

The Panther Press

Issue 4

Southside High school

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Check Out "Dease" State Titles!

By Delaina Rodick

Southside sophomore, and two-time state champion, Jacob Dease didn't bring a state title back to Southside without a lot of hard work. He won his second state title February 14th. Dease has already started on his training for his junior season. Jacob prepares for the state tournament the entire season and off season as well. He attends many camps during the summer months. When asked about his level of dedication to his sport, his sister Laura replied: "He attends practice at school; following that he often participates in practices in Birmingham, Warrior, Alabaster, and even drives to Atlanta most Sundays to get some extra mat time."

Dease said his biggest obstacle this season was "Mainly controlling my weight. At the beginning of the season I would cut 7-8 pounds the day before a tournament or match and feel really bad. By the end of the season I had gotten a diet played out and was naturally down to my weight and felt a lot better." He continues, saying, "I had my hopes high at the beginning of the season, and knew I couldn't do it but I still had to work extremely hard to get a second state title" Dease is anticipating another state title next season. When asked about his hopes for the upcoming season, he says, "Anything can happen; I've already started putting in the work."

Jacob has an extraordinary support team of coaches, family, and teammates. His sister Laura said, "No matter where we are, any match, in any city, Jacob knows everyone." Dease has built relationships with not only his team here at SHS but with teams around the nation." Coaches from different states call Jacob to check on him and give him pointers on his matches.

Dease is going into the off season hungry for another state title this coming year, and he's not stopping until that hunger is satisfied.



Above: sophomore Jacob Dease easily handles his opponent at the state tournament in February 2019.



Pictured above: the Southside Varsity cheerleaders get the crowd pumped up

Pictured below: Students show up to support the Lady Panthers during the game



Section Hopefuls

By Drew Harp

The Southside Lady Panther basketball team made history by moving on to the sectional championship for the first time. The first-round game was held at the Pete Matthews Coliseum on the campus of Jacksonville State University. The Lady Panthers played very well against the Scottsboro Wildcats but unfortunately fell short of a win. Students were encouraged to show up and show out in support of the team. The student section had large numbers, and Northeast Orthopedic sponsored shirts for faculty and students.

Junior Whitney Posey reports, "The student section was super pumped at the beginning of the game. A lot of students had signs, and we had a great time!" Mrs. Russell said, "Honestly, Mrs. Clark was the most excited person at the game. I enjoyed sitting behind her and seeing her excitement for the Panthers."

Southside Sports

Panther Golf Driving into the 2019 Season

By Drew Harp

The Southside High School golf team is shining their clubs and sharpening their swings in preparation for the 2019 season. Head coach Skylar Nelson says they plan to win 2 tournaments and make it to the state tournament. The golf team will have many tournaments in the course of their rounds. Among these are The Kickoff Classic, The County Tournament, and the brand new Chick-Fil-A Tournament. Coach Nelson's favorite course out of all the potential greens is the Capitol Hill Golf Course in Prattville, AL, but in order to make it there, they must first win the state tournament.

This shouldn't be a difficult feat with the all-star cast of seniors on the team this season. These seniors are Devin Downs, Xander Jolley, and Brock Lawley. Lawley has been golfing since he was in the 7th grade. The seniors aren't the only great golfers on the scene. Coach Nelson says the Michael Rich, a sophomore, is "easily the best golfer in the county" and that "you'd be hard-pressed to find anyone better." The Southside golf team has an exciting season ahead of them, and we're excited to see the Panthers dominate the green and bring home the gold.



Pictured left to right: Xander Jolly, Brock Lawley, Devin Downs, Michael Rich, and Tommy Simmons

Panthers Slice Their Way to Regionals

By Alex Dugger and Delaina Rodick

The Southside Tennis team is starting the 2019 season with a 6-game win streak for the boys. Riddic Dugger, first seed sophomore, says, "We have a high chance in making state this year because of our strong lineup in our varsity. We have a very high possibility of making top 5 in the state out of the 32 teams that will be there." All the boys have worked very hard with their strategy and stamina to win matches quicker and to out run opponents when faced with tough challenges.

