

Baseball: a season full of excitement

by Tony "Moose" Borelli

There have been no dull moments this year for the 1994 NCSSM baseball team. They have fought their way to a 3-5 record in the 2-A Capitol Area Conference (as of May 5th), and they are probably the hardest-working team in the league, as well as the one having the most fun doing what they do. Coached by Branson Brown, assisted by Todd Oldenburg and Rick Hess, the ball club has ridden a roller coaster of emotions, yet it has stuck together through its love of the game and a strong sense of team unity.

Things had not come together at the beginning of the year, and NCSSM dropped its first three games (all non conference). It was the squad's fourth game, a road game with Ravenscroft (who soundly defeated NCSSM earlier), that got things rolling. The game's big star was Kevin Stevens (a.k.a "Tangy Bunny"), who pitched all 8 innings for the complete game win. The momentum from the Ravenscroft game carried into the conference schedule, as NCSSM picked up a road win vs. North Johnston, 5-1, in its next game. After a loss to South Granville, NCSSM won again, 5-1, at Franklinton, to up their conference record at 2-1. NCSSM then endured a streak of tough losses, to non-conference foe Chatham Central and to conference enemies Bunn, Louisburg, and Warren County. The streak came to a halt in front of the team's loyal home crowd against Franklinton, the game ending 10-9. Next came a loss to North Johnston, which gave NCSSM their present 3-5 conference mark.

While all the players have made vital contributions, the heart and soul of the squad is its quartet of seniors that have started all of the games in which they have played: Allen Beall, Don Lee, Pat Link, and Adrian Rowland. Beall leads the team with two homers and 14 RBI, in addition to possessing the team's best on-base percentage and a nearly flawless defensive record in the outfield. "T. A." has won the hearts of his teammates with his all-out hustle and fearlessness, in addition to his habit of slapping opposing baserunners on pick-off plays, his ability to provide quality innings of pitching, and his clutch hitting. Link, known affectionately by his teammates as "Mom" because of his outstanding leadership skills, is a great secondbaseman who dives at every ball hit his way. He is a solid lead-off batter with the uncanny ability to jump at the first pitch thrown to him and drive it for a base hit. Finally there is "Aids," who demands everything out of himself for the good of the team. He leads the squad in both batting average and innings pitched, in addition to his graceful play in centerfield. A class act indeed: the NCSSM baseball team. They play enthusiastically and have done well so far. As the team responds when junior Cozy Bailey asks before each game, "What's the time?", it's "TIME TO GET HYPE!"

Shaka!

by Avril Jade Balfrey

Tonight we were on our way back from a 3-1 loss to Wilson Hunt. I was sitting in the back of the bus as always, and I was watching everyone. They were all laughing and being friends and all. That's when I realized that I was going to miss this. It's not often that you recognize these kinds of things while you're in the midst of the experience, and even though I realized this was something I'd miss when I was surrounded by it, it didn't make it any less enjoyable, and certainly not any less memorable.

I'll remember freezing on the beach, broken glass tables, crashing the goal, GUILFORD and ALAMANCE, concavity, throw-ins, suicides, field-playing keepers and field players keeping, cheerleaders, yellow cards, penalty kicks, learning to spit, Geeta's prom date, slumps, end-line plays, Chris's bags, Madonna (?), three on the ball, "Where's the scissors?", foot-painted signs, moving benches, night games under the lights, rockin' people's world and gettin' rocked, hitting on Gabrielle, Chapel Hill was awesome, goal side, circle drills, making keepers cry, Randleman Road and I-85, games in the rain, "end-line to end-line and side-line to side-line," marking up, inspiration, El, play-offs, playing a little bit of soccer, and of course.....SHAKAH!!!

I won't remember that we were 7-7-11 overall and 7-5 in the conference. I may remember making the school's first play-off appearance ever. But I will remember the people, the team; the team who came together every afternoon, shirking schoolwork and friends. We came together to work hard, to sweat on the bright sunny days, to play our game.

Thanks to Coach Kevin Bartkovich and also to Stockton Butler, our manager, for being patient.

Softball

by Amanda Galloway, Stephanie Fogleman, Julie Barrett

This year's NCSSM softball team certainly had its ups and downs. Its ups were the games that were won and the high number of scoring runs. The lows were the injuries and sicknesses that plagued the team throughout the season - from a skull fracture and a broken nose to bronchitis. Once again, this year's softball team certainly had no problem scoring runs. In the field different combinations of fielders were tried throughout the season. Luckily, several utility players made the transitions easier. Unfortunately the team's strong warrier and defensive skills rarely appeared at the same time. Because of this, the team's record does not show the real potential this team had.

Track team races to improvement

This year the track team has had its share of difficulties, but has pulled through remarkably well. Kevin Cromwell, distance coach, and Greg McLoud, sprint coach, have provided excellent coaching and pulled together a team which began with many new faces. Although the record is not fantastic, the team improved greatly through the season, both individually and as a whole, with the girls team coming in second in the conference meet and the boys team third. The team was noticeably lacking in sprinters, especially on the girls team, which made for a team lacking in depth. Injuries also provided some trouble for the team, causing several runners to quit before the year was over. The track season is not yet finished however, with the regional meet taking place over extended, and the state meet occurring on the 20th.

S&M tennis succeeds again

by Craig Hart

What a season! Congratulations to a superb tennis team currently sporting a record of 8-0 in Conference play and again winning the title of Regular Season Conference Champions, as well as Tournament Conference Champions. When asked about this year's season, number 1 seed Justin Peterson remarked "I want an apple." From our astute 2nd seed Andy Monroe we receive the command "Give me an apple." Amazing coincidence. As well, Mr. Monroe wanted everyone to know "All's fun and games until someone loses an eye." Returning senior Steve Anderson finishes off the conference season at third seed solidly backed by returning seniors Pete Lee, Craig Hart, and Gibson McCall at fourth, fifth, and sixth seed respectively. Many thanks to Pete Lee, our commanding officer and captain, for keeping the team together and cutting the corners with the best of us. The inspiration of the team, 7th seed David Jones, busted a flawless season, and yes, he was the only person on the team undefeated in match play. Many thanks as well to Kevin Gay, Ben Smoak, Hao Tzu, Binh Truong, and Linh Tran for outstanding participation and play throughout the season. Unfortunately, Binh was not able to speak with us today because Andy forfeit to bring him out of his tennis bag. A special thanks to our managers, Tracy Moldin and Meredith Small, for all of their help and hard work. A very special thanks to Warren Basket and Melvin Farland, our coach and assistant coach, for all their hard work and support throughout the season. We hope they continue the NCSSM tennis tradition in the future, and we wish success for the future tennis teams. Hopefully we'll finish up the season winning State finals. We always appreciate the school's support, so keep coming out there. Oh yeah, a final special thanks to Bernie from Ravenscroft for his entertainment and acrobatics on the net.