

Girls' VBall bumps it up

by **Brian Schunk**
Sports Editor

The girls' volleyball team started off the season with a heartbreaking loss against Palo Alto High School. After losing the first two sets in a best of five match, they rallied to win the next two and forced a fifth set. They started off the fifth set strong, but were unable to keep up with Palo Alto, who pulled away to win.

The match was a story of game-changing runs for both teams. In the first set, LGHS held a 21-17 lead, but could not hold on to the lead and lost 22-25. Palo Alto went on an 8-1 run to finish the game.

In game two, the girls passed poorly, and were buried after shanking two consecutive serves and overpassing the next. They never held a significant lead during the set, and ended up losing 25-14.

Game three was a different story. The cheers of "lets go Paly, lets go" coming from the Palo Alto fans were quieted by the consistent play of the Wildcats. LGHS held the lead the entire game, and ended up winning the set 25-18.

The match was still an uphill battle at that point, and someone needed to step up if the girls were going to win the fourth set and force a game five. That someone was senior **Kristi Brown**, who served for seven straight points as part of a 17-6 run that Los Gatos went on after leading 8-6.

The Palo Alto fans had terrified looks on their faces as the fifth set started, and they were effectively silenced. Juniors led the Wildcat charge early on: junior **Tori Taormina** started off the match with a kill. She and fellow juniors **Shea**

O'Gorman and **Elle Rogers** would combine for six kills and one block during the game.

The score was 6-5 in favor of LGHS when the game turned around and Palo Alto scored nine unanswered points to make the score 14-6 in a game to 15. They were stopped by a block from Rogers, and then O'Gorman went back to serve with the game on the line. In a classic case of too little too late, the Wildcats scored four straight points to cut the deficit to three. LGHS could not quite complete the comeback, and the match ended in favor of Palo Alto 15-11.

After the match ended, assistant coach **Eric Rowell** was available for comment. He said the team can learn and grow from this experience, and one of the key things to take away from the game was "the ability to stay confident in high-pressure situations, and not play timidly."

The girls rebounded from their loss and beat Mountain View High School two days later in straight sets (25-12, 25-19, 25-15).



B. Schunk

Cross country sprints off

by **Violet Wallerstein**
World Editor

On Sept. 21, the cross country team ran an all-varsity meet at the De La Salle Invitational. Despite the bad weather, the team did surprisingly well.

The boys' course had to be altered because the officials deemed the back stretch of the park too dangerous. For girls, there were 145 competitors from 23 teams, and Los Gatos placed fifth at the meet, a great improvement on last year's thirteenth placement. "It was pouring rain during De La Salle," said freshman **Caroline Brossart**. "We had to run through the mud, which was difficult, but it was a really fun experience." The varsity

boys competed against 177 other boys from a total of 24 teams and won third place in the meet. Junior **Ben Haderle** said, "This was the best our team has done since I've been on this team."

The fastest runners from each team were **Cecily Johnson** coming in 10th place with 19:38 and **Chris Foster** in 6th with 14:34. Sophomore **Zoe Lam** stated, "I definitely think we could

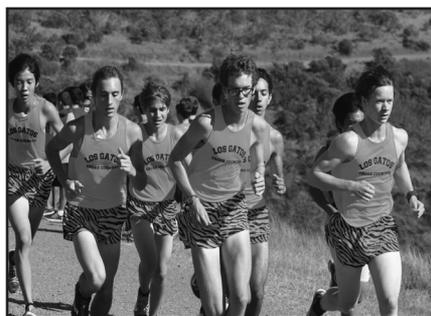
make it to state this year if our season continues like this." The team made the best of a bad situation and improved their rankings from last year.

The team competed again on Sept. 24. at Crystal Springs. They had already competed at this location earlier during the season. The boys team placed second out of fourteen and the girls team placed third out of fourteen.

The boys' coach, **Matt Snee**, said "Even though the team ran the race as a workout because of the De La Salle meet, I was proud they placed second even though there was a strong headwind."

The weather was cool and windy as is typical of this hilly venue, and the team will be running there two

more times during the season. Over half of the girls team ran their fastest times at this meet, a terrific accomplishment for the hardworking team. Freshman **Nicki Surma** stated, "The whole team did well and I was really proud of everyone." The team continues to have a fantastic season and looks forward to success at many more meets to come.



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