

NEIRAD

SPRING

SPORTS

PREVIEW

BOYS' LACROSSE

The Young and the Restless:

Laxers aim for State crown

By **BILL MASSIE**
Staff Writer

The Darien Blue Wave Lacrosse team is already off to a good start after only several weeks. With the four Senior Captains Adam Demark (defense), D.B. Aymar (midfield), Joddy Sloan (defense), and Ken Crowley (midfield), the team is in anticipation of another traditionally strong season. Head Coach Jeff Brameier is hoping for a better record than last year, saying, "The four captians and the rest of the Seniors are all excellent players and they are backed up by a strong Junior class and even a few sophomores on the varsity squad. This combination should prove strong against some of our toughest opponents."

Junior Steve Condon and Senior Geoff Rogers are expected to keep the goals out of Darien's net as the two varsity goalies. The Wave's first line of midfielders consists of Seniors Crowley and Aymar and Junior Ryan Damon. They are backed up by the second string midline of Tim Barrett, Jamie Kennedy,



◀ *This year's squad is looking for another strong showing under the leadership of Coach Jeff Brameier.*

and Rob Kennedy. Playing attack for the Wave will be Senior Rich Oakford; Juniors Todd Mossa, Jeff Cashman, and Kyle Szymanczyk; and sophomore Andrew Barnett. On defense for Darien will be Adam Demark, Joddy Sloan, Brendan Malone, and



Junior Midfielder Ryan Damon is expected to be a major scoring threat for the Wave.

Mark Okrent. One of the captains, Ken Crowley, also said that this year should be an

improvement from last year. "We've been working hard in practice these past few weeks getting ready for the season. I hope this attitude keeps up for the rest of the season," remarked Crowley.

Including freshmen and J.V., the boys' lacrosse team is 78 strong which Brameier says is the biggest turnout ever. However, the team has to convert their strength in depth quickly into the mobile, attacking team that is essential to dethroning top teams, especially Wilton. A state championship title has eluded Brameier for twelve years and he remains 0-4 in state championship appearances; perhaps this is the year to break the trend.

UPCOMING GAMES

April 4	at Daniel Hand	4:30 p.m.
April 6	CONARD	1:00 p.m.
April 10	at Yorktown	4:15 p.m.
April 13	at Brien McMahon	1:00 p.m.
April 16	FAIRFIELD	4:00 p.m.
April 20	at Greenwich	1:00 p.m.
April 23	at Glastonbury	4:30 p.m.
April 24	at St. Joseph	4:00 p.m.
April 27	WILTON	1:00 p.m.
April 30	RIDGEFIELD	4:00 p.m.

GIRLS' TENNIS

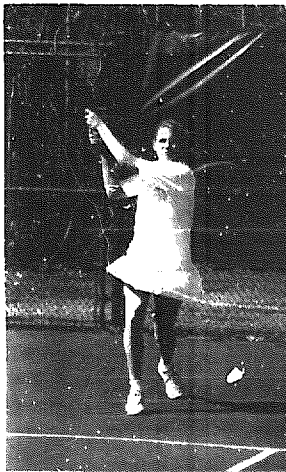
Girls shoot for "Two-Peat"

By **TORY HOLDT**
Staff Writer

This year's 1996 girls' tennis team has great... They have a tough act to follow for they are currently the reigning Class M State Champions. Although they seem to have a strong team this year, key players such as Katherine Rivett, Jeana Tighe, and Melissa Fogarty will be sorely missed. Captains and All-State selections from last year include Lindsay Moody and Alex Weymann. They lead a team comprised mostly of underclassmen including Juniors Kelly Flatley, Allison McKittrick, and Lesley Roxe. Sophomores and freshmen Sam Drimal, Sara Matsuzaka, Susannah Frank, Alexia Ramos, Colleen Cary, Jen Grace, and Kristen Altorfer excel in both singles and doubles.

With the infamous Kit Reilly coaching once again, this year's team has a lot to look forward to. "We've got many hopefuls, but some of the best include both captains, Kelly Flatley, Sara Matsuzaka, and freshmen Jen Grace."

An excited-for-the-season-to-start, sophomore Sara Matsuzaka remarked, "We've got a strong line up of both experienced and inexperienced players, and hopefully we can come together and be as successful as the girls' teams have been in the past." Sara, although new to the team, knows good things will happen if they work hard, and work together.



