

Yearbook Sports Writing

KSPA REGIONAL COMPETITION 2010

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This is an on-site contest. Please attach the contest number assigned to you on the upper right-hand corner of the entry. Do not put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA executive director. All work must be that of the contestant.

OVERVIEW

Description

You are a staff member for Ad Astra High School's *The Honeybee*. Your editor has assigned you to write the copy about the varsity boys' soccer team for the sports section of the book.

School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School Location: Aspera, Kansas Mascot: Box Turtles
Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12) School Colors: Green & Gold
Name of Yearbook: Honeybee Name of Newspaper: The Star

DIRECTIONS

Assignment

You are to write a 200-word yearbook story on the varsity boys' soccer team. This is a copy writing contest only; no headline should be written. Background information and quotes have been provided for you below. The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to the story. Students may write in pen or pencil. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and A.P. style manuals. The use of personal listening devices (i.e. iPods), recording devices, electric typewriters and personal computers during the contest is prohibited.

Background

- The varsity boys' soccer team went 6-9-1 (six wins, nine losses, one tie) this season.
- Only 6 of the 19 varsity players played last season. Eight team members this year were freshmen, more than the previous year, when there had been only one freshman.
- Practices were held every weekday until 5 p.m. on the field behind the school.
- More than 50 people tried out for the soccer team, allowing for a creation of a C-team for the first time ever.
- Soccer attracted the second highest number of fans this year, after football. The fan section always sang the Box Turtle fight song, "Fear the Turtle," after each goal.
- Several players sustained injuries: forward David Heckbam fractured his shin; center midfielder Jose Marroquin sprained his ankle; starting goalie Miles Shon received a concussion in the last game of the season; defender James Conrad pulled a lower back muscle.

Directions cont'd

- The night before every game, the team met at coach Bob Toren's house, ate spaghetti in his living room and watched video tapes of old games.
- The biggest win of the season was the second game played, against the John Brown Meadowlarks, who were ranked first in the league. The Box Turtles were unranked. They won in overtime 1-0, with a goal scored by forward Jesse Ebzer. The fans stormed the field, singing the fight song and waving green and gold flags.
- Goalie Miles Shan made the honorable mention team for the Buffalo League.
- The Box Turtles did not continue to any post-season play.

Quotes

- Coach Bob Toren: "Injuries were the toughest hardship of the season."
- Toren: "I really saw this as a rebuilding year. The boys worked well together most of the time, but we just lacked the skill and players we needed to take on the stronger teams in the league."
- Toren: "Most nights we had more fans than the other team. Many parents attended the games, too."
- Forward Jesse Ebzer: "The time we spent together built character. Everyone had faith in everyone, it wasn't one person trying to show off, everything we did was a team effort."
- Ebzer: "I remember this great moment right after we won the Meadowlark game, we all came to the middle of the field and just yelled and group hugged and then all the fans came down and joined. Even though it probably wasn't the best season, I will never forget that."
- Midfielder Jose Marroquin: "We struggled a lot in offense. It just wasn't our strength. I think just because it was so many of our first years playing varsity soccer we just didn't always know how to conduct ourselves against the really experienced teams."
- Marroquin: "For my first year on the team I think I did pretty good and definitely had fun."
- Fan Mia Bamm: "I came out to most of the games at first just because my friends were on the team, but I ended up really just loving them. They played with so much energy. Even when we lost, and that was a lot."
- Forward David Heckbam: "Despite the hardships, we all definitely gave 110 percent in every game we played."
- Heckbam, on his shin fracture: "We were ten minutes into the second half of our game against the Meadowlarks and this guy planted his cleat right on my shin. When I got up and limped off the field I just knew it was the last time I'd hear the fans clap for me. I could've cried right there, knowing my season with these guys was already done. They've been so supportive all season. What a great senior year."
- Heckbam: "Practices were tough this year. Toren really worked us hard. We did a lot of running and scrimmaging and I was always really tired after."
- Defender James Conrad: "I really hated getting injured during the season. Not only could I not play but I had to watch everyone else struggle too since so many of our players were out for injuries."