Franklin Offense Overcomes Emmett Avery II’s Injury

By Jake Hermann

After a huge 38-28 win for Franklin on Friday, Sept. 15, against Delaware powerhouse Smyrna, the thoughts and prayers of the team and coaches were turned towards number 1, starting quarterback, Junior Emmett Avery II. Avery went down after an 8 yard run for a first down about halfway through the second quarter with Franklin down 8-7. He suffered a torn ACL and meniscus among a sprained MCL and other sprained ligaments; a 10 month setback for Avery and a huge blow to the Indian’s offense. Luckily, Avery is only a Junior and will begin rehab in preparation for his senior year in 2018. Senior defensive back, Linwood Nicholas Jr. stated “It is a huge blow to our team, but we are mostly devastated for Emmett. We never want to see anybody go down, but when it happens it really hurts the team moral.”

Stepping in behind center for the Indians will be number 10, Larry Smith. Smith is no rookie as he competed through training camp with Avery ultimately earning the starting job. Smith and Avery combined for 1,906 yards and 28 touchdowns. Smith played a large role in their success averaging 86.4 yards and 1.1 touchdowns per game. After the 2016 season, it was believed Larry would assume control of the Franklin offensive for the 2017 season, that is until Calvert Hall transfer Emmett Avery II joined the Indian’s roster in the off-season. Smith and Avery competed through training camp with Avery ultimately earning the starting job.

Continued on page 5

Franklin Seniors Losing Sleep over College Applications

By Ryan Harrison

Essays. Letters. Question after Question. School after School. All part of the wonderful college application process. When asked the first word that comes to mind when thinking about their college apps, the majority of the seniors interviewed for this article overwhelmingly said “Stress.” However, a few said things along the lines of “future” and “opportunity.” So how do these seniors really feel about this long yet crucially important process? Let’s find out.

Every single person interviewed was asked how far along they were on their college applications. There were responses ranging from “more than halfway done” to “haven’t even scratched the surface.” When asked what the most stressful part of the whole process was, the majority answered they had to do the combination of all different aspects of the process such as essays, letters, and filling out the actual applications. Senior Eli Rosner stated that “having to do all of these things at once at the beginning of the school year has been stressful for me, but I know it will be worth it in the long run.”

Mr. Iampieri, a teacher at Franklin High School stated how he “notices the stress levels of seniors in my classes around this time of year.”

Continued on page 2

BCPS Changes Grading Policy

By Lesa Stigall

Baltimore County Public Schools have changed this year due to the grading policy. Instead of now having a 50-100 grading scale, students are back on the 0-100 grading scale. And be careful, the redo work is on a deadline. Students must turn work in now on a deadline that is determined by the teachers. Some deadlines may be two weeks, one week, or even at the end of the quarter. According to the county’s website, the changes to the grading policy are deadlines and 0-100 point accurate grading scale.

Students at Franklin High School were appalled when they heard the grade policy changes. Students walked into school and expected to be on the same grading scale as last year. They expected things to be “easy,” for them to be lazy, and anything else they were accustomed to from last year. Senior Nazhaya Greene said, “I think they change too much, which is annoying because we have to keep getting adjusted. I have mixed emotions on the grade policy for this year. But it does push students to do well, so one overall grade won’t affect everything. That just makes students frustrated and easily give up on that piece of work.” After all the complaining and worries about low grades, students should know the background goals that BCPS staff were working toward.

Kim Willard, the assistant principal at Franklin High spoke on the details. She gave her opinions and open clear answers to understand things better. Ms. Willard said, “the new grading policy helps us grade the students by mastery for what they know and not things like bringing in Kleenex or extra credit. This change will help us to communicate with the students and parents upon the actual grade. With either policy, the students should be working to get good grades.”

Teachers are actually glad to have the normal grade policy back. English teacher, Timothy Showalter commented about last year’s grading policy. “Students would forget what they really would get, say an 8 on an assignment, but online it said a 58. They would come to me and ask ‘could you bump the 58 up,’ and I would have to tell them that they really got an 8 but were automatically given a 50. So now it’s a better way for them to understand their actual grade.”

IN S I D E  T H I S  I S S U E:

Franklin News

2

Sports

3

Sports

4

Technology

5
Student Perspective

Freshmen Explore New Electives; Anxiety Fades

By Melissa Otis

When a new school year starts, freshmen enter the school with mixed emotions about moving up, and in doing so, their lives change from that moment forward. These students will learn different kinds of mathematics, sciences, and other subjects for which they have a passion. The first year is an opportunity to experiment and explore what they like about high school.

