

Groundbreaking Junior League announced by Lavar Ball

It has been debated for years about whether or not players should have the ability to skip college and go to the NBA. Legends like LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, and Kevin Garnett skipped the collegiate level to play professionally, proving that college is not always needed for development. In 2005, however, the NBA incorporated a new rule into the draft. A player had to be of 19 years of age at least to qualify for the draft. The commissioner of the league at the time, David Stern, stated that the reason for this change was to discourage urban Americans from looking past college and relying on making the NBA for a stable source of income. Most top players now go to college for just one year and then go to the draft, arguably making the age requirement redundant. An alternative for players that don't want to play in college is going overseas to earn money while playing ball. But never has there been the idea of adding another league to transition players into the NBA, until this week by none other than Lavar Ball.

We all know about the controversy surrounding the Ball family. Whether it's Lavar saying that his son can defeat Stephen Curry in a one-on-one or LiAngelo shoplifting in China, people are aware of the Ball family shenanigans. But the newest installment to the drama surrounding the Ball family is Lavar's announcement of establishing the Junior Basketball Association. This new league directly combats the NCAA's ability to acquire top-ranked high school ballers by offering contracts to its players. Contracts for lower ranked players are estimated to be worth around \$3,000 whereas top ranked players can earn up to \$10,000. Lavar hopes to form ten teams in this association, with each having eight players on a roster.

In a statement made by JBA, it said, "The JBA league is for basketball players who intend to pursue the sport professionally. With the introduction of the JBA, allowing the NCAA to regulate and control the eligibility status of top basketball prospects will no longer be an issue. There is no need to partake in an institution that claims its purpose is not to help you prepare for your professional career."

While this move is very risky, it is undeniable that it has serious potential. Players have protested for years about the age requirement, and while this new league may not eliminate the rule, it will allow the best NBA prospects to earn money and play with the best of the best in their age group. But the real question is whether or not the JBA will be able to survive and compete with the NCAA.

"It ultimately depends on whether or not Lavar is able to provide these contracts and follow through on his promises to these athletes," Prep junior and basketball fan Andrew Olds says, "If these players are paid appropriately, big name players will definitely join because of the guaranteed money and good coverage because of the concentrated talent in this league."

The JBA has said that their league will be up and running in the summer of 2018. This incredibly quick startup is a prime example of a high risk, high reward scenario. If the league is ready to start by this time and contains little to no flaws, the JBA will skyrocket. But if it fails in a significant matter, the very existence of this junior league could cease in an instant. Hopefully this new organization is able to take off this summer, because if one thing is for certain, nothing is going to be more entertaining than seeing these alpha NBA prospects bringing the best out of each other in high action and fast-paced games.

Cathedral Prep Swimming Outlook

As the temperature starts to cool and snow begins to fall, things have started to heat up at the David M. Hallman III Aquatics Center. The 2017-2018 Cathedral Prep swimming team has plans to avenge its second place finish to Grove City High School at the PIAA Class AA Championships last year. This year they plan to make history by becoming the first team in school history to capture a state title at Bucknell University, on March 14-17, 2018.

Prep will have rely on a strong senior class this season if they want to take home the crown down in Bucknell. After losing Tony Squeglia, the District 10 Class AA 200 freestyle record holder as well as a three-time state medalist down in Lewisburg last year, and Jacob Schmidt, who swam on both the silver medalist 200 freestyle relay, and fourth place 400 freestyle relay last year.

“Our team this year is built around winning relays and putting as many people into finals as possible,” said head coach Mike Doyle. “We can put multiple people into finals this year at states and pick up a lot of points, something no other team can do.”

