

# A Christmas Day Play-By-Play

By Gavin Koch

Christmas Day is filled with events that will make your head spin. You may be the lucky one in your extended family if Christmas Day is held at your house this year, but as for others, they will be traveling far and wide to different houses to celebrate the holidays with different members of their family. The day can consist of many activities for you and your family to endure.

We all know present opening is a significant event for every family to have in their Christmas celebration. The younger children usually go first because their little minds are going crazy, wondering what Santa (and their family members) got them. As the tearing and ripping sounds settle down, you hear the “oohs” and “ahhs” from the children while they are in awe of the presents they have received.

Christmas is a time of celebration, and you all know that when you’re celebrating, you need great food. Christmas meals can consist of a variety of foods to meet your taste. As the day goes on, the food will change. The snacks before are always great, but the main course is

the most important.

As far as the snacks before the big meal go, there are lots of things to choose from. Dips for your chips, fruits, and crackers are there for your choosing. Nuts of all shapes and sizes can give you a challenge, but it’s what is on the inside that matters. Sausage and cheese put together on a cracker are a great way to go in order to make sure your guests don’t go hungry. And let’s not forget all the cookies that will be there for your enjoyment. If there are some left, just leave them out for good ol’ St. Nick to finish off.

After your stomach settles down from the snacks, it will be time for the main meal. Whether it is before or after opening presents, it will more than likely be your second favorite event of the night. There will be meat, salads, casseroles, bread, and other key features to make the meal complete. The main course should be the part that fills up your plate the most.

In my mind, the perfect plate would consist of a big, juicy steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn,

and ambrosia. At first, a salad would start me off to get the stomach muscles moving. After the main meal, a piece of cheesecake or pie would be scarfed down until I could not eat any more. When the meal is over, it is time to sit down and relax with your family to enjoy the rest of your holidays.

If relaxing isn’t in your family’s vocabulary, games are more than likely what you will be doing. Don’t be that person that sits there and decides not to participate. This is a time for your family to bond, and what better way to do it than by playing a game? Holiday charades is the choice some families choose to play. It may not be the most fun game, but it sure does get the family going.

If the presents, meals, or games played with your family don’t suit your fancy, you need to check yourself for problems. Christmas is a time for family gatherings and bonding with them if you haven’t seen them in a large amount of time. Remember to give big hugs and say thank you to every person that gets you a present.

## Trojan Times Editorial Policy

The Trojan Times is written, edited and published by the Journalism class of Beloit Jr.-Sr. High School, Unified School District 273. The opinions of this publication are not necessarily those of the school board, administration or instructors.

It is the policy of the Trojan Times to entertain, educate and provide a record of the year’s events. However, it is impossible to include coverage of all events throughout the school year.

We will strive to practice responsible journalism by avoiding libel, obscenity, defamation or false statements. Fairness and accuracy are our primary goals.

We recognize our responsibility to inform and interpret through editorials. Signed editorials express the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the entire staff.

We will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions and we welcome letters and suggestions from our readers. Letters will be published as space permits. All letters must be

1. Signed by the writer.
2. Free of obscenities and libelous statements.
3. No more than 300 words in length.

The staff reserves the right to decide which letters to publish.

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### Basketball

#### Upcoming Games

Dec. 19 @ Ellsworth  
Jan. 6 Phillipsburg  
Jan. 9 @ Russell  
Jan. 13 @ Chapman  
Jan. 16 @ Minneapolis  
Jan. 19-23 Sterling Invitational

### Wrestling

#### Upcoming Meets

Dec. 18 Lincoln/Stafford/Russell  
Jan. 8 @ Russell  
Jan. 10 Norton Tournament  
Jan. 17 Marysville Tournament  
Jan. 23-24 Beloit Invitational  
Jan. 30-31 Concordia Invitational

**How many dunks do you plan to have this year?**

**Senior, RJ Jackson** - “Worst case scenario: 1 dunk. Best case scenario: 5 with an alley-oop.”

### Wrestling

Last year’s Beloit wrestling team had a great season all around. The team sent several wrestlers to state last year and placed third as a team. They lost many valuable seniors, but many guys are stepping up and contributing at the varsity level.

**What are your expectations for this season?**

**Junior, Carter Wessling** - “Win a lot of matches and be a state champion.”

# Winter Sports Recap

By Daniel Herndon

The winter sports season is underway with several games/meets in the books. Both of the basketball teams and the wrestling squad have high expectations for this year’s season and plan to make an impact at the state level. Here is a recap of last season and some answers from players regarding this year’s season.

### Girls’ Basketball

Last year the girls’ varsity basketball team ended the season with 12 wins and 9 losses. They lost a few seniors but have returned all five starters. The girls have started the season off right with 3 wins under their belts and are looking to continue the streak.

**What are your goals for this season?**

**Senior, Kaley Broeckelman** - “Win league and make it to state.”

### Boys’ Basketball

Last year’s boys’ basketball team had a remarkable season with 24 wins and only 2 losses. The team placed second at state behind Hesston. The team lost four seniors, but has had no problem making up for the lost players. The team is currently undefeated as well and hopes to keep the win streak going.