Senior Co-Captains Lindsay Moody and Alex Weymann (above) hope to lead the Wave to another successful season.

Wilton, and New Canaan, they've got a lot of work ahead of them. They won't have much time either because their season opens with matches at Class LL Glastonbury on April 4th, at 4 p.m. The first home game is against

McMahon on April 8th, at 3:30 p.m. Good luck, Ladies; they hope to see everybody there!

Coach Kit Reilly hopes to guide the team to another state championship.



UPCOMING GAMES

April 9	WESTHILL	3:15 p.m.
April 22	at Trumbull	3:15 p.m.
April 24	at Ridgefield	3:15 p.m.
April 25	DANBURY	3:15 p.m.
April 29	GREENWICH	3:15 p.m.

GOLF

Golf hits the links

By **SCOTT GOODWIN**
Sports Editor

With the onset of the spring season here at DHS, we hear talk of how good the lacrosse team will be and whether or not the tennis team will repeat as State Champions but there is one athletic team that we hear little about. This squad, led by Junior Co-Captain Rob Carr and Senior Co-Captain Brian Durkin is the DHS Golf team.

Led by Carr in the #1 slot, followed by Durkin and Junior Trish Watkins, the team which barely missed qualifying for the States last season is looking to break the .500 mark this season. With the #1, 2, and 3 slots nailed down, a large group of golfers will be looking to challenge for the #4 and 5 spots. This group includes Seniors Adam Till and Zack Green, Juniors Dan True and Casey Ackerman, sophomores James Srader and Scott Durkin, and freshmen Jeff Jones and Brian DiMenna.

The team will be coached by Middlesex Middle School teacher, Tom O'Donnell, who doubles as the Freshman Football coach. Junior Trish Watkins believes the team has a good chance to make the States, commenting, "I'm anticipating that the team will have a good chance to qualify for the States and possibly finish in the top five." Many of the players share Trish's high hopes for the squad which will begin play soon with matches at the Country Club of Darien, Wee Burn Country Club, and Woodway Country Club.

UPCOMING GAMES

April 4	at Glastonbury	4:00 p.m.
April 8	McMAHON	3:30 p.m.
April 9	at Fairfield	3:30 p.m.
April 11	at Wilton	3:30 p.m.
April 22	RIDGEFIELD	3:30 p.m.
April 24	at Danbury	3:30 p.m.
April 25	JOEL BARLOW	3:30 p.m.
April 29	CATHOLIC	3:30 p.m.
April 30	STAMFORD	3:30 p.m.

Spring Sports Preview is a special edition of

NEIRAD

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TRACK AND FIELD

Runners aim high

By **BETSY GARVIN**

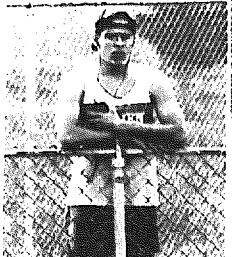
Staff Writer

After a whirlwind indoor season, many experienced faces showed up on Monday to guide newcomers. The boys' team is led by Tri-Captains Brian Maupin, Adam Alexander, and Kenny Poli. The girl's team is led by Senior Tri-Captains Anne Cudd, Betsy Garvin, and Katey Tone. This year's coaches are Mr. Rubin (boys) and Mr. Norris (girls). They are joined by the new throwing coach Shannon Sheehan and the new distance coach Robert Timmons.

You can expect a lot from the track teams this year. Brian Maupin

and Tory Holdt will be leading the way in hurdles. Kenny Poli and Anne Cudd will be outpacing the rest of the distance runners. Erin Moore and Lauren Walsh will leave the competition in the dust in the short sprints. Adam Alexander and Betsy Garvin will be throwing the javelin with force. Tripp Boyle and Tim Bealer (both new to the outdoor track scene) will be outjumping the high jumpers. Maupin, Boyle, and Bealer are also hoping to break some outdoor relay records.

Brian Maupin has an optimistic outlook on the season. "We have a lot of fast sprinters," he commented. "This season will be much better than last year's."



Senior Tri-Captain Brian Maupin.

The first meet takes place after school today. The boys are at home and will compete against Staples, Stamford, and Greenwich. The girls will travel to Greenwich where they will face the same teams.

