

Trojan debuts

New C'ville mascot's a big hit

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Clarenceville's new Trojan mascot didn't need a wooden horse to make his debut. He just needed a hole of money.

Students and staff members raised nearly \$5,000 to buy the warrior outfit. The yet-to-be-named figurehead emerged at Clarenceville High's varsity football game Aug. 24.

People are taking a shine to the likable warrior, who doesn't smile but puts a good face on the district.

"He's like a good-will ambassador," said Kendal Lamarand, Clarenceville math teacher and student adviser.

This soldier is not without honor, either.

The middle school's National Junior Honor Society members

spawned the idea of having a mascot. They took their concept to a somewhat wary but supportive assistant principal.

"I thought 'Oh my gracious sakes. It's going to be big,'" said Dick Cobb, assistant principal.

Honor students raised money through a car wash and candy sucker sale.

The middle school's student council contributed another \$300, while the athletic department chipped in \$200. From there, high school athletic boosters gave \$1,000, while district administration gave another \$2,000.

A Texas-based company designed the mascot, which needs an adult and a vehicle to transport it across Middlebelt from the high school to middle school.

In late summer heat, the out-

fit can be worn just 10-20 minutes at a time. A cleaning is needed between uses.

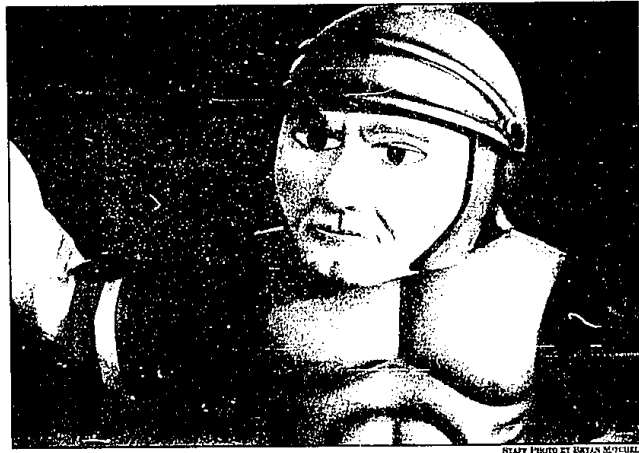
"We have to make it last," Cobb said. "We're not like the Detroit Lions where we could replace it every two years."

The middle and high schools are sharing the mascot. A contest will be held to name the district symbol.

Aside from athletic events, the Trojan will likely appear at districtwide events such as the annual DARE breakfast and Realtor gathering.

Though he comes with a hefty price tag, the return is immeasurable in terms of school spirit and the district's image, administrators say.

"We love it," said Tim Wilson, Clarenceville High athletic director. "The fans are taking to it."



School spirit: Clarenceville's new mascot, the Trojan, made his debut Aug. 24, thanks to \$5,000 in donations raised by students and staff.

'Destination Imagination' kick-off slated Sept. 15

Farmington Public Schools begins its 19th year offering Destination Imagination, a creative problem-solving program to all students K-12.

It was previously called Odyssey of the Mind.

There will be a Destination

Imagination Awareness Kickoff meeting 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Sept. 15, at O. E. Dunckel Middle School, 32800 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads in Farmington Hills.

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