

MLB teams search for free agents for the 2019 season

by Nate White
Sports Editor

Although baseball teams are not currently taking the field, they will soon be doing so in March. This means there is activity amongst teams across the league, trying to persuade players and coaches to join to their teams. The following is an update about the upcoming 2019 season.

The biggest free agent of this year is still Bryce Harper, undecided on where he will play in a few months. This star is unlike any other player to explore free agency, considering his immense talent and the fact that he is only 26, therefore not nearly in his prime. Harper is expected to sign either with the Nationals, White Sox, or Phillies, all of whom need a home run hitting outfielder, and have the money for one. Another notable power hitter and solid infielder on the prowl for a new home is Manny Machado. After a year stunt with the Dodgers as an attempt to hop on a World Series championship team, Machado is likely to join forces with the Phillies, Yankees or White Sox. These teams are negotiating for Machado and the potential to sign him for several years for up to hundreds of millions of dollars. Formal offers have yet to be published, besides the White Sox seven-year contract

worth up to an impressive two hundred million dollars.

After trading outfielders Yasiel Puig and Matt Kemp to the Reds, the Dodgers are considering A.J. Pollock and Starling Marte. Both are solid outfielders and produce positive results. Daniel Murphy signed to the Colorado Rockies for two years and 24 million dollars, as the team also pursues stud third baseman Nolan Arenado. However, the Yankees could potentially be in pursuit of Arenado if they do not sign Machado. Arenado wants more money than the Rockies are offering, so the ball is in the air. Infielder Mike Moustakas also depends on Machado's decision, as he debates over the Phillies, Brewers, and Padres.

Outfielder Michael Brantley recently agreed to a two year, 32 million dollar contract with the Astros. With a new manager, the Mets are making plays trading for power hitter Robinson Cano, and Edwin Diaz. They also signed notable players Wilson Ramos and Jed Lowrie, immensely improving their roster. Stellar catcher J.T Realmuto also waits on the decisions of Harper and Machado, as teams evaluate whether to pursue him or not. As a speedy baserunner, and solid catcher with a strong bat, Realmuto is attractive to lots of teams. Outfielder Andrew McCutchen signed a three year, 50 million dollar deal with the Phillies, showing no guarantees that they nor any team will get

Harper. It appears the Giants are also shopping third baseman Evan Longoria for trades, as teams will be desperate for an infielder with a strong bat after Machado signs.

Make sure to watch the news for MLB free agency updates. Most agents are looking to sign within the next month, as Spring Training kicks off quickly in March.

(Sources: MLB, ESPN)

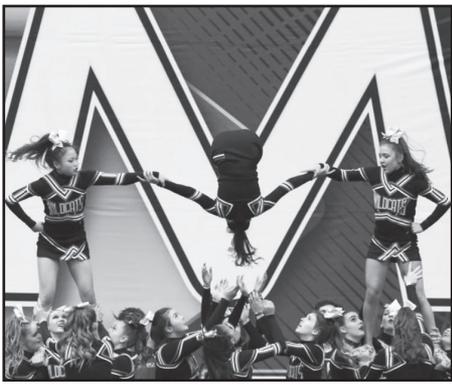


CHOOSE WISELY: MLB teams consider signing new players for the new season.

Cheer leaps through season

by Delany Brown
People Editor

This month, the LGHS cheer team has hit its stride in the new competition season. The new competitive team, which the school discontinued for a couple of years, has finally made a comeback with its new coach, **Ojae Balgos**. Balgos has spent the last two years at Los Gatos High School coaching the JV and Varsity cheer teams for their regular performances at football games and basketball games. Now that the comp team has been reinstated, he has been working extremely hard with the team to get them in shape for the upcoming season.



JUMP IN: Junior cheerleader **Kayleigh Khandelwal** flips.

The team faced a two-year hiatus because of the loss of their previous coach. In the past, the team has been victorious, winning multiple championships and countless awards for their flawless performances. Now that the team is back, the cheerleaders are excited to show off their spirit as they head to nationals in the coming months. Senior **Amanda Jones**, a comp team veteran, said that she is "really happy that the team is back and competing. As a freshman on the team a few years ago, I really loved the bond I had with the rest of the cheerleaders." She went on to say that this team

is a great opportunity to make friends and have fun while doing the hard and taxing sport that is cheer.

To prepare for competition, the team practices almost every day of the school week to endure endless conditioning and stunting to perfect their routines. As a requirement for the team, the girls must have extensive tumbling skills, a fiery performance quality, and teamwork skills to bring it all together. Along with that, something that comes along with the competition cheer experience is the glamorous hair and makeup. The cheer style includes teased and curled hair in a gelled back high ponytail, eyeshadow, foundation, lipstick, and to top it all off, a big beautiful bow.

Just two weeks ago, on Jan. 12 and 13, the team headed to its first competition of the season. Placing third overall, the team qualified for nationals with a score of 88 out of 100. Now they are preparing for nationals in Las Vegas, where they will be competing with up to ten other schools for the top spot. The scores for cheer are based on skill level, tumbling, stunting, and performance quality.

