.”

During the ceremony, Class of 2012 Cadet Charles Phelps, the Corps of Cadets’ first captain, extended a round of applause to the many

See **BRANCH NIGHT**, Page 4

BRANCH RESULTS

Infantry: 239
 Field Artillery: 145
 Engineer: 134
 Aviation: 120
 Armor: 99
 Military Intelligence: 53
 Air Defense: 51
 Signal Corps: 38
 Ordnance: 33
 Adjutant General: 23
 Quartermaster: 23
 Medical Service: 20
 Transportation: 19
 Military Police: 15
 Chemical Corps: 9
 Finance: 6
This year, 227 cadets took advantage of the Branch Active Duty Service Obligation Program. The incentive program allows cadets to receive their branch of choice by extending their service contract by an additional three years.

BRANCH NIGHT, cont'd from Page 3

branch representatives, tactical officers and noncommissioned officers and instructors who served as mentors during the arduous process of branch selection.

Speaking to his class, Phelps reminded them of the past 41 months—from Reception Day, cadet basic training and now only months away from graduation—to get where they are now.

“This evening, we share a collective occasion to celebrate,” he said. “Branch Night is one of the landmark events in our progression through the West Point experience that falls in cadence with the memories we created ... the symbol sealed in the envelope represents the edge of a precipice we now stand upon.”

Phelps said, upon receiving their branch, the firsties can now begin shaping the mental image of their contributions to their new teams.

“Regardless of branch, we will cross paths again; potentially in hostile environments where our ability to act decisively and with cohesion will be vital,” he said. “It is critical that we embrace tonight’s results and depart from this theater to prepare for the demands of our respective branches with relentless optimism.”

After the speeches were made and the order to open envelopes was given, 94 percent of the Class of 2012 received one of their top three desired branches. Almost 76 percent of the class achieved their top choice, and it was reported at the ceremony that no cadet received their last choice.

Phelps was among the 239 cadets to branch Infantry—the most sought after of the 16 branches. Class of 2012 Cadet Timothy Tieng erupted with joy after discovering he was among those cadets.

“I’m feeling really great about this. It’s an amazing moment and everything was worth it,” Tieng said.

Tieng said he drew from all his experiences at West Point in determining what branch he wanted.

“I looked at the branch I thought was great and one I would be really good at,” he said. “After the multiple summer training experiences, I thought Infantry would be great.”

Later he donned an olive green infantry cap and joined his fellow future infantry officers in pinning the branch insignia to their uniforms.

Not everyone in the Class of 2012 was able to share in the festivities at Eisenhower Hall. Nearly 30 cadets are studying abroad this semester, some as far away as Morocco, Brazil and China. They were notified electronically or by telephone from their tactical officers.

For some athletic teams—to include Wrestling, Women’s Basketball and Swimming and Diving—small locker room ceremonies were conducted.

Class of 2012 Cadets Meagan Doucette, Erin Jankowski and Kait Goodall received their branch notifications following Army’s 55-51 home win over Hawai’i that night.

Doucette and Goodall, team co-captains, both received their first choice and earned their Aviation wings among 120 from the Class of 2012. Jankowski, the student assistant coach, also received her top choice and will join the Engineer Corps.

“This is literally everything that we worked for,” Doucette said. “It’s the reason you work hard in class, the reason you push yourself in everything you do.”

Doucette was largely undecided about what she wanted to branch until this year, but is convinced she has made the right choice.

“I’ve never talked to anyone who could say anything bad about Aviation, and everybody I know (in that branch) absolutely has no regrets and loves it,” she said.

Speaking of regrets, Goodall said despite missing out on the initial celebrations with her class at Ike Hall, getting to spend it with her team was just as special.

“It’s a big night for our class, but I love my team,” she said. “After our win tonight, I couldn’t have asked for a better way to spend my night than out here on the court with my teammates, with my friends.”

Field Artillery will be welcoming 145 members of the Class of 2012 and another 134 will become Engineer officers. Class of 2012 Cadet Charles Briseno will be among them after

first being detailed to Armor.

Ninety-nine firsties will branch Armor, 51 are headed to Air Defense Artillery, 38 will join the Signal Corps and 23 chose Adjutant General. The Military Intelligence community will receive 53 from the Class of 2012, 15 more chose Military Police, nine selected Chemical Corps and six will branch Finance.

Among the future logistics officers, 23 firsties will join the Quartermaster Corps, 33 will serve as Ordnance officers and 19 will enter the Transportation Corps.

In addition, 20 cadets will join the medical service and 18 have been nominated for medical school. The Class of 2012 will receive their orders and postings in the spring.

Visit the West Point Public Affairs Flickr site at www.flickr.com/photos/west_point/ to see more Branch Night photos.

(Editor’s note: Tracy Nelson, Army Athletic Communications, contributed to this story.)

SHARP Response Team

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- Maj. Missy Rosol, USCC: 845-401-3476;
- Lt. Col. Linda Emerson, Diversity Officer:
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- Dr. Stephanie Marsh, USMAPS: 845-938-1171.

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POINTER VIEW

If you have a story idea to share or a story and photos you want considered for publication in the *Pointer View*, contact Managing Editor Eric S. Bartelt at 938-2015 or email at eric.bartelt@usma.edu.

Marathon Team to deliver game ball for Army-Navy

By Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor

By the time you read this Thursday morning, the West Point Marathon team will have run more than 120 miles on the road overnight with about 160 to go before reaching FedEx Field in Landover, Md., for the Army-Navy game Saturday.

Thousands gathered last night at Daly Field for a spirited rally with the Army Football team and in the midst of a roaring crowd and a blazing bonfire, about 20 cadets sprinted off into the darkness to begin their 48-hour journey.

The mission—one which the Marathon team has upheld for nearly three decades now—is to deliver the ceremonial game ball from West Point to the playing field. Each member contributes about 15 miles, sometimes more, to the destination. They are careful along the way not to drop the ball—somewhat wary of the consequences to the game if they do.

“We just don’t want to be the one to drop the ball,” Class of 2012 Cadet Sarah Binder said. “It’s kind of like a superstition surrounding it, so we don’t want to bring bad luck to our team if we were to drop the ball.”

