**Bend it like Becca**

Sophomore Rebecca Wise slide-tackles on to Varsity Soccer team

Kate Copeland

Op-Ed Editor

**F**

rom playing backyard “keep-away” with her dad and big brother, to playing varsity soccer, sophomore Rebecca Wise has come an exceptional way in her soccer career.

Wise touched her first ball at the age of three, played on her first team at the age of five and has loved it ever since. As a kid, Wise began playing at AYSO, in the fourth grade she transferred to Carolina FC, and began playing as a Viking in eighth grade. Wise now plays for CESA Spartanburg and varsity for the Vikings.

“From AYSO to CFC to CESA Spartanburg, soccer is the game that I know best. I play soccer because it is the game I have always loved. I enjoy making new friends through the sport and I cherish all the memories I have made,” Wise said.

Close friend and teammate, freshman Carleton Boyd has loved getting to know Wise on and off the field.

“Rebecca is so much fun to be around, and she brings a lot to the team. She always lightens up the mood and is a great soccer player,” Boyd said.

Although Wise spends a lot of time with friends and is an active member of Spartanburg Young-Life, soccer takes up the majority of her time during the spring and fall.

Former teammate and friend of Wise, sophomore Kathryn Conn, enjoyed her time on a team with Wise.

“Rebecca is always a team player and has good technique,” Conn said.

Wise plays for a traveling club soccer team, CESA Spartanburg, during the Fall. The team practices two to three days a week and travels for tournaments almost every weekend. During the Spring, Wise plays varsity for the Vikings, they practice everyday and normally have games twice a week.

“Although I love competing, I also enjoy playing for fun, I play at Spartan High almost every weekend with friends,” Wise said.

Another close friend of Wise, sophomore Murphy O’Shields, has always enjoyed her time on and off the field with Wise.

“Rebecca is so much fun to practice with. I have been on a team with her for almost as long as I have played soccer. Rebecca and I played AYSO and CFC together for six years. Her energy and positive attitude spreads throughout the field during a game or even just at practice. The team is lucky to have her,” O’Shields said”