

X-Country runs in CCS and state championships

by Liat Rubin

Sports Editor

After strong races at CCS finals on Nov. 16 and State finals on Nov. 30, both the boys' and girls' LGHS cross country teams' seasons have come to a close.

The boys' team performed very well at CCS, ranking second overall in the 5K race held at the Crystal Springs course. Although they had an impressive performance, the team failed to meet its own expectations and those of its head coach, **Matt Sne**. "We were hoping for first, but second place wasn't too bad. The race was very close and our number three runner dropped due to injury, his dropping hurt us."

Individually, however, members of the boys' team performed incredibly, with junior captain **Chris Foster** placing first with a time of 15:13 and junior **Ben Haderle** placing second with a time of 15:19 (a personal improvement of 17 seconds). Haderle, who was recently named Most Improved and Most Inspirational by his team, encourages his fellow teammates to keep their heads up and to "work hard for the CCS title next year."

The girls' team also performed well at CCS, placing fifth overall, with the help of an outstanding perfor-



RUN UP THE HILL: Foster and Haderle run away with the victory.

mance by junior captain **Cecily Johnson**. Johnson placed sixth in her race with a time of 18:55, a 23 second personal record.

Girls' coach **Brad Armstrong** said he, like Sne, was hoping for better from the girls' team, but was still very proud of their performance. "Of course, I wanted us to place in the top three, but I am still very satisfied with the results. Four of our seven varsity members got their best times, now that is something to be proud of."

After conquering the CCS finals, the boys team and Johnson of the girls' team, raced one final meet at the State final, which was held in Fresno, California on Nov 30. Foster excelled once more, placing ninth with a time of 15:29. Overall, Foster is happy with his performances this season. He said, "I feel like I peaked way too early last year, but I was able to continue running well throughout the whole season this year." The team placed nineteenth in the state meet out of 22 other teams. Johnson placed sixty-second in the girls race meet, with a time of 19:02.

With overall success by both the boys and girls, the cross-country teams have closed the door on an accomplished season.



ENJOY THE MOMENT: The boys' team wins second place in CCS.



L. Rubin

SAY CHEESE: Foster, Haderle, and Johnson pose with their medals.

LG football dominates in CCS

by Aidan Adams-Campeau

Humor Editor

On Nov. 22, the Los Gatos Wildcats defeated the North Salinas Vikings 59-35, moving on to the CCS semifinals. Though the game was initially close, the Wildcats were able to pull away in the second half and win the game.

North Salinas scored the game's opening points with a touchdown pass from quarterback Justyn Gutierrez to receiver David Dorr. Senior **Logan Chapman** put the Wildcats in the lead with a field goal following a fumble recovery, making the score 17-14. The Vikings soon came back, however, as running back Mario Gonzales scored a rushing touchdown in the second quarter to reclaim a 21-17 lead.

The Wildcats responded with a rushing touchdown of their own. Junior **Joey Wood** scored his second touchdown of the game to put Los Gatos ahead 24-21. This touchdown cemented the lead for the Wildcats, and they would not fall behind again for the rest of the game. Before the end of the first half, Los Gatos recovered another North Salinas fumble and capitalized on the opportunity as Wood scored his third touchdown. At



courtesy J.Wood

SPRINT AS FAST AS YOU CAN: Wood, the ball carrier, charges up the field.



courtesy N. Occhipinti

TAKE IT AND RUN: Junior Nick Occhipinti receives the hand off from Nick Bawden.

halftime, the Wildcats led 31-21.

Despite an impressive effort by North Salinas, the Vikings were unable to come back in the second half. Vikings quarterback Gutierrez threw for 374 yards in thirty attempts, and receiver Dorr had 223 yards catching for the night. Wood's performance kept Los Gatos in control of the game, however, as he ran for 309 yards in 28 carries. By the end of the game, Wood had seven touchdowns, contributing towards 49 of the 59 total points scored by the Wildcats.

The Wildcats gained control of the game in the first half by recovering several fumbles. As coach **Mark Krail** commented, "When you win the turnover battle so many times, you win the game. Our offense was able to capitalize on those turnovers that our defense created." Senior **Nick Bawden** also contributed to the Wildcats' victory, passing for 149 yards in ten attempts, including a touchdown pass to Wood.

With the defeat of the North Salinas Vikings, the Los Gatos Wildcats moved on to face Menlo-Atherton in the CCS Semi-Finals, who they defeated 35-6 on Nov. 29. In this dominating performance, Los Gatos shut out Menlo Atherton until the final 13 seconds of the game. The Wildcats will play St. Francis in the title game tonight at Westmont.

Girls' Vball finishes

by Brian Schunk

Sports Editor

The LGHS girls' volleyball team fought valiantly in the CCS Playoffs, but unfortunately lost to Los Altos in the quarterfinals.

