

AND NOW, FROM THE LPA SPORTS DESK. . .

By Kalee Hall

Being new to the community, Lighthouse Preparatory Academy is just beginning to make a name for itself in sports. Often people seem to wonder, "How could such a new, small school undertake a sports program?" But we're proud to say that even last year, our inaugural year, there were many extracurricular sports opportunities. We had a junior varsity girls' basketball team, JV girls' soccer team, and a JV/varsity girls' volleyball team.

There didn't seem to be enough boys interested in playing sports last year to get a team going for them, but this year is a different story. There are eighteen guys on the LPA boys' soccer team this year! Enrollment was open to students from seventh through twelfth grade, and our roster now includes boys spanning all those grades. Daniel Alexander, a senior on the team, commented, "The coach, Brandon Smith, is really cool because he applies Christian principles to soccer and whatever else we may do. I love practices; we all really feel like brothers on the field." They had their first game last Monday, against Heritage Academy in Columbia.

Also underway is our girls' volleyball season, with a full schedule of games. The team also was scheduled to play Heritage Academy, on Thursday night. Coaches for volleyball are Mike and Christa Rapp, who, in the opinion of the girls on the team, are the best around!

LPA is also considering second winter season of girls' basketball. Whether it is JV or varsity depends on how many girls from each age group sign up. Last year the coaches for girls' basketball were Macy Walquist and Susan Palmeri. According to Mrs. Palmeri, "It was an awesome experience for a first-year team coming together! I had a lot of fun, and coaching with Macy was the best." Rumor has it that the duo will probably be coaching again this year. "They were really good coaches because they weren't afraid to make us work hard," said seventh-grader Carlie Land. "I really hope they coach again this year."

Sports is becoming a big part of Lighthouse Preparatory Academy, with nearly the entire school (students and families) showing up at games to support the teams. Integrating sports into our school has connected us more to others around us, and it's a really good way to get active. It also aids in uniting the school, and in helping the kids get to know each other more. Watch out, sports world . . . here come the LPA Eagles!

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