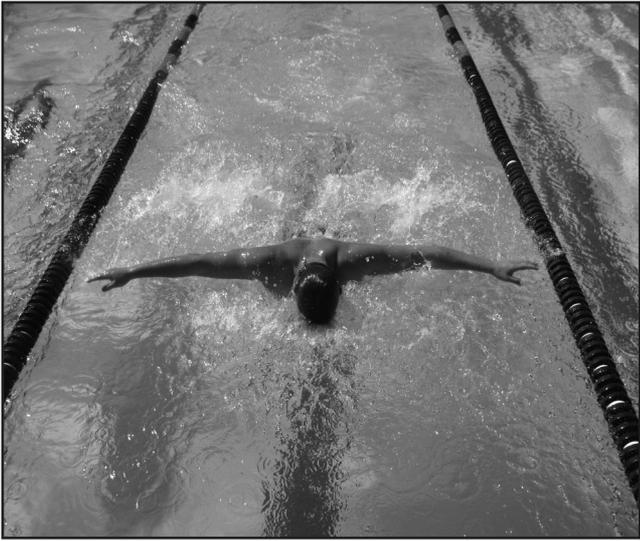


LGHS swimming excels at CCS

by Michelle Huang
Culture Editor

Spectators and teammates alike held their breath in anticipation at the Santa Clara International Swim Center as sophomore **Alex Grimes** neared the finish line. Uproarious cheers erupted as Grimes touched the wall, breaking her own records in both the 100 back and 200 Individual Medley. Grimes was not the only Los Gatos champion to break records at CCS on May 11. The high school swim team finished their competitive season by breaking not one, not two, but five school records. Grimes broke two personal records along with two relay race records. Grimes, sophomore **Sarah Jin**, junior **Alexa Nyugen**, and senior **Allison Larko** set new school standards in the 200 medley and 400 free relays. They placed seventh in the 200 medley at CCS with a time of 1:48.96. The second all-girls relay team, comprised of Grimes, Jin, freshman **Kaya Long**, and sophomore **Giuliana McLean** placed tenth overall in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3:34.89.



courtesy M. Huang

DEFEATING COMPETITORS: The LGHS boys' swim team competes at a meet during the season.

They broke the previous school record of 3:37.35 by 3 seconds. While the girls wowed the crowd, junior **Jonathan Panchak** stunned spectators as well. Panchak broke the school record that he had set a year before in breaststroke with a time of 56.46, qualifying as an Automatic All-American time. The boys relay team of junior **Ian James**, sophomore **Mateo Luna**, freshman **Koji Kusumi**, and senior **Karl McCombie** managed an eighth place standing in the 200 freestyle relay with a time of 1:28.41. The boys practiced their hardest all season, which was apparent as many swimmers of the team achieved outstanding, record-breaking times.

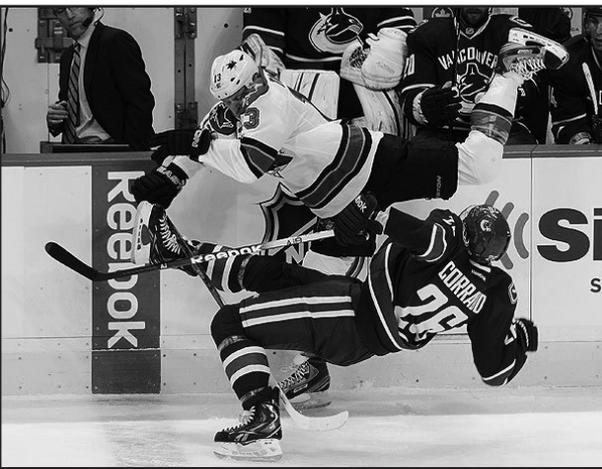
In the end, the Los Gatos girls' team placed twelfth overall at CCS and the boys placed tenth. The swimmers are ending the season during their annual awards banquet on Saturday. The superstars of the swim team are only getting better and potential swim stars are working towards their goals as well.

(Source: Mercury News)

NHL's second round commences

by Ruth Murai
Opinion Editor

The skates are tied and the puck has been dropped—the NHL is in the midst of playoffs, and now as sixteen teams have been narrowed down to eight, the games are getting even more intense. The San Jose Sharks had an excellent start to the playoffs with the franchise's first-ever sweep. Pitted against the Vancouver Canucks, San Jose played admirably well, eliminating the Canucks from the playoffs in just four games. Joe Pavelski was one of the Sharks' standout players of the series, scoring two goals in the last game, one of which occurred with only 4:27 left in regulation, pushing the game into overtime. Last year, when the Sharks lost a five-game series to St. Louis, Pavelski did not score a single point. This year, his performance has contributed heavily towards the team's success. After sweeping in the first round, San Jose has moved on to play the LA Kings.



