

# Fall sports teams profiled

By GARY LI

NCSSM is home not only to the most talented students across North Carolina, but also to a large number of athletes. This fall season, the school's athletic programs are as impressive as ever. All four sports, namely Women's Tennis, Women's Volleyball, Cross Country, and Men's Soccer, have achieved recognition for excellent performances in their respective sports conferences.

For those students who are too focused on getting into college, who have yet to fully appreciate the intensity of one of our competitive sports, or who just want a quick summary of the season thus far, on these two pages are quick debriefings on each team.



## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

As with the Varsity Tennis team, the Varsity Women's Volleyball team holds an impressive record with 13 wins and only 4 losses, against both 1A and 2A schools and is ranked 2nd in the 1A conference. Libero player and defensive specialist Jocelyn Keung, who has hopes for the team, said "I'm not sure how well the team has done in the past, but we're definitely capable of doing really well." Though squads from both Cedar Ridge High School and Raleigh Charter have bested NCSSM on an occasion or two, both games against these teams have been extremely close. Though the team lost the state playoffs against West Wilkes High School, it had a strong 14-5 conference season. Women's Volleyball includes 5 seniors and 6 juniors and is coached by Davene Mainwaring and Sue Anne Lewis.



## WOMEN'S TENNIS

Throughout the years, Varsity Women's Tennis has consistently proved to be of an elite nature. This year, the team has managed to go undefeated. On average, each athlete devotes 15-20 hours of their week to tennis. The team remains fairly junior heavy (among a total of 13 tennis stars, 10 are juniors). When asked to elaborate upon the potential of the tennis team, Varsity player Jessie Duan replied, "With Coach McClenny's expertise, and the amazing camaraderie between individual players, I'm pretty sure that we'll win the state championships this year." The Varsity Women's Tennis team did, in fact, finish off the season with a win against Mt. Airy High School at the State Championships. Year marks the team's second consecutive undefeated season finished off with a state win.

## MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Over the past several years, the NCSSM Cross Country program headed by Nick Lehman has developed into one of the top athletic teams in the state of North Carolina. This year, with the addition of a few talented runners, the Cross Country team has a high chance of securing yet another trophy for the school in the 1A State Championship. The team has already competed in numerous meets, most notably the 35th Annual City/County Meet, in which it came second only to Durham Academy High School. "It all depends on how we perform during the rest of the season," says senior and Men's team captain Matt Jordan, "If we can maintain a steady work ethic and finish the season strong, we have a good chance to win what really matters, the state meet." The Men's team finished the season earning 2nd place at the State championship, while the Women's team (captain senior Kagan Griffin) earned 8th place. Many of the runners ran at personal record times at this meet.

