

The Notre Dame Times

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Let's Chat with Coach Pat

By: Nora Bloom

Nora Bloom interviewed Coach Pat Burke, who has been coaching track at NDA for 10 seasons.

Nora: Why did you choose NDA to coach?

Coach Pat: Notre Dame is home to me. I graduated in 2008, my brother in 2011, and my sister in 2016. When the Athletic Director at the time heard I was interested and reached out, it was a no-brainer.

Nora: What's the hardest thing about coaching?

Coach Pat: The hardest part is ensuring each of our athletes is able to participate in an event. Our team is 94 athletes strong. For some schools, that is their entire enrollment. However, our coaching staff always does what is best for our athletes and ensures we have everyone in an event.

Nora: How did it feel to win the Coach of the Year award?

Coach Pat: It was a great honor from the sports committee to be awarded this. However, I don't view this necessarily as "Coach of the Year." I'd view this as a "Team of the Year" award. No coach is successful without a great group of athletes behind them. I'm fortunate enough to have not only the best athletes, but the best kids in the diocese on our team.

Nora: Were you on a track team when you were in school?

Coach Pat: Yes, I was. I ran at St. Martin and then proceeded to run track at Bishop Timon St. Jude High School.

Nora: How did it feel to win the Championship last year?

Coach Pat: Winning last year felt great. It was a culmination of hard work, commitment, and dedication from our athletes to achieve the ultimate prize. These athletes took all they knew about track and put together one of the most dominant performances I've seen. Not only that, the way they carried themselves after the meet with sportsmanship was truly memorable.



Photo courtesy of Cash Kirkby

Nora: What was your most memorable moment from last year?

Coach Pat: Watching our athletes as they announced Notre Dame as the winners of the SITA championship. The look of joy on their faces was the highlight of my coaching career so far. Last year, we didn't find out about winning the diocesan meet until about a week after, so being able to see the live reaction of the athletes to, I mean, that's what it is all about.

Nora: Do you think this team has what it takes to go back-to-back this year?

Coach Pat: This team ABSOLUTELY has what it takes to go back-to-back! They have what it takes to accomplish anything. Not only on the track, but off it as well.

My Interview with Belle

By: Mary Claire Trudell

I interviewed Rose Trudell from NDA's production of *Beauty and the Beast* about her experience playing the lead role of Belle.

Q: What role did you play in *Beauty and the Beast*?

A: I performed the role of Belle.

Q: How did you feel when you got this part?

A: I was the most excited I have probably felt in my whole life.

Q: What was your favorite song in the show?

A: I really liked singing a change in me and watching Gaston from backstage.

Q: What is your favorite part of being in the show?

A: I love that I have improved my voice and my acting skills, but most of all I love making new friends in the cast.

Q: What was the most nerve-racking part of playing the lead role?

A: I was really nervous to memorize all my lines at first but in the end I was able to do it!

Q: How did you feel after finishing every performance?

A: After the first and second shows, I was proud of what I performed and accomplished on stage, but after the third show I was sad it was over and that it was the 8th graders' last performance at NDA.

Q: What do you hope the musical will be next year?

A: I don't mind what the show is next year, but I want to do as well as I did this year, no matter what role I play.



Ode to Summer

Poem by: Madelyn Doll

Summer, I am so happy when you come around
You are my favorite season
The weather makes me feel amazing
Oh summer, please always have the sun out

Your shine in the day makes me feel warm
UV so hot like an oven
Sandy shoes and wet hair
Sun shines over the cool air

Sunset, swimming with friends
Watermelon by the pool
You make me smile even when I'm upset



Photo courtesy of the NDA Facebook page:
Pictured left to right: Josie Graver, Rose Trudell,
and Aubrey O'Connor

Special thanks to the 8th graders who have dedicated their time, effort, and writing talents to the Notre Dame Times for the past two years! We will miss your contributions to the school newspaper and wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Cedar Point: What You Need to Know

By: Madelyn Martz

The 8th graders went to Sandusky, Ohio to visit Cedar Point! Cedar Point is a popular amusement park in the United States (and is considered one of the most visited in the US) and it's located in the "Roller Coaster Capital of the World." So, in case you end up going to Cedar Point in the near future, here are some things you should know.

