

TWIBC SPORTS

THIS WEEK IN BERGEN CATHOLIC SPORTS

HOCKEY

HAMMERS

HUDSONIANS

St. Peter's Prep finds no

"Silver Spooners" in Oradell

God - Family - Study - Athletics & Arts - The Brotherhood!



Pierson Picks Princeton!

December 1 – Oradell, NJ – Senior, Pierson Tobia, has decided to continue his education and football career at Princeton University. The intelligent, dynamic, multidimensional player will join Dylan Classi and Anthony Corbin who currently play for the Tigers.



Hockey Wins Second of the Year Over Marauders

December 4 – Hackensack, NJ – Freshman forward, Aram Minnetian is establishing himself as a dominant player in New Jersey schoolboy hockey in only his second game. The young Minnetian scored a team high, four goals, in just the second game of the season and, second of his young career.

His performance helped BC to a 6-0 victory over St. Peter's Prep. It was the Crusaders first victory over the Marauders since 2012.



Nick Chiurazzi

What's more, Aram Minnetian's four goals marked just the fourth time since 2010, that a Crusader netted four goals in a single game.

The Crusader offense exploded in the first period with three goals. Minnetian opened the scoring at the 11:26 mark off an assist from

Bryceon Lago and Nick Chiurazzi. Two and a half minutes later, Minnetian netted his second goal, assisted by senior, Devon Kelly. Chiurazzi then scored a short-handed goal with 2:31 remaining in the period, after being set up by Lago.

Aram earned his hat trick, scoring the only goal of the second period off an assist from Brenden Kelly and Nick Antonucci. Antonucci scored his second power play goal of the season to make it 5-0 and Minnetian scored his fourth in the third period as the Marauders walked the plank. Senior

goaltender, Brenden McCaskey, turned away 14 shots earning his first shutout of the season.

While the team and school approaches life as gentlemen, outside the arena, this was a good reminder to anyone who doubted, that the Crusaders are as tough as any.



Brenden Kelly

NJ #11 Ranked Swimmers Start Strong in County Seat

December 4 – Hackensack, NJ – The 2019 Crusader Swim Season started on a very strong note as BC travelled to Hackensack to take on the Comets in their season opener. It was an SRO (standing room only) crowd in Hackensack as BC defeated their hosts soundly 119-51.



Ian Liu helped BC off to a good start as a member of the 200 Medley Relay Team.

Crusader swimmers took first in all eleven events. Here were Wednesday's victors: **200 Medley Relay:** Ian Liu, Ben Rose, Sam Hughes, Thomas Haemmerle 1:57.03; **200 Freestyle:** Tim Anderson 1:57.36; **200 Individual Medley:** Thomas Haemmerle 2:13.56; **50 Free:** Matthew Semelsberger 0:25.7; **100 Fly:** Sam Hughes 1:01.69; **100 Free:** Andrew Mazzacano 0:58.6; **500 Free:** Ben Rose 5:33.02; **200 Free Relay:** Andrew Mazzacano, Gavin Perez, Christian Skaff, Julian Chun 1:40.17; **100 Back:** Julian Chun. 0:57.08; **100 Breast:** Alex Rose 1:11.74; **400 Free Relay:** Ben Rose, Alex Rose, Alex Vester, Tim Anderson. 3:46.66.





Chris Skaff was the third leg in the winning 200 Free Relay.



Crusaders and Eagles listen to opening instructions from starter.

Bowling Pre-Season Tourney

December 4 – Oakland, NJ - The Crusaders had an impressive opening, finishing among the top teams in the BNC Pre-Season Tournament. Senior, Michael Bellifemini, was individual champion with a high series of 621.



A great sport to build friendships and reach for personal goals!

Crusaders Jump Out to Best Start in Over a Decade

December 6 – Hackensack, NJ – The Varsity Hockey Team once again showed off its scoring prowess, putting up six goals on the Falcons from St. Joseph High School. Nick Stoebling translated a break away into a blocker-side goal



Nick Stoebling

from a pass by junior defender Brenden Kelly to open the scoring.

