

Girls basketball a long shot

■ **SHOOT:** *The team relies on 3-point baskets to put them ahead of the competition.*

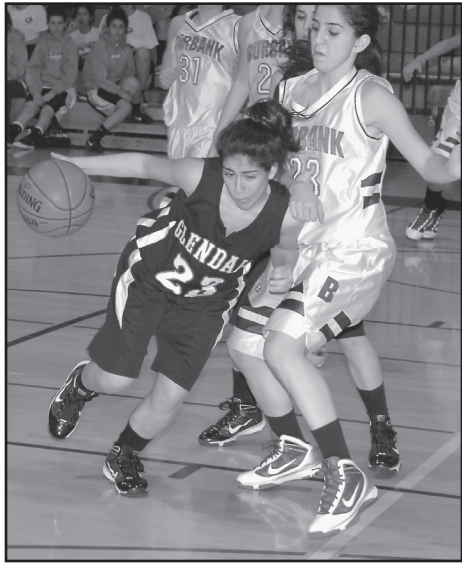


Photo Courtesy of Stylus

DRIVE: *Serah Mirzaeian is going in hard to score a layup.*

BY CHRISTINA ASADOURIAN
Viewpoint Editor

It seems like the girls' basketball team is also off to a rocky start, however the team is expected to pick things up by the second half of the season, which puts them in the same exact position as last year. The girls have played a total of 20 games, five of which are league games that they all lost.

When asked what the biggest challenge has been thus far, senior Sophia Kelly said, "The biggest challenge so far has been getting everyone on the same page when we have a game. It's crucial that we all put in 100% in order for us to come out with a win."

Despite numerous losses, the team is not discouraged seeing as they have many standout players and exciting, challenging games in the near future.

The girls continue to strive for success but with a 5-15 record, all they can do is continue to practice as best as they can. The team has four games left against schools like Muir, Crescenta Valley, Arcadia, and a rematch against Hoover High School.

Standout players include Stella Ghazarian (point guard and shooter), Serah Mirzaeian (point guard and shooter) who leads the team alongside Cynthia Garcia, and Michelle Tomasian, who sets herself apart as a great defender and hustler, despite her small 5' 2" frame.

Although the team did not achieve expectations this season, they still managed to play hard and had notable wins against Hoover, sweeping them by winning 43-22, and a win against Marshall 61-41.

These wins show the potential this fairly new team has and although they will lose key players to graduation, the team is expected to come back and play well.

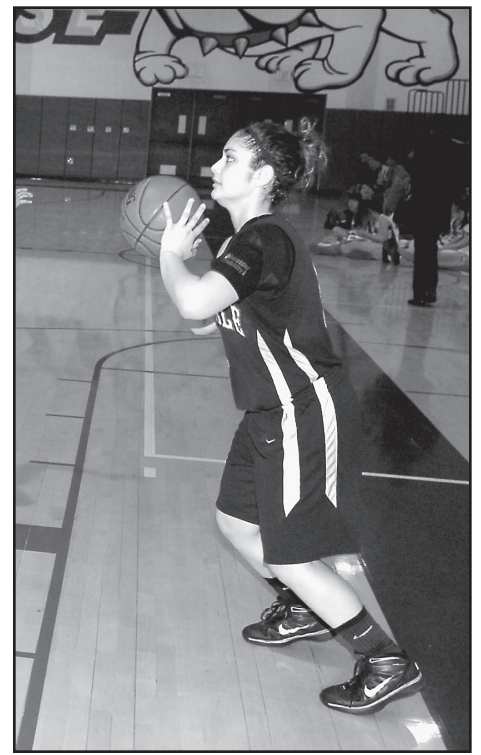


Photo Courtesy of Stylus

SHOOTER: *Stella Ghazarian puts up a 3-pointer.*

Varsity boys start off rocky while trying to pull it together

■ **RUNNING:** *The boys' soccer team attempts to close out the season fashionably while aiming for the playoffs.*

BY ROGER QUINTANILLA
Sports Editor

Going into the season, the boys soccer team had high hopes for themselves expecting to reach CIF and maybe go all the way. The boys got off to a rocky start, but the team managed to beat number 1 ranked St. Francis High. The team is already eight games in, playing schools like Saugus, Knight, and Burbank.

Although they've only managed two wins, the team is still very confident in their ability to play soccer. The

team admits they have a few flaws including temper, but they try hard to get passed that for the benefit of the team in the long run.

Going into the season the team felt that the biggest competition they had would be Burbank which they would face twice. In their first match up the boys were swept 3-0 resulting in their first loss but they came back strong in the second match up getting a sweep of their own, 4-0.

The team has much potential, the whole team is very dedicated but their season is not done yet. Today they have a game against Crescenta Valley and after they have one

match-up against Arcadia and one more against Hoover high to close out the season.

The soccer team has had a rough season, without doubt but they have shown resilience throughout their struggles. They still have a chance to fix their upset record and gain a .500 record.

Key players that have led to team during the season include center-mid Richard Anaya, goal keeper James Mizuki, and defending mid Mircea Tala, though the team is packed with great players left and right. The team plans on closing out the season with a bang.

Q & A

We're going to ask the dreaded 'Who's your favorite player' question. So, who's your favorite?
David Beckham for his charm and dashing looks, of course.

Would you say that you rock a soccer jersey as well as Beckham does?
Yeah, I'd like to think so.

What is your favorite genre of music?
German Polka.

What is your favorite kind of food?
Chinese Food.

If the world was taken over by zombies, what weapon would you use?
I would use a shovel.

Do you like the posterior or the bosom?
I am the man of bosoms.

Do you think soccer is a communal sport?
No, I don't.

Is it possible that you're a distant relative of Dracula (considering you're Romanian and all)?
No!

Have you ever experienced Athlete's foot?
No, again.

Are you a morning bird or night owl?
I'm a night person.

For Mircea Tala, soccer is like a religion

■ **JUGGLING:** *Mircea maintains his grades and social life outside of the soccer field.*

BY ROGER QUINTANILLA
Sports Editor

Mircea Tala is one of Glendale High's most successful athletes. With this being his fourth year on the soccer team Tala is working hard and making sure he does whatever he can to help his team be as successful as possible.

Since he was seven, Tala has been addicted to playing the world renowned sport saying, "Soccer is a tradition. My whole family plays it. It's like a religion."

Although Tala enjoys his sport he notes that the only problem is all the excessive running. Still, that hasn't slowed him down as his season continues to develop.

But Tala is more than an individual, he sets himself apart by being a team player. He has high expectations for his team feeling that they have potential to go to CIF and even be crowned league champs.

Although the team is only 2-5-1 they have already managed to beat number one ranked St. Francis and played for the championship of the Burroughs Tournament.

Tala admits that the game consumes him; in a recent game he lost his temper after a few bad calls and ended up receiving a red card for kicking an opposing player.

Tala plays defending mid for the team and does a fantastic job of it but he hasn't limited himself to a single activity.

Freshman year Tala played football where he received an injury that prevented him from playing soccer for Glendale. Mircea retains a GPA of 3.86 while still keeping a viable social life. Mircea coaches an AYSO boys under-12 team. He is a member of CSF and NHS.

When it's time to relax, Tala likes to watch his favorite team AC Milan play, watch other sports like basketball and football, and hangout with close friends.

Mircea is excited for high school to end so he can go to college where he plans to major in political science.



Photo by Justine Velasquez

SOCCER: *Mircea Tala shines his smiles for the camera while standing in the center of the field where he lives and breathes his favorite sport.*



Photo by Justine Velasquez

POSING: *Tala reminisces about his great four years on his beloved Nitros soccer team.*