

A Championship Season

Saint George's girls' soccer head coach. When I was named head coach, I had so many feelings running through my mind. I didn't know if I should be nervous, happy, or scared. My first task was to gain the trust of the girls. I knew I would need that more than anything in order to get them comfortable with my coaching system.

With strong team leadership coming from Maddy Christiansen, Lydia Bergquist, and Grace Harrill, I was able to focus on getting the team to trust the formation I wanted to run. The only way to make the transition that we made in one season was to have full commitment from the girls that the team looks up to. After the team was on board with our overall season plan, I needed someone on staff who knows the tactics of the game really well. Lucky for me, I was able to find Lindsay Wyss, whose ability to analyze the game and connect with the girls was a blessing.

We had the team and staff that allowed us to install a different style of play. But in order to achieve success, you must learn and grow from your failures. Our first couple games were not ideal and didn't go according to plan due to the lack of a full roster. I could tell the girls were questioning how the possession style formation we were running was going to beat the other teams. Once we had our full strength and the girls understood their roles, all the pieces started to fall into place.

The winning streak that we went on to finish the season was nothing short of extraordinary. Our defense was one of the leading factors in our team's success. Junior captain Grace Harrill stepped up from the back and put in two crucial goals in the semifinal and final games at State. Throughout the season, she also had the hard task of marking the other teams' best players, allowing us to free up our other

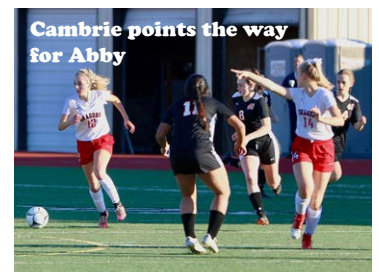


defenders to join the relentless attack. On the rare occasions that our opponents slipped through our defense, the girl in goal was nothing short of unstoppable. Peyton Dixon absolutely proved that the goal belonged to her. She shut out seven teams, including Kalama in the State Championship. Our midfield junior captain, Lydia Bergquist, scored 18 goals, with two of them in the state semifinal and one in the championship. Lydia also had six assists; her strength and killer vision are unmatched.

Our two seniors, Abby Jones and Maddy Christiansen, took advantage of the gaps and attacked one-on-one when teams attempted to double up on Lydia in the midfield. Captain Maddy Christiansen's ability to find the seams with her passes to girls on the run was exceptional. She set up 12 goals this year, including two corner kicks put past the Liberty Bell keeper in the state semifinal. Abby Jones' soccer IQ in the middle was on show the whole season. She found gaps in the defense time and time again, putting in six goals this season. Abby's best contribution was her hold up play, waiting for the rest of the team to get up the field.

With all of the skill we had front to back, the one girl that always found a way to put the ball in the net was Cambrie Rickard.

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Anytime one of the girls had a chance to send her to goal on a breakaway, it was a no brainer. Cambrie had an incredible season, with 29 goals in 21 games. Fifteen of those came during a five-game stretch from the District Championship to the State Championship. Her amazing performance in the sub-regional against Tonasket, where she put in eight of our nine goals, was a game I will never forget. That win set us up mentally for our playoff push to the State title.

The success of this team was inspiring; we owe it all to our outstanding staff and our athletes. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the girls in their triumphs this year, and we look forward to getting out on the pitch next year.

– Logan Georgeadis,
Girls' Soccer Head Coach

Boys Soccer

We knew going into this fall soccer season, it was going to be a season full of new faces and lots of changes and challenges. We were not wrong! When you graduate ten seniors from a team of kids that had largely played together since our back-to-back state championships followed by the state runner up team, we all knew it would be a difficult task to come together as a team.

