

BAYLEY BULLETIN

The Quarterly Newsletter of Seton Home Study High School

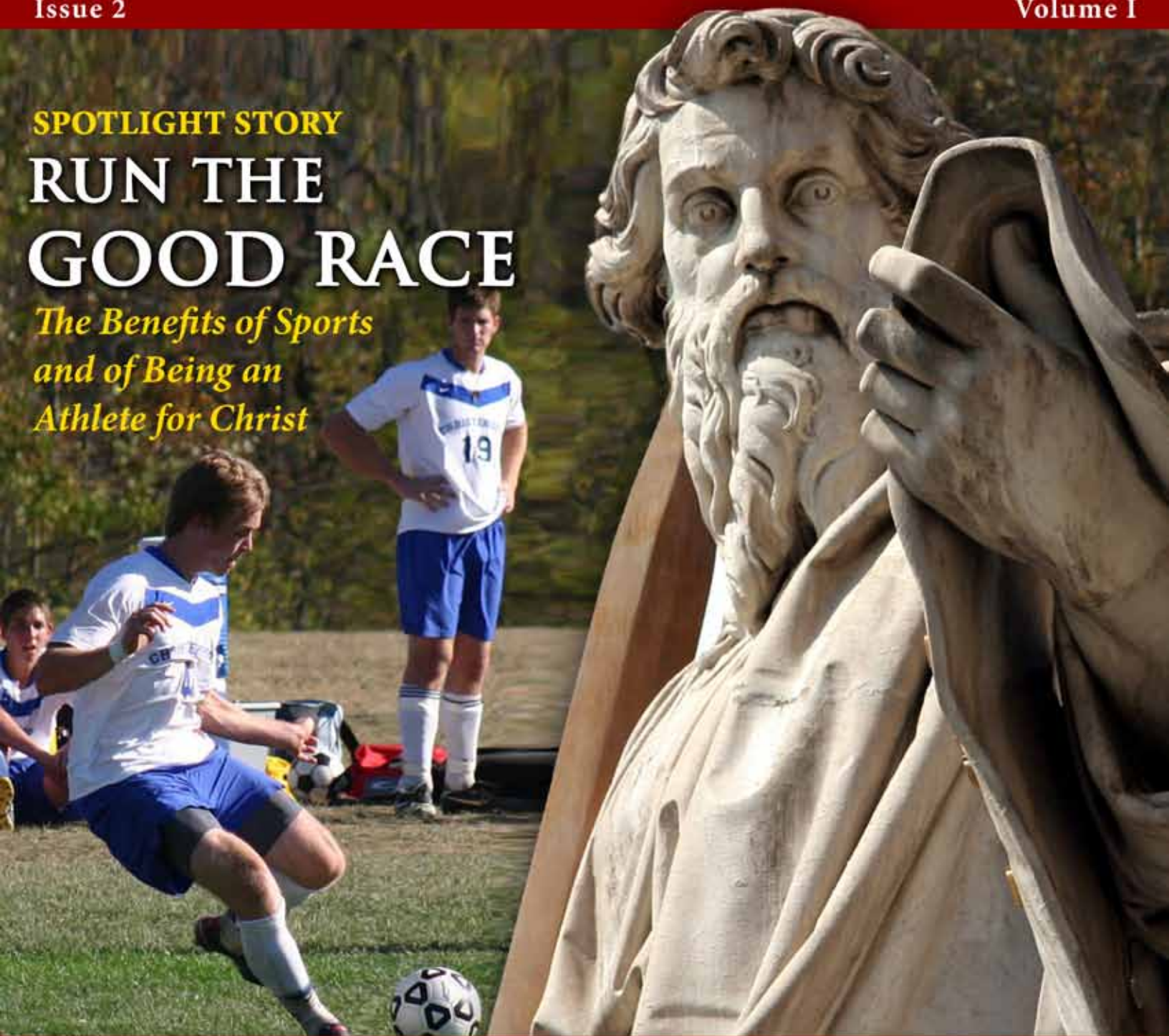
Issue 2

Volume I

SPOTLIGHT STORY

RUN THE GOOD RACE

*The Benefits of Sports
and of Being an
Athlete for Christ*



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



REACHING THE SUMMIT



HOME SCHOOLED ATHLETES

SETON HOME STUDY HIGH SCHOOL

BAYLEY BULLETIN
ISSUE 2 | VOLUME 1

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CHECK OUT

www.catholicathletesforchrist.com

The cover art is a composite of two images.

