

# NEWS



FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS OF WHEELING CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Former NFL Player Devon McDonald talks about career highs and lows, importance of Christ in his life

**F**ormer NFL player with the Indianapolis Colts (1993-95) Devon McDonald visited CCHS this month to share his story of football success and personal struggles with Central's Junior class.

"You're not born a winner. You're not born a loser. You're born a chooser," said Devon McDonald, now a professional speaker/supervisor with Sports World, Inc. of Indianapolis, IN. His message was one of making smart choices in life, even at a young age, and the importance of having Christ in your life.

A native of Jamaica, McDonald first played organized football at the age of 12, after moving to the U.S. He attended high school in New Jersey and was a member of his high school's state championship team.

**"You're not born a winner.  
You're not born a loser.  
You're born a chooser."**

*-- Devon McDonald  
Former Indianapolis Colts Player and  
'94 Colts Special Teams Player of the Year*

ly wears an NCAA football championship ring for Notre Dame's bowl win against Major Harris and the WVU Mountaineers in 19XX. As a senior in 1992, he was selected as Team Captain and was recognized as an Honorable Mention All-American. He was also named Most Valuable Player at the Cotton Bowl game in 1993.

In 1993, McDonald was drafted in the 4th round by the Indianapolis Colts and played both Outside Linebacker and on Special Teams during his three seasons with the Colts. His popularity was evident when Colts fans voted him "Unsung Hero of the Year" in 1993; he was also named the Colts Special Team Player of the Year in 1994. "In the U.S., one million high school football players graduate each year," he said. Of that number, 50,000 will get college scholarships to continue their athletic careers, and of that 50,000, just 400 will be drafted into the NFL...very few get a shot at the NFL." Just 1,600 professional football players, he said, are in the NFL today.

Despite all his success and fortune, McDonald said he suffered from depression and abused alcohol. "I began drinking when I was in high school and because of that I never reached my full potential," he said. "Something was missing from life...a relationship with Christ."



*Former Notre Dame Championship Team member and Indianapolis Colts Linebacker/Special Teams Member Devon McDonald signs football cards for CCHS juniors after sharing his story of football success and personal struggles with alcohol and depression.*

During his senior year, he was offered a full scholarship to play football at the University of Notre Dame, despite former coaches telling him he would never play Division I football.

"I chose to believe in myself and not listen to others who tried to bring me down," McDonald said. He proudly



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CENTRAL

## STUDENT NEWS

## CCHS Music Trio to perform Christmas carols



Above, the new CCHS Music Trio prepares for holiday performances. From left are Ok Ji Kim, Do Heum Choi, and Won Yeong Lee. At right, Ashley Tomaceski, CCHS Director of Instrumental Music, conducts the trio at a practice session.



Central's Director of Instrumental Music Ashley Tomaceski announces that the newly formed "CCHS Music Trio" will perform Christmas carols this month at the following locations: Dec. 16 (10 a.m.): Washington Crown Center (Washington, PA); Dec. 16 (1 p.m.): Ohio Valley Mall (St.

Clairsville, OH); and Dec. 19 (10 a.m.): Elmhurst House of Friendship (Wheeling).

The Music Trio is com-

prised of Freshman Do Heum Choi on piano, Sophomore Ok Ji Kim on violin and Senior Won Yeong Lee on flute.

The public is also invited to the upcoming "Winter Instrumental Concert" on January 14 at 7 p.m in the Great Hall. Twenty Central students will take part in this free concert,

playing both traditional and rock music. *Come on out and enjoy the show!*

## CPO Updates...

## FAFSA Workshop set for January 7

CCHS will hosts its annual Financial Aid (FAFSA) Workshop on Wednesday, Jan. 7 in the Great Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Ms. Janet Fike (CCHS alumna), Dean of Enrollment Management at WV Northern Community College, will conduct the workshop, which gives students and parents detailed information about applying for financial aid. Information about the WV Higher Education Grant and the PROMISE scholarship will also be available at this program. *Seniors and their parents/guardians are highly encouraged to attend this workshop.*

Completing and filing a FAFSA are vital steps in the college planning process. Even if you believe you will not qualify for federal or state grant money, filing a FAFSA is necessary when applying for student and parent loan programs. In WV, filing the FAFSA is required for both the PROMISE scholarship and the Higher Education Grant Program (Visit [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) to get your PIN numbers).

