

# The Observer

## Weekly

Cloverleaf Inside and Out

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### Cloverleaf Double Duo is Headed to Slippery Rock

By Casey Hill and Shelby Kozma

Katie Kolodka and Alaina Jordan have played soccer together since they were just four years old and they are now almost eighteen! In the fall of 2011, they will both be taking their skills to Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. Slippery Rock is a Division II school.

"We are not only teammates, but we are also good friends outside of the sport," Kolodka explains.

"Yes, we are best friends," Jordan giggles.

The girls are excited to play on the on the same team at the next level.

"It's really fun because we play really well together and we both like to be competitive," Kolodka admits.

"We have been playing together for so long that we know each other's tendencies, which makes it easy to play together," says Jordan.

As most may realize, college and high school are completely different in many ways, not only on the field, but with the academic aspect. In high school, pretty much anyone can participate on a team as long as you meet the requirements. College is a different story. They send out recruits to only pick the best of the best to play for their school.

"I think college soccer will be a way faster pace, definitely more conditioning!" states Jordan.

"I agree that it will be a faster pace game; I think it will also be much more physical," Kolodka adds.

In high school, both girls play on defense.

"Next year, I will not be playing the same position as I do now; I will most likely be playing midfield in college," clarifies Jordan.

"I am playing the same position in college as far as I know," Kolodka explains.

With college comes many new experiences that most highschoolers look for-



Alaina Jordan and Katie Kolodka will be together. Photo courtesy of Casey Hill

ward to.

"I am very excited because the team is really nice and funny and I'm excited for soccer-golf! I am also very ready to get away from high school!" exclaims Kolodka.

"I am excited because I like everything that Slippery Rock has to offer—including watching the boys' soccer team," Jordan says.

The girls each had a deciding factor for them to go to Slippery Rock.

"They had my major there, and they have good, competitive soccer with a nice team and nice coaches," Jordan explains.

Kolodka adds, "I think the campus it really pretty and I love the dorms. I also really like the coaches!"

The girls both have their majors

planned out, which is very helpful in making your college decision.

"I plan on double-majoring in accounting and sports management," Kolodka says.

Jordan plans on majoring in exercise science in order to become a physical therapist.

Katie says Jordan was a factor in her decision to attend Slippery Rock.

"Partly - it was an added bonus that she is going and I will have one of my teammates playing with me."

Both girls want to play other intramural sports. Kolodka is not sure which sports, but Jordan knows she wants to play intramural basketball for sure.

Good luck to both girls in taking their soccer experience to another level.

# Miner Miracle Heard around the World

By *Adrea Baughman*

After more than 70 days of being trapped underground, all 33 of the Chilean miners have been successfully rescued and brought back to the surface.

What ABC News is calling the “Miracle at the Mine,” the world watched in awe as each man emerged from the mine in high spirits after a rescue the most thought could not be accomplished.

The San Jose mine, located in Copiapo, Chile, held the miners approximately 700 meters below the ground with very restricted access to the surface after massive amounts of rock entrapped them on Aug. 5.

“It must be good to be out after being stuck down there in such a hot, dark place,” commented junior Josh Brown. “Their families must be in a lot of relief having the miners back now.”

The rescue, which was initially expected to take place sometime in December, was accomplished by lowering a small capsule into the narrow shaft that brought up one man at a time.

What essentially kept the miners in good condition was the leadership and cooperation among the men. Strict rationing of food and water and even exercising allowed the men to stay in healthy condition. One of the experienced miners even coordinated when to have the lanterns on and off to help simulate night and day.

Health experts from all over the world were consulted to help develop a guide for how to keep the miners alive for such a long dura-



A picture from the rescue efforts in San Jose de Copiapo on Aug. 10, 2010.

*Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons*

tion of time. The men were kept on a healthy diet, including antidepressants, a daily schedule, and designated areas in the mine shaft for sleeping, eating, and working which kept the conditions bearable until their ascension to the surface.

“I can’t even imagine being underground for so long,” said staff member Todd Clark. “The fact that they got together and worked it out under stress is remarkable.”

What has also been a stir in the news is the groundbreaking technology used to retrieve the miners.

The rescue capsule, the “Phoenix,” is being hailed as one of the most innovative inventions used to date. Consultants all over the world helped create the pod and thought of almost every circumstance that could occur. Al-

though it was so narrow that the miners were even required to diet in order to fit inside, the capsule included oxygen supply, video feed for monitoring, blood pressure cuffs, and other health screenings.

Fortunately enough, almost all the men remain in good spirits and none had serious medical conditions after the experience in the mine, although most are fragile psychologically. The Chilean government, though, is doing all they can to aid the men in their recovery.

“I think this incident really brought the world together and to use different technologies to save them and as everyone waited to see them come out alive,” said Clark. “It’s good to see this kind of good news when we usually hear the negative stuff a lot.”

## Quiz & Quotes

What is your favorite Pokemon?



**Wyatt Nagy (9):**

“Picachu - because he shoots lightning out of his cheeks! That’s cool!”



**Connor Coleman (12):**

“Noctowl - because he is an owl.”



**Clay Vaughn (10):**

“Picachu—because of his electrons and his iron tail!”



**Jackson Keller (11):**

“Charzard - he is the most awesome.”

