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Field hockey team hopes to continue last year's legacy

by Sanna Hakkarainen

News Editor

After two years of going undefeated in both their JV and varsity programs, the Los Gatos Field Hockey team is returning with the goal of continuing their streak. The team has been working tirelessly throughout the past few weeks and all summer in order to defend its title as CCS champions.

The team has many goals that it is planning to accomplish this season. The main goal for the girls is to win. However, after talking to **Lauren Verheyden**, one of the senior varsity captains, it is clear that winning is not the only thing they want to accomplish. Verheyden claims that, "The main goal is merely coming together as a team and knowing the true meaning of the phrase 'your greatest strength is the person standing next to you.'" The girls want to bond more as the true sisterhood that they are known for. Once they believe in each other and know what the team can do as a whole, their ambition is to win CCS once again.

The field hockey team has lost many of its key varsity players, but current team members are still preparing to win. Verheyden says, "Since



STICK IT TO 'EM: Senior Nicole Edsall warms up for practice with teammates.

we lost 16 seniors last year, many of whom were starters, this season will be a drastic transition." The girls are continuously practicing in order to gain the experience that they have lost with roster changes. The team has been working tirelessly, practicing five days a week for multiple hours after school every day on fitness, skills, and strategies to improve its game play.

The field hockey team is in pre-season at the moment, and its first game isn't until Sept. 22. However, they still participate in scrimmages in order to prepare for the upcoming season. The girls will be playing their first scrimmage on Wed., Sept. 9, against North Salinas High at LGHS. Then on Fri., Sept. 11, the team takes on Prospect at Prospect High School. The official season kicks off on Tues., Sept. 22, against Monta Vista on our home field. The varsity game starts at 3:30, and JV at 4:45. The girls then have another game the following Tuesday on Sept. 29 at Los Altos High School. Finally, fans can show up for another home game on Thurs., Oct. 1, against Cupertino High. Come out and support the team and LGHS!

Practice-wise, the girls are busy working on skills and strategies that they can use in their games. However, the field hockey team with its well-known coach, Henry Reyes, would not be the same if it didn't include a little fitness. The team can be seen running everywhere around Los Gatos including the dam, Icing on the Cake, and Vasona. The girls are also working on building up core and muscle in order to bring their A-game when the season begins. The team is spending countless hours practicing short corners and is rehearsing different plays. Based on the way the girls have been practicing, the season is going to be an exciting one for the field hockey team! Go Cats!



photos courtesy S. Koushik

CHICKS WITH STICKS: The FH team works on their juggling before warming up.



THREE MUSKETEERS: Seniors Andrea Yun, Nicole Edsall, and Molly Ball are all smiles

Girls tennis season starts

by Shreya Koushik

Sports Editor

The 2015 Los Gatos High School girls tennis season has kicked off, and all of the players are ready to ace the competition. After a complete coaching staff change, the girls' tennis team is lucky to welcome Coach Byron Nepomuceno, an experienced private coach.

When asked about her new coach, Senior **Emma Shahabi** responded, "Byron is a big asset to the tennis team. He is easygoing but knows what he is doing." Senior **Lauren Devore** similarly thinks that "Byron will push our team to [its] full potential."

Last year, the varsity girls impressively placed third at the pre-season tournament in Fresno. After former coach Todd Dissly left halfway through the season, the girls persevered. Two new coaches were hired. Senior **Shanaya Mullen** reflects, "Despite tennis being an individual sport, the tennis team is very collaborative. Even though we struggled in the absence of our main coach, we stuck together as a team, had fun, and finished the season strong."

The girls' first pre-season match is in Fresno which starts Sept. 11. Junior **Annie Hall** sums up

her experience with the team by saying that "The team has really boosted my overall confidence throughout the years I've spent at Los Gatos High. All the girls I have met through the team have become some of my closest friends, and I couldn't be more thankful of them and the sport." The overwhelmingly positive reactions from the team might be a sign of a bright future.

