

Unicorns have high hopes for fall sports, retain many athletes

By KATHERINE WANG
Sports Editor

As the new school year begins, so does a new season of Unicorn Athletics. Last year was an impressive year for fall sports, so hopefully this year will be one too.

For those looking to play fall sports at NCSSM, they should fill out all paperwork present at gounis.com/family, and bring it to the Coaches Meeting at 5 pm on Monday, Aug. 18. Here, for all the UniFans, is a preview of this season's sports:

Cross Country: The men's cross country team won the State championships last year, in addition to gaining several other titles. Captain Nick Walker and the team hope to win the State championships this year for both Men's and Women's cross country.

Walker claims that "we are looking at potentially one of the strongest teams we have ever had. Though we are only returning two of our top seven runners from last year, we have an influx of talent."

The Women's Cross Country team last year finished 10th at the State championships and won the Conference championship. This year's team, according to Cere Poovey, is looking really good. She claims that the "team is expected to gain many strong members from both the junior and senior class.

With the combination of the returning members and those joining the team for the first time, the team should have a strong season with a return to the State meet."

Women's Golf: Last year, the women's golf team was

Conference champion and qualified for States for the first time as a team.

Though the team lost some very valuable players to graduation, its prospects this year are looking strong, with several returning members and interested juniors.

The major change in the team will be the change in coaches, as Coach Fran James of Hillandale has decided not to take on the role this year. The current coach has yet to be determined.

Men's Soccer: The soccer team last year made it to the quarterfinals of the State tournament before falling to First Flight High School in a very tight game. Captain Jarod Glover hopes that the team will go further this year and make a deep run into the tournament.

Teammate Henry Bristol

adds: "Our team is looking good for the coming year. Expect to see us at States in November."

Women's Tennis: The tennis team reached the finals of the State championships last year, along with winning the Conference and Regional championships.

Many of the top seeded players are returning this year for another try at winning the State title. When asked about the team's prospects, tennis team member Garima Tomar said, "We had a really good season last year, and hopefully an even better one to come this fall! We have several talented incoming juniors, as well as skilled seniors returning to the team."

Volleyball: The volleyball team finished fifth last year in a tough conference. They hope

to improve their performance this year. Rebecca Shen believes that "our goal as a team this year is to do better in conference and make state playoffs. We definitely had a strong team and amazing fan support last year (shout out to the UniBoys!), but we lacked consistency throughout the season. Hopefully, along with continued student support, the incoming juniors will give us the boost we need for a great season."

Among some new changes is the introduction of a new golfing coach Todd Bandawer.

This fall season of athletics promises many superb performances but a team would be nothing without their fans. Game schedules will be available on the NCSSM Athletics website, so students should show some UniPride.

2014 World Cup turns into Brazil's worst nightmare

By SIERRA DUNNE
Editor-in-Chief

Before this year's World Cup even kicked off, everyone was betting on host country Brazil to take the coveted gold trophy. According to a New York Times survey, 16 out of 19 countries believed that Brazil would win the tournament, with the other three naming the country their second choice to win after their own.

It appeared that things were looking bright for Brazil, but behind FIFA's bright facade of world unity and harmless entertainment lay something much darker.

In the weeks and months leading up to the World Cup, protests and demonstrations were held all throughout Brazil, but they were mostly ignored by the mainstream media.

The protests were mainly outcries against the government agreeing to spend billions of dollars hosting the cup, when the poorest 34% of the country receive less than 1.2% of the nation's income.

The Brazilian government spent much more than they predicted they would on the Cup, and citizens, demonstrators, and famous soccer players alike all agreed that this money was being wasted on FIFA when it could have been used to build schools, create better health care conditions, or feed children going hungry in the streets.

"It's clear that politically

speaking, the money spent to build the stadiums was a lot, and in some cases was more than it should have been," said Pelé, a retired Brazilian soccer player, at a talk in Mexico City in May. "Some of this money could have been invested in

schools, in hospitals ... Brazil needs it. That's clear."

For instance, the Arena de Amazonas, constructed in the remote city of Manaus was made by importing materials from Portugal, shipping up the Amazon River, where it was constructed. Manaus is only accessible by boat, so the Group G teams who played

ere had to arrive on ships carrying them up the Amazon. Furthermore, since there is no local club team, after the World Cup ended the stadium will not be used by any soccer teams.

Active demonstrations, strikes by public workers, and

clashes with police were all common occurrences leading up to the start of the World Cup, but graffiti artists and social media users added mounting pressure on the government as well.

Many spoke out against forced evictions in host cities and police brutality against drug gangs that had ended up

killing many innocent children in the process.

Although overall these protests were considerably smaller than those that broke out in 2013, the opposition to the Brazilian government was as strong as ever.



Mural protesting the 2014 World Cup painted by an anonymous Brazilian street artist. The picture shows an impoverished and malnourished Brazilian child being fed a soccer ball, rather than the food he desperately needs. This is just a small part of the larger public outcry over Brazil's misallocation of resources due to the World Cup.

Photo courtesy of The Guardian

Cup continued on as planned. The only hope they had was that their team would take home the gold as predicted.

However, for their semifinal match against Germany, the team was missing two of its key players: Captain Thiago Silva, who had received too many yellow cards to play, and star forward Neymar, who suffered from a fractured vertebra from their game against Colombia. No one expected the toll this would take on the team.

In the historic match that took place on July 8, the Germans crushed Brazil in an agonizing 7-1 defeat, with the first five goals being scored within the first 29 minutes.

Not only was this host country shocked, but the entire world was as well. Words like humiliation, embarrassment, and utter defeat were often tied into reports on the game.

To make matters worse, this loss would mean that the final game of the Cup would be played between Germany, the team that crushed Brazil's spirits, and Argentina, Brazil's biggest soccer rival.

After the match, team stand-in captain David Luiz gave a tearful, heartfelt message: "I just wanted to give joy to the people who suffer so much. Unfortunately we could not, sorry everyone, all Brazilians. I just wanted to see people smiling... It is a day of great sadness and a lot of learning too."