



Great Vision

Great coverage

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The controversy surrounding climate change has escalated tremendously in the past few years. However, the detrimental effects of climate change on the health of the planet have slowly deteriorated the Earth for several generations. Climate change is defined as a change in global and regional climate patterns, especially in relation to current rising temperatures. It has been determined by scientific consensus that human activity is the main culprit of global climate change. Most citizens of the global community contribute to the global issue of climate change by producing extensive levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by fossil fuels and emissions. The fight against climate change has become a global effort where communities around the world are amplifying efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Although there is a tremendous amount of compelling evidence to the harm climate change is capable of inflicting, there are some individuals that are still skeptical of the science behind it.

The former Pope Francis said, "The violence that exists in the human heart is also manifest in the symptoms of illness that we see in the Earth, the water, the air, and in living things." The planet is exceedingly ill and without a fast and easily accessible cure, the planet will die. However, the average student can reverse these effects and make tremendous change. This

The Fight Against Climate Change

By Chesnie Caster



issue has grown to be so devastatingly prevalent that even Baltimore County students are taking a stand against those who refuse to take the necessary steps to create a resolution. As the temperatures and the issues of climate change begin to increase, there will also be a rise in the economic, social, and political tensions. Those that understand this realization can end climate change and can lead the Earth to healthier conditions.

Eighteen out of the nineteen hottest years on record have taken place since 2001. Increased occurrences of wildfires, droughts and multiple other damaging events are all due to effects of climate change. However, the most devastating fact is that climate change is currently leading to the extinction of multiple species of plants and animals. These are just some of the shocking facts shared by the Baltimore County Student Council's Environmental Committee on November 20th. Meghna

Chandraskaran, a student from Western Tech, said, "This meeting helped us combat the effects of climate change and reduce our carbon footprint." The committee emphasizes that students remain vocal and express their wants for change especially since they are the predominant generation affected by the effects of climate change. Chandraskaran continued by saying "we gave them ideas on how they can combat the effects too." This shows that every opinion, from every student, is essential and important. Your voice may be the leading factor to a restored planet. These students not only discussed the issues that face us but have thought of many possible ways in which we can all contribute to change. Some ideas offered consisted of encouraging carpooling and even having a systemwide tree planting day. This Climate Reality Presentation is just the beginning of the change that our generation, Baltimore County, and even Franklin High, are all capable of achieving.

Franklin Students Learn Leadership and More through SGA

By Matthew Rubinstein

On November 23, 10 Franklin students got out of bed early on a Saturday morning to attend an event at Perry Hall High School. These 10 students are members of the Student Government Association (SGA), and they attended the Fall Leadership Conference, run by the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC). Franklin High School, along with middle and high schools around the state, is a part of MASC, as well as Baltimore County Student Councils (BCSC).

As part of these organizations, Franklin students attend events throughout the year to learn more about leadership and student advocacy. At the Fall Leadership Conference, Franklin students did just this. One of these students who attended this trip was Franklin High School SGA president Senior Victoria Nguyen. When asked about the event, Victoria said, "we attended workshops to better our leadership skills and to gain more knowledge when it comes to trying to apply these skills into our school and into SGA." Franklin students attended a variety of workshops to gain leadership skills and discuss important issues, including

one workshop called "who dun it". In describing the knowledge imparted by this workshop, Victoria said that she learned "if you are screaming and angry, you're probably not going to get anywhere in comparison to you trying to be calm and trying to find the actual truth."

In addition to attending workshops, student delegates had the opportunity to hear a presentation from the Maryland Center for Safe

Schools, listen to a speech from BCPS superintendent Daryl Williams, and hear a college and career panel discussion from former MASC students. One of the most important activities student had the chance to participate in was round table discussions with students from across the state. According to SGA advisor Ms. Scannell, "students get to speak with one another about current issues impacting high schoolers and middle schoolers, especially about mental health and school safety." These roundtable discussions allowed students to get into the specifics of issues that matter most to students and to discuss solutions to these issues on a school level.

Franklin SGA students will continue to interact with students throughout the county and state at Baltimore County Student Council General Assemblies and MASC events throughout the school year, where they will gain skills that they can apply to making the Franklin High School SGA stronger.