This year, the marathoners are adding a significant detour to the trip when they pass the World Trade Center site in New York City to honor fallen graduates from both service academies.

“I think it is great that we not only get to contribute to the Army-Navy game but we are also honoring members of the Long Gray

Line who sacrificed their lives,” Binder said.

As much as the game itself is an intense rivalry between two services and two academies, the memorial run recognizes the greater ideal of “one team, one fight.”

“It’s like a brotherhood and sisterhood of arms, and while we may have this great rivalry one day each year, every other day we’re one team. It’s pretty cool to get to acknowledge that,” Binder said.

The team will wear memorial shirts that show the sites of the 9/11 attacks, and the names of fallen West Point and Naval Academy graduates on the back. Concurrently, a contingent from the Naval Academy will carry a game ball past the Pentagon and the veteran support organization, Team Red, White and Blue, is running near the Flight 93 crash site in Pennsylvania.

Binder participated in her first ball run two years ago to Philadelphia and this will be her last before graduation. Last year, Binder spent the semester at the Air Force Academy and missed Army-Navy Spirit Week.

“I think this will be a good year to run, not only because it’s a different destination but also because we’re running for fallen West Point and Naval Academy graduates. This year will be a special one,” she said.

Two midshipmen from the Class of 2013—Ashley Mannix and Christian Fussman—are members of the West Point Marathon Team this semester while participating in the exchange program.

“They have represented the Naval Academy very well here,” Binder said. “We’ll be sad when they’re gone next semester.



The West Point Marathon Team, wearing their commemorative Ball Run T-shirts, pose for a photo inside Thayer Hall.

WEST POINT MARATHON TEAM PHOTO

We’ve been trying to convert them slowly, but they’ve held onto their naval cred very well.”

Binder said the trip itself comprises mostly of running, sleeping and studying. Binder, a history and German major, planned on packing a few books so she could brush up on military art.

“Well, we do have finals next week, so there’s actually quite a bit of studying that goes on,” she said. “We have some nerds on our team and I’m one of them, so we’ll be studying a lot. There’s a lot of sleeping too, and listening to music and singing. Nothing

See BALL RUN, Page 7

GAME BALL RUN, cont'd from Page 6

too crazy goes on.”

Also on her packing list was cold weather clothing.

“It’s all about staying warm and not dropping the ball,” she said.

This will be Class of 2015 Cadet Daniel Schlich’s first ball run.

“It’s really exciting to get to participate in this tradition and, in a way, be a part of the Army-Navy game,” Schlich said.

Schlich competed in his first marathon three weeks ago in Richmond, Va., only having run two-mile races on the track team at Steubenville Catholic High School in Ohio. Schlich apparently found his niche in long distance running. He won his age division (19 and under) at Richmond with a 2:48 time to qualify for the Boston Marathon.

“That was pretty exciting,” he said. “I got a better time than I expected. I didn’t know how I would do because I’ve never run a

marathon before, but I guessed I would finish under three hours.”

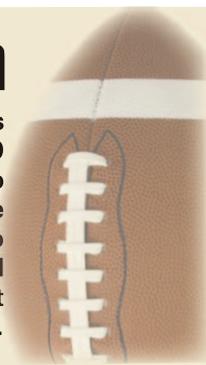
The Army-Navy game is much more than a football game because at West Point the entire Corps of Cadets, members of the Long Gray Line and the Army itself get involved. Binder said it highlights the best of two academies and the profession of arms those students have chosen to embrace. Even so, she still wants to see Army beat Navy in the end.

“This year, more than ever before, I can say I really believe the Army Football team can beat Navy,” Binder said. “I’ve seen them do really well and know they have the potential to win. I would really love to graduate having seen an Army victory over Navy.”

Follow the team’s journey on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/West-Point-Marathon-Team-West-Point-NY/313644085315562?v=wall.

Army-Navy Ball Run Origin

The first long-distance handoff by West Point cadets was reported in the *Pointer View* in 1984 when more than 40 cadets ran the ball nearly 150 miles from West Point to Philadelphia in what was called the “Beat Navy” Run. The Black Knights went on to defeat Navy, 28-11. According to a 2009 press release on the U.S. Navy website, the Naval Academy began their football run in 1982 as an attempt to get the 13th Company, the “unlucky” company, out of academy.



Meet the new Army mascots

The U.S. Military Academy is commissioning two new mule mascots at 5:05 p.m. tonight before the Goat-Engineer game at Michie Stadium. These mules will replace the current three mule mascots—Raider, Ranger II and General Scott, who are retiring to farms. One of the new mules (on the right), at the request of the donor, Steven Townes, Class of 1975, will be named Ranger III in honor of the 75th Ranger Regiment, of which he was a member. The choice of the mule as the Army teams’ mascot can be traced back to 1899 when an officer at the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot decided that Army needed something to counteract the Navy goat when the two academies went into action on the football field for that season.

PHOTO BY CARMINE COCCHIA/DPTMS AV

Cadets, midshipmen report from opposing fronts

By Mike Strasser
Assistant Editor

It is a longstanding tradition at the Army-Navy football game for both academies to conduct a formal “prisoner exchange” on the field before kickoff. The prisoners are the cadets and midshipmen who’ve spent the semester studying at the sister academy, and the short reprieve allows them to enjoy the game with their comrades. The *Pointer View* contacted the prisoners last week to find out how they’re doing as the rivalry intensifies heading into Saturday’s game.

Class of 2013 Cadet Matthew Feiring is among the U.S. Military Academy contingent to be marched out midfield at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., and looks forward to reuniting with his classmates.

“Not being with the rest of USMA during this week is definitely weird,” Feiring said. “You hear ‘Go Navy Beat Army’ and it doesn’t sound right.”

He got a taste of how Navy handles a rivalry week leading into the Midshipmen’s contest against Air Force, and said it’s all in good fun. The traditional pranks and shenanigans which accompany the Army-Navy rivalry are to be expected, but all Feiring would say is that it’s “hush-hush.” Class of 2013 Cadet Andrew Theising echoed the hush-hush status of the spirit missions and expects the inevitable retaliation throughout the week.

“My roommates are afraid our room is going to get wrecked. Navy definitely takes their rivalry weeks more seriously than we

do,” he said.