In the beginning of their journey as freshman, they were nervous and scared wondering if they were going to pass their classes, if they were going to like their classes, and if their new peers were going to like them. No comments were made about them being scared, however their body language said otherwise. As for their classes, they chose electives such as Chorus/Chorale, Theatre Arts, and Dance.

As the first few weeks of school passed, freshmen settled down into school and got used to their schedules. Comments were made through these days: some positive, some not. All these students wanted to be anonymous. “At the beginning of school, I thought I was going to DIE, and not make it through, but as I progressed through the days, I thought and said, ‘this isn’t as bad as I thought it would be’.” Another said, “Teachers here really care if you have something to say, whether it is information-wise or not. They listen, and so far, it’s amazing here.” Some weren’t so good, “I hate this school. This is too hard for me, and the teachers give you too much homework and class work.” Others made similar comments.

Even though some didn’t like how the school year started, they are pushing forward to make it through the first year and be as successful as they can be.

Franklin Aims to Increase Attendance

By Matthew Stine

Administrators at Franklin High School are focused on improving attendance this year. In efforts to raise attendance, Franklin has introduced new attendance procedures. As of Sept. 29, the overall attendance rate was 95.06 percent. This is an increase from last school year’s attendance rate of 89.11 percent.

The new procedures involve contacting a parent or guardian when a student is not present by 10 a.m. An attendance committee member will meet with students who have chronic issues with attendance and their families.

To help the students who arrive late, the school has introduced late tables. The late tables are located in the lobbies of both the North and South buildings. This is where students who show up after the late bell can be written a pass and sent to class without punishment.

Franklin’s Assistant Principal Mr. O’Connell said that the school’s progress plan is to raise the average daily attendance to 90 percent. O’Connell said, “Students who attend class regularly perform at a higher level of academic achievement.”

Make up work can be a big problem for students who don’t go to school. When students come to school after being absent and ask for make-up work, they must bring in a note from a guardian or doctor explaining a lawful reason for the absence. If the reason for the absence is unlawful, then the student is not entitled to make-up work and his or her grades will suffer. In the event that students are attending school on a regular basis but are showing little academic improvement, they will be referred to the student support team.

Although students should be making the effort to attend school, any person who has legal custody or control of a student is accountable for the student attending school. Due to the parents being accountable for the attendance of their child, Franklin has established the new attendance committee to verify that students live at the address on record with the school and to ensure that they are able to make it to school on time.

Many students believe that this new policy is unnecessary and wrong to be implementing on the students. The concept of someone going to a student’s house who was sent by the school makes students uncomfortable. Senior Jake Herman spoke about his take on the new policy. He said he believes that it is a “breach of his personal life” and that “it’s unnecessary because school is for school and our lives outside of school shouldn’t be intruded on by the school.”
Franklin Sports

Franklin Tees off 2017 Golf Season

By: Zach Simons

Franklin’s golf team got off to hot start, beating the Catonsville Comets by nine strokes, 197 to 206 on Sept. 13. Leading the Indians with the best score was junior Andrew Gersh, who is quickly becoming the team’s best player. Also playing on the starting squad were sophomores Reid Jones, Justin Carswell and Kobe Pinsky, and senior, Jake Carswell. The team hosted Catonsville, at Diamond Ridge, where all home matches are played.

The Indians followed their Catonsville match against the Hereford Bulls on Sept. 15 visiting the Bulls at Fox Hollow. Hereford won the County Championship last year so they’re quite the team in terms of talent and experience. Unfortunately, the Indians took the loss but it was very close. The final score was 171-177. Gersh led the team with a low score of 42. Jake Carswell and Pinsky each shot personal bests of 44. The team fought hard and stayed close with a talented Catonsville squad, so kudos to them. This should give the Indians confidence for the remainder of the season.

On Sept. 19, the Indians hosted the Towson Generals. It was a close match but the General pulled away, winning by four, 183-187. Gersh shot personal record of 41. The Indians’ next match is on Sept. 27, when they travel to Rocky Point to be welcomed by Sparrows Point. Best of luck to the Indians, as they hope to even their record to two wins and two losses.

Gersh has been a starter on the team each of his three years at Franklin. He leads the team in scoring this year, after leading the team last season. The Indians are coached by Mike Miguel, who is currently in his second year as the head coach. When speaking of Miguel, Gersh said “he is a talented and intelligent golfer. He has helped each golfer improve greatly.”