A tough schedule lies ahead of the Ramblers. Leading the team into battle this year are seniors Calvin Behm (co-captain), Alec Thomas (co-captain), Thomas Uht (co-captain), Matthew Wegley (co-captain) and Mitch Cizmek. They will compete in two invitationals, the Prestigious Viking Invitational in Cleveland, Ohio and their own, the Cathedral Prep/Villa Maria Christmas Invitational. Their schedule features New York

Powerhouse Canisius High School, and a quad meet in Pittsburgh featuring three strong WPIAL programs. Some of their biggest competition though, will come from region rival McDowell High School. McDowell, who swept the District 10 Class AAA Championships last year at the Spire Institute, is expected to give the Ramblers all they can handle. A strong core of seniors, including Ryan Snyder, Austin Intrieri, John Vieira, Jacob Fleming, and Bobby Bolmanski, who all picked up multiple gold medals last season, will lead the Trojans in scoring against Prep.

Returning for the Ramblers this year is a plethora of talent. They return all four members of the state champion 200 yard medley relay team which includes sophomore Ethan Neff, Junior Robbie Maholic, Senior Calvin Behm, and Senior Thomas Uht. In the 200 freestyle senior Alec Thomas who medaled in the event at states last year will be joined by district medalist Mitch Cizmek. The 200 Individual Medley has become a stronghold for the Ramblers as Calvin Behm, JP Stark, and Ethan Neff placed second, third, and fourth in last years district meet. In the 50 freestyle, Thomas Uht is the only returning district medalist from last year but will be joined by some younger talent like Gavin Ferry who placed in the top ten. The 100 butterfly returns three district medalists, Robbie Maholic, Matt Wegley, and Gavin Ferry who placed third, fifth, and sixth respectively. The state runner up 200 freestyle relay returns two members, Alec Thomas and Thomas Uht.

On the second day of competition the Ramblers look for Thomas Uht to set the tone in the first event of the night, the 100 freestyle where he medaled last year. In the 500 freestyle, Alec Thomas won the gold last year and was joined on the podium by Matt Wegley. Freshman Ethan Neff a state medalist in the 100 backstroke returns with Robbie Maholic who grabbed the silver medal at the District 10 meet. The 100 breaststroke is another one of the events in which Preps depth can truly shine. JP Stark looks to defend his title and Calvin Behm who

placed third last year will be joined by Andrew Campbell, a newcomer who can join them atop the podium this March. In the 400 freestyle relay, Alec Thomas and Thomas Uht are the only returning members, but look to sophomore Ethan Neff and Calvin Behm to fill the missing pieces.

Box Village raises money for Emmaus Soup Kitchen

Cathedral Prep held their annual event Box Village on Saturday, Dec. 16th. Many of students signed up to help raise awareness for the homeless. The students had to camp out in only a box to see what it would feel like to be homeless for a night. The event took place from 3 p.m. on Saturday until 9 a.m. Sunday morning. Students stood out on the street corners to take donations from people driving by.

Everyone had to sign up for a shift taking donations. Another thing the students had to sign up for was adoration. They had to spend 30 minutes in adoration praying. From 11 p.m. until 12 a.m. everyone was to have an hour where they didn't talk. They spent that time praying and reflecting on their experience. The students then gathered to have a midnight mass.

"It really put it into perspective what homeless people have to go through," said junior Robert Wierbinski. "I have done this every year since I've been at Prep and it makes me feel good to know I could help out."

Junior Albert Caldwell stated, "Box Village really helped me come closer with my brothers, too."

It was a very good bonding experience for all the students participating. In the free time some students played football for fun. Other students had snowball fights and sat around the fire. All the participants helped clean up the boxes in the morning and threw them away. The students ended up raising over \$5,000. All the money went towards the Emmaus Soup Kitchen.

Raging Wildfires plague California

In Southern California, forest fires have been raging through the area while firefighters struggle to contain them. There have been six fires in total: Thomas Fire, Rye Fire, Creek Fire, Skirball Fire, Liberty Fire. According to CNN, these combined fires are larger than New York City and Boston combined.

Thomas Fire has been the biggest contributor, destroying more than 790 structures and causing damages of more than \$34 million. Lilac has been one of the most recent and very fast-moving fires, consuming 4,100 acres in a short span since its ignition Thursday. All of these fires have started as simple brush fires that turned into the monstrosities seen today.