SGA Holds School Favorite Coffee House event

By Christina Okoli

The SGA stands for Student Government Association. Its purpose is to provide a representative body for the entire school where events, fundraisers, and service projects to the school can be planned and implemented. SGA is able to improve the school by giving students a voice and teaches leadership skills where students can recognize and solve problems. The SGA primarily focuses on school issues, but national issues do arise in their parliamentary discussions where they can bring up issues, debate, and vote. The SGA worked on school spirit week, mental health awareness, bullying, and school cleaning. "We also encourage political participation such as our election drive last year where we shared information on how to register to vote and provided information on all candidates running for office," said SGA advisor Mr. Tortolero.

What is Coffee House and where? The Coffee House is a monthly event held in the library by the SGA team and teachers. They have open mic where they can enjoy one another and express themselves in a relaxed environment, performing music, poetry, spoken word, and/or other artistic



expressions. One of the SGA's principles is to encourage student and teacher interactions, this is a great way to interact with a diverse group of students and teachers to gain a better understanding of the people who help give the student

body a voice. SGA loves getting suggestions about events, fundraisers, and other ideas from students. If you have something you think could be a good idea for the school to do, this is a great place to share it.

As explained by Mr. Tortolero, "There is an SGA because of the necessity for students to have a body where they can organize themselves and enact meaningful change." Anyone can join SGA. They meet at 2:45 on

Wednesdays in the library. If you have questions, see Mr. Tortolero in room 8 and Ms. Scannell in room 105.

Winter Formal

By Thomas Warrington



Instagram post announcing the theme for Winter Formal

Everyone is raving about the upcoming dance this winter and has waited patiently for details. The school has been buzzing with speculation about the details of the dance; who can attend? How much are tickets? When is the

dance? What is the theme? How long will it be? Where will it be held? These questions and more will be answered now.

The class of 2020 will host the winter formal according to the class' post on Instagram. The theme will be "Red Carpet" which will allow students to express themselves through different outfits. Furthermore, the theme of Red Carpet will provide a unique experience that the majority of students will never know: very few people get to walk on a red carpet.

The event will be held on January 25th, 2020 from 7:30 to 10:30 in the cafeteria. The DJ of the soiree will be Chris Hooper, the same DJ who performed for Homecoming in September. It will be held in the cafeteria instead of the gym-

nasium because only upperclassmen will be permitted to buy tickets. Underclassmen can attend if they go with a juniors or seniors who have bought their tickets.

It is still up in the air when tickets will be sold, but Nada Abdalla, one of the Winter Formal organizers, said they should be sold a week prior to the dance. For a chance to win two free tickets, participate in the Ticket Design Competition. Submit your designs to Ms. Hodskins in room 106 by December 20th to enter. The winner will receive two free winter formal tickets, so if you have an idea or want a chance to win, submit your design. You never know what could happen.

The winter formal is a new event at Franklin High School, so many questions remain. But the wrinkles will be ironed out, and the students will be notified when they are. Speculation of whether or not the event would be happening or not was obvious. Now that it is confirmed, the students have something to look forward to for the foreseeable future.

Future Business Leaders of America

By Jacob McCarthy

As the school year is coming along, many more students are getting involved in school clubs and after school activities. One of the favorite clubs here at Franklin is the FBLA team. The Future Business Leaders of America is the largest career student business organization in the world. The club focuses on leadership development, academic competitions, educational programs, membership benefits, community service, and awards/recognition. FBLA has over 200,000 members across the nation and 5,200 chapters. Recently at Franklin, many students have been able to compete for regionals and even state competitions.

Seniors Max Holzman and Jeremy Stein were able to win the state finals last school year. Their presentation was on sports management. They both qualified for the national competition in San Antonio and were able to place

6th in the nation. Holzman said, "Jeremy and I have a passion for FBLA, we believe that it is setting us up for future success." Not far behind them were 4th place state finalists Spencer Wachs and Hayden Paige. Both these individuals also were able to compete in San Antonio for sports management. Senior Hayden Paige said, "It's funny competing on topics that interest you. Spencer and I felt as though we did better than Max and Jeremy, but we'll try to compete even harder this year". Senior Shelby Michelson said, "Competing keeps me occupied after school and is a great way to interact with new people and build friendships". All the members are currently working on their projects and are eager to start competitions.



