

Both varsity lacrosse teams look forward to sticking their opponents

BY CLAY MILLSAPS
Reporter

Men and women playing varsity lacrosse have been enjoying a promising season. Though they have only played a few games so far, they are off to a great start. Practices are running smoothly, except for some occasional rain that keeps them off the field.

Key to their success are dedicated players. Senior Gabe Chauvigne is starting goalie.

"Our defense is one of the best in the state," said Chauvigne, who has been

playing lacrosse since seventh grade at Kiser Middle. His favorite part of the sport is the fast pace of the game.

Senior Jesse Hoggard agrees. He plays attack and midfield. Hoggard joined the team through the influence of his brother and friends. He claims that the team would be much better if they had not lost their top scorers from last year.

"Our coaches expect us to have a good attitude and try our hardest whether we mess up or not. They want us to stick together," said junior Griffin Kelton, who quotes

Coach Wright: "Strong and wrong is better than weak and right."

Kelton plays attack and finds shooting and, of course, making goals the most stimulating aspects of the game. All of the young men plan to continue playing next year either as a Whirlie or for a college or club team.

Coach John Burns is more than satisfied with his team's performance. They opened the season with a victory over the Triad Blackhawks 16-2.

Jessie Winfree is a junior who plays midfield for the women's team. While this

season is her first year of playing lacrosse, she decided to try the sport out of curiosity. She made a good decision because she really likes the action. Her favorite part of lacrosse is when the team unites as one during a game.

All of the players seem to think that their toughest competitors are Northwest followed by Western. These matchups are very challenging but still fun.

Coach Lauren Seager was quite pleased that her team won their first three games. Lady Whirlies demonstrated

their dominance by defeating Southeast 18-4, Western 11-9, and High Point Central 16-4.

Playing midfield and defense, senior Dianna Dames has been playing on the team since her sophomore year. Dames admits that some practices are more grueling than others.

"It's still worth it, though, because the feeling of winning a game is awesome," said Dames.

Prospects for both teams' seasons look promising, so students should support these Whirlies and attend as many games as possible.

Track season off to a great start with athletes jumping high, throwing far, running fast

BY MADISON CAMPBELL
Reporter

Dashing for the finish line, the Whirlie Track team initiated their season under the guidance of head coaches Sam Westbrook, a social studies teacher, and Seth Peoples. While Westbrook focuses on discuss and shot, Peoples spends his time working with distance runners. Assistant coaches include Joseph Duncan, who works with jumpers, and Lance Thayer, who focuses on the sprinters. Westbrook takes pride in being a coach for six years. He has high expectations for this year's team since his previous athletes have always achieved success. Westbrook himself is an accomplished athlete. In high school, he played football and baseball, wrestled, and participated in track and field. He continued playing football in college as well.

"We are hoping that both the women's and men's teams will keep climbing the ranks to finish in the top four in the conference. We also believe that we will return to the regional meet with more than the 20 qualifiers we had last year, and we will send more athletes to the state meet than we sent last season," said Westbrook.

Track and field incorporates many different skills into a variety of events. Each athlete faces a test of endurance, strength, and skill. Events range from long-distance foot races to shot-put or discuss. Many events are more individualized with relay races being one of the few that incorporate more of a team effort. Although athletes may compete individually, there is undoubtedly an unbreakable bond among the team members.

"This team is my family. There is no separation between the sprinters and long distance [runners]. We all cheer one another on. I still remember last year during one of my 4x400s. I was the fourth leg, meaning I was the anchor. It was a battle for the win on

the last stretch, and I remember my whole team running down the sidelines, cheering me on. I won, and they all ran over and hugged me. That's a memory I'll never forget," said junior Courtney Sparks.

Different events also make a difference in the way that each athlete practices. Once the team warms up together, anyone who is not participating in running events breaks off to practice either discus or shot-put. Having such precise movements takes several repetitions of each motion in order to be successful at a competitive level.

"A typical practice is filled with frustration, repetition, and a lot of spinning," said junior Josh Sohn, who participates in both discus and shot-put.

Sohn has set his goals high with hopes of breaking the school record in discus. In his third year participating in track and field, he was happy to share his most memorable experience.

"I once spun out of control while attempting a throw, and I found myself stumbling out of bounds," said Sohn.

Expectation for any Whirlie athletic team is to stand firm and support the school's tradition of excellence. The track and field team is no different, proudly acknowledging its growing program and versatile mix of the student body.

"I love how large the track team is and how many people it takes working together in order for us to maintain a winning and successful team. It gives all of us an opportunity to meet new people and create new, strong, friendships," said sophomore Amber Daniel.

Track is a sport in which individual responsibility is key. Senior encouragement plays a key role in making sure each athlete strives to do his or her best every day. This season has a strong senior class, so the underclassmen must train extra hard to fill their spots in the future.

"If the underclassmen keep pushing themselves like we have seen them doing, I have no doubts that we can have a powerhouse team next year. Every year we want to see improvement, and it's our job as seniors to make sure that im-

provement happens. Pushing the other members of the team is essential for Grimsley to be successful in upcoming years, but I am certain that the underclassmen will step up in place of those of us who are leaving," said senior Robert Whiting.

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