

Men's Basketball Aiming High



Tom Ricks puts the ball in the basket during warm ups—the easy way.

JASON KATZ
sports editor

The NCSSM men's basketball team was off to a roller-coaster season with a 1-0 record in their conference and a 2-2 record overall. Since you will obviously be keeping this particular issue of the Stentorian as a future keepsake, it is most important that I describe to you the reason behind my calling their young season, a roller-coaster ride.

The starting lineup for the NCSSM Runnin' Unis is combined with old and many new talents. Four of the starting five players are seniors: Tom Ricks, Derrick Gaines, Keith Saunders, and Robby Girardin. However, only Tom and Derrick started for the NCSSM team as juniors. The fifth player starting this season is junior sensation, Melvin Jones. The starting five are backed up by a deep bench compiled by Coach Bostick.

The season began with a thirty point loss to Cardinal Gibbons, followed by a

home-opening loss to Durham Academy. The team appeared somewhat distressed, uncomfortable on the court during this season opening drought. Three point shooting was at a dismal percentage and it looked as though the inexperience of the team was obviously hurting them. As one fan put it, "... It's gonna' be a long, long season!"

But then, something happened to the team after its second loss... the players began to work together, putting together an impressive win against South Granville. Then, less than a week later, they crushed the Cardinal Gibbons team, that had previously beaten them, by twenty points.

As it stands now, the NCSSM men's basketball team is slowly climbing the huge roller-coaster towards a winning season. If they continue to play together well as a team, and get the coaching they need from Jim Bostick, they could easily make it to the state play-offs. Let's just hope the roller-coaster track they are currently on doesn't take a nosedive.

MO' SPORTS

MOHIT KASIBATLA
sports columnist

I was reading an article about the lack of heroes and role models in modern day professional sports which got me thinking about whether we should demand our athletes to be heroes. Professional sports is a simple contract between fans and athletes. The ticket-paying fans desire a two to three hour escape from the world, where they can witness athleticism that they find entertaining. The player must deliver this entertainment by displaying the skills for which he or she is paid a substantial amount of money. There is nothing in this contract that stipulates a moral or social decorum that the athlete must champion.

The argument to force athletes to present a "positive" image rests behind the idea that they have a tremendous influence on the youth of our nation. Therefore, abuse of this image would have very damaging effects on children. I say to you ... if sports figures have that much of an influence on our nation's youth, then a problem already exists. If the technological leaders of the world are thought of on the same level as a guy who can throw a ball into a hoop, then maybe we need to reevaluate the status of professional athletes in our society.

Going back to my original point, I really have no interest in whether an athlete donates money to any charities, believes strongly in any causes, or works in a soup kitchen on weekends. As long as the athletes make a sporting event exciting and interesting, I will continue to watch. If I want to see someone who can dunk a basketball ... I'll watch Michael Jordan. If I want to see a humanitarian or a hero ... I'll drop by Mother Theresa's house.

S&M Wrestling Hits the Mats Hard

KIM SHANKLE
sports writer

What is a true indication that Uni wrestling has begun? Just look out your window in the afternoon and you will see a group of guys jogging around the school, braving the cold in their layers of sweats. Yes, that is the NCSSM wrestling team.

This season the team has only three seniors returning from last year: Will Hipps, Scott Love, and Todd Rose. Head coach Dee Priester says that it would be nice to have more experience on the team and more guys who were used to his style of coaching, but that the abundance of juniors this year will be great for next season. Fortunately, many of the junior wrestlers have had some prior wrestling experience that will help compensate for the lack of senior leadership.

Last year the team had a winning season and sent five guys to the state

wrestling championships. When asked about the team goals for this year, Dee said that he would like to work more on the fundamentals this year instead of specific moves. He hopes that by concentrating on the basics, the more complicated moves will come much easier later in the season.

The NCSSM wrestling team got off to a great start November 14th in their scrimmage match against Riverside and South Granville. Dee was very pleased with the team's overall performance and admitted to being somewhat surprised by the level at which his men performed. Bryan Sharp, Jason Cade, Anthony McCluney, Will Hipps, Nicholas Lee, Scott Love, Chuck Wright, and Todd Rose all claimed victories for the Unis.

Scott Love, senior co-captain, competed at the state level last season and is the strongest wrestler that the team has returning this year. Dee believes that Scott should do well this season along

with the other co-captain, Todd Rose, who he described as a hard worker and someone that can be counted on. Junior Anthony McCluney has been quite impressive thus far and has shown a lot of natural talent and aggressiveness.

Overall, the wrestling team has a lot of potential that will develop throughout the remainder of the season. Dee realizes that, though he has a younger, inexperienced team this year, he has a great group to work with that "has a lot of heart."

NCSSM Swimming Making Big Waves

DEREK RAYNOR
sports writer

NCSSM swimming won both the mens and womens divisions in their debut swim meet November 25 against Cardinal Gibbons. The men won by an astounding score of 120-21, while the girls won a close match 93-80. The meet was considered a very good one overall for the Unicorn squad.

The team began the season with a very large turnout. Enrollment was originally about fifty people, although the roster has been considerably lowered to thirty-seven. Coach Bruckner Chase is looking at this year's team very optimistically, as the team has an excellent blend of talented juniors with some swimming experience and seasoned seniors who have performed well in the past. This year's squad is a solid one that seems to be very committed and is already doing

well despite having only been in the water for two weeks and having to share a pool at NCCU with Durham Jordan High School.

Chase figures to have many outstanding performances this year. Early bright spots for the Unicorns include Greg Guffey, Ben Soule, and Warren Roos for the men, and Kersten Jacobsen, Katherine Tayloe, Suzanne Garrett, Amy Presson, and Margaret Pettit for the women. This year's team appears to have a great deal of leadership to go along with its talent.

Science and Math swimming has ten dual and trial meets left, followed by regionals in early February. After the regionals come states, which are based on regional performances and wild card spots from times earlier in the year. The Unis figure to send some individuals and relay teams to both events. This will be the icing on what looks to be quite an impressive season.



Nicholas Lee viciously hits the mats with an opponent from Ravenscroft.