## FAFSA on the WEB Workshop set for February 3

The "FAFSA on the WEB" Workshop will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Central's first floor computer lab (rm. 118). Space is limited so please call the school office (233-1660) by Jan. 30 to reserve your seat. Please bring the following: 2008 taxes; student driver's license; W2s; SSNs; PIN numbers; values of stocks, bonds, CDs, mutual funds, and checking/savings accounts.

## Kudos! Column...

## HOBY Ambassadors Named

Congratulations to **Nchole Scott** who has been selected as our sophomore ambassador to the state HOBY Convention in May 2009. She will represent Wheeling Central in Charleston at the four-day event. Congratulations, also, to **Melanie McFadden** who will serve as our alternate ambassador. Both Nichole and Melanie were selected by the CCHS faculty.

## Figure Skating Milestone Reached

On Dec. 8, Senior **Alexandra Rine** skated her 11th and final performance at the Symphony On Ice event held at WesBanco Arena. Alex says she has been figure skating for 12 years. "I love it and it's something I'm passionate about." She is considering becoming a skating teacher upon her graduation from CCHS.

## Breast Cancer Research Fundraiser

Congratulations to the **Sophomore Peer Ministry Group** for raising \$2,200 to benefit the Susan Koman Walk for Breast Cancer held in October. The Peer Ministry members held two bake sales at CCHS to raise the funds. A special thanks to Religion Teacher Amy Reasbeck for coordinating their efforts.

## First Mass Held in New Chapel

On Dec. 2, CCHS Chaplain **Fr. Dennis Schuelkens** celebrated the first mass in the newly renovated school chapel. Fr. Dennis will continue to hold mass (as his schedule permits) every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 6:55 a.m. The Central community is welcome to join us at this morning mass!



## ADVANCEMENT OFFICE NEWS

# Chapel Dedication, Special Fundraiser Dinner scheduled for January 18

Central Catholic's beautiful, newly renovated chapel will be dedicated by The Most Reverend Michael J. Bransfield on Sunday, January 18 beginning at 6 pm. The prayer of dedication will be a special event highlighting the culmination of Phase Two of Central's Renovations Project, that began in April 2008.

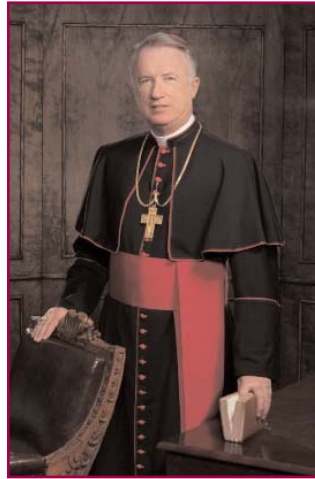
After the poignant ceremony, guests will be invited to the new Great Hall for a special dinner hosted by Bishop Bransfield. The dinner will conclude at 8 pm.

We invite the members of our Central family to attend this once-in-a-lifetime event. Limited tickets are available at \$50 each. A full table (seating for seven) may be reserved at \$350. All proceeds for the dinner will go to Central's Tuition Assistance Program to help our financially distressed

school families. Your generosity is needed now more than ever!

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact the school office at 233-1660. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

*Renovations to the school's chapel were completed in November 2008.*



*The Most Reverend  
Michael J. Bransfield*

## Scrip sales top \$40K for November '08

We thank our Scrip Program participants (now at 128 families) who continue to buy scrip gift cards and support CCHS. For November, sales reached **\$40,375** -- an increase of \$8,275 from October. The early part of December also proved busy for our Scrip Program -- in the first 10 days of the month, CCHS received \$25,650 in Scrip orders! **WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY!**

### Winners of Scrip Drawings Announced...

We congratulate our first Scrip Appreciation Drawing Winner: **Mrs. Patti Belancic**. Mrs. Belancic was the proud winner of \$500 in Walmart/Sam's Club gift cards when her name was drawn from among 124 entries. To qualify, families had to purchase at least \$250 in scrip during the month of November.

