

# Banner Events at Churchill High School

School holds first Hall of Fame induction in nearly 10 years.

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THE ALMANAC

**C**hurchill '96 graduate Dhani Jones started on the University of Michigan's national champion football team and two Super Bowl teams, including this year's NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles. Hasn't Jones cleared the bar for induction to Churchill's Hall of Fame?

Ron LaFleur thought so. A parent of two Churchill students, LaFleur learned last year that Churchill had an athletic Hall of Fame. However, membership has remained frozen at 46 since the inaugural induction in 1996. "The whole event was supposed to take place every year," said LaFleur.

**JONES IS ONE OF 11** Churchill sports legends who will be inducted to the Hall of Fame in a gala ceremony at Bethesda Country Club on March 4. Among them are tennis pro Alex Kim; pro soccer player Nino Marcantonio; and college soccer stars Lindsay Haywood and Marisa Padula.

Most inductees will attend the ceremony. "It's the biggest event the booster club has ever undertaken," said Carolyn Mattingly, co-president of Churchill's boosters.

"What excites me the most about this event is that it's an event where all the sports are all working together ... and working toward one goal," said Sherri Cissel, co-president of Churchill's boosters club. "It's kind of like a dream come true."

Proceeds from the induction gala will fund restoration of Churchill's athletic fields, beginning with the stadium field, which is shared by the varsity and junior varsity teams for football, boys soccer, girls



PHOTOS BY TERESA BURNETT/THE ALMANAC

**Churchill's Hall of Fame committee hopes the poms and other varsity teams won't have to perform in these conditions next year. Proceeds from Churchill's Hall of Fame Gala will help replace Churchill's stadium field.**

soccer, boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse.

Midway through the fall sports season, Churchill's stadium field was shredded past the point of no return. "A group of school parents came to the booster club and were concerned about the safety of the field," said Mattingly. "All of the football, soccer and lacrosse parents banded together."

Churchill's boosters hope to raise \$125,000 to renovate the stadium field and the other fields that surround it. The initial project will cost \$50,000, and maintenance through the first year will cost an estimated \$26,000, Mattingly said.

Whitman's field at Jerome Marco Stadium serves as a model that Mattingly and LaFleur hope Churchill will replicate. Whitman resurfaced its field with Bermuda grass last summer. "We fell in love with that field — it's a professional quality field," said Mattingly.

**CHURCHILL HONORED** its 2004 state champion golf team and pom squad at half-time of a basketball game last Friday night. Their state championship banners went up last week alongside the '02 and '03 girls basketball state championship banners.

For the first time in more than three years, Churchill displayed its banners from state champions prior to the 21st century. This was another project Cissel and Mattingly undertook to recognize past Churchill champions. Churchill's gym was replaced as the school underwent renovations from 2000 through '02, and all prior banners have since been in storage. Although he is a Seneca Valley High School graduate, Constantine Pregantis, president of Nite Lites, a local outdoor lighting company, agreed to raise the 50-plus banners honoring the school's past state, county and re-