The photo of the statue of St. Paul at the Vatican is courtesy of M. Trischler.

The photo of the soccer players is courtesy of Christendom College.

The Good Race

Has it ever occurred to you that far from being a mere hobby or fun activity, your sports activities are preparing you for your journey to Heaven? St. Paul says, “Know you not that they that run in the race, all run indeed, but one receiveth the prize? So run that you may obtain. And every one that striveth for the mastery, refraineth himself from all things: and they indeed that they may receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible one” (I Cor. 9:24-25). The journey to eternal salvation is like a race to the goal line, your soul is the precious cargo you carry in your arms as you go for the touchdown. In this passage, St. Paul shows how sports training can tell us a lot about attaining our eternal goals.

First, sports teaches us that the spiritual life requires total dedication. Anyone who’s ever been on a swim team, or a hockey team, anyone who’s ever done ballet or figure skating knows that it takes great dedication, effort, and training, a whole lifestyle change to get to the top. In our journey to eternal life, nothing can be allowed to get in the way or distract us. We may need to give up bad habits or even sacrifice good pleasures, just as athletes give up junk food and sleep. As Pope John Paul II said, “Every Christian is called to become a strong athlete of Christ, that is, a faithful and courageous witness to His Gospel. But to succeed in this, he must persevere in prayer, be trained in virtue and follow the divine Master in everything.” The race to Heaven must be all-consuming because nothing is more important than attaining salvation.

Secondly, sports teaches us that the spiritual life takes teamwork. A basketball team won’t win without the effort of all its players. The B-team will win every time if the A-team outfielder always insists on playing the big play. Rugby teams need a coach to improve their game. In the spiritual life, we also need our coaches, our confessors and spiritual directors to help us improve our spiritual game. We need the angels and saints, who can pray for us. We need good friends, team mates who will support our efforts to be faithful, who will watch our backs and help ward off temptations and distractions.

Thirdly, sports teaches us that giving up is not an option. The hope of winning lies in perseverance. Few soccer stars make the winning goal their first day in the game. Few teams win the game their first day on the field. If everyone gave up after that first failure, there would be no game left, and there would be no winners. In the race for Heaven, we must not be defeated by falls. Rather, in hope, trust, and courage, we must pick ourselves up after each fall, and take another step after every mistake, until finally we set foot in eternity.

Last but not least, sports teaches us that charity must guide our every action as spiritual athletes. St. Paul also said, “If I should distribute all my goods to feed the poor, and if I should deliver my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing” (I Cor. 13:3). In any game or competition, the rude and unruly athletes get removed for unsportsmanlike behavior, losing the chance to play for a few minutes, sometimes for the game, sometimes for a season, and sometimes even for the rest of what would have been their careers. The highest law is the law of charity, to love God and love neighbor as ourselves for God’s sake. There is no room for pride, greed, or selfishness. We cannot afford to forget the law of charity in our pursuit of salvation, lest we lose the opportunity to stay in the game to its finish.

John Paul II, a great sportsman in his own right, a man who loved soccer and skiing, prayed in his October 2000 homily on the jubilee of athletes that athletes everywhere “be sound models to imitate for all who admire them. Help them always to be athletes of the spirit, to win your inestimable prize: an imperishable crown that lasts forever.” Let us pray with him, remembering that only the best athletes win the prize, but that everyone has a chance to be the best in his own spiritual race. With perseverance and by the grace of God we shall all be able to say with St. Paul on the last day, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (II Tim. 4:7).



Statue of St. Paul at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome

C COLLEGE PREP

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Mr. Bob Wiesner

Many Seton students are accomplished athletes with the skills necessary for college scholarships. Seton students have succeeded in gaining scholarships for swimming, tennis, gymnastics and ice skating, to name a few. In order to be eligible for college athletic scholarships, most students will need to register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association, or NCAA. A student/athlete should begin working with the NCAA even as early as the sophomore year to be certain of fulfilling all the eligibility requirements. Among the requirements will be a list of eligible courses taken at Seton; usually, NCAA recognizes Seton courses as being in accordance with the scholastic standards necessary. Occasionally, there may be a problem with a course, however. If this happens, the NCAA coordinator at Seton is Betty Valaiki; she has always been able to satisfy NCAA in regard to Seton courses. If you are interested in exploring the possibilities of an athletic scholarship, contact NCAA at the address indicated here.

