

Men's Soccer ends turbulent season

by Mel Collins

The men's soccer season has been filled with ups and downs.

There have been many changes on the field, which goes to show how strong a program we have here. They have continued to work and show the fans what they want to see.

Coker Cobras

This game was intense right from the start. The teams came out fired up, making the action fast and furious. Kevin Varnado managed to get the ball away from an opposing defender. The ball worked its way from there to David Hartman, Frank Balentine, and Warren Roca before being caught by the keeper. This play was followed up by ensuing shots by Vinny Eamma and Denis Hilton. The Cobras mounted some offense which was quickly smothered by goalie Mark Wagner. The defense helped start some more offense, with Tom Cimalore,

Roca and Hartman leading the push. The offensive push forced a penalty on the Cobras near the goal. Eamma passed to Hartman, who put it in the goal. The offense did not rest, with Dan Pagnotta, Roca and Mark Clemente combining on a drive which would have scored a goal were it not for an amazing diving stop by the Cobras' keeper.

That woke the Cobras up and they started mounting pressure. The Knights defense tried their hardest but the Cobras managed to get one past them to tie the score at one. It remained that way into the half. The second half began with a mighty thrust of offense from the Knights. Hilton and Varnado each had exceptional runs through the opposition with Josh Smith coming up with a quick goal. Neil Fillmore, Jorge Villalobos, Varnado, Hartman and Eamma all used fancy footwork and heads up play to put more pressure on the Cobras.

Clemente, Varnado, and Smith worked the ball downfield to have a beautiful shot negated

by a penalty. The team continued working even after an injury to Clemente forced him off the field. With the time running down, a momentary lapse by the team allowed the Cobras to tie the score again. A last minute drive and shot by Hartman was wide.

The game moved into sudden death overtime. The shortened period ended with no change in score despite some amazing shots by Coker which Wagner and his defense stopped. The Knights had very little offense to show. The second overtime was quite a different story. It was like Hilton had had enough messing around and got down to business. He took the first pass downfield and attempted a goal front pass. The problem was, he missed his teammate and hit the goal.

The game ended a 3-2 victory for the Knights. The first half of this game showed just how well the Knights can work as a team. They kept up constant offensive pressure

and good communication on the field. Roca, Pagnotta, Balentine, Clemente, Varnado, and Eamma all made offensive runs at the goal but were turned away by the Francis Marion goalie. For the defensive end, goalie Chris Walker and Roca combined on an amazing save combination, turning away a series of shots. Jason Diehl and Hilton also got involved in the defense, with several blocked passes and aggressive steals. Unfortunately, on an attempted save, Walker tripped over the opposing player. The resulting penalty kick was good, allowing Francis Marion to take the lead. The offense returned to command with runs involving Eamma, Villalobos, Varnado, Pagnotta, Balentine, and Roca. The defensive plays of Eamma and Andrew Patrick ended the first half on a positive note despite the 1-0 Francis Marion lead.

The second half spelled disaster. The Knights lost their communication and fire. They kept the pressure up but those

two factors prevented them from finishing with a goal. Varnado, Balentine, Eamma, Hilton, and Villalobos each contributed to several impressive runs downfield. Clemente, Varnado and Balentine each showed some fancy footwork to move around the Francis Marion players but none could find the necessary outlet to score. As the team began to deflate, Francis Marion was able to tack on three more goals. The team put together a final offensive push as time ran down, during which Daniel Phifer, Clemente, Wagner, Pagnotta and Patrick each touched the ball but the effort was for nothing. The final score was 4-0.

The team completed the season with a better record than last year. They lost in the first round of the CVAC tournament but that does not change the accomplishment of the team. Their play continued to improve and hopefully that will carry over to next year.

Women's Soccer finishes season fighting

by Mel Collins

The women's soccer team's record especially impressive when it is realized that they had just enough players to put on the field for most of the season. They managed to get things done in an impressive and classy manner. While they lost in the first round of the CVAC tournament, they made a statement by getting there.

Pfeiffer

The Lady Knights started off strong against Pfeiffer. Natalie Krvaric and Shelly Kleinschmidt made nice steals to keep things under SA control. The defensive end was handled well by goalie Tori Rutherford, Jill Kappus, Cindy Phifer and Nicola Ager. Offense was the

name of the game pretty quickly. Alyssa Gann, Mary-Kathleen Daley and Kleinschmidt started the offense's motor with an impressive push.

Sammy McGee and Farah Allen each added contributions to the offensive effort. Perhaps one of the best of these offensive series came when was when a drive by Daley and Kleinschmidt ended with a shot on goal which was deflected out. Daley handled the corner kick in to McGee, who's shot landed just short. Kleinschmidt ran it down and play resulted in a penalty kick by Daley which was just wide. It was the sort of great team play which gives you an idea that things are going well. But a dark cloud loomed in a sudden offensive push by Pfeiffer. After several blocked shots by Rutherford,

Ager and Krvaric, the ball shot into the SA goal. As the half ran down, the score remained 1-0 in Pfeiffer's favor.

The Lady Knights did not take long to respond in the second half. Kleinschmidt scored a goal in the first five minutes to tie the score. The team was fired up by another save by Rutherford. McGee, Allen, Kleinschmidt, Daley, and Phifer managed to get the pressure back on the Pfeiffer defense. It was McGee who finally broke the tie with a late goal. The offense kept the pressure up and when the defense needed to come through it did. The game ended with the Lady Knights beating their CVAC foe 2-1.

Coker

The Cobras came in with

a reputation for being a physical team and they lived up to that billing. However, the Lady Knights were not about to be intimidated. The team was focused from the start. Rutherford, Ager and McGee made it hard for the Cobras to get anything going while Lorein Chilton, Kleinschmidt and Daley combined on a goal. The offensive pressure kept up with contributions from Daley, Kleinschmidt, Phifer, McGee, Krvaric, Chilton, Allen, and Gann. Ager, Kappus, and Krvaric helped Rutherford on defense but the goalie made some amazingly acrobatic saves to keep the Cobras at bay. Yet the pressure got to be too strong, as the Cobras snuck in a goal to tie the score just be-

fore the half.

The second half was as intense as the first. The pressure was kept just about equal throughout the time. But on an offensive drive by Coker, Rutherford committed too much to the first shot and the rebound shot got past her. The Lady Knights rallied to try to regain control. Gann used some fancy footwork and Phifer and Daley each made offensive deliveries deep into Coker territory. The defense prevented any further scoring. The offense came close on several drives to scoring, with shots going just wide or right to the keeper. There were a couple of drives negated by offsides penalties. The frustration resulted in a lack of fire and a 2-1 loss.