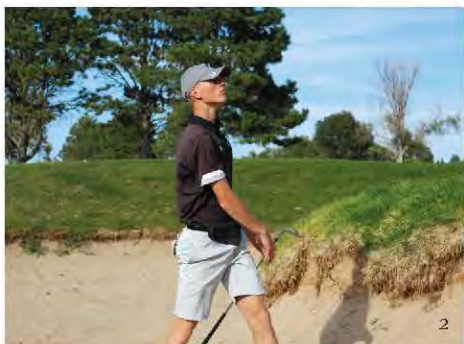


ONTO THE GREEN

With the smell of fall in the air, golf season has finally arrived. Good times with friends on a freshly mowed green are well underway by early August. **Alex Stroh, 12**, says, "Other than regionals, we all played with each other rather than with kids from other schools. We weren't allowed to take the pin out of the cup, smoothing and replacing the ball in the sand bunkers was a thing, and we were supposed to practice basic Covid-19 policies such as wearing a mask and social distancing." Not only does the team strive for excellence, they must adapt to the weather. As we all know, Colorado has very confusing seasonal changes, meaning wind can push the ball off course, or wet grass can make hitting the ball harder. The players must to adjust to these rapidly changing conditions throughout the season if they wanted to shoot lower scores. Every year, the team participates in the end of the season three club tournament, which is always everyone's favorite team activity. As usual, the coaches won again this year.



1 PHOTO BY DEVIN ALLEN



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2. **Roderick Lewis, 12**, says, "Golf is challenging in several aspects. In order to become better, you have to put in a lot of hours of work. The course for me is a getaway. There are no worries in my head when I am on the golf course."

3. **Ethan Van Horn, 10**, practices his chip shots to get ready for the JV championship.

4. **Nathan Reed Turner, 9**, and **Roinn Stout, 10**, take a step back and analyze the green to see which way their ball will roll.



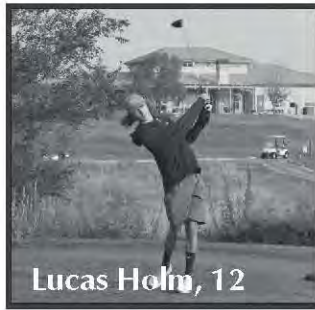
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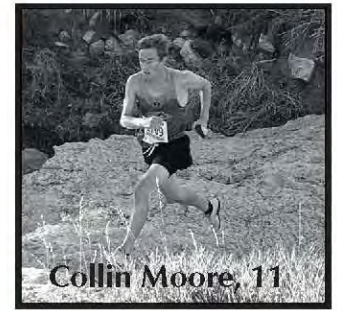
QUOTE ME ON THAT

“It’s hard to believe that I’ve played golf at Vista for four years. It went by really fast, but I made some great memories like playing in the three club tournament, or going to eat after every tournament.”



Lucas Holm, 12

“My motivation this year was to beat the school record for the fastest race time. My fastest time this year was 17:36. I was only about a minute off, but I have next year to look forward to.”



Collin Moore, 11

Fast As You Can



As we transitioned back into in person learning in September, teams were eager to get back in the game, and cross country runners were ready to run. Due to the nature of the sport, it is dangerous to run with a mask on, but the runners still had to try to keep a safe distance away from each other. Even without a mask, oxygen is hard to take in at Colorado's high elevation. That is why **Autumn Rassmussen, 11**, said, “I like to train up to 5-6 times a week depending on when our meet is that week to be prepared.” For some, cross country is a way to get in shape for other sports. “I don't run for fun, I just run to get in shape for wrestling season.” said **Maxwell Coddington, 11**. Although its hard to be in large groups during the



pandemic, the team still tried to keep the tradition alive of going to dinner after every meet. The team eats at a variety of places, but their go-to is Dion's.



1. **Jaime Snyder, 12**, sprints across a creek while competing at a race. Jaime says, “Before a race I try my hardest to remember technique, how fast I want to start the race, and that I am going to push myself harder than the last race.”
 2. **Cheyenne Dyess, 10**, pushes herself as she runs up a hill at Cottonwood Creek. 3. **Donavin Warson, 10**, makes his way to the finish line at the Rampart meet. 4. **Hope Maldonado, 12**, tries to keep her pace while running in the hot conditions in an early fall meet.

COVERING EVERY BASE

Softball is played for a lot of reasons, but because of COVID-19 one of the biggest reasons to play is to just have fun. Due to the effects and restrictions placed on schools and sports, our athletes' lives have changed drastically. Even through the troubling times, they don't let it stop them. While following guidelines set by the state, teams have found safe ways to play a fall season at Vista Ridge. For these athletes the softball season has been a way to escape reality and just enjoy a sport like life before the pandemic. The players say it's the feel of a perfect fit of your hand in a mitt, or the wind scooping the gravel into the air on a sunny day. For others it's the sweet spot sensation when the bat makes contact with the ball. Kira Blanford, 10, said, "It's probably just being able to see my team grow together. At our last practice we had a party, and we really bonded one last time for the season." Those feelings are what Vista Ridge softball is really about. The season was shorter, but the team still knocked it out of the park, leaving all of the returning girls excited for next year.