Food—If you get the All Day Dining Plan (like we did) you will be able to get food and drink(s) every 90 minutes while inside the park. Although, there are some things you should know about this pass.

There are only specific things on menus you can order. For example, if you go to The Diner, you can only get a chicken tender meal, (cheese)burger meal, and french fries. If you want to get different things on the menu (like a milkshake) you will need to pay for it. Same thing for Starbucks and other restaurants within the park.

Money—Speaking of paying for things, Cedar Point is card only. This means that the stores or restaurants will not accept dollars for purchases. If you do not have a bank card then there are Cash-to-Card kiosks near the entrance that you can use to get a (Visa) debit card for the day (this card can also be used outside of the park at facilities that accept Visa cards. To receive these cards you will

need to bring physical cash and insert it into the kiosk (any amount), then when you are finished inserting the cash you need to make a confirmation that you do not wish to add anymore money onto your card, and finally when you confirm your amount the kiosk will give you your card.

Rides—Cedar Point is home to former and current world record breaking roller coasters.

*Siren's Curse, which is set to break the record of the tallest, fastest, and longest tilt roller coaster in the United States and North America in general.

*Gatekeeper, which is the park's only winged coaster, immediately became the fastest (67 mph), longest (4,164 ft), and it held the longest drop (164 ft) of any roller coaster of its kind.

*Top Thrill 2 holds the record for the tallest (420 ft), the tallest drop, and the fastest (120 mph) complete circuit roller coaster. The ride also holds the record for the tallest roller coaster in the world.

*Corkscrew became the first roller coaster to have 3 interventions (when the coaster makes you go upside down and right side up) and was also the first roller coaster to go over a pathway/midway.

Once again, these are only some of the former and current world record breaking rides.

Bags and Accessories—While going on a ride, you may have to put your bag in a cubby,

locker (which are rentable for money), or with a non-rider. This is because a good majority of the rides at Cedar Point prohibit any loose accessories (like sunglasses, phones, hats, etc.) and bags/backpacks on rides. There are a few exceptions like the Cadillac Cars or the kiddie rides, but once again most rides will not allow you to bring bags or accessories onto the ride with you.

Wait Times—Waiting is the absolute worst when going to a popular amusement park like Cedar Point, so I recommend getting to a roller coaster as soon as you can. When the 8th grade went to Cedar Point this year the weather was really bad, so most of the rides were closed and/or not operating. In result, this was a good thing and a bad thing. When a ride was closed, but then the workers began to test the ride, it was nice to get in line early because you would have a higher chance of getting on the ride and actually having time after. It was more unfortunate though because my friends didn't go on a whole lot of rides on that trip. Aside from bad weather, while you are waiting, be prepared to stand in one spot for more than 10 minutes.

I hope this article helps you navigate the park better when you go and I hope this information will intrigue and interest you into going!

Chrono Trigger: A Game Worth Your While

By: Connor Prendergast

Alright, so there's this game you see, it's called *Chrono Trigger*. It's like the best game ever, but no one (cough cough David Corbett cough cough) wants to talk with me about it, so I'm going to write it down here.

Chrono Trigger is a JRPG produced by Square Enix (although back then they were still Squaresoft) released for the Super Nintendo Entertainment System in 1995. It is known as one of the best games of all time for several reasons that I will tell you in this article. It is also known for the "dream team" which helped create it, Akira Toriyama, who designed most of the characters and is known for being the creator of the *Dragon Ball* franchise, Nobuo Uematsu, who composed the game's music and also did the music for numerous *Final Fantasy* titles, Yūji Horii, who was a supervisor and created the *Dragon Quest* franchise, Kazuhiko Aoki, a programmer who worked on several *Final Fantasy* titles, and last but not least Hironobu Sakaguchi, creator of the *Final Fantasy* series.

