

US Olympic teams more successful than hoped

BY: CARL YIN

As students from across the state start moving into the North Carolina School of Science and Math, the London Olympic Games came to a close. For nearly 3 weeks, the world's best athletes gathered to compete in some of the most important moments of their lives.

For some, this year's Olympics have been filled with despair, for others, happiness. But for all, athletics and viewers, these Games have been exciting and thrilling. This year, traditional powerhouses China and America reigned in the medal count, and were neck-and-neck in both the total and gold medal counts throughout the Olympics until the final days when the United States pulled ahead. The United States team ended up with 104 total medals (46 gold) to 87 (38 gold) for China. The host country, Great Britain, came in fourth at 65 medals, behind Russia with 82.

The United States team was extremely successful in the Games. Swimming has always been a strong area for the US Olympic team, and they won

31 total medals. The US won a record 16 gold medals in swimming, with perennial stars Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte coming through race after race.

An infusion of new talent has also helped the US Olympic swimming team

become even more successful. Missy Franklin, at just 17 years old, has won 5 gold medals and a bronze, and set 2 world records at this year's Games. The United States Olympic swimming team looks to be strong once again this coming Olympics in Rio de Janeiro,

2016.

The Triangle area is home to many successful 2012 Olympians. Abby Johnston, a US Olympic diver, brought home a silver medal in the Women's synchronized 3 meter springboard event these Games. She is currently

a premed student at Duke University, and is expect to graduate this school year.

Another Duke diver, Nick McCrory, has also medaled, winning a bronze medal in the synchronized 10 meter platform event. McCrory is originally from Chapel Hill, and graduated East Chapel Hill High School.

Many former soccer players from both Duke University and UNC competed in these Olympics. Rebecca Smith, former Duke Soccer player, is currently the captain of the New Zealand women's soccer team. Heather O'Reilly and Tobin Heath are both former UNC Soccer players, and competed on the gold medal US women's soccer team.

For everyone from viewers to participants these Olympic Games have been entertaining and thrilling. Luckily for NCSSM students, the Games fell entirely during summer break, which has allowed students to watch all the events.

Now the world looks to Rio de Janeiro in 2016, in hopes that young talent from across the world will continue their success and bring more excitement in four years.



Abby Johnston and teammate Kelci Bryant bite their silver medals. Courtesy of USA Today

Fall sports hope to match success

BY: CARL YIN

Off of one of the most impressive seasons in NCSSM athletics history, this year's fall sports teams looks to repeat last year's success. However, because NCSSM only houses juniors and seniors, the transitions between seasons for any athletic team here can make the consistency of a sport extremely volatile.

Here are some previews on this season's fall athletics:

the state 1A championship to Hendersonville the year before. This year, many starters from the championship team return as experienced seniors, ready to lead the Unicorns to further success this year.

Ibukun Ademoyero, a rising senior forward and Most Valuable Player from the championship game, said that the team this year "has a strong desire to succeed, like that of [last year's championship



2011-2012 NCSSM Varsity Volleyball were State Runners-Up. By Jerry Wolford

Men's Soccer had a spectacular season last year, winning the state 1A championship against Hendersonville four to nothing. The title came as vengeance after a five to nothing disappointing loss in

team]."

He thinks that this desire will allow the team "to maintain the same quality of soccer we displayed last year." Certainly, hopes are high for the Unicorns to succeed this year, as they look to repeat



2011-2012 Men's Cross Country won the State Title. Photo Courtesy of NCHSAA

their state championship.

NCSSM Cross Country also had a fantastic season, with the men's team winning the state 1A championship, and the women's team placing well in the state championship meet. Many of that team's best runners, however, were seniors, and have since graduated.

For instance, Steven Mulherin, who was consistently the best runner for NCSSM, has graduated and will be running cross country at UNC-CH this year. But like every year, new talent will come from the incoming junior class.

The cross country team looks to accomplish the same or more success than last year. However, the loss of a strong senior class may make it a

1A championship. The team will look to continue their success from last season.

Casie Jingle, a rising senior and a member of last year's women's tennis team said that "this year, we are looking forward to meeting the new girls and hoping to see some great players at tryouts. While we did lose many of our top 6 players we are definitely expecting to easily fill those spots and win states this year." Hopefully, the team will get a strong influx of talent, and avenge their state championship loss last year.

Women's Volleyball finished last season off strong, with a berth in the state championship playoff game. That marked one of the best seasons for NCSSM women's volleyball ever. Next season looks to be a good one for the Lady Unicorns.

Jenny Wei, a rising senior and returning volleyball player, said that "[the] returning juniors should be good, and

... obviously we hope to make it to the state finals again this year." With a solid incoming junior class, the volleyball team should be able to keep up their level of play and achieve big things again this fall.



Whitman Groves, grand senior and member of the Champion Men's Soccer Team, takes on an opponent. Photo courtesy of Blue Ridge Now