The Boys Varsity Tennis team can all agree that this year compared to previous years has changed as far as the bond they all share. Ben Deike, Exchange student and fourth seed, has a positive impact on the team by keeping in mind that tennis is just for fun. The top seeds play tennis year-round; even during the school's off-season, they still play together through the intense heat and freezing cold. Deike reports, "The bond between all of us is strong and because of it, we are going to go far this year not only in the tennis season, but as a family."

Although the girl's Varsity Tennis

team is weathering a tough start to the season, it has great potential for years to come. Charity Coley, first year sophomore, has won against Westbrook and Albertville and is believed to be one of the top players next year. Coach Blume commented on Charity's improvement saying, "She has really improved with how quickly she's taken to tennis. Charity is a great athlete and works really hard. I'm looking forward to watching her grow and get better the longer she plays."

With the sections part of the season finally beginning, the boys took home another victory against Sardis with a 5-4 final score. You can catch the Panthers in action with matches coming up in Etowah, Douglas, Guntersville, and Boaz.

Picture above right: sophomore Colton Dugger comes up for the serve at a late-night match at Etowah High School.

Pictured right: sophomore Noah Hefner plays back at Sardis High School



Panther Spotlight

Let's Welcome the New Kid to the Block

by Seth Henderson

Wes Reid might be the new kid on the block here at Southside, but he's making his place step by step. Even though he graduated from Jacksonville State University with a teaching degree, he originally studied art.

Reid worked at Tigers for Tomorrow, a large cat sanctuary near Crossville, AL, for four years and backpacked across Europe prior to his career as an educator. Throughout his time in Europe, he experienced many obstacles in order to complete his English as a Second Language (ESL) degree.

Although Reid has seen parts of the world and experienced marvelous adventures, he says teaching at Southside High School is a dream come true. When asked how this year has been he replied, "Mr. Clevenger and Mrs. Couch have helped me tremendously and every day I come to work it's like a day at Disney World."



Pictured above: Mr. Reid plays a quick game of rock-paper-scissors with junior Parker Crask

Kaleb's Montero Music

by Kaleb Jones

Released on September 17, 1996, Cake's *Fashion Nugget* put the band on the map. "The Distance" was, and still is, the biggest hit off of this album topping at number 4 on the Modern Rock radio chart of 1996. Cake, like a few other artists of the late 90s and early 2000s, combine alternative rock, funk, country, hip hop, and deadpan vocals into a new sound enjoyed by many.

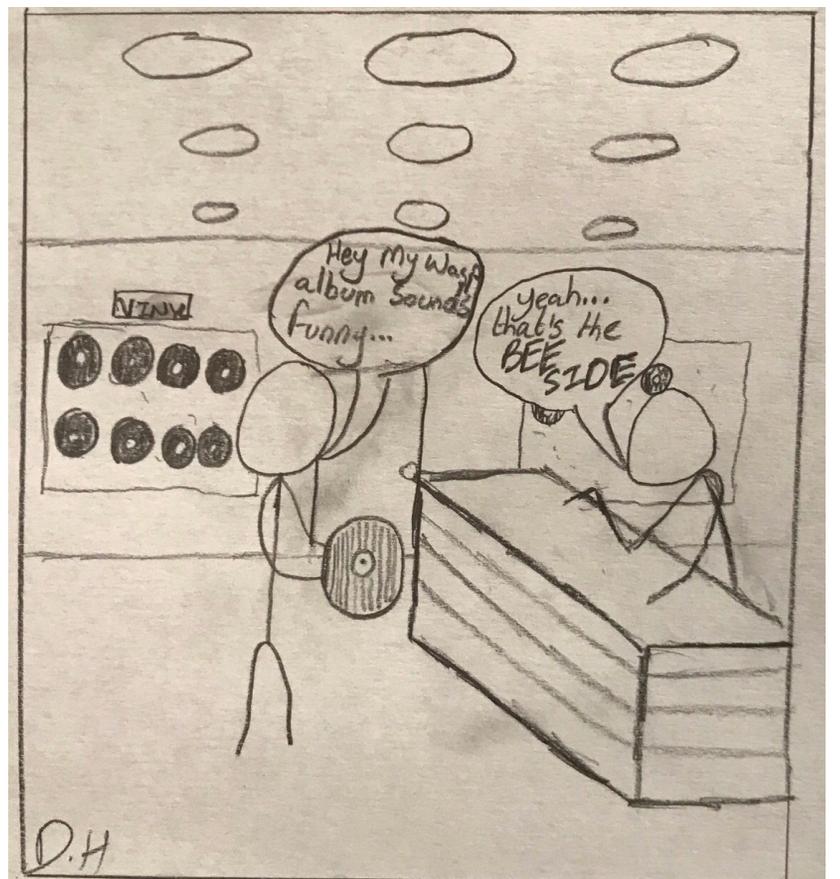
What made Cake stand out was the jazz-styled trumpet solos that intertwine with rock drum beats. The best songs off of this album, in my opinion, are "The Distance" and "Stickshifts and Safetybelts". The latter being my favorite. It is a great song that can best be described as Rockabilly. All in all, this album is great and I highly recommend it to anyone looking for new music.



