

Under the Lights

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By Lisa Jacques '12

By the time the school buses arrived at Delaware Military Academy's football field, the orange and blue hues of the afternoon sky had faded into a deep purple and the St. Andrew's football team was already on the field warming up. The anticipation was palpable in the air as students stood around the football field watching our favorite football team pass the pigskin before the Under the Lights game began. Senior girls decked out in red and white jerseys bearing the same number as a senior player packed the front of the bleachers yelling classic St. Andrean cheers such as "One! We are the Saints!" and spelling out S-A-I-N-T-S. Supporters from all classes surrounded them, stomping their feet, clapping their hands and belching "As the Saints go Marching In!" Every time we had the ball, stopped the other team from gaining yards, or successfully completed a touchdown, the cheering was intensified by the trumpet blaring by James Craig '12 or the few discernible vuvuzela sounds undoubtedly used during the South African World Cup.

As the temperature dropped and the sky turned black, the Saints continued playing with more determination and avidity that the other team couldn't match. The crowd moved with the players on the field. If they went left, we went left. When they moved down the field, we moved with them. When the other team descended upon the ball, screams of "Defense!" and enthusiastic "Stop 'em boys! You can take 'em!" from Mrs. Duprey erupted from the top of the bleachers. All was an effort in keeping up with every minute of the game, being the best fan support possible. As Khary Dennis '12, stated, "The fans really helped us during the game. We couldn't have done it without them" and a triumphant comment from Ike Amakiri '12, "Many people thought we couldn't do it, but we showed them we could."

During the last minute of the game as Delaware Military Academy had the ball and only had to travel 10 yards to make their second touchdown. The ball was up and the fans screamed; the Saints collided in a heap of football jerseys and armor only to see to it the ball didn't make it into the endzone. As the clock reached zero, it was clear to everyone who had won. The crowd erupted into a frenzy of hollering and congratulatory praise as the team embraced each other in an affectionate circle, bouncing and screaming as they celebrated their much-deserved win.

Congratulations Saints. Let this season be a great one.

(Editor's Note: St. Andrew's won the game 27-6.)