



Be a **PART** of it!

Supporting District 129 Athletes

Spring 2013 ~ Page 1

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**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Dear Fellow Blackhawk Families, Friends, and Fans,

As we conclude another school year we say goodbye to our Senior Athletes and wish the well in their future. Supporting our student athletes and sharing their accomplishments is what makes the West Aurora Blackhawks program so successful. The West Aurora Blackhawk Sports Boosters have been supporting our athletes and teams since 1970, and we have contributed well over a million dollars to date.

As of the June Board meeting we have introduced the new Blackhawk Sports Boosters Board for the 2013-14 school years. I am very excited with the enthusiasm, dedication, and the support this Board brings to the New Year. The Blackhawk Sports Boosters look forward to your continued support in helping out all the athletic programs. In addition to your financial help by becoming a Sports Booster Member, why not join the fun and volunteer your time through a variety of positions. We will continue producing and publishing our own programs for the fall, winter, and spring seasons which we are hopeful will become an annual revenue stream in supporting our student athletes.

The Athletic Department and the Sports Boosters have done the "Wish List" for all sports at the high school, further information regarding the capital items will be in in the fall newsletter.


Again, thank you for your continued support for the West Aurora Blackhawks. Your generosity means a great deal to our athletes and community.

Roll on, you Blackhawks Roll...

John Sudges  
President, Blackhawk Sports Boosters

FOUNDED IN 1970,  
The West Aurora Blackhawk Sports Boosters is the official athletics fundraising organization of West Aurora High School. Since its inception, the Boosters have raised more than one million dollars toward support of athletic scholarships, equipment and supplies. This year, thanks to your contribution, the Boosters have proudly provided more than \$65,000 to support our coaches' 'Wish List' requests!


The West Aurora Sports Boosters Newsletter is now electronic at:  
[www.sd129.org/boosters](http://www.sd129.org/boosters)  
If you still wish to receive a paper copy, please contact Donna Olson at  
[RxMama2@gmail.com](mailto:RxMama2@gmail.com) or at 630-892-7299


 Save These Dates

August 14  
First Day of Athletics 

August 21  
First Day of School 

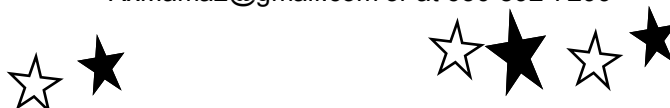
August 23  
Fall Sports Jamboree 

August 30  
East-West Football Game 

Sept. 24-28  
Homecoming Week 

October 18  
Fall Sports Senior Night 

  
**BOOSTERS**  
**GRANT**  
**WISHES**



You can't put a limit on anything.  
The more you dream, the farther you get.  
-Michael Phelps

**Check out the WAHS athletic web-site at: <http://athletics.sd129.org>**

# Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors

## **Gold Level \$1,000-\$1,999**

Dart Container Corporation  
Kirhofer's Sports  
Dreyer Sports Medicine  
Johnson Harkness Park

## **Silver Level \$500-\$999**

*Innovative Periodontics, Donald G. Flynn, DDS, PC*  
*Sikich*  
*North Aurora Landscaping*  
*Old Second Bank*  
*Cyclones Volleyball Club*

## **Bronze Level \$250-\$499**

Advanced Automotive Care  
Hawk'Em  
Nedrow Decorating, Inc.  
Rick & Sonia Schmitgen  
(Grandparents of Spencer & Chandler Thomas)

## Chalk Talk

### Dive in and Meet Chris Ranallo, the Girls Swim Team Coach

By Tom Herget

Chris Ranallo joined West in 2012 as its girls' swim and dive team coach.

After student teaching at Naperville North and a year on assignments at Metea Valley, Chris saw the opportunity at West. Chris joined the staff as a PE teacher, instructing five classes a day.

You have to be an early bird (preferably crane or egret) to be a WA swimmer. It's pool time from 5:15 to 6:30 Mondays and Fridays; the weight room on Tuesdays and Thursdays, a half hour later.

After the school day concludes, Chris and his team head up Randallo Road (oops, make that Randall Road) to IMSA where the team practices August through November. During the off-season, the girls stay water-wise in the pools at Marmion, Plano and the Vaughan Center. Sorry, Wii Swimming doesn't count.

