



Leon Adelman practices his swing at the Hillandale course.

## Golf on the go

ANNA MORRISON

The slice of a golf swing is not a sound normally heard at Science and Math. At least it wasn't before. This spring, things will change as students watch the newest varsity sport, golf, begin its first season at NCSSM.

Seniors Leon Adelman, Amit Bakri and Andy Strayhorn have considered the initiation of a golf team one of their top priorities since coming to the school. Their biggest challenge was finding enough interest for a team. Last year they began the golf club, sponsored by Head of Security Ken Horne.

"The whole point of starting the [golf] club last year was to prove there was enough interest [for a team]," Adelman said.

However, the golf club didn't provide the playing time that students wanted. "With the golf club, there is really no guarantee that you are going to be playing a lot, but with a varsity sport you have the opportunity to play more and play competitively," Bakri said.

Originally, the administration agreed that there was enough interest to field a team, proven by the number of members of the golf club. However, it believed that the team could not be started until the 1998 school year, due to lack of funds in the athletic budget. This did not stop the students.

"I felt that the school really needed a golf team," Adelman said. "I've talked to a few people who didn't apply [to NCSSM] because there wasn't a team, and because they wouldn't have the opportunity to play. I believe that talented individuals should have the opportunity to play golf while attending NCSSM."

A lot of planning went into fielding a team this year, particularly in light of the financial set backs due to lack of funding. Finding a coach was originally a problem for the fledgling team, but golf pro Eddie Dennis from the Willowdale Golf Club in Durham has agreed to coach.

"We talked to Branson [Brown] and Dr. Barber. They said that there wasn't enough money, but that if we could find a place to play, Branson agreed to find a coach," Strayhorn said.

Hillandale Golf Course agreed to let the team have matches there for free, and Duke University is giving the members the ability to practice on campus for student rates.

Despite this, one major obstacle still faces the team: transportation.

"The most difficult part will be transportation," Strayhorn said. "The coach can only meet with us 3 days a week, so we may end up walking to Hillandale [golf course]."

However, the team is still committed to playing in the spring.

# NCSSM athletic funding Who's picking up the tab?

JESSE WJARTON

It is not unusual for high school students to spend their Friday nights at a school football game. However, this is not possible for NCSSM students because the school does not have a football team. For the average school, it costs anywhere between \$120,000 to \$150,000 to field a competitive team, which is more than NCSSM's entire athletic fund.

NCSSM receives a portion of its athletic funds from the state, but it only grants money for physical education, healthful living and other mandatory courses. The money that public schools receive for athletics comes from county taxes, which are distributed by the county school board and divided from there. Since NCSSM is part of the University of North Carolina system, it does not qualify as a Durham County school.

In order to compensate, the Parents' Council funds NCSSM's athletic program. State funds offered for physical education cover the expense of equipment for Physical Activity and Wellness testing; maintenance; janitorial supplies; equipment for the weight room; and carpentry needs for the PEC. Thus, the Parents' Fund, which consists of donations from parents and alumni and is compiled by the Parents' Council, must pay for all additional expenses. This includes everything from equipment to referees to NCHSAA dues for insurance and

eligibility for students to compete in individual state competitions.

With all of these basic yet necessary expenses, the athletic program has had to decide what varsity sports and other athletic opportunities the students and the school can most benefit from. This is why football has never been offered at NCSSM. If the school had a football team, it could only offer a few other athletic opportunities.

Therese Taxis, Parents' Program Coordinator, plays a big part in the process of dividing the annual fund into four main categories. Athletics and intramurals are the second highest receiver behind student activities. Approximately 28 percent of the Parents' Fund is given to the athletic program each year.

The responsibility of distributing money within the athletic department falls into the hands of Athletic Director Branson Brown. This includes setting a budget and dividing money into categories ranging from salaries to uniforms to fees.

Athletic receipts, or profits from ticket sales, and concessions, which include profits from NCSSM shirts and paraphernalia sales, add to the funds received from the state and Parents' Fund. Yet no sport brings in enough profit from athletic receipts to pay for itself.

"Wrestling is the only sport that comes close to paying for itself," said Brown. "That is because of the NCSSM invitational [which is

hosted] every year at Hillside High School. However, half of the profits are split with Hillside in payment for facilities."

In the past several years, the sports have had to manage with even less money, making it harder to keep within a budget and still provide the services students needed for recreation. There is no explanation for why the donations have decreased.

"[The year]1993 was the last year we won Wachovia Cup and the budget was \$47,000. Since then, the [athletics fund] has undergone significant cuts and we now have a \$34,000 budget. Parents are not donating as in years past. But the budget I am turning in January will be higher than now," said Brown.

Although the athletic program is much smaller than many students' old schools, they still take advantage of the sports and facilities offered. Most students and faculty believe that recreation is important for teenagers so that they can get exercise and relieve stress.

"I think that NCSSM provides a whole list of educational experiences. We don't look at NCSSM being completely Science and Math. Being able to play [a sport] is relaxing. Physical development is just as important as academic development," said Taxis.

And NCSSM offers this kind of development...even without football.

## Athletes consider goals the aim of the game

BECCA BOOI

Goals are important in sports for both the team and the individual. Athletes have found that setting goals provides motivation and gives purpose to the sport.

Coaches and athletes set goals as a team in order to establish direction for the season. These goals can range from winning, to doing your best, to having fun. They usually vary according to the sport, dependent on how much it focuses on working together as a team, as in basketball, versus its focus on the individual, as in wrestling.

"Our coaches always wanted us to achieve our personal best," Wrestler Cole Maynard said, "If that meant winning, great, if not, that was

fine too."

In basketball, the players believe that improvement and hard work should be top priorities.

"I want to make sure I give everything I have when I am on the court and let everything else take care of itself," Junior Bryson Finklea said.

Finklea added that although the team may lose a game, it has still won if the players have done the best they can.

Although many athletes said they work hard to reach team goals, overall they can control the outcome of their individual goals more.

"You can push yourself more than you can push your team," Wrestler Daryl Williams said.

Senior Emma Archibong be-

lieves that the individual pride and satisfaction of reaching a goal outweighs the hard work and pain of practice.

"It doesn't matter how much you're hurting," Archibong said, "If you have something you're shooting for, then that's all you're thinking about."

An important part of setting goals is knowing how to reach them. The players and coaches of the basketball teams believe goals are accomplished by dedication, teamwork and making sacrifices.

However, even the most dedicated athlete sometimes loses sight of his/her goals. Williams said that writing down his goals and then integrating them into his everyday life kept him focused throughout the rest of the season.