

the rock



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schield-ed from sport
Vann Schield '21 poses for the press junket before the Let CO Play protest Sept. 11 at University and Colorado Blvd. Schield's father, Trent Shield, organized the protest, calling for CHSAA to move the football season back to fall, after adjusting it to follow health measures in August. Five days after the protest, CHSAA announced a new decision to allow football, cheer and field hockey to have their seasons in fall. "Vann's worked since he was six years old, just to see [the season] die-down and the potential of not being able to play his senior year gets to be rough," Trent Schield said. photo by: A. Brauchler



"It's not fall without high school football."

Sean Hicks '21

Sean Hicks '21 cheers with the crowd of protesters gathering in the Cruz Fitness parking lot Sept. 11. The protesters gathered to take group photos for media and cheered for the news crews present. photo by: K. Zizzo

A group of Valor students cheers at the intersection of University and Colorado, to protest CHSAA's decision to keep football in the spring of 2021 Sept. 11. Let CO Play organized three protests throughout the state. All starting at 3:30, the protests occurred in Highlands Ranch, Colorado Springs and Delta. photo by: K. Zizzo

protesting to play

how family-organized protests led to a state-wide reconsideration of the football season.

Let us play! Let us play! Let us play!" The chants of protestors mingle with the sounds of passing cars and honking at the intersection of University and Colorado as students and parents protest CHSAA's decision to delay football to spring of 2021. In response to CHSAA's interference with the football season, Vann Schield '21's father, Trent Schield, started a petition to "Let CO Play" and organized one of three protests Sept. 11. This campaign advocates for Colorado students to have the opportunity to engage in sports safely this fall. Through the Let Colorado Play campaign, students and parents took their disagreement to the streets with peaceful protests in Highlands Ranch, Colorado Springs, and Delta. The Let Colorado Play campaign

also utilized online platforms to amplify their voices, with a petition that has over 15,000 signatures and a website that highlights individual student-athlete stories about how a spring season affects them. The Let Colorado Play campaign revolves around remedying the detrimental impact that the lack of sports have on student athletes. Trent Schield started this campaign due to the

foundational importance of football to his son, Vann Schield '21. He felt inclined to exercise his First Amendment rights in an effort to reverse CHSAA's decision to delay the football season, striving to elude negative impact of CHSAA's choice on his son. Trent Schield was concerned that Vann would be at a disadvantage for his future, lacking the chance to impress college coaches. "Vann's worked since he was six years old, just to see this die-down and the potential of not being able to play his senior year gets to be rough. It's huge... The only way they're making change is by doing what we're doing and getting a leader like

Polis, like we need him to be, to step up and tell CHSAA that we need to play," Trent Schield said. For many student athletes, the importance of fall sports exceeds the playing field and has served as a means of unity and belonging. "It's our family. We're all a brotherhood. When we can't play together, it's saddening, it's breaking up the family," Sam Anderson '21 said. Anderson also began playing football at the age of six and since then, it's been a substantial portion of his life. "They go out there, practices, the

summer, working hard, to get to this point your senior year. He's finally a senior, this is his time, and now he doesn't have the opportunity to go out there and do it," Lynn Anderson, his mom, said. Amid protests, CHSAA resubmitted its proposal for fall football and as of Sept. 16, Governor Jared Polis and CHSAA authorized permission for fall football to return. "It's not fall without high school football," Sean Hicks '21 said. **story by: K. Zizzo and A. Brauchler**

1.



tumultuous timeline
follow the shifting decision over fall football

Aug. 4
CHSAA announces 2020-21 season calendar, pushing football to a seven-week season, starting in late February, ending early May.

Sept. 11
Three "Let CO Play" protests started simultaneously at 3:30 p.m. across the state, calling for a fall football season. Protests occurred in Colorado Springs, Delta and Highlands Ranch

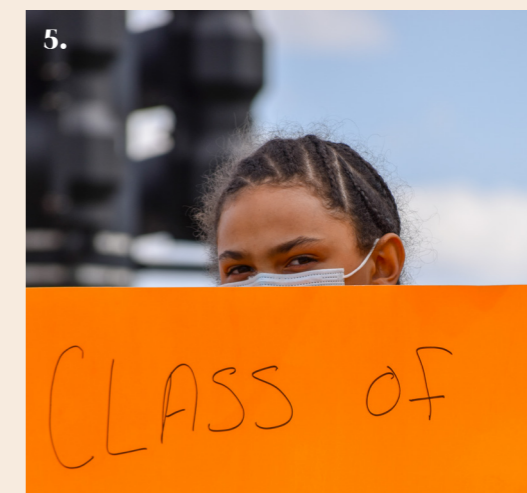
Sept. 14
Schield's petition reaches 15,000 signatures of support urging Gov. Polis and CHSAA to move football to fall.