These fires have been devastating for many families who live in the Southern California area. A “red flag warning” has been extended into Wednesday evening, according to the National Weather Service. This means that elevated conditions could arise due to the gusty winds and low humidity. These conditions raise the risk for more terror. Already, these fires have forced almost 100,000 people to evacuate. Fire

officials are always on the lookout for the people who are in danger. Officially, one person has died from these fires, a 70-year-old woman by the name of Santua Puala who died as she was trying to escape. Her body was found, hers is the only officially known death.

At this very moment, firefighters are expending all of their resources to try and mitigate these fires. According to ABC news, Governor Jerry Brown commented “[We’re] facing a new reality in the state,” he said. “It’s a horror and a horror we need to recover from.” He noted that climate change and California’s drought have caused these fires.

People from all over the country are sending their thoughts and prayers towards the families in California. Thanks and prayers should be sent to the firefighters risking their lives to protect the residents of Southern California

The economic impact of the Christmas season

The famous phrase “Black Friday” is a polarizing term that is often associated with too-good-to-be-true deals on unnecessarily large televisions and viral internet videos of stampedes of eager shoppers. However, the term generally refers to the Friday after Thanksgiving when many businesses, especially retail stores, begin to sell mass amounts of inventory and become profitable after months of losses. (In accounting terminology, “black” means profitable as opposed to “red” when a business is in the negative). While we here at Cathedral Prep stay true to the meaning of this religious season, many economists and secularists alike claim that

Christmas has become more a celebration of American capitalism than of the birth of Christ. But how big of an impact does the Christmas season really have on the United States economy?

Of the Americans who chose to spend their holiday weekend following Thanksgiving shopping, one thing is clear: they were ready to spend some money. The National Retail Federation (NRF) estimates that over the holiday weekend, the average shopper spent \$251 on gifts. Last year, holiday retail sales reached over \$655 billion, which only strengthened the general trend of growing annual holiday sales in the United States. While we remember and focus the miracle of Christ's birth on the 25th each year, the consistent strength of the American economy is just one more of the many Christmas blessings.

Another often overlooked benefit of the holiday season is the impact it has on an important concept in economic models: consumer sentiment or outlook. Often times the actual strength of an economy is less important than how individual people feel the economy is doing. If the U.S. is in a deep recession but the American people feel all is well, it is likely that they will continue to spend money and inadvertently lift the economy out of that recession. Jingle bells and holiday cookies tend to give everyone a little extra cheer, and the economy benefits as a result. Richard Curtin, an economist from the University of Michigan, discusses the importance of consumer sentiment in a recent data release, and also discusses the real effects of a strong economy in the Christmas season saying, "...the most important changes in early December were higher income expectations..." It seems as though this holiday season is only helping to reinforce the bull market the American economy finds itself in now.

As the origin of the term Black Friday implies, the holiday season can be important to individual businesses and even make sure they turn a yearly profit. The short period between Thanksgiving and Christmas accounts for, on average, 30 percent of all sales for retailers according to NRF. In less

than a month, many big stores, such as Best Buy and Target, as well as little stores bring in almost a third of all their annual revenue. Research also points out the shifting ways in which consumers choose to purchase their Christmas gifts, with more consumers choosing to exclusively purchase goods online than exclusively in brick and mortar stores in 2017. This Christmas season is only pushing what has long been foretold by experts that the internet and technology in general would dramatically shift the nature of the economy.

Whether one is Christian or not, it is hard to ignore the economic presence the Christmas season or more broadly, the holiday season, has on the American economy. As consumers begin to drastically increase their spending attempting to express their love for their family and friends, many businesses give thanks for another year of profitability. While we may be grateful for the salvation promised with the birth of Christ, we can also be thankful for a bit of economic prosperity.

