

Reaching goals

#stuffsoccerboyssay

The hours leading up to the first game of the season are filled with anticipation. The boys soccer team is ready to play to win after hours of practice every day.

“I go home, eat pasta and bananas, I watch Messi, then I grab my Beats and blast pump-up music until the game starts,” **Yaniv Gershon, '15**, said.

This year the team claims to be more motivated than seasons past.

“I work hard in practice because our team is really good this year and we have a chance to win state,” **Sam Cowin, '13**, said.

Before the game, the mustang soccer players get a pep talk from Coach Tom Holland before they walk onto the field.

“Before I step on the field, I am pretty nervous but excited to get the chance

“I am excited to play and help my team do the best they can.” **Jonathan Bush, '14**, said.

Throughout the game, the mustang soccer players work their hardest to prove themselves for each other and themselves. To prove that every practice and every day of work will be for a purpose. The crowd of excited fans encourage the boys. They have high expectations, just as the players do. -carolyn hamburg and jenny o'grady

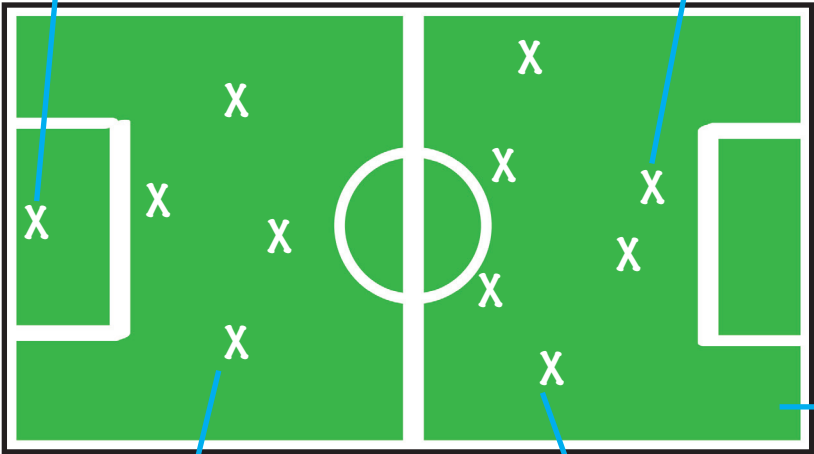
“Luke [Blackwell, '13] always says 'suck it Gill,' and then Matt [Peterson, '13] will say 'don't do it to 'em' after we score.” **Timmy Fine, '13**

“[Nick] Basso [,13] always calls Spencer [Avenia, '13] the laser.” **Jonathan Bush, '14**

“It's a lot of pressure to play goalie, especially because one mistake can lose the game and usually the goalie is to blame.” **Colton Row, '13**

“Every five seconds Andrew [Rohleder, '14] says 'let's go boys, let's get one right here!' we had a contest to see how long he could go without saying it - he made it three minutes.” **Ryan Samuels, '14**

“I play forward so I'm in charge of scoring, keeping the possession, and the first line of defense.” **Tiger Fleet, '13**



“As a defender, I clean up the mess and run the ball. It's a lot of talking and communicating and it's different from mid or forward because we have to stay behind and protect.” **Eric Braun, '13**

“Being a midfielder, I have the responsibility of keeping possession of the ball and defending against or attacking the other team.” **Spencer Avenia, '13**



Team Formation
“We usually play with two up top, four center mids, one defender mid, one sweeper, a right and left defender, and one goalie,” **Ali Wahba, '13**, said.



BVNW	SMMW	Park Hill South	Schagle	Oak Park	SME	Aquinas	BVNW	Rockhurst	KCC	BVSW	BVW	Gardner Egerton	Miege	BV
2-1	1-0	2-4	10-0	2-0	0-3	0-2	2-3	1-2	2-1	1-0	2-2	6-0	4-2	6-0
		(loss in PK's)												



Getting Ahead. **Matt Peterson, '13**, goes for a header during the Blue Valley Northwest game. Peterson was a senior captain for his final season. "My favorite part about the game is the feeling you get after we win. I like to win," said Peterson. photo by liz okenfuss



Captain Spotlight Seniors **Luke Blackwell, '13**, Colton Row, '13, and **Matt Peterson, '13**, were the team's captains this season. "It's a really unique experience to be a captain," Blackwell said. The captains represent the Blue Valley North soccer program as a whole while additionally leading the team through games and practices. "We were chosen because we are **hard workers** and put a lot of effort into the game," Row said. Spending a season together has really bonded the team. "We are all really close, so the friendships I got out of the team are most important," Blackwell said. photo by liz okenfuss



(from left) *The Perfect Shot.* **Andrew Rohleder, '14**, kicks the ball during a home game at the DAC. Rohleder played soccer for North every season since freshman year. "The best thing about playing soccer is getting to hang out with the guys every single day and getting to meet all the new freshmen and provide a good role model for them," Rohleder said. photo by jenny o'grady • *Indivisible.* The varsity soccer team walks onto the field arms around one another. The boys got introduced together as a team before every game. "My favorite part about playing for the school is being able to help the team and represent our school well," **Yaniv Gershom, '15**, said. photo by jenny o'grady • *Pumped Up.* **Nick Basso, '13**, and **Timmy Fine, '13**, warm up with a game of keep-away before the start of their match. The soccer team scrimmages before each match to get prepared for the game. "I like to get pumped up in the locker room before the game, but my favorite part of soccer is the actual game and the level of intensity and how competitive it gets," Basso said. photo by liz okenfuss • *Practice Makes Perfect.* **Michael Richardson, '13**, works on his footwork skills during practice. The team spent their practices working so they would be ready to prove themselves in the games. "My favorite thing is the passion I have when I play. It's intense and everyone tries really hard- it's fun," Richardson said. photo by liz okenfuss



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