www.fbla-pbl.org/

Top Three Holiday Movies To Feel The Holiday Spirit

By Sydnee Hart

1. *ELF*

"Elf" directed by Jon Favreau is spectacular! The story is about "Buddy," played by Will Ferrell. He is an orphan from New York who escapes into Santa's bag and is raised by Elves! As time passes, Buddy realizes he doesn't belong in the North Pole. He makes the life changing decision to search for his parents in the Big Apple! What's not to love about this movie? Ferrell's humor will have you screaming with laughter. There's also many aspects of music featured in the film. "Baby it's cold outside" by Zooey Deschanel and Will Ferrell is everything we need on these winter nights. This movie is meant for all ages and is great to watch with family! Though this movie is filled with jokes, it certainly does not take away the message of the movie:

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."



2. *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" is a classic! When Charlie is upset despite the holiday season, he decides to throw a Christmas show! Though he is made fun of by his friends, Linus tells Charlie the true meaning of Christmas, "It's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters, it's who's around it." The show ends in a celebration. The Charlie Brown series has been around since the 1960's and has had many holiday movies such as "It's the Great Pumpkin" and "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving." This movie brings out a lot of nostalgia and has been around for decades! What makes this movie great is that it's absolutely timeless! Parents of this generation were raised by this movie which falls back onto the newer generation. It truly doesn't feel like Christmas without the Peanuts gang.



3. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*

"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" is as funny as can be! The movie is about the Griswolds who set off to have the "hap-hap-happiest Christmas." However, that turns out not to be the case. This movie screams the expression, "what could go wrong?" There is nothing practical about this movie whatsoever! Though some parts of the movie are extreme and would most likely not occur in real life, it is very relatable and family friendly. If you want to catch this film, it airs on TBS all week from December 20 to December 27.



Holiday Performances In The Area

By Jacob Sands

The holiday season is such a special time of the year. You get to spend time with loved ones, watch seasonal movies, play in the snow, and so much more. One very special aspect of this merry and bright season consists of holiday performances across the entire state. These performances are something you won't want to miss.

One spectacular performance happening this year is the Holidays at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. This event will take place in Frederick, Maryland. Guests can celebrate the season at this elegant theater with performances such as "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "Tuba Christmas," "Lightwire Theater: A Very Electric Christmas," "The Muppet Christmas Carol," and more. These events surely are something you don't want to miss. In addition, it is suitable for all ages. Performances will run from the end of November through most of December.

Another vibrant event taking place is the Holiday Music at the Strathmore. This event will take place in North Bethesda. Guests can expect to see Maryland's campus for the arts presenting an array of holiday concerts. A few performances include: "National Philharmonic: Holiday Singin' Pops," "Strathmore Children's Chorus: Great American Folksongs for the Holidays," "Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Cirque Nutcracker," and many more. These performances will run throughout the entire month of December.

If you're someone who loves classic holiday songs, you're definitely going to want to attend "Holiday Classics at the Meyerhoff." This event will take place at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, Maryland. Guests should expect to hear great holiday music filled with vintage classics that we all cherish. Some performances include: "The Snowman – Animated Film with Live Music," "Handel Messiah," "Nutcracker," "Gospel Christmas," "BSO

Presents: Holiday Spectacular," and many more. Performances will run throughout the entire month of December.

Perhaps the most notable musical event of the holiday season is Franklin High School's Winter Concert. Guests can expect to see hundreds of high school students perform and express their talents in our very own auditorium, with talents including singing in choir or playing music with the orchestra or band. The concert will be held here at Franklin High School on Thursday, December 12th. It is surely a performance you will not want to miss! Come and feel the holiday spirit!



The Core of Christmas

By Simone Tillman

Christmas is one of the most expensive holidays in the world. The average American plans to spend a total of \$633 on gifts just this year. While exchanging gifts is amazing and we all enjoy it, it comes with quite a hefty cost. Every December 25th, parents and loved ones go broke trying to find the perfect present for the ones they hold close. But a secret that many don't know is that you don't have to empty your pockets every holiday season. There are plenty of cheap gifts that can bring the same Christmas cheer.

Gifting extraordinaire and Franklin graduate Corey Tillman said, "The meaning of a



Picture of cheap Christmas themed coffee mugs courtesy of sparklyblonde's YouTube page.

gift lies in the effort, not the price tag." Gifts aren't weighed by how much money was spent in order to get them, but instead by the meaning that lies within. In reality, there's no reason to break the bank in an effort to bring a smile to someone's face. All it takes is some effort and a little bit of creativity.

