



# TIGER TIMES



Recent trends: What's hot and not? See Pg. 3

XC pre-season starts with a bang. See Pg. 5

Vol. 4 | No. 8 | Sept. 10, 2025



Pictured left to right: Carson B., Anna C., Izzy L. and Kaitlyn H. practicing for the musical

## IB's 'Seussical' the musical

By Anna C.  
News Editor

This fall, the IBHS theater department will be shaking things up with “Seussical the Musical.” The musical was performed on the same stage about 10 years ago. Seats were filled front to back, and children watched a family-friendly show. A big difference is that now those children are 10 years older, and a new generation of IB kids will experience the show for the first time.

When asked what sparked this choice, stage director Mrs. Roderick explains what excites her about “Seussical.”

“The characters. Having fun characters because the audience is mostly children,” said Mrs. Roderick. Despite the target audience being kids, the plot of “Seussical” is relevant to older folks as well.

The story follows many different Dr. Seuss characters and their journey to find their purpose, all through the imagination

of a boy named Jojo. This is accompanied by a colorful set based on the land of Seuss. Similar to Illustrations on a page, the characters are expressive and convey a message: “Be yourself, despite what people say.”

Many students here at IB claimed to be excited about joining or coming to see the musical. One student in particular is senior Carson B., who plays the role of the Cat in the Hat.

“I think I’m most excited for the costumes, just because Seussical is just a wacky world, and so it’s going to have wacky costumes,” said Carson.

As for her, this musical conveys a different message: “A person’s a person, no matter how small.”

A different lesson can be learned from each character’s story. These messages will be brought to life this fall by IB students and directors, bringing the magic of Dr. Seuss to the stage once again.

## Introducing all of Illini Bluffs High School's

### new staff

By Staff

With the school year fully underway, the Tiger Times staff feels it is time to recognize the many new faces that have been added to the staff in the middle and high school; from leadership roles, such as principal, to electives like Spanish, choir and art, to required subjects like English and health, IB is seeing a notable shift in staff. Our reporters got the chance to interview each new face individually, giving our readers an opportunity to better understand their new teachers.

#### Mrs. Seamen

This year, the Library and the English hallway are seeing a new face: Mrs. Seaman. Our new addition to the school has an interesting story about her inspiration to become a teacher.

As an individual who’s from the area, Mrs. Seaman attended Woodruff High

School and had a mentor, who happened to be her junior English teacher. She really enjoyed the books that were read in class and the conversations that they had.

“I got so fired up about the book “To Kill a Mockingbird” that he literally said, Come to class tomorrow and you teach, since you love it so much. And I was like, Oh, I will.”

This initial dip in teaching ignited her spark for the field of teaching.

Being an educator has always been a dream of hers, but her main motivation for choosing Illini Bluffs was her kids.

“I wanted to teach at the same school that my kids went to. I’ve gotten to before in my career, and it was the happiest I’ve ever been, and when I can be teaching my kids’ friends and getting to be in the community, I love that.”

Mrs. Seaman had a huge change

Story Cont. on Pg. 2

## Phone policy

By Levi T. and Aidan B.  
Graphic Designer and News Reporter

The new school year began with one notable change: the phone policy. The new policy has had an impact on Illini Bluffs, but the opinions on the shift are varied.

The current phone policy in the Illini Bluffs handbook is: cell phones are not allowed in the classroom, and if a student is found to have one they will be sent to the office with the phone; teachers must get permission from the principal to allow students to use cell phones with a prepared explanation that the use of a cell phone will enhance and add value to the learning process; the disciplinary action for the first time the student is caught with a phone in class is the student will have to keep their phone in the office for the remainder of the day and the second offense requires a guardian to pick up the phone from the office.

So the question is raised, why did it come into place?

“The principal and the teachers collaborate,” Superintendent Mr. Almasi said. “On it, they discuss the pros and cons of having phones and what they want to do. They present that policy within the handbook to me, discussing the ins and outs of it, and then we give it to the board for approval. The expectation is that phones should not be with the student and should be put into the locker until the end of the day.”

Almasi has approved and enforced the phone policy, but he has acknowledged and understands that it is not a perfect policy and that the school as a whole isn’t entirely in agreement on it.

“There were boundaries when we were allowed to have our phones; I think people just didn’t put their foot down when it came to respecting them,” senior Shelby said.

