

Superbowl draws near

by Madison Prestine

News Editor

On Feb. 2, well over 100 million people are expected to watch Super Bowl XLVIII. To put this number in perspective, about 16.1 million viewers sat down to enjoy the season premier of *The Walking Dead* on Oct. 13; last year 40.3 million people were entertained by Seth MacFarlane as they anxiously awaited the announcement of the 2013 Oscars, and the final episode of *Friends* was host to 51.1 million teary eyed viewers in America in 2004.

The Seattle Seahawks will head to MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey on their quest for their first title in their second Super Bowl appearance in franchise history. They are led by second-year NFL quarterback Russell Wilson. Wilson was drafted with the 12th pick in the third round (seventy-fifth overall) in the 2012 NFL draft from the University of Wisconsin. Seattle currently pays Wilson a rookie salary and with that comes freedom and depth in their roster. High profile names such as cornerback Richard Sherman and running back Marshawn Lynch strengthen the team. Lynch ended his season sixth in the league in rushing yards with 1,257 yards. His secret to success? A healthy pre-game snack. Sherman finished the season with eight interceptions, the most in the league.

The Seattle Seahawks closed the regular season 13-3, and their one loss was at home against the Arizona Cardinals, led by ex-Raiders quarterback Carson Palmer. The Seahawks also lost to the Indianapolis Colts 34-28 and the San Francisco Forty Niners 19-17. Wide receivers Golden Tate and Doug Baldwin led the team in receiving yards, with 898 and 778 respectively. In comparison, Josh Gorden of the Cleveland Browns led the NFL with 1,646 receiving yards, followed by Antonio Brown of the Pittsburgh Steelers with 1,499 and Calvin Johnson of the Detroit Lions with 1,492 yards this season. The Seattle receivers are ranked 31 and 44 respectively on the list.

The Seahawks have paved their path to fame with the "12th man" title for their fans. This season the number was retired in front of a crowd of cheering fans because their fans significantly contributed to the growth and development of the team and the league, similar to players such as Joe Montana, Jerry Rice, and Steve Young, who have also had their numbers retired. Contrary to popular belief in Washington, Seattle did not create the idea of influential fans, Texas A&M University was actually the first football team to coin the term "12th man" in 1922.

The Denver Broncos will meet the Seahawks in New Jersey for the first time this season. They come armed with future hall-of-famer Peyton Manning, who broke six individual NFL records this season, including passing touchdowns; he finished with 55 touchdowns, surpassing Tom Brady's record of 50 set in 2007. Also, Manning broke the passing yards record, Manning threw for 5,477 yards, one yard more than Drew Brees threw in 2011, the previous record. After some controversy regarding a forward or lateral pass, the NFL confirmed on Jan. 1 that his record will stand. Manning had the most four-touchdown passing games, he took this record with nine such games this season; the previous record was six, set by Dan Marino in 1984 and tied by Manning in 2004. Manning tied the record for most 400-yard passing games set by Dan Marino in 1984 with four games this season. The star quarterback also finished with the most 90+ passer rating games, Manning had 15 such games in 2013, tying the NFL record he set in 2004 (Mile High Report). This is the future hall-of-famer's chance at ring number two.

The Bronco's offense has stolen the show this season, but Adam Gase, the Broncos defensive coordinator, has developed the number one rush defensive this postseason, only allowing a season average of 64.5 yards per game, per NFL.com. The Broncos will need to stop Lynch and eliminate the Seahawks' main threat and thus force their inexperienced quarterback, Wilson, to beat them with his arm. Wilson threw just nine interceptions this year, but getting the youngster under pressure will not hurt the Bronco's run for a title.

Manning has faced criticism for his postseason record— after his Jan. 19 win he is 10-11— yet he has been to the playoffs more than any other quarterback. Additionally, in postseason games below 40 degrees Manning is 0-4; however, in Manning's defense according to *The Wall Street Journal*, "since 2006, the overall NFL passer rating in freezing weather is 8 percent worse than in other games." So in all likelihood Wilson will struggle to adapt as well. The Broncos lead the league in two of the three offensive categories, total offense and passing yards.

