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Homecoming

2015

(From left) Senior **Graham Walker** celebrating the win against Summerville in the homecoming game, and senior **Jeneriss Conyers** rests after being on the field. Senior **Victor Major** cheers for his team. Freshman **Alexis Clark** playing the mellophone during their halftime show on Eighth Grade Band Night, while **Coach Jimmy Noonan** watches a close play in the homecoming game. Juniors **Miller Whitten** and **Payton Engelking** as well as senior **Jeffrey Sapakoff** cheer for the 62-49 Warrior victory.

The fun, drama and excitement of Homecoming was Sept. 18, featuring dress-up days, a win over Summerville and the crowning of the king and queen. Ricky Schmidt and Mairin Noonan were crowned king and queen. The Prince and Princess first runner-ups were Vinh Ton and Patsy Newitt, while Samantha Paragano and Cole Whittman were the second runner ups. Other court members included Catherine Beaty, Kevin Brown, Anne Peyre Carter, Spencer Mamo, Julia Carulllo, Cameron Glass, Robbie McDowell, Margaux Palmentiero, Anthony Tran, Ocean Ronquillo-Morgan, Bailey Hart, Meghan McTavish, Nick Pellegrini and Reilly Shanahan.

Mairin Noonan

An active extracurricular life and a focus on school keeps Noonan busy and loving life as she reigns as this year's Homecoming queen.

What does winning homecoming queen really mean to you?

Winning homecoming queen, I think, is just a great opportunity to represent Wando. Which I love and I think it's a great chance to show what I stand for, and what the school stands for.

Are you involved in anything else at Wando? How has that affected you?

I am in Warrior Ambassadors, I play lacrosse, I am on the team leadership of the FCA, I'm in the Wando Adventure Club, I'm in Beta [club] and NHS [National Honor Society], and AP Academy. I'm the news director for Tribe Talk, so I just try to be involved as I can. I feel like being involved in so much at school has made a well-rounded person."

What is the biggest change you've seen in yourself in the last four years?

Probably a boost in my confidence--freshman year I was worried about what everyone thought about me. But the longer time I've spent here at Wando, I've learned to accept who I am, and not care what people think.

Who would you say is your role model?

Definitely my mom. I know she's taught me right and wrong, and how to be myself, and how I should treat people. She teaches me how to have fun, but how to be a good person while doing it.

What will you miss most about Wando when you graduate?

Definitely the environment and the people that are here. Wando is my family, and I think of every person I meet here as a potential friend.

--Avery Buskill

Ricky Schmidt

There's more to Schmidt than just being an average student. The *Tribe Talk* anchor is active in school organizations and sports.

Why do you think people might have voted for you?

People voted for me mostly because it was a good quality video and also because it really made them smile. If you don't make people laugh or make them smile, then what's the point?

How has winning homecoming king affected you and your perception of Wando as a whole?

Generally I think I'm nice enough to vote for. And that means a lot to me, that people just don't think I'm a punk.

What are you involved in outside of school and how has it affected your life?

I'm involved in Tribe Talk, I'm involved in a bunch of clubs, I wrestle, I do theatre here. So outside of school, I don't have much time. But when I do I am about to start working for Miller Lite as a distributor, like stacking shelves at grocery stores.

To people that don't know you personally, what's something you want them to know about you?

I want them to know -- come say hi to me. I can guarantee you we'll have a nice conversation, and we'll just talk it off.

What's the best piece of advice you have ever received and from whom?

I think the best piece of advice that I've ever heard was from my dad, and he said it as a joke... He said, 'You can sleep when you die.' And I was like, that's funny, whatever. But I took it seriously. I was like 'You're totally right! There's only 24 hours in this day. I've gotta do stuff.'

--Abby Vorhees

(Clockwise to the Right) Seniors **Mairin Noonan** and **Ricky Schmidt** receive their crowns during halftime Sept. 18. **Schmidt** gives his mother, **Lydia**, a kiss after his announcement, while **Noonan** stands with her excited grandfather **William Noonan**.



Emily Pruitt // photo



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