

Women's tennis dominates

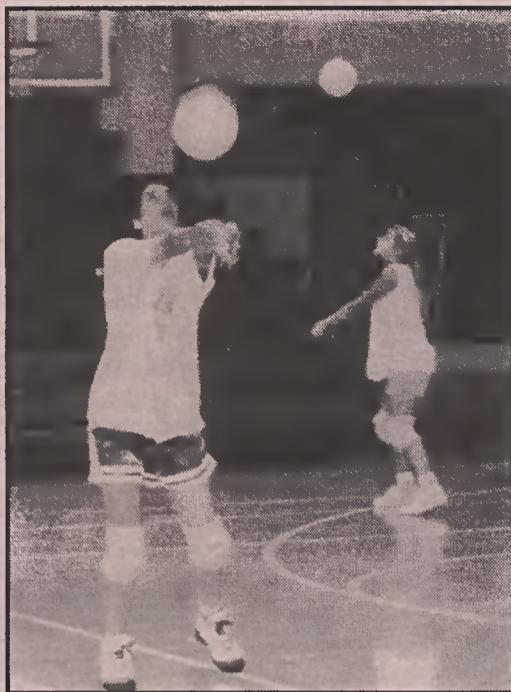
Steve Emerson

Staff Writer

NCSSM's women's tennis team (6-2) has high hopes for this season. The Unicorns, coached by Warren Basket, have the skill and confidence needed to repeat as conference champions. Having lost only to Ravenscroft and Cardinal Gibbons in two non-conference matches, the Uni's still boast an unblemished conference record.

Tennis manager Scott Smith said of the Uni's, "They'll go undefeated in the conference." If so, this will be the second year in a row that NCSSM's women's tennis team has dominated its opponents. With the help of a large number of experienced players and the leadership of captains Louisa Jilcott and Leila Ghassemian, the team's goals are definitely within reach.

The members of the 95-96 tennis team are Louisa Jilcott, Leila Ghassemian, Juliette Gilmour, Lisa Schaffer, Amanda Scovil, Carrie Swinson (all seniors), Margaret Brewer, Neda Buraparong, Betsy Dorsett, Sara Eslinger, Ashley Forde, Talia Gangoo, Katie Hobbs, Erin Moore, and Rekha Perumallu (all juniors).



Volleyball team members practice "bumping."

Volleyball team set and ready

Rajeev Pandarinath

Sports Editor

The women's 1995 volleyball team returns after an outstanding season. Last year the volleyball team defeated Louisburg, a volleyball powerhouse that had not lost a conference match in years.

As one enters the gym, in black background and white print, is the volleyball team's greatest achievement: the 1994 Conference Championship. The student body last year watched their beloved volleyball team work hard, defeating all opposition and overcoming the tragic car accident.

The season so far has been disheartening; however. At a home match against Franklinton, the girls showed what they were made of.

"Sonya's got some power," said Brett Knight. After a 15-7 stomping in the first game, the Unis were behind in the second. With a show of finesse, they rallied to win the game, 15-13.

In the third game against Franklinton, they were trampled, 15-6, and NCSSM finished to win the whole match, 3-0. The crowd that was there seemed to be impressed with the team. "She (Diana Gonzalez) has a really good serve," remarked Jason Lee.

Overall, the volleyball team is doing well. The outstanding players, and team communication show that there is a lot left in this volleyball team. They hope to come out of their slump at the beginning of the season and spike their way into another great year.

Cross country runs away with victories

Kenny McGee

Sports Editor

Last year, the Science and Math cross country team ended with a successful season, boasting city, county and conference wins, along with a good showing at regionals. Once again, NCSSM looks to be at the head of the conference, and perhaps the region, with an all-round powerful team.

Although coach Kevin Cromwell lost some talented seniors, he ended up ahead with hard-working juniors and a powerful cast of runners from the class of '96, in-

cluding captains Debbie won, Grace Taylor, Laura Zmijewski and Erica Beckham for the women, and Charlie Sessoms and Greg Frey for the men. All the captains are conference champs and look to repeat this year.

Even though they were partly unsuccessful in their first two meets, the Unis always had at least four people placing. In its first conference meet, NCSSM destroyed all opposing teams, including long time rival Clayton, coming away with the win. The women swept all seven places of their division while the men took five.

The Uni's next meet was the Wolfpack Invitational, a gathering of about twenty-two highly competitive schools (mostly 4A) around the area. Both NCSSM team's finished in the top ten, with an impressive showing.

Two meets followed that both ended in Uni domination, including the latter against Ravenscroft where the Uni's humiliated a usually strong team.

Even with regionals coming up fast, along with the city/county championship, the team is feeling confident and looks to be gaining steam. Men's team captain, Charlie Sessoms said, "The team is really coming together, and everyone is running really well. We're definitely going to finish out the season winning."

Soccer kicks off the season

Kenny McGee

Sports Editor

Early this year, even before the juniors arrived, the soccer players were here at NCSSM readying themselves for the tough practices, agonizing cuts and the ever approaching season. Now, it's here, and they're ready.

Captains Stuart Frye and Charlie Coffee, along with the efforts of coach Kevin Bartkovich, have made the sweating, grunting hopefuls into a well-oiled machine that's ready to roll over anyone who happens to cross their path. But even with the efforts of the coach, captains, and the strong cast of returning seniors, it's difficult to pull a team of total strangers together.

This fact, along with tough competition, has made the beginning of the season a little rough. However, a lot can be learned from a few non-conference losses.

The opening game of the season was at home against the Durham Academy Cavaliers. With only four true practices as a team, the Unis were caught off guard by their powerful opponents. Though outmatched in the end, NCSSM gained valuable, much needed experience.

That experience showed through against their next opponent, Ravenscroft School. The team walked away with a 2-1 victory and high hopes. Junior Paul Oppenheimer started off his season well in this first game.

The next game was against always impressive Jordan Falcons. Still feeling the adrenaline from their last game, the Unis came through with an awesome performance, particularly by goalie Chris "Quasi" Hayes. Even with the team

at it's best, Jordan was just too much and came away with the win.

Mentally discouraged and physically worn, the Unis went into their next game against Riverside with heads hanging, and were throttled in the first half. The game had slipped out of NCSSM's grasp, but the team would NOT be humiliated. They came out of halftime roaring and shut out Riverside in the second half, making a statement for the rest of the season.

Two days after, Southern faced a confident, battle scarred team, who, put plainly by Stephen Patterson, were "just plain tired of losing". Science and Math crushed Southern 3-0 thanks to three assists from Stuart Frye, the team's center mid-fielder, and two goals by an impressive Andrew Ghassemian in his first game. Cardinal Gibbons fell similarly to the Unis, with Victor Lee and Matt Raines both putting in two.

The most impressive display of Uni power came in the home game against Clinton. Offensively, the Uni's were unstoppable with five players scoring for a total of nine goals. The defense was just as dominating, with Clinton's only goal coming off a penalty kick.

"We were making really nice passes and were finally playing as a team. I don't know, everything just sort of came together at once," commented senior Eric Leland happily.

The Unis have taken a step in the right direction and are looking forward to a successful season. "We had a rough start, but everybody is really digging in. We're ready to win," said a confident Frye. When asked about the state playoffs, "definitely" was the first word that escaped his lips.



Chris Rathjen attempts to block Nupur Mehta's pass as Keith Bounds runs to help. Ultimate Frisbee has become a popular past time at Science and Math.

Fang Cai