The bus rides to our worthy opponents' aqua-sites are quieter than you would expect. Chris encourages homework be done there so the girls can focus on their teammates between their own events.

Coach Chris is a native of Algonquin where his brother and parents still live. Chris swam at Jacobs High School all four years and made it to State. He went to college at North Central where he majored in health and physical education and earned his coaching endorsement too.

Chris does find a little time to pursue his favorite hobby of collecting sports autographs. We are glad he is here to put his signature on the West High swimming and diving program.

# Spring Scholar Athletes

Congratulations to the over 200 athletes who earned a grade point of 3.5 or higher!



**BASEBALL**  
Acevedo, Oscar  
Arsenault, Jacob  
Butcher, Zachary  
Castillo, Evan  
Elkins, Douglas  
Hannan, Trevor  
Hershey, Douglas  
Kauffmann, Brett  
Kipp, Winford  
Leon, Marc  
Love, Logan  
Sosa, Omar  
Wahl, Ethan  
Wyeth, Cody  
Gillfillan, Ryan  
Rundle, Cole  
Tunney, James  
Walden, Kyle  
Liebelt, Jared  
Palmbly, Seth  
Andalcio, Jacob  
Shliff, Tyler  
Simpson, Tyler  
Bauer, Eric

**SOCCER**  
Farias, Athena  
Garcia, Cassandra  
Guzman, Andrea  
Huerta, Wendy  
Lehman, Jillian  
Rojas, Anna  
Schultz, Anne  
Smith, Malley  
Fogle, Danielle  
Jamieson, Jadae  
McKay, Brogan  
Pinedo, Yosemite  
Shropshire, Ashley  
Holman, Kelly  
Mauricio, Samantha  
Carrillo Lavaire, Nicole  
Chavez, Jacqueline  
Hix, Carli  
Mejia, Jasmine  
Pealstrom, Hannah  
Sanchez, Daisy  
Kulakowski, Reilly  
Rotolo, Alicia  
Torres, Karla  
Bueno, Daniela  
Campos, Catalina  
Zima, Shelby

**BADMINTON**  
Brummel, Teighan  
Dumba, Christin  
LaFond, Annabelle  
Laurx, Joanna  
Leonardi, Olivia  
Muth, Lindsay  
Pratomo, Devinta  
Schmidt, Nicole  
Tovar, Rosa  
Poppen, Jordyn  
Voris, Megan  
Moenkemier, Amber  
Runyan, Madison  
Saucedo, Cynthia  
Sutarik, Mary  
Viejon, Francheska  
Vongphakdy, Khaunsavan  
Franco, Brianna  
Heiss, Demi  
Hussaini, Sarah  
Mohamed, Myar  
Moser, KaiLoni  
Maxson, Shannon  
Ramirez, Valeria  
Cheung, Kamolchanok  
Garcia, Mayra  
Olson, Kerri  
Quach, Zsa Zsa  
Shahid, Hiba  
Connell, Lauren  
Conrad, Emese  
Johnson, Samantha  
Labombarbe, Jessica  
Yang, Meng

**TENNIS**  
Chaidez, Meliton  
Lathan, Adam  
Morales, Josue  
Sodetz, Kenneth  
McCarney, Shawn  
Sailer, Edward  
Spooner, Adam  
Swayze, Stone  
La, Brandon  
Rodriguez, Christopher  
Balduff, Aaron  
Jones, Gabriel  
Rotolo, Daniel  
Wuthrich, Zachary

**SOFTBALL**  
Erickson, Claire  
Fidler, Melissa  
Getz, Alyssa  
Gramly, Kaylee  
Lundell, Sydney  
Ortlieb, Bridgette  
Townsend, Kelly  
Fabrizius, Mackenzie  
McCreedy, Corey  
McCreedy, Jamie  
Shliff, Kimberly  
Fitzgerald, Rose  
McArdle, Julie  
Kovanic, Laura  
Desjardine, Samantha  
Frauenhoff, Carley  
Jimenez, Cara  
Hunger, Victoria  
Podschweit, Kendall  
Podschweit, Taylor  
Bailey, Margaret  
Banks, Hannah  
Hayton, Kaylee  
Mikyska, Jessica

