

HIGH HOPES LEFT UNFULFILLED

Team disappointed at outcome

"To most teams, a record of 8-6-4 in the GMC, would be considered a successful season.

But to many of the players and coaches on the Sycamore soccer team, it was a tough year. Coach Doug Gausmann said, "It was a disappointing and frustrating season. Soccer is a funny game in that you can play much better than your opponent and lose."

Sycamore still managed to finish ninth in the city poll and third in the GMC. Senior halfback Tim Gugerty said, "It was really disappointing that we didn't reach our full potential."

The season began with five quick wins, one loss, and two ties. Junior Steve Haas scored nine goals in this span as the offense averaged almost three and a half goals per game. According to Gugerty, the two ties should have been victories. "The game against Middletown was especially frustrating," he commented, "since our entire team had a mental lapse for the final ten minutes of the game, allowing them to score two goals."

During the winning streak, Sycamore beat rival Lakota, who was then ranked third in the city. It was a big victory, possibly the best of the season. Junior defender Ryan McGregor stated, "We knew we needed to beat them to win the GMC, so it was that much more satisfying."

A four game losing streak halted any possibilities of a league championship. Senior

stopper Eddie Ball believed, "A lack of confidence and not being mentally prepared for the games caused these embarrassing losses."

Coach Gausmann also commented, "A loss in confidence and the fact that we couldn't put the ball in the net really hurt us."

Junior Jeff Franco stated, "We really fell apart during that stretch, but we thought we got everything back in time for the tournament."

After pounding Talawanda in the first game of the tournament, Sycamore had to play its nemesis, Princeton. After splitting the previous two games, Princeton came out victorious in this game. Gugerty, after his final high school game, said, "I'm disappointed because we had so many opportunities to score, but we just couldn't put the ball in the net."

Individual honors were won by Gugerty, who was named to the All-State team, as well as being the top vote-getter for the All-City team. Also earning post-season honors were Jeff Kohls, who was named to the 2nd team All-GMC team, and Anthony White and McGregor, who earned honorable mention.

Senior Joel Guigui ended by saying, "I'm pretty disappointed at how things turned out, but when I look back, we actually had a really good season."

by Benjamin Tolchinsky



Junior Sheref Mansy races towards the ball in an attempt to block his oncoming opponent of St. Xavier from getting it.

Sophomore goalie Jamie Starr positions himself defensively as he anxiously awaits for the ball to come his way.