Although it may seem ironic, make sure to cheer on our Los Gatos High cheerleaders as they enter more competitions throughout the school year. Also go see them at the upcoming basketball games as they perform at halftime and cheer on the teams from the sidelines.



SHAKE IT OFF: LG cheer dances in addition to tumbling.

NBA teams strive for wins

by Thomas Petroff
Sports Editor

January has been a month of surprises as the National Basketball Association (NBA) treads through its season. Currently, the Milwaukee Bucks are in first in the Eastern Conference and the Golden State Warriors are in first place in the Western Conference.

As of last week, LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers missed games against the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Houston Rockets due to a strained left groin, one of the worst injuries of his career. The Lakers are currently ranked ninth in the Western Conference with a record of 24-21. Only the top eight in the conference will be seeded into the playoffs come April, so James hopes to return in the upcoming weeks and turn his team around.



NUMBER ONE: Warriors remain the top team in the West.

On Jan. 16, the Warriors defeated the New Orleans Pelicans in a close, high-scoring game by a score of 147-140. The Pelicans outscored the Warriors in the first quarter, but the Warriors managed to take the win during the next three quarters of play. Stephen Curry had an astounding 41 points for Golden State, playing a total of 35 minutes.

In addition, center DeMarcus Cousins made his debut for the Warriors on Jan. 18 against the Los Angeles Clippers. Cousins' return after a torn left



SEEING STARS: James looks to captain the All-Star Team.

Achilles tendon injury was highly anticipated. Cousins surprised both his teammates and fans with a stellar performance consisting of 14 points and 6 rebounds. The Warriors are glad to have the center back on the lineup as they continue on in the regular season.

Although the Warriors are in first in the Western Conference, the Denver Nuggets are following directly behind with a nearly identical record. Center Nikola Jokic and guard Jamal Murray are helping to lead the team into a favorable position in playoffs.

Coming up on Feb. 7 is the annual NBA All Star Game. This year, the players from each conference who receive the most votes for the All-Star Team will be the captains. Currently, it seems that LeBron James (Los Angeles Lakers) will be the captain for the Western Conference and Giannis Antetokounmpo (Milwaukee Bucks) will be the captain for the Eastern Conference. Both captains will select their respective players thereafter for the game.

Many surprises are yet to come as the players make their way through the season. Tune in live on TV tonight to watch a variety of teams play, including the Houston Rockets game against the Toronto Raptors.

(Sources: NBA, ESPN, Sports Illustrated, CBS Sports)

POM: Greenley excels at high school and state soccer

by Charlotte Brezoczky
Graphics Designer

Following in her family's footsteps, senior **Annette Greenley** started playing soccer when she was only four years old. After playing on the NorCal State and Region IV teams, it is no surprise that she is continuing on to play Division One soccer next year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Dedicated both on the field and in the classroom, Greenley is not only a soccer star, but a business and marine science enthusiast.

Ever since she was little, Greenley played on "any sort of team [she] could get on." As she got older, she began playing competitive club soccer. She eventually decided to try out for the NorCal Olympic



KICKIN' IT: Greenley serves powerful kicks to get past opposing teammates.

Development Program, in which players from across the northern half of the state come together to compete against other states in the region. After being selected for the state team, she went on to compete at the regional level as well, representing the West-most quarter of the nation. For Greenley, trying out for the regional team was extremely nerve wracking. "It's a lot of people from different states coming together. It's very competitive," says Greenley.

Balancing school and sports has never really been a problem for Greenley. In fact, soccer is an excellent way for her to de-stress from academic work, as it gives her something else to focus on. Here at LGHS, she has been playing on Varsity since her freshman year. She also was one of the team's captains both junior and senior year, a responsibility she was delighted to take on. Greenley lit up when talking about her girls. "We're just such a great family," she said with a smile.

Most memorably, this past winter break Greenley and the team played Live Oak in an incredibly intense game. They began the game down one-zero, but they came back and ended up winning three to two. Greenley recalled how the team came together so well in order to pull off the victory. "[We] were just able to come back and win, which was a lot of fun," she explained.

Playing Division One soccer in college takes a large amount of commitment and dedication, and Greenley has both. She has stuck with the sport for almost fifteen years because she simply loves it. Her passion for soccer has taught her the importance of "teamwork, dedication, [and] so many things, wow. You have to make a time commitment. It's just something that has brought a lot of knowledge to my life."



WATCH OUT: Greenley will continue to play soccer at Cal Poly after high school.

Greenley is excited but obviously a little nervous to play at Cal Poly next year. The school first contacted her a while ago, and she has been committed to their team since February of her sophomore year. While there, she will study business, but she also intends to take a fifth year to double major in marine sciences. Going to the beach is one of her favorite things to do outside of school. On top of all of that, Greenley is also a skilled artist and will be minoring in the MAST program Media, Art, Society, and Technology.

Bright, humble, and talented, Greenley is looking forward to her first year at Cal Poly, filled with business, the beach, art, and soccer.