Teenagers in particular struggle to find cheap gift options every holiday season. On November 28th, a poll was taken on Instagram asking people what cheap gift ideas they would be willing to give and receive. The most popular answers are listed to the side.

The holiday season remains the most expensive season. While it should bring nothing but cheer, the dread of expenses brings nothing but stress. But that can change. Sophomore Symonne Brooks shared her opinion on what Christmas is really about, and to much surprise, money wasn't mentioned once. She said, "Christmas, well really all holidays, are about family. Families getting together is what the holidays are to me at least." So, if the price tag of a present ever dampens your mood, just remember, that is not what the holidays are all about.

Cheap Gift Ideas

(* per person)

Candy **

Coffee mug ***

Pens **

Stickers **

Chocolate ****

Fuzzy socks **

Chapstick *

Soccer ball *

Hat & Gloves *

Is Cellphone Usage Corrupting the Minds of the Young?

By Nakira Boyd

Cellphones have been a great introduction to the 21st century. This technology gives us many opportunities, but some say they have negative effects, as well. What happens to the students with cell phones within the school system? Is it a positive reaction or negative? You be the judge.

Teachers throughout Franklin High School have been at a 'battle' with their students when giving instructions. One student named Natalie said, "I think cell phone use is good and needed because you can research on them and look up information that you can't always find in libraries." However, Mrs. Bennet completely disagreed, saying "it is corrupting our children's minds and making us turn into zombies. I don't think that in today's era it will benefit the kids at Franklin High or any school."

A recent college study found that "95% of students bring their phones to class every day, 92% use their phones to text message during class time, and 10% admit that they have texted during an exam on at least one occasion," according to James May, author of *Cell phones in the classroom: Collaborative or Calamitous*.



Picture illustrating the global cellphone epidemic, courtesy of Google images.

Elijah Blackman said, "It's not the phone itself; it's the influence social media has on us these days. I don't think social media needs to go away, although, kids should monitor the influence from society within Snapchat or Instagram. That is the bigger picture of it all."

In today's society, teachers are still battling to keep their students away from their cellphones unless it is for academic purposes. Mr. Iampieri said, "I don't have any problems with it if it is used academically."

However, some kids might use this opportunity to text and not follow instructions. It's just managing the access to a cellphone that students have to learn.

Junior Tony Harrell said, "Cellphone usage is very damaging. Something needs to happen and fast!"



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Illustration of the human arm enslaved to the cellphone, courtesy of Adobe stock photos.

2019-2020 First Quarter Straight A Students



December Students of the Month

Freshmen Amanie Cabbagestalk, Daniel Catlett, Bryce Ellison, Aiyanna Miller, and Stacy Quintanilla; Sophomores Darcy Johnson and Margarita Skvortsova; Junior Rachel Carver, and Senior Ethan Payton

OK, BOOMER

By Markell Hill

"Ok Boomer" is a phrase that has caused tremendous drama internationally in the last two months. It is a phrase that teens describe as "a joke that boomers took way too seriously."

"Ok Boomer" is meant to be a dig at the Baby Boomer generation (people born between the years of 1946 and 1964) and is most commonly used by generation Z (people born between the years of 1996 and 2010). What was meant as a joke has now become a serious social conflict. Baby boomers describe the phrase as negative and a form of ageism, while some have even gone as far to describe "Ok Boomer" as similar to the "n-word" for Boomers.

The relationship between Boomers and younger generations, including Millennials and Generation Z has become worse in recent years. People who are from Generation Z describe the Boomers as an out of touch generation and say that the famous phrase was introduced for that reason. - The phrase meant to undermine the "BOOMER GENERATION."

This phrase causes Boomers to feel out of touch or behind, as the disconnect between the generations grow, and the debates on whether the phrase is appropriate intensifies. Many describe the phrase "Ok Boomer" as an early example of how the world will eventually advance and completely change socially.



HEADLINES FROM AROUND THE TELEVISION NEWS INDUSTRY

By: Logan Dubel



Former Fox News Anchor Shepard Smith and his successor, Bill Hemmer. Courtesy of Fox News.



