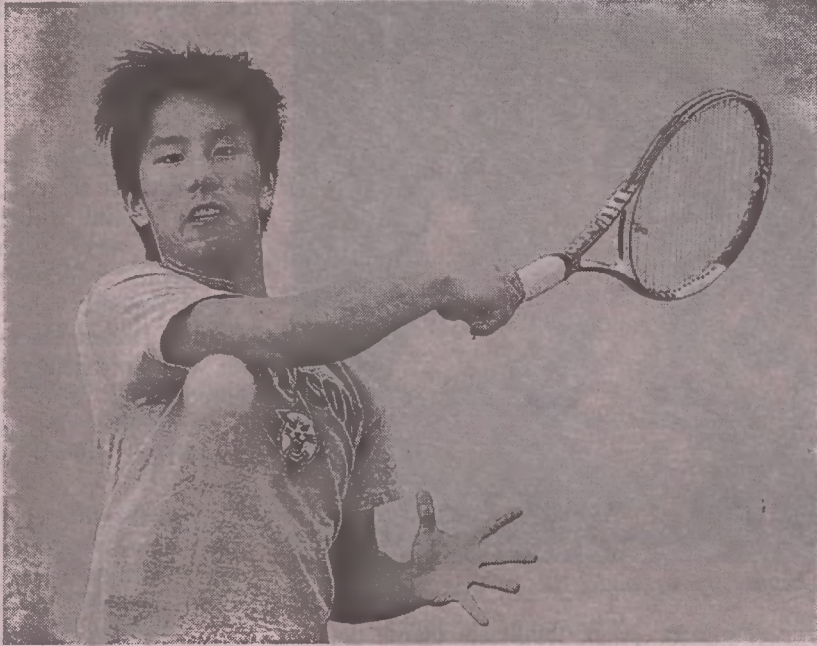


# Spring sports finish seasons

BY STEVEN LIAO

It is springtime at NCSSM, and NCSSM's Spring Sports teams are busy putting the final touches onto their seasons.

Men's tennis sprang into action early on, reeling off seven wins to start the season, including a sweep against Raleigh Charter High School.



Left: Jin Kang competes in the state 1-A tennis playoffs at Jordan High School. Right: Chris Panuski, Josh Rees-Jones, Chatham Ellwanger, and Benson Robles win the Men's 4x800 Relay at the track and field state

Junior Danny Oh, who was undefeated in his single matchups in the first seven matches, attributed the team's success to motivational ploys from team captain and NCSSM senior Jin Kang.

"Our key (sic) to success are the pre-motivational speeches made by our great leader, Jin

Kang. He really fires up the players and gets us ready for our singles games," said Oh.

Despite the team's early success, Oh concedes the team is far from satisfied.

"Our goal is to win our conference. And hopefully, we'll do well at the state tournament."

Men's golf is also in full swing, winning its first two conference matches by large margins, after failing to win any last

year. Four NCSSM players are ranked top ten in the conference, and the team placed first at its conference championship and were crowned regional champions in early May.

The Women's Soccer team rolled



Courtesy of The Herald-Sun and NCSSM Athletics

through its schedule, finishing with fifteen wins in the regular season and winning by an average margin of nearly five goals.

Additionally, the baseball team started the season 5-7 and the softball team started 10-8. Both squads pitched their

senior night on Apr. 19.

Finally, the Men's and Women's Track teams have been building off their Winter Track season, recently competing at the Carolina 12 Conference Meet, with the men placing third and the women placing fourth.

## Powderpuff Football 2013: Seniors put juniors in their places with 46-7 victory

BY STEVEN LIAO

Despite drizzling rain and gloomy skies, flocks of NCSSM students came out to enjoy some hard-nosed Powderpuff football on May 18, 2013, in the school's biggest (and only) official football event of the year.

The Junior and Senior teams braved the sloppy conditions, battled fiercely, but at the end the juniors proved no match for the seniors, who posted a 46-7 victory.

Powderpuff football features two all-female girl squads with male cheerleaders. The game is played 7 on 7 with flags and without punts, kickoffs, or extra points. The game is divided into twenty minute halves with a brief intermission in between.

The junior squad's game plan featured a two-headed rushing attack consisting of Kim Ngo and Catherine Farmar.

According to junior coaches David Cuppet and Evan Miles, the two were chosen for their enthusiasm and were "obvious" choices for running the football.

Down 19-0 at halftime,



Senior Jenny Wei runs the football for a touchdown

Courtesy of Devin Finney

Cuppet kept faith in his rushers, remarking "We're going to try to run the ball some more."

Indeed, at the start of the second half, the juniors finally found success running. After snatching an interception on the first drive of the second half, Ngo ripped off two sizeable runs, setting up an easy score for the juniors.

The newfound positive momentum, however, was short lived. On the very next drive, senior Jenny Wei

answered with two massive runs of her own, scoring on the second run just two minutes after the juniors had scored.

The juniors never recovered, throwing three more interceptions and never advancing across midfield for the remainder of the game.

So what was the secret behind the senior squad's sublime display?

While the juniors were content to play smash-mouth football, pounding the ball

with their two pronged rushing attack, senior coaches Daniel Griffin and Quinten Stewart implemented a game plan based on speed. The game plan was described by Stewart as, "Run fast. Beat them."

Furthermore, the team received noteworthy performances from Wei and quarterback Carolina Sprinkle. After her touchdown, Wei recorded two more interceptions in the second half.

When asked about her noteworthy production, Wei was quick to deflect credit to her coaches and upbringing, "I had great coaches. I was raised by tigers in China."

Sprinkle was praised for her excellent play by her coaches, who compared her to Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco. "We have 100% confidence in her, and she has been making the right decisions," noted Stewart.

Stewart also expressed his belief that Sprinkle has the potential to play Division I football as long as she puts in the commitment. Sprinkle has yet to make known whether this is a pursuit of hers.

Finally, according to Griffin and Stewart, the key to winning was the seven practices with full participation that the team had held prior to the game. In comparison, the juniors held only three practices with poor participation.

With students that are fans of hard-nosed, smash mouth football, players with Division I talent, and dedicated fans who continue to attend games in poor weather conditions, it is no wonder NCSSM has been undefeated in football since 1980.