



Football Lineman and Soccer Captain Crowned Homecoming Royalty

October 17, 2011



Seniors Katelyn Hammarlund and Tom Aichele, both of Arlington Heights, were crowned homecoming queen and king.

Excitement was in the air Friday as the homecoming king and queen were announced at Saint Viator High School. Seniors Katelyn Hammarlund and Tom Aichele, both of Arlington Heights, were crowned at a special assembly in front of 1,000 students and nearly 200 parents.

Coronation festivities played out as part of the school's historic 50th year. The couple donned their traditional red velvet robes and crowns before they took the ceremonial spin in a golf cart, decorated like a Chicago taxi, around the Cahill gymnasium Friday at Saint Viator High School.

Hammarlund is an all-area soccer standout. She also participates in student council and peer mediation.

Her king, Aichele, has accompanied her through classes going all the way back to grammar school at Our Lady of the Wayside in Arlington Heights. He is an offensive lineman for the Lions, while also playing varsity volleyball and trombone in the jazz and symphonic bands.

As the pep rally winded down, Jarrett Payton, a 1999 graduate of Saint Viator, made a special appearance. He talked to the students about how his experience at Saint Viator changed his life.

"While a lot has changed since I walked the halls, one thing hasn't: tradition," Payton stated. "I grew up here. I became the person I am because of this school, the teachers, the athletics. I remember the first time I walked through the doors as a freshman. I had no clue. But when I left here as a senior, I had a vision."

To end the rally, he and the senior class led the school in a spirited rendition of the school song.

Coronation festivities capped a week of Sweet Home Chicago-themed activities, from skyline decorations to Chicago trivia contests.

After the coronation and pep rally on Friday, the Lions defeated their East Suburban Catholic Conference rival, the Redwings from Benet Academy in Lisle.

At halftime, the entire homecoming court was introduced. They included: senior court members Billy Cavanagh of Arlington Heights and Olivia Nuelle of Mt. Prospect; juniors David Vitale of Elk Grove Village and Emma Hogaboom of Arlington Heights; sophomores Matthew Yoder of Buffalo Grove and Molly Ziegler of Hoffman Estates; and freshmen Michael Scully of Arlington Heights and Isabelle Rooney of South Barrington.

The week culminated in the semi-formal homecoming dance, built around the sparkling theme, "Light Up the Skyline."