*Kyle Hampel's*

# CRITICAL MASS

By Kyle Hampel

In personal finance class, the lesson of the day is always the same: don’t buy stuff you can’t afford! It’s a simple piece of advice that’s both life-changing and easy to ignore. With the holidays fast approaching, I’m sure many procrastinators like me will be trying to get in some last-minute shopping for presents of all shapes and sizes. Most of the things I give and receive for Christmas are media-related—movies, games, etc. The nice thing about buying these kinds of pop culture goodies is that even the good stuff gets a price drop if it’s old enough. I love a good deal, and I think it’s only fair that I share my expertise on underrated stocking stuffers from the bargain bin. Here’s a few of my favorite things that you can get for under \$20.

**The Rocketeer (PG, 1991)** – If you ask me, Disney’s *The Rocketeer* is one of the most critically underrated movies in the past half-century. Starring Billy Campbell and Jennifer Connelly, *The Rocketeer* is a colorful WWII action movie about a regular kid who becomes an old-timey American superhero thanks to a prototype jetpack developed by Howard Hughes himself. This movie has terrific storytelling: action, love, betrayal, revenge, Nazis... *The Rocketeer* has it all, and a DVD copy shouldn’t set you back

any more than what you have in your pocket.

**Okami (T, 2006)** – The sad thing about *Okami* is that it’s difficult to describe the game without making it sound like the weirdest thing since the KFC Double Down. *Okami* is essentially a Japanese fairy tale come to life—you play through the legend of a wolf goddess named Amaterasu (or “Ammy” for short) who is tasked with purging the Japanese countryside of evil and darkness. The game is an action-adventure in the vein of *The Legend of Zelda* series, and even just watching it is a pleasure—the stylized visuals make the game look like a moving watercolor masterpiece. The original game is available for the Wii and Playstation 2, and there’s also a high-quality HD remake for the PS3.

**Riki-Oh: The Story of Ricky (R, 1991)** – Just so we’re clear, *Riki-Oh* is a bad movie. It’s a really, *really* bad movie. So why is it on a list of underrated diamonds in the rough? It’s simple: a movie doesn’t have to be *good* to be *entertaining*. *Riki-Oh* is a Japanese prison kung fu movie that stretches its shoestring budget to its absolute limits—there’s no shortage of over-the-

# Bargain Bin Blessings

top fight scenes and bad special effects in this flick. What truly makes *Riki-Oh* rise above in the flooded market of hilariously bad kung fu movies is the acting. The actors have more ham and cheese in them than a Subway footlong, and there’s never a dull moment with a badly translated English dub to listen to in this cult classic.

**Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance (M, 2013)** – This is, without a doubt, one of the best action games of the past decade. All you really need to know about *Revengeance* is that it has cyborg ninjas. *Cyborg ninjas*, people. I don’t wanna spoil too much, but one of the first things you do in the game is slice a skyscraper-sized robot in half while heavy metal screams in the background. It’s the kind of game that pretty much explains itself, to be honest. You can find *Revengeance* on the Xbox 360, PS3, and PC for less than the cost of a large pizza.

Nothing warms my heart quite like saving a few dollars on a purchase, so here’s hoping that my fellow cheapskates can find something they like in the bargain bin for the upcoming holiday season.

# NEW STAR WARS FILM RELEASES TEASER TRAILER

By Ayden Twaddell

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, there was a man with a dream. From the legendary original trilogy to the not-so-legendary prequel trilogy, George Lucas, the original creator of *Star Wars*, has spent his entire life realizing his dream: a timeless story of good and evil battling for dominance in a mystical sci-fi universe. Recently, he passed on his legacy to Disney in hopes of bringing up a new generation of *Star Wars* fanatics. The esteemed director J.J. Abrams has taken on the seemingly impossible task of creating a worthy continuation of the series. The title of the seventh film in the saga is *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. After watching the teaser trailer for the highly anticipated new movie (for the seventeenth time in a row, might I add), I felt the need to share my thoughts with everyone and let you know how great this film

is shaping up to be.

Let me just start off by saying exactly what I said after the first time I saw the trailer: “Holy Wookiee potatoes! This movie will be amazing!” Since J.J. Abrams is also the director of the recent *Star Trek* movies, the fans of *Star Wars* expected lots of sleek panoramic shots and enough lens flares to make you go blind. However, Abrams blew us away with the authentic rugged look that we had all hoped for in the trailer. For those of you who have not yet had the pleasure of viewing the new trailer, here is the gist of it.

From the beginning narration on the desolate planet of Tatooine, *Star Wars* fans everywhere are already on the edge of their seats. After the appearance of a distressed and helmetless Stormtrooper, we see a few flashes the Imperial foot soldiers in full battle gear.

Even though they took some liberties with the Stormtrooper helmets, they still look just as menacing as before, if not more so. We then see a female character speeding off to nowhere on what appears to be a flying toaster oven (an *awesome* flying toaster oven). Following a taste of the new X-Wing fighters soaring in formation over a glistening body of water, we are introduced to a nameless Sith Lord with a fancy new kind of lightsaber. The trailer comes to an end with a fantastic flyby—the Millennium Falcon screams past the camera for its first appearance since the destruction of the second Death Star at the end of *Episode VI: Return of the Jedi*.

The teaser has made me expect huge things from J. J. Abrams and Disney, and I pray that I won’t be let down. I hope all of you are as excited to see this epic sequel as I am.