PHYSICAL PLAY: The Sharks' Raffi Torres checks a Vancouver Canuck defenseman.

So far in this second round of the playoffs, the Kings are tied with the Sharks. After winning the first two games, the Sharks finally defeated the Kings in a 2-1 game which went into overtime.

The Sharks won the game in the first minutes of overtime on a 5v.3 power play.

The other six teams to make the second round of the playoffs are the Penguins, Senators, Bruins, Rangers, Blackhawks, and Redwings. The Blackhawks had a remarkable season, in which they had a 24-game winning streak. As of Tuesday Night, the Red Wings lead the series 2-1. The series started off with a 4-1 win from the Blackhawks, but the Redwings responded with two important wins to gain a crucial lead in the series.



CELEBRATING A GOAL: The Detroit Red Wings celebrate their teamwork.

In the Eastern Conference, the Penguins have a 2-1 lead against the Senators. Although the Penguins dominated in the first two games of the series, the Senators came back in a 2-1 win over the Penguins in double overtime. In the second game of the series, the Penguins' Sidney Crosby dominated the game, winning it for the Penguins with a hat trick.

Boston has so far dominated the Rangers as they lead the series 3-0.

As the second round of the playoffs comes to a close, each team fights hard for their chance to make it into their coveted place in the third round.



photos courtesy eLibrary

ENTERING THE SHARK TANK: The San Jose Sharks' Martin Havlat and Brent Burns enter HP Pavilion through the famous shark before a regular season game.

Fútbol concludes

by Madison Prestine
Opinion Editor

As the European soccer season draws to a close, the El Gato staff enlisted local soccer buff, junior **Nick Contarino**, to answer our pressing questions. El Gato: I have heard a lot about a Sir Alex, can you fill me in on the events revolving around him?

Nick Contarino: Sir Alex Ferguson has been the coach of Manchester United (Man U) since 1986, 25 years, and he has won 38 trophies with Man U. Recently, the legend announced that this year will be his last season. Moyes, currently coaching Everton of the Premier League, will be Ferguson's selected successor. Many soccer fanatics, professionals and fans alike, are questioning the future of Man U and several of the players. Forward Wayne Rooney requested a transfer and other players will potentially be traded away. Rooney is believed to have requested a trade because he has personal problems with the new coach. Rooney and Moyes are previously acquainted from the single year Rooney spent playing for Everton. Also, previously in the season, Man U signed forward Robin Van Persie. Van Persie is the leading goal-scorer of the Premier League and his talent cut into Rooney's playing time in addition to adding to Rooney's displeasure."

EG: With the season wrapping up in the next few weeks, can you give us the abridged version of this soccer season?

NC: On April 22, 2013, Man U clinched their thirteenth title in 21 seasons in their game against Aston Villa. The margin between first (Man U) and second (Manchester City) at the time was 16 points. The team was led to victory by Van Persie who scored 25 goals and had 8 assists this year.

Manchester City (Man C) finished in second place this year. However, more surprising was their loss on May 11. Man C lost to a small team in the FA cup, a tournament for every English team. The game was tied at 0-0 until the ninety-first minute when Ben Watson, a midfielder for Wigan,



GOING FOR THE GOAL: Midfielder, Frank Lampard strikes the ball.



STOPPING THE BALL: Goalkeeper Gunnar Nielson stops attacker Marco Reus in a spectacular save.

was able to score off a corner. Wigan became the first team ever to win the FA cup and be relegated in the same season. Man C's coach, Roberto Mancini, was fired after losing the league title to Man U, a poor run in the Champions League, an annual cup held for the top teams in Europe, and losing the FA cup to a team that was never expected to win. Manuel Pellegrini is rumored to be the new coach for Man C.

EG: What are the highlights from this season for soccer in the rest of Europe?

NC: "In La Liga, the Spanish soccer league, Barcelona won the league title and it is almost certain Real Madrid will finish in second.

Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund are currently first and second in the German League, Bundesliga. Germany's two top teams have also qualified to play in the finals for the Champions League. The final games are scheduled for the end of May. Bayern is looking to improve their already impressive team by acquiring Borussia Dortmund's star offensive midfielder Mario Gotze."

The European soccer season is drawing to a close, but thank you Contarino for giving us the shorthand version of this year's events. However, there is still time to get your fútbol fix this year; check out the Champions League finals on May 25.



COMPETING: European soccer players fight for a ball.



photos courtesy eLibrary

BATTLING: Cristiano Ronaldo battles with the goalkeeper.