

## Player of the month: Quirke

by Montana Fowler

Editor-in-Chief

"I'll have to bulk up to play post in college [for Division 1 basketball at University of Northern Colorado]," commented 6'3" senior basketball star **Ashleen Quirke**. Quirke's long list of accomplishments in her sport can be attributed to her height, hard work, and dedication.

Quirke began playing basketball in first grade, when she was forced into the sport due to her height. "I hated it at first," said Quirke. However, as she grew, played more, and won MVP in sixth grade at CT, she enjoyed basketball more. Quirke played on LGHS's varsity team her freshman year and won MVP last year as a junior. One of Quirke's favorite memories on the LGHS team was beating Saratoga by two points this year.

In addition to her recognition for high school basketball, Quirke was chosen for the All Star team in a competitive club tournament in Texas. Quirke played for Speed City for six years and later for the Cagers. She also made one of the best Bay Area club teams, East Bay Xplosion (EBX). "It's fun when everyone wants to get better," stated Quirke. "At EBX everyone is serious and focussed every day, because they want to get recruited."

Speaking of college recruiting, Quirke received five Division 1 offers from schools in many different states. Quirke chose University of Northern Colorado and looks forward to "playing with good players against big players."

On LGHS's basketball team, Quirke is known for "lightening up the mood," according to senior basketball player **Hannah Krulevitch**. Krulevitch also commented, "She is always there for encouragement. She is also a really talented player and adds a lot to our team by challenging other players to perform better."

On Fri., Feb. 6, Quirke played in a purple-out basketball game dedicated to senior Tessa Joy Davis who passed away on Jan. 7. Anyone wearing purple was given free admission, and the team warmed up in purple Team TJ shirts. "Tessa meant a lot to me growing up, and the last year she has been my motivation while playing," commented Quirke. "I wanted to honor her through basketball because she never gave up, no matter how hard it was to keep going. Playing in a game in honor of her was inspiring."

Quirke is finishing her last few games playing basketball for LGHS, but is looking forward to playing in

college Division 1 basketball. Tune into Northern Colorado women's basketball in the coming years to see Quirke's growth and talent in her sport.



courtesy J. Tobin

## Boys' Soccer season ends

by Niamh Doyle

People Editor

This season has been looking up for LGHS boys' varsity soccer. The team secured a 1-0 win against Los Altos, followed by a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Monta Vista a few days later. This was overshadowed by a 2-0 triumph against Mountain View, in which captain **Tomo Nishizaki** and senior **Jonathan Searle** scored. The boys will face Palo Alto in their final game of the season.

Senior captain **Nikhil Amin** attributes the team's recent successes to significant changes in the lineup. Recent games have seen the return of center defensive midfielder junior **Grant Miller** from a head injury and junior right forward **Jagger Rizol** from a twisted ankle, which has also contributed greatly to the team's uplifting end of season.

These successes have secured the team in the post-season championship tournament, CCS. Though they may not win league this year, Amin is confident that their recent performance makes them a favorite for CCS. Amin attests to the strength of every individual on the team, none of whom have let this year's intense training sessions go to waste. Health has not been on their side this season, with some key players sitting out nearly every game due to sickness or injury. If the boys maintain their health throughout CCS, though, they have a good chance of taking the cup.

Tues., Feb. 10 marked the last home game for the seniors on the team. Though defeated 4-2 by Homestead, the challenging game did well to commemorate the years of dedication the five seniors – Amin, Nishizaki, Searle, **Ilian Herzi**, and **Adam O'Regan** – have contributed since their first days on the turf as freshmen on JV. This defeat, of course, did not inhibit the team's progression to post-season play.

Come support the team at Palo Alto on Tues., Feb. 17 for the last game of the season, and be sure to come out for CCS playoffs.



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## Patriots win Super Bowl XLIX

by Aidan Adams-Campeau

Humor Editor

On Sun., Feb. 1, 2015, the New England Patriots defeated the Seattle Seahawks in the closely contested Super Bowl XLIX, by a score of 28-24. Going into the game, both teams had 14-4 records for the year, as well as championship track records; the Seahawks routed the Denver Broncos to win Super Bowl XLVIII, and Brady's Patriots had a recent history of dominance, receiving their fourth Lombardi Trophy in the past fourteen years. The game's outcome was in question until the last seconds when undrafted Patriots rookie Malcolm Butler intercepted a Seahawks' pass thrown at the one yard line to secure his team's lead. Despite the widely-reported "Deflate Gate" scandal that arose after the Patriots' AFC Championship win over the Indianapolis Colts, in which several of the game balls provided by the Patriots were found to have been under inflated, the controversy did not seem to overshadow the competitive excellence of Sunday's well-matched game.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Patriots drew first blood with an eleven-yard touchdown pass to Brandon LaFell with around ten minutes remaining in the half. While Brady found success through the air, Seahawks' quarterback Russell Wilson struggled to connect, stifled by the Patriots' man-to-man defense, failing to complete a pass until the final six minutes of the second quarter. The Seahawks scored on a three-yard touchdown run by Marshawn Lynch to tie the game with slightly over two minutes remaining in the half, following a 44-yard catch made by receiver and special teams player Chris Matthews, the first catch of his NFL career. In the final minutes of the half, the Patriots drove 80 yards in 1:45, with Brady completing five of six passes for 59 yards, capped off with a touchdown caught by tight end Rob Gronkowski, again giving the Patriots a lead of 14-7 with thirty-one seconds in the half. With this play, quarterback Tom Brady tied the all-time record for career touchdown passes in Super Bowl history at eleven, joining the ranks of Joe Montana.

