

Soccer players build friendships, improve play

LEXI WELP

Staff Reporter

Led by key players such as Ryan Kurtin and Joe Offer, senior captains, the Boys' Varsity Soccer Team has improved on skills, connected as a team, built friendships and fought for the chance to compete in the playoffs. "We have definitely improved as a team compared to last year," Offer said.

"The team is doing about the same as last year in terms of wins and losses," Gregory Bean, head coach, said. As far as the scores are concerned, the team has lost to Lakeridge twice, as well as losing to Putnam

and Clackamas. They have also tied in games against Milwaukie, Lake Oswego and Oregon City, winning another game against OC.

"We would have to win three of our four remaining games to go to playoffs. Unfortunately, the scores don't reflect how much better our league is and how we've played in almost all the games. Offer has a shot at All League, and a few others might as well, but All State is a reach at this point," Bean said.

On Oct. 16 they played against LO and beat them in a tight match, which turned out to be one of their best games this season. The



Chris Thompson, senior, attempts to score as the defending goalie blocks the shot. West Linn won the game 1-0 against LO in a tight game on Oct. 16.
Photo by Sarah Chicoine

game showed the team's improvement, and really built up the the players' spirit.

"This game came a little late in the season, but it speaks volumes of our character and talent on our team," Bean said. The very motivated soccer team played another game against LO and beat them in a tight match. This game really boosted the team's morale, beating a ranked opponent.

"This has been a constant for Joe all season," Bean said about Offer's performance during the games and the practices. Offer played a lead role in the game on Oct. 16 and helped the team bring home the win, contributing two outstanding saves to the game.

"We have a lot of team chemistry. We all got older too, so that helps," Offer said. According to Offer, the players have definitely improved since last season and the team seems to have meshed really well.

Helmkamp's Hits

NFL surprises through week eight

JON HELMKAMP

co-Editor in Chief

Green Bay is 6-1 while the New Orleans Saints are 3-4. Am I the only one seeing something wrong with this picture? Is my memory fleeting, or weren't the Saints in the National Football Conference Championship game last year while the Packers didn't even make the playoff cut?

What about those Bears, who last year had one of the best defenses in the game and a young quarterback, Rex Grossman, that they thought would lead them back. This year, Grossman lost his starting job to Brian Griese, and is now watching

his 3-5 Bears from the sidelines.

What's happened this year in the National Football League is proof that no one can be positive of how a season's going to play out. Pre-season expectations are only expectations.

Before this season started, football analysts thought that the Saints would improve from their impressive season last year led by their rookie star Reggie Bush. This year, Bush has done close to nothing with the ball (the team as a whole is averaging only 89.8 yards per game, putting them in 24th place in that category out of the 32 teams in the NFL) and

an offense that averaged 26 points per game last year is only averaging 15 points per game this year. To add insult to injury, the Saints' workhorse, Deuce McAllister, is out for the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

And what about that old Mississippi kid, Brett Favre, who many considered to be done after a teary-eyed farewell last season, only to come back and break the all-time record for most career touchdown passes by a quarterback and most career wins? Most thought his illustrious career to be over after last season, but he's back averaging 292.3 yards per game.

As expected, the Indianapolis Colts are taking care of business. Led by Peyton Manning and their high octane offense, the Colts are one of only two undefeated teams in football at 7-0, the other being the New England Patriots at 8-0.

This year for the Patriots, Randy Moss joined the team, bringing with him more media attention for the Patriots. Also, the Patriots were charged with spying on the New York Jets, a claim that makes some wonder if their Superbowl rings are legitimate or not.

As the season progresses, it seems like this is a year of wide receivers. LaDainian Tomlinson, running back for the San Diego Chargers, was a powerhouse last year, setting an NFL record by scoring 31 touchdowns, 28 of which were on the ground. This year, LT only has six touchdowns and is averaging 88.1 yards per game. While the running game around the league has dropped significantly from last season, the passing game has exploded. Moss has the league lead with 11 touchdowns through the first seven weeks.

This season in the NFL has started off full of upsets, disappointments and unexpected heroes. Right now, it seems like it's anyone's year.

Girls' Varsity Soccer season ends with mixed feelings

KELSEY SCHRADER

Staff Reporter

Although the Varsity Girls' Soccer Team has contended for the Three River's League title in the past, this year's team is learning that nothing comes as a guarantee.

The Lions entered the season in one of the most competitive leagues in the state, and kicked off the season against some important non-league opponents.

They won their first two games convincingly with a 2-1 victory at Wilson, as well as blowing out Reynolds 5-1 in their home opener.

The team looked to take this momentum into the TRL opening game at Lakeridge, but came away with a disappointing 0-5 loss.

So far this season, Floyd Rocker, the new head coach, thinks they have played the majority of their TRL opponents tough, but have come away with a sub par record of 3-7-1. They are not ranked, and not in contention for a title for the season, which ended Oct. 25.

Despite a single goal loss to league powerhouse Lake Oswego, who has been ranked as high as fourth in the state, the Lions appear to lack the lone component to push them over the final hurdle.

"We've struggled. It could partially be the injuries and getting used to new coaches,

but we have the skill and the potential to become a great team," Kelsey Canez, junior, said.

Team members remain optimistic, both about this season as well as the team's future.

"Rocker's a good coach. He



Taylor Brooke, junior, chases after the ball against Clackamas. The Lions fell to the Cavaliers 2-1. Photo by Kira Matsuoka

knows the game and wants to make us better," Canez said. "He's intense, but still very approachable."

Junior Varsity players have also done well this season, with only three losses for the JVI team. Mary Scofield, sophomore, feels that they've worked hard to play as a team.

"We can dominate on the field when we work together," Scofield said. "Our last two games are Milwaukie and Putnam, and we will cream them."

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