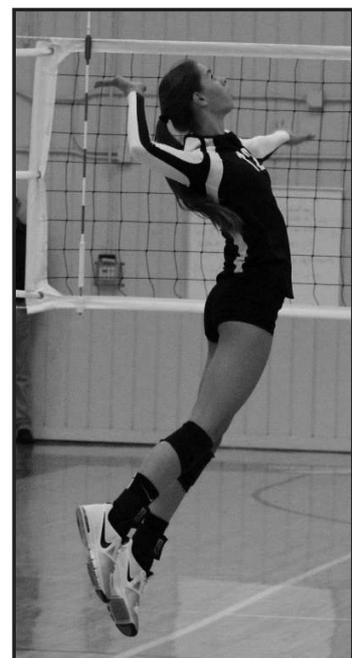
After a fourth place finish in De Anza league, the Wildcats entered the playoffs as the seventh seed in the Division Two bracket.

The girls played a thrilling match in the first round, winning against St. Ignatius in five sets. The last time these two teams played was at the beginning of the season, and St. Ignatius won both sets in the three-set match. The rematch between the teams started the same way, with St. Ignatius winning the first two sets, only this time there were three more to play. St. Ignatius won the first set 18-25 and edged out Los Gatos in the second set to win 24-26. The Wildcats then rebounded to win the third set 25-22, and then won the fourth set 26-24 to force a fifth and final set. The girls completed their comeback by winning the fifth set 15-11. Junior **Tori Taormina** led the Wildcats with a very impressive 32 kills during the five-set match.

The victory advanced Los Gatos to the quarterfinals. There they squared off against their league rivals, Los Altos. The match started off poorly for the Wildcats, as Los Altos crushed them in the first set 25-12. Los Gatos then rebounded to win the second set

25-23, but were unable to build off that victory. They then narrowly lost the third and fourth sets 20-25 and 21-25, respectively.

The defeat against Los Altos was the end to the season for the LGHS girls' volleyball team. They finished fourth in their league with a record of 6-6 in league games and a record of 20-13 overall. The girls fought valiantly in the CCS Playoffs and survived the first round, but they came up short in the quarterfinals.



courtesy D. O'Gorman

RISE UP: Junior Tori Taormina jumps to hit the ball.

Polo's historically successful season comes to a close

by Montana Fowler

Center Editor

The LGHS girls' water polo team has never been ranked as high in CCS as they have this season under **Don Appleton's** coaching. The team entered CCS as the third seed in Division 1.

The girls earned a bye in the first round, so they started the playoffs in the second round against Leland at Gunn on Nov. 16. The game was tough, and at halftime the team was down by two goals to the Chargers. The Wildcats came back, and had one final possession, but missed their chance to score to tie the game. In the last 20 seconds, the Leland coach called a time-out; he spread his players across the pool to wait out the 20 seconds for their CCS victory. Though the Wildcats had their goalie covering a player, and another player defending their goalie, they were unable to steal the ball, and the victory was

given to the Chargers.

It was a heartbreaking loss for the Wildcats, since they were looking forward to making it past Quarterfinals which would have taken them farther than they had ever gone before. However, the team had an extraordinary season with talented and hard-working players.

At the end of season banquet on Dec. 2, awards were presented to celebrate JV's undefeated season, and Varsity's successful season. The JV coaches awarded **Kaitlyn Cook** the Freshman of the Year Award, **Crystal Huang** the Sophomore of the Year Award, sophomore **Han Nguyen** with the Most Improved Award, sophomore **Katie Kleis** with the Wildcat Award, and sophomore goalies **Kirsten Cook** and **Kathryn Hench** as MVPs. The Varsity coaches awarded senior goalie **Nikki Nelson** with the Wildcat Award, junior **Jaina Ponkey** with the Most Improved Award, junior **Mary Stone** with the Most Inspirational

Award, and senior captains **Betsy Wall** and **Rebecca Lysaght** with MVP.

Lysaght reflected on the season, "While it can be daunting, the rigor of water polo has taught me the importance of diligence, passion, and teamwork. I also believe that the girls in our water polo program are some of the most intelligent, kindhearted, and hilarious people at LGHS. My favorite memory was either when junior **Mackenzie Jackson** scored the tying goal to put us into overtime against Gunn with one second left, or when senior **Bronte Athern** literally rapped every single word to Super Bass by Nikki Minaj on the bench. They're two very different memories, but when I look back on each of them, they remind me of the excitement and hilarity that we've experienced as a team this year. I think there is a strong chemistry amongst the girls on our team inside and outside of the pool. We work hard, push each other, and win and lose as a team."



TAKING A SHOT AT IT: Senior Betsy Wall rises up out of the water to shoot the ball.



PLAYING TOUGH DEFENSE: Senior Rebecca Lysaght closely guards her opponent.



FINDING THE OPEN TEAMMATE: Junior Mackenzie Jackson looks to pass the ball.

photos courtesy E. Jackson