**VOLLEYBALL**  
Caldera, Jose  
Carder, Kevin  
Carpentier, Kyle  
Chaurize, Jacob  
Chavez, Felipe  
Evans, Taylor  
Flores, Carlos  
Golembeck, Ryan  
Haverkate, Erik  
Kilmer, Chase  
Lavery, Dean  
Malette, Micah  
Reist, Matthew  
Roos, Riley  
Sears, Rashawn  
Thwaites, William  
Roggeman, James  
Catania, Nicholas  
Spooner, William  
Fitzgerald, Adam  
Reynolds, Justin  
Mascetti, Michael  
Oncken, Dylan  
Hizel, Michael  
Kent, Sean  
Swanson, Aaron

**TRACK & FIELD**  
Avila, Frank  
Barbush, Jacob  
Boland, Graeme  
Brown, Corey  
Cavender, Noah  
DeBolt, Alex  
Martinez, Francisco  
Wood, Austin  
Zinzer, Zachary  
Castro, June  
Dray, Benjamin  
Esposito, Luke  
Golembeck, Randy  
Kim, Max  
Raymundo, Michael  
Barbel, Noah  
Castro, June  
Cavender, Luke  
Savage, Tyler  
Zak, Jason  
Gomez, Omar  
Herrera, Robert  
Isaacson, Graham  
McKay, Brandon  
Oros, Anthony  
Suvira, Milomir  
Truckenbrod, Zachary  
Aguilar, Jennifer  
Barry, Carmen  
Bishop, Courtney  
McCleary, Kara  
Rachow, Leah  
Smith, Madeline  
Williams, Ashley  
Lee, Grace  
Maciel, Luisa  
Santos, Theresa  
Aguilar, Gabriela  
LeMaire, Riley  
Mahmoud, Aisha  
Pryer, Mabrianne  
Stirn, Emmalea  
Williams, Dynasty  
Gollwitzer, Miranda  
Marion, Maya  
Spagnola, Emma  
Walton, Kyla  
Kulisek, Elizabeth  
Loran, Claire  
Mehlbrech, Emily  
Rios, Alejandra  
Smith, Ariel



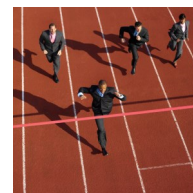
## Girls Track 2013

West Girls track program continued to prove to be a dominating force throughout the Indoor and Outdoor season during the spring of 2013. The program opened the season by capturing its fourth straight Title at the Hononegah Indoor 18 team Classic Invitational. The girls showcased their talent by scoring double in many of the events. Maya Marion opened her season with a throw of 40'8" which was 3 inches farther than the current school record. Anita Saffa took 1<sup>st</sup> in the 50 and the 200 meter dash, as well as, ran the anchor leg of the 800 meter relay and the 1600 meter relay that placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Monique Dunum, Elisa Zinn, Kyla Walton and Tykia Neal were also members of the relays. Emma Spagnola took 1<sup>st</sup> in both hurdles and the long and high jump. Emma was later named the female Runner MVP of the Invite. Other contributors were Kyla Walton – 1<sup>st</sup> place triple jump, Nadine Dunsing-6<sup>th</sup> place pole vault, and our distance medley relay team. We also capture the Indoor DVC championship by holding off our very tough competitor Wheaton Warrenville South. We also had eight girls that qualified and competed in the Indoor track meet in 9 events.

The Outdoor season was just as eventful as the indoor season. We captured the Downers Grove Invite Title for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in school. There were many contributors that helped garnish the win, but Nadine Dunsing earned the honor by capturing her 1<sup>st</sup> every title in the pole vault. We also captured the Kane County Invite Title for the fourth straight time. The girls program just missed winning the Outdoor DVC and Sectionals Championship by no more than 2 points.

We had 9 girls to qualify for the State Meet at Eastern in 9 events. We had a phenomenal show-

ing at the State meet by Anita Saffa who medal and place 6<sup>th</sup> in the 100 m dash and Emma Spagnola who was State Champion in the long jump with a leap of 18'9 1/4 " which is a new school record, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100 and 300 m hurdles. She also set a new school record in the 300 hurdles with a time of 42.9. The girls track program finish in 4<sup>th</sup> overall in State. We were just 1 point from 3<sup>rd</sup> place, which is the highest achievement the program has ever received. The following girls qualified and competed at the State track meet: Emma Spagnola: 100 and 300 hurdles and long jump; Anita Saffa: 100, 400 and 1600 relay; Kyla Walton: long jump and 1600 relay; Maya Marion: shot put; Chloeressa Coleman High jump; Claire Loran: Mile; and Monique Dunum, Elisa Zine and Tykia Neal in the 400 and 1600 relays.