1. **Tatjana Harris, 9**, digging into the batters box, is making great contact with the ball.
 2. **Nicole Garcia, 10**, is makes a stop at an infield grounder, keeping her head down and her eye on the ball. 3. **Haley Hutter, 10**, shows her speed as she tries to beat out a hit to first base.

QUOTE ME ON THAT

“The highlight for me of this season was having a team that was so supportive of each other. And obviously being able to still play!”
Jasmin Lee, 11 77



“The highlight of my season was the last game against Ramphart High School. We hit four home tuns and everyone had so much energy that day.”
Alisha Salazar, 12 77



LOOKING BACK ON THIS SEASON

“

My favorite memory is when me and the offensive linemen got together for dinners.

Joshua Rowe, 12 ”



“

My favorite memory this year was cherishing the few times we got to practice together and being able to get some good hits in during the games.

Joshua Romain, 12 ”



PHOTO BY JON TUTTLEMAN 1

DRIVING to the ENDZONE

“Football season came and went as quick as the weather changed. With turf in our shoes and sweat running down our faces, the final play ended. This season was different from the rest due to restrictions caused by COVID-19. Although these restrictions were frustrating, we still pushed through and had a season. Many games did not have bus transportation, so all the players and coaches car pooled to the games. First we had to get our temperatures taken, then to enter the stadium everyone had to go in at one time together. We slipped on our cleats and put on our helmets and struck the field. This season was shorter compared to others as we only had five games. Nonetheless we ended the season with a positive record going 3-2.



This season was still something to enjoy. My favorite part of the season was the practices where the offense and defense would get heated with each other. The struggles caused by COVID-19 were met by a football season that was enjoyed by all.” by **Ahmir Braxton, 12.**



PHOTO BY JON TUTTLEMAN 3



PHOTO BY JON TUTTLEMAN 4

1. **Keyon Burris, 12**, is pushing through, and running far down the field to take the ball in to score.
2. **Samuel Stowers, 12**, says his favorite part of the season was the comeback against Rampart by winning by one point.
3. **Keyshawn Bridges, 11**, slides on the field to receive the ball and complete the pass for a first down.
4. **Christopher Livingstone, 12**, has been the kicker for Vista for all four years of his high school career.

GOOD ENOUGH IS NOT ENOUGH

Boys' basketball this season was very different compared to previous seasons, with a lot of new players coming to play, and COVID-19 affecting the number of games, protocol, and regulations this year. **Greg Wesley, 11**, said, "COVID-19 has cost us quite a few games and taken away time." Luckily through all of this, we still got the chance to see our boys play this season, and see that they definitely played hard. With both wins and losses this season, there is always room for improvement. Next year will be better. With more experience and more training the boys basketball players will be back, and they're hoping for a normal season.



1. **Tyson Monick, 10**, goes up for a shot deep from the three-point line.
2. **Andrew Johnson, 11**, drives into the paint hoping to score for the Wolves.
3. **Keyshawn Bridges, 11**, looks around for options to pass the ball.

BOYS BASKETBALL PHOTOS BY D & L PHOTOGRAPHY

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

“What basketball means to me is that even though it's fun to compete and play against other schools it also teaches you life lessons and you create a brotherhood with your team that you can't find anywhere else.”

- Garrett Lawrence, 10

”



“Teamwork is everyone on the floor doing what they need to to make the team better. Even off the court everyone is doing something to build chemistry with each other.”

- Xavier Cisneros, 11

”



NOTHING BUT NET

“Basketball to me is a sense of belonging and freedom. Everything outside of basketball goes away when your playing nothing else really matters but the game.”
- Kaitlyn Anders, 12”

“For me, basketball is a great way to build communication skills and it challenges me mentally. Always having to adjust and challenging myself is something very important to me so I’m always growing.” - Aaliyah Key, 12”

“Basketball means a lot to me, it's not only about the sport, but about the people that play with me.”
- Sydney Jahn, 9”

“Basketball mainly means family to me. Ever since I’ve played the game, I’ve always looked for that family feeling rather than that winning feeling.”
- Amaiya Key, 10”



ALL IT TAKES IS ALL YOU'VE GOT

The girls 2021 basketball season started on January 18th, but the mental preparation for the season started long before that. Due to the pandemic, the season was shortened to only 13 games, with three games every week. To add to the frustration, the team had to quarantine mid-season, which left them with five games left when they were done quarantining. "COVID-19 has taught me not to take anything for granted," said **Chiara DeMicco, 12.**

While the season was short and brutal with the drastic changes that COVID-19 brought, like wearing masks during games and guidelines to keep people safe, the girls said they were still lucky enough to play with their teammates.



4. **Taylor Wortketter, 12**, shoots a free throw, hoping to score 2 for the Varsity team.
5. The JV girls huddle during halftime to discuss strategy and celebrate a hard won first half.
6. Vista Cheerleaders present the Varsity Girls with treats before a home game.