Midshipman Ashley Mannix said it will be fun representing Navy at West Point, and her colleagues have been making plans well in advance.

“Let’s just say our pranks are pretty awesome. Get ready,” Mannix, a Chemistry major, said.

Midshipman Andrew Musselwhite said it’s a good practice to not only prepare for a spirit mission but also for the payback that comes with it.

“I’m all for the fun and games. I think it’s a good time and should be done at all the academies,” Musselwhite said. “However, I’m a much bigger fan of creative, non-destructive things.”

Musselwhite said at the Naval Academy, the Army-Navy Week pranks aren’t limited to just exchange cadets.

“Mostly it’s a time for everyone to just let off steam by partaking in crazy shenanigans,” he said. “Though ours are aimed at the upperclassmen within our own companies that we don’t like, much more than they are at exchangers.”

Both Feiring and Theising share a class, and said the day-to-day happenings in Annapolis are somewhat similar to West Point.

“Passing by people to and from class and around the yard can be uncomfortable, but on the whole most of the midshipmen, enlisted and officers are very welcoming and interested about West Point and the Army,” Feiring said.

Midshipman James Brown, a mechanical



The tradition of the “prisoner exchange,” such as in this 2006 photo, will once again highlight the pre-game festivities Saturday at FedEx Field, Md., before the kickoff of the Army-Navy game.

ERIC S. BARTELT/PV

engineering major, said the departments at both academies are practically mirror-image.

“It’s almost like West Point exists in a parallel universe to the Naval Academy in the sense that both of our schools have almost identical structures and modes of operating,” Brown said. “We just each call it something different; instead of chit, it’s a memorandum. Once you learn to speak Army, your time here gets a whole lot easier.”

Before participating in the prisoner exchange, Mannix will have also joined the West Point Marathon team in the annual football run (see Page 6 story). When the semester ends, Mannix and the middies will return to Annapolis, having learned much more than West Point’s version of Army-

Navy Week.

“I’ve learned different leadership styles and how to adapt to a culture that uses different jargon and methods,” Mannix said. “All of us are squad leaders, so at first it was challenging getting thrown into the mix and learning our way around, learning the different acronyms, figuring out all the paperwork ... I definitely realized how adaptable I am, and appreciated how welcoming the cadets were in my activities.”

All the cadets and middies interviewed agreed that while they gained an invaluable perspective from the academy exchange program, the experience proved they made the right choice—whether that be “Go Army” or “Go Navy.”



For the second consecutive year, the Army-Navy Brigade Championships determined bragging rights for several company teams from West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy. The Army soccer team fell to Navy 2-1 in penalty kicks.

Brigade championships promote fellowship between Army, Navy

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

The Army-Navy football game may not be the biggest college football rivalry in the nation, but it arguably has more traditions and history than any other college football program.

A new tradition, which began last year, is the Army-Navy Brigade Championships that pits the winners of each school's intramural teams brigade champions against each other for final bragging rights.

The midshipmen and cadets returned to the fields of friendly strife Dec. 3, competing in soccer, flag football, ultimate Frisbee, team handball and basketball.

The contests would determine bragging rights for the various Army and Navy teams, but the day also promoted fellowship between the sister academies.

"We play these games in all semesters," Midshipman Addison Harrelson said. "We battle the best of the best with Army and Navy to see who will prevail in the games. In the end, we are fighting the same fight."

Just as with the annual Army-Navy football game, these competitions highlight the true meaning of the fighting spirit as well as camaraderie.

"The brigade games are a fun way of getting together," Class of 2015 Cadet Joost Demoes, Company I-3, said. "This gets everyone together so we can beat Navy."

Navy won the soccer game 2-1 in penalty kicks; the flag football contest favored Navy, 14-0, as well as Ultimate Frisbee, 10-9.

Army won the basketball game by forfeit, and recorded a 2-1 win in handball over Navy.

Overall, the Brigade Championship went to Navy, but commarderie was evident before and after the games.

Keller pharmacist earns Armywide award

Story and photo by Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Rhonda Hoffman has been an inpatient civilian pharmacist at Keller Army Community for 17 years and on Nov. 2, was honored for her service by receiving the U.S. Army Janet P. Hunter Civilian Pharmacist of the Year Award in Dallas.

"I was really proud and honored to learn I received the award," Hoffman said. "My parents were in Dallas too and they were also very proud. I received so many emails and congratulations."

Hoffman said she is uncomfortable with being the center of attention, but is taking it in stride.

"I couldn't do this job if it weren't for the people I work with every day," she said. "You can't run a city by yourself."

Sometimes pharmacists are seen as people who only count and dispense pills. Although that's part of what they do, pharmacists also form a valuable link between physician and patient.

The pharmacist answers questions about the drugs a patient may be taking, catches and prevents errors—especially if a patient has a reaction to a drug—and monitors the patients' reaction if they are taking other medications.

A typical day for Hoffman begins with going on rounds and picking up pharmacy orders physicians leave for their patients.

"I speak with the nurses and others to find out who was discharged and if any discharge medications were ordered and find out who

has been admitted," Hoffman said. "I fill drug orders, fill out intravenous medications and order drugs (that are needed for the hospital), including anesthesia medications for surgery.

"I also am the acting assistant pharmacy chief when she's not here," she said.

Hoffman also worked five years at a Veterans Administration Hospital in Brooklyn.

"When we decided to buy a house in Rockland County, there was an opening here and I applied," she explained.

Hoffman said she became interested in pharmacy because her dad is a pharmacist and she used to work in his store as a teenager.

After high school, she attended Saint John's University of Pharmacy in Queens, which is where she met her husband.

"My husband didn't stay in pharmacy, he is in the Information Technology field," she said.

Outside of her pharmacy duties, she is also involved in many committees at the hospital.

"I help with the smoking cessation courses here and I'm involved with the Joint Commission on Accreditation," she said. "I really like the job and enjoy informing people about medications and try to help them become responsible about taking their medication correctly. I feel I am the continuity person to help make things run as smooth as possible."

The idea of going beyond her duties comes from the fact there were not many women pharmacists when she first started.

