

# Boys soccer names all-league picks

By Rongi Yost  
Correspondent

Four Outlaws earned all-league soccer awards this year, including Ethan Ekert and Ricky Huffman who were second-team selections, and Connor Linn and Nathaniel Alvarez as honorable mention.

Kern, the Outlaws' lone senior, was a co-captain and earned second team holding midfield. Ethan was a solid leader on the team all year, and led the team in assists, with 12.

Coach Jeff Husmann said, "Ethan is an intelligent person and brings this intelligence to the field. He has very solid individual skills, can take on defenders one-on-one, and also has incredible vision. Though he had no goals on the season, much of this was because he often draws a crowd of two or three defenders and then still manages to get the ball to the open man. He is selfless and humble."

Huffman (sophomore) was honored at the striker position and led the team in goals scored (10). Ricky also tallied four assists on the season.

Husmann told *The Nugget* that Huffman gives 100 percent in games and practice. Ricky's speed and athleticism made it difficult for the opponent's defenders. He has an ability to scrap for possession of the ball and, according to Husmann, improved tremendously with his ability to finish.

Linn (junior) was also a co-captain and earned honorable-mention striker. In addition to playing at the striker position for the Outlaws, he also played

at outside midfield, and center defense. Connor finished the season with eight goals and nine assists.

Husmann referred to Connor as "Mr. Versatility" because of his ability to play at various positions. Husmann also noted that Connor is a student of the game and is effective at analyzing the weakness of an opponent, then adapting his attack. He is very effective at winning the ball in tight areas, and has a nose for the goal. He has a calm demeanor, but is a fierce competitor.

Alvarez (junior) earned honorable-mention central defender.

Husmann said, "Nathaniel is perhaps the most underrated player on our team. He has been the backbone of our defense. He is strong technically and tactically, and has a strong sense of when to stand a player up, and knows when to make a well-timed tackle. He's an outstanding goalkeeper as well, but because we're such a young team, we needed his skills on the field. He truly has fun when he plays, and is a joy to watch."

# Girls earn six all-league selections

By Rongi Yost  
Correspondent

Six Lady Outlaws soccer players earned all-league honors, including Olivia Hougham, Hallie Schwartz, Hollie Lewis, Emma Lutz, Analise Backus, and Sage Wyland.

Seniors Hougham and Schwartz were both second-team all-league picks.

Hougham was honored at center midfield. She scored two goals and tallied two assists during league play.

Coach Brian Holden said, "Olivia is reliable on her hard work. She has a motor that never quits, and she never gets tired. She's a good passer and can control the ball very well while she's dribbling."

Hallie, also recognized at center-mid, scored four goals and recorded two assists. She was the heart of the Outlaws squad, and played every minute of every game. Holden noted that Hallie is strong on the ball, distributes the ball well, and is a leader on and off the field.

Sophomores Lewis and Lutz, and freshmen Backus and Wyland all

earned honorable-mention recognition.

Hollie was honored at forward and led the team with six goals, and also tallied two assists. Holden stated that Hollie's speed, confidence, creativity, and quick feet were key in the goals she scored. She's also a hard worker with a no-quit attitude.

Emma was also an honorable-mention forward, who scored two goals and tallied two assists in the first half of the season. She missed the second half due to a concussion and a broken arm. Holden told *The Nugget* that Emma is very coachable, has a passion for the game, and he's very excited for next year to see what Emma can do when she puts in a full season.

Freshmen Backus and Wyland were center-back defender selections, and round out the all-league picks.

Holden shared that Backus is the most intelligent player on the field. Unfortunately, the Outlaws lost Analise toward the end of the season due to knee surgery, but have high hopes

she'll be back at full strength next year.

"Analise is a patient defender with strength and speed, and distributes out of the back to her team with accuracy," said Holden.

Of Wyland, Holden said, "Sage is quick, relentless, and a very balanced player. She gained a lot of confidence finishing the season without Analise, and really took on a leadership role."

Holden shared with *The Nugget* that in all his years of coaching he's never coached a team as special as this one.

"I've coached boys and girls, middle school and high school, select competitive teams, and players with a ton of talent, but I've never been a part of a team like this before. This team is special. What they've built within the leadership of the seniors is positive, team, and family. They look out for each other and work hard for each other on and off the field. I'm glad I was a part of it and continuing with a positive, caring team environment will be important as we move forward."

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