In a separate drawing for only CCHS faculty and staff members, the winner was Foreign Language Department Head **Pam Hartman**. To qualify, individuals had to purchase at least \$100 in Scrip. The staff prize was a choice of \$300 in gas cards or Walmart gift cards.

Watch for more drawings in 2009!



*Congratulations to Patti Belancic, mother of Junior John Belancic, whose name was pulled out of 124 entries in November's CCHS Scrip Appreciation Drawing. She won \$500 in Walmart/Sam's Club scrip...just in time for holiday shopping.*

## Calendar of Events

12/22-1/4	..No School (Christmas Break)
1/5	.....Classes Resume
1/7	.....FAFSA Seminar (6 pm)
1/8-13	....EXAMS
1/14	....Winter Instrumental Concert (7 pm, Great Hall)
1/19	.... <b>No School (MLK Day)</b>
2/3	.....FAFSA On-Line (6 pm)
2/5	.....NET Retreat (Sophomores)
2/6	.....NET Retreat (Freshmen)
2/12	....8th Grade Visitation Day
2/13	.... <b>Early Dismissal Day</b>
2/16	.... <b>No School (Presidents Day)</b>
2/25	....Ash Wednesday Liturgy
3/2	....Peer Ministry (2:15 pm)
3/8	....Foreign Language Honorary Induction (2 pm, Great Hall)
3/11-14	....Girls State Basketball (Charleston)
3/12	....Grade School Regional Science Fair (gymnasium)
3/18	....Boys State Basketball (Charleston)
4/6	....Peer Ministry
4/7	....'09 Registration Assemblies
4/9	.... <b>Early Dismissal Day</b>
4/10	.... <b>No School (Good Friday)</b>
4/13-17	.... <b>Spring Break</b>
4/20	....Classes Resume
5/1	.....Senior Prom (White Palace)
5/5	.....Senior Awards Liturgy
5/12	.....Underclassmen Awards
5/25	..... <b>No School (Memorial Day)</b>
5/26-29	....EXAMS
5/29	.....Baccalaureate Liturgy (6 pm)
5/30	.....GRADUATION (11 am)

\*Please note this calendar is subject to change.

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**REMINDERS**

**CCHS Boosters Reverse Raffle set for February 28**

The CCHS Boosters Association will hold its Annual Reverse Raffle event at Wheeling Park's White Palace on Saturday, February 28 from 6-11 p.m. Enjoy great food and great fun! All proceeds from the event benefit the Boosters' support of the CCHS Athletic Department as well as various scholarship programs.

Reverse Raffle Ticket costs are as follows:

**\$50...Single Reverse Raffle Chance (need not be present to win)**

**\$75...One Dinner Ticket with One Reverse Raffle Chance**

**\$100...Two Dinner Tickets with One Reverse Raffle Chance**

You may purchase tickets from the Boosters or from a CCHS student. This year the student who sells the most tickets is eligible to win a \$300 cash prize.

Reverse Raffle tickets will be available for sale at all home CCHS Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball Games at the Concession Stand. *Please note: This year, the basketball concessions have been relocated upstairs, adjacent to the women's rest-rooms.*

For more information, please contact Boosters President Jan Orkoskey at 277-2519 or at [janght@pulsenet.com](mailto:janght@pulsenet.com).

We look forward to seeing you there!



**NFL Player** *(cont'd from p. 1)*

McDonald said he got swept away by the fast life, money and partying during his career. He also struggled with depression and contemplated suicide on more than one occasion when the pressure of winning became too much. In 1995, he was cut from the Colts.

"My message to you is that when I hit that low, I made the decision to have Christ in my life and to stop drinking. I'm so much happier today. I encourage you to allow yourselves a relationship with Christ and to let it grow -- make the decision to make a fresh commitment to Christ."

At 41, McDonald is married with two daughters living in Indianapolis. He works for Sports World, a national organization that sends former professional athletes to share their personal life experiences with students, challenging them with the message of hope.