

Let's play some hockey

By Buck Hebb

The new EA sports hockey video game NHL '10 is a great game for everyone, even for those who don't like hockey.

One of the new features is the "First-Person Fighting Mode," which allows players to take the team's enforcer and instigate a fight. Another new feature is the "Battle on the Boards," that will allow the user to shield the puck along the boards and kick-pass the puck to a nearby teammate or pin an opponent against the boards until more support arrives.

The soundtrack for this game was released in July on iMax and iTunes. Popular artists such as Papa Roach, Green Day, and Nickelback headline this year's soundtrack with songs like "Burn It to the Ground", "Know Your Enemy," and "Into the Light."

The downside to playing this game is Play-By-Play names for this year's rookie class. Also, the offensive play



Courtesy of blogspot. NHL features "fighting mode."

can be slow when passing the puck. Besides these minor troubles, it is a game worth buying for hockey fans or just

sports fans in general.

This game is available for \$60 at Target, Game Stop, Wal-Mart, and Best Buy for both the Xbox 360 and Playstation 3 systems.

More information on NHL '10 can be found at <http://nhl.easports.com/home.action>.

A demo for the game was put on to Xbox's Live Marketplace for gold and silver subscribers on August 20, 2009. It was made available for download to those subscribers on August 27, 2009. It was also available for download for Playstation 3 members on the Playstation Network. With the demo that came out in late August, the members of both Playstation and Xbox got to try out the new first-person fighting and battle of the boards modes that will be featured in the this year's game already out in stores.

Paramore's new release is great

By Caity Maroney

Over time Paramore has developed into an entirely different band. They started as high school students who released their first full length CD *All We Know is Falling*, while developing a small fan base. This album was perfect for the teenagers they were at the time and included the still popular singles "Emergency" and "Pressure."

Paramore's last release, *Riot!*, received mixed reviews but still peaked at #15 on the *Billboard's Top 200*. The smash hit singles "Misery Business," "That's What You Get," and "Crushcrushcrush," *Riot!* catapulted the band to a new level. Suddenly, Paramore got airplay on MTV, awards, and massive amounts of fans. I personally loved

Riot!, yet was growing tired of the purely poppy sound, which was exciting when it first came out, but soon grew old.

Many fans idolized the front woman Hayley Williams and tried to emulate her hair, makeup and clothing styles. Williams insisted Paramore is a band and it's not just all about her. This is the complicated position the band was in when they wrote their newest release *Brand New Eyes*.

Brand New Eyes far surpasses the previous efforts of Paramore. The album has the same catchy melodies and lyrics as *Riot!*, but has meaning and emotion behind it that *Riot!* lacks. *Brand New Eyes* is a much darker record than *Riot!* is, filled with the confusions of growing up and relationships.

Hayley Williams's voice has grown significantly since *Riot!* She is now able to sing the powerful songs with out being overshadowed by the band. Her voice is amazing, and was what surprised me most about the album. In "Turn it Off" she sings the lyrics in the third chorus "I wanna know what it'd be like to find perfection in my pride, to see nothing in the light, and turn it off in all my spite in all my spite I'll turn it off, Just turn it off again!"

Overall, this album is their best so far and shows off their growing talent. Songs like "All I Wanted Was You", "Careful", "Playing God" and "Feeling Sorry" continually amaze me, and demonstrate their growth as a band. This is an album that everyone should listen to.

Jay-Z's *Blueprint 3* exciting but inconsistent

By Kira Gallagher

On September 8 the highly anticipated album *Blueprint 3* was released by rapper Jay-Z, also known as Sean Corey Carter. Its original release date was September 11, on the eighth anniversary of the original blueprint release, but because of an internet leak the date had to be pushed up. This one hour, 15 track album is his eleventh studio release. It is the third installment in the blueprint trilogy which many fans have waited for anxiously. I was excited to listen. With songs that featured artists like Rihanna, Kanye West, Alicia Keys, and Drake, I expected quality.

Right after listening to it for the first time I felt like giving it a perfect review, but after repeatedly listening I realized I would skip over tracks. I thought that this album lacked a consistently amazing track list. Most songs I liked, some I loved, and one I hated. Though there were the occasional bad tracks, the songs "Empire State of Mind," "Run This Town," "Young Forever," and "D.O.A." made up for it.

"Empire" is most definitely my favorite track. With catchy lyrics like "Yeah, Imma up at Brooklyn, now I'm down in Tribeca, right next to DeNiro, but i'll be hood forever. I'm the new Sinatra, and since I made it here, I can make it anywhere, yeah they love me

everywhere," and an explosive chorus by Alicia Keys, the song has me playing it over and over again, and can be seen making an appearance on many facebook statuses. Kanye's performance in "Run This Town" makes up for his atrocity in "Hate". The last track on the album "Young Forever" is very much like the original by Alphaville, with Jay-Z adding his own style to it, and is a good way to end. "D.O.A (Death of Autotune)," is easily the most unique track, and though at first I didn't like it, the song grew on me.

Out of all 15 tracks I only hated one, ironically titled "Hate." This song, featuring Kanye West, was a great let-down for me. Being a big fan of West I was excited to hear his collaboration with Jay-Z but was only disappointed with the outcome. The lyrics felt unorganized and the song was repetitive. In its entirety the album was good, above average. For a rapper turning



Courtesy of photobucket.com Jay-Z's new album: The Blueprint 3.

40 this year, it is a success in itself to continue putting out number one albums and to be known as one of the top music makers. Jay-Z can be seen in late October at the Mullins Center preaching to newer and older generations alike.