# NFL Cracking Down on Big Hits

By Zack Miglich

This past Sunday, several big hits drew attention to the NFL authorities causing a crackdown on fines. The safety of the players is the #1 concern and players are paying the price for breaking rules and endangering other players’ safety with huge hits.

One of the biggest hitters in the game, James Harrison of the Pittsburgh Steelers, a top team in the NFL, drew some of the most attention with two controversial hits against the Cleveland Browns.

The first one came against Brown’s wide receiver Josh Cribbs. As Cribbs was running on a wildcat play, he was wrapped up by Lamar Woodley and then hit hard by the Steelers’ Harrison with a shot to the head. The tackle sidelined Cribbs with a concussion the rest of the game.

The next shot to the head by Harrison was delivered to Mohamed Massaquoi, a Brown’s wide receiver, also sidelining him for the rest of the game with a concussion.

Harrison’s aggressive play cost him a

fine of \$75,000 and has brought up discussion of retirement.

“I’m going to have to sit down and have a serious conversation with my coach and see if I can actually play by NFL rules and still be effective,” Harrison said to Fox Sports Radio. “If not, I may have to give up playing football.”

“I hope he does retire; it will help the Browns!” said senior Ryan Engel.

Two other players in the NFL, Brandon Meriweather of the New England Patriots and Dunta Robinson of the Atlanta Falcons, were both fined \$50,000 for similar hits on other players in the NFL that were labeled as dangerous.

“Let the boys play!” said senior Brandon Whitslar of the fines.

“I don’t think that the NFL should be fining the players,” added junior Derek Daubemire. “They are just playing hard-hitting football.”

If players cannot soon follow the rules and eliminate the dangerous play, then the league will crack down even more and enforce suspensions which could cause some teams valuable talent.

## Skypebook?

By CJ Martin

The very popular communication website, Facebook, has had serious talks about teaming up with the internet phone provide, Skype. This alliance between these two major companies is supposed to be announced within the next couple weeks.

If the partnership goes through, it would allow people on Facebook to connect to Skype via their Facebook accounts. They could then have voice and video chats and send text messages with their Facebook friends through Skype.

Many people around the school think that this is an interesting idea.

“It’s pretty cool. It is quite amazing that the internet offers a free telephone service to anyone!” exclaimed junior George Miller.

This partnership comes just a month after

Facebook’s competitor, Google, introduced a voice service into their G-mail accounts. This puts a lot of pressure on Google, which is trying to become more social so users will spend more time on Google than Facebook.

If the agreement plays out, it would combine Skype’s 560 million users with Facebook’s 500 million users.

Even though all this sounds good, there are still some people who aren’t big fans of the idea.

Junior RJ Bechtel explains, “I like Facebook the way it is. Island Paradise is the best game ever! They shouldn’t change anything.”

This possible partnership between Facebook and Skype could make these two companies more popular than they have ever been before.

# Watch Out! Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite!

By *Brandon Whitslar, Ben Weinerman, and Cory Woodhall*

Bed bugs are becoming a serious problem all over the nation. It does not matter how clean your house is, or how clean your clothes are, the bed bugs have been finding their way into the most unexpected places.

But what is a bed bug, and how can you prevent such an invasion of privacy? A bed bug is a small, wingless, rust-colored bug that is about the size of an apple seed. They are nocturnal, which means that they come out during the night, thus making them even harder to find. These critters love the warmth from the human body and prefer to devour the shoulders and arms.

Bed bugs usually use clothing as their transportation sources. In large crowds, they will hop from person to person. They are also spreading thanks to new clothes being made overseas and refurbished mattresses being transported in trucks.

"The thought of little bugs crawling all over my bed and me in the middle of the night freaks me out!" said Shelby Kozma.

If this article has you itching and worried about your own well-being then have no fear, there are many things you can do to try and prevent the epidemic from reaching you.

"If I found them in my bed, I would probably start by freaking out and then make my Dad burn my mattress because there is probably a colony in there," exclaimed Amanda Blackburn.

Most importantly, whenever buying new clothes, throw them



*Cimex Lectularius*, otherwise known as a bed bug, coming to a bed near you?

*Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons*

in the dryer before the first wash. The heat from the dryer will kill the bed bugs and stop them from ever reaching your bed. The bugs also live in small cracks such as between wooden floors, wall cracks, carpeting, bed frames, and behind peeling paint.

"I think if you have bed bugs, then you're dirty, and you should clean your bed more often," explained Matt Connell.

A bed bug bite does not hurt. If bitten, you may notice an annoying itch and a red, swollen bump. Bites are the first signs of an infestation. But what can you do to rid yourself of these creatures?

"I would wash everything in warm water and bleach everything and then throw my mattress away," said Megan Rybacki.

There is no need to jump to calling an exterminator. Actually, there are many do-it-yourself steps to keeping your home bug free:

- Vacuum and clean all surfaces and bedding
- Wash or dry-clean bedding and affected clothing. Use hot water and a dryer on the hottest setting whenever possible
- Vacuum mattresses, seal them in plastic and leave them outside in the hot sun for as long as possible
- Steam clean carpets
- Spray cracks and crevices with an insecticide designed to control bed-bugs. Follow the label directions carefully, but do not treat bedding with insecticide

Don't panic, chances are you do not have bed bugs. However, if you have the signs of bed bugs, use these simple steps to rid yourself of the issue.