



FEATURES 5

"Glenn Frey once said, 'People don't run out of dreams, they run out of time.'"

Lyndsey Valois

Farewell to Eagles lead singer Glenn Frey.



STYLE 10

"Marking her 10th cover for the most notorious fashion magazine in the game, Rihanna lands a spot on the cover of the April issue of British Vogue."

Melissa Menden

His Journey, His Story, and The Power of His MacBook

Olivier Dumont
SPORTS EDITOR

In the 21st century, society has developed a gradual, increasing dependency for electronic devices as our world keeps progressing in the technological field.

For those of you that spend a great amount of time on your smartphone day in and day out, you have probably realized how valuable your phone really is to you and how empty your life could be without it.

If that realization hasn't occurred to you yet or if you aren't that attached to your phone, try to imagine yourself alone in the wilderness without any technological devices or services; that means no social network or internet access, no telephone calls or text messages, etc. Bottom line, you're not connected to society. The family you lived with, the friends you hung out with, the school you went to, all out of touch and unreachable. Why? Because our reliability to stay connected to people, loved ones and friends, but also stay in tune with what is happening in the world, has become to heavily reliant on technology. As some might see this as a problem, it actually can have the complete opposite effect.

When you are a part of the



Leo Antony (center rear) with his Marine detachment in Afghanistan.

military and you are deployed to a different country, you're removed from the reality that you grew up in, have adapted to, and have identified as your life and the one you would like to live in for the rest of your life. In other words, you are removed away from your comfort zone. An abrupt move to a country and of course, putting your life on the

line each day, can be very hard to get used to, if not, something one might never get used to. So when you are deployed and you are detached from your life, you want to try everything you can to keep yourself sane and in touch with that reality back home. In that new country in which you are placed, a piece of technology such as a MacBook can make a

whole difference.

For RCC student Leo Antony, a U.S.M.C veteran who served in Afghanistan, that was truly the case.

"I would like people to know ways that computers help military personnel in times of distress and how it could be a benefit having

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Leo Anthony and His Journey

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a durable computer," Leo says.

In the summer of 2012, Leo Antony was deployed to a U.S. base in Afghanistan where he would serve his country for the next eight months as a structural helicopter mechanic, mainly working with and repairing Ch-53e Super Stallions.

His working regimen was vigorous, constant, and consisted of 12-hour shifts

able to provide that for him.

"The importance of this Macbook in my life can be described as a necessity in all aspects of my daily routine," he says. "From using my digital textbook to complete homework, finishing up the project due tomorrow, to organizing pictures that include beloved friends and family, to relaxing to music."

During a tour in Afghanistan, sounds of gunfire and mortar shells igniting can



from 12am to 12pm with minimal breaks. Days off for Leo were scarce where he would receive one day off per month. Maybe two if he was lucky.

But despite the continuous activity and work that he was occupied with, be it working on choppers or defending their base from enemy terrorist attacks, the change in atmosphere and environment was a complete 180.

Through talking with Leo, I saw that Afghanistan is desolate and desert-like for miles, accompanied by large mountain ranges that make the sunsets and sunrises a sight to see along the horizon.

While stationed in Afghanistan, the bridge of connection to his home life was important to maintain. His MacBook gave him many outlets to do so and one way he did so was through watching movies. Movies, of course, are a great source of distraction, which was important to have in a foreign country where you are faced with the possibility of losing your life.

Leo, however, wanted to take it to the next step and put his creativity to the test; when watching movies, he would lie down on his bottom bunk and tuck the keyboard part of his MacBook under the mattress straps of the bunk above him, creating a neat movie theater-like atmosphere and experience, which can make all the difference in reminding you of the place that you identify as home.

One might think that with the long hours he worked, that he would take the opportunity to bang out a good ten hours of sleep when his 12-hour shift came to an end. But sleeping was minimal because of the fact that it's very easy to let your thoughts filled with worry, concern, or anxiety creep into your mind.

Bottom line, the scary reality of being in an environment where you have a target on your back and how you constantly have to look over your shoulder, doesn't make sleeping easy to come by.

But when you have to focus on something, and when you are taken to a different world within a movie, you don't have to deal with that issue and thankfully his MacBook was

come back to haunt you and connect you to think of tough, intense, memories that one might have experienced in battle that him or her might not want to remember. Once again, Leo's MacBook was the solution to that problem through the fact that he would tune out such noises with music that he had access to through his MacBook.

Sounds resonate with you and find a way to stay within you forever. When you hear a sound for the first time, whenever that second time rolls around and you hear it again, it will sound familiar and identifiable. Harsh sounds of warfare are something that can take a strong hold on you.

