

In memory  
of my grandma  
FINA NOCTA  
in celebration  
of KK

For my  
Aunt who  
flaw to the  
gates of  
heaven

for  
everyone that  
has it, or that  
has been  
affected by  
it.

In  
Remembrance  
of my grandma  
"Bosha"

# Think Pink

## Marian girls raise awareness for breast cancer

Maggie Rossiter

There was something different in the air in Marian's gym on Oct. 5. The student section was a loud mob of proud pink, and the color spilled into the parent section. The quad was strewn with pink decorations.

Moms of volleyball players sold baked goods topped with pink frosting and sprinkles. Pink paper dots, with the names of survivors, fighters and those who died as a result of breast cancer, were placed on a powerful bulletin board that read "Blocking out Breast Cancer."

The meaning of "girl power" has never been more prevalent. The seniors had dedicated their last home game to raising awareness about breast cancer.

This wasn't the first time Marian's volleyball team had participated in this event. "During the 2009 season, Coach Rochelle Rohlfs and the Norfolk Panthers' coach started the new tradition of supporting breast cancer awareness and research by participating in the Side-Out Foundation's

"Dig Pink" night," senior Maggie Emodi said.

A few minutes before the varsity game began, the team went behind the bleachers, as usual, to change into their jerseys. The team came out sporting pink jerseys, and the crowd smiled with honor. "It was just our way of supporting those with breast cancer and raising money for a good cause," Emodi said. This night was especially memorable to Emodi, not just because it was her senior night, but because her grandma was in attendance.

"My grandmother was diagnosed with breast cancer not too long ago, so I was glad that we were able to participate in Dig Pink Night. It's a fantastic way to show that we care. I'm sure it meant a lot to my grandma."

Another cancer fighter that was in attendance that night was Mrs. Kate Kestel, mother of Lauren Kestel, graduate of 2008. Kate Kestel was diagnosed with breast cancer in May 2008 and has been battling her cancer ever since. "I would have to say the coolest moment of the game was seeing all the pink.

I would like to stress to all Marian girls the importance of self-exams and being aware of their bodies. From personal experience I do not wish any woman to go through this. We have to find a cure for this disease. With fund raising activities and promotional materials every woman could be reached," Kestel said.

Emodi agrees. "I think the entire community can improve on breast cancer awareness, not just Marian. I feel like people around the world don't realize the impact it has on the lives of extraordinary women (including my grandma) and their families. Honestly, I didn't even understand how big of a deal breast cancer was until my grandma was diagnosed with it."

As women of Marian, staying aware of our bodies cannot be stressed enough. Breast cancer is a battle that many women are fighting today. Keep supporting. Keep fighting. Keep working to "block out breast cancer."



**Pretty in Pink.** Freshman Hannah Fuxa snags a cupcake during Marian's "Dig Pink" night during the volleyball game. Photo by Alex Eilers



**I'm A Survivor.** Seniors Ava Coughlin, Sara Lewandowski and Katie Luff share a laugh during the varsity volleyball game dedicated to Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Coughlin was diagnosed with Dysderminoma cancer in early December of last year and has been in remission since Feb. 26. Photo by Alex Eilers

In  
celebration  
of  
friends

For all  
affected by  
breast cancer!

Grammy  
Judy  
Heim

For all  
who  
have it  
From, Hunter  
F

# Tackling teachers is not okay

## A look into the past of the Gnimocemoh student-faculty game

Anna Woods

It's fall of 2002; the entire Marian community's hearts are pumping. The anxiety is chilling. Members of the student body are giddy in their classes awaiting the student-faculty game, but this year it's going to be different. In the past, students and faculty have put on their helmets and football pads to battle it out on the field. The volleyball game that current Marian girls all know and love has not always existed. In fact, at one time there was no volleyball game at all. Instead, a sport well known to Husker fans all over Nebraska was in its place: football.

No, faculty members were not taking out their least favorite students, but the atmosphere was quite different than the comfortable, musty gym that Marian students have grown to love. In the fall of 2002, students and faculty traded in their touchdowns for aces.