Panthers Reading List

by Seth Henderson

Gary Paulson is a popular author who made his name from his survival book "Hatchet". Less known than "Hatchet" is Paulson's other book "Mr. Tucket" following the protagonist Francis on a Wild West adventure and a story of coming of age. The main protagonist is captured by Pawnee Indians and his luck looks grim. Lucky for Francis, a mountain man comes to his rescue, and an adventure full of wild horses, hostile tribes, and the one armed Mr. Grimes ensues this fast paced story. Worthy of a read, I rate this book 7/10 for adventure, an intriguing storyline, and well-established characters. It is fast paced and not dull with hardly any slow moments you stay reading page by page until the end. The book provides a glimpse into the wild west and highlights the reasons the wild west still remains at the forefront of pop culture to this day.



Panther Clubs

Southside Holds NHS Induction

By Blaine Collier

The National Honor Society held their 2018-2019 induction ceremony on March 7th in the Calvin Biddle auditorium at Southside High School. The induction ceremony started with a speech and the lighting of five candles. Each candle representing one of the five values upheld by the club, outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. Following the candle lighting, all of the new members made their way across the stage to shake NHS vice-president Kennedy Carter's hand and receive a certificate. Refreshments were served in the lunchroom after the ceremony which provided parents and students photo opportunities. The students belonging to NHS must maintain at least a 90 average to remain an active member. Members also have many opportunities to give back to their community; they tutor other students during Panther Period and can also be involved in the teacher pal program, where certain members give their assigned teacher a small gift each month.



Pictured above left to right: Lila Johnson, Kennedy Carter, Caler Staub, Savannah Knighten, Chloe Ledford, and Joshua Christopher

Future Christian Anybodies

By Alissa Bearden

Starting February 27, Mr. Russell opened his room for a student-led bible study led by Jake Rogers. The meetings will be held weekly on Wednesdays at 7:20 a.m. and give students a place to openly share the gospel together.

When asked what compelled Jake to ask Mr. Russell to start a club, he responded, "I felt God calling to me and I want more opportunity to put the gospel in our lives." At the first meeting Jake opened with a prayer, then his sister, Hannah Rogers, led a discussion on using God to help overcome stress and anxiety associated with students' lives and cited many verses from Psalms. Lastly, Austin Bettinger closed the student led devotion with prayer.

Mr. Russell went on to say he wanted to start back up the FCA (Future Christian Athletes), but anyone should be able to hear the word, so really it's for the future Christian Anybodies.

LEO Club Blood Drive

By Tara Hill

The LEO club hosted an American Red Cross annual blood drive on Wednesday, March 13th in the gym from 8:30-1:30. Mrs. Fry, Leo club sponsor, hoped to get at least 52 units. Last year at the February blood drive they received 63 units and at the November drive this year they received 37 units. This year to the help of the students, teachers, and the people of the community they passed the goal and received 71 units. One of the encouragements to get the kids to donate blood is the red cord you receive for graduation if you donate a pint of blood three or more times. The blood drive went smoothly because the LEO and Student Council members helped by going to get the people donating from their classes. Mrs. Fry is very proud of everybody who helped with or donated blood at the drive.



Pictured above: Bryan Calhoun shows off his juice while donating blood