

# SPRING GAME SERVES AS PREVIEW FOR NEXT SEASON

by CASEY COLLINS

“I think that the Spring Game is a great way to kinda get school spirit formed and to start getting ready for the next football season,” Junior Stephen Wall said. “It’s a way to help kids build hype, and it’s also just a good gathering.” This spring, for the first time, Richland Northeast offered students a buy-out-of-class opportunity for the Spring Football Game. The Spring Game not only gave a preview of next year’s football team, but also kicked off final exams for underclassmen and served as a wrap-up event for the 2015-2016 school year.

As the culmination of the football team’s spring training efforts, the Spring Game showcased the talents that RNE players and coaches hope to demonstrate next season.

“I think it’s pretty interesting because I feel like the football players and coaches get to see each other on the field, and see what they’re capable of doing now and what they need to work on,” Junior Javarrai English said. “Next year, I’m excited to see us move to 4A, and I think the football team will do a great job.”

“We had a great year this year, we made it to the playoffs and went to the second round,” Athletic Director Gary Fulmer said. “We started out pretty slow, but grew stronger, even in playing a great game against South Pointe, who went on to win the State Championship. And now,

with Spring Football, we’re all about getting ready for next year, looking at the underclassmen coming up and getting excited for next season.”

“The potential to do well is definitely there, so I’m not worried,” Junior Carrie Junious said about the football team and the upcoming season. “Staying focused throughout the entire season, from beginning to end, and executing every play and going hard the entire time will definitely help the team improve.”

Along with the showcasing of the football team, the Spring Game also became a way for RNE students and staff to support teachers Betsy Kinsella and Kathleen Druzba in their battles against cancer.

“The game is going pretty good, and I just really like that people are coming out to support Coach Druzba and Ms. Kinsella,” Junior Jenny Yeung said. “Besides the heat, it’s pretty fun, and I’m hanging out with my friends, having a great time, so I’m definitely enjoying the Spring Game.”

“I did enjoy the Spring Game, but it was just really hot,” Junior Leverette Williams agreed.

Despite the heat, several students believed that the buy-out-of-class Spring Game was a fitting end to the 2015-2016 school year at RNE.

“So when we said it’s lit at RNE, when we first came up with that this year, I was so hype, and because of that hashtag, it really has been lit at RNE,” Sophomore Rashonda Reeves said. “We can’t just like use the hashtag and not be lit, so we had to prove our ‘litness’ this year, which I think we have, even up to now.”

“I think it’s been a good year,” Wall said. “I think that there have been a lot of positive changes for the community around the school, and different programs have gotten to do a lot more things. I know from my perspective as a band kid, we’ve gotten to do a lot more things with the band, and I know that a lot of other programs are taking steps like that, so I think this year has been really productive and a good way to lead into next school year.”

As the end of the year approaches, many students are also beginning to focus on goals and expectations for next school year.

“Next year, I look forward to winning a lot more football games, because this year, it seems like the football team has a lot more courage in playing and they are very close to winning,” Yeung said.

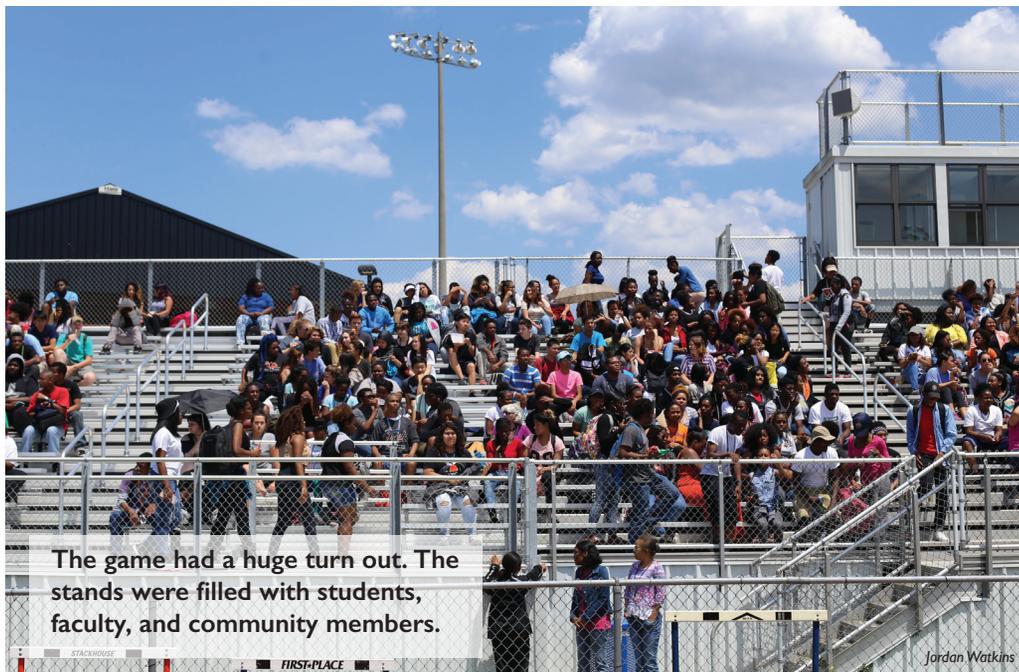
“I’m expecting next year to be even more lit,” Reeves said. “I mean, we’ve got to outlitness ourselves, and hopefully through pep-rallies, we can become even more hype and encourage more people to participate. We’ll have more fun activities for people to get involved in, and it’ll be more fun.”

On a personal note, Wall said, “I’m looking forward to my last season of marching, and I’m looking forward to getting to meet new freshmen and helping them in class and teaching them what it means to be a Cavalier.”



Football players face off on the field, playing against their team mates.

Jordan Watkins



The game had a huge turnout. The stands were filled with students, faculty, and community members.

Jordan Watkins



Junior Sharon Nathaniel and other students line up in the hot heat to purchase ice cream at the football game.

Jordan Watkins