"When I was growing up, females did not go to pharmacy school," she said. "So I



Rhonda Hoffman is the inpatient pharmacist at Keller Army Community Hospital and has been in that position for 17 years. Hoffman recently received the U.S. Army Janet P. Hunter Civilian Pharmacist of the Year Award Nov. 2 during a ceremony in Dallas. "My parents were there and they were so proud," Hoffman said. Her father is a pharmacist. Pictured here, Hoffman is demonstrating the "hood" where medications, such as intravenous prescriptions or medicines, are created in a sterile environment.

always felt I had to continually prove myself. When I started as a pharmacist, people kept telling me they wanted a pharmacist to talk to and wouldn't believe that they were talking to one."

Hoffman is highly regarded among the command at KACH and her co-workers.

"I am very happy for Mrs. Hoffman," Col. Beverly Land, KACH commander, said. "She is well deserving of this award. She routinely puts forth the extra effort to help serve our beneficiaries and staff alike."

"The pharmacy is the leader in the Northern Region and it is a direct reflection of the hard work and caring staff that we have at Keller Hospital," Land added. "Rhonda is

the best."

Maj. Leslie Walthall, Department of Pharmacy chief, is the person who nominated Hoffman for the award.

"Mrs. Hoffman was selected over hundreds of Army pharmacists working throughout the United States Army Medical Command," Walthall said. "Mrs. Hoffman has faithfully served the West Point community for over 17 years and is a vital team member of the Keller Healthcare Team."

"She has demonstrated unwavering dedication and loyalty to her patients and other healthcare professionals," she added. "To this we say 'Thank You' to Mrs. Hoffman for a job well done."

Wrestling Divas visit West Point for holiday special



World Wrestling Entertainment Divas, Brie and Nikki Bella, tested out the Indoor Obstacle Course at the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center during their recent visit to West Point. The WWE stars were here to videotape a segment for the annual holiday special, "WWE Tribute to the Troops." TOMMY GILLIGAN/PAO

World Wrestling Entertainment Press Release

The WWE, USA Network and NBC will honor the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces with the ninth annual holiday special, "WWE Tribute to the Troops."

The program will air as a two-hour special on USA Network at 9-11 p.m Tuesday and as a one-hour special on NBC at 9-10 p.m. Dec. 17.

WWE Divas, Brie and Nikki, the Bella Twins, visited West Point Nov. 22, to videotape a segment for the holiday special.

The holiday special will feature performances by Grammy award winning R&B sensation Mary J. Blige, multi-platinum rock band Nickelback, comedian George Wallace and WWE's superstars for thousands of Fort Bragg military personnel and their families at the Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville, N.C.

Miss USA 2011, Alyssa Campanella, will make a special appearance along with Extra's Maria Menounos, who will lace up her boots and step into the ring for a special Diva's match. The special will also include messages of encouragement and thanks from various celebrities such as Matthew McConaughey, Hugh Jackman, The Muppets, Robin Williams, Bradley Cooper and Nicole Kidman, among others.

In keeping with the spirit of "WWE Tribute to the Troops" and bringing a little piece of Americana to servicemen and women overseas, the special will chronicle WWE Chairman and CEO Vince McMahon and Superstars Kofi Kingston, Brie and Nikki Bella's goodwill visit to our troops in Afghanistan, as well as WWE Superstars and Divas visit with the troops and families of Fort Bragg.

"The Point" Covers Army-Navy

Sgt. Alexandria Corneiro and Staff Sgt. Matthew Leary are previewing Saturday's Army-Navy game on "The Point" at www.youtube.com/user/TheWestPointChannel. The next episode premieres Friday.



FMWR Blurbs

Arts & Crafts Holiday Classes

A Stained glass class for flat snowflake or a 3-D Holiday tree tealight holder will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. tonight.

A pottery class to create your holiday gift will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 15.

Holiday ornament ceramic painting for children will be held from 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 17.

Class schedules are subject to change.

Check out westpointmwr.com/art for the most current schedule.

For more information, call 938-4812.

Project Angel Tree

The West Point Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, Army Community Service and The Exchange present Project Angel Tree at The Exchange.

The Project Angel Tree runs through Tuesday. Make a West Point child's Christmas morning very special.

For more information, call 938-6497.

Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular—one more show

The Leisure Travel Services office has tickets for one more show of the 2011 Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular.

The show is 8 p.m. Dec. 15. Seating is in the Orchestra section. There is coach bus transportation to the city.

The bus leaves LTS at 4 p.m. and leaves NYC immediately following the show.

For more information, call 938-2401/3601.

Community holiday party for your department

Looking for a special place with a festive atmosphere for your holiday department party? Then look no further.

The West Point Club is open from 6-11 p.m. Dec. 16 in the Grand Ballroom for your holiday party.

A cocktail reception will be held from 6-7 p.m. and a holiday dinner buffet from 7-9 p.m. Enjoy holiday music all through the evening and a cash bar is available, too.

The more guests you bring, the bigger your discount. You can bring the decorations to personalize your table's center piece for your department or family.

To make reservations, call 938-5120.

ACS and BBC AFTB Birthday Party

Army Community Service and Balfour Beatty Communities present the Army Family Team Building Birthday Party from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Dec. 16 at ACS, Bldg. 622.

Families are invited to submit an art project to exhibit that reflects their cultural heritage.

Projects must be submitted by Monday.

To register, call 938-5654.

West Point Golf Course Pro Shop holiday sale

Get ready for the next golf season during the West Point Golf Course's Pro Shop sale through Dec. 19.

Get the perfect gift for the golfer in your life.

Come see the great deals and purchase your 2012 golf passes at 2011 pricing.

For more information, call 938-2435.

FMWR Fitness Center renovation

The FMWR Fitness Center is currently undergoing a major renovation in the main entrance area. The approximate time frame for this project is 20-30 days through late December.

The temporary main entrance will be through the Crossfit room. The foyer area, front bathrooms and main desk area will be completely closed off to all patrons and staff during the construction.

Once the main entrance is complete, the Crossfit room will undergo a slight facelift.

The Crossfit Room will be moved next to the Spin Room.

If you have any questions, call 938-6490.