## Boys Track 2013

Over 120 athletes participated in Boys Track this past year. And despite the challenging weather, the program had another successful year finishing 2nd at the Indoor DVC Meet and 4th at the Outdoor DVC Meet.

Aaron Kennebrew and the 4x800 meter relay qualified for the State Meet with second place finishes at the Sectional Meet. The 4x800 athletes were Connor McCue, Zach Truckenbrod, Brandon McKay, and Alan Martinez.



## Boys Baseball 2013

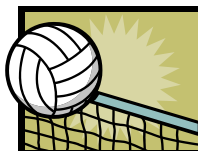


The 2013 Blackhawks finished the season 14-17 overall and 7-14 in the DVC, finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the Conference. The Blackhawks lost in the Regional semifinal to DVC Champ Naperville Central. The 2013 season was a season of streaks for the Blackhawks, beginning the season 6-0 defeating St. Charles East, who finished in the top 4 in 4A, and Geneva along the way. After a heartbreaking loss to Wheaton St. Francis (who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in 3A) in extra innings, the Blackhawks struggled in the DVC. Eventually the Blackhawks were able to get things back on track with a 3 game sweep of West Chicago as well as Glenbard East. In the opening round of the IHSA Tournament, West defeated a higher seeded Marmion 3-1. Before eventually losing to Naperville Central to end the season, the Blackhawks were on a 7 game winning streak. 1 player was named All-Conference: D.J. Varney, while 1 was named Honorable Mention All-Conference: Mikey Golich. Team Captain was Adam Lipscomb and MVP was D.J. Varney. The Baseball team continued play this summer at both the Varsity and Sophomore levels. Also, the baseball program held its 4<sup>th</sup> annual summer camp from June 7<sup>th</sup> - June 10<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> graders. This year marked the highest involvement in the camp so far.



## Girls Soccer 2013

We finished the season at 7-14-2. It was a rebuilding year for us and we are excited for next season because we are returning 9 starters. We were a very young team and now that we have the experience, we will be ready to compete next season. We finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the West Aurora Invite. We had 2 players named to the All-Conference team, Sam O'Brien (1st Team) and Daniela Bueno (Honorable Mention). We also had 2 girls named All-Sectional, Sam O'Brien and Reilly Kulakowski.



## Boys Volleyball 2013

Boys Volleyball had a rebuilding season, developing young talent for future success. We moved up two talented freshmen right away, and they really took the opportunity and ran with it as the season progressed. Coming off two winning seasons, back-to-back, the boys struggled last year going 4-31; however, they kept their heads up the whole time and fought in every match. We are expecting the next three seasons to be a success.



# Aurora Claims Battle of Burbs Win

## 101.9 FM team welcomed by West reps

Special to the Blackhawk Booster Newsletter by reporter T. Herget

On April 11 the city of Aurora celebrated its capturing of the 101.9 FM Mix's annual Suburban Madness Battle of the Burbs Contest where cities and towns battled for votes in a bracket competition.



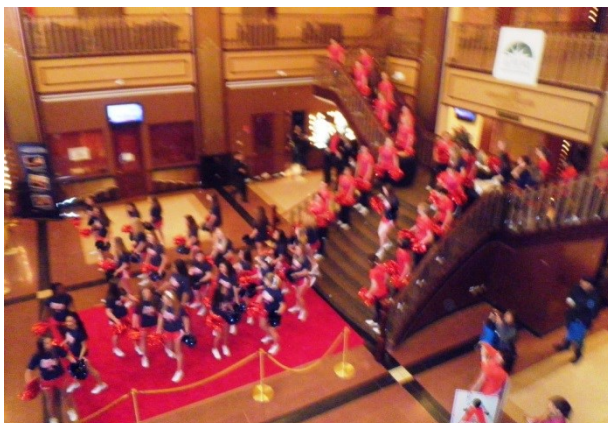
Aurora defeated Frankfort to advance to the Elite 8 and then out-voted Rolling Meadows to enter into the Final 4. Aurora's battle against Schererville, Indiana in the semi-finals was a narrow victory with Aurora winning 50.3% of the vote to enter into the Championship Round against Lemont. Then, the Aurora community united in an hour-long text and computer voting match to clinch the championship title with 62% of the vote.



