

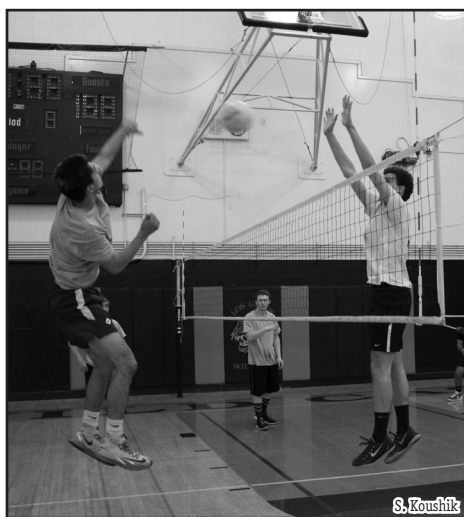
Boys volleyball awaits season

by Elizabeth Monsef
Sports Editor

Just beginning their 2016 season, the boys volleyball team is gearing up for an intense couple of months. With a brand-new coaching staff and a practice-filled, intense preseason both on the courts indoors and on the sand, the boys are more ready than ever to take on the De Anza League.

Because of a last-minute coaching staff change which prevented the boys from playing in an official preseason, the boys spent a great amount of time in the gym and out on the sand. Occasionally, both varsity boys and girls volleyball would spend the afternoon on the sand courts challenging one another in competitive tournament play or mixed team matches.

This year's coach, **Scott Lucas**, is new to the Wildcat family. The boys are enthusiastic about welcoming Lucas to the team and appreciative of his fun-loving nature. For example, the team looks forward to tournaments because its members hang out in the coach's RV. Also new to the staff, varsity girls volleyball player junior **Caroline Bond** became part of the team as an assistant coach. Enjoying her new position on the team, Bond shares her favorite



HITTING HARD: Teammates practice for upcoming games.

part of the job as, "Getting to play with them during practice because it's a different dynamic than the girls team." She also adds, "I run drills, play with them, and help pump them up for games." The boys are very welcoming of their new coaches this season and are finally starting to gel as a group.

So far the boys are 2-5 overall with wins against Valley Christian High and Sacred Heart Preparatory College. The boys battled hard, but unfortunately brought home losses in league. They hope for improvement as the season progresses and the team continues to bond. Senior **Teo Niemann** shares some of the team's strengths saying, "We run the middle pretty well and play good defense." And adds, "We're hoping to finish at the top of our league and make it as far as we can in CCS. We lost last year in the [semifinals] but we have a completely different team this year. We have plenty of time to figure out how to win, and hopefully can make a run in CCS."

Come out to support the Wildcats as they take on Homestead High away tonight, Mar. 25 or attend the next home game, Fri. Apr. 1 against Lynbrook High.

Baseball team shows strength

by Dakota Rogers
Editorial Editor

The boys baseball team has been off to a strong start this season, set on a path to play in the CCS Open Division championship game this May. With many returning players from last season, the boys are working together to get to the top. On Feb. 24, the Wildcats opened the spring season with a close 5-4 victory over Leigh High in a competitive eight-inning game. Since then the boys have mustered a 6-3 record, with a few tough games against WCAL schools Mitty, St. Francis, and Serra, but have moved past those difficult, early season losses as they continue to progress through the long season ahead of them.



ONTO THE PLATE: Senior **Doug Neubauer** takes a powerful swing.

The boys baseball team has had an outstanding spree of wins in league play, remaining undefeated in the De Anza league. The Wildcats opened league play against Homestead on Wednesday, Mar. 9, winning 7-1 and again 13-1 on Friday. The following week the team played Los Altos, winning 5-0 away and then 6-0 at home. Senior pitchers **Brooks Olesek** and **Jake Holton** dominated on the mound in these games and along with the solid defense, kept the opposition's offense to a minimum.

The Wildcats continued their streak through the following non-league game against Scotts Valley, shutting them out 7-0. This promising streak led the Wildcats into

the Boras Classic in Sacramento to compete against the best teams in California March 22 to 24. The Wildcats competed from Tuesday to Thursday of that week with a double-header on Wednesday. They faced the toughest competition in the state while being watched by countless scouts and college coaches, making this a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the players.

The team has been hosting student and teacher appreciation games on Fridays, providing free food, drinks and T-shirts to all who attend. So far this year, the team has been formidable against league competition and hopes to build off of this success over the rest of the season. League games are every Wednesday and Friday, so come out and support your Los Gatos Wildcats baseball team throughout the rest of their season.



CLOSE CATCH: Players watch as senior **Nate Loro** gets the ball.

Soccer teams dominate

by Madeline Hagar
Opinion Editor

After months of preparation and numerous battles out on the field, LGHS soccer has finally come to a close. The varsity girls came back after a difficult and frustrating season last year to nearly qualify for CCS this year, the JV girls took the De Anza League title, the varsity boys competed in CCS, and the JV boys battled it out in their league.

The varsity girls team traveled to Milpitas for a night match on Feb. 10. The fog and old turf led to a bouncy surface and tough conditions. Nevertheless, the girls placed well-timed passes and through balls, scoring an early goal in the first half. The team superbly defended for the remainder of the first half. In the second half, the team went back on the offensive, scoring another goal to give the Wildcats a 2-0 win.