New Fitness Center and Post Library hours

FMWR budget reductions have impacted

hours at the FMWR Fitness Center and Post Library.

As a result of significant budget cuts in the funding that supports these activities, FMWR has closed both facilities on Sundays, which was the least used day for both facilities.

The Class of '62 Room at the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center remains open on Sundays.

Adaptive Ski and Snowboard Program

The West Point Ski Slope office is expanding the Adaptive Ski and Snowboard Program for those who require adaptive equipment and education.

The fee for this program includes a lift ticket, all equipment and four 1 1/2-hour lessons. Times are to be announced.

For more information, call 938-4637.

Life EDGE! "A Little Class of Etiquette"

Be prepared for the upcoming CYSS Father and Daughter Dance. Life EDGE! offers etiquette classes for a fee for grades K-5 every Tuesday from Jan. 31-Feb. 21 at the Lee Area CDC.

For more information and to enroll, contact Parent Central at 938-4458/0939.

Wee Ones Play Group holiday schedule

Wee Ones will be taking a holiday break and will not meet Dec. 19, 26 or Jan. 2.

It will start again Jan. 9.

If you have any questions, call Shelley Ariosto at 938-3369.

Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center holiday schedule

From Dec. 17-Jan. 2, the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center's holiday schedule is:

- Dec. 17-24 and Dec. 27-31—9 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2.

The noontime lap swim hours during the holidays are:

- Dec. 17, 19-23 and 27-30—noon-1:30 p.m. at Crandall Pool.

For updates or changes to the holiday

schedule, call 938-2985.

Bingo at the West Point Bowling Center

Bingo is now at the West Point Bowling Center. For more information, call 938-2140.

NEW INFO

Coping with Deployment Course

A Coping with Deployment Course, presented by the ACS Mobilization and Deployment Program and the American Red Cross, will be held from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday at ACS, Bldg. 622.

This course provides hands-on tools to help families cope with deployments and teaches adults how to support children as a result of changes they may experience due to a deployment of a family member. Bring your own lunch.

Activities will be provided for children during the workshop, but parents should provide a brown bag lunch for their children.

For more information or to register, call 938-5654/0232.

Gift certificates available at Arts & Crafts Shop

Visit the West Point Arts & Crafts Shop to purchase a gift certificate for the perfect holiday gift.

The Craft Shop is located at Bldg. 648.

Hours of operation are noon-8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; Wednesday and Friday by appointment; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; and closed Sunday and Monday.

For more information, call 938-4812.

AFAP delegates wanted

Do you want to serve as an AFAP delegate? As a delegate, you will review issues submitted for the Army Family Action Plan Conference Feb. 22-24.

The conference is open to Soldiers, retirees, their family members, DOD civilians and youth. Applications must be submitted by Jan. 13. For more information, call 938-3655 or go to westpointmwr.com/afap.

What's Happening

John Tesh tour

John Tesh, the six-time Emmy-winning composer, Grammy-nominated musician and nationally syndicated radio host, returns to the stage this holiday season, for the nationwide "John Tesh: Big Band Christmas" tour at 3 p.m. Sunday at Eisenhower Hall Theatre.

The tour is a two-hour concert program featuring Tesh with his signature piano and vocals, performing holiday classics with all new big band arrangements, along with an 11-piece rhythm and horn section.

To buy tickets, go to www.ikehall.com, order by phone at 800-233-3123 or go to the Eisenhower Hall Theatre ticket office at 655 Pitcher Road.

For more information, call the Eisenhower Hall Theatre Box Office at 938-4159.

Federal Employee Health Benefits

The Federal Employee Health Benefits open season runs through Monday.

During the open season period, any eligible employee who is not currently registered may enroll.

Also, any eligible enrollee may change from one plan or option to another.

All new enrollments or changes made during the open season will take effect Jan. 1, 2012.

For further assistance or any questions on benefits, call Karen Wood at 938-2253 or email her at Karen.wood@usma.edu.

Holiday open house

The Army Community Service and the Soldier and Family Assistance Center invites the community to a holiday open house from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 15 at ACS, Bldg. 622.

There will be holiday crafts, light refreshments and pictures with Santa.

To RSVP, contact Louise Ennesser at 938-4621 or email Louise.Ennesser@usma.edu.

Santa Claus is coming to West Point

The West Point Fire Department will be bringing Santa Claus to the West Point housing areas starting at 10 a.m. Dec. 17. The route starts at Stony Lonesome I housing and ends in Lee Area housing.

All residents wishing to see Santa and to receive a candy cane must come to the designated route.

Check the next edition of the *Pointer View* to see the detailed map of the route.

For more information, call Paul Cheski at 938-7484.

Christmas service

There will be a Christmas service at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 18 at the Post Chapel.

For more information, call Pete Hommel at 938-3504.

Army Education Center

The Army Education Center is now accepting new students for the spring semester. The registration deadline is Dec. 22.

To contact the schools about what classes are available, email John Jay College Master of Public Administration at jjcwestpoint@yahoo.com, Long Island University New Masters Program in Education at marybeth.leggett@liu.edu, Mount Saint Mary College at sharon.seidule@msmc.edu and St. Thomas Aquinas College at rholmes@STAC.edu.

Letters to Santa

Highland Falls Mayor Joe D'Onofrio has been in touch

with Santa and has announced that he will help get letters from local children to Santa in time for the holidays.

He'll make sure that all children who write receive an answer from the Jolly Old Guy.

Letters should be sent to:

Santa, c/o The Mayor
303 Main Street
Highland Falls, NY 10928

To ensure the letters get to Santa on time, and to get an answer, the letters need to be at Village Hall by Dec. 22.

Letters must include the child's name and address, preferably written legibly by a parent or guardian.

Highland Falls Santa's Toy Box

The Town of Highland Falls is sponsoring a toy collection drive to be collected in the lobby of Village Hall.

Community residents are asked to donate a new, unwrapped toy that will make its way to a child in the local community.

Gifts for children in the categories of tot, child and teen can be dropped off in the Village Hall lobby from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily through Dec. 22.

For more information, call 446-3400.

Best friends collection

Highland Falls wants to make sure that faithful "best friends" in the community have a good holiday, too.