UPCOMING GAMES	
BOYS	
April 8	at St. Joseph/Warren Harding
April 11	STAPLES/GREENWICH/STAMFORD
April 23	at Ridgefield/Danbury/Bridgeport Central/Norwalk
April 30	BRIDGEPORT CENTRAL/NORWALK
GIRLS	
April 8	WARREN HARDING/ST. JOSEPH/NEW CANAAN
April 11	at Greenwich/Staples/Stamford
April 23	at Ridgefield/Danbury/Bridgeport Central/Norwalk

GIRLS' LACROSSE

Shooting to recapture FCIAC crown

By **ERIN MCKENNA**

Staff Writer

The Blue Wave girls' lacrosse team has much to look forward to in the upcoming season. While the lady lacrossers lost several key players (Lauren Coyne, Alex Perlin, Erin Riebe, and Keltie Donelan), there is a large amount of new talent that will help carry the team to victory. Victory is exactly what they are hoping for this season. "We are looking towards recapturing the FCIAC title and continuing onto the state tournament," remarked third-year coach Lisa Lindley. Expecting a strong season from the team, she is looking to "Senior Captains Mandy Bueening, Liz Lane, and Sarah Newton to pull the team forward. The captains have an optimistic and positive outlook in regards to the upcoming season. "We are looking to go as far as possible this year. We have a lot of talent and ability that is needed to pull this year's team together," commented Bueening.

Darien's defense is exceptionally strong. Returning players Bueening, Newton, Laura Jones (Senior), Jen Bosch (soph.), and Marisa Saur (Junior) are sure to be key assets to the team. Leading the attack will be Liz

Lane, Christie Clarke (Junior), and Emily Stevens (Junior). Midfield will rely heavily on Courtney Calabrese (Junior), Liz Merritt (Junior), and Kinsey Osberg (soph.). The offense lost many players to graduation. As a result, the offensive players are still young and inexperienced. Freshman newcomers Sarah Lane, Anne Harvey, Jeanie Crawley, and Katie Simpson are expected to contribute strong skills to the lineup.

After winning their first scrimmage, the team is off to a good start. The season opener is today, April 4, at home against Daniel Hand.

UPCOMING GAMES	
April 4	at Glastonbury
April 8	MCMAHON
April 9	at Fairfield
April 11	at Wilton
April 22	RIDGEFIELD
April 24	at Danbury
April 25	JOEL BARLOW
April 29	CATHOLIC
April 30	STAMFORD

BOYS' TENNIS

Boys prepare to "bust it up"

By **SCOTT GOODWIN**

Sports Editor

As spring returns to DHS, so does the Class M State Champion Boys' Tennis Team. With nearly all of its key players returning, the squad is a sure shot to be in the running for a third consecutive state title. Picking up the slack for former #1 player Stafford Perkins will be Senior Captain Colin Greenspon and freshman Jonathan Powell. Also keying the singles attack will be Senior Captains Jack Bowden and Mike Lawton, along with freshman David Bauer. Junior Jay Grambling will add great depth to the singles quintet and has proved to be a tenacious competitor, although sometimes letting his temper get the better of him. Sophomores Zeke Hawkins and Spencer "Showtime" Anderson will lead the doubles attack, hoping to fill the void left by the All-State.

All-FCIAC team of Kyle Raver and Jason Fritsch. Vying for the #2 doubles spot will be the duo of Seniors Mike Malone and Jamie Linden, along with a newcomer team, comprised of sophomore Tom DiMenna and freshman Greg Grambling.

Sixth-year coach, Steve O'Connell returns to guide this talented bunch toward the state title once again. Confident about the season, he says that "Things have never looked better. If all goes well,

we have a chance at winning FCIACs." (The FCIAC division is infamously competitive, including perennial powerhouses Greenwich and New Canaan.) Captain Colin Greenspon was also optimistic for the approaching season; when asked, he promptly removed his tennis sweater to reveal a sleeveless t-shirt and stated, "We gonna bust it all up!" The team is pumped for their opening match, against Class LL powerhouse Glastonbury, today after school.