Now, in my critiques I usually like to focus on both positive and negative aspects of the game in question, but I couldn't really think of anything major that was wrong with the

game, so expect a lot of positivity. *Chrono Trigger* starts out with a boy named Crono waking up on the day of the millennial fair. At the fair, he bumps into a girl named Marle who follows him around. When Crono goes to see Lucca, one of his childhood friends he finds that she's made a new invention called the telepod. When Marle tries to use it, she ends up being sent to the past. Crono goes in to save her, and the rest is quite literally history. Eventually, they time travel to the future, which is in an apocalyptic state. Crono

and co. decide they don't want the world to come to this, and decide to change the future by defeating the alien parasite that destroyed their world, Lavos.

Graphically, the game is very impressive, with its sprite based 2d style holding up incredibly well even today. The story is a ton of fun, with some great characters coming from each and every era of history. In terms of gameplay, it uses an Active Time Battle system where each party member attacks individually instead of you and the enemy taking turns. Characters can spend mp in battle to use special techs, which deal far

more damage than regular attacks and can even hit multiple enemies at once. There are various weapons and pieces of armor, as well as accessories which can be used to boost characters stats, allowing them to deal more damage or be able to survive more hits. Time travel is also a central mechanic and is very important to both gameplay and the story. For the first half of the game, time travel is done through special gates which connect two specific eras, until Crono and friends acquire a time machine called the Epoch that allows them to travel to any of the eras. I would also like to point out that the game has some incredible music, whether it's battle music, the peaceful sounds of the world map, or the enchanting melodies of the kingdom of Zeal it's all amazing, look it up on Spotify.

To conclude, *Chrono Trigger* is a truly incredible game with little to no flaws. Its gameplay, music, and story are some of the best ever created. I highly recommend playing

this game, it's even on Steam if you're not sure where to find it. I hope that I've convinced at least one more person to play this amazing game. That's all from me.

"*Chrono Trigger* is a truly incredible game with little to no flaws."



Stanley Cup: Playoffs Overview

By: Allyson Ybarra

The Stanley Cup playoffs is a series of rounds to win the Stanley Cup in hockey. The Stanley Cup is a trophy won by the champion of the NHL. (National Hockey League) There are four rounds the teams have to compete in to get into the Stanley Cup Final/the final round to win the Stanley Cup. There are around sixteen teams qualifying to enter the playoffs. The teams that were selected in this year's playoffs were the Carolina Hurricanes (CAR), Washington Capitals (WSH), Toronto Maple Leafs (TOR), Florida Panthers (FLA), Dallas Stars (DAL), Winnipeg Jets (WPG), Edmonton Oilers (EDM), Vegas Golden Knights (VGK), Saint Louis Blues (STL), Colorado Avalanche (COL), Minnesota Wild (MIN), LA Kings (LAK), Ottawa Senators (OTT), Tampa Bay Lightning (TBL), Montreal Canadiens (MTL), and New Jersey Devils (NJD).

In the first round, there are a series of **seven** games each team competes in. Although, only **eight** teams will move onto round two. The first team(s) that wins four games will move on. The teams that made it onto round two were the Winnipeg Jets, Dallas Stars, Vegas Golden Knights, Toronto Maple Leafs, Florida Panthers, Washington Capitals, and Carolina Hurricanes.

In the second round, these eight teams will compete to make it to round three. As the same as round one, there is a series of seven games and the first four teams to win four will advance to round three. The four teams that made it to round three are the Edmonton Oilers, Carolina Hurricanes, Florida Panthers, and Dallas Stars.

Round three of the Stanley cup playoffs is called the **conference finals** (CF). Only **four** teams can make it to this round. Like the others, there are seven games the teams compete in. The first two teams to win four games advance to the final round of the playoffs. The last and final round of the playoffs is the Stanley Cup Final.

The teams that have qualified to the fourth round are the Florida Panthers and Edmonton Oilers. Florida beat Carolina 4-1. EDM leads DAL 4-1. In my opinion, I believe that the Florida Panthers will win the cup the second year in a row. But, if I could choose, I'd want Edmonton to win the cup.

In conclusion, the Stanley Cup Playoffs is one of the hardest trophies to win. But in the end, the winner played hard, worked hard, and deserves the trophy the most. (UPDATE: The Oilers and the Panthers are the two teams in the Finals.)