That's why when those moments come around, it's best to eliminate those noises through the sounds that we associate with happiness, enjoyment, and positive energy.



Leo's MacBook was the solution for that predicament, extinguishing the unforgettable sounds of war surrounding him.

Through thick and thin, Leo's MacBook developed into his life in many ways whether using it for homework assignments,



social interaction, entertainment purposes, and to create the massive photo album of his journey that he endured for his country. I had the great pleasure of looking at a few of the couple dozens of photos he had taken during his tour and really received a strong idea of what his experience was like.

You see, photos are so treasured because they allow us to leap back in time to capture

periods in his life so far.

Seeing his MacBook now, might make you laugh or smirk as its better days are long in the past and his computer is falling apart like an abandoned shack. But the best part about this, is that its brutal state reminds him once again about the experiences he encountered on his journey.

Looking closely at his MacBook cover, one can see a small, beady, dent. Leo explained to me that at one time, his base was under attack, causing his bunker to shake like a miniature earthquake, where his gun toppled off the top of his bed and right onto his MacBook lying beside his bed on the bunker floor.

To anyone who doesn't know his story, that dent has absolutely no significance to you and is probably just another one of the problems you see with his beaten MacBook. But to Leo, it's a flash back in time to a moment that he will never forget.

Technology has come so far in this day and age, and its impeccable ability to function well under conditions that battered it or simply through using it over several years, is tremendous and can surprise you. Leo's MacBook was the essential ingredient for him to remain stable in this desolate, hostile, environment. And it kept him connected with the life that he knew was waiting for him back home here in America.

Leo stressed to me, "The ability to communicate to family and friends in combat territories makes the stress in the situation at its minimal. To find peace of mind when life was most stressful, we seek any way to stay calm. Being able to play music to drown out the mortar rounds during the odd hours of the night. This MacBook kept me sane."