Shelby has expressed that she understands why they have the rule put into place and understands the benefits; however, she has bigger concerns.

“I have a 3-year-old who isn’t in school in the mornings, and there’s like about an hour window where I’m all set,” Shelby said. “I know that people think that it’s easier to call the office and stuff, but still, if there’s an emergency and I’m at school, it’s a lot easier for them to get hold of me.”

The policy affected everyone in different ways because it was aimed at the classroom environment and management.

“It depends on the teacher,” senior Eric P. said. “Some classes seem a lot more focused; however, I noticed some classes lose focus because they want to socialize, disturbing the classroom.”

Eric is pro-phone policy and believes it was a good decision by the administration. He explained that the phone policy has improved the control that teachers have and eliminated the distractions of phones. He expresses that it was and still is dependent on the teacher.

Story Cont. on Pg. 2



# Phone policy article cont. from Pg. 1

“The policy has increased my efficiency for sure, not having the distraction because I know some people are getting out of the bad habit of being on their phones most of the time. Personally, I have been more on top of things because I don’t have my phone to worry about,” Eric said.

Yet that’s not all that was the concern before the phone policy, and why they established it.

“It might be a cultural change with your generation,” English teacher and librarian Mrs. Seamen said. “As technology changes and evolves, you’re going to see changes

within policies across the nation,” Seamen said.

She also talked about AI and how, at the time when AI became popular, new policies were created, and with the phone, it undermined those policies.

“You’re running the risk that the

information that you’re getting from your students is AI-generated, and more and more, as AI gets smarter, it is gonna be harder and harder and more expensive to identify whether or not it is AI,” Seamen said.

The opinion of the people of the school is varied and vast, but as of now, the phone policy will be staying.

# New teachers article cont. from Pg. 1

my kids’ friends and getting to be in the community, I love that.”

Mrs. Seaman had a huge change moving from Texas, where she worked at a modernized middle school, to coming back to Illinois to be both the librarian and English 10 teacher here at IB, but after working with middle school for so long, she knew that high school was where she belonged.

She shared how she believes kids in high school have a better sense of who they are and what they want to be.

“I felt like you could talk about more important issues...” Mrs. Seaman said

Mrs. Seaman has made it clear that she loves how much IB feels like a community. She wants her children to experience the bond of knowing their peers most of their lives, and is looking forward to many more years here.



**Mr. Ganschow**

IBHS welcomes new choir director, Mr. Ganschow, who has over 19 years of experience in musical education. As a technical thinker with expertise in math, he envisioned himself pursuing a career in engineering.

“Physics, I was really, really into physics, and I thought that’s what I wanted to do,” Mr. Ganschow said.

His path changed after his sophomore year ILMEA experience,

“I want to be able to create music like this, share this with others, make this happen for other people, and I am,” Mr. Ganschow said.

He immersed himself in all the musical curricula at Bradley University and is now taking charge as the choir teacher and musical director here at IB.



**Mrs. Nannen**

This school year, the P.E. and health department is seeing a new face, Mrs. Nannen.

Mrs. Nannen grew up in the country and graduated from Farmington High School. She attended ICC for two years and then graduated from Methodist College. She worked as a nurse before feeling the desire to teach, starting as a substitute at Farmington, where she worked for six years.

After experiencing a long-term subposition as a reading specialist, she fell in love with the idea of teaching. She desired to teach small groups of kids and not have to be in the same room all day. Her friend, Mrs. Thompson, works at IB and had mentioned that they were hiring, so Nannen decided to job shadow at IB and fell in love with the community.

“Everybody just seemed super nice, like a small community,” Mrs. Nannen said. “It felt very homey and supportive.”

Nannen says she enjoys working with many age groups, but her favorite group to teach is middle school.

“I just enjoy getting to be active with kids and just teaching them that health and fitness is not something that has to be complicated,” Mrs. Nannen said.



**Mrs. Price**

Mrs Price, a Texas native, has finally found her spot at IB after her life in the military.

“I retired from the Air Force in 2022 and was looking for something to do, so I started off as a teacher’s aide,” Mrs. Price said. “I really enjoyed that, and then the opportunity for the Spanish teacher came up, and I thought if there was a way for me to help with that, I would really enjoy it, and here I am.”

