



Successful season overshadows loss at districts

Before the start of the boys varsity soccer season, not many thought Sycamore would have a dominating team. They lost an all-state player, but that turned into one of their largest gains. Senior Justin Leyda explained, "We get along well, we are all good friends on and off the field. No one has the attitude that they are better than everybody else."

Losing an all-state player gave the returning players an opportunity to excel. Senior Brandon Bowman and junior Jamie Starr made first team of all-city. First team all-GMC included Bowman, Starr, junior Anthony White, senior Ryan McGregor. Second team included seniors Hylton Mayer and Steve Haas, while senior Rich Dudley received honorable mention.

Although their individual accomplishments were plenty, the key to their success was in their teamwork. Leyda explained, "Since we all get along, we play together as a team very well."

The soccer team ended its season 12-2-2 and were co-GMC champions. Every week, they ranked in the top five of the coaches poll in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. Sycamore was ranked as high as second and ended fourth out of seventy-five teams. Senior Greg Smith attributes

this success to the fact that, "We've got a strong will to win and we have fun when we play. That is the key." Smith also mentioned "hard work, determination, teamwork, and 'second-half magic'."

Varsity Boys' Soccer

Moeller	5-1
Middletown	6-1
Hamilton	5-0
Harrison	5-0
Lima	10-0
Millford	2-0
Princeton	2-2
Lakota	2-0
Colerain	2-0
Middletown	2-0
Hamilton	6-0
St. Xavier	0-2
Lima	6-2
Farfield	2-2
Oak Hills	3-0
Northwest	0-1

GMC Champions
Record: 12-2-2

Seeded number one in their bracket of the district tournament, the Aves abruptly ended their season with a surprise loss to Northwestern after two overtimes and a sudden death shootout. Bowman commented, "My first thought was that it was the most devastating loss of my soccer career. Moreover, looking back on the season, the hard work and wins made it a season I will never forget."

Even with this loss, the Sycamore team did end up as one of the dominating forces in soccer. Goalie Starr, who was second in the city for shut outs, said, "This past season was possibly one of the best in Sycamore soccer history. There were no weak links on the team. Every aspect of the team, from offense to the defense, was great", Starr concluded. "Everyone worked hard and everyone had a great attitude. I don't think there will be another Sycamore team with that much talent in a long time."

by Carly Bella



Before the start of the game, senior Justin Leyda is introduced while junior Craig Kohls, seniors Hylton Mayer and Rich Dudley, sophomore Greg Geis, and junior Ken Groh cheer him on.

