

1st Hunt secures big win in soccer IM championship

By ANDY HOANG

SPORTS EDITOR

For the second year running, the men's intramural soccer championship featured 3rd East and 1st Hunt battling it out for the trophy. Last year, 1st Hunt won the Chancellor's Cup and 3rd East won the soccer championship. Coming into the final game in September, both teams sported flashy offenses with undefeated records.

Tejas Dalvi, a midfielder from 1st Hunt commented that, "Temperatures were flaring; it's the biggest rivalry in the entire school," in describing the hype for the game. Captains Reid Herrera (1st Hunt) and Tanas Gangadhar (3rd East) created a Facebook event to publicize the showdown with over 100 people showing interest.

"Last year's game was

marred by dirty play," Dalvi says, but this year both sides wanted nothing more than a clean, fair game.

The sports rivalry was intense last school year. 3rd East won three intramural championships yet lost the Chancellor's Cup to 1st Hunt, despite 1st Hunt winning only one Intramural Championship.

Additionally, 3rd East's March Madness basketball team won the 2015 March Madness Tournament earlier this year. During the annual Junior-Senior basketball game at the end of last school year, 1st Hunt's Trey Duvall hit the game winning shot as time expired. The intensity of competition between 1st Hunt and 3rd East has also spilled outside of sports. Leading up to the Intramural Championship and during the game, trash talk was the vernacular between the

two sides.

Gangadhar said, "1st Hunt too scared they'd disappoint."

For the game, 3rd East played without their best player, senior striker Ayo Ilesanmi. Furthermore, midfielders Vishal Naik and Prathmesh Patel were slowed down with illnesses. Defender Andy Hoang was sidelined with a low-grade fever and headache for the game. 1st Hunt played with full strength and arguably took advantage of 3rd East's weakened roster. Cole Kirkpatrick, of 1st Hunt, commanded the midfield, but every attempt to shoot at the goal only was met with speed and skill by the 3rd East defensive team, led by Josh Krause and goalie Suhas Rao.

By halftime, the score was still 0-0.

In the second half, the troubles for 3rd East

continued. Rao was ejected from the game after receiving a red card from referee Brian Gonyeau. 1st Hunt did not hold back, reminding 3rd East and spectators about the infamous red card that Gonyeau, referee of the 2014 Championship Game, gave to Tanas Gangadhar.

The dramatic second half of the game ensued as more spectators arrived looking to root for both teams. Michael Newbauer, 1st Hunt's SLI, cheered for his hall. With less than five minutes to go of the game, both sides subbed in their starting lineups to finish off the game. 3rd East had a clear shot at the goal, only for it to be craftily defended by Isiah Fleming, 1st Hunt's goalie. Later on, 1st Hunt had a one-on-one opportunity but missed the potential game-winning goal.

0-0 Final Time.

In penalty kicks, the drama continued as 3rd East's team played first in the shootout.

Three kicks for each team. First up for 3rd East was Vishal Naik. Naik's shot was well hit but missed the target completely. 3rd East would fail to score on any of their three attempts.

Now, goalie Josh Krause, the substitute for the befallen Suhas Rao, would have the daunting task of defending all three of 1st Hunt's shots just to send the game into another overtime period.

1st Hunt's offense turned out to be too powerful for Krause, as William Oles's shot ricocheted off Krause's hands and into the back of the net to give 1st Hunt the Championship win and reclaiming their title as the team to beat in IM soccer.



3rd East residents face off against 1st Hunt residents in the championship intramural soccer match. 1st Hunt triumphed, claiming the title 3rd East earned last year.

photo courtesy of Tanas Gangadhar

NCSSM volleyball improving after rough beginnings

By GABRIELLA WILLIAMS

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The NCSSM volleyball team has improved after a rough start and, according to assistant coach Sue Anne Lewis, is "expecting to have a strong finish to the season."

Senior Night is coming up on Oct. 13 at 6 p.m.. The Unicorns will face Bunn High School. The night will honor the three senior players, Colette Cambey, Erica Mullis, and Kendall Williams, as well as the two senior managers, Carrington Metts and Chandler Gay.

The season got off to a rough start with a few hard losses. It is always difficult for fall sports teams at NCSSM to bond; players have to be able

to make quick connections with their team because games start as early as the second week of school.

"This year, we have 6 juniors and 3 seniors, so it has taken time for everyone to learn how each other works on the court and to build the trust needed in volleyball," said Lewis, "We're still growing."

The team met another bump in the road early on: it was discovered that no one on the team had ever played the setter position. Luckily, junior, Trinity Morrow stepped up to the challenge and is working hard to learn the new skills necessary to assume this role; so far, she is doing well.

At press time, the team's conference record was 5-3.



NCSSM volleyball players prepare to return the ball to their opponents in a match in the PEC gymnasium in September. The team struggled at the beginning of its season but is regaining its footing.

photo courtesy of Sophia Chizhikova