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Girls' soccer: new blood, better game

Bushra Hasan

Editor-in-Chief

After graduating eight seniors, you'd think that a sports team would face a major blow to its successbut not the girls' soccer team.

With half of the starters being play and work ethic." underclassmen, the team is confi-

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Three

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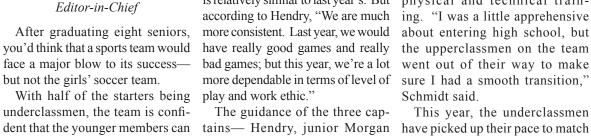
on var-

sity are

is relatively similar to last year's. But physical and technical trainaccording to Hendry, "We are much ing. "I was a little apprehensive more consistent. Last year, we would have really good games and really bad games; but this year, we're a lot went out of their way to make

The guidance of the three cap-

Taylor Strype—



Hendry, and senior the skills of their older peers. "The fact that we're young really has also helped hasn't affected much strategy, rebuild the team. because we have excellent lead-

ership. These

The team is

hard on the field, which brings a great level of energy to the game," Hendry said.

by example," said coach Kevin proved in terms of physical strength and in technical skills, and each uses her individual skills to make the team better. Bedi added, "Our sophomores. I'm excited to come they practice well, they take the team gels well, and there's a sense

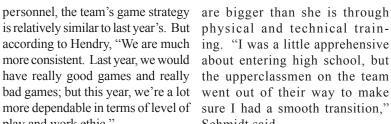
Provided by Tommy Loo

pass against Rancocas Valley.

The team celebrates follow-

ing a goal against South.

From freshman to senior, every



are very talented players, so youth really hasn't been an issue," Mackenzie said.

focusing on cohering as a team. "Everyone on the team Clockwise from top left: works really Freshman Jillian Wachira dribbles the ball and sophomore Sarah Carulli plays a

> Each member has im-

of cohesiveness."

"Many players rose to the level girls, they're exactly what you member is working hard to make this season great. "I am proud And the underclassmen cer- to wear the blue or white jersey with the word 'North' printed on the chest," Schmidt said. "It's a last season. Despite the new sate for playing against girls who great dream that came true."

Student athletes forced to juggle responsibilites

Gabriel Yoder Shenk Opinion Editor

In the words of boys' soccer captain David Perron, school sports are a "double-edged sword." On the one hand, they improve productivity and motivation by dominating the leisure time during which many students slack off. But on the other, they are such a commitment that they can make it nearly impossible to find time for other priorities, particularly academics. The constant tension between academics and sports is an issue that deeply affects student-athletes.

tive impact," soccer coach Trevor Warner said. "As a college athlete, I found myself doing better during the season." This is a popular belief. A study by the California Department of Education determined that active students are likely to perform better in school than inactive students. "Sports improve my academic performance, because I always seem to have more energy and motivation to finish my homework," senior field hockey player Miranda Zhou said.

Some students find that sports improve their study habits. "I seem to do better in school when I'm playing a sport, because I go to the library during lunch, and sometimes during my study hall depending on how much work I have," Perron said.

However, one's efficacy in maintaining a successful academic record during the season is ultimately based on individual abilities. Logically, it takes a certain amount of skill to do well in classes even when there is not enough time to do so; consequently, there are a number of students who cannot manage.

"If someone is not able to be at practice or a game, if someone can't play their role on the field, the whole team is affected," Warner said. One such example is senior Mihai Toma, a star varsity soccer player, whose father has removed him from the team several times over the last three seasons, in an effort to improve his academic performance. "My dad took me out because he wanted me to prepare for the SAT. and that really affected me, because I know I could have gotten some sort of scholarship for soccer," Toma said. "I love soccer, and it sucks a lot."

Time-management is exceedingly "Sports have an absolute posi- difficult, even for those who manage sports and academics well. "I'm usually averaging, like, five hours of sleep. But it's still a valuable experience," said senior cross country runner Arjun Sriram, who juggles sports, school, a job, and kung-fu lessons. Sometimes, sports events run late, leaving athletes with little time and no energy left to complete their homework. "Some days, I will have two or three big tests the day after an away game," Perron said.

There is a limit to how much students can fit in to a schedule before they explode. For instance, most student athletes find it impossible to participate in clubs, because they have no time left over at the end of the day. "When it comes to, like, other extracurriculars and college apps, sports leave no time, Zhou said.

