

[Print](#) | [Close Window](#)**THE ENQUIRER**

Last Updated: 1:03 pm | Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Rivalry doesn't enter classroom for brothers

Student, teacher help each other

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

For brothers, jockeying for superiority is natural. Put one in authority over the other, and there's a chance of butting heads. But not with Andy and Tom Arnold at Covington Catholic High School this year - they're getting along fine.

It was Andy's senior year and his brother's first year teaching at the school.

"I treated him like any other teacher when I saw him in the hallway at school - addressing him as Mr. Arnold," Andy, 18, of Fort Wright, said. "It was kind of different, but in a good way, to see him up there with the other teachers during all-school assemblies."

Tom, 23, who mostly taught sophomore algebra, agreed that there were no problems.

"I think that we both gained a little bit from the situation because I could give him the teachers' take on things that were happening at school, and he could tell me the students' opinions," Tom, also a Fort Wright resident, said.

Andy wasn't in any of Tom's classes, but sibling rivalry may have helped Andy's grades.

He's finishing No. 2 in his class. Tom ranked third in his class.

"Tom's own success motivated me to try to do better than him - a little friendly brotherly competition," Andy said.

A third brother, 21-year-old Dan - a junior at the University of Kentucky - finished first in his class.

"They both like to give me a hard time because I had the worst class standing," Tom said. "But I tell them that my class was just a little stronger overall."

Tom says their upbringing is responsible for their academic strength.

"I would credit this success to my parents for giving me a strong work ethic," he said. "I would also credit my teachers for always challenging me to be better and not letting me slide through school."

There was one drawback to the brothers' situation: They look alike.

"Sometimes, people get us confused," Tom said. "I've been charged the student rate for lunch more than once."

Andy graduates today at Thomas More College with 121 of his classmates.

He will attend the University of Kentucky, majoring in history with plans to go to law school.

[Print](#) | [Close Window](#) | Copyright 2007, *Enquirer.com*