On Feb. 12, the team returned home to host its senior day. The Wildcats faced one of their toughest rivals, Mountain View. Despite a great effort from the team, Mountain View managed to slide two goals in, leading to a 0-2 loss at home for the varsity team.

Over February break, the girls took on the Saratoga Falcons. This season closer ended up taking place in a torrential downpour, making for a very slippery and action-packed match. The Falcons managed to take an early 2-0 lead in the first half and sustained it for the remainder of the game. The girls battled in their last few games, but they fell just short of achieving their goal of making CCS. They placed fourth overall in the league, only one place away from qualifying.

From the beginning of the season, the JV girls aspired to go undefeated in their league. The Wildcats put their heads down and put in countless hours on the training field in order to make this goal a reality. The JV girls went undefeated throughout the season and preseason, only tying in three games overall. The final three games of the season resulted in three more wins, which secured the team's place at the top of the table. The team travelled to Milpitas, where it demonstrated its prowess and technical abilities as the team scored goal after goal. The final score was 7-0 LG. On Feb. 12, the team defeated Mountain View 3-1 at home. The team carried this momentum into its final game against Saratoga during break. Although several members were missing, the team never faltered. The girls battled it out and brought home its final 2-0 win of the season.



READY TO DEFEAT: The senior girls on the varsity team strike a fierce pose for their group photo.

After a stellar season from the varsity boys, they qualified for CCS. On Feb. 12, the boys travelled to Mountain View to take on the Spartans. The boys scored twice, once in each half to secure the 2-1 win over Mountain View. The boys then defeated Fremont 2-1 at home.

With these last two games in the bag, the boys prepared for the first round CCS game against Christopher High School. Both teams had their chances throughout the match, but neither managed to find the net. When one team created threatening offensive play, the other team quickly solidified into a defensive wall. The game ended in a 0-0 tie, so they went to penalty kicks. Unfortunately, LGHS lost, crushing the team's hopes of a CCS title.

Lastly, the JV boys ended their season with strong performances against Mountain View and Fremont. The boys hit the road to play Mountain View on Feb. 12. Unfortunately, the team suffered a 1-3 loss. The team did not let the result of the game against the Spartans impact its preparation and training for its match against Fremont. When the whistle finally blew to start their final match, the boys played an excellent game of soccer. They created strong, offensive plays that enabled them to make shot after shot. After two halves, the boys walked away with a stellar 6-3 win for LGHS to close out their season.

Congratulations to all of LGHS' soccer teams this season! All four teams had excellent seasons and played with discipline and heart, earning a De Anza League Championship Title and playoff space in CCS. Go Wildcats!

LGHS Cheer wins national championship once again

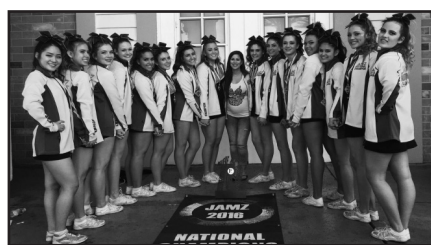
by Camille Fowler
Web Editor

For the fifth year in a row, the LGHS cheerleading squad has been named national champions. The Wildcats took the 2016 title the weekend of Feb. 28 through Mar. 1, when they quickly dominated the competition floor, once again making LGHS history.

The team flew to Nevada together, and its nervousness only increased as the competition drew closer. The routine was one which they knew like the back of their hands - this year's spirit rally combination - but the team members were still jittery. They arrived at their hotel and checked in before stretching and beginning run-throughs, all the while laughing and conversing to lighten the nerves.

Their routine is set to a mashup of several well-known pop songs, with each portion linked to a specific part of the routine. The music for the tumbling sections is carefully selected so that the beats match each flip and handspring and the tempo matches the lifts precisely. The accuracy of matching the movements with the beats is one of the most difficult aspects of cheerleading, so practice was crucial to their success.

Each night after competing, the team went to bed early in preparation for the next day. The girls put on their matching t-shirts to show



CHAMPIONS: The team poses with its national title.

their LGHS spirit and rolled into the competition decked out in Wildcat gear. "There were so many teams there, so everybody was pretty nervous," says freshman **Lauren Miller**. "The older girls who had been to nationals really helped to calm us down, so it was a really good bonding experience."

Last year, the LGHS team won every single competition prior to nationals, including all levels of the Grand Champion competition. However, this year was different. The team won all other competitions, but failed to win one of the Grand Champion levels, so the pressure was higher than usual. "We were all very nervous [because of that loss], so that added pressure to our routine," says Miller.

However, the high stakes only made their routine stronger. The older girls on the team had high ambitions and were even more determined to win their fifth consecutive title, so they worked that much harder to stay focused and run through the routine smoothly.

On Mar. 1, the team woke up early to start their day, and after hours of competing, it was obvious that the Wildcats were the champions. The awards ceremony was held right after, and the team was ecstatic. Afterwards, they went back to the hotel to celebrate their victory and the title of five-year national cheerleading champions.



STRIKE A POSE: Sophomore **Lily Toda** executes a stunt during the routine.