But what if our packed schedules fall apart and sports make it impossible to keep our heads above water? "Obviously, soccer is very important to me,' Perron said, "but at the end of the day, I'm not planning on being a professional athlete. Academics give you a solid base for the rest of your life."

Pass it Arouni

Fans will keep watching modern gladiators

Vansh Bansal

Sports Managing Editor

starters, showing just how dedi-

cated they are to the team. Senior

captain Alex Hendry said, "when

that I'm playing with freshman and

back in a few years and see where

of intensity required for varsity

soccer," said junior captain Saachi

the program goes."

Heads rolling off moving bodin pain, brutally forced to continue NFL is trying its a painstaking endeavor. Cheers. best to move past Whistles. Standing ovations. these issues, and 18.0 The Roman gladiator games were fans shouldn't be some of the most controversial judged for doing practices of ancient times: many the same. claimed to frown upon the ruthless nature of the sport.

Over two thousand years later, some video American society has fostered its own clips that have "gladiator games." With the recent flurry of football players scrutinized by the media for domestic abuse, the National Football League has fallen into an abyss of negativity. Even with Rice's attack on the legal accusations and horrifying his wife, Ravens discoveries, however, the NFL will likely continue to be one of the biggest media powerhouses in the country.

ies with one slash of the sword. will it take such crimes lightly with higher than the normal primetime Blood seeping out from cavities the newly-proposed player conduct numbers. In fact, the first Thursday spotting the body. Horses wailing committee being put in place. The night game of the year netted a 108

"The three lead

I'm on the field, I don't even notice ibly hard workers, they're very

Bedi, to compensate for the loss tainly agree. Sophomore Emily

of a whopping seven starters from Schmidt learned how to compen-

Mackenzie. "They're all incred-

smart, they make good decisions,

game seriously. So in terms of

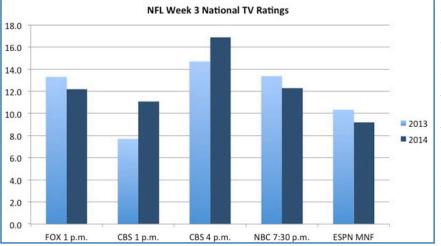
being role models for the other

would want as a coach."

Despite the shocking, gruesurfaced depicting former Ravens running back Ray fans have stuck

by their much-maligned football percent rating increase from last team. Before the suspension was year's TNF opener. People apply moral values to imposed, Ray Rice arrived to trainpersonal situations and facets of eving camp and was greeted with ca's game, no matter who's playeryday life. Even if the public feels cheers and standing ovations. Even ing. The NFL separated itself from eight-year, \$1.5 billion deal with Peterson and Rice, shedding dead they would have handled the Ray after the suspension, a sold-out the culprits of domestic abuse, in- DirecTV, the NFL will always weight on its path to the top of the

differently, they need not stop tun- the Ravens routed the Pittsburgh Peterson. No one should be forced nership deals. Even if sponsors ing in on Sundays, buying tickets, or Steelers. CBS announced that to boycott the game he or she loves try to avoid Ravens and Vikings purchasing NFL apparel. The NFL television ratings for the Thurs-simply because of moral issues that games, what will happen when the does not promote these actions, nor day night game were 215 percent are now in the past.



Rice and Adrian Peterson stories crowd watched from the stands as definitely suspending both Rice and hold leverage in corporate part-media world.

Subsequently, sponsorships and endorsers should eventually mi-

> thev re- $H \circ l$ lywood Reporter, sponsors have asked that their ads be removed from Baldeadspin.com timore

> Ravens

and Minnesota Vikings telecasts.

4-2 Ravens play their first playoff game this January, an event sure to bring in a colossal TV audience? grate back to the money-making Advertisers will jump headfirst machine into the NFL's pool of money.

Furthermore, the quality of footc e n t l y ball has yet to decline for teams affled. Ac- fected by these incidents, despite the cording off-field controversy. The Baltimore to The Ravens have amassed a 4-2 record over six games, including a threegame win streak. The Ravens have seamlessly found a way to replace an All-Pro running back, highlighting another perfection in the NFL system: in a league where 22 players start for any given team, the loss of one key player will never diminish the quality of play. Thus, teams will continue winning games with or without lost players and will separate the player in question from the team and ultimately the league. The NFL Fans are still tuning into Ameri- However, this breakup may not will eject members that could harm last long. Having signed a new the league's image, as they did with