

# Field Hockey devotion reaches fantastic new heights

by **Brian Schunk**

Sports Editor

Everyone knows LGHS's athletic programs have a rich history. On Friday, Oct. 10, history was made once again and a new tradition was born.

That day, senior **Nikhil Amin** and juniors **Cole Potter**, **Jagger Rizol**, and **Cal Huesby** showed up to the field hockey game to watch Los Gatos take on Fremont. Normally extremely enthusiastic fans of the LGHS field hockey team, they decided to do something that would take their dedication to a whole new level.

They founded the first ever Fantasy Field Hockey League.

Prior to the game, junior **Jake Rubnitz** had suggested playing fantasy field hockey as a joke, but realizing its potential, Amin, Potter, Rizol, and Huesby were determined to make it into a legitimate competition.

At the game, the boys were joined by seniors **Efe Torunoglu** and **Liat Rubin**, who decided they wanted in on the action. The six of them became the owners of the league's three teams. Potter, Amin, and Huesby are the head owners of each of the teams, with their co-owners being Rubin, Torunoglu, and Rizol, respectively.



courtesy E. Torunoglu

TIME TO DRAFT: The Fantasy Field Hockey owners gather to discuss the rules and draft their teams.

During the game against Fremont, the owners conducted a preliminary draft that would decide the teams only for the first game, and they discussed the scoring system. Each fantasy team got five players, and scoring was based on goals and assists.

Huesby and Rizol won the inaugural game on the strength of first-round pick senior **Keats Iwanaga's** four assists and two goals, which accounted for eight of the team's 19 points. Much to their delight, Amin and Torunoglu were awarded second place after a stat correction was made considering senior **Taylor Royan's** assist total, which upped their team's point total to 12. Potter and Rubin scored the least points out of the three teams, despite a strong showing by their first-round pick, senior **Melina Moore**, whose total of 7 points was the second-highest of any individual in the league.

Following the game, the owners decided that they needed to have a formal draft that would decide the teams for the rest of the season. For the venue, they chose Huesby's living room, and five field



courtesy K. Iwanaga

COMMUNITY: LGFH players and FFFH managers pose together following the game on Oct. 24.

hockey players were invited to sit in on the draft. Dressed in their most formal attire, the owners discussed rules and regulations over several boxes of pizza.

According to Amin, the discussion was far from civilized at times; he said, "It got so heated at points; we needed to take five minutes recesses to cool off." Potter recalls, "The biggest subjects of controversy were the definitions of assists and turnovers."

The result of their heated debate was what they call the, "Constitution of the Fantasy Field Hockey League," which begins, "We, the owners of the Los Gatos Fantasy Field Hockey League, declare the following parameters to rule all proceedings of the FFFH over the 2014 regular Field Hockey season, and the ensuing CCS playoffs." Then, it goes on to outline the scoring system: points are awarded for goals, short-term assists, long-term assists, turnovers, rebounds, and saves. Point deductions are the result of players being carded, or scoring own goals.

After finishing the Constitution, the owners began their draft. Before the draft, they agreed that each team could keep two of its players from the initial roster. After choosing their keepers, the owners filled out their rosters through a standard draft, and each team ended up with nine players. The fantasy season officially began with Los Gatos' game against Cupertino on Oct. 24.

The LGFH players all support Fantasy Field Hockey and appreciate the dedication from their fans. Senior **Callie Glenn** said, "I really love the idea of fantasy field hockey; it's been a really cool way for some of the students to get more involved in the game. Everyone on the team, including the coaching staff, are really excited to have the new additions to the team."

LGFH players even bond over being on the same fantasy team, yet being on different fantasy teams has not divided them. The owners have refrained from giving their teams any names, so as not to perpetuate any divisions players might feel from being on different teams. The LGFH players find the competition of the fantasy league to be fresh and intriguing, especially since their regular routine of shutting out every opponent can be quite monotonous. They all find great humor in the fantasy league though some might be a little upset

with how late they were drafted.

The biggest fan of Fantasy Field Hockey might be LGFH varsity coach, **Henry Reyes**. As Iwanaga put it, "There are four things Henry Reyes loves: field hockey, the field, Fantasy Field Hockey, and his family. In that order."

Reyes enjoys Fantasy Field Hockey so much that he would like to provide the owners special accommodations as they watch the game. He wishes he could have a tent for them, and a table to make it easier on them to keep track of all their statistics. Ever proud of the field hockey program, Reyes insists that Los Gatos traditionally sets the trend for field hockey, and he said, "If people saw what we were doing, I bet you other schools would try to do fantasy field hockey as well." Reyes added, "We really enjoy having the owners come out to watch the game; we love the attention and interest it offers."



courtesy L. Rubin

DRESS YOUR BEST: Co-owners Amin and Torunoglu spectate dressed as field hockey players.

To the owners, Fantasy Field Hockey is just an extension of their dedication to the LGFH program. Their enthusiasm has led them to take their fanhood to a whole new level; they even dressed up as field hockey players for Halloween. Torunoglu said, "This field hockey obsession thing gets exponentially funnier by the day," to which Amin responded, "I don't know how, but it does."

At games, the owners take over a section of the bleachers. With them, they have a giant whiteboard, listed on which is all the rosters and each players statistics for the game. Rubnitz is the official scorer; he guards the whiteboard, freeing the rest focus on their players. As the game continues, the owners intently watch and call out when any player scores a fantasy point. Heated arguments take place when deciding how to score turnovers, and owners will debate whether assists are long-term assists or short term assists. They have the time of their lives while doing it, of course, as Amin said, "Literally, the only regret of fantasy field hockey is that we didn't start this sooner."