Meet Trae Young, a.k.a Stephen Curry 2.0

Yes, calling a player “Steph Curry 2.0” may be going a bit overboard, especially when he hasn’t graduated college. But collegiate superstar Trae Young is already a top-5 projected draft pick and is on track to becoming the NCAA player of the year. The 19-year-old Oklahoma Sooner point guard has been balling out this season, averaging 28.5 points (leads NCAA), and 10.5 assists (also 1st in the NCAA) per game. He accomplishes these averages by shooting 48 percent from the field as well as 38 percent from three. While these stats are

impressive, you cannot say that he is the next Curry just based off of averages. Luckily, he backs up the comparisons to the two-time MVP with his fearless mentality.

Young is a phenomenal shooter from beyond the arc, with a strong emphasis on "beyond." Just like Stephen Curry, Trae Young is able to shoot from 30 feet out and consistently make shots. Not only is he able to make threes and space the floor, he is also able to drive to the basket with elite ball handling and agility to secure his team two points. One particular aspect of Young's game is absorbing contact and drawing the foul while driving into the lane. And because he shoots around 86 percent from the line, it makes it virtually impossible to stop him when he decides to B-line it for the hoop.

At this point in Trae Young's college career, he is statistically playing better than Curry did in his first year of college at Davidson. On Tuesday, Young tied the NCAA men's basketball assist record with 22. Curry's highest for his freshman season at Davidson was a meager (in comparison to Young's) 6 assists. With only ten games in the season, Trae has already scored 43 points in a game against Oregon. Curry had his highest scoring game as a freshman in a game against Michigan, when he scored 32 points. The competition Trae has faced this season so far has not been easy either. He was able to conquer the former number 3 team in the country (Wichita State), along with Oregon, who pretty much has a great basketball team every single season and is a perennial PAC-12 program. Curry, on the other hand, played in a much weaker conference than Young, which would arguably make it easier for him to score more and be more efficient on the court.

While it does seem the Sooner superstar guard does have the upper hand on Stephen Curry at this point in his career, it is truly impossible to predict what he will be like in the future. Last year, this type of treatment was given to Lonzo Ball. He is currently performing at a sub par level in the

NBA, which does not live up to the hype that surrounded him in college. Similarly to Lonzo, Curry also had a rough rookie season, so for people to make these extremely early predictions is not necessarily naive, but premeditated. Who knows, maybe Young will come into the NBA as an immediate threat at the point guard position. But until then, basketball fans will just have to wait and see if Trae Young is the real deal.

Rambler Repeat: Prep football wins second straight state title

“I think they are probably the best team in the state in any class,” said Thomas Jefferson’s head coach Bill Cherpak. “When you lose to a better team, what can you say [but] they were the better team.” Cooper Lutz, star Berks Catholic running back, printed out a picture of Matt Bauer hoisting the state championship trophy in the air last season and hung it over his bed so he could remind himself that the trophy belongs to *him* this year. Imhotep Charter’s head coach, Nick Lincoln, said, “I think we’re going in as the underdog, but we’ve faced some adversity, which might give us an advantage.” At each stage of this unheralded playoff run, Prep has left their critics speechless. “We had a target on our backs all year and we were made well aware of that,” said senior Terry Roberts.

The Ramblers left Hershey Park undefeated...again. In fact, this senior class has more state championship titles than overall losses. Led by the senior core of Joe Mischler, Matt Bauer, Terry Roberts, Juice Scruggs, and Tyler Oedekoven, this team

made much more than just lifelong memories and an honorable school legacy, they made history.



With the 12th man making themselves known in Hershey, the Ramblers' cheering section was well alive for the state championship. Despite the bitter cold weather, students, teachers, faculty, families, and alumni made sure to support Prep

and got out to the biggest game of the season. Buses of Prep and Villa students and teachers flooded the gates and made their way inside the stadium. The taste of victory suddenly was in reach, and the Ramblers were licking their chops.

They were up against a daunting task, however. Imhotep boasts three of the top five 2019 recruits in the state of Pennsylvania, including the #1 player Omar Speights, along with Tykee Smith, and Yusuf Terry, according to 247sports. They are a perennial Philadelphia powerhouse in both football and basketball. The 40-3 beat down of the Ramblers that Imhotep was able to enjoy two seasons ago would long be short-lived. But they will undoubtedly be a force for years to come.

