

Girls soccer team shoots for lofty goals

By Kevin Link
Staff Writer

The Grimsley women's soccer team is off to an excellent year and ready to make a run at the state title. The team is looking at its remaining games as an opportunity not only to win the Conference, but also to enter the state championship playoffs with momentum.

The team was energized early in the season when they defeated Page 3-0, at Page. According to junior Jamie Bombart, the Whirlie's leading scorer, "The Page win lifted our spirits as we looked forward to the season. If we pull together as a team, we will have a really good chance to walk away with the state championship."

Team unity and a solid work ethic propelled the Whirlies to a successful first-half of the season. The players attribute their selfless attitude to the leadership of Coach DeGraw. "Coach does an awesome job of leading us and motivating us," said Cori Stevens, Grimsley's senior goalie. Stevens

is also confident about the team's chances in the playoffs. She said, "If we play up to our potential and everyone contributes, then we have a good chance." Sophomore Jillian Gibson agreed, when

she said, "When we step on the field we are a team."

There is team spirit both on and off the soccer field as many of the players are good friends. Stevens said, "The

team often goes out for breakfast and hangs out together." Gibson emphasized this when she said, "The members of the team are always positive with each other and help each other out."

The Whirlies are looking to add to their impressive scrapbook by having a successful state tournament as they have done so many times before. In the past three years, the women's team has been quarter-finalist, finalist, and state champion. This year the spirits are high as the team is focused on repeating its 1996 success. Coach DeGraw said, "Immediately after last season the seniors started talking about their state championship hopes."

Grimsley will face some tough teams when the playoffs begin on May 19. East Forsyth and Raleigh-Broughton are two powerhouses within the state. Even so, if the team continues to play like it has been doing, it could be the Whirlie women who walk on the field in Raleigh on May 30 to try to vie for the 1998 state championship.



Sophomore Marcie Crenshaw looks on in her team's defeat over the Northwest Vikings. Pentz Photo
The women's soccer team has posted an impressive record so far this season.

Baseball team awaits post season

By Julie Robinson
Reporter

The Grimsley baseball team is hard at work practicing for the demanding season ahead. They are faced with the pressure of continuing the tradition of making it to the state playoffs. But, the team knows this feat will not be easy.

This season promises to be very competitive for the Whirlie baseball team. Grimsley's conference is comprised of skilled opponents. "Our conference is full of great athletes," says senior center-fielder Jason Casterline. Therefore, Coach Hardin emphasizes "making the pitch and making the play." However, Hardin has told players that physical and mental strengths combine to form a successful team. "He tells us the team with the least errors will come out on top," says Chris Cline, a junior left-

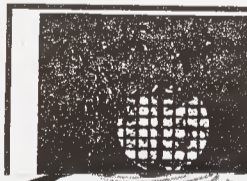
Symmes, and Crosby are the team captains. Even though the captains play important roles, a complete team effort goes into each game. "We all contribute equally to build a better team," says Osborne, a senior.

A total effort will be necessary next year when this year's seniors have graduated. The team has enjoyed the experience of a great number of strong senior athletes. "We've been playing together for four great years," says Casterline. "We will definitely miss it." Yet, the squad has one more goal before this season is complete.

The Whirlie baseball team has made it to the state playoffs three out of the past four years. This year they are striving to win the conference tournament in addition to making the state playoffs. "We're looking to repeat!" says Cline.

"We've been playing together for four great years... We will definitely miss it."

-Jason Casterline



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