The faculty continues to taunt students by boasting about previous wins in the student-faculty volleyball games. Sure, students haven't won for a few years (five, but who's counting?), but speech teacher and 1996 Marian graduate Mrs. Jennifer Christen believes that students won when she was a Marian student herself. In reality, the wins

and losses were distributed more evenly in the past; sorry students, faculty still had their wins over the students in the past, too.

The students who play in the volleyball games now are randomly chosen, but Christen said that for the football games, the girls who were built most like football players would be chosen. "I never played on the team," she said.

All Marian girls have seen the competitive edge of Marian teachers on the volleyball court, but the football games were even more competitive. These games got rough. "I remember people getting tackled; people got really into it," Christen said.

Marian, a school of tradition, is also a

school of competition. Marian takes state titles in numerous sports every year and that competitive edge is not lost in the Gnimocemoh volleyball game. Faculty and Students both bond with their teams and their opponents during the hour of play.

Marian is further bonded as a school and a community when it is brought together on the court. Separating teams by a net can be more effective than separating them by football sidelines.

Christen agreed, "I remember when we switched to volleyball. It was a much better idea."

# 'Fore' the Love of the Game

Brooke **Urzendowski**

**D**eep breath. Right arm above the left, pinkies interlocked. Legs shoulder width apart. Arms slightly forward. Look at the target. Another deep breath. *Just trust it, just trust it.*

It is State, 18 holes to prove yourself. All of the season's hard work comes down to one tournament.

Relax.

Senior Jordan Rearick took one last look at the target before swinging her Ping G10 driver. The ball sailed into the overcast sky, angled perfectly straight up the middle of the fairway towards the pin. Great start. But she still had a long ways to go and knew it wouldn't be easy, especially with her circumstances the past two weeks.

Flashback to Sept. 25, 15 days before the state meet.

Rearick was at work when she felt a pain in her stomach, which continued to grow worse over the next few hours.

"It felt like something was pushing on my ribcage, and I couldn't breathe," Rearick said.

It wasn't until the next morning that she made the trip to the emergency room. Nine hours later the doctor sent her home confused, not knowing the source of the pain. The pain continued into the next day when she got a call at school. Her mom had talked to the surgeon that morning, and they needed Rearick to come back in right away. Rearick hurried to Methodist Hospital.

"When I walked in they already had everything ready for surgery," Rearick said.

What one doctor had mistook for nothing was actually appendicitis, and Rearick had an emergency removal of her appendix. Her appendix was six inches larger than the average size. Had she waited any longer, her appendix might have exploded.

After spending the night at Methodist, Rearick was left with stitches on her left hip. The skin around it was considerably tight, leaving her sore and exhausted. In addition to the physical tolls, she had to miss the Metro Golf tournament and four practices leading up to State.

"It's a little bit unnerving going into State if you haven't practiced as much," Rearick said. Even when she did play, it wasn't without its consequences. Every swing is painful. With each stroke, Rearick typically moves her hips out of the way as she follows through. However, this hip rotation is right where the stitches are left, causing extreme pain. Districts was the first test of whether or not she could overcome the pain from surgery.

"I took a ton of Advil for Districts," Rearick said. "Still, I thought I was going to die during the last three holes. I just got so exhausted."

Districts went well for Rearick, and she surprised everyone with her overall third place finish, but that was just the start of her long journey towards State.

The pressure was on with only a little time left before the big tournament, and everyone could feel it. That is, everyone except Rearick.

Once she had conditioned back, Rearick felt at ease with the upcoming State meet. She was handling the pressure as if she had never even had appendicitis.

"I'm trying not to think about it at all or use it as an excuse for bad shots," Rearick said. "I am not going to stress and let it get to me." Rearick used the fact that most people would underestimate her to her advantage.

"There is a lot of expectation for me to not play well because of my appendix, but I know I can do it, and I proved that I can at Districts. I feel like there is more pressure on the other girls."

Rearick remained calm and was in a good place. She knew she had done all she could to prepare for State and could now only wait until Monday morning, Oct. 11, for it to begin to pay off.

"There is nothing I can do about other people's expectations," Rearick said. "I want to get out there, give it all I have and let it be. I just want to have a good senior ending."