Fox 45 Anchors Mary Bubala and Kai Jackson. Courtesy of Fox 45.

FOX NEWS DEPARTURES

The news department at Fox News Channel (FNC) lost two longtime hosts this fall and promoted another. In October, Chief News Anchor and Managing Editor Shepard Smith announced his sudden departure after being with the network since its inception in 1996. Smith cited no specific details as to why he was leaving the top-rated network, but in the recent months leading up to his departure, he was constantly involved in on-air disputes with primetime opinion hosts Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity, and Laura Ingraham. Smith was let out of a multi-year contract at the network, and said in his closing remarks that he would not be reporting at another venue for a couple of years. Smith added that "the facts will win the day, and the truth will always matter." On December 9th, Bill Hemmer, co-anchor of *America's Newsroom* was announced as Smith's replacement. However, a replacement for Hemmer's current anchor spot has not been announced. *Bill Hemmer Reports* will debut in the 3:00PM hour on January 20th. Just weeks after Smith's departure, it was announced that Chief Intelligence Correspondent Catherine Herridge was leaving the network and heading to CBS News as a Senior Investigative Correspondent.



Former Fox News Chief Intelligence Correspondent Catherine Herridge. Courtesy of Fox News.



BALTIMORE LOCAL NEWS SHAKEUP

Baltimore local news media is seeing yet another shakeup. Fox 45 News Anchor Jennifer Gilbert, who had been with the station since 1993, retired on November 26th. Upon her retirement, former WJZ anchor Mary Bubala took over the anchor chair alongside her former WJZ co-anchor Kai Jackson. Jackson has been at Fox 45 since 2015 after a brief stint with Sinclair. For Bubala, this is a second chance she thought that she would never get. Bubala was fired from WJZ in May after she made a comment that some perceived to be offensive in the wake of the Mayor Catherine Pugh book scandal. Mary and Kai currently anchor Fox 45 News at 4:00, 5:00, 10:00, and 11:00PM, and will add a 6:00PM newscast to their duties beginning January 13th.

CBS EVENING NEWS RELOCATION

The *CBS Evening News* began broadcasting from Washington D.C. earlier in December. The broadcast, which has been anchored by Norah O'Donnell since July has been based in New York City for decades. Now, the broadcast is closer than ever to key Washington figures. O'Donnell was promoted from her morning broadcast to the primetime chair amid low ratings from former anchor, Jeff Glor. From July through November, ratings were even lower, though numbers for the start of December have indicated a significant boost



Anchor Norah O'Donnell on set. Courtesy of CBS's *CBS Evening News*.

for the broadcast since debuting the new set. CBS executives are hoping that this move to the capital will set the broadcast apart from its competition. O'Donnell is sharing the brand-new studio with sister broadcast, *Face the Nation*.

TODAY SHOW REUNION

NBC's *Today* welcomed back Jenna Bush Hager, co-host of the fourth hour, which is known as *Hoda and Jenna*. Hager welcomed her third child and first son, Henry "Hal" Hager back in August. November 11th marked the first time that Hager and her co-host, Hoda Kotb were together since April. "Hoda and Jenna" launched on April 8th following the departure of Kathie Lee Gifford, who was with the program for 11 years. Following one week of the new show, Kotb announced the adoption of her second daughter, which resulted in a nearly 5 month long maternity leave. Kotb and Hager were thrilled to be back on the air together.



Hoda Kotb and Jenna Bush Hager on set. Courtesy of NBC's *Today*



Franklin '19-'20 Boys' Basketball Season Begins

By Yaroslav Shalak



After 2 days of tryouts for both JV and Varsity boy's basketball, the final rosters have been selected for the 2019-2020 season of Franklin basketball. After a hard-fought loss in the finals last season, Franklin picks itself up to go for the finals again, and, hopefully, win. Coach Iampieri will be leading the Franklin boy's Varsity basketball team again this year.

Some of the players selected for the Varsity team include Chandler Johnson and Max Holzman, among others. "We got a very deep roster here; one through fourteen, we can all play," senior Forward Max Holzman said. "We lost in the county championship last year, but we think that we're even better than what we were last year. So, we're hoping we make it past the county's and hopefully win the state championship." Confidence in the roster is essential to this lineup as many of the star players from last year have graduated, leaving much skepticism in this year's team. However, the new team hopes to shatter that doubt and come out on top. Franklin has not won a championship in boys' basketball since 1948 and hopes to break that seven-decade drought of championship wins.