Miguel’s team is split into two squads; starting and developmental. Gersh, when speaking of the developmental squad said “athletes on the developmental squad work hard every day with the goal to be on the starting squad eventually.” The developmental squad includes sophomores Ryan Platt, Brett Fribush, Max Holzman, Ethan Nichols, senior Matt Herzog, and juniors Douglas Johnston and Alex Adedeji.

With a young nucleus that appears to be improving, Franklin’s golf team looks forward to a bright future.

In the MLB

Orioles Playoff Hopes

By Justin Magaziner

The Baltimore Orioles playoff hopes are now gone as all they can do is play out this last week and a half of baseball and look on to next season. Orioles’ General Manager Dan Duquette and the Orioles front office have a lot of decisions to make over the next couple seasons as Manny Machado, Jonathan Schoop, Dylan Bundy, Kevin Gausman and Zach Britton’s contracts are all set to expire in the next couple years.

It is simply not possible that the Orioles will be able to keep everyone as they will all be highly valued and highly targeted free agents. The main goal for the Orioles will probably be signing Machado or Schoop to a long term deal. However this will be challenging as they will both be asking for huge contracts which could lead to the dynamic duo in the infield breaking up.

Entering the month of August, the Baltimore Orioles were 4.5 games behind the second wild card spot sporting a record of 51-54. The past few months had been a combination of poor hitting and having one of the worst pitching staffs of all time as they tied a record for the most consecutive games having one of the worst pitching staffs of all time as they tied a record for the most consecutive losses. They are now 7.5 games out of the second wild card spot having won 11 out of 15 games which included a seven game win streak. It was clear that the team’s confidence was through the roof. In an article on mlb.com, Manny Machado said, “We’re confident with everyone we have in here...We’re going to do everything possible, keep playing like a team and do the things that count, and things will turn out the way they need to. We just need to control going out there and giving it our all.”

In the blink of an eye, the Orioles had surged their way back into contention for a playoff spot with everything seemingly going in their direction. At this point the Orioles were ranked 13 in ESPN’s MLB power rankings.

Two weeks later, after facing the Yankees in the Bronx and the Indians during their record breaking win streak the Orioles now find themselves in a downward spiral after losing 16 of their last 21 games. They are now 7.5 games out of the second wild card spot and seven games below .500 with only five games to play. The team is now struggling to get Orioles fans in the stands.

Franklin Sophomore Doug Ditto attended the Orioles’ 10-8 loss in the 11th inning against the Red Sox, and he said “I’ve never felt so small in my home ballpark. The Boston fans were overpowering us.”

On Sep. 5 the Orioles trailed the Minnesota Twins by only 1.5 games for the second wild card spot having won 11 out of 15 games which included a seven game win streak. It was clear that the team’s confidence was going through the roof. In an article on mlb.com, Manny Machado said, “We’re confident with everyone we have in here...We’re going to do everything possible, keep playing like a team and do the things that count, and things will turn out the way they need to. We just need to control going out there and giving it our all.”

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Rookies in the NFL Make Immediate Impact

By Andrew Gersh

Three weeks into the NFL and rookies already shock the nation. Third round pick, Kareem Hunt was named the starting running back in Kansas City prior to the season opener and after the first three games, fans understand why. Hunt now has over four hundred yards rushing and four touchdowns in his first three games.

It is typical for certain rookies to take the league by storm, but Hunt is a different story. He has been the most productive running back in the entire league as of yet and does not show any signs of slowing down. Continuing on running backs, other notable rookies include Dalvin Cook and highly anticipated Leonard Fournette. They are both making great impacts on their teams and have risen for top numbers in the NFL so far.

There have also been a number of players at other positions to impact their teams in the early weeks and a great example of this is quarterback, Deshaun Watson of the Houston Texans. He got off to a rough start but capped his first drive off with a touchdown pass and in the last two games has rushed for over one hundred yards. Another notable quarterback is the Cleveland Browns starter, Deshon Kizer. Although, he is on the worst ranked team in the league through three weeks, he has tallied two rushing touchdowns as well as three passing touchdowns. Senior, Jake Hermann says, “For a rookie he has been poised and showed signs of potential.”

These players all started the season in positions to make impacts but that was not the case for kicker, Jake Elliot. He started the season on the practice squad of the Cincinnati Bengals but has now become a league wide sensation after earning the starting role on the Philadelphia Eagles and sinking the 7th longest field goal in NFL history to beat the New York Giants.