It is the morning of State Golf. Rearick had a successful team practice the night before and feels confident in today's expectations. As she makes her way to Norfolk Country Club, the nerves slowly start to creep in. She can hear her dad's words in her head: *having some nerves just means you're alive*. But she can still feel the butterflies fluttering around in her stomach.

Rearick steps out into the driving range, ties her shoes and prepares for the first hole. She can feel the mist in the air as the sun tries to make its way out from underneath the gray clouds.

The wave of nerves doesn't fully come crashing down on her until she is standing in that first tee box. Then it hits her.

The day hadn't gone necessarily as Rearick had planned.

"I was so tired and missing a week of practice really killed," Rearick said. "I felt I wasn't as prepared as I needed to be." Rearick persisted as well as she could although she knew it wasn't her best performance so far.

"I kept thinking, 'If I don't play well for myself, I better pull something out for the team.'"

As the first day drew to a close for Rearick at around 3:15 that afternoon, the Crusaders were up by 14 strokes and sitting in a comfortable lead. Even though she wasn't happy with her results, Rearick knew it could have been a lot worse and decided to focus on the next day. The pain had not progressed and all Rearick could do was hope for a better day tomorrow.

Oddly enough, while the team was at the hotel that evening, a triple rainbow lit up the sky. Not only did the team see this as a good sign, but Rearick also had good feelings for the following day.

However, the second day of State did not go any better than the first for Rearick.

"I didn't play well at all," Rearick said. "I was just mentally and physically drained at this point." The soreness on her lower left hip was starting to kick in and remained the same



**Fore!** Senior Jordan Rearick follows through on a drive during the State golf tournament on Oct. 11 and 12 in Norfolk. Rearick finished 12th overall and has been on the state championship team since her freshman year. Photo courtesy of Dawn O'Brien.

as it had been the previous day. In addition, 40 mile-an-hour winds took control of the golf course and shook the wet and muddy ground. Nothing seemed to be going Rearick's way.

"I wanted to finish strong and pull out a good number for my team," Rearick said. As fatigue took hold, Rearick did make a strong comeback. She ended up with a birdie on the 17th hole and parred on the 18th, making for a bittersweet ending.

"After taking that last swing and knowing I had done all I could, I was overcome with a rush of emotions," Rearick said. "I was surprised at how sad I was that it was all over and that this was my last high school golf tournament."

The second day ended well for the Crusaders, as they took home the state title, making a dynasty of six consecutive championship trophies.

"Even though I was disappointed in my own play, I was so proud of my teammates," Rearick said. "Coming into the season, people did not have such high expectations for our team since we had lost two seniors from last year, but we all came together despite it."

During the awards ceremony, smiles

were on every Crusader's face as they called out the first place team. State had been a success. Regardless of individual scores, the main goal was getting that sixth title, and the team had achieved their goal with incredible numbers.

"Just being in the moment when getting our trophy and knowing we had worked our butts off for this- it was the most satisfying part of the whole experience," Rearick said.

"We really came together as a team and it was great going up there and having everyone recognize our accomplishments over the season."

The season ended well for all, and State was now drawing to a close. All of Rearick's obstacles leading up to State only made this victory a more memorable one.

The stitches, still intact, are now just a reminder of the unlucky injury that ultimately could not stop Rearick.

"Even though I didn't play my best at State, I felt like I had a good overall season," Rearick said. "I know there's a lot more golf for me to play and better things in the future."



## State Golf Results:

Erin O'Brien- 2nd place

Sarah Pravecek- 4th place

Jordan Rearick- 12th place

Marie McNamara- 16th place

Joselyn Wojtalewicz- 48th place

## Overall:

Marian- 1st place

Graphic by LizBerigan

## Thoroughly Modern Millie

*Marian and Creighton Prep collaborate to make sweet music in this year's musical.*

**When:** October 29th (7:30 p.m.), 30th (7:30 p.m.), 31st (2:00 p.m.)  
**Where:** Omaha Community Playhouse  
**Price:** \$10 for Adults and \$7 for Students

Graphic by KyraLindholm