"Byron is great, and he genuinely cares about the dynamics and effort in the team. His positive attitude towards us had made us really excited for this season. I couldn't ask for a better coach or better teammates," explains senior **Sierra Barsten**. Team captains have yet to be decided, but regardless of the outcome, the team will be in good hands.



photos courtesy S. Koushik

HUSTLE, HIT, NEVER QUIT: Maddie Janes works on her volleys.

XC off to a running start

by Violet Wallerstein

Web Editor

Cross-country, a sport of intense endurance, has began training for the new season. Girls' captain Junior **Gillian Yost** says cross-country is "a sport where the goal is to push yourself to the physical limit." Along with a new season, the team has had a great influx of new members - almost double the size of last year's team with over 70 runners - making this team one of the biggest cross-country teams our school has seen.

Cross country's last season was "the best season so far," said boys coach **Matt Snee**, but they'll try their best to top it. Many of the athletes have been training over the summer by doing various track camps, and their dedication will certainly pay off. The team hopes to win the league to keep up their current five-year winning streak. Some more goals for the season are to fill the empty varsity spots from graduated seniors and to grow the team even more.

The team is setting another new precedent for LGHS's cross country team by having three juniors captaining the girls team. Juniors **Caro-**

line Brossart, Maggie Horan, and Gillian Yost all shared the sentiment of being nervous to be in charge of such a large team, but remained positive in their outlook.

The first meet will be the Earlybird Invitational on Sept. 12.



EAT. RUN. SLEEP. REPEAT: XC girls start their daily warm up.



photos courtesy V. Wallerstein

STRETCH IT OUT: XC gets a pep talk while doing their stretches.

ELS: EU Team Fnatic takes Cologne and Stockholm

by Neil Lugovoy

National Editor

Teams from around the world competed on Aug. 23 in the Counter Strike Global Offensive Electronic Sports League final at Cologne and the EU League of Legends Championship Series Summer final in Stockholm, but the London-based e-sports team Fnatic clutched both. Counter Strike is a first-person shooter game in which teams of five compete over bomb sites. The terrorist (T) side's objective is to plant the bomb and the counter-terrorist (CT) side aims to thwart them. League of Legends or LoL, is a multiplayer online battle arena game in which players aim to destroy the other team's base or nexus.

In Cologne, at the Counter-Strike tournament, Fnatic were the favorites despite a 16-14 scare against the Polish team Virtus Pro on the map Inferno after losing the first map in a best of three semifinal. The challengers EnVyUs, on the other hand, were in very good form on Inferno, winning 12 rounds on the T-side despite the map favoring the CT-side. They closed out that match 16-9 against Team SoloMid to advance to the finals.

With over 1.3 million peak online viewers and 11,000 watching in person at the LANXESS arena in Cologne, the final started on Dust

II. EnVyUs was looking to take the first map with the score at 14-7 but Fnatic used their tactical timeout to regroup and Krimz clutched a one versus three situation to keep EnVyUs from reaching match point. Fnatic was able to take two more rounds before a failed B push put EnVyUs on match point at 15-10. What looked like certain victory slipped away from the French team as Fnatic went on to take five rounds in a row to force overtime and win 19-15. Despite some impressive individual displays of skill, EnVyUs players were not able to synergize on the next map, Cobblestone, and the all Swedish team won the \$100,000 prize with a score of 16-7.

At the LoL tournament in Stockholm, Fnatic came into the final without dropping a single map the whole tournament to face Origen gaming, whose captain, Xpeke, left Fnatic to found Origen. Origen quickly ended Fnatic's streak by taking the first map in 31 minutes, after a failed mid push at 22 minutes by Fnatic gave Origen four kills, barron, and a 6k gold lead. An expert split push by Soaz allowed Origen to take out Fnatic's nexus turrets and win the map five minutes later. Fnatic rallied to take the next two maps handily in a best of five, but after being down 2 kills and 15k gold, Origen won the fourth map in 52 minutes. In the final map, Fnatic pushed

mid with the help of a triple kill from Huni and won in 44 minutes, sending them to the 2015 World Championship. (Sources: ESL Gaming, PC Gamer, League of Legends Championship Series)



photos courtesy of Wikimedia

ECSTATIC FNATIC: winning team takes home the trophy at competition in Cologne