On the other hand, it is common knowledge that the Seahawks defense is top notch, but can they stop Manning? The Seahawks need to make Manning uncomfortable; luckily for Denver fans (and many Bay Area bandwagoners), the Broncos rank number one for the best offensive line. If superior teams can't get to Manning then good luck to the Seattle defense. This is a going to be the game for the most dedicated football fanatics; it is going to be one that we will all remember. The saying goes that "offense wins you seeding and defense wins you rings." If you ever wanted to see the truth behind this common expression this is your game. This is the top rated defense against the number one offense. The Broncos are the favored team by a spread of three. Seattle will not be able to silence Manning's numerous weapons in his offense.

(Sources: ESPN, NFL.com, Pro-Football-Reference, Bleacher Report, Mile High Report, Seahawks.com, The Seattle Times, The Wall Street Journal)

LGHS starts off strong

by Hyuntae Byun

News Editor

This year's Varsity boys' basketball team is off to a fantastic start to a promising season. Led by Coach **Sean Cummings**, the Varsity team has enjoyed wins against Westmont, Mission, Willow Glen, Monta Vista, Saratoga, and Milpitas and suffered losses against Soquel, Homestead, Palo Alto, and Mountain View. Currently, the LGHS team is tied with Milpitas for third place in their league. The LGHS boys basketball team is ranked among other local schools in the competitive De Anza League.

The team is stronger than ever, both in athletic ability and in team spirit. Varsity member sophomore **Ryan Boles** notes, "we all root for each other and cheer each other on... I always say it's a team sport and that we can't have individual players. I think this team can compete with anybody this year. We have a lot of talent and are willing to do what we need to do to get the win."

Boles' teammate **Eric Dodds** agrees, stating that "as the season has progressed, we have grown closer and started working better." Dodds also emphasized the importance of having a loud and spirited student section for support. For example, he says that the team was able to "pick up a huge win over Milpitas... aided by our great student section support," and that "having a loud student section really helps us get going and play at a high level in games." He hopes that future home games will have the same level of support. This year, the team's goals are to win in their league and do well in CCS, a feat that is challenging but definitely doable with the level of talent on the team this year.

Lamson shoots and scores

by Rheagan Rizio

Sports Editor

Senior **Katie Lamson** has been playing basketball since the age of five. She is the only senior on this year's varsity girls basketball team, and is the team captain. While she has previously played many other sports in the past, including volleyball and softball, she has given those up to focus on basketball and plays it year-round. While she does not currently intend to continue playing basketball in college, it has definitely been a big influence for the past eighteen years of her life.

Lamson comes from an extremely sporty family. When asked about how she got into the sport, she explained that "I began playing basketball because my dad played in college and my brother was always playing, so playing basketball was just a family thing." She has always been involved with the sport and loves playing because of the satisfaction she gets when she can see all of the team's hard work in practice pay off in games. She and her family discuss basketball all the time at home, and they watch college and professional basketball a lot of the time as well.

However, Lamson does not merely focus on sports, and manages to balance a rigorous academic workload with basketball. She says that "it is pretty difficult to

balance basketball and school. I take AP classes and have to be disciplined and do homework diligently before and after practice to make sure I can get it everything done." Lamson hopes to study business in college, and is currently enrolled in **Erol Ceran's** Introduction

to Business class to help prepare her for a future in business administration and management.

Lamson's favorite thing about playing basketball is all of the friends she has met through the sport. "I made some of my closest friends playing basketball either on the school or the travel teams," she said. "I also coach a girls fifth and sixth grade basketball team, and it is so rewarding to see them improve their skills and get more confident on the court."

In her opinion, her best experience has been playing on LGHS's Varsity basketball team for the

last four years. The highlight of this season was beating Palo Alto for the first time ever. She averages twelve points a game and has high hopes this year. "The league is very good," she admits. "But we are looking forward to finishing strong and going far in CCS." With Lamson to lead the way, the team has a lot to look forward to and a lot to expect as they head into this year's CCS playoffs.



courtesy K. Lamson

FOCUS ON THE BALL: Katie Lamson runs the ball down the court to score.

