

# Winter Sports Finish Interesting Season

by Beth Krodell

The winter sports teams at NCSSM had some interesting seasons for 1987-88. They both received and created some upsets. Most importantly, they all put forth a great effort, showed their school spirit, and demonstrated leadership.

After swimming six schools, ranging from 4A to private, Science and Math's swim team came out with an overall record of 6 wins and 3 losses. The boys had an exceptional season with 5 wins, 3 losses, and 1 tied meet. The girls, who had 2 wins and 7 losses, were faced with some tough competition from Pinecrest and

Ravenscroft.

The 1987-88 swim team was definitely a group of record-setters. A total of 16 school records were set. Daphne Moore and Won Kim captured six records each, and Terry Baggett and Dean Nestvogel hold one individual record each. Records were also set in the relays, the girl's 400 yd. freestyle relay made of Leslie Gaddis, Eliza Johnson, Daphne Moore, and Krissy Simmeonson, and the guy's 200 yd. medley relay consisting of Won Kim, Dean Nestvogel, Terry Baggett, and Thomas Hazel. Nine swimmers, the members of the relay teams and Julia Roos, competed in the regional meet in

Greenville, N.C. Mitchell Tatum and Sharon Gardner were alternates.

In conclusion of the season, Daphne Moore stated, "We'll really miss the seniors next year, but I feel that we should be able to rebuild the team because of the many returning juniors."

The NCSSM girls' basketball team finished with a record of 5 wins, 14 losses. The girls were playing in one of the toughest 2A conferences in the state. The conference was made of ten teams including the state-ranked Wake Forest-Rolesville team. Although their record only accounts for five wins, the team lost five of their games by a very narrow margin.

This was the first year that Science and Math has had a "famous" coach (Curtis Hunter), and according to Senior Tonyu Marshall, "We got picked on a lot by the other teams because we're S&M'ers and because of Curtis." Marshall also said, "Curtis and John (Williams) had a lot of faith in the team!"

As for next year, Terra McKinnish says, "We have some juniors with a lot of playing time and experience, so hopefully."

by Chris Shella

On February 18, 1988, the Science and Math men's basketball season ended on a losing note at the hands of the North Johnston Panthers. Since it was senior day for the Unicorns, the starting team consisted of Matt Mabry, Dana Latchworth, Eddie Jarmin, Trevor Grady, and Mike Carter. The Unicorns started off a slow pace, and found themselves down by ten points at the end of the first quarter. But this did not discourage the Unicorns, and after inserting some of the juniors, they found themselves down by only five at the



Lee Cooper grapples with South Granville opponent.

half. A key point in the game came in the middle of the third quarter when both Mabry and Matt Becker were called for technical fouls. The Panthers failed to capitalize from this, as they missed all four foul shots. This was followed by a lull in the action where both teams did not score much and the game stayed withing a five point margin. With a little over three minutes left in the game, the Unicorns created a tie with a flurry of steals and defensive rebounds. However, the Panthers went back up by four, and made key foul shots down the stretch to hold on and defeat the Unicorns by a final score of 58 to 52.

This game was a good example of Unicorn play in a very competitive Capital Area 2A conference. Our team tried their hardest, yet ended up with a 1-17 conference

record. But many of these games were by very narrow margins and were much better games than the scores indicated. In out of conference play, our Unicorns had a 1-1 record. S&M students can look forward with much hope to next year, as several returning juniors may lead the Unicorns to a winning season.

The wrestling team has had a very solid year from every member of the team contributing to the victories that they had. Our wrestling team faced very tough competition from several 4A schools, which gave our team quite a bit of experience for the future. Lee Cooper, Jon Martin, Joey Staier, and Neil Stikeleather have given much senior leadership to the team, and hopes for next year lie in hands of very promising juniors like Dickson Slater and Howard Weeks.

## S&M Sluggers Ready

by Shane Hutson

High hopes are in the air as the baseball and softball teams prepare for the upcoming season. The softball squad is looking to improve upon its record from a year ago, as is the baseball team which finished 5-17 last year, yet is talking about a possible state playoff berth this season.

Practice began February 15 with both teams eager to begin. The softball team had batting practice on the field and ran through fielding drills in the outfield. The baseball prospects, all trying to earn their spot on the final sixteen-man roster, took a few swings in the batting cage and worked out in the Multi-Purpose Center, getting into condition for the first game. After the softball team had finished, the baseball squad took their turn at infield practice and drills in the outfield.

In an extremely strong softball conference, the ladies, under Coaches Jon Miller and John Parker, expect to surprise quite a few teams this year. Several returning seniors can lead this team through the a very good season. The team

always remembers that this is only a game, and that they play because they enjoy doing so, regardless of the final score.

The baseball team is looking forward to a promising season in the Capital Area 2-A Conference. The other conference teams have been plagued by the loss of several key senior players, while the Unicorns have grown, gaining the experience they lacked. Experience is one of the keys for Branson Brown's Unicorns this year, considering the fact that the team has five senior starters. With these players leading the way, and with the capable juniors that have come out for the team, the baseball players are optimistic.

Only time will show how well the baseball and softball teams will do this year. With the support of the fans at NCSSM, both squads have the opportunity to make the most of this season. If the experience pays off as it should, and if the two teams do not let down the intensity they have shown in practice, this season will go by very quickly.

## Athletic Policy Enforced

by Dean Nestvogel

Contrary to popular belief and rumors, the policy on vans leaving early for away athletic games has not been changed, only enforced. The old policy states that an athlete will be allowed to leave early for athletics provided he/she makes arrangements well in advance with his/her teachers. This is to ensure teachers and students ample time to reallocate their time and arrange make-ups. This policy has been in effect since 1983.

Since then, the policy has been taken for granted by students. Last year, some athletes left without checking with their teachers - taking for

granted that the teachers had been informed about the athlete's need to leave early. Due to this, many teachers began complaining about students missing important labs and classes.

Thus the administration has decided to enforce the old policy instead of changing it. To enforce the policy the administration has decided that every sports team must submit a schedule of all it's away games and how many of them require early departure. A select board of administrators then reviews the schedule and decide whether or not to allow athletes to leave early on that day. This is the first year of this type of enforcement. It is

basically still on a trial run. This year's spring schedule has been approved with "minor stipulations." These stipulations were undisclosed.

What does this mean for the students? It means that athletes can now leave early for away games WITH THEIR TEACHERS' CONSENT. Teachers are the final judge in this matter and have the authority to withhold an athlete at their discretion since, according to school policy, academics comes before athletics. This also benefits the athletes since they will be receiving excused absences rather than unexcused absences.

## Track Team Sprints Again

by David Cherry

The Track Team has high expectations for the spring season. According to Coach Adams, "We have more guys and fewer girls than last year, but we'll still do well. We have more quality in each event. There is a lot of interest in the Junior class. The juniors have some experience, depth, and a desire to work and learn."

Track captain Robert Charles shares Coach Adams' optimism by saying, "The team has a lot of potential, and we have a very good chance of winning several events. However, we need to work on our weak points." Steve George and Sheridan Hopkins are the other boys' team captains, and Sharon

Croom is the girls' team captain.

The Track team hopes to win individual titles in the conference and develop many runners for the state meet. As in previous years, the Unicorns should do well in the distance events. Since the conference added the 2-mile relay and the hurdle events, the team should perform better than expected against conference rivals this year.

Besides many new juniors the Unicorns will have a new assistant coach, Carla McLaughlin. She has run for Northern Durham and the University of Tennessee, in addition to last year's U.S. Olympic Festival. Coach McLaughlin will coach the sprints, relays, and other events.