Ezekiel Elliot’s Juke on Responsibility

By Doug Ditto

Ezekiel Elliot was drafted 4th overall in the 2016 NFL Draft, by the most valuable sports franchise on Earth, the Dallas Cowboys. His high draft spot by such a prestigious team made perfect sense in terms of football, but seemed a bit surprising for a kid who proved no ability to stay out of trouble off the football field. At Ohio State University, a national powerhouse for football, Elliot proved his value to a football team by averaging over 125 rushing yards per game in his sophomore and junior year along with winning Big Ten Most Valuable Player and Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year awards in his final year. NFL teams were excited but cautious due to his consistent allegations of domestic abuse and irresponsibility.

His rookie season he did exactly what was expected of him, he became an All-Pro Running Back for the NFL team that finished with the best record. But before his sophomore season could even begin, he once again found himself in a familiar situation, accusations of domestic violence had him facing discipline from the NFL. In July 2016, Elliot’s longtime girlfriend accused him of abusing her for five days around the time of his 21st birthday. Though Elliot was not arrested or charged with anything, the NFL launched an investigation into Elliot and his continuing accusations of domestic violence.

The NFL’s investigation included interviews with witnesses, the victim, and Elliot; and lasted more than a year and didn’t come to an end until the beginning of August 2017. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell ruled that Elliot’s repeated behavior had warranted a six-game suspension without pay. Many people found this ruling controversial due to the investigation’s length and the possibility that the league was reaching to make an example out of a superstar because of their poor management of domestic violence cases in the past. Elliot and his legal team unsurprisingly appealed his suspension making him eligible for week one of the regular season. Elliot’s appeal seemed to gain traction as it was revealed that one of the heads of the investigation recommended no suspension at all but her suggestion was ignored. Through these findings the NFL Player’s Association filed a temporary restraining order which would put the appeal hearing on hold and allow Elliot’s participation in games for the foreseeable future. The NFL responded by filing two petitions in attempt to invalidate Elliot’s restraining order. Although the NFL upheld the appeal, Texas court had blocked the suspension and upheld the restraining order marking another victory for Elliot. The NFL responded with an injunction fighting the right to block their suspension. On Sept. 22, the Fifth Circuit of the US Court of Appeals scheduled a hearing on Oct. 2 meaning Elliot will continue to play for at least another week.

Perhaps the more than yearlong saga will help Elliot realize he is a professional athlete which comes with lots of responsibility. During this legal battle Elliott has had an up and down start to his season which can encapsulate the last year of his life.

A message from the Nurse, Ms. Loes

Each year a Discretionary Medication form needs to be completed. This year, it is gold. If you have not turned one into the health suite, office, or your teacher, please do so. If you need one, the office or the health suite has one. We can not use last year’s form. I legally can not give any medication without parental consent unless you are 18 years of age. You need a pass to enter the health suite, unless it is a true emergency, even if it is just for the bathroom or water, you were just across the hall, before school, at lunch, and after school you need a pass.

You need to be respectful of other people’s privacy, so please do not barge into the health suite office while someone is being seen. You would want that to happen to you, so please don’t do it to others.

Please do not abuse your privilege to come to see the nurse. Please only come when you are feeling sick or are hurt and not to just get out of class. Remember about the boy who cried wolf.

You need to tell the truth so you will be believed when you need it. You need to be patient and kind. When you are seen, you need to tell the truth. The health suite will be closed last period except for true emergencies. No discretionary medication like ibuprofen, acetaminophen, cough drops, and Tums will be given out after 7pm.

Also, I do not have mints. Sorry.

Proper procedure for seeing the nurse: Sign in. Have a seat until the nurse is ready to see you. Be seen by the nurse. The nurse will assess you and see what needs to be done and what she can do for you. If she feels that the student needs to go home, she will make that decision and call the parents. Once you have been seen, please log yourself out with the time that you leave the health suite. Thank you!
Franklin Offense Overcomes Emmett Avery II’s Injury

Larry Smith (10) stands in the pocket as Shawan Lewis (55) blocks a Dematha defensive lineman. (Dematha 36-0)

Continued from page 1

For the first two games Smith waited for his name to be called from the sideline. Against county rival, Woodland, Smith’s name was called, and he performed. He threw for 90 yards helping lead Franklin to a 52-0 win. Against nationally ranked Dematha Catholic High School, Larry Smith played an even smaller role as the Indians struggled to get their offensive rolling against the number three high school defense in the country. Franklin never got the ball into the end zone falling 36-0 to Dematha.

