

REMEMBERING CHAD



DURING North Twp, Andrew Gomen, '18, sells wristbands to raise money for the Keep the Spark Alive Foundation. Gomen, along with others, raised more than \$1,000 for the foundation. "(Chad) was a great friend of mine and a teammate also," Gomen said. photo by colette fogarty.



WATCHING the first home football game, Anna Price, '18, wears a blue ribbon in her hair. Since this was the first home game, many students wore blue ribbons in honor of Chad. "I just thought it was a really cool symbol because we were able to show everyone in the crowds and the other team how we support it and love each other," Price said. photo by alle rosenberg.

ALONG with her teammates, Elle Shartzar, '18, poses for a picture. At this game, both dance team and cheer wore blue ribbons to honor Chad. "I thought it was a nice gesture for the first game, and I thought it honored him well because he loved going to football games," Shartzar said. photo by gretchen ellis.



SINGING at a choir concert, Abigail Sarsorich, '18, and Faith Kopsky, '18, wear a blue ribbon in support of Chad. All members of the choir wore ribbons. "I think it is a powerful way to promote suicide prevention and keep this spark alive," Kopsky said. photo by rose muldoon.



CHEERING for the football team, Olivia Barbour, '18, Anna Davis, '18, and Jordyn Dubinsky, '18, dress for the Hawaiian for Hamill theme. Dubinsky loved showing her love and support for the Hamills. "The theme really [helped] the family see the support from our school and how many people really cared about him and supported him," Dubinsky said. photo by wonbin park.

The school community remembers Chad Harrell

THROUGHOUT the year, the school community held events and fundraisers to remember the life of senior Chad Harrell, who died June 12.

After learning of Chad's passing, some students and alumni organized a candlelight vigil on June 12. Many of Chad's friends and family members, as well as others, were there to watch the lighting ceremony.

Preston Smith, '18, was one friend who attended the vigil. "Chad's vigil was probably one of the most difficult times of the grieving process because it was the same day that he passed away," Smith said. "Teachers, friends, families, and other students all met at the BVN football field to talk about his life and our favorite moments with him."

As summer came to an end, seniors went back to school without a classmate they had been in school with for years. At the end of the first day of school assembly, Principal David Stubblefield requested the seniors stay in the gym, wanting to assure seniors that people within the school were there for them and that there were resources to help them cope.

"I wanted to touch base with them as a class, obviously he was part of that senior class," Stubblefield said. "He had a lot of friends and a lot of people who knew him in that class. The start of the school year is an emotional time anyway and then adding onto that, not having a classmate that you've known for many, many years can be a difficult time."

At the first soccer game of the year, the boys varsity soccer team decided to wear blue bands for Chad and their jersey colors. Chad's parents were at the game.

"The idea behind it was that we wanted to honor him in some way, obviously his favorite color is blue, most people know, so we decided to wear a blue band that we got approved by administration and referees in memory of him, because we are all kind of still shocked by the whole situation," Brett Tilton, '18, said. Many other sports teams decided to do the same. Students also found other ways to remember Chad.

Edward Bordeau, '18, and his band, Joyride, held a concert and donated their proceeds to mental health and suicide prevention charities.

"My band Joyride had a concert on the calendar and it happened to coincide with the day of the funeral, which was a Friday, so after the funeral we played at RC's Bar and Grill and all the proceeds went to mental health and suicide prevention charities and it raised about \$1,500 in the end," Bordeau said.

Looking back on the vigil, Chad's mother, Sylvia Harrell, was happy to see the day end with a beautiful sunset, a sign to many that Chad was there with them.

"We are proud to see that all of these people that spoke saw Chad the way that we did — an amazing kid with an ability to make everyone laugh, smile and feel loved," Harrell said.

◇ story by taylor slusher.