With the clock winding down, the Seattle Seahawks moved the ball 80 yards in under thirty seconds to score on an eleven-yard touchdown pass from Russell Wilson to Chris Matthews, his second career reception closing out the half with a tie game, 14-14. Katy Perry then took over the show with a rousing performance featuring Lenny Kravitz and Missy Elliott.

Four minutes into the third quarter, the Seattle Seahawks took the lead on a 27-yard field goal by Steven Hauschka, going up 17-14. To set up the scoring drive, receiver Chris Matthews made a third reception for 45 yards. The Patriots' following drive was interrupted by linebacker Bobby Wagner's interception, Tom Brady's second of two picks thrown in the game. With the momentum of the interception behind them, the Seahawks scored a touchdown to give them a ten point lead, with Wilson finding receiver Doug Baldwin alone in the corner of the end zone for a three yard touchdown pass with 4:54 left in the quarter. On the catch, Baldwin appeared to use a referee on the field to effectively pick off his coverage, corner Darrelle Revis, considered by many the best player at his position in the league, with his main competition being Seattle's controversial Richard Sherman. After the play, Sherman gestured with his hand '24, 24' to a camera that was broadcasting, a reference to the Seahawks' 24-14 lead and Revis' own jersey number, 24.

The Patriots would next retaliate with only eight minutes left in the fourth quarter, as Brady threw to receiver Danny Amendola to cut the Seahawks' lead to seven. With the pass, Brady now holds the record on most career Super Bowl touchdown passes; the new record set by the end of the game would be thirteen. On the next possession, the Patriots defense held Seattle to a three and out drive, and Brady subsequently went eight for eight for 65 yards, completing a three-yard pass to Julian Edelman and putting the Patriots on top 28-24 with 2:06 remaining in the Super Bowl.

As the game came to a close, Russell Wilson and the Seahawks drove the ball quickly to the Patriots' red zone, with receiver Jermaine Kearse making the 31-yard reception in stunning fashion, catching the ball on the ground after it had been tipped and bounced off of his legs and hands to stay in play. Marshawn Lynch then marched the ball to the Patriots' one yard line, where Russell Wilson threw a decisive interception to Malcolm Butler with twenty seconds left in the game in what many have called the play of the year. The Patriots would then run out the clock to win Super Bowl XLIX 28-24. It is the Patriots' fourth Super Bowl victory of the twenty-first century and first since Super Bowl XXXIX in 2005. The game served as a memorable entry in the saga of annual celebrations of American brutality and excellence, in both competition and advertising.

## Boys' Bball dominates

by Hyuntae Byun

World Editor

Despite it only being varsity boys' basketball coach Nick Ward's first year on the job, the basketball team has had a stellar year. The team has improved significantly this season, scoring many wins and qualifying for CCS.

The team won against an array of other teams including Saratoga, Westmont, Monta Vista, Homestead, Soquel, Wilcox, Milpitas, and Palo Alto. Though the team is part of the competitive De Anza Basketball League, it is currently in third place behind Palo Alto and Fremont. Nevertheless, the team beat Palo Alto 64-59 on Jan. 27, although they lost to the league's then-leader, Fremont. Since then, Palo Alto has overtaken Fremont as first in the league.

Outperforming last year's team, the boys have already won as many games as last year with five still remaining. According to senior **Gianni Filardo**, "the coaching staff by far is the biggest reason for our improvement. There's less individual play and more team play. Last year, our superstars got all the attention, but now coach Ward makes it so that everybody participates."

Filardo is the team's power forward, which he describes as "a big man who gets passed the ball by shorter guys. [He gets]rebounds." Rebounds have become a strong general strategy for the team, as it means more possessions for LG and, therefore, more opportunities to score. Additionally, the team has started to orient itself as a more defensive rather than offensive team.

Nevertheless, the team is working on improving its defense further. Filardo notes that despite its importance, "we still don't talk about defense very much,

so some of our plays come out choppy and the other team gets some easy points. Also, some people sometimes blank on the plays, and we're not good at calling out the plays loudly. Sometimes our bench is asleep, which really sucks because you don't feel backed up." To address these issues, practices have begun to consist of discussion and execution of plays.

The team won six preseason games, which qualified it for CCS. It would have also qualified had it won 6 league games, which currently seems likely to occur. Team goals include going further in CCS than last year and trying to win as many home games as possible. Last year, the team qualified for CCS. Despite beating Westmont, the team lost its second game against St. Francis.

Significant upcoming games include the Senior Night game against Homestead, which in the past has proven to be a formidable opponent. Last time the Wildcats played against Homestead's Mustangs, the game went into double overtime, and LGHS won by a small margin.

In addition to the team's new coaching staff, team captains senior **Dana Tovey** and junior **Ryan Boles** work to keep the team motivated. Unfortunately, Boles was injured at a recent game when he was blocked while making a shot. After being pushed by the blocker, Boles fell on his foot and injured it. Boles should be ready to play by the time CCS begins, however.

As a result of the new leadership, Filardo said, "We're closer together. We're all friends. We don't seclude ourselves, and we're better friends overall. A bunch of football guys came in, and we didn't have grudges. They've been doing really well and they're a ton of fun to hang out with."