There is a collection in Village Hall of dog and cat food, cat litter, blankets and towels, dog and cat grooming supplies and toys. This will help provide something to the needy animals in the community. All donations will be given to the 4-Paws Humane Society and the Highland Falls pet shelter to support strays and lost animals.

For more information, call 446-3400.

West Point Diving Club

The West Point Diving Club is offering learn-to-dive lessons at Crandall Pool in the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center.

All ages and experience levels are welcome. The ability to swim is a prerequisite.

Lessons are offered from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from 11 a.m.-noon Saturday. There are also noon-1 p.m. and 1-2 p.m. Saturday lessons when available.

For more information, contact diving coach Ron Kontura at ron.kontura@usma.edu or 938-4207.

SAMC meetings

Noncommissioned officers interested in becoming a member of the West Point Sgt. Audie Murphy Club are urged to join SAMC members for study groups at 5 p.m. Thursdays at Nininger Hall.

For those who are interested in joining the SAMC, meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Red Reeder Room in Washington Hall.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Joseph Willis at 938-7082.

Free Computer Training

The Information, Education and Technology Division is offering free computer courses.

The courses include Microsoft Office 2007 software such as Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and SharePoint 2010.

Other courses offered are Computer Hardware and Software Orientation and a Keyboard Typing Skills Lab.

Courses are given in Jefferson Hall, fourth floor, Room 414 (IETD Classroom) through July 27, 2012.

Courses are open to cadets, USMAPS cadet candidates and computer users from any USMA activity.

For more information, call Thomas Gorman at 938-1186 or send an email to Thomas.Gorman@usma.edu.

For course dates, go to the IETD Course Calendar at <http://usma-portal/dean/staff/ietd/training/Pages/default.aspx>.

NEW INFO

West Point Toy Drive

The West Point Military Police station located at Bldg. 616, Swift Road (adjacent to Thayer Gate), will serve as the drop off site for the annual West Point "Toy Drive."

The toys will benefit local needy families, the Angel Tree program and Toys for Tots. Drop off a new unwrapped toy before Dec. 16.

For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Carpenter at 938-8552.

Vehicle Registration Office closure

The Vehicle Registration Office, located at the Military Police Station, Bldg. 616, will be closed Dec. 23, 26, 30 and Jan. 2 in observance of the holidays.

The office will maintain normal operating hours for the remainder of the holiday schedule.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Micky Brooks at 938-0436.

Twelve Days of Christmas special pricing

In the spirit of giving, Boscobel House & Gardens wishes to extend the following special offers to its valued visitors this holiday season.

Starting Monday and continuing for the traditional 12 days of Christmas, Boscobel's regular admission fee for mansion tours and the grounds will be reduced by \$4.

In addition, the gift shop at Boscobel will offer its shoppers a 12 percent discount on all purchases during the 12-day period.

This year, the rooms of Boscobel Mansion have been specially decorated for a Federal-style Christmas in an "1800s Ball" theme. Its acclaimed docent-led tours have been adapted to include holiday stories of period entertaining, including customs of the early 19th century.

Hours in December are 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, visit Boscobel.org or call 265-3638.

DUSA grants

Daughters of the U.S. Army Community Welfare Grant applications are now available at the West Point Museum Gift Shop. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15.

For more information, contact DUSAGrants@gmail.com.

Army - Navy T-shirts available

The long sleeve Army-Navy T-shirts are on sale at the Cadet Bookstore on the fourth floor in Thayer Hall. All sizes are available. For more information, call Carol Fish, bookstore manager, at 938-5193.

Keller Corner

Blood Drive Kickoff Campaign meeting

There will be a Blood Drive Kickoff Campaign meeting from 9:30-11 a.m. Dec. 16 in the Army Education Center, Bldg. 683, Training Room #10, in preparation for the upcoming Armed Services Blood Program Jan. 9-12 Blood Drive.

It is requested that appointed key personnel from each activity attend this meeting. Provide the names of those attending to Mary Mandia at 938-2583 or via email at *Mary.Mandia@amedd.army.mil* by Dec. 16.

Pharmacy hours of operation for December and January

- Today—Training day, closed all day;
- Dec. 16—Open from 8 a.m.-noon, closed from noon-3 p.m. and then will reopen from 3-5 p.m.;
- Dec. 23—Closed, training holiday;
- Dec. 24—Closed;
- Dec. 26—Closed;
- Dec. 30—Closed, training holiday;
- Dec. 31—Closed;
- Jan. 2—Closed.

KACH outpatient clinics hours of operation for December and January

All outpatient clinics, laboratory and radiology will be closed:

- Today—Training Day, closed all day;
- Dec. 16—Closing at noon;
- Dec. 23—Training holiday;
- Dec. 26—Holiday;
- Dec. 30—Training holiday;
- Jan. 2—Holiday.

TRICARE Young Adult Prime Option available Jan. 1

TRICARE Young Adult is a premium-based program that extends medical coverage to dependents up to age 26.

Most dependents are eligible to purchase this plan if they are unmarried and under age 26, are not eligible for their own employer-sponsored health plan and the sponsor is TRICARE eligible/covered.

Contact TRICARE for costs or go to the TRICARE website below. Cost shares/co-pays, deductibles and catastrophic caps vary by program option and the sponsor's status.

TYA beneficiaries already enrolled in the Standard/Extra option who wish to switch to Prime must submit a new TYA enrollment form and premiums will be automatically adjusted.

New TYA beneficiaries must submit an enrollment form and the first three months' premiums for the selected option.

Health Net Federal Services must receive all forms by Dec. 20 for coverage to begin Jan. 1, 2012.

For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/tya. Visit Keller's website to download a comprehensive FAQ sheet at <http://kach.amedd.army.mil/index/index.html>.

NOW SHOWING

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

Friday—Puss in Boots, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday—Closed, no movie.

THE THEATER SCHEDULE ALSO CAN BE FOUND AT

WWW.AAFES.COM.

Command Channel 8/23

Dec. 8-15

(Broadcast times)

Army Newswatch

Today, Friday and Monday through Dec. 15

8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Point

Today, Friday and Monday through Dec. 15

8 a.m., 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Life Works at Balfour Beatty Communities

• **Holiday craft celebration:** Join BBC for a holiday celebration at the Post Chapel, Bldg. 799, from 2-4:30 p.m. Tuesday. Each family can choose the crafts they want to make and take home.