Sept. 16
CHSAA board votes to move football, field hockey, cheer and dance back to a fall season.

2.



3.



"When we are able to come together on the field, that's when we're family together." Sam Anderson '21

1. solidarity for schield's son
Trent Schield and his wife embrace each other, as a sign of solidarity, during the Let CO Play protest Sept. 11. Schield's son, Vann planned to play his senior year as a wide receiver, running back and defensive back. photo by: A. Brauchler

2. put press-ure on CHSAA
Surrounded by students from local high schools, seniors Vann Schield, Cole Dreyfus and Jack Emery pose in front of television crews covering the Let CO Play protest Sept. 11. The players left the protest after 20 minutes to go to a club football practice. "Since we've been able to adapt to go back to school, we should be able to adapt to play football again," Emery said. photo by: A. Brauchler

3. pose for the protest
Sean Hicks '21 waits for the protest to start Sept. 11. This was Hicks' second and final year on Varsity. "I want to represent today to play fall sports because it's my senior year and I want to play fall football and not in the spring," Hicks said. photo by: A. Brauchler

4. our family, our choice
Two protestors stand at the intersection of University and Colorado, to support their family member that plays football at a local high school Sept. 11. photo by: K. Zizzo

5. here's your sign
A protestor holds her sign saying "Class of 2021 Matters, Let CO Play!!!" Sept. 11. She sat on the brick sign indicating Highlands Ranch parkway during the protest. photo by: A. Brauchler

ighting fire in face masks

how the fire science program adjusted to follow health measures by Amanda Brauchler

Panting and out of breath, Carson Jones '21 fidgets with his facemask after sprinting up the stairs near the baseball field Sept. 3. Fire Science, like every program at school this year, needed to adapt to new health regulations to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Now at 50 percent capacity every day, students spend the last half of their afternoons in the class during their in-person days. While the firefighters-in-training are

outside, they are not allowed to take off their masks because their trainings require them to be within six feet of each other. Students continue to do the labor-intensive and timed drills, preparing them for realistic emergency scenarios but now have to wear facemasks throughout. The program that previously included students from any Douglas County school now has to limit participants to solely Rock Canyon students.

what the truck

Brady Kilponen '22 feeds a hose into a storage space on the school firetruck Sept. 3. Teams of six students were timed to run up a row of stairs with a hose connected to the truck. They then unraveled the hose and sprayed water as far as they could. After, they drained all of the hoses and raveled them up to store on their truck. photo by: A. Brauchler



hose on hose on hose

Carson Jones '21 drains a hose and ravel it into a roll for storage Sept. 3. This was Jones' second year on fire science, so he taught his peers how to correctly pack up the truck. photo by: A. Brauchler



step it up
Ryland Egender '22 runs up the stairs adjacent to the baseball field as part of a timed drill Sept. 3. Egender and his team practiced their ability to quickly launch hoses. photo by: A. Brauchler



in the splash zone

Fire science students practice using and hooking up the 70-pound fire hose to the hydrant, adjacent to the grassy baseball field, as a part of their training Sept. 3. Carter Sheeted '21 aimed the hose while Jeff Hedges '21, Keagan Hamilton '22, Brandon Crane '21, and Mac Garrison '22 supported him; each student rotated through practicing aiming the hose and supporting the person holding the hose, so that the power of the water did not knock them back. "I decided to do this class to learn new things and create more opportunities for my future," Crane said. "My favorite part has been doing drills such as learning how to use a fire hydrant." photo by: A. Brauchler



i'll be in my suit

Mac Garrison '22 buttons up his jacket while preparing for a drill Sept. 3. Fire science students are timed to test how quickly they can suit up and put on their gear. It takes students around one minute and 33 seconds to suit up. photo by: A. Brauchler

"It's really fun getting hands-on, I love doing [trainings]."
Julianna Bauer '21