UPCOMING GAMES	
April 4	at Glastonbury
April 8	at Brien McMahon
April 9	FAIRFIELD
April 11	WILTON
April 22	at Ridgefield
April 24	DANBURY
April 25	at Joel Barlow
April 29	at Trinity Catholic
April 30	at Stamford

SOFTBALL

Girls looking for revenge on the diamond

By **ERIN STINCHFIELD**

Staff Writer

The 1996 softball team is out for revenge. Last years season came to a disappointing end after the girls won most of the games in the first half of the season and lost every game after April break. They needed to win ten games to qualify for states, and they had to earn an eighth place ranking in the FCIAC to make that championship. They missed each qualification by only one game. "Last year was a disappointment," commented co-captain Kara Norman, "but our depth and

other hole that has haunted Coach LaRusso in the past. "I'm looking for improvement, last years season did not turn out how we would have liked. My goal is improvement with each game," she commented. Co-captain Kristi Yaeger will lead an infield of Vanessa Fjeldal, Kristen Gomes, and Maggie Angers. Toni Ann Conetta, Kara Norman, and Abia Clarke will make up the outfield. The most impressive statistic so far this year is the nineteen freshmen that came out for the team. This gives Coach LaRusso, and assistant coaches Mark Martini and Trish Valentine a lot of depth to

ability is looking promising for the upcoming season." There will be eight returning Varsity players, including one senior, four juniors, and three sophomores. These eight players will provide the experience that the team has lacked in the past. Sophomores Kristi Judge and Meredith Miceli will fill an-

work with.

UPCOMING GAMES

April 9	at Weston	3:45 p.m.
April 10	at Trinity Catholic	3:45 p.m.
April 12	ST. JOSEPH	3:45 p.m.
April 15	at Wilton	3:45 p.m.
April 17	CENTRAL	3:45 p.m.
April 19	TRUMBULL	3:45 p.m.
April 22	at Greenwich:	3:45 p.m.
April 24	at Westhill	3:45 p.m.
April 26	BASSICK	3:45 p.m.
April 29	at Staples	3:45 p.m.

BASEBALL

Boys swing for the fences

By **SCOTT GOODWIN**

Sports Editor

As winter finally turns to spring, there is a new sound that is echoing through the athletic fields of DHS, not even close to the soft patter of snowflakes. It is the sharp "PANG" of aluminum hitting rawhide, not hitting ball. The creator of the sound, the DHS Baseball team, are a group of highly talented athletes looking to finally remove the word "potential" from their vocabulary.

Led by Senior Captain Chris Pepe and Junior Captain Mike Scott, the Wave is looking forward to a marked improvement over last year's dismal results. Pepe will handle the pitchers from behind the plate while Scott will primarily control the outfield from centerfield along with making periodic appearances on the mound. Anchoring the pitching staff will be Seniors Iain McNicoll, Raj Ryback, Brendan Synott, Raja Kassis, and Bryan Fern, along with Juniors Scott and John Miceli. The X-factor with the pitching staff is flamethrowing Junior Matt Geery who hopes to overcome a shoulder injury which hampered him much of last season. At the plate, the Wave will look for major production from Scott, McNicoll, Junior Brian Valentine, and Miceli, with Fern adding an occasional homer or two to the mix. On the basepaths, Scott,

Pepe, and sophomore Carter Sainz are all speedsters who can rattle opposing pitchers.

Second-year head coach, Pete Waters, will be the man trying to mold this talent-laden group into a winner. If the team comes together and responds to his tutelage, DHS may be looking at a winning baseball team for the first time in several years. When asked about his expectations for the season, Co-Captain Mike Scott responded, "I am very optimistic about the season. We have many returning players with a lot of varsity experience and talent. We should be able to win a lot of games this year." Senior Iain McNicoll, who led the team in hitting last year, also has high hopes for this season, stating, "We have a team with a lot of potential, potential which needs to be fulfilled in order for us to win." Obviously, it can be expected that the Wave will fare much better than last year; how much better, only the hops and skips of the most unpredictable stitched rawhide can tell.

UPCOMING GAMES

April 4	at New Canaan	3:45 p.m.
April 6	STAMFORD	12:00 p.m.
April 8	at Port Chester	3:45 p.m.
April 10	CATHOLIC	3:45 p.m.
April 12	at St. Joseph	3:45 p.m.
April 15	WILTON	3:45 p.m.
April 17	at Central	3:45 p.m.
April 19	at Trumbull	3:45 p.m.
April 22	GREENWICH	3:45 p.m.
April 24	WESTHILL	3:45 p.m.
April 26	at Bassick	3:45 p.m.
April 29	STAPLES	3:45 p.m.