Imhotep's star Penn State commit, Isheem Young, was ineligible to play due to legal issues he ran into. However, Prep also was without star defensive back/wide receiver Navy commit Anthony Bolden, co-team captain defensive back/wide receiver Henry Fessler, and another co-team captain Ian Malesiewski due to injuries. Both teams suffered major losses and were looking for production elsewhere. "Like I said before, the kids have to take a next-man-up approach, rally around each other, and play as hard as possible." said Lincoln.

Prep lost the toss and was forced to receive the opening kick. Neither team was able to generate a score on their first possession. That all changed after Mischler hooked up with

Terry Roberts for 64 yards on a big catch and run. Then, junior Billy Lucas rumbled his way into the end zone from 2 yards out to put the Ramblers on the board first. Lucas' score came just a week after exploding for 268 rushing yards and 5 touchdowns to break a school record.

Imhotep gained some momentum in the second quarter playing bully-ball in their run dominant offense. Tykee Smith finished off a solid drive for the Panthers to even the score up. After an onside kick recovery, it was Carl Jones who punched it in from 5 yards out and gave Imhotep their first lead of the night. With 55 seconds remaining in the first half, the Ramblers answered back with a 17-yard strike from Mischler to Roberts in the end zone. Shortly after a fumble recovery by Matty Bo Bauer, Anthony Lupo nailed a 37-yard field goal as time expired in the second quarter.

It was a back-and-forth affair through the first 24 minutes of action, and both sides knew that much still had to be done to walk out as champions. Fresh out of the half, it was the Ramblers who recovered the onside kick and quickly converted it into 7 points thanks to another Lucas run. In the midst of another long, tiring Imhotep drive, Kareem Carson recovered a fumble to give possession back to Prep. Mischler ran it in himself after finding Oedekoven for a 74-yard bomb to set it up in the red zone.

Sutton Christian found the end zone connecting with his big receiver Yusuf Terry to open up the last quarter of play. As the Ramblers made their way down the field, it was Billy Lucas yet again with a 6-yard touchdown to seal the perfect season for Cathedral Prep. The final score was 38-28 with the Ramblers showing why they are the best in the state. Lucas led the way with 99 yards and 3 touchdowns on the ground while Mischler completed 8 of 13 passes for 199 yards with both a passing and running score. Terry Roberts broke the 100-yard mark receiving, finding the end zone as well. On defense Hunter Orlando had Prep's only registered sack and Orlando

also tied with Bauer for the game high in total tackles. It seemed like Prep was in control from start to finish and never lost their poise or confidence. Although this year's team may be the most star-laden in school history, many role players and lesser known individuals really stepped up and were stars in their own right on that special Thursday night in Hershey. Bauer spoke on the reasoning behind that and said, "We were one unit together as brothers, which allowed our dreams to come true."

Cathedral Prep was featured on Sunday Night Football in Pittsburgh and also rounded out the top 25 list in the High School Football America Poll.

Many wonder what makes this year's team different from the great ones in years past. After facing Prep in the first round, coach Bill Cherpak seems to have the answer, back-to-back Pennsylvania 4A player of the year and Ohio University recruit Joe Mischler. "He's the difference; there's no doubt. He's such a great player. Without him, that's a much, much different team. He's really that good. When we had him tied up, he ran for it. We had coverage, he ran it. We tried to spy him, and that didn't work. He's just a really, really good quarterback."

Along with Mischler, this year's Ramblers featured five other all-state players including Notre Dame-bound linebacker Matty Bo Bauer, Iowa-bound defensive back Terry Roberts, record breaking wide receiver Tyler Oedekoven, Penn State-bound offensive lineman Juicy Scruggs, and running back/linebacker/defensive back Billy Lucas was included as the lone junior. Bauer also was named recognized on the USA Today All-USA team.