There will be seasonal treats for all participants.

Call Jodi Gellman at 446-6407 to register on or before Friday so that BBC doesn't run out of supplies.



Seidel earns All Army photography award

The results are in from the 2011 All Army Digital Photography contest and West Point employs the second place winner. Capt. Nicholas Seidel's piece titled "My mommy still loves me ..." received second place. Seidel described his find and the photo he took as, "I found this odd, but intriguing, a figure in an art gallery window next to Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg, Austria. Fascinating ..." Seidel is currently part of the Eisenhower Leadership Development Program.

PHOTO BY CAPT. NICHOLAS SEIDEL

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

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

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no

See SUDOKU SOLUTION, Page 2 Difficulty: Medium

digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

Q & A

A player's perspective ... Austin Barr

ARMY-NAVY FOOTBALL

Q&A and photo by Eric S. Bartelt
Managing Editor

Last season had a different vibe to it as Army approached its big rivalry game with Navy with a bowl game in its back pocket and a 6-5 record. This year, the Black Knights are 3-8 after a season where a youth movement, costly mistakes in close games and injuries to important players kept them from fulfilling last year's promise.

However, going forward this team has a bright future and senior wide receiver Austin Barr has seen the progress first hand and believes Army will get back on track.

Barr has been a great foot soldier in his four seasons at Army with 20 collegiate receptions and three touchdowns, including one against Air Force last year, while providing impeccable blocking in a run-first option offense.

Barr sat down with the *Pointer View* to discuss what lies ahead for Army, his family's college football background and playing in the Army-Navy game (See game preview on Page 20.)

PV: *It's been a tough season record-wise at 3-8, but from your perspective through the youth movement and injuries, what positives/progress have you seen that bodes well for the future of Army football?*

AB: "Last year, we had a very senior-(laden) team and then this year coming in we had a smaller senior presence, which gave a lot of young guys' opportunities. As coach (Rich Ellerson) says, they were kind of drinking out of the fire hose to start with, but the young guys stepped in and they are starting to show flashes of the players they can be.

"Practice reps are nothing like game reps, so getting into a game like that, even if it's a handful of snaps, speaks volumes for that player's development down the road next season and the seasons to come."

PV: *Any player or players in particular you've seen make great progress throughout the season or has come on strong as of late?*

AB: "In my position group, I really like (sophomore) Anthony Stephens and the way he works, the way he competes on a daily basis whether he's going to get a lot of snaps or not in a game—he just gets better every day. I'm really looking to him to do some really big things.

"On the defensive side, I think (freshman defensive back) Hayden Pierce is going to be a great player for years here and that's just to name a few."

PV: *Your dad, four uncles and grandfather*

all played college football at Purdue ... how special is it to continue that legacy playing at the Division I level?

AB: "It's definitely a real honor. One of my cousins is a real good athlete, but in a different sport ... but it's not something our parents pushed (us) to do. I didn't start playing football until high school, but it's something my uncles and dad have really enjoyed to be able to watch me.

"I got Coach (Rich) Ellerson and Coach (Andy) Guyader, my position coach, but then I have my dad and his four brothers coaching me and calling me after games going, 'What happened there? You can do better than that,' but they really get me going.

"It's been really fun and it's a great connection we all share."

PV: *With your family background, do you ever think what it would have been like to play at Purdue?*

AB: "I do. As a kid, even before I played organized football, I was like, 'yeah, I'm going to Purdue and play football there, too.' It would have been fun. Growing up I went to Ross-Ade Stadium and different things like that and I don't know of any other family that had five brothers play Division I football, but I'm still playing for the Black and Gold."

PV: *Last season was your best year in production, including a big day against Duke and a touchdown against Air Force ... during your Army football career, what do you consider your best individual moment?*

AB: "I would say the Duke game was pretty special because that was my first touchdown and I had a bunch of family there—my folks were there, so it was a neat thing."

PV: *What has been the best team moment in your collegiate career?*

AB: "I would say our bowl win (against SMU) last year. I had a ton of family there. It was really neat to finish the year with a winning season, a bowl win and having a bunch of loved ones in the stands—it was a really special thing.

"Certainly, it's the best that's happened so far, but I expect (this) Saturday we have a big opportunity to make the biggest memory we've ever had around here. I've been a part of state (high school) championship teams, I've been a part of our bowl win last year, but a win against Navy would be the biggest football moment of my life and I would expect almost everyone in our locker room (as well)."

PV: *As a team, with all the work put into it and to end up with a winning season and a bowl victory, what did it mean to you to get*



Senior wide receiver Austin Barr (#87) celebrates after scoring a 31-yard touchdown versus Temple last season. In his collegiate career, he had compiled 20 receptions and three touchdowns.

that satisfaction of having a winning season and winning that game?

AB: "It spoke to the hard work we put into it. I felt it was a really exciting thing for Army fans at West Point and around the world, but as players, it was the fulfillment of all the hard work we had done as a team and as individuals. It was basically the fulfillment of that commitment that we embarked on together and it was a really special thing."

PV: *Considering the team had a winning record and won a bowl game a year ago to a 3-8 record this year, would a victory against Navy make this season just as successful as last year to you?*

AB: "At the beginning of the season, our goal is to have a winning record ... but, that being said, at this place I don't know if there is a bigger rivalry in college football or a bigger game for us to play as players. It doesn't say 'Beat Tulane' or 'Beat Temple' on any walls around here, there's the 'Beat Navy' Tunnel, it says it on roofs, it says it on walls, it says it on shirts and everything, so a win against Navy is big.

"Some people say it's just another game, but, as players, we're trying to win that next snap, trying to win that next play and compartmentalize as much as we can, but the overarching thing is we'll do anything to win this game."

PV: *What has it meant to you to be involved in the Army-Navy rivalry?*

AB: "Just playing in an NFL stadium with it full is so cool. It's electric and really cool to be a part of that and the history of the game. To look back at old pictures and records, it's been going on for more than 100 years, and you think about guys who were in our shoes and doing the same things and playing the

rivalry many years ago.