We had a few lumps and bumps and

some growing pains, but we also had some pretty amazing moments, both on the soccer field and off the field as a soccer family. One of my favorite memories was when we took our epic road trip in the yellow school bus to play in



Dragon teamwork on the SGS pitch



Prescott and then drove to Yakima, slept on the gym floor at Riverside Christian, and woke up to play Riverside Christian the next morning. We spent the night as a team eating from a giant bag of pretzels, building forts out of gym mats, and just enjoying one another's presence. We learned a lot about ourselves as athletes and as friends. We took some hard knocks in Prescott, getting beat pretty handily, but then we bounced back the following morning to beat Riverside Christian in a shootout.

In my ten years of coaching soccer at Saint George's, I've never had a team quite like this one... we were truly a TEAM. Everyone had a role, and in order for us to succeed they had to play their roles extremely well. They did that, and then some.

We lost out in our regional tournament to the eventual State Champions, Prescott, a team we lost to 1-0. It was a hard way to end the season, as I truly feel our story was cut short this year with the playoff structure being what it was. As always, I am proud of my boys and I'm proud to be a Dragon.

We are losing seniors Ethan Johnson and Will Rieger. Ethan has been my starting keeper for three years... to say he will be hard to replace would be an understatement. Will spent the last five years putting up with me since turning out as an eighth grader. I will miss his leadership, his play, and him as a human being. Both of them have very bright futures.

– Heidi Melville, Boys' Soccer Coach

On the Web
See photos from fall sports at
www.sgs.org/magazine



Cross Country

The Saint George's cross country team endured a rollercoaster of a season. Zeniths included winning the Lakeside Invitational, being ranked 2nd in the State for the B's, beating a number of GSL schools, and surviving long, grueling runs in the middle of nowhere. The nadir involved watching a slow attrition of our team with ultimately neither gender being able to field a full team at the Regional meet to attempt qualifying for State.

The talent of the few individuals we did have was well displayed by the celebration of the rival cross country teams when they found out we were short of the necessary numbers. Their fears were well-founded, as three of our boys and four of our girls qualified for State as individuals. In fact, all four of our remaining girls were honored as members of the All-District team.

The ideal behind high school sports is that the work-ethic and discipline it requires will carry through to other aspects of students' lives and last far longer than the fleeting glory of the medal stand. With that in mind, the hard work and dedication shown the full season by Maggie McLaughlin, Finley Wolff, Audrey Harrill, Kahlysta McKethen, Jora Gleason, Stephen Ogden, Kai Jacobs, and Hunter Johnson should be honored. And with a renewed emphasis on recruiting others to their ranks, our returning team should shine brightly next year.

— Josh Hayes, Cross Country Coach



Cross Country runners and coaches



Coaching a resilient team

To say that this year of volleyball was challenging would be an understatement. The SGS volleyball team went 0-13 on the season. It was a year that no coach, or player, hopes to experience. Regardless of lack of wins, each and every player fought day in and day out to get better. It didn't matter what the score was, we were having fun and getting better! As a coach, I couldn't be any more thankful and proud of the group of girls that we had.

The game that was the highlight of our season was at home against Kettle Falls. Volleyball is played until a team wins a total of 3 games, best out of 5, with games ending at 25 points, win by 2. After having already lost 2 games, we were down 23-14 in the 3rd game. Because of our never quit, always get better attitude, we battled back! Freshman, Beth Swartzwelder, served a total of 6 aces, and our Dragon's fought back to eventually make the score 24-24. Back and forth the game went, until finally Kettle Falls got the upper hand, making the final score 28-26. Despite the final score, the girls left that game feeling like winners, and the lesson to never give up was solidified.

Seniors Marceline Tang and Grace Generous are leaders any team would be lucky to have. Selfless, determined, and resilient are words that only begin to describe the two. Their attitudes were the driving force behind our growth as a team and individuals. You would think that losing game after game would make for a season you would want to forget, but this team made each practice and game something to look forward to. Resilient is the word that sums up this year's SGS volleyball team!

— Chenise Peone, Volleyball Coach



Serious competitors