When the position for a high school Spanish teacher opened up, she saw herself as someone who would be a good fit, considering she knows Spanish fluently and could help the kids learn it better. And, her kids go here.

“I chose IB because my kids come to school here, it’s close to home, I knew a lot of the people that work here and students that go here. It’s a comfortable fit for me.”

Even though she never saw herself becoming a teacher, she enjoys her time here at IB and her new position as the Spanish teacher.



**Ms. McKean**

Ms. McKean is from Geneseo, IL, and went to Geneseo High School. She then graduated from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor’s in Fine Arts in Art Education.

From a very early age, McKean knew she wanted to be a teacher because of her grandmother, with whom she grew up. Her grandmother was a teacher who taught a variety of grade levels.

“She would take me to classes with her before I was old enough to go to school, and I got to spend so much time watching her teach and interact with students,” McKean said. “She just made it look like the most important thing in the world.”

She chose to teach middle and



**Mr. Martin**

Over the summer, eighth-grade math teacher Mr. Martin took the role of principal at IBHS.

The former Canton “Little Giant” knew he wanted to pursue education by his sophomore year of high school after having a class with a math teacher who inspired him. Mr. Martin enjoys watching students grow and get better academically, mentally and socially.

“Seeing them progress and seeing the growth that they can show has always been something, so education is a great way to help a lot of people,” Martin said.

When choosing a district, he heard amazing things about Illini Bluffs. He wanted to make a difference in students’ lives and make a bigger impact on more students over a longer period of time. This may be his first year as principal at IB, but he plans on continuing in a leadership role for the Tigers.

“When I applied, everything was very professional, very supportive and this community is awesome to work with. And, I think the kids here are great, and I really enjoy working here.”





# 'TSITP' proves incremental releases work

By Gabby G.  
Voice Reporter

“The Summer I Turned Pretty” is a three-book series by Jenny Han. It isn’t popular from the books, though, it is popular because of the series Prime Video made out of it. This series especially became popular in the third and final season.

While all of the characters are returning, there is one big change: the episode release schedule.

The big reason why everyone is going crazy over this season instead of the other two is that you have to wait a whole week to watch each new episode. The other two seasons’ episodes were all released at once, so nobody was really hanging on for more because they just binge-watched the whole season in one night. There are supposed to be 11 episodes this season, and each episode ends on a cliffhanger with the watcher yearning for more.

I think that this season is the best because you really don’t know what is going to happen in each episode.

With the question of “Are you team Conrad or team Jeremiah,” A lot of people are posting on social media about the recap of each episode every Wednesday. Social media has made more people watch the show because so many people are talking about it and hyping it up. It brings people together, especially because most people have the same opinion: Team Conrad is the only answer.

I chose Conrad, and I think that the author is trying to make people have that opinion because she is making Jeremiah look worse and worse every episode, as if she wants us not to like him. And since the episodes all end on cliffhangers, it leaves me to think about what the next episode holds for the whole week that I have to wait.

The season has felt more impactful because when a bomb gets dropped, it stays in your mind while you are waiting for the next episode to come out. The wedding of Belly and Jeremiah was a big bomb drop on the show. The other two big bombs, in my opinion, would have to be Conrad confessing his love to Belly and Jeremiah cheating on Belly twice.

So, regardless of whether you are team Conrad or Jeremiah, I think we can all root for this new system of releasing episodes.



# Hot or not: The recent trends

By Jocelyn J.  
Voice Editor

Throughout the years, trends have come and gone. Between demonic stuffed animals on purses to AI videos of Bigfoot podcasting through the jungle, 2025 has been a lot different than 2024. The real question is whether they are hot or not. See our opinions below.

## NOT

Labubus: These dolls gained popularity in mid-2025. With their fluffy, rabbit-like fur and faces that are concerning to most, they have skyrocketed on TikTok. These little dolls are seen everywhere, from hanging in people's rooms to being carried in their purses. Now, even though some people love these dolls, personally, I find them unsettling. With their huge eyes and creepy smiles, I have never been able to see the vision behind this trend.



AI Videos: Have you seen videos that seem a little off? Those are probably the AI videos circling TikTok. Obviously, not all of the videos seem real. I’m sure you’ve seen the many videos of Bigfoot running through the woods or the satisfying ASMR videos. A lot of people enjoy these videos and find them quite funny. Personally, they also unsettle me. Not necessarily the ones of Bigfoot, but the ones that seem almost too real. Not being able to tell the difference between real events and ones made by a computer is quite freaky to me.