"Here we are just a small speck (in time), you look at the huge continuum of it and it's cool to be a part of all this.

"The game—I don't know if it's any different than any other game between the white lines, it's still just 11 guys on 11. But, certainly, there are those moments that are just so special—the electric feeling just before kickoff, which is more electric than any other game I've played. Unfortunately, for us, the great moments about the Army-Navy game have only been in our imaginations. I think about it when I go to bed. I think about that idea of singing (our alma mater) second. I think it can be a reality for us, it's right there for us to grab. To be able to compete for the opportunity to sing second is what we're working for just as those guys at Navy are working for and we're excited to line up with the best team winning."

PV: *Are you sick of them singing second?*

AB: "Absolutely. I think nine straight years from my perspective is enough."

PV: *A victory against Navy ... take the biggest win you've had here in your collegiate career, can you even imagine what the locker room would be like after a win against the Midshipmen?*

AB: "It would be exciting. Regardless, win or lose, this will be my last football game Saturday. The seniors are going on to different things ... but, for any young man, whatever level you're playing at, to say this is your last time you will get to put on pads, cleats and a chin strap and get to play this great game is tough, but I'm excited to get one more opportunity to play.

"Obviously, a win against Navy would be the culminating event of my football career."

Men's basketball halts road losing skid, now 3-5

By Brian Gunning
Army Athletic Communications

Junior forward Ella Ellis scored a game-high 20 points to lead the Army men's basketball team (3-5) to a 70-50 victory over Binghamton (0-6) Dec. 3 at the Events Center in Vestal, N.Y.

The win snapped Army's two-game overall losing streak and a nine-game skid in games played away from West Point.

Army's 20-point road victory was its first since a 61-40 win at Fairleigh Dickinson Dec. 7, 2009.

The Black Knights trailed 19-18 with less than nine minutes to go in the first half, but an 18-1 run put Army in control of the contest and gave the Black Knights a comfortable margin for the remainder of the contest.

Just one game after a 2-for-24 three-point shooting

performance, Army drilled 11 of its 19 triple tries (.579) and shot 54.2 percent overall (26-48).

The Black Knights' defense limited the Bearcats to just 33.3 percent from the field (19-57), including 30 percent from deep (6-20).

In addition to Ellis' second 20-point game of the season, senior guard Julian Simmons scored in double figures with 14 points, all in the first half.

Junior guard Jason Pancoe returned to action after missing the last three games with an injury and scored eight points, grabbed four rebounds and handed out four assists while committing just one turnover in 19 minutes.

Freshman guard Maxwell Lenox was Army's top rebounder with five, while Ellis' five assists were a team high.

Ten different Army players marked the scoring column.



Junior forward Ella Ellis scored 20 points to help Army beat Binghamton 70-50 Dec. 3.

ERIC S. BARTELT/PV

Army, the nation's leading rushing attack, faces Navy

By Army Athletic Communications

One of the most storied rivalries in all of college sports will be on display for the 112th time when Army (3-8) and Navy (4-7) renew acquaintances at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at FedEx Field in Landover, Md.

It is the first time the Black Knights and Midshipmen will meet in the Washington, D.C. area. FedEx Field will be the 16th venue to host the event.

The game will be televised nationally on CBS. Verne Lundquist is doing the play-by-play with Gary Danielson providing the color analysis.

Listen to the game on the radio on the Army Sports Network.

Hear all the action on WABC 770-AM New York, WALL 1340-AM Middletown, WEOK 1390-AM Poughkeepsie, Sirius Satellite Radio and XM Satellite Radio (both Channel 85). Rich DeMarco will provide the play-by-play action while Dean Darling provides the color commentary.

The game can also be heard nationally on Westwood One with John Tautges providing the play-by-play action and Eddie George providing the color analysis.

Coaching Match Up

- Army head coach Rich Ellerson
Alma Mater: Hawai'i, 1977
3rd season at Army (15-21, .417)

12th season overall (75-62, .547)

Record vs. Navy: 0-2

- Navy head coach Ken Niumatalolo
Alma Mater: Hawai'i, 1989
4th season at Navy (31-21, .596)
4th season overall (31-21, .596)
Record vs. Army: 3-0

Black Knights Recap

- The Black Knights enter the season's final game with a chance to win their first rushing title since 1998. It would be the ninth time in the last 14 seasons that a service academy led the country in rushing.

Army is averaging 350.91 yards per game. If the Black Knights can maintain that average, it would be the best rushing average by any team since Nebraska led the nation with 392.6 yards per contest during the 1997 season.

The Black Knights have led the country in rushing seven times (1944, 1945, 1954, 1984, 1993, 1996, 1998).

- Army's 3,860 rushing yards through 11 games in 2011 already stands as an academy record. The Black Knights' 340 yards against Temple lifted this year's team to the top of the list, passing the 1988 squad's total of 3,815.

- Sophomore running back Raymond Maples is on the verge of individual history. Maples has 984 yards, only 16 shy of posting the 15th 1,000-yard season in Army history. Maples would be just the third sophomore to accomplish the

feat (Mike Mayweather and Jared Hassin).

The Philadelphia native is averaging 7.4 yards per carry, which would be the best average in academy history among players with at least 100 attempts.

Scouting the Midshipmen

- Quarterback Kriss Proctor and fullback Alexander Teich have combined for more than 1,600 yards and 15 touchdowns this season despite each missing a game this season.

Proctor is the team's leading rusher with 817 yards and 12 scores and is averaging 81.7 yards per game. Teich has run for 790 yards and three touchdowns.

- Matt Warrick leads the Navy defense with 94 tackles and seven pass breakups. Jabaree Tuani leads the team with 12 tackles for loss and 5 1/2 quarterback sacks. Tra'ves Bush, Kwesi Mitchell and Chris Ferguson are tied for the team lead with two interceptions.

Lasting Impression

- Navy has won the last nine meetings between the two service academies, the longest winning streak by either team in series history. Army will also be trying to snap a 12-game losing skid in Commander In Chief's Trophy games.

The winner of this year's Army-Navy game will finish second in the annual series among the three service academies.

Air Force secured its second straight CIC Trophy with victories over both the Mids and Black Knights.