After Emmett Avery went down with an apparent knee injury in the second quarter against Smyrna, Larry Smith took the reigns and he did so with authority. Smith connected in the end zone three times (one touchdown was called back on a holding call on the offensive line) with senior wide receiver Assanti Kearney and once with senior running back Sam Botchway. The experienced Franklin quarterback showed his expertise throwing for 194 passing yards and three touchdowns accumulating a quarterback rating of 149.3 in just three quarters of play. Adding on to his excellent game, Smith was named Louie’s Pizza Player of the game. Smith credits “tall and fast receivers and a very strong defense” for their success against Smyrna and their future success during the season and hopefully, postseason.

Linwood Nicholas Jr. said “Larry played QB for us last year. I’m not worried. The goal is the same. We’ll come out on Friday night and we’ll win.”

And that’s exactly what the Indians did last Friday night. Larry Smith led the Indians to a 40-0 victory over Kenwood with a 125.4 quarterback rating. The season gets a little tougher for the Indians as they take on Baltimore County rival, Dundalk, this Thursday. Smith looks to improve on his 2016 numbers against Dundalk. Last year he threw for 140 yards and stamped a 129.9 QBR. Smith said “I feel great to be the one everybody looks up to on the team, and to lead another Franklin team to another Franklin state championship victory.”

Not only are the players ecstatic about a very promising season, but the students too are excited to make a return to the stands of Navy Stadium.

Senior, Ryan Harrison, said “Being in the stands at the state championship provides me with the opportunity to show school pride and have an experience not all high school students get to have.” Junior, Andrew Gersh, said “Coming together as student’s part of one school showing a lot of team spirit encompasses the magnificence of high school sports… and being on TV is pretty cool.”

There is a whole lot of season left and Larry Smith looks confident and prepared to lead the Franklin Indians back to Annapolis for the Maryland 3A State Finals. The team is optimistic, the defense is strong, and if they keep putting up the numbers they have been, nothing will stand in their way.

Technology

By: Myles Wortman

At an event held in Cupertino, California on Sep. 12, Apple announced the three newest additions to the iPhone family. Phil Schiller, the senior vice president of worldwide marketing at Apple Inc. was super proud to reveal the new iPhone 8 / 8 plus and the revolutionary iPhone X to the public.

Now when it comes to iPhones, it’s no surprise that apple loves to outdo themselves, and that is exactly what happened when it comes to the new, cutting-edge iPhone X. The advanced high-end handset is unlike any other smart phone made to date. The iPhone X has several new features that are sure to set it apart from its other modern counterparts.

One of the most notable features includes the absence of a home button! If you know anything about iPhones, you know about that iconic one button that resides on the bottom face of the phone. Well say “Goodbye button!” and “Hello screen!” because that is the only thing to be found on the face of this gadget. The iPhone X has an all-around “full screen” look due to its cancellation of borders and buttons. With an all new 1125x2436 OLED display, the screen itself has what is termed a “Super Retina Display”, and is now the biggest and brightest screen in iPhone history.

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The (iPhone X) and the why?

You may be wondering “What do I press now without the home button?” Well don’t worry, a few features that used to carry have now been transmitted to the so-called “side button”. You can now double click for Apple pay and long-press it for Siri.

The iPhone X’s stated battery life has improved as well. With so much screen, Apple kind of had no choice but to make some major energy-saving modifications. To support the massive screen, Apple made a couple improvements resulting in the iPhone X battery to last up to 2 hours longer than its older models. Without a home button, finger print security has also been dismissed.

The new way to unlock your phone is through the new “Face ID”, which may be the most important new feature on the iPhone X. The way it works is you will peer into the front-facing camera, frame your face to left, then the right so that the iPhone one’s sensors can get a good look. Now with just a quick look at your face, you can unlock your phone, log in to apps, and even make purchases! Also, don’t think you can fool this feature either! Apple put some extensive work into making sure that it can still recognize you even with new facial hair, hair style or even a mask!

So, do you think you’ve got what it takes? As in the $999 you need to actually purchase the phone, and for a few hundred more gigabytes of data and storage, you can hand over an extra $150 if that’s what you want. However, even if you can afford the extremely high cost, the chance of you getting your hands on one of these bad boys in the next few months is going to be some sort of miracle due to its high demand. The X goes on sale on Oct. 27 but doesn’t ship out until Nov. 3.

Now if this $1000 gadget just isn’t enough for you then you may be intrigued by the gold plated edition for about $70k. Yes, you read correctly. Apple partnered up with Brikk to create an extremely rare and extraordinarily expensive spin on the iPhone X that comes in custom exteriors made with real gold, and diamond inlays.