

Whirlies make USA Today poll

By Daniel Polinsky

After darting to a perfect eight and zero record, the Grimsley Whirlie men's soccer team fell to Page, six to nothing. Until this point, the Whirlies were riding a wave of momentum that carried them to a fifteenth national ranking in a USA Today poll. Most people agree that this is one of the best soccer teams that the Whirlies have ever had.

Even with the loss, the Whirlies are still a team to be reckoned with. They are ranked highly in the state and are a virtual lock for the playoffs. The loss to Page may prove to be a motivational tool. "It will give us something to shoot for... some reason to come back!" said junior Brad Morgan.

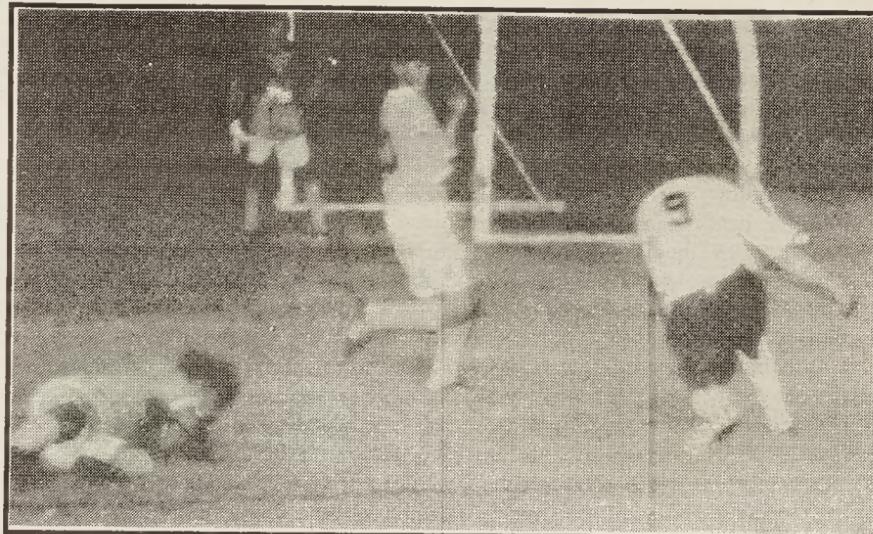
The Whirlies have also had a year devoid of controversy, except in the rotation of senior goalie Brad Shumate and junior goalie Graham Sharp. Both players are excellent at their position, and that left Coach DeGraw with a decision to make. In order not to

deprive these two goalies of the playing time they deserve, Coach DeGraw decided to alternate them each half, swapping starting roles.

All in all, the only thing lacking from the Whirlie Arsenal is the fans. Said junior Abbi Poplin, "Yes, they (the soccer team) get the respect they deserve, I mean with their national ranking, but more people should go to the games."

There are many reasons to go to the games; it just seems that people haven't quite gotten that message. First and most importantly, fans are the ones who give support for Whirlie athletics, arguably the cream of the crop. When fans don't show up, it seems to the players that they are not getting the support they need to advance to the next level. Second, there is the action-packed excitement that only a nationally ranked team can give you.

So, if you have something to do, cancel it, and head out to Jameison Park and feast on the best soccer around.



Grimsley soccer player goes for the shot

Polinsky photo

Flags give Whirlies "cool" half-time show

By Malika Roman

The Grimsley Whirlies Flag Corp has come back from a summer full of rewards to give us a half-time show we can be proud of. Senior captains Vicky Best and Ginger Humphrey will lead the flag girls through a season full of surprises.

This summer the Whirlie Flag Corp attended the Fred J. Miller flag camp at Greensboro College. Here they received an Outstanding Rating for presenting the most talent. Several individuals received special honors. Best received an award for best captain and senior Mac Moore received an award for best drum major.

This flag corp has been working on becoming closer in hopes of improving each other and their show. Junior Rachel Niles said, "I think we are [unified]. We help each other out and strive to be better."

Junior Mikki Lyndon said, "All teams have rough times but we work together to over-

come [them]."

The flag corp will perform a routine that was made up by the captains. They feel that they have a "cool" show which they are anxious to present. They have been preparing since the week before school.

This year the flag team is neither young nor old. It is composed mostly of sophomores and juniors. They have lost a few people but most promise to return.

With little support the Whirlie Flag Corp has managed to put together a sure season. Although the flags don't have an advisor, the captains have managed to take care of business. They handle everything from practice times to routines. The flags feel they don't have enough support from the Band Boosters or the Athletic Department. They could use more support from the students.

The flags hope to have a progressive season. Best said, "From flag camp and the beginning of school we've learned a lot. We've learned to work together."

Cross country teams are off and running

By Ryan Washington

The men's and women's teams both have a winning record and have hopes of making the state championship meet.

This year the women's team is joined by senior Larrissa Lapani, a new addition to Grimsley High. Lapani said, "Last year I started concentrating more on the hills and less on the starts. This year I want to place in the state meet."

According to Coach Richard Smith, one of the top lady runners is senior Tylisha Baber. She also has a goal to place in the state meet. "I'm running the same as last year, maybe a little stronger," she said. Even though the team is young, she feels the women's cross country team is one of the strongest at Grimsley since she has been here.

Senior Susan McCall is also a strong runner for the women. Citing that running cross country has been a great experience, McCall said, "It has prepared me well for life, and I wish the team the best of luck."

Sophomore Joey Farlow is one of the top men's team runners. He feels that the inexperience of the team will help out in the future. He said, "In a couple of years we're going to have a great team."

Senior Brian Kinlaw has been running consistently at the number two spot and has been bringing in low times to help the team win.

Senior co-captains Gabe Pelli and Aaron Smith have also helped the team by placing in the top four throughout the season. Pelli said about his position on the team, "I have tried to give the team solid performances every meet. With the top four being steady, all the team needs is a fifth runner to become a significant threat in the state."

The runners take their practices and matches seriously. Smith said, "It's a mental sport. We focus on getting our bodies ready and our minds ready."

Practice responsibilities are split between the Assistant Coach Bill Layton and Smith. The women run mainly with Layton, while the men run with Smith.

Farlow said, "It takes a lot of training. I think I've matured and grown up a little. I could push myself to a certain point last year but this year I'm pushing toward new heights."

Both the men's and women's cross country teams are full of aspirations. Smith has high hopes for this year's runners, and the way that it has gone so far, he has not been let down.

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*TRIAD STYLE MAGAZINE, November 13, 1991

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