

Brother-Sister Halls Almost Win Something

BY VLAD KROKHMAL

Tuesday, September 15th featured two intramural sports matches, one between 2nd West and 2nd Hill North at 4:30, immediately followed by a match between 2nd Bryan and 3rd Beall. Coincidentally, the finals featured 2nd West and 3rd Beall, a brother-sister hall pair. This phenomenon produced excitement due to the possibility of the first brother-sister hall IM soccer champion duo in recent NCSSM history.

The men's finals featured an unexpected turn of events. Johnathan Lara of 2nd West scored an early goal and held the advantage for most of the first half. Yet Jake Emerson of 2nd Hill North retaliated with an unexpected goal right near the end of 1st half. Second half began with fierce attempts by 2nd West to regain advantage that were thwarted by 2nd Hill's goalkeeper Leo



2nd West displays brotherly affection and support for one of 3rd Beall's IM games.

•Photo by Dustin Burleson

Daniels. Yet, 2nd Hill was able to sneak a goal past the 2nd West goalkeeper in the second half amidst the confusion of a corner kick. The competition became intense when Coach Gonyeau announced three minutes remaining. 2nd West

moved up all of their players to offense and began desperate attempts to score. The whistle blew and the match ended as did 2nd West's dreams of becoming IM soccer champions.

The women's finals immediately succeeded the men's

finals. The match pitted 2nd Bryan – a hall noted for its skilled soccer players – against 3rd Bryan, an unexpected challenger. To match 2nd Bryan's soccer prowess, 3rd Beall held numerous soccer practices and was actually able to beat 2nd Bryan earlier in the tournament. Both halls came to the IM fields to win, and by the end of the 2nd half the score remained zero-zero. The game was decided by shootouts. The first three penalty shots were tied and the game went into sudden death penalties. Sara Eagle scored her penalty shot, while 3rd Beall scored none, thus gaining 2nd Bryan the Championship trophy.

No matter the outcome, both matches were unpredictable and even matches. All four teams practiced hard to come this far.

"I was really proud of everyone, especially seeing how

much effort everyone put into practices and games," said Yusra Iftikhar, the captain of the 3rd Beall team.

Although 2nd West and 3rd Beall were not able to achieve their desired brother-sister hall IM Soccer Champions status, it was interesting to see both halls support each other and learn from each other throughout the season.

"We lost in a really close game to Royall last year and we finally claimed the championship this year," said Jenina Rivera, the starting sweeper for 2nd Bryan.

2nd Bryan was finally able to secure the soccer championship, after being less successful last year and prove once again the hall's dedication to school spirit and athletics. Both soccer champions demonstrated skillful performance and started the intramural sports off on an amazing beginning.

Lady Uni Volleyball Squad Spikes its Way to the Top

BY COURTNEY APPLEWHITE

The Ladies' volleyball team had a stand-out season with 15 victories, advancing to the second round of playoffs and only 4 defeats. The Lady Unis opened the season with a big victory over Cresset Christian Academy, 3 games to zero with scores 25-16, 25-19, 25-10. The ladies also attended the Eastern Alamance Tournament where

they played against teams from all divisions and won 2nd place overall.

Leading the board in offense were seniors Mireille Pardon and Colleen McGuire (captain), with over 30 combined kills in only three games. With five seniors and several talented juniors on their side, the team stayed competitive within the conference. "We have a tall offense and people

willing to dive after everything on defense," said McGuire.

Libero Rebecca Overcash proved McGuire correct in a competitive game against Cedar Ridge in which she dived into sideline chairs to make a pass. Overcash was rushed to the hospital for stitches while the Unis went on to win the tight match 3 games to 2. Overcash made a speedy recovery and only a few games

later returned to her defensive position.

Losses against Southern Vance and conference rival Raleigh Charter did not put a damper on expectations for the girls. Hannah Wyatt (captain) commented, "We [had] a stronger team than we've had in a long time. We... had our ups and downs over the [season] but we still [had] the potential to do great things."

A key factor in the success of the team was their support from fans, especially the Uni Boys. The group wore t-shirts with the number of a player on the back and letters on the front, altogether spelling "Go Unis!" The Uni Boys attended almost every game.

The Lady Unis ended the season with a close loss in the second round of the championship playoffs.



Erica Konczal reaches over the net for the volleyball, while teammates Emily Revelle and Jordan Blanchard wait, prepared.

•Photo by Britt Brown