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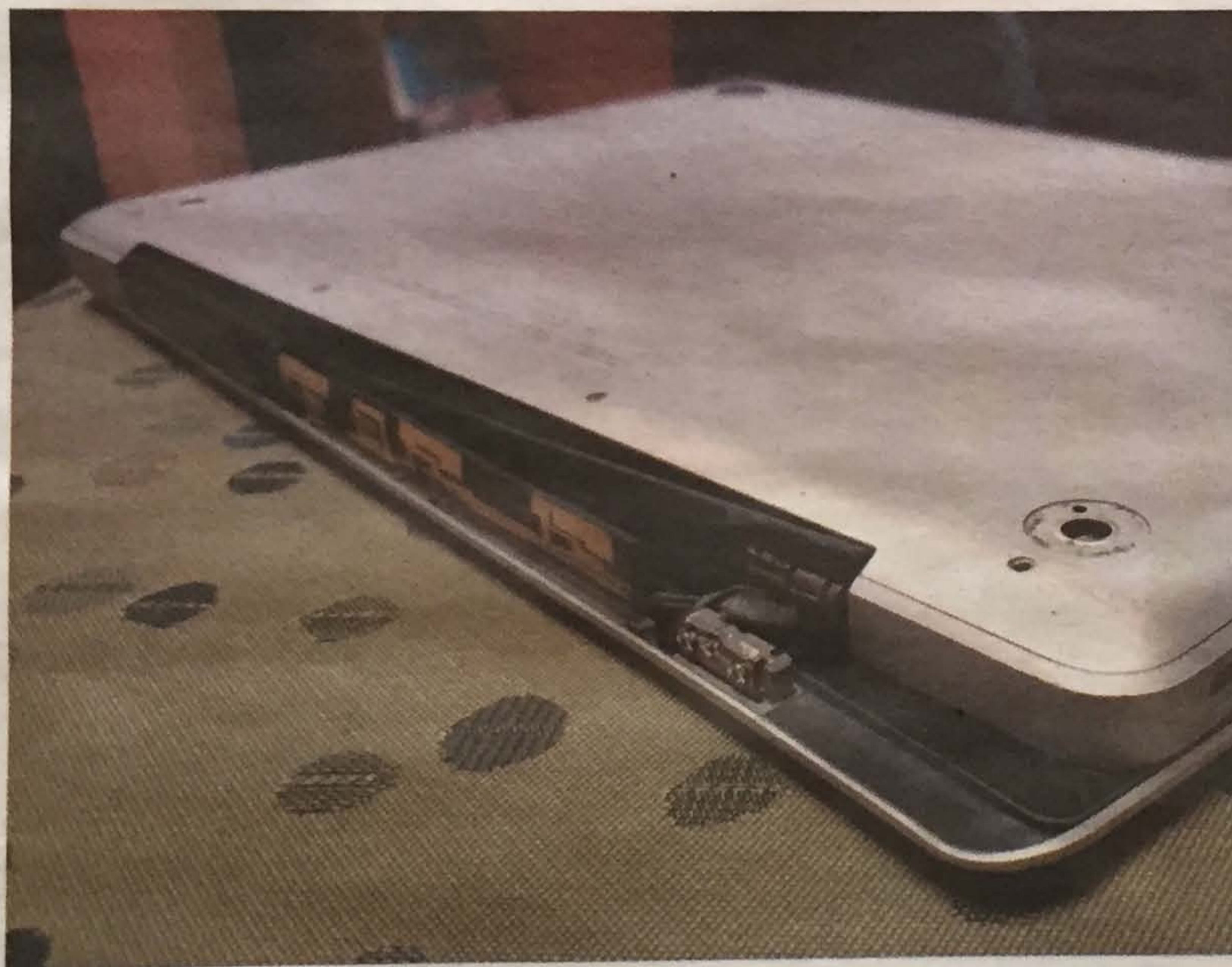
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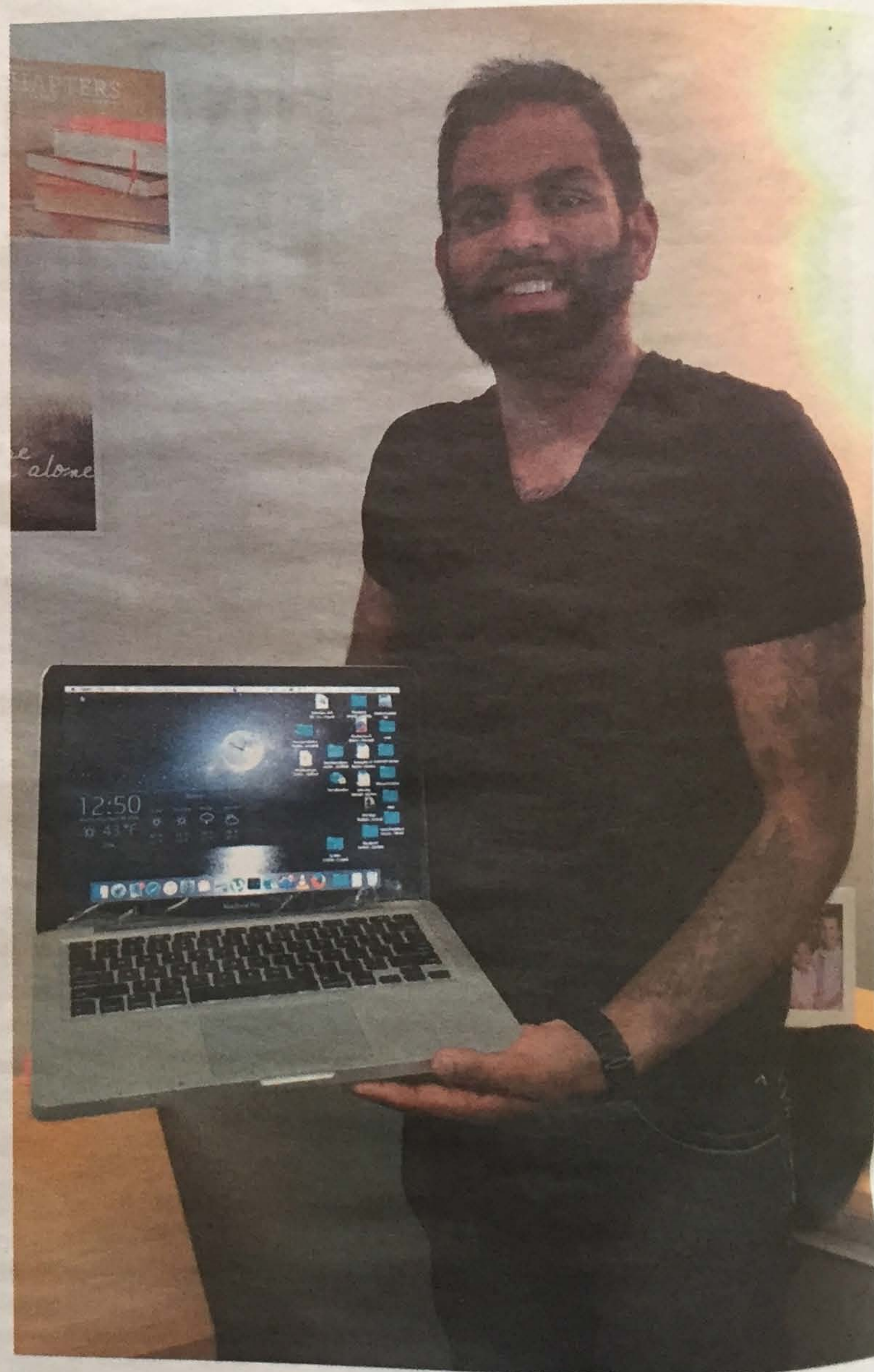
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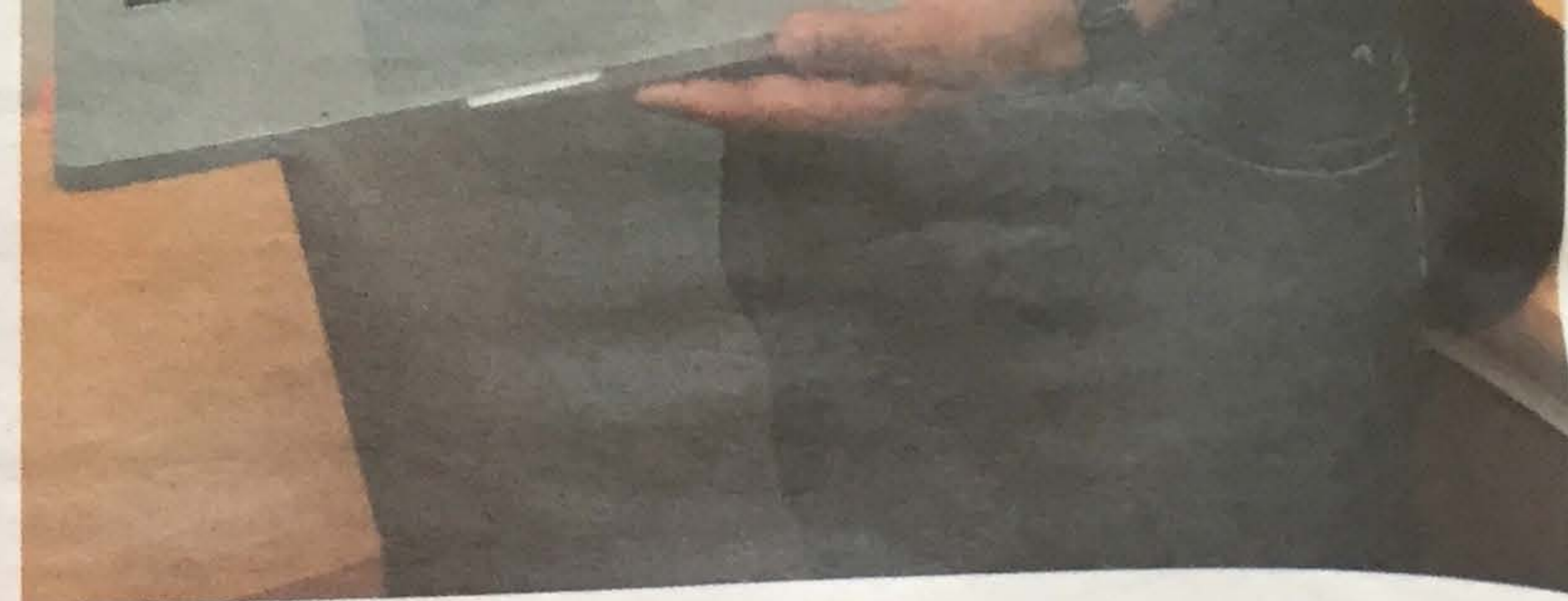
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a specific moment or beautiful image that we experienced. You can look back at a time that you can crisply connect with because you were once a part of that moment and you felt that moment physically and on an emotional level. With his MacBook, Leo was able to create his own personal library of memories of one of the most significant