Coach Iampieri has also expressed high hopes for the team. "I expect that we get back to the county championship game and this time win it." Coach Iampieri also commented on the age of the team being a big impact on this year's roster. "We're a very senior laden team which, in my expectation, means that we will



have a lot more leadership and guys that really understand their roles." The coach showed great trust in the team. With both the players and coach having great expectations for this season, the only thing left for them to do is to show that confidence. In the scrimmage against Calvert Hall, the Franklin team dominated all 4 quarters, with a final score of 90-68 in favor of Franklin. FHS hopes to continue this dominating effort into the regular season.

Looking Forward in The Wrestling Season

By Luqman Ssengo



Wrestling is a process within one's self. Before you even face an opponent, you're in a long competition with yourself. Prepping for matches is grueling, so the glory of winning becomes that much sweeter. Freshman Michael Binder is "looking to just place in states," and this makes sense in moving forward with his career. Being so young the freshman looks to be something big if he can do this in his first season. The task is just staying committed.

Wrestling is so hard that the coaches host cuts by letting the competitors choose if they want to put in the work or not. "You could

say it's a very independent sport," said sophomore Vaughn Everette. There's more promise and motivation in those who already know where they are on the journey to compete in matches. The head Coach Vincent Crocker even says for those who are ranked and are better it's "more pressure" in practice and preparation events. Every day for these athletes includes cutting weight, high-intensity practice, and staying focused. More experienced wrestlers take it more seriously because they know "it's tough," said Coach Crocker.

The win is very rewarding. Just ask Juniors Jamal Everette and Nate Myers, who both have outstanding records and almost unquestionably look to place in states this year.

There is high hopes and high praise for both juniors that had to come up with struggles. They both work extremely hard and have dedicated themselves to the sport throughout the majority of their high school careers. Everette says "it's finally about to pay off".

Senior Chiedu Cheka also has high hopes going into his last year of wrestling. With

a 31-9 record, last year Coach Crocker says the senior "has a good shot". When asked how he saw the season going, Chiedu says "he'll probably place top four in the state". Planning to follow in Elijah Solomon's footsteps Chiedu has his eyes locked on going to states, maybe even nationals.

As a whole team, they have developed and can do great this year. The Franklin High school wrestling team hasn't won states as a team in 20 years, so winning or getting close to this would be an accomplishment that hasn't been done in years.



College Basketball Tip Off

By Justin Magaziner and Douglas Ditto

The 2019-2020 college basketball season has started, and although there isn't a big-name star like Zion Williamson, the field is wide open and there is plenty of excitement brewing around the country. The reigning champion Virginia Cavaliers entered the season ranked 11th, although they lost both cogs from their superstar backcourt of Ty Jerome and Kyle Guy, who both went to the NBA.

Legendary coach Tom Izzo's Michigan State Spartans entered the season as the number one team in the nation, led by senior point guard and the consensus best player in the country, Cassius Winston. They also will return key wing Josh Langford and big man Xavier Tillman, who are both expected to be key contributors as the Spartans make their run for the Big Ten Title and potentially a National Championship.

The Kentucky Wildcats once again have a young team with plenty of NBA talent under coach John Calipari, as they enter the season at number 2 in the country. They are led by returning guard Ashton Hagans as well as 5-star freshman Tyrese Maxey, who shined in his college debut under the bright lights of Madison Square Garden, scoring 26 points including a game sealing 3. They also added fellow 5-star recruit Kahlil Whitney, as well as highly touted 4-stars in Johnny Juzang and Keion Brooks. This team is extremely talented but may suffer from their reliance on freshmen who often falter in big games.

The Kansas Jayhawks are yet another highly ranked

blue blood program, ranked 3rd in the preseason AP poll. The Jayhawks are led by returning big man Senior Udoka Azubuike as well as sophomore guard Devon Dotson. They will also be joined by highly anticipated big man Silvio De Sousa who is finally eligible to play again after a controversial battle with the NCAA over an alleged payment he received while being recruited. Bill Self has a talented group, that has all the potential to make a Final Four run.