St. Joseph tied the game at one with about four minutes remaining in the opening period, but a Falcon holding penalty would give the Crusaders an opportunity.

The Crusader power play unit was working to perfection, generating shot after shot on the Falcon goaltender. While he remained up to the task, Mick Thompson sent a beautiful back-hand pass in front to a wide-open

Aram Minnetian who placed the one-timer in the back of the net to put BC back on top, 2-1, with 1:31 remaining in the first period.

In the second period, BC dominated some possession early on. Senior Devon Kelly found a cutting Aram Minnetian, who scored his sixth goal of the season, giving BC the lead with just over 9 minutes remaining. Minnetian would earn his second-straight hat trick, this one a natural (3 goals in a row) as Aram scored on a wrist shot with 3:27 left in the second. Brenden Kelly made an incredible look across the ice, finding Nick Stoebling who let a



Frosh phenom, Aram Minnetian.

beautiful wrist shot go and the two combined for their second assist and goal of the game respectively with 1:59 remaining in the period.

BC took a 5-1 lead into the final period and with 7:22, remaining, freshman Aram Minnetian scored his fourth goal of the night. Taking advantage of a power-play opportunity, Minnetian took the puck at center ice, he wove through traffic, and moved the puck from his backhand to his forehand and back to his backhand and lifted it into the top shelf for his second consecutive four-goal game.

Defenders, Jake Antonucci, Dan Scott, Will Walsh, Matt Desiderio, and Bryceon Lago all played very strong hockey in front of goaltender, Brendan McCaskey, who continues to impress in this young season.

Friday night's win was significant in that it marked BC's first 3-0 start this decade. BC was last 2-1 in 2013-2014 season. Dating back to last season, the Crusaders are 9-1-1 in their last 11 games.

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Hockey Celebrates with Stars at 50th Anniversary Banquet

December 5 – River Vale, NJ – The stars were out as this year's Hockey Kickoff dinner. Celebrating an early 2-0 record was icing on the cake as some of the most impactful Crusaders in program history stopped in to share experiences and advice with the young Crusaders.

Master of Ceremony Aram Minnetian, Sr. opened the evening saying that *BC welcomes you with open arms, presents you with great opportunity and expects you to serve.* Dr. Mahoney then led the dinner with prayer and provided his normal spark and enthusiasm for the evening.

Class of '69 team member, Greg Miller, whose passion for the program is working on a 50th Anniversary Book which chronicles the program. He warmed the audience with the story of BC's Hockey beginnings, displaying jerseys and gear and talking about the early days of the game in the context of hockey in the USA.



Hockey Alumni Brothers! McGuire is bottom center

Everyone was especially looking forward to hearing from Pierre McGuire '79 who had an exceptional story of achievement and promise for the young Crusaders.

McGuire spoke of his time at BC. He was a three-sport athlete, playing football, hockey and baseball for the Crusaders. He continued his education at Hobart College where he played all three sports as well.

From there, McGuire played professional hockey in Europe before completing his career with the Devils. He spoke about his early college career briefly and then being hired by the legendary, Scotty Bowman, then head coach of the Pittsburgh Penguins. It was then, in 1991, McGuire made the most important recommendation/decision of his life. He recommended the Pittsburgh Penguins draft Jaromir Jagr, the NHL's second all-time leading career point scorer behind only Wayne Gretzky. That decision changed the NHL landscape as Jagr led those Penguins teams to two Stanley Cup Championships. McGuire was an assistant coach on both teams.

Pierre went on to become the youngest head coach and GM in NHL history with the Hartford Whalers and has been NBC's top NHL analyst for a number of years.

As impressive as his credentials, more significant were some of Pierre's reflections and advice. He recognized that his best friends to this day, are still the ones he made at Bergen Catholic.