## HOT

Trending Water Bottles: Between Stanleys, Hydrojugs, Owalas, and Hydroflasks, there have been a number of water bottles that have cycled through the internet. The newest water bottle trend is Hydrojugs. These water bottles are very similar to Stanleys, with a few key differences. One big difference I enjoy a lot is that they don’t spill as easily. With Stanleys, as soon as they tip over, water is spilled all over the floor. With Hydrojugs, they have a sealed top and a flip straw, which makes a big difference in the huge messes Stanley's would cause. I personally love these water bottles because I don’t have to worry about a huge mess every time they accidentally fall over.



Dubai Chocolate: Food trends have been a staple throughout 2025. One that has stuck throughout the entirety of this year is Dubai Chocolate. Some people were turned off by it because of its grassy appearance, but it blew up everywhere. Personally, I think the chocolate is great. It is very sweet and has more of a crunchy texture than most chocolate. The kadayif makes that crunchy texture and makes the chocolate much more appealing.

# The long road to Taylor’s engagement

By Jocelyn J.  
Voice Editor

After years of heartbreak, Taylor Swift is finally engaged. On August 26, 2025, she announced her engagement to Travis Kelce. Travis’s father has also informed the internet that they were engaged about two weeks before the announcement. In this time of joy and happiness, let’s take a look back on what she had to go through to get there.

## Taylor Launter

Taylor Launter has been a big star since the release of Twilight, but some people have failed to notice that he had a relationship with Taylor Swift. They met on the set of “Valentine’s Day,” a romantic comedy about the holiday. After that, they were spotted multiple times on dates and at events together. But after dating for only a few months, the couple decided to split. It was a mutual breakup because of conflicting schedules and them just not seeing it going any further. Since then, they have stayed good friends, with Lautner even making an appearance on “The Eras Tour” for the release of “Speak Now: Taylor’s Versions”.

Story Cont. on Pg. 4



# Story cont. from Pg. 3

## Jake Gyllenhaal

If you ever feel silly for not getting over a guy you barely dated, don't worry, Taylor Swift wrote a ten-minute song about a guy she dated for three months. This short relationship between Jake Gyllenhaal and Taylor Swift is a big deal in the fan community. After being seen together for the first time on SNL in October, this relationship sparked a lot of attention, especially considering the nine-year age gap. After being seen together on Thanksgiving and in coffee shops together, they were both noticeably missing from each other's birthdays just that December. The relationship was done and over before Taylor was even 21. After supposedly leaving her scarf at his sister's house, the pair was only seen together for quick interactions at award shows. Since then, Jake has neglected questions about the past relationship and the song allegedly about him, "All Too Well." All I have to say is, if Jake finds a red scarf, he should probably return it to Taylor.

## Harry Styles

With being the two biggest pop stars at the time, this couple was always in the limelight. Between 2012 and 2013, Taylor Swift and Harry Styles dated. After meeting backstage at the Kids' Choice Awards, this relationship was seen everywhere. From going on walks in the park together to being at New York's New Year's Eve event, this couple was spotted everywhere. But, not everything was as amazing as it was made out to be when, a little before a year, the couple split. After Taylor's "1989" album, fans got songs about the breakup and Harry's allegedly awful driving. Since then, though, the pair has been seen talking and hugging at events. For now, everything is well in the world of "Taylor."

## Joe Alywn

With this being Taylor's longest relationship, we really thought he was the one. Joe Alywn and Taylor Swift dated for six years. They met at the Met Gala in 2016, and after that, they kept quiet about their relationship. Alwyn wanted to keep his personal life away from the spotlight. The couple went as far as wearing wigs and sunglasses in public. The most seen was in her songs and some clips that were posted on social media. After years of them being together, fans were awaiting a ring in Taylor's future. Sadly, the opposite occurred. After the release of "You're Losing Me," fans had speculated they had broken up. It was confirmed in April of 2023 by Entertainment Tonight that the couple had split. Taylor's fame ended up being too much for him and ultimately ended their relationship.

