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Girls' soccer unites and battles during its final games

by Madeline Hagar

Sports Editor

The JV girls' soccer team faced Palo Alto on Jan. 24 at 11AM. Despite playing on the weekend, the Wildcats showed no signs of weakness or drowsiness. They came out strong, defeating the team 4-1. This win continued the team's undefeated streak during the season. Varsity took the field following JV's match. Palo Alto scored two goals during the game, winning 2-0. Freshman **Shannon Enriquez** commented, "I felt that in the Palo Alto game we really connected as a team and passed the ball around well. Even though we didn't win, we gave it our all and supported each other." The team carried this effort and drive into the rest of its league games, playing games with closer scores than earlier in the season.

LGHS came out prepared and determined in an away game against Los Altos. Due to a large number of injuries, there was an enormous team effort made by every player. The Wildcats worked together to string passes and create attacks. One of these resulted in a goal, tying the game 1-1. The goal propelled the team forward, giving the players much needed momentum. The varsity team almost secured the tie, but Los Altos stole the win with a late goal in the second half. The JV team battled Los Altos as well, earning a 1-1 tie.

Emotions ran high during LG's Senior Game against Saratoga. On Jan. 8, the Wildcats lost their first game to the Falcons 0-3. Friends and family came to the rematch and created an energetic atmosphere for the players. The Wildcats battled and held Saratoga scoreless

until a call by the referee resulted in a penalty kick for the Falcons. Unfortunately, they scored. The game ended in a 0-1 loss for LGHS. After the game, the Wildcats celebrated their seniors with cake and speeches. Despite the loss, the team never forgot the meaning of that day: to celebrate and honor the seniors graduating this year.

The Wildcats faced the Santa Clara Bruins on Jan. 23. After defeating the Bruins in the CCS Championship last year and suffering a 1-4 loss against them earlier in the season, the varsity team had something to prove. The team took the field under the glow of the stadium's lights. Both teams played with intensity and focus. This focus translated into an offside play by LG's defensive line. A Bruin had broken away and scored a goal, but LG's defenders quickly reacted and caught her in an offside trap, saving the team from an early goal.



courtesy S. Enriquez

As the game continued, both sides exhibited relentless determination. Towards the end of the game, LG rallied and made several plays that almost resulted in a goal for the Wildcats. Unfortunately, the Bruins received a corner kick with only two minutes left in the game. A Bruin leapt into the air and scored off a header. With no time left to play, the Wildcats suffered a heartbreaking 0-1 loss.

LGHS faced Mountain View on Feb. 5 at home. During the game, senior **McKenna Cutting** received a yellow card, but scored a penalty kick in the first half to tie the game 1-1. The wind blew violently, and the Wildcats played fiercely to give it their all. In the second half, Mountain View snuck two more goals in, eventually winning the game 1-3.

The varsity Wildcats defeated Homestead on Feb. 10 2-1. Sophomore **Cali Grimes** placed the ball in the top left corner of the goal, giving LG an early 1-0 lead going into the second half. Homestead rebounded early in the second half, but LG never gave up. Junior goalie **Mayte Corral** made several outstanding saves to keep her team in the game.

In the final minutes of the game, senior captains **Sammy Stephens** and **Elisabeth Webber** attacked and scored the winning goal for LG. The seniors received t-shirts with the words "Wildcat for Life" printed on them at their senior game. While this year has been an especially difficult season for the team, the girls have stayed positive. Although the season is ending, the team is made up of more than just players, but friends who will always be a part of the LGHS girls' soccer legacy.

Girls' lax has a new coach

by Montana Fowler

Editor-in-Chief

A new head coach for girls' lacrosse is bringing excitement, energy, and new instruction to the team as they start tryouts for their 2015 spring season. Coach **Susanna Wilcox** heard about the successful LGHS field hockey team and contacted LGHS's athletic director about getting involved in the girls' lacrosse program due to her passion and history in coaching lacrosse.

Wilcox grew up in Wales and started playing lacrosse when she was 11 years old. She played lacrosse in middle school, high school, and college, and later for the Welsh national team, but her experience does not end there. She coached



M. Fowler

both high school and college teams in the mid-west before moving to California this year and looking for another opportunity to coach lacrosse. "I am excited about the potential of this team," commented Wilcox. "Exactly what that looks like depends on how far they want to go."

The new coach brought new routines to the girls' practice, including "dynamic stretching" instead of "static stretching." The girls practice passing and ball handling skills. Wilcox "knows how to coach individual players on how to make a specific move," commented senior captain **Natalie Jagelski**. "She really knows this sport."

When asked about goals for the season, Jagelski said she believes in her team. Two years ago, when Jagelski was a sophomore on varsity, the LGHS girls' lacrosse team never won a game. Last year, however, they won "over half of their games" and "almost made it to Leagues." Jagelski hopes to take her team to Leagues this year. Jagelski stated, "[Wilcox] tells us it's on us to be motivated and play well. If we are willing to put in the effort, she is willing to take us as far as she can."

