**COMMON SPORTS**

HIGH SCHOOL OF AMERICAN STUDIES AT LEHMAN COLLEGE

VOL. VI... NO. 6

MID DECEMBER 2008

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**AMERICAN STUDIES’ SUCCESS BEGINS IN THE PRESEASON**

By Isaac Suarez('09)

With every passing year HSAS sports teams do better and better.

That of course doesn’t come without a lot of hard work and practice. In fact just about every sports team has already started practicing for seasons that are months away.

For instance the baseball, softball, and tennis teams will not be starting any of their official games until mid-March, while cross country which just ended, started in very early July for many runners.

Seeing how hard these athletes are working, one may wonder if the coaches are allowed to train them this early.

Baseball coach Mr. Blitz stated: “Well PSAL rules allow us to hold no-cut practices before the actual season.”

Well it seems the athletes want the extra practice as much as the coaches.

Katie Adrian('10), one of the softball team’s pitchers, stated: “I think it’s vital if we want to be undefeated.”

Jake Glickman('09) added “we need this to reshape the baseball team from the loss of the seniors.”

In addition, Mr. Blitz has said “there are some seniors that might be good enough to get scouted for colleges, and we need them in shape for the showcase.”

Will fatigue affect grades? Apparently not. When asked if she was worried about fatigue, Katie said “if I can’t handle it, I shouldn’t be playing.”

Mr. Blitz added “it’s more than a fine tuning really.”

“Student athletes do better academically during the season than during the off-season. Sports teams need this to reshape the baseball program for the school.” Mr. Blitz shared.

According to Mr. Blitz, many HSAS students had golf lessons last year as a gym class. Mr. Schecter was the teacher for these lessons and the person who suggested a golf program for the school.

John Beltrez('12) said: “I’m more into baseball than golf. Golf just doesn’t seem...athletic.” Yet, this negative may very well be a positive.

The First Tee Metropolitan New York program sponsors our school. The program’s main goal is to encourage teenagers to get out and try golf.

Mr. Blitz told Common Sense that, “it’s a very difficult game, but it’s a great game.” He added that, “you can still play when you’re 99 years old. You can’t play sports like basketball and baseball when you’re 99.” This reporter refrained from asking how old Mr. Blitz is exactly.

When asked why she joined the Golf Club Club, Erica Ries('11) said, “it was something new and I thought it would be fun.” She made sure to add, “and I found that it is a lot of fun.”

Mr. Blitz also informed Common Sense of the fact that all the students in the Golf Club Club are receiving lessons from PGA (Professional Golfers Association) pros. “Those lessons would cost $50-$100 an hour,” says Mr. Blitz.

Timothy Narine('09), our well-known president of the Environmental Club, bent down and felt the grass on his first day of golfing. As Timothy smiled, he stated, “this is real grass... no, no, no, this is good grass.”

Common Sense mentions this because this is the exact reason the program ends after a six week period every autumn.

Unfortunately, as winter nears, the temperature gets colder and the grass starts to freeze. The staff at the course attempts to keep the “good grass” good by closing down the golf course once this happens. Troion Marshall('10) shared that he “would definitely join the club next year.” He added that “I’ve never played golf so it would be something different.”

When asked why she chose the Golf Club, Rebecca Torres('11) responded, “it’s a lot of fun and you can meet new people.” When asked whether she would be part of the Golf Club Club next year, she answered, “if there is a golf club, then of course.”

Mr. Blitz answers all questions concerning the club’s longevity with motions of swinging a golf club and adding, “it all depends on the funding for it.”

He continued that “at this point, I’m 90% positive that there will be golf next year.” He concluded his interview with us saying: “Who knows? It might even turn into a team eventually.”

There you have it, HSAS. In a couple of years, incoming freshmen may even aspire to attend HSAS for its competitive golf team, as they do for its many current competitive sport’s teams.