## Matty Healy

If you've ever had a situationship, Taylor Swift is the queen of situationships with Matty Healy. In early 2014, dating rumors were circling about the two after they met at one of his concerts for the band 1975. Even with Healy always denying the rumors, the media was set that the two were together. After some very strong words that Healy shared with the media, the rumors were left alone during Joe and Taylor's relationship. Once they broke up, Healy and Swift were spotted together multiple times. They were confirmed dating after the iconic moment from their concerts, saying, "This is about you, you know who you are, I love you." After only about a month, the couple called it quits. Taylor's album "The Tortured Poets Department" showed more insight into the rough relationship over the years. At least now the situationship is over.

## Travis Kelce

Hopefully, Taylor has finally found her happily ever after. Travis Kelce had a goal when he attended the "Eras Tour" in 2023 to give Taylor a friendship bracelet, and he ended up giving her a ring earlier this year. After the tour, they were seen together multiple times, and she was attending his football games regularly. Throughout the years, they have constantly supported each other, with Taylor attending his games and Travis attending her tour. He talks so highly of her in the media, showing how much he loves and cares about her. After only two years, though, Travis finally popped the question, and the couple is engaged. Hopefully, this will be the final Romeo to her Juliet.



Travis Kelce proposed to Taylor Swift in the courtyard garden of his home.

## New album releases

By Anabelle R.  
Assistant Voice Editor

Gavin Adcock's new album "Own Worst Enemy" was released on Aug. 15, and had over 41 million streams in the first week. This impressive album secured the number four spot on the Billboard Top 200 Country Chart and the number 14 spot on the Billboard 200 All-Genre Chart. In my opinion, his new album is good and my favorite song is "Morning Bail." While I like "Morning Bail" the most, the most listened to song out of the album is "Last One to Know."



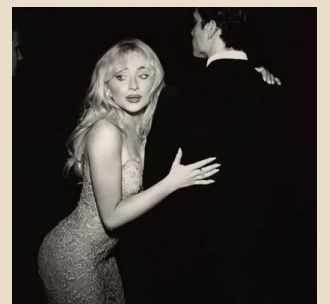
The Album "Wishbone" by Conan Gray was released on Aug 15. This album was announced in May 2025 and was described as his most personal and introspective album. He had influences from 1990s pop and alternative music.



"It has a different vibe to it, so if you don't listen to his type of music, you're not going to like it. This album is sad and very personal and talks a lot about heartbreak," senior Jocelyn J.said.

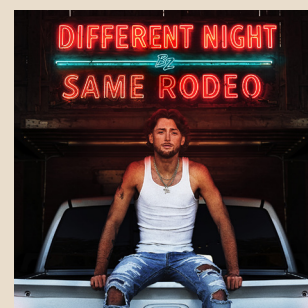
His album hit a new career-high peak of number three on the Billboard 200 All-Genre Chart

"Man's Best Friend," Sabrina Carpenter's new album, was released on Aug. 29. Her new album scores the biggest Debut for an album by a female act on Global Spotify with 65 million streams and is now the first album this year to have all tracks charting inside the Top 20 of both Global and Spotify charts!



"I really like the album, but I wouldn't say every song is good to me. My top three favorites would be "Goodbye," "Go Go Juice," "Don't Worry I'll Make You Worry," Junior Annie S. said.

Overall, Sabrina's new album was a hit with most, and she is a successful writer and singer.



Bailey Zimmerman's album "Different Night Same Rodeo" dropped on Aug. 8. This is only his second album and with him being popular, he has 700 million global streams. This album followed his first album "Religiously," that had top hits like "Rock in a Hard Place," "Fall In Love" and "Where it ends."

"He was at Tailgate N' Tallboys on the tour for this album. He played a few of them there and my favorite was probably 'Holly Smokes'" senior Addie S. said.



## XC pre-season

By Eric P.  
Sports Editor

After earning 10th place at the 1A IHSA state competition in 2024, the IB Boys XC team definitely has a target on its back coming into the season. However, how big is the target?

According to Bmansrankings, they are a team to look out for.

“It’s a team that should challenge for regional and sectional titles and potentially be a top five team at the state meet,” lead analyst Brennan McNamara said. “They flew under the radar last year and really made some noise finishing tenth at the state meet, so not getting intimidated by those other teams that before the season were thought of as better than them was also a big part of their success.”

After a season being unnoticed. IB Boys have a new motto for the 2025 season after returning six out of seven varsity runners from their state run. “It’s all or nothing because we have four seniors and a coach retiring,” senior Levi Thomas said.

