

Varsity Soccer battles the Alumni

jacob schonberg

Several weeks ago, on Saturday, August 29, the NCSSM Varsity soccer team played a game against a group of alumni. It was a close game, with a final score of six to four in favor of the alumni.

Senior Peter Robichaux, the team's sweeper, said "There was good communication, good leadership, but I thought we were out of shape."

Throughout the game only one varsity player was injured, and he spent most of the game on the bench. Though when asked around, no one was able to identify this injured player. Overall it was a fairly rough game.

Junior Doug Whitfield, who changed positions throughout the game, agreed very strongly with this. "I

mean, most of them were bigger than us, except for Alex Hawkins, of course," he said.

Those who know Senior Alex Hawkins understand this. For those who do not, he happens to be the biggest player on the Varsity team.

In addition to how physical the game was, some players were surprised when a young woman joined the alumni team. The spectators, including Senior Burke Foley, were also surprised when a somewhat older man joined the team that was mostly made up of recent graduates.

"There was this tall white guy playing," said Foley, "And it seemed like he was the only older guy playing. I was a little surprised to see him out there."

After the game, the team seemed a little frustrated about the loss. They had worked hard and

had wanted to win.

"The team played well," said midfielder and Junior DJ Dore, "but there are a lot of areas we could improve in."

There were many theories as to why the varsity team lost, including the fact that, as Whitfield said, "We were left without a coach. Also, we kind of gave up in the second half. We came out fired up, but then the game turned around and we gave up."

Although it was a devastating loss, there were some good things that came from the game as well.

"I thought it was a bonding experience when we came up with a team fight cheer," said Robichaux.

Overall, the Science and Math team played well, and had great enthusiasm for the coming season. And as Dore put it, "We were out to win."

Anyone up for some ultimate?

nigel kirby

The longtime tradition of Ultimate Frisbee is already an evident part of student life at NCSSM. The game not only can be a good form of exercise, but it is also said to take one's mind off of work, if not just for a short time.

The popularity of the sport can be traced back through the generations here at NCSSM. Robert Powell, class of '86 remembers playing the popular game in his free time.

"Yeah, we would play pick-up ultimate, but we didn't have the soccer field. We would just play in one of the lawns or on the road between Watts and Hill," said Powell, who can still be found playing with youth volunteers at the Museum of Life and Science.

While unorganized Frisbee is very common at school, Senior Alex

Yockey and Senior Eric Hawkins have been working on the organized side of the sport. The first annual coed ultimate tournament was scheduled for the weekend of September 18th and 19th, but was cancelled due to hurricane Floyd. The tournament was rescheduled for the third weekend in October; there will still be free admission and authentic S & M Frisbees will be for sale.

The Ultimate Frisbee team, which is led by Yockey and Hawkins, is another idea for the more serious players. The team has been a part of Science and Math for about three years. They meet to play on the athletic field from 6:00 until about 8:00 every night. It is open to anyone, so practices can have anywhere from 10 to 42 players.

"The great thing about Ultimate is that there is not a coach, so we are out there because we want to be. Not because if we were not we would have to run laps" said Yockey.

~Ultimate continued p5



Formula for success

nigel kirby

NCSSM's women's tennis team has high aspirations this season. Equipped with new coach Richard Alston, these young women attend mandatory practices for two hours a day, four times a week. Alston works with the team on conditioning, drills, and match simulations. He feels that practice should be a time for "pressure relief." Junior Kat Satterfield, who has played tennis for two years now, said, "I think we have a really great team, everyone works together and we have great team spirit."



Kathy Benedict practices her backhand at Oval Park.

The team seems to be different in a couple ways to Senior Suzanne Robbins. Not only have they gotten new uniforms and warm-up suits, but the team is also very structured this year. Also, the team is getting a lot of

support from parents.

"We're doing really good this year, we have a good attitude, a better coach, lots of team unity and more dedication," said Robbins.

Alston, a staff member with ITS, has been well received by NCSSM's 2-4 ladies. He has played tennis for 30 years now. He enjoys coaching women's tennis and will also be the coach for the men's team later in the spring.

Before coming to Science and Math, Alston coached at a school in New Orleans called Ben Franklin. Ben Franklin is a specialized school, like Science and Math, except it specializes in the arts. He also coached many professional leagues and was a professional tennis umpire.

Alston's goal for the team is to have everyone play to her personal best and get through the season injury free. He wants the ladies to respect their opponents and never gloat when winning.

"We are not results oriented, instead we are performance oriented. I want them

~Tennis continued p5

Hit the road Jack...

jon dougherty

Any of you that have been following the umpire situation in Major League Baseball knows that September 2nd was the day on which the umpires' resignations went into effect. The original plan was for baseball's management to pay the umps \$35 million a season effective. Well, let me say one thing. Whoever told the umps that this was a good strategy was taking them for a ride. A very costly ride.

The umps have just gotten obliterated in their assault on MLB. Out of 68 umps, 22 are going to lose their jobs. The sad part is that these are the people who are the best at what they do, and they got suckered. They thought they had a good position. Turns out, they had jack. And the union leaders are acting indignant.

Richie Phillips, head of the union said, "Baseball will suffer from the loss of these enormously talented people that the commissioner's office has arbitrarily determined to hurt."

What the...?! Oh, my God! This is the biggest crock I have ever heard. OK, yes baseball will lose a lot of experience in the umpiring department, but "arbitrarily determined to hurt?" I think not. One must remember, the umps backed baseball into a corner. They are the ones who threatened a mass walkout if their demands were not met.

And now they got smacked around and canned. Well, frankly, they deserve it. They could have thrown the post season into chaos if this walkout had occurred.

And another thing. Has anyone else noticed that the people who are hurt the least, the union leaders, are the ones who instigated the entire situation? They still have their jobs. If you ask me, (and no one did, but they should have) the people who need to be sacked are the union leaders. When those 22 umps are sitting at home sifting through the classifieds, the union guys will still be getting paid and screwing things up.

Anyway, the final settlement is that the union, not the umps, will receive \$1.36 million in post-season bonuses, to be divided up as the UNION sees fit. This really boils my blood, in case you had not noticed.

OK, so here is what the umps did wrong. First off, they scheduled this whole scheme on July 14 in which 57 umps were announced to resign September 2nd. This gives baseball plenty of time to come up with a counterattack. (Which they did pretty darn effectively, I'd say.) Then the union tried to go back on the resignations and organize a contract negotiation instead. Baseball said no dice.

Then it all just started falling down around the umps' ears. Out of the 57, 27 rescinded



sara hamner

their resignations. MLB immediately hired 25 umps from the minor leagues and accepted 22 resignations. The umps attempted to file suit against baseball, but quickly pulled out when they realized that they had no chance. Anyway, when the dust settled on September 1st, 22 were down. Some of these stories were heart wrenching.

Take Ed Hickox, who worked the minors for 17, count 'em, 17 years before getting called up at the beginning of this season. Seventeen years, on the road, away from family, in cheap Motel 6's, and working small, dirty parks, only to have it snatched away by some pompous idiot who thinks that he has a really good idea. Seventeen years of your life, working to that ultimate goal. Oh, how endlessly enraging.

Take Drew Coble. Here is a fellow who is taking some hits from life. At this moment, Drew is not only losing his job, but his wife to cancer.

Anyway, I could go on and on about this, so I am just going to say that this has been the Sport Guru and I am just P.O.'d, I mean jeeze, c'mon man...