

Honest Allen leads her Lady Falcons

By Adam Crozier

Although playing girls soccer all through high school, senior **Dharma Allen**'s story, and outlook, is uncommon.



Dharma Allen

She started playing at Perry freshman year, but spent her sophomore and junior soccer seasons at Center Grove High School. With senior status and as one of the fastest Lady Falcons, Allen readies to win for PMHS. There are more ways to win than just scoring more points, she insists.

Despite losing every game

played so far this season, that aspect fails to faze Allen. Days of CGHS allegiance are far behind the senior soccer player.

The varsity midfielder says, "Honestly, if we go by just the sports itself, Center Grove has a better program. If we go by the coaching staff and the girls it's Perry. The chemistry between the girls on the Perry side is better."

Allen adds, "It's not even about winning, it's about helping the JV girls themselves. It's about getting them to know how the program works and how the game itself works."

She's the kind of athlete to seek out players and tailors advice to that specific person. According to teammate junior **Hope Haynes**, "She helps

keep everyone motivated by going to everyone individually. She's not afraid to be honest. She says it in a positive way, not a negative way."

Allen's a speedster, too. "She's really good at running," says Haynes. "She's fast. She's not cheetah fast, but she's pretty fast. She could beat me in a foot race."

In practice, the varsity team will scrimmage against the JV team. Sometimes the more experienced athletes give the team more chances to score, or work to give the JV the upper hand. Stacking the odds against varsity players help them in the long run, teammates say.

Allen is a big fan of this exercise because very often the team goes into

a game where the probability of winning seems small.

She says, "It pushes the varsity girls to work harder because games aren't always fair."

Even when the girls lost 7-0 to Bloomington North, Allen looks to the future. "We have sectionals and regionals coming up," she says, "if we lose those we're done for. I like to think ahead so we know what we're doing. It's not good to dwell on the past."

"It doesn't make me that sad, yeah it does suck. My freshman year we went so far with Conference and regionals. It's simply the fact that I love all the girls we play with. It is a better experience playing with them than just winning."

The Lady Falcons lost against Warren in their Conference match. Allen's thick skin was shaken. "It makes me feel sad that the season is coming to an end," she says. "But we still have at least one more game."

Girls soccer players will compete tonight in sectionals against Lawrence

"The chemistry between the girls on the Perry side is better."

- Dharma Allen

New tennis courts complex simplified

By Ari Houston

While adding the new Falcon Stadium, the construction team had to move the tennis courts. Thus far, the team has resurfaced five of the courts and the other five are still in process.

According to assistant athletic director **Emily Steinmetz**, the boys tennis team has practiced on the five available courts and the home games have been played on those courts.

Steinmetz also mentioned that the gym classes have been practicing outside as a part of their classes.

The bleachers for tennis reside outside along the sidewalk but once the rest of the courts are finished then the bleachers will be moved in between the two sets of courts, Steinmetz says.

Senior **David Seals** says he is disappointed that the boys team won't be able to play on the entire court. He explains that, in theory, the courts should only take a month to be finished but the project is still ongoing a month and a half after the stadium was completed.

"It's just frustrating that it's my senior year and I'm not going to be able to play on the new courts" says Seals.

The girls plan to use the courts once tennis restarts in the spring as well. The project is still ongoing and the ending date is still uncertain, says Steinmetz.

Boys tennis tests terrain



(Above) Red-headed, red head-banded sophomore Saijin Smith slides to put neon green racket to neon green fuzz.

(Right) Senior David Seals prepares his swing to meet the ball. Behind him, the unfinished courts still need nets, white boundaries and bleachers along the outside of the two fences. (Photos by Olivia Lighty).