They have emotion and drive coming into it. Another ranking business called Central Illinois Cross Country, Track & Field, explains the drive the IB Boys XC team has. “It’s clear that a lot of hard work has been put in during the summer,” Head Analyst Ryan Krake said. “I think there is serious potential to contend for a trophy, and a top-five finish seems almost certain as long as everyone stays healthy.” Ryan Krake said.

It’s quite clear that the Boys team has some serious potential as long as they stay healthy. The boys’ team has been the main talk, but there is more history brewing in the Illini Bluffs Cross Country Program. IB Girls XC has the first-ever team formed in IB history.

“The opportunities it allows for the other girls is just such a great feeling,” senior and Captain Josie Parker said. “[It] feels way different than just running with one or two more girls.” The girls’ XC team has been creating chemistry slowly, with practices coming along and personalities clicking. IB Girls are paving the way for the team to grow and be stronger. In order to grow, you need a strong core.

Now that’s exactly what’s brewing in the girls’ XC. With one of the most dominant middle school girls coming into high school. Already dropping the 5th fastest time of the 2025 season across all classes of Illinois, beating out the next freshman girl by 37 seconds! “I’m excited to see where I can place against higher and more fierce competition,” freshman Audrey Dickinson said.

Audrey, a well-projected all-state runner, has a great companion to run with. Whitney Parker placed 17th in her first meet as a freshman. With experienced Josie Parker and Maggie Allen, the IB girls round out their squad with Isabell Ortega. These girls will be the backbone of IB XC girls in the future.



## IBHS sees growth in fall sports

By Eric P. and Christan M  
Sports Editor and Sport Repoter

IB has always been known for a 1A powerhouse in certain sports. It could be the five times in a row champion softball game. Or baseball eight (double check) regional championships in a row. It may even be basketball, two times in a row, super sectionals trips.

However, some of the IB sports are emerging from the shadows. If you attended the Orange & Black night. You may have noticed the superb surge in participation in fall sports. Teams like XC, Golf and Soccer. All have extreme participation with a total team roster of (xc size), (golf size) and (soccer size).

“I think the primary reason that the high school numbers have grown so much is because of the creation of the middle school

cross country program.” Coach Graham, head coach of the IB XC team, said. “I also attribute our growth in numbers to recruitment by current team members and ongoing success of the program.” Coach Graham said.

For being a sport that used to have no numbers. The team has an outburst of participation as well as a state well as a state contending team, and individuals.

Golf also has the most people participating in school history, with 18 people, more than doubling the team’s participation in the last few seasons.

“Seeing this golf team grow from nine to 18 is truly amazing. I love that people are wanting to golf, but it starts a new challenge for me to keep my eye open to see if

they are proving themselves to hopefully get a chance at JV or varsity,” Coach Thompson said.

With JV, it’s switching every day; there are people proving themselves with decent scores. Varsity is very different, though it takes consistently with good scores. Sometimes, as a freshman, if you perform well, you will get a shot on varsity, including freshman Jake Dunn.

“It’s fun getting to hang out with all the older guys,” freshman Jake Dunn said. “It’s also really fun when we go out and play for practice to see if I can beat any of them.”

The boys’ cross country team took the win at the Farmington invitational, and with golf’s recent success in their recent matches. The success of both golf and cross country looks like it is going to be a good year for fall sports.



Sara F. leans on equipment at tournament.



Boys cross country lines up at start.ing line

## IB wins Pekin soccer tournament for the first time

By Eric P. and Christan M  
Sports Editor and Sport Repoter

The Illini Bluffs Boys soccer team is poised for a deep post-season run after winning all of their games this weekend in the Pekin Tournament.

After a long three-game series against Monmouth High School, Illinois Valley Central and Pekin High School, the team finished first for the first time in program history! The team won all three games with scores of (3-2) against Monmouth, (2-0) against Illinois Valley Central and (4-0) against Pekin.

Coach Brock and Coach Gerard were both excited to try to make IB history and were confident in the team’s ability.

had the best team coming into the tournament; the teams we played had lost some key players to graduation, and my true expectations were that we definitely had a chance to finally win it,” Coach Gerard said.

The coaches were impressed with the weekend and the outcome that the team had and were ready for more.