Anneka

Poem By: Connor Law

The men in green
Silently, unseen,
Came to take us away
I know not why
Fate wrote that I
Must become one with the fray
As I watched the rain
On the windows, on the train
The others spoke of horrors to unfurl
My eyes were flushed
My blood spilled and rushed
I know not why, for I am just a young girl



Mango: Concrete Poem

By: Bane Agustin

Mango mango
Mango mango mango
Juicy juicy juicy juicy juicy
Soft soft soft soft soft soft soft
Sweet sweet sweet sweet sweet
Yellow yellow yellow yellow yellow
Orange orange orange orange orange
Green green green green green green
Red red red red red red red red red
Red red red red red red red red red
Red red red red red red red red red
Stringy stringy stringy stringy stringy
Juicy juicy juicy juicy juicy juicy juicy
Soft soft soft soft soft soft soft soft
Sweet sweet sweet sweet sweet
Yellow yellow yellow yellow yellow
Orange orange orange
Green green green
Mango mango

Buffalo Sabres: Top Two NHL Draft Update 2020-2023

By: Allyson Ybarra

As we all know, the Buffalo Sabres are Buffalo's official hockey team. Each year, there is an NHL draft. Which means a series of young hockey players could potentially be drafted to the team. Each player who is drafted by the Sabres will start on the Rochester Americans, (The Buffalo Sabres AHL team) letting them start out playing almost professionally. Now, let's begin the updates! Starting off with the 2020 draft.

The top two players who were drafted in the 2020 NHL draft were Jack Quinn and JJ Peterka. Jack Quinn is from Cobden, Canada. He was an eighth round pick. He was 19 when he was drafted, he is now 23 years old. He stayed with the Rochester Americans in 2020-2021. He was drafted to the official Buffalo Sabres team in 2022 and has been on the team since then. Now, moving on, JJ Peterka is originally from Munich, Germany. He was a 34th round pick. He was drafted to the Rochester Americans when he was 18 and is now 23. He played in Rochester in 2020-2021. He officially joined the Buffalo Sabres in 2022 and has been here since then.

In 2021, the top two players that were drafted to the NHL were Owen Power and Isak Rosen. Owen Power was drafted when he was 19 and was a first round pick. He is currently 22 years old. He is from Mississauga, Canada. He officially joined the Buffalo Sabres in 2022 and has been on the team since then. Isak Rosen is 22 years old and is from Stockholm, Sweden. He has been on the Rochester Americans since he was drafted. He joined the Americans when he was 18.

In 2022, the top two players that were drafted were Noah Ostlund and Jiri Kulich. Noah Ostlund is currently 21 years old. He was drafted when he was 18. He was a 16th round pick. He is from Nykvarn Sweden. He was drafted to the Rochester Americans and has been there since. Jiri Kulich was drafted when he was 18 and he's currently 21. He was born in Kadan, Czechia/Czech (CHECK) Republic He was a 28th round pick and was drafted to the Rochester Americans. He joined the NHL/Buffalo Sabres in the 2024-2025 season. He is currently playing on the Amerks to gain more ice time.

In 2023 the top two players that were drafted were Zach Benson and Anton Wahlberg. Zach Benson is 20 years old and was drafted when he was 18. He is from Chilliwack, Canada. He was **not** drafted to Rochester. He went straight to the Buffalo Sabres because of how good of a player he was. He was a 13th round pick. Anton Wahlberg is currently 19 years old. He was drafted when he was 18. He is from Malmo, Sweden. He was drafted to the Rochester Americans and has been there since he was drafted. He was the 39th round pick.

In conclusion, all these players worked hard and played hard to earn the draft to the Buffalo Sabres/Rochester Americans.

Two Haiku

Poems By: Jane Bookhagen

Spring Smell

See the buds on trees
Smell the blooming flow'rs in air
Hear the birds chirping



The Smiling Sun

The sun is smiling
Children playing in the pool
Smell the grass so green

Happy Summer, Notre Dame! See you in the fall!