Legendary Coach Mike Krzyzewski once again has a very talented group as Duke enters the season ranked number 4. Duke lost most of their highly touted freshman from last season, however, guard Tre Jones is returning for his sophomore season. Duke is led by sophomore guard Tre Jones, as well as a talented group of highly touted freshmen.

This team is very young and inexperienced, but can not be slept on as they have plenty of talent and an all-time great coach in Coach K.

The local favorite Maryland Terrapins entered the season ranked 7th, and are hoping to ride a young, talented group to a deep run this year. Coach Mark Turgeon is in a make or break year, as he continually brings in talented groups of freshmen, but is yet to make it further than the Sweet 16. This group is extremely deep, but has only



The Michigan State Spartans discussing strategy

two upperclassmen in the rotation, senior point guard Anthony Cowan Jr. and junior guard Darryl Morsell. They also bring back star sophomore big man Jalen "Stix" Smith, who will likely be spending his final season in College Park as he is expected to be a first-round selection in the NBA draft next year. This group has the potential to go deep into the tournament but likely will only make it as far as their freshmen will take them.

There is a lot of pressure hanging over the heads of Louisville's Men's Basketball team due to their surprise success last season. Reaching the tournament last season coming off of several years of ineligibility due to a recruiting scandal was completely unexpected. Second year head coach Chris Mack is focused on getting his team even further than last year. Perhaps the most exciting part of the team this year is stand out forward Jordan Nwora. If not for a knee injury Nwora probably would have declared for the NBA draft, however, he is now expected to be a top player in the NCAA this season.



The Terps planning their attack

Free Agency Frenzy

By Gabe Kinstlinger

As the 2019 MLB season has come to a close, a new season has begun — the Free Agency season. Many big names headline this year's free agency class, including star 3rd baseman Anthony Rendon and Gerrit Cole, possibly the best pitcher in the MLB. These players are in for massive paydays, but it can be very hard trying to predict where they will sign, as last second changes and new offers in the past have shaken the MLB landscape. In the past few years, the hot stove hasn't seen many players sign early in free agency, possibly waiting for more money, or to review their offers.

Last offseason was a major landmark in free agency, with Padres Third Baseman Manny Machado and Phillies Right Fielder Bryce Harper each setting the record for largest free agent sports contracts. This will most likely not occur again this year, but there are plenty of players with the potential to receive massive paydays.

Anthony Rendon, 3B, former Washington National- After finally receiving the recognition that he deserves after a long period of underappreciation, this

MVP candidate might receive a contract worth \$250 million, given the right circumstances. Being an immensely popular player with Nationals fans, and being in negotiations for an extension throughout the year, Rendon will probably stay put in the Nation's capital, but the Rangers, with a gaping hole at 3rd base, and since Rendon grew up in Texas, might just have the money to make a surprising run.

Gerrit Cole, SP, Former Houston Astro- The Astros kept him in their bullpen during their game seven defeat, which was a bitter end to his time in Houston for the Cy Young Candidate. Possibly the best starting pitcher in the league, Cole may be in place to receive the largest contract ever for a pitcher. The Astros have enough money to make a run at him, but the Angels have an abysmal pitching staff, and they need to improve before Mike Trout's prime is over. This being a star player in free agency, the Yankees are unsurprisingly the favorites to sign the ace, with starting pitching being their only big need.

Stephen Strasburg, SP, Former Washington National- The World Series MVP recently declined his player option,

due to his belief that he could gain more money than the option would be giving him. The former #1 overall draft pick has lived up to the hype, and he should expect a massive contract this offseason. Despite declining his qualifying offer, the Nationals are the favorites in the Strasburg sweepstakes, with the Yankees and any other competitive team in need of starting pitching expected to make a run.

Madison Bumgarner, SP, former San Francisco Giant- Man, is this free agency loaded with Starting Pitching. Another former world series MVP was shockingly not dealt at the trade deadline last July, as the Giants decided that since they had won 5 games, they were for real. The 30 year old's production has declined a bit the past few seasons, but he can still prove to be a valuable veteran addition to any team. After losing Gerrit Cole to free agency, the Astros are one potential suitor, with the Braves being another team poised to offer MadBum a contract. Many more players are entering free agency who deserve sizeable contracts, but they won't make as profound of an impact as these four, such as outfielder Marcell Ozuna, and third baseman Josh Donaldson.

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