“Our team performed perfectly with three wins,” Coach Brock said. “Every player played incredible in every game. We were missing our starter keeper on Friday night, but our backup goalie stepped up and played a great game, including a PK save to get us the win. As usual, we

have injuries, but this team has a really deep bench, and we call ‘next man up,’ and everyone did their job!”

On the player side, junior Will Emhoff also came into the tournament expecting the same thing as the coaches: to make IB history.

“Coming into the tournament, I expected a pretty good result,” Will said. “I was pretty happy with our outcome. Going into it, I expected us to find our groove, maybe not play our best soccer, but I do think we played good together and found our groove.”

Will also found his personal groove during the tournament, scoring four goals across the three games,

“I was confident that we

Pekin tournament cont. on Pg. 5



# Pekin tournament cont. from Pg. 4

our challenge game, and once we got past them, we kind of just kept it up and kept going with it,” Will said.

The team performed well together, utilizing effective communication, team chemistry, and personal skills.

“We started listening to the coaches after the first couple of games, we passed the ball and moved well together by using our voices to communicate with each other,” junior Kash Nolte said.

The team played well with a total of nine goals for the weekend, with Kash Nolte scoring once against Monmouth with the game-winning PK, junior Ian White with a tough goal for the 2-1 lead, senior Caleb Showalter with one goal through the defender’s legs against IVC, and sophomore Judd Vice and senior Nathan Owens both with one goal to greater the lead against Pekin.

With the tournament win, the team and coaches aren’t finished and are looking for more.

“Our goals for the rest of the season are to win a regional, but our next goal is to beat the 10 wins in a row set a few years back,” Coach Gerard said.

The soccer team has a long season ahead and is ready to take on all the challenges that are ahead of them.



Boys soccer team enters huddle during tournament. Captured by junior Alayna H.

## Should pre-season records count?

By Kaden H.  
Sports Repoter

On Aug. 9, 2025, a remarkable thing happened to rookie Jacksonville Jaguars player, Cam Little.

He kicked a 70-yard field goal against the Pittsburgh Steelers, breaking the record for the longest field goal in NFL history. The only problem: It didn’t count as the record because it was a pre-season game.

Why shouldn’t pre-season records count just because it is not a part of the regular season? Being a pre-season game doesn’t make the kick any less impressive, so why can’t it be the record?

Well, the pre-season isn’t actual official games; they are essentially extra practice games for each team, which allows them to make strategies and assess the abilities of players on the team, especially the rookies like Cam Little. You wouldn’t count a 70-yard field goal that a kicker kicked at practice, so why would a kick count that was kicked in a practice game?

People could argue that it’s not just a practice game, it’s a live game, but they have live drills at practice, so the only thing that would change is the players’ individual skill on each team, because they aren’t playing their teammates.

Yes, the field goal was impressive, but the NFL has its rules. If he wants the record, he is going to have to prove himself during the regular season. I don’t think anything that happens in pre-season should count, as they aren’t actual games, and the stats don’t carry over to the regular season. If he can do it again, he should 100% get the record he deserves.



