

Girls' soccer dominates on the field

by Ari Sweedler
People Editor

This year, the stars all aligned to give the LGHS Varsity girls' soccer team, a bunch of star players. There's really no other way to put it. The team, currently ranked the 86th best team in the state and 183rd in the nation, has three sophomores, twelve juniors, and nine seniors. Five of the senior girls have already committed to play soccer in college. Loyola Marymount University, has selected two Los Gatos girls varsity players: **Maddie Medved** and **Brett Cook**. In addition, both the captains, **Angela Karamanos** and **McKenzie Flood** have also committed to colleges. Karamanos plans on going to Air Force Academy and Flood has selected Cal Poly. **Jessie Holmes** is going to the University of Florida.

The girls, under head coach **Jack Schweitzer**, have been running a 4-3-3, which means that they have four defenders, three midfielders, and three strikers. This formation is an unusually offensive stance, with a more common formation being 4-4-2 or even 5-4-1, yet the Wildcats are able to easily pull off this alignment due to their abundance of natural talent. Their league record is 3-0-1.

Part of the reason that the team has not lost a game yet is due to the strong leadership of the two captains. Coach Schweitzer described Karamanos, one of the three midfielders, as a "fierce competitor with an attitude that permeates through the rest of the team." While individual skill does play a large role in the strength of a team, having a single person with the ability to motivate and inspire the other players makes the team immensely stronger in a way that no amount of individual skill can do. In addition, Medved "has tremendous vision and creativity on the field. This, combined with excellent knowledge of the game, makes her a very difficult player to contain." By having great vision of the fields, Medved



courtesy E. Webber

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL: Junior **Elisabeth Webber** awaits a free kick.

is able to not only send and receive passes that many other players would not be able to complete, but she can make the other players around her better.

When asked about how far he thought the team would make it in league play and CCS, Schweitzer stated "Quite honestly, I'm so focused on trying to win our league right now that I haven't spent much time thinking about CCS. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it, but for now we're all in trying to get a league title." This attitude is one of the most salient reasons that the team is able to play so well. In many sports teams, when you get a huge concentration of great players in a small vicinity, their egos start to clash, yet this clash of egos and the resultant loss of faith, motivation, and teamwork has not plagued the LGHS Varsity girls soccer team, and it never will.

Wrestling excels

by Brian Schunk
Sports Editor

The LGHS wrestling team is hard at work looking to build on last year's success. Led by seniors **Christian Bittner**, **Nick Bertram**, and **Alex Owens**, the team hopes to wrestle their way through tough competition this year. So far they are 1-3 in duals, with close losses against Gunn, Monta Vista, and Wilcox and an impressive win against Palo Alto.

Head coach **Ron Long** has mandated a commitment to excellence from his players, along with assistant coaches **Richard Escobar**, **Billy Mitchell**, and **Nate James**. The work the players have put into the sport and their dedication to each other has helped the members of the team form an incredible bond with each other. Junior **Jimmy Liang** believes the wrestling team is the most tight-knit group of athletes at the high school. He only started wrestling this year, and he already feels welcome on the team. Liang said, "my favorite part of wrestling is the people."

Liang and his teammates are on a quest for success; he said "the goal of the team is to place high in CCS and State competitions." New to the sport, Liang said "my personal goal is to improve my overall skill set and have fun."

Owens has wrestled since middle school and is very passionate about the sport. He has developed incredible skills through his years of experience, and has become a leader for the team at LGHS. He loves the thrill of competition. "My favorite part of wrestling is winning close matches. There is no greater satisfaction than that." His work ethic and dedication has inspired his teammates to work incredibly hard in pursuit of their goals. He is one of those special athletes that makes others better.

With their incredible commitment to the sport and to each other, the sky's the limit for the LGHS wrestling team.



courtesy A. Owens

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: **Alex Owens** and **Christian Bittner** wrestle each other

Girls' basketball strives for success

by Niamh Doyle
Opinion Editor

Our Lady Wildcats are picking up momentum on the basketball court this season. They came out of pre-season strong with an eight win-four loss record, which coach **Sami Field-Polisso** credits to the girls' hard work over the summer and before pre-season.

In season, they are currently 3-2, having beaten three of their rivals: Palo Alto, Soquel, and Branham. Heading into CCS playoffs hasn't tamed the incredible play of many of the team's shining stars, including sole senior and team captain **Katie Lamson**, who averages nearly twelve points every game. Other notable players include junior **Hannah Krulevitch**, sophomore **Stephanie Lysaght**,

and freshman **Korie Seandel**. Lamson says that "the league is very good, but we are looking forward to finishing strong and going far in CCS." Coach Polisso agrees, saying that she "continues to be impressed by [the team's] work ethic day in and day out at practice, and I am so blessed to be coaching such dedicated athletes."

The junior varsity team is currently 4-1 in league play, leaving them with a total win/loss record of 14-3. So far, they team has beaten many impressive teams in league play including St. Francis, Presentation, and Valley Christian. In addition, they placed third in Presentation's holiday classic tournament. Sophomore captains **Emily Jarnigan** and **Caitlin Buckley** lead the team this year in their efforts to dominate the court.



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