In the coming weeks listen for announcements about home girls' lacrosse games, because with the new coach and excited players, the girls lacrosse team is bound to go farther than they have in the past few years.

Track & field starts season

by Danika Lyle

News Editor

Track and field is back for another season with new athletes and new energy. On Jan. 29, the team held sign-ups for members, and sophomore **Quinn Plischke** commented, "There were lots of familiar faces and a couple of new ones as well."

Many athletes have been training with the Los Gatos Track Club during the off season by going to indoor meets, running, and lifting to get in shape. Sophomore **Connor Tinsley** gave El Gato News the inside scoop to their training regime, revealing that it is, "uh...running."

Returning athletes to watch this season will be junior **Cacie Lanovaz**, last season's MVP and a CCS medalist, and fellow junior **Aine McNulty**. Both girls traveled to Hanford last summer to compete in the Heptathlon at States, placing first and second respectively. This will also be the final season for track and field veteran seniors **Melina Moore** and **Tony Moller**. Both seniors have been key players for the team in pole vault and other events, and will be competing for LGHS in one final season.

New players to look out for include **Mary Jones** and **Isaki Wada-Law**. Jones is an incoming freshman who placed first at county during her Fisher Middle School career in high jump, breaking five

feet. Sophomore Wada-Law is another new member to the team, but he is not new to track. At Fisher Middle School, Wada-Law placed first in both 100m hurdles and the 4x400m at county, and he will return to both events this season. When asked about the team, Wada-Law commented, "The girls are looking strong as usual, and the guys are getting stronger. Looks like it will be a good season."

All track and field members are continuing to train for their very first practice meet of the season. Their track meet will be against Mitty on Mar. 4.



courtesy Z. Lam

Softball looks to create memories & compete in CCS

by Kelsey Fleming

News Editor

As the spring sports season gets underway, the LGHS girls' varsity softball team is hard at work preparing for their upcoming games. With conviction and resilience, the team hopes to excel this year and earn a spot at the coveted CCS Championship.

Randy Frey is the head varsity coach of this year's team and will coach alongside assistant coach George Silvey. This will be Frey's third year coaching varsity. Frey remarked, "We finished in the middle of the league standings the past two years and qualified for CCS each year, but we have higher expectations this year." As the girls continue to practice and train, Frey commented, "We will hit as well as any team we face, and our defense and baserunning are excellent as well. Where we need to improve to compete with the top teams is pitching."

This year, there will be six starters from last year and five all-league players. Last season, juniors **Amelia Dunn** and **Madeline Colombo** were first team all-league, senior **Ashley Mains** and junior **Sydney Tucker** were second team all-league, and **Samantha Holmgren** was honorable mention all-league. The pitching staff consists of five pitchers, including junior **Emma Rochel**,

sophomore **Sarah Storton**, and three incoming freshmen who will help the team flourish in the upcoming years.

Senior **Giulianne Pate**, who has been playing softball for ten years, commented, "I'm looking forward to spending my last year of softball with my team. This is my last year playing, and I'm excited to play with great girls and coaches and make a lot of new memories." Pate is enthusiastic about the team and the upcoming season, saying, "I'm looking forward to hopefully getting far in CCS." With tireless hard work, the team aspires to improve and work towards their CCS goals.

This year, many players are eager to create lasting memories with their teammates and coaches. Senior **Hannah Hastings** commented, "What I am looking forward to most about this season is finishing my high school career off strong and being part of a fun team with desire to go as far as possible in the postseason." Hastings, who has played softball for twelve years and plays first base on the varsity team, has had a passion for softball that dates all way back to her early years of local t-ball.

For many on the team, they plan on continuing their softball careers into college. For example, Mains, an outfielder on the varsity team, will play at New York University next year. In addition,

Mains is a varsity team captain this season along with Colombo. Optimistic for the upcoming season, Mains stated, "My favorite part about playing on the team is my teammates. They are a great group of girls."

With strong leadership and skilled players, the team is on their way to having a successful season. Frey declared, "I am trying to build the softball program into one in which athletes want to play. Los Gatos has won just one league softball championship in school history, also winning CCS that year (1993). Our banner looks bleak hanging in the gym with just one number on it. I want the softball banner to look more like the field hockey and volleyball banners before I quit."

If you happen to be looking for some action-packed fun, stop by the softball field and support your LGHS Wildcats as they dominate the field and fight their way to a CCS victory this spring. To the joy of many on the team, the varsity team will have new personalized jerseys that they can keep at the end of the year, so keep an eye out for your friends and their stylish new attire. There will be a scrimmage at home on Thurs., Feb. 26 at 6:00 PM versus the Saint Francis Lancers and the team's first official home game versus Willow Glen on Thurs., March 5 at 6 PM.