LGHS strives for strength

by Madison Prestine

News Editor

The LGHS boys' varsity soccer team is starting the season off strong; they are currently ranked first in the De Anza League. Their overall record is 6-3-3, and they are 3-0-1 in league. Captain and senior **Logan Chapman**, the team's primary goalie, is confident that they can continue to win. "We set extremely high goals for this season but we know we can accomplish them," says Chapman. "To keep up our success, we just need to keep working hard and stay focused on our goals. We can't get too overconfident because there are a ton of really good teams we play."

In their first league game on Jan. 8 the boys tied Santa Clara 2-2. Goals were scored by captain and senior **Paul Tolley** and senior **Vincent Von Luehrte**. Junior **Tomo Nishizaki**, who had just recovered from a fractured ankle, assisted both spectacular goals.

On Jan. 10 Saratoga High School's boys' soccer team, our rivals, came to battle for a win and bragging rights. Last year LGHS defeated Saratoga 6-1 at home and this year they shut them out 3-0. Goals were scored by players Tolley, Nishizaki, and senior **Emmanuel Montion**.

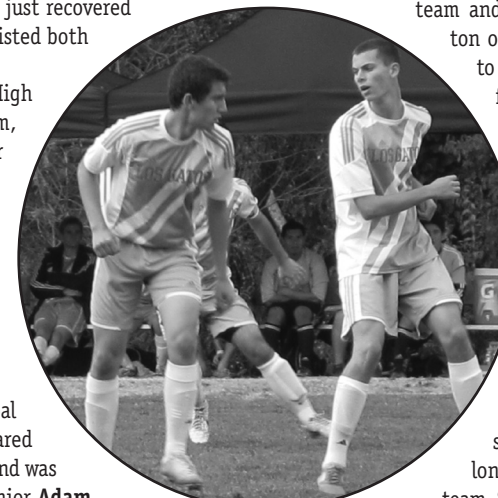
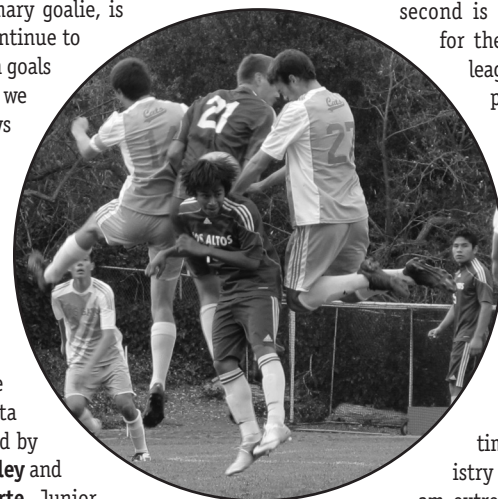
After scoring the final goal of the game, Montion shared that he "was super happy and was proud to be a Wildcat." Senior **Adam Jeffery** also helped the team to the exciting victory with an assist. Captain and senior **Nick Contarino** recalls that before the game "we knew that because we won by such a large differential last year, they were going to come out fighting and so

we needed to come out strong."

LGHS traveled to Mountain View High School on Jan. 15 and won 2-1. Montion and Tolley scored and Contarino recorded one assist. At this point in the season, Tolley leads the team with 18 total points, earned through goals and assists. A close second is Montion with 15 points for the team. Jeffery leads the league in average goals scored per game (1.5) and points per game (3.5).

Chapman has faith in his team because "the team chemistry is truly great this year. It always takes time for kids to become comfortable around each other but our team has come together and everyone has a great time together and our chemistry shows out on the field. I am extremely confident with this team and our ability. We have a ton of skill and if we continue to work hard then things will fall into place."

On Jan. 17 LGHS secured another victory against Fremont High School, maintaining their position in first place in the league. Goals were scored by Jeffery and Tolley. At the conclusion of the Palo Alto game, Tolley had scored a goal the last six consecutive games, the longest current streak on the team. Similarly on Jan. 19, LGHS won 2-0 against Palo Alto. Goals were scored by senior **Ray Pendleton** and Tolley. Contarino and Montion recorded one assist each, and they are tied for the most assists on the team so far this season.



M. Prestine