

Boys' Varsity Soccer Season

A reflection on the boys' 2016 season.

by Bethany Billips

The boys' varsity soccer team's season has come to an end. The team consisted of mostly juniors and seniors but also had a few under classmen. The season started in August with practices and workouts to get the team ready for games. A new rule added to practices this year was that all boys must wear black on bottom and gray on top. This makes the team look more unified and like "one Barb!"

Team bonding was also included in their pregame workouts. Each player's family hosted a spaghetti dinner, and the boys hung out after eating. They also had a night of competition to see which group could build the biggest tower of marshmallows and spaghetti noodles! A tradition that varsity teams do is go to "the hill." They run up a huge hill, and then run down the other side into a lake. Some years they canoe the lake, too. It's extremely hard work, but the guys have a great time!

The team was pumped for its season to begin. The first game the team played was hosted here at DHS and was the Barb Cup tournament. The boys played a tiring three games but ended up losing in the championship game 0-1 against Yorkville. Their record was 2-1 to start off the season. The season went back and forth. The team had some good games, some off games, and some games that the team tried its best but just couldn't pull through and win.

The team closed out the season by making it to Regionals. Senior Alonzo Jones said, "The best part of the season was coming back in the second half of our Regional game and earning ourselves a Regional championship match." Jones was out for the first half of the season with a leg injury that kept him from playing and practicing. Regionals was hosted at DHS, and the team made it to the Regional champi-

onship. Coach Mac said, "We lost 1-0 in the Regional Final. I thought if we were able to carve out a few more offensive opportunities we might have been able to find the equalizer but it never happened. We struggled to score goals all season so it was a culmination." At the end of the season, the record was 8-9-4.

Players that stood out to the coaches this season were junior Trevor Espy, junior Lincoln Draper, junior Angel Martinez, senior Leo Marquez, junior Tristan Bujarski, and junior Benny Redzepe. They showed strength and improvement throughout the season and really helped pull the team together out on the field.

The team also said farewell to a great group of seniors. They were recognized at senior night for their outstanding dedication to the team. Most of them have played at DHS all four years. "Seniors will always be missed. They have experience; they're older, bigger, stronger, and faster than younger players" said Coach McIntosh.

The guys had a great season and hope to come out next season to be even stronger, faster, and more motivated!



DeKalb (black) vs. McHenry (white) at Regional finals. Photo taken by Bethany Billips.



The seniors joined by their parents on senior night. Photo via DHSboysoccer21.