SPORTS 16

"The RCC Men's Basketball Team shows great promise for yet another great season."

Olivier Dumont

The Hawks are looking to build on a very strong foundation.

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as music director

"I was totally
the performanc
said Professor o
Deitch, a renown
"The acting, sin
scenery, staging
were super high

"Bravo and
enormously tal
production crew
and directors of
exciting, lively

Bright Future Beckons for RCC Basketball Team

Olivier Dumont
SPORTS EDITOR

With the 2015-16 season in the books, the RCC Men's basketball team shows great promise in achieving yet another great season (if not better than their last) in the next season to come.

Participating in the live action and cheering on our sport teams here at RCC, doesn't always seem to be on the top of the priority list for many. But after watching four games of this team's great play at home, I have been convinced that this team really has what it takes to be something truly special next year, giving everyone a good reason to come see for themselves at how exciting it can be to watch their games. With some adjustments on both ends of the ball, this team will with no doubt be a golden highlight for the college's sports reputation next season.

After watching this team play a few games on their home court, it was easy for me to uncover the biggest strength of this team's offensive play; teamwork. But unfortunately, this aspect took me a little while to catch on to because the mentality of some of the players on the team varied, which became clear to me though the fact that team play was quite inconsistent on many of their offensive attempts. Now in defense, a player on the team might say, "well we were passing the ball." But that's not precisely what I'm referring to. Unselfish play is the ingredient that is lacking from this team, which leads to excellent team play as well as better passing. This team does have great talent in every position. Sophomore point guard Sal Barbetto is a primary example of such. His driving capability and solid dribbling skill make him a tough scorer

to stop and he showed that with his 21 points per game. Another great example would be freshman Julius Defreese. This shooting guard/small forward played great basketball with an exceptional field goal percentage of 50 percent this season, dropping 18 points a game as a result of his excellent shooting. But the problem for this team was that no one is a "Steph Curry" of college basketball or has LeBron James's sheer individual talent at this point in their careers. In other words, the talented, elite players on the team don't have the raw, sheer consistency and unstoppable offensive talent to actually be relied on to lead their team to victory every, single game they play. But their talent is still there and should be used, just in a different way. As stated previously, Sal has great dribbling skills and really knows how to drive to the basket quite well. So instead of using that skill to drive to the basket with the mentality to score every time, drive with the mentality that the scoring option and the passing option are one and the same. If the basket won't be an easy one, or if your chance of making a basket is limited, look for a better opportunity. Teams will pick up on who the better players are on the team in no time; use that to your advantage as that talented player. For example, driving to the basket will draw in two or three players, which leaves two or three of your teammates wide open to swing the ball out to. This playing style would force defenders to depend on man-to-man defensive play more often, allowing any elite player to either take advantage of the one on one play or find a teammate that has a better scoring option. And the great part about this is that I have seen this Hawks team do just that, there just has to be more of it

in the season to come. If everyone on the team shares this mentality of unselfish play, winning will come naturally and the task of doing so could become much easier.

The last two factors that need fine tuning for this team is their defense yet also their ability to rebound both defensively and offensively. What I love about the RCC Men's basketball team is their ability to play aggressive on defense. I say ability because once again I see this aggressive play in spurts and not on a consistent level. On December first, Sullivan Community College was putting a clinic with their perimeter shooting due to the lack of aggressiveness and good perimeter defensive play in the Hawks loss that night. As many sports fans know, good defense is almost always a must to win games. The additional aggressiveness aspect however, presses opposing players to force turnovers, allows your team to potentially steal the ball away or block a shot, and it simply just gives the offensive opponent that much harder of a time to score a basket. You know how the saying goes, "no easy buckets," and aggressiveness will just do that.

Rebounding, on the other hand, is one of the semi-underrated yet vital aspects of the game of basketball. Rebounding on both sides of the ball avoids extra scoring chances for the opposing team on the defensive end yet provides second chance points for your team offensively. In a close game, every point counts. The Hawks have good rebounders, evident in players such as Chukuka Emil who led with 8.6 rebounds per game and forward Taylor Miccio close in contention with 6.7 a game. But that's not enough nor should these two forwards be the only

ones boxing out in the paint and crashing the glass. This Hawks team has height, and it's understandable to have a guard or two play back on defense to prevent a fast break scoring opportunity for the opposing team. But those players with height (be it small forwards or a shooting guards) have to use it and take advantage. And if they fail to do so, those players in the paint need to box out, another minor correction that would make a huge difference in this Hawks team's play.

At this point, you might be thinking "well, is this team even worth watching or even caring about?" and the answer is yes of course they are. This team just needs some small, simple adjustments that would fine-tune them into a wrecking machine, destructive and hard to stop for next year.

One thing I loved when watching their games was their energy, solid aptitude to pass, and their ability to play so well when they brought the effort to execute the lacking, simple adjustments stated previously. Don't forget this team was tremendous at home with a 9-2 record and moving forward, will be the men's sports team to watch on campus here at RCC next season. They were also very dominant in their season ending Region XV Division III Playoff run, making it all the way to the Regional Final game where unfortunately, they were stopped, taking a tough loss to Nassau. However, this team will almost be the same in roster next year due to the fortunate predicament that they will be only losing four sophomores after this season out of 16 players in total.

This really bodes well for the team and I can say without a doubt, and as stated before, this Hawks team carries great potential for an even better season to come in 2016/17. Go Hawks!!