NCAA

700 W. Washington St.
PO Box 6222
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222
Phone: 317-917-6222

NOVENA TO

BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
God our Father in heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, pray for us.
All the angels and saints, pray for us.

Blessed Pier Giorgio, pray for us.
Loving son and brother,
Support of family life,
Friend of the friendless,
Most Christian of companions,
Leader of youth,
Helper of those in need,
Teacher of charity,
Patron of the poor,
Comfort of the sick,
Athlete for God's kingdom,
Conqueror of life's mountains,
Defender of truth and virtue,
Opponent of every injustice,
Patriotic citizen of the nation,
Loyal son of the Church,



Devoted child of the Madonna,
Ardent adorer of the Eucharist,
Fervent student of the Scriptures,
Dedicated follower of St. Dominic,
Apostle of prayer and fasting,
Guide to a deep love for Jesus,
Diligent in work and study,
Joyful in all of life's circumstances,
Strong in safeguarding chastity,
Silent in pain and suffering,
Faithful to the promises of Baptism,
Model of humility,
Example of detachment,
Mirror of obedience,
Man of the Beatitudes,

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Pray for us, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati,
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

STUDENT Achievements



Sophomore Thomas Schumann (2nd from left) recently earned the Pius XII Religious Emblem for Scouts. His brother Paul, class of '08, is an Eagle Scout.



SHS High School Junior Elizabeth Lewis recently published her first novel, *Spellbound*, and held a book signing in Los Angeles. She found the experience very rewarding, and, in her words, "it was awesome!"



Joseph McMahon, SHS, HS Senior is a founding member of the only parish level tackle football team in the Diocese of Arlington, VA. Joe averaged 120+ yards rushing per game in the Saints 5/2 first full season of play. Joe's brother Mike, a SHS Sophomore, is a teammate.

ALUMNI Profile

CLASS OF 2004

For this profile, SHS High School interviewed alumna Katie Dodson. Thank you, Katie!

My name is Katie Heenan Dodson and I am a proud graduate of Seton Home Study School. I am also a former gymnast and considered to be very accomplished, but accomplishments do not just happen. Of course; hard work, dedication, perseverance, patience, and a lot of other attributes are necessary, but a support system is also important. I can honestly say that without Seton Home Study, I would not have made it as far as an athlete.



I am one of four children and the only girl in the mix. At the peak of my career, I was training thirty-six hours a week and traveling almost weekly around the country, and sometimes the world. Needless to say, I was very busy for a fifteen-year-old, and school did not “fit” into my schedule.

Seton Home Study School came into our radar at the perfect time. I was competing for the National Team which recently made it a requirement to come to training camp twice a month in Texas. My parents made the decision that a firm Catholic-based home school would be best for my education. I sincerely thank them for this decision. Now that I am on the verge of being twenty-five years old, I am so thankful they chose Seton Home Study School for me. Seton provided the flexibility I needed with my schooling so I could travel and concentrate on gymnastics. What I realize even more today is that I truly learned so much with Seton. It was challenging and rigorous, but it readied me for college and life in general—not only intellectually and through self-discipline, but most importantly, I grew spiritually in faith.

I graduated from Seton in 2004 to go on to the University of Georgia on a full scholarship for gymnastics. While at the University of Georgia, I went on to win four National Championships, three conference champions, thirteen All-American honors, was the 2008 Honda Award winner, became Georgia's all time leading scorer, and received many other honors. Seton Home Study School helped me to achieve my goals academically and athletically, and now to raise my family and be a loving wife and mother.

CONTEST!

Use the 5 clues below to guess the name of this famous home schooled athlete!

1. I was born in 1974 in Pittsburg, PA.
2. While being home schooled, I was a three-sport star at my local high school.
3. I attended the University of Akron in OH.
4. I played for the Dolphins, Redskins, and Jets.
5. In 2007, I won the Walter Payton Man of the Year award for my work with charities.

Submit your guesses to shshighschool@setonhome.org

The first 5 correct answers will each receive a prize!

