

Soccer team sets lofty goals

By Greg Dolan
Reporter

It's that time of year again. Get hype, because Coach Degraw is back to coach another season and it won't be long until that checkered ball will be rolling up and down Jamieson Stadium. Soccer season is back, and if the team can come together, they will be rolling far into the playoffs.

Tom Holland, a junior, says, "We have the talent to win the state finals. It is going to depend on whether we will be able to come together, and get some luck." The team is doing well, with a record of 10-4 at press time, and a second place rank in the conference. But in the words of Coach Herk Degraw, "The team is going through a down time." According to Coach Degraw, it is not worth worrying over. "All teams go through a down time," says Degraw. "We started off strong, and then we had a tough game at Northwest. But when the playoffs start those type of things

usually work out."

The team is almost one-half seniors. "We are going to lose almost half our team, and most of the seniors start. So next year we are going to need some guys to step up, because we will lose a lot of our senior leadership," says Reed Avren, a sophomore. However, most of the underclassmen are positive about the upcoming seasons. Graham Pettigrew, a junior, says, "We are going to lose a lot of our starters, but there are some good players on junior varsity and in the sophomore and junior classes. I think we will be okay."

The boys' soccer team has a solid record, and most players believe that

Grimsley is a lock-in for the conference title. But Coach Degraw says, "If we get overconfident we will lose. We cannot overlook any opponent. We can't go



Reed Avren looks on as Daniel East fights for the ball. Both are trying to take the soccer team to new heights this season. Perkins photo

through the season looking to the playoffs."

One principle that Degraw believes in is practice. As Cheikna Baber, a senior,

says, "One of the things Coach Degraw believes in is hard practices and scrimmaging often. But the practices are not so bad." It is always important to stay positive at the practices. Zach Wineburg, a senior says, "Sometimes we get sluggish at practice, so I try to get the guys motivated as best that I can."

There is a rumor that this is Coach Degraw's last year at Grimsley. Degraw has coached here for two decades and has become a fixture in Grimsley soccer. He says, "What you're hearing is a rumor. As far as I know I will be back next season."

The Grimsley men have some lofty aspirations for this season. "It looks like when we play as a team we do much better," says Holland. "If we do those things we will do well in the playoffs." Some of the guys make bold predictions. Holland says, "I will consider anything less than the finals a disappointment."

Senior Spotlight: Smouse passes with perfection

By Daniel Guttentag
Reporter

Although Bryan Smouse can be seen swishing three-pointers on the basketball court and jumping leap-frogs on stage, during this fall sports season Smouse is concentrating on his role as captain and quarterback of the Whirlie football team.

His success and leadership are results of many years of football experience. Smouse began playing football at the Lewis Recreation Center at the young age of eight. He later played quarterback in middle school for the Kiser Tigers. Smouse has been the starting quarterback for Grimsley since his sophomore year.

Smouse truly has an affinity for the game he has played since elementary school. "I love football because it's an outlet for a lot of things," said Smouse. "For example, if you do bad on a test or get into a fight with your girlfriend you might be feeling bad, but once you're on the football field, the game is all you have time to think about."

Smouse certainly wants to continue playing football in college. He is hoping to attend N.C. State, Western Carolina, or an Ivy League school next year and prolong his success on the football field.

One obvious difference between high school and college football for Smouse will be that he will no longer have his father as his coach, a unique situation he has experienced at Grimsley. "It's hard sometimes because he probably treats me harder

than anyone else on the team," said Smouse. "But, he is definitely not afraid to yell at me."

Hopefully, Smouse and his father will be able to lead the Whirlie football squad to a very successful season. If Smouse's expectations for this season prove to be correct, then this should be one of the best



Bryan Smouse relaxes during a pep rally. But he will feel the pressure when he takes his place on the field. Perkins photo

Grimsley football seasons in years.

"We're starting to come along a lot and play together," said Smouse. "I think good things are going to come and I guarantee we are going to make the play-

offs."

It is possible that Smouse's predictions might come true and he would therefore not have to endure what he believes to be the low points of a football season. According to Smouse, the worst part of playing football is waking up feeling bruised and battered the day following a lost match.

However, Smouse claimed, "The morning after winning a game, the pain doesn't feel as bad."

Smouse is hopeful that his expectations will be fulfilled. If all goes well, Smouse will leave Grimsley High School football with a bang--and a playoff victory.

Black Cadillac-Oldsmobile
Supports the Grimsley
Whirlies!

601 E. Bessemer Ave.
(336) 275-9641

WE'RE TRUE BLUE

GO WHIRLIES!

THE ACKERMANNNS

50¢ OFF
ANY SMOOTHIE



Juice
Shop
SMOOTHIES