Come out to LGHS' Senior game today at 2:45 and watch the owners indulge in their morbid fascination with the LGHS field hockey team.

If you are interested in the nuances of the scoring system, scan the QR code to the right.



## Football continues to thrive

by **Cole Potter**

Web Editor

As the Wildcats' regular season comes to a close, they move into their final games and CCS Playoffs with many wins, tough games behind them, and a great capacity for victory. League play has ultimately been successful for the Cats, as they routinely beat teams by double digits and have averaged over four hundred offensive yards a game. All of this can be attributed to outstanding play from a very talented senior class, as well as impressive performances from numerous juniors stepping up to the challenge that the De Anza League presents.

Throughout October, the Cats went up against such fierce competition as Monta Vista, Santa Clara, and Palo Alto, and proceeded to rout them all easily. In what was advertised as a challenging match, Los Gatos hosted Monta Vista on Oct. 10. In this early game, senior **Joey Wood** was still unfortunately injured; however, several other LGHS players came through in the clutch to combine for over two hundred and fifty yards rushing. Some of these notable Wildcats included seniors **Jordan Howell** and **Quinn Spiteri** as well as juniors

**Harry Hibberd** and **Ryan Gault**. They and many other players carried the Wildcats to victory both against Monta Vista and against Santa Clara the following week. Fortunately, by the end of this stretch the team was almost completely healthy, and they moved into their homecoming game at nearly full strength.

The fateful homecoming game saw the Cats facing off against one of their fiercest rivals, the Palo Alto Vikings. Many players claimed this was one of the toughest games of the season, and when Palo Alto scored first on an early first quarter touchdown, it appeared that may have been true. However, this turned out to be the only time Palo Alto would lead the entire game, as terrific scoring from seniors Wood and **Nick Occhipinti** and impenetrable defense which forced many turnovers resulted in a tremendous 49-7 win for the Cats.

With any luck the team will be able to carry this success through a few more weeks, and into the playoffs, which promise to present quite a challenge this year. However, a healthy squad and overwhelming morale suggest that a repeat as CCS champions is well within grasp. Roll Cats roll!



courtesy J. Wood

FIND A HOLE: Wood seeks a hole in the defensive formation to penetrate and then charge toward the endzone to put the Wildcats on the board.

## Vball comes to a close

by **Elizabeth Monsef**

News Editor

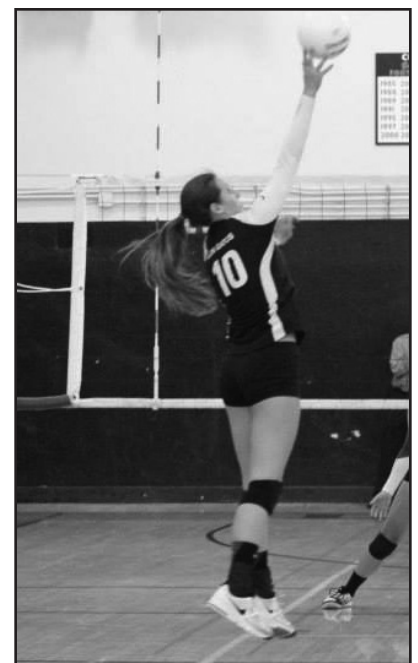
The LGHS Girls' Volleyball team is near the end of the 2014 school volleyball season. So far, the varsity girls are ranked 67 in California and 385 in the nation. The girls are over halfway done with the season and have replayed teams they have previously been matched up against. Over the past month, the Wildcats have played many difficult teams and shown talent in every game. The season ended with the girls' final game on Nov. 4 away at Homestead High.

On Oct. 7, the varsity team lost to Los Altos 1-3. The JV girls won against the Eagles in a great 2-0 game. On Oct. 9 the varsity team beat Palo Alto in 3-0 while JV fought hard and lost 1-2. On Oct. 14 the Wildcats took on the Monte Vista matadors, and varsity won in a skillful 3-0 matches. The JV team also took home a win in a quick 2-0 game set. On Oct. 21 the varsity team won against Mountain View and so did the JV team. On the 22nd the varsity girls played Gunn and won 3-1 an JV also won 2-1. On Oct. 28, the Varsity girls lost a tough 0-3 against Los Altos. The JV wildcats won against the Los Altos Eagles once again in a talented 2-0 game. The varsity team beat Palo Alto 3-0 away On Thurs., Oct. 30. The JV team took on Palo Alto once again and fought hard to win 2-0 against the Vikings.



SET UP THE ATTACK: Junior Sarah Nelson sets the ball.

On Tues., Nov. 4 the girls played for the last time at home. JV started at 5:30 PM and varsity at 6:45 PM. The Wildcats faced the Monte Vista Matadors. This was a great senior night to appreciate varsity players **Shea O'Gorman**, **Jensen Ditzler**, and **Tori Taormina**. These three captains and seniors have played hard and shown talent over their past years in the LGHS girls volleyball program. The JV girls won in a fantastic 2-0 game against the Matadors. The varsity girls celebrated their last home game of the season with a win of 3-0. The final match of the season was on Thurs., Nov. 6 away at Homestead High. In league, the JV girls have only lost one game to Palo Alto, but came back to win away on Oct. 30. The varsity girls have a 7-3 league record and are doing well. The girls finished off strong and made LGHS proud.



photos courtesy D. O'Gorman

ELEVATE: O'Gorman rises up for a devastating tip kill.