"The past four years of playing football at Cathedral Prep have exceeded any and all expectations. Growing up I always dreamed of being a Rambler, more specifically a Rambler football player. Never once did I expect things to end up in

the picture perfect way that they have. What this team has accomplished over the past few years is something no other Prep football team is able to say. It's forever history, and that is something to be proud of. The friendships and bonds I have made through four short years of Prep football is remarkable. It's truly something great to be apart of. Unfortunately, words cannot describe how much it means to me," said Joe.

Coach Mike Mischler returned to Erie with his 4th state championship and his second consecutive. Mischler has built a consistent winner out of the program and has a championshi caliber staff to go along with him. "To be able to play for him is an experience I wish I could relive, even if it were just one more game. He's been my coach, my idol, my dad and my best friend, and I cherish every moment with him, not just on the field but off as well," said Joe. It is obvious what Coach Mischler means to not only the program but also to the school and community.

Prep football has made Erie proud yet again. They have made Western Pennsylvania proud. This team has singlehandedly put Erie football back on the map as a serious contender statewide. They did something twice that people couldn't imagine anyone from this area doing once. An Erie football team went head-to-head with a Philadelphia powerhouse and took them down. A reference to David and Goliath has been used here before, but I wouldn't bet against those boys over on West 9th Street regardless of who they're matched up against. Prep should no longer be viewed as the "underdog" to anyone. So, perhaps it's time to rethink who's really David and who's really Goliath.

Addressing the issue of America's aging infrastructure

Over the past few years, the issue of America's aging infrastructure has floated in and out of the national conversation. However, experts are becoming increasingly concerned over the condition and degradation of America's roads, bridges, and water infrastructure which includes sewers, storm drains, and canals. In fact, in their 2017 "Infrastructure Report Card", the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the United States' infrastructure a D+ grade. In 2013, Transportation for America rated Pennsylvania the state with the poorest infrastructure, citing that one in four bridges is considered "structurally deficient" with roughly 19 million people driving over these bridges each day. America undoubtedly has an infrastructure problem which poses a growing safety risk each day it goes unaddressed.

What would a movement to fix America's countrywide problem look like and why has nothing been done up until this point? Any revamping of the nation's infrastructure would inevitably start with the federal government, but details have been scarcely discussed despite some popularity in the topic in the last election cycle. However, one thing is for certain; it would be expensive. Based on estimates from the Federal Highway Administration, simply fixing substandard bridges today would cost over \$75 billion. This number also fails to consider the vast number of bridges that are expected to become deficient in the coming years, as well as the cost of every other form of infrastructure, from power lines to dams, that needs restored or replaced in the United States. At a minimum, a complete remedy to this national crisis would cost hundreds of billions of dollars. With the federal deficit now over \$20 trillion and only growing, it is difficult to find

the necessary funding to needed to repair the nation's highways and waterways.

While any bill from Congress aimed at fixing domestic infrastructure would be costly, some politicians are optimistic on passing such legislation. Lawmakers on both sides of the isle believe an economic stimulus plan in the form of infrastructure improvement would help spur the economy with the dramatic increase in federal spending. A similar approach was taken in 2009 under the Obama administration in response to the recession with mixed results, although the economic conditions were much different than current ones. In addition to this, people like Jim Glassman, an economist for J.P. Morgan, believe that improved roads and other forms of transportation will facilitate trade across the country. By designing and creating more efficient roads, transportation costs for many companies would fall. While you might never drive on a new bridge in California, that new tablet you ordered on Amazon might be a bit cheaper because of it.

While a dramatic increase in government spending has the potential to stimulate the economy, a mistimed bill may produce undesired effects. The last true stimulus bill seen in the United States was in 2009 to curb the deep recession. However, financial markets and the American economy in general has been performing quite well. The implementation of a stimulus plan under current economic conditions may inadvertently overheat the economy and deepen the looming recession.

Although failing to address America's obvious infrastructure issue is a real gamble, lawmakers have been focused on other matters in recent months. As many Americans are happy with the current state of the economy, pressure to keep up high economic growth may incentivize Congress to seek new ways to sustain growth, like using government resources to revitalize the national highway system. However, it is important these representatives are conscientious of the long-term

ramifications of a hasty stimulus plan.

