

Swamplehead

By Peirce Law

With the leaves changing and the air getting colder, we get closer and closer to the big Marblehead versus Swampscott Thanksgiving game. And with that game comes our biggest rivalry in history. The key event in our history that sparked such a rivalry is shrouded in mystery. When did the Capulets and Montagues decide that they didn't like each other? When did our now bloody feud begin, and when will it end? As a person who has both lived in Swampscott and Marblehead, I personally find it ridiculous. We are just trying to better ourselves by beating each other. The two towns are much more similar than either of them think. We all learn the same things in school, and we even share a very successful wrestling team that has both Swampscott and Marblehead kids, which is a perfect example of our underlying similarities.

For some, this rivalry has been a good show of sportsmanship and with the plethora of competition between each of the school's sports, a healthy drive to do better than the other. But that may just be the source of our rivalry. It can be such a tossup for whomever wins the infamous Thanksgiving game so we strive to beat each other one year after the next. This year will mark the 107th Thanksgiving game between the two towns. And over these years since these towns first started to battle it out, this rivalry has turned into a bloody feud. It has become difficult for either of the sides to restrain themselves when in each other's presence. What was once taking place on the field is being pushed farther and farther off.

What was once a fun game of football, has turned into something else entirely. With events happening at basketball ball games last year; the scene was typical the crowds had filled the stand on both sides, the athletes putting all the intensity into it, the entire event felt the aggression on both sides. Many students believe that we now take this rivalry too serious. After a brutal, one-sided brawl, three Swampscott kids were sent to the hospital with serious injuries. One Swampscott student said "I think it made kids take a step back and think how ridiculous the actual rivalry is, and that kids are just taking it too far." And I think it's just that.

A rivalry should be an encouragement to do better, not to do harm. A rivalry should bring laughs later on in life from both sides of the table. But I'm sure we should enjoy our Thanksgiving game nonetheless. From the first kick, to the final whistle, may the best team win.