

# Water polo wins first Division 1 CCS Championship

by **Abbigale Berry**

Web Editor

The LGHS Girls Water Polo team made history this year. The team had an incredible season with wins all the way through League Championships and Division 1 CCS Finals.

The girls had an amazing season this year, with 28 wins and only 2 losses in the 30 games they played both in season and postseason.

Heading into the year, the team faced a few adversities after the unfortunate death of a player and a coach, as well as not having a solidified team dynamic. Last season they made it to CCS semifinals, the farthest the team had ever gone, with a team composed of 11 seniors. This year the team had seven seniors, three juniors, four sophomores, and two freshmen, a dynamic very different from last season. With a few weeks of struggling, and no announcement of captains until four weeks into the season, the girls were forced to create a winning camaraderie. Sure enough, they came together and won every single game following the middle of the season. Freshman starter **Alison Berg** describes the change in the team: "When I look back to trying out for the team and then making it, I never thought we would all be this close, caring, and respectful of one another. We have come so far as a team and worked so hard for everything."

In the weeks before the postseason, the girls got ready to play in the League Championships. To make it to the final game, they beat

Gunn in semifinals. In the finals, the girls played Los Altos for the fourth time this season. The game was tied 1-1 till the 4th quarter, then LG put the hammer down, scoring 6 goals to win the championship with a 7-1 score. **Zoe Sanchez**, a new junior, recounted what it was like to win the league title: "It felt amazing. All our hard work began to pay off, and everyone could see we deserved to win. It was also great to see all the people in the stands cheering us on as we won each game."

The following weeks, the girls trained to play in CCS. Their first game was in the quarterfinals against Woodside. The girls pulled out a win to make it to the semifinal round for the second year in a row. This round they would once again play Los Altos. The game was close, bouncing between LA up and LG up. But in the final quarter of the game, LG was able to win 4-3. This marks the first time in the history that the LGHS Girls' Water Polo team made it to CCS finals.

Sat., Nov. 21, the girls were introduced one by one and shook hands with the opposing team: the Leland Chargers. LG performed their cheer, honoring their fallen player and coach **Tessa Davis** and **Pete Kleis**, respectively. The girls lined up and began by winning the first sprint. **Camille Hench**, senior captain, scored the first goal of the game from seven meters, an incredibly difficult outside shot that she later made again. The lead changed hands between LG and Leland until in the fourth quarter LG held Leland off with a score of 9-7

to win the championship.

With a roaring crowd to back them up, along with Tessa and Pete, the team jumped in the pool along with their coaches, in tears, to celebrate. Senior **Emma Weideling** recounts the win: "Winning was the best feeling in the world, because we knew that Tessa and Pete were with us in that moment. I couldn't have been prouder of my family, and I know Pete and Tessa are proud of us too." With an incredible win, the Los Gatos Girls' Water Polo team concluded their season.



CCS CHAMPIONS: Girls water polo team poses with championship trophy after the game.

## Band season finishes strong

by **Jordan Evans**

People Editor

Gone are the frigid nights where the xylophones collected condensation; gone are the broiling Super Saturdays when everyone clambered for the last pineapple popsicle after running a movement just "one more time." Marching band has finally come to end.

On Sat., Nov. 14, James Logan High School hosted its annual band invitational, arguably the most prestigious marching band competition in Northern California. The band performed well, bettering its previous score by 2.1 points to a hitherto best of 79.30. Although LGHS didn't earn any caption awards, it did place sixth of nine bands. It beat Leigh HS, which was in seventh place, by 5.55 points, a landslide in marching band standards.

The next week, on Nov. 21, the band drove down to Fresno for the Western Band Association Championships, the most important competition in the California circuit. The competition is split into two days, Saturday being the preliminary day with Sunday being the day for Finals. Los Gatos falls into the 4A category, meaning that it has 101 to 140 competing members. WBA advances the top seven 4A bands, based on overall score, to finals. At Fresno State, the band performed the best it had all season. Despite the



ON THE FIELD: Clara Morton walks the field with her mother.

discrepancies between college and high school football fields and a prop mishap, the band pulled through and earned 80.00 points. This was very encouraging, as the Los Gatos Marching Band has never crossed the 80-point threshold before. The band placed tenth out of twenty competing bands, with Santa Teresa High School in ninth place, beating LG by a mere .30 points.

Senior **Julianne Zingmond** noted that, "The band has continuously improved throughout the season and [she's] extremely proud of what [they] were able to achieve." This year, just like the last, showed an increase in overall scores with each coming competition; the group always improved with every performance.

