

COMMUNITY NEWS

Roosevelt Soccer Coach fired after great season

Letter sent to community from John Teuscher

Dear Roosevelt Soccer Supporters,

The holidays are over and my work with the Peninsula Optimist tree lot is over. I wish to take this opportunity to personally thank each of you for supporting the Roosevelt men's soccer team this past season. Your generous donations helped this year's group of young men accomplished something that has never been done in the history of The Roosevelt High School men's soccer program as we entered the play offs as the 26th seed in the tournament.

In our first game we pulled out a 2-1 win over Sherwood @ Roosevelt.

Our second game of the tournament was against the # 8 ranked Forest Grove Vikings on their home field. This was a very well-played match that could have gone either way. In the closing minutes of the match Austin Schulz made a cross from the right side of the field from about mid field and found freshman Michal Underwood open on the left corner of the 18 yard box, as the Forest Grove goalie coming out to defend the play. Underwood placed a nice solid shot with his left foot around the goalie and found the back right corner of the net to seal the victory for Roosevelt.

Next up for the Rough Riders was Beaverton H.S. This team that was making a playoff run with a couple of upset wins of their own. This was a game of two evenly matched teams. The game was a battle during regulation play with both teams putting one score on the board. Next came two hard played over time periods which ended with the score still tied. The Rough Riders came running off the field looking like they were just warming up. The Beaverton players came walking off the field. We could tell they were finished. Now it would come down to penalty kicks. (Earlier this summer during the Mt. Hood Challenge Club soccer tournament we missed making the championship game losing in penalty kicks to Lake Oswego. We incorporated this our practice in case it happened again). Each team was given 5 minutes to set their players and order. Both teams were even after 4 rounds. Roosevelt goal keeper Jordan Asher came up with the greatest save of his career. Next up was senior Anthony Sylvester sealing the win on the next PK. WOW! In my 12 years of coaching soccer at Roosevelt it is the first time I witnessed a Roosevelt crowd storm the field after a win! It is the greatest moment I have experienced during my time as a soccer coach at Roosevelt. The boys' will remember this moment for the rest of their lives. I have watched the video of all those penalty kick's more time's that I can count. Tahat winning kick is forever etched in my memory.

Next up.

The Rough Rider are in the OSSA quarter finals (Elite 8). We have earned the right to play the #1 ranked team in Oregon (McMinnville) at Grizzly, stadium. I had no idea how the team would respond after a very emotional victory against Beaverton a few nights earlier.

During the game introduction's I could not believe the turnout of support for both teams. The stadium was packed for a soccer game. The game was even being broadcast live on the radio.

The game started out very close and even for the first 22 minutes of the game. Roosevelt actually was getting a lot of great shots on goal, but not putting any in the back of the net. Around the 22 minute mark McMinnville's senior leadership took over and put 4 goals in the net by half time.

During half time I talked to the players about playing their game in the second half. Forget about the score and play as hard as you can and leave everything you have on the field and when the game is over walk off the field with your heads held high. The boys gave the Grizzly's everything they could handle in the second half. The final score was McMinnville 4 - Roosevelt 0.

After the game the coaches took the team to Izzy's restaurant for all you could eat dinner. It was a great opportunity for the coaches and players to hang out. If there is a bright spot after the greatest play-off run in school history it's the fact that we only had 4 seniors on the team. The 'youngest team in the play offs'. Next season we should have 11 returning players back from this season's team. In addition, our JV team went 10-5. There should be some strong play-

ers moving up and filling our Varsity squad. Our team goal will be to try and win a PIL title and make another deep run during the OSAA play-offs.

The following players and coaches received PIL & All state honors this season.

- Oscar Garcia: 1st team PIL & 2nd team all-state. Only the second player in RHS school history to make the all state in team.
- Anthony Sylvester: 2nd all PIL
- Jose Hernandez: Honorable mention PIL
- Chikuru Baleke: Honorable mention PIL
- Jordan Asher: Honorable mention PIL
- John Teuscher: PIL coach of the year & OSAA 6A coach of the

year.

Your donations helped with the following support this season.

- Hoodies & T shirts for the players. The players designed the artwork.
- Our first annual hit the beach trip. We took the players to the aquarium in Newport and went to "D" River state park in Lincoln City to play soccer in the sand.
- Team dinner @ Izzy's.
- Game tickets to attend a University of Portland soccer game.
- End of season party for JV & Varsity players @ Bullwinkles in Wilsonville.

- 20 Soccer balls for team practices.

• Pay for our meals on our trip to Newport and our preseason road trip games to Hermiston, Central & Lebanon.

Once again I want to thank everyone for helping make this a season to remember for the boys. I was fired as the men's coach on Tuesday, February 9 by the AD & VP. I know I'll land somewhere coaching.

Sincerely,

John Teuscher

Head Men's Soccer Coach Roosevelt H.S.

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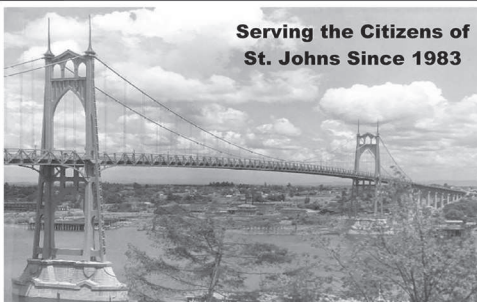
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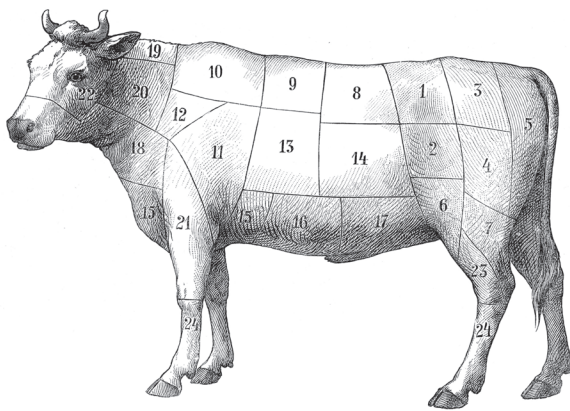
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