

Spotlight: Soccer Seniors

by Tara Cashwell

1991 was a very successful year for the Monarch men's soccer team. Although they ended the season with a loss to Bethany College of West Virginia during the Regional Championship game, the Monarchs finished their regular season with a record of 15-0-3. This was the first time in Methodist College history that a team has gone undefeated in their regular season. They also won their third consecutive conference championship and second consecutive invitation to the NCAA Tournament. Out of 260 Division III teams in the nation, the Monarchs ended in the top 16.

Much of the team's success can be attributed to eight senior soccer players who will soon be graduating. These men have dedicated themselves to the team. Methodist College has had the privilege to call its own. Although most of these men will be moving on this May, those of us left behind will remember all of their wonderful victories, their many hours of hard work, their determination, and at the last minute, their "agony of defeat."

JUSTIN CAREY--Justin is originally from Dublin, Ireland. He said he has been playing soccer for as long as he can remember. At 9 years old he began playing club soccer, what Americans know as league soccer. Through the years Justin continued his club soccer career even while playing for Brunswick Street Secondary School, his Irish high school. He eventually ended up playing for Belvedere club team where he and Patrick Gibney were team-mates. Justin came to the United States in August of 1987 at the age of 18 after learning that the Fayetteville Academy was interested in recruiting kids from Ireland to play soccer. He spent his last year of high school playing soccer for the Fayetteville Academy and decided to attend Methodist College after meeting Coach Alan Dawson.

Justin says his most gratifying moment during his Methodist College career was "the Second Regional Finals." Justin is a Business major and will graduate in May.

FINBARR PATRICK CLANCY--Finbarr is from Tramore, County Waterford, Ireland. Finbarr said he has been playing soccer ever since he could walk. "I began by kicking the ball around in the street" he said. "You know like the American kids play baseball in the street." At 7 years old he started playing on club teams and began his competitive soccer career at age 11. By the time Finbarr was 15 years old he was playing for the Ireland National Team.

He came to the United States in the summer of 1988 when he was

17 years old specifically to play soccer for Methodist College. Finbarr was recruited by Coach Dawson through a friend of Dawson's who was visiting Ireland.

When asked about his most rewarding soccer memory at Methodist, he replied, "Actually the highlight was the party at Omar's after beating Emory University. David Holmes mother led all the Irish songs while we sang along. She was visiting from England." Finbarr is a Physical Education major and will graduate in May.

PATRICK (PATTY) GIBNEY--Patty is from Dublin, Ireland. He says he has been playing soccer ever since he could walk. Patty began playing soccer on school-boy teams under the age of 11. He attended Marian College Secondary School where he played soccer for his high school team; however, he also played for Belvedere club team because as he put it, "school soccer was not as prominent as club soccer." Patty came to the United States in August of 1987 when he was 18 years old. He spent his last year of high school playing soccer at the Fayetteville Academy. Patty said he decided to continue his education at Methodist College because he had made many friends in Fayetteville and wanted to stay close by, because he had met Coach Dawson and realized he would be able to relate to him as a coach since they both shared Irish backgrounds, and because his friends Justin Carey and Jimmy Maher had decided to attend Methodist College and he felt the three of them had come to America as a group.

Patty says his most gratifying moment in his Methodist soccer career was beating Emory University. "It was a fantastic time even though I wasn't playing." Patty will graduate in May. He is a Business major.

JAY HALEY--Jay is from Chesapeake, Virginia. He began playing club soccer at the age of seven while living in Washington state. The club team for which he played had to travel to Canada because, at the time, soccer was not a popular sport in the United States. Jay continued to play soccer after his family moved from Washington state to Virginia. From ninth through twelfth grade he played for Deep Creek High School in Chesapeake. After high school Jay went to North Carolina Wesleyan College for two years. He also played soccer there. Jay transferred to Methodist College for his junior year.

Jay says his best soccer moment while playing for Methodist came last year when the team beat Greensboro at Greensboro. "It was a good feeling to win and know



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we were in the NCAA Tournament." Jay is double majoring in Business and Economics and he will not graduate until May of 1993.

DAVID HOLMES--David is from Brigg, South Humberside County, England. He began playing soccer when he was 4 years old. He said, "I played on my own for seven years, then I joined a club team when I was eleven." David attended Sir John Nelthorpe High School where he was the captain of his school team for five years. He also played for the England School-Boy Team against Scotland in 1988.

David came to the United States when he was 18 years old. He was recruited to play soccer for Methodist College by Assistant Coach Phil Stephson. David and Stephson had played under the same state coach in England. David says his best Methodist soccer memory was "making the All-American my sophomore year." David is a Physical Education major and will graduate in May.

LANCE WATKINS--Lance is from New Port Richey, Florida. He has been playing soccer since he was 7 years old. He played in leagues from the time he was seven until he reached middle school

when he started playing on his school team. After his middle school career, he went on to play for his high school, Gulf High.

Lance decided to attend Methodist College for three reasons: he was recruited to play soccer by Coach Dawson, he received an Incentive Scholarship, and he felt Methodist had the Accounting program he was looking for. Lance says his most memorable moment of soccer while playing for Methodist was "beating Greensboro my junior year for our first NCAA Tournament bid." Lance is an Accounting and Business major. He will graduate in May.

FERNANDO MARTINEZ--Fernando was born in El Salvador, South America. He began playing soccer when he was 7 years old. He started playing soccer on his own by kicking the ball around. He attributes his interest in soccer to the fact that it is the main sport in El Salvador. Fernando came to the United States at age eleven when his family

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