The band stayed in Fresno Saturday night and had its annual Senior Dinner. Included in the celebration were awards for a season's worth of hard work, cakes with the team photo printed on the frosting, and the famed senior speeches paired with a baby picture slideshow corresponding to each speaker.

With only two performances left, the marching band season is winding down. The members will be performing festive tunes at the Los Gatos Tree Lighting Ceremony on Fri., Dec. 4 at 5:00 pm. The next morning is the much-anticipated Los Gatos Holiday Parade, in which LGHS will be performing with Fisher Middle School. The parade begins at 11:00 am and crosses straight through downtown, so don't miss the band's last showcase of the year!



ALL SMILES: James Gallmeister practices drums before game.

## Wrestling season kicks off

by **Lauren Sanders**

Opinion Editor

As fall sports at LGHS come to a close, the Los Gatos wrestling team is gearing up for the start of their season. With about 40 people comprising the varsity, junior varsity, and freshman teams, all of the wrestlers are looking forward to a successful run this year.

The team is bigger this season than it has been in years past, with many new faces added to the tightly-knit group. Sophomore **Quintin Leary** is excited about the larger team. "My hope this year is to have a full lineup and a winning record," Leary commented. Last year, the wrestlers had to forfeit several weight classes on varsity simply because they did not have a big enough team, so this year's larger team is a welcome change.

Sophomore **Alex Escudero**, a wrestler of five years, is appreciative of the supportive team dynamic that comes with this large group. He describes how the more experienced wrestlers' "will to win" sets an example for the younger members of the team, driving everyone to succeed. "Wrestling isn't an easy sport," commented Escudero, "so we build each other up and don't leave anyone behind."

With two CCS titles under her belt, senior **Kendal Davis** is determined to repeat her success as a CCS champion as well as medaling at the state competition. Davis, a seasoned wrestler since middle school, is also hopeful that with the bigger group this year, the team will be able to win more dual meets. Look out for Davis on the mat at state!

Coach **Ricardo Garcia** was recently appointed as the wrestling program's new head coach, and the team is very appreciative of his coaching style. Leary speaks highly of him, saying that Garcia "has brought stability to the program." Garcia makes sure each member of the team has a solid foundation in their technique before moving on to more complex aspects of the sport, creating a cohesive team where everyone works together to succeed. Garcia has a slightly different style than the team's previous coaches, but it seems as though the change is a welcome one.

With full lineups and hearts, the wrestling team dives into this season determined to succeed. Come support the wrestling team this season!



WRASTLIN' RASCALS: Senior Emmett McDonald leads the Los Gatos co-ed wrestling team in a cheer before an away meet.

## Girls volleyball finishes in the top of SCVAL league

by **Elizabeth Monsef**

Sports Editor

The Los Gatos Girls Volleyball team wrapped up their season on Sat., Nov. 14. The team had a bye in the first round of the playoffs, but during the CCS Division II Quarterfinals the girls fought through a devastating loss to the Mountain View High Spartans. The girls played hard, but lost in three sets with scores 17-25, 27-29, and 12-25. They placed seventh overall in CCS and second in the Santa Clara Valley-De Anza League with a 9-3 record. They lost only two games to Los Altos and one to Mountain View. Their overall record for the 2015 season is 17-9. Their national ranking is currently 558, and they are ranked 84 in California.

Seniors **Terra Schmidt**, **Sarah Nelson**, **Brooke Landaiche**, **Stacia Hendee**, **Sabrina Burnett**, and **Emily Jarnigan** led the team in a strong season and the girls will miss them very much. Junior **Alexandra Stracey** has been on varsity with the seniors for



PERFECT SET UP: Los Gatos volleyball senior girls line up after their last game at home.

two years now and says, "I've had these six teammates by my side for the last two years and I cannot imagine playing next year without them. They were more than simply my teammates, they are my closest friends and my family." As the seniors move on past high school, they will miss the program. Senior **Brooke Landaiche** represents the feelings amongst the seniors by saying, "I'll miss getting to see this amazing group of girls everyday at practice and games." Congratulations to Sarah Nelson, who will continue on to play Division I volleyball for Duke next fall, go Blue Devils!

While it was the last time for many of our varsity seniors playing here at LGHS, next year's team is ready to come out fighting in the fall. The girls will additionally train through the summer leading up to tryouts to be in optimal shape. Girls Volleyball will be back next fall and ready to take on the competition, with their sights set on the league title.