He understood the position the players are in today, and challenged every one of them to strive to make themselves the best they can be every single day. He reminded them how much more fortunate they are, than those who played the game before them were. He assured them they would be accomplishing great things, things they probably cannot even be imagining right now and he told them their education was extremely important. He urged everyone to continue their education and challenge them to develop their skills, advising **"it is better to be over ripe than under developed."**



Borg Shuts Down Pirates

JV Hockey Defeats Seton Hall Prep 4-1

December 6 – Hackensack, NJ – Charlie Borg turned away 31 shots, a save percentage of .967, as the JV Crusader Hockey Team won its first game of the young season 4-1 over rival, Seton Hall Prep.

Matthew Hughes opened the scoring on power play, assisted by Garrett Kata half-way through the first period. Matt Desidero added a power play goal just one minute later, assisted from Jake Barnes to increase the BC lead to 2-0. A minute later, Joe Gandara scored an all-even goal off and assist from Desidero and Barnes and BC was in command 3-0 in the first period.

Gandara would provide all the insurance needed in the second period with an unassisted goal at the 10:56 mark. The Pirates snuck a shot by Borg with 5 minutes remaining in the second, but the two teams were held scoreless in the third and BC celebrated its first win of the season 4-1.

BOTW: #231-Horned Lark

December 7 – Leonia, NJ –

The first time I saw Horned Larks, they were foraging in corn fields on the Delmarva Peninsula in Smyrna, DE. The yellow on their face "lights up" when you see one. This cardinal-sized bird hides in plain site on a field. A hint of its call may be the only thing to alert you to its presence. I was fortunate to find this solo forager at the



Henry Hoebel Football field at Overpeck Park in Leonia. On my county life list, the last three species I've found have all been in the fields at Overpeck this fall: American Pipit & Eastern Meadowlark.

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Bergen Catholic Sports Next Week at a Glance

Day/Date	Time	Sport	Opponent	Location
Monday, December 9	3:00 PM	Var Hockey	Pope John XXIII	Ice House, Hackensack
Monday, December 9	3:00 PM	Swimming	Ridgewood HS	Ridgewood YMCA
Monday, December 9	4:00 PM	V&JV Bowling	DePaul Catholic	T-Bowl
Tuesday, December 10	2:30 PM	VBasketball	Nwk Eastside (scr)	Newark East Side HS
Monday, December 9	3:30 PM	V&JV Bowling	Don Bosco Prep	Montvale Lanes
Wednesday, December 11	5:00 PM	FrBasketball	Ramapo (scr)	Hoehl Gymnasium
Thursday, December 12	4:00 PM	Var Hockey	St. Augustine Prep	Hollydell Ice Arena
Thursday, December 12	4:00 PM	VBasketball	Patrick School (scr)	Hoehl Gymnasium
Thursday, December 12	6:00 PM	JVBasketball	Patrick School (scr)	Hoehl Gymnasium

Crusader Christmas Season Events

Tuesday, December 10 – 6:30 pm

Advent Mass, Christmas Tree

Lighting and Carols @

Bergen Catholic HS

Tuesday, December 17 – 7:30 pm

Jazz Ensemble Concert @

Bergen Catholic HS

Weds, December 18 – 7:30 pm

Vocal Ensemble Christmas Concert

St. Joseph School, Oradell

Friday, December 20 – 7:55 am

Yule Day (12:05 Dismissal)

Holiday Choral Concert

Featuring

*Bergen Catholic's Male
Vocal Ensemble*

Under the direction of

Mrs. Barbara Peraino

With Guest Choir,

Salesian Voices

from

Mary Help of Christians



Wednesday, December 18

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

@ St. Joseph Church

300 Elm Street, Oradell, NJ

www.bergencatholic.org

Prayer of Thanks for Blessed Edmund Rice

O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. Grant us the courage and compassion of Edmund as we seek to live lives of love and service.

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