Morning radio show hosts Kathy & Eric dispatched their traveling Mix radio station van to Aurora. The dignitaries Big Karwowski and traffic specialist Melissa were escorted from the toll road to the Paramount by fire trucks and police cars.

While many are not sure what exactly had to be done to earn this coveted award, Mayor Weisner and the city of Aurora gladly accepted the trophy at the Paramount Arts Center.

The guests received a rousing welcome from West High's pep band, the dance team and the cheer squad. Faculty members Whitney Martino, Tom Davidson and John Sierakowski oversaw fine performances from our pep people. The guests were awed by the spirit and enthusiasm as the dignitaries presented the mayor with this coveted trophy.



East High's drill team enthusiastically demonstrated their precision, but no other school represented our city. More often than once the Big Karwowski had to quiet the crowd so the acceptance ceremony could be heard on live radio.

West High's spirit was incredibly reflected in the eyes of our guests. The band, the poms and the cheerleaders made a lasting impression. Their performance was a positive reflection of West, its programs and its people.

# 2013 BLACKHAWK JAMBOREE

Friday, August 23rd

<b>DEMONSTRATION</b>		<b>Auditorium</b>
<u>Sport</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Athletic Dept Meeting</u>

<b>5:30 - 6:10pm</b>	Soccer - Boys	Stadium	Football
	Volleyball - Girls	Red Field House	Cheer
	Tennis - Girls	Tennis Courts	Pom
	Swimming - Girls	IMSA	Cross Country - B & G
			Golf - B & G

<b>6:15- 6:45pm</b>	Cheer	Main Gym
	Poms	Blue Field House
	Cross County - B & G	Stadium - Track
	Golf - Boys	Practice Soccer - East
	Golf - Girls	Practice Football - West
	Football - Frosh, Soph	Stadium - Turf



<b>6:50- 7:50pm</b>	Football - Varsity	Stadium	Soccer
	<b>GO BLACKHAWKS!!</b>		Volleyball
			Tennis
			Swimming

## EVERYONE REPORTS TO THE STADIUM

<b>8pm</b>	Band Performs
	March of Athletes - Athletes & Coaches report to Vistor side of Stadium
	Closing Remarks - Buckley

### WHAT TO DO...

1. Join the Blackhawk Sports Booster Club
2. Check out the Blackhawks Strength Room. Meet our strength & conditioning coach Tom Kraus.
3. Check out the Athletic Training Facility & meet our fall trainers: April Sonnefeldt & Thane Halstead
4. Concessions & Merchandise are OPEN!
5. Sign up for WAHS Athletic List Serve
6. Check out all the sport teams in action!



Be a  
**PART**

•of  
**it!**

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

**Address Service Requested**

**Spring 2013 NEWSLETTER**  
**Chalk Talk with Coach Chris Ranallo**  
**& Coach Tad Keely**  
**Spring Sports Updates**

Check out our updated web page at  
[www.sd129.org/boosters](http://www.sd129.org/boosters)

Membership for the 13-14 school year will begin in July.  
Online membership registration is available.

## West Nets Tad

### Meet Tad Keely, Girls' Tennis Coach

By Tom Herget

Tad Keely is only the third girls' tennis coach in West's past 30 years. Tad came to West in 2012 after several years of teaching and coaching in the Oswego school system,

During the day, Tad is a guidance counselor. He has students with surnames starting with A and B. His objective is to make those letters their subject grades. (Sure glad he didn't get C through D students.)

Tad, a native of Aurora, grew up in Montgomery and later Oswego. Tad was active athletically at Oswego High, competing on the football, basketball and tennis teams. His summer league hoops opponents included Sherron Collins, Julian Wright and Derek Rose. His tennis prowess qualified him for State twice. And his football skills got him a scholarship at the University of Illinois, where he was the long snapper for four years under Ron Zook. Tad's very first play was in the Rose Bowl, when the then-first string snapper was injured on the first punt.

Flash! Just as we go to press, the editorial staff has learned that Tad will be giving up his tennis commitments to focus more on his counseling duties. The courts will miss him!