

Sports

NCSSM Soccer 1993

by James Steiner

Soccer is an honored traditions at the School of Science and Math, and this year is no exception. The NCSSM 1993 varsity soccer team has started slow this year but it is picking up its pace, says team member David Jones. The team's record is 3-2 in conference play, and they feel that this is representative of both their ability and their potential to improve. The team has improved steadily since the very first day. A team at a school like NCSSM (a two-year residential one) has many difficulties to overcome. Nearly every member comes from a different school, a different style of coaching and playing, as well as a different team philosophy. Added to this is the fact that the team had only two weeks of practice before their first game, whereas most teams practice for a month or more in preseason.

However, these difficulties are being systematically eliminated by the 1993 Unis. This year's team has showed that they can pull together, though, and are now on a two game winning streak (The last game was won 4-1). This has been good for morale and has also gotten the team feeling good about the rest of the season. When asked where they think they will end up, the team responded by expressing their confidence about going to the state playoffs. Though the Coach — Lane Wright — would only say that he felt the team would do well in the playoffs, team member David Jones was more optimistic. Jones believes that given the teams steady rate of improvement and what he called a "good draw" in the playoff order, the Unis have a good chance of "going all the way." The group seems to be playing well as a team, as well as individually. All the players are making extraordinary efforts in both games and practice. Coach Wright says that the team works harder than most teams he has come in contact with. Part of this effort comes from team unity, which is very strong.

The team doesn't just work hard, they also have a great deal of natural ability. The five returning seniors have improved dramatically and have contributed to the team more than last year's despite their smaller numbers. The juniors



(about nine of them) have been very productive and have performed impressively. These juniors have great potential and may prove to be the backbone of a very strong team next year.

Coach Wright feels that this team is both a strong team this year and a solid foundation for next year. The team is powerful in all three major areas of the game: defense, midfield, and forward. The goal keeping is also impressive. Both keepers (one of which is a first year soccer player) are admirable in their dedication and ability. Coach Wright also feels that the work ethic is among the best he has experienced. "They give 100 percent in every practice" says Wright and adds that they are committed to continuous improvement. Though the coaching switch between Kevin Bartkovitch and Lane Wright has been difficult to overcome for the seniors (because of different styles of coaching), Wright is pleased with how they have performed so far. It is obvious that the team has great potential that they are committed to living up to. So far this year, there have been large crowds at all home soccer games, so make every effort to attend as many games as possible for the rest of the season.

Men's Soccer Team

Stockton Butler
 Joel Colon
 Daniel DeBrule
 Mike Felts
 Clark Grey
 Craig Hart
 Chris Haskins
 Gabe Hauser
 David Jones
 Sam Lada
 Dan McDermon
 Mark Paschall
 Drew Patterson
 Matt Puffer
 Tommy Reilly
 Charlie Roederer
 Kevin Stevens
 Carlos Thompson
 Chad Wellman
 James Worriax

