

SPRING SPORTS SURPASS

Patriots complete AAAA season first in division, push



BOYS SOCCER

KAT QUINTERO

Staff Reporter

Last year's defeat proved to be this year's win. On May 18, the boys soccer team defeated 4-A state champion Wando 1-0.

Wando, being a large school with about 4000 students is well known for being strong competition.

"Wando is always expected to make it to the state finals every year. Going in we knew what a hard challenge we had. We beat them our freshman year, lost to them last year, but this year we won," senior Kiana Lasi said.

During the game, the referee recalled a goal, motivating the boys to score another.

With the crowd chanting his name, senior and 2015 Gamecocker player of the year Michele Bontai scored the decisive goal with assistance of sophomore midfielder Drake Byrd against Wando with 25 minutes remaining in the game.

"I got the pass and I looked up and saw that I had the chance to shoot but then I also saw my friend Michele who had a better chance of scoring. I'm just glad he scored," sophomore Drake Byrd said.



GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

KAT QUINTERO

Staff Reporter

As she leaps over the hurdle, her feet pounding on the hot pavement, senior Kyra Atkins races to the finish line with her team cheering her on.

May 18 proved to be a successful day for Atkins and the rest of the girls track team.

Atkins won the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14:20 seconds and was the only first place finish for the Patriots.

However, the team placed second and third in majority of the events to overcome the competition and take home the gold.

After finishing with 78 points, the girls track team now holds the title of class 4-A track and field state champions for the fourth consecutive year.

Girls track beat Wando by 14.5 points.

"It's probably one of the best feelings ever to even make it this far," Atkins said. While the win has been largely celebrated, the moment proved bittersweet for the team.

"Every time we win... we always circle up and do our chant one last time. This time, it actually was the last for all seniors," senior Alexis Harris said.



ASSES THE LIMITS

h towards state titles



GIRLS LACROSSE

RILEIGH WAGNER

Sports Editor

The team's goal was simple, at least to the team - make it to the state championship. Once the realization came true they knew they needed a new goal - win state.

"The goal was essentially to unite the team and of course, make it to state, but we never said officially that we wanted to win. We just wanted to see the team unite," senior defender Jessica Walsh said.

The Lady Patriots did just that defeating Bishop England on April 25, 13-10, claiming their third consecutive state title.

"The whole team dog-piled on top of each other, and we were all hugging each other. I wanted to cry because it was like the team came together as a family," junior defender Taylor Williams said.

The players were not the only ones pleased with the team being able to complete both goals.

"I thoroughly enjoyed reaching a goal that the girls thought they could never achieve," assistant coach Deanna Majeski said.



GIRLS SOCCER

HANNAH BAILEY

Co-Editor

As the buzzer rang through the River Bluff stadium, the girls soccer team ran into each other's arms and celebrated with head coach Taron Georgopolous. The score board read J.L. Mann 3, Wando 2, resulting in the Lady Patriots becoming class 4-A state champions.

Nine minutes into the first half senior Sarah Dixon scored, but Wando tied the game 19 minutes later with a penalty kick in the box. No less than five minutes passed when Wando scored again to put them in the lead.

Junior Elizabeth "Libby" Schliman scored making it an even 2-2 three seconds before half time.

"Since we had the momentum going, we all started picking up the pace. We knew that we could actually beat them this time, so we all started playing better and faster," sophomore midfielder Jonie Gillespie said.

In the second half, junior Marlan Wolksi found the back of the net, giving the Patriots the lead needed to claim the state title. For seniors, it was the perfect way to end the season.

"It meant everything to win state, and somehow it meant even more because it's my last year. We had it stolen from us two years in a row, and so it couldn't have been a sadder memory with it being my last high school game ever," senior Bailey Ellis said.



(Captions 1 to 4)

Boys track & field was represented by junior James Zemp who ran the one mile and two mile events, placing third in both.

Boys baseball in a series of three games for the State Championship title, lost 1-5 (away) and 4-6 (home) to Wando.

Boys lacrosse lost in the first round of playoffs to Riverside 7-5 in overtime.

Softball ended the season in the third round of playoffs to Spring Valley, 0-10.

Boys golf received final ranking of 14th at the State Championship on May 18-19.