2017-18 Cathedral Prep Basketball Preview

Returning to another season on the sidelines for the Ramblers, coach Mark Majewski will have his hands full this year. With a much younger group than usual, the emergence of Erie High, and some key additions for McDowell, the competition will give Prep all they can handle. However, confidence is not lacking on West 9th Street. Although talent may be high, experience is low. Can the Ramblers overcome the odds, or will they crumble under the pressure?

Backcourt: The keys to the offense will be handed to senior Aaron McBride. The hope is that McBride is next in the long line of great Prep point guards. Last year, he was forced to play second fiddle to Jaryn Simpson, who now plays for Edinboro University. McBride has basketball in his blood as his sister, Kayla, is a WNBA All-Star. If there is any experience shortage in the backcourt, it is more than made up for with McBride. "As a leader, I motivate my teammates to be the best version of themselves in basketball, but more importantly to be great young men."

The off guard spot will be manned by a committee of sophomore Alfonso Pickens, freshman Michael Lucarotti, junior Isiah Crosby, versatile sophomore Quentin Santillan, and hard-working junior Caden Elwell. Both Pickens and Crosby have the ability to slide over to point guard to spell McBride. The presumptive sixth man, Tommy Russo, will bring defensive tenacity and experience off the bench.

Senior Adam Upperman may very well be Prep's best overall player. He uses his length, quickness, and athleticism to get to the rim and be a disruptive presence on defense. He's worked extremely hard to improve his jump shot and if the four 3s to open the season against North Allegheny is any indication, it's paid off.

Frontcourt: The biggest offseason get for the Ramblers was 6'6" 285-pound center, Josh Charlery. Charlery formerly played for the U.S. Virgin Islands national team and is a big, physical presence Prep needs. If he can stay on the floor for longer periods of time, he will be invaluable to the success of the team this year. Joining him down low as soon as next week will be Joe Mischler. Fresh off back-to-back football state championships as the starting quarterback, Mischler needs some time to get back into basketball form and looks to add a level of intensity to the team.

Also looking to get some time in the rotation are athletic junior Sam Knox, sophomore Vincent Pisano, impressive freshman Liam Galla, and hustler Joe Corsale.

Final Analysis: This is the youngest Prep team in recent memory, but don't directly link youth with disappointment. This team also boasts more depth than it typically has in years past. There are many able bodies ready to battle for playing time right away, and they won't go down without a fight. If the senior core of Upperman, McBride, and Charlery set the tone for the team early and a couple of the young guys step up to play important roles, this could be as balanced and unpredictable a team as they come. Regardless of the results this year, the program is definitely heading in the right direction and looks to be a force for years to come. But, don't ever rule the Ramblers out—they've proven their doubters wrong once or twice before.

The Rambler's 2017-18 College Bowl Mania Contest

The 2017-18 college football bowl season kicks off Saturday, Dec. 16, and *The Rambler* is hosting its fifth annual bowl mania contest. The contest is open to current Cathedral Prep students, faculty, staff, and administration. Entry is free and limited to one entry per person. All submissions are due by Saturday, Dec. 16, at noon Eastern time.

To enter, fill out the form below (or use [this link](#)) to select your picks for each of the bowl games. You will receive one point for each correct pick. The person to amass the most total points will earn a \$35 iTunes gift card. Additionally, second and third place will each take home \$10 iTunes gift cards.

In the event of a tie, the procedures below will be followed until the tie is broken:

1st tiebreaker: Person closest to guessing total points of College Football Playoff championship game.

2nd tiebreaker: Person to correctly select the winner of College Football Playoff championship game

3rd tiebreaker: Person to correctly select the winner of the Peach Bowl

4th tiebreaker: Person to correctly select the winner of the Fiesta Bowl.

5th tiebreaker: Person to correctly select the winner of the Rose Bowl.

6th tiebreaker: Person to correctly select the winner of the Orange Bowl.

Good luck!

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