Cam Little while scoring record-breaking field goal

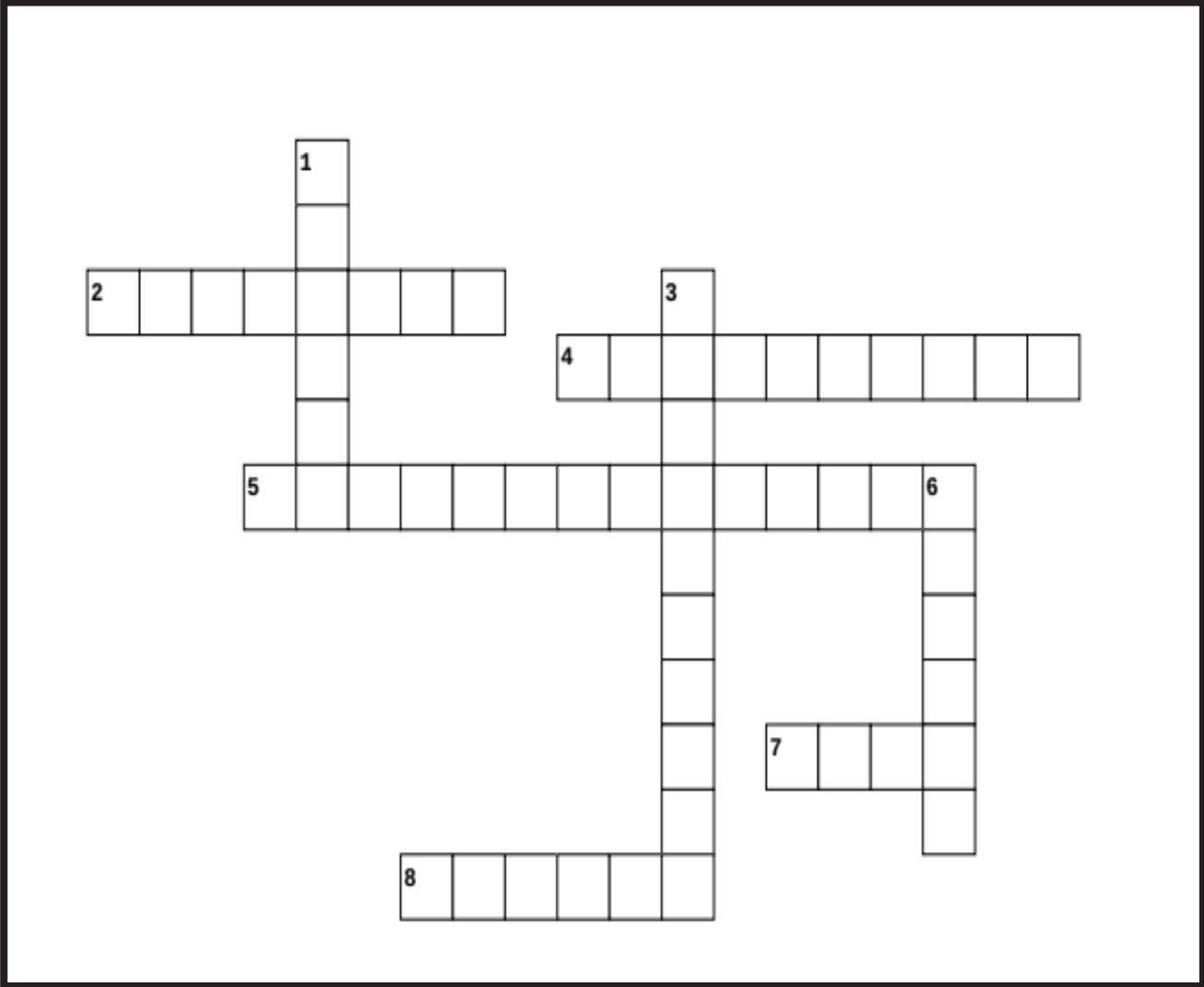
Check out our online sports’ galleries at [ibhstigertimes.com](http://ibhstigertimes.com)





# September Crossword

Answers posted at [ibhstigertimes.com](http://ibhstigertimes.com)



## Across

- 2. both a movie and compilation of dead trees
- 4. head-centric tech devices that aren't banned from classrooms
- 5. nutty looking treat people can't get knafeh of
- 7. sticky substance where one drop is enough
- 8. a sleeve to keep your papers warm

## Down

- 1. mischievous keychains
- 3. object form of a mathematic genius
- 6. a mistake remover, that's most likely magic

## Tiger Times Staff

Editor-in-Chief.....	Addy D.
News Editor.....	
Voice Editor.....	Jocelyn J.
Sports Editor.....	Eric P.
Assistant Sports Editor.....	Evan P.
Chief Graphic Designer.....	Addie S.
Graphic Designer.....	Levi T.
Copy Editor.....	Mallory S.
Copy Editor.....	Anna C.
Art Editor.....	Anna C.
News Reporter.....	Ayden B.
Voice Reporter.....	Gabby G.
Voice Reporter.....	Annabelle R.
Voice Reporter.....	Karrigan W
Sports Reporter.....	Kaden H.
Sports Reporter.....	Christian M.
News Reporter.....	Aidan B.
Cartoonist.....	Max W.
PR Manager.....	Josh B.
Website Designer.....	Cole J.
Website Designer.....	Walker A.
Multimedia Manager.....	Shelby S.
Photographer .....	Cora E.
Photographer.....	Jacob S.
Photographer.....	Alayna H.

## Connect with us on social media

Illini Bluffs  
Tiger Times



@ibhs\_tiger\_times

## Origin Story:

By Max W.  
Comic Artist

