



HILLEL SCHOOL of Tampa

of Tampa

FOCUS ON ATHLETICS

“The benefits of sports go beyond physical conditioning, which is important in and of itself,” says Coach Randy Hall, a member of Hillel School of Tampa’s coaching staff. “Students learn team work, responsibility, accountability, and leadership skills while they play.”

Sports are an integral part of the culture at Hillel. “We compete in the Florida West Coast League,” says Coach Hall, “Almost half of the students from fourth through eighth grade participate in the program.” The Florida West Coast League offers co-ed soccer and cross-country in the fall, boys and girls basketball in the winter, and track and field and girls softball in the spring. Hillel hosts many games on the covered basketball court and soccer and softball fields.

“It is very important to us to have every student play, and we have a no-cut policy,” continues Coach Hall, “we have proven that you can let all the students play and still do well in competitions.” The Hillel teams regularly place in the league standings, and received many athletic awards. This October the Hillel varsity soccer team finished in first place, and both the boys



and girls varsity basketball teams are doing well during this season, which ends January 27, 2005.

“The next sport is track and field, which starts in February, and is usually hosted by Berkeley Preparatory School,” Says Coach Hall. “Meets include different events such as short runs, runs as long as two miles, relays, long jumps and so on.”

The fourth grade students are invited to practice with the older students, but do not usually play until fifth grade. “A very important part of our practice schedule is that the younger students learn from the older ones, and the older students have the opportunity to teach and be role models for the younger students.”

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