

# KMJH Booters Finish Unbeaten

Kings Mountain Junior High's soccer team won its last four games to finish its first season unbeaten (9-0) and as champions of the Bi-County Middle School Conference.

Coach Eric Faust's booters defeated Crest 6-1 on Sept. 29, Shelby 3-2 on Oct. 3, Burns 9-1 last Thursday and Crest 7-3 Monday.

Srimaha Rithiphong scored three goals and Thong Chanthapheng, Steven Fisher and David Ramsey one each in KMJH's 6-1 win over Crest. Coach Faust said Crest had the most balanced team the Patriots played this year, "but the accurate passes and individual skills of our boys" were the keys to victory. Kings Mountain showed a lot of strength on the wings and their centering passes enabled the inside forwards to score.

Rithiphong scored two goals and Fisher one to lead the win

over Shelby, which was the closest game the KM team had all year. "The closeness belies the dominance of pressure and shots on the goal put by the Patriot strong line," Faust said. "For some reason, many of our shots were high or wide and many goals missed. Shelby proved that they had improved their teamwork and skills."

Despite the close score, Faust continued to let all of his players participate, a goal he and athletic director David Heffner planned prior to the start of the season.

"Every boy had to dig down deep against the strong Shelby team," Faust said. "Even though Shelby's goals came late in the game, the tough play of our starters and substitutes alike resulted in victory."

Fisher scored three goals, Chanthapheng two, Michael Smith two, and Clay Corry and

Kyle Sellers one each in last Thursday's victory over Burns. "Our strong starting lineup exhibited the maturing skill of good teamwork," Faust said. "Passes were sharp and accurate, the ability to look ahead two and three passes was excellent, and the use of centering passes by the wings and mid-fielders showed skills that looked like veterans at work."

"The younger line proved how much growth has taken place," he added. "They penetrated the Burns defense and put a lot of pressure on their goal."

Smith scored two goals and Chanthapheng, Corry, Fisher, Rithiphong and Lindsay Suber one each in the season-ending win over Crest Monday at KMJH.

"The game was a clinic of good position play, passing and well-

chosen shots," Faust said. "Our individual dribbling skills and defensive tackling (stealing the ball with your feet) were a pleasure to watch."

"In every game, our players played with good sportsmanship, clean play and tough competition," Faust said. "These players will provide great strength for the hoped-for senior high program."



COACH ERIC FAUST DIRECTED KMJH SOCCER TEAM TO UNDEFEATED SEASON

## Sport Off To Good Start

Soccer has made a grand entrance into the Kings Mountain sports area.

The inaugural season of public school soccer competition brought forth a growing excitement, interest, and knowledge among sports fans in the Historic City. This first experience involved the seventh and eighth grades of Central School and Kings Mountain Junior High. It was not only the first season for the Patriots, it was also the first coaching experience for coach Eric Faust, the pulpiteer from First Presbyterian Church.

Under the supervision of Kings Mountain Junior High Athletic Director, David Heffner, the team was one of the charter members of the newly formed Bi-County Middle School Conference designed expressly for these two grades in Lincoln and Cleveland Counties.

The excitement of Kings Mountain soccer was seen in the support, attendance and enthusiasm of parents and friends. The townspeople expressed great interest with their eager questions inquiring about the team's success, the identity of the players—questions seeking understanding

about this game. This new found interest has been further expressed by the hopes that soccer will enter the Senior High sports program.

Soccer is an international sport found in every corner of the world, where young boys and girls manipulate a soccer ball with their feet with the same dexterity that American kids handle a television remote control with their hands. Soccer is known throughout the world as "football" and the sport to which we pay homage on the weekends is merely designated "American Football."

The Patriots team was composed of 24 young men with a wide diversity of experience—some had never played, some had been playing since the first grade. The players grew into a team and have continued to mature as the veterans helped the novices, as encouragement was shared, and as skills improved. These young men gave energy and commitment to their practices and games, and the results were magnificent. The inaugural season concluded with the team undefeated; nine wins and zero losses. With the old standby cheer of "15 Rahs" and

the cooler emptied upon the coach, Patriot Soccer's first season gave this new sport a great lift off.

Coach Faust thanks Roger Ross who served faithfully as assistant coach, and student assistant Chanthapheng, who shared his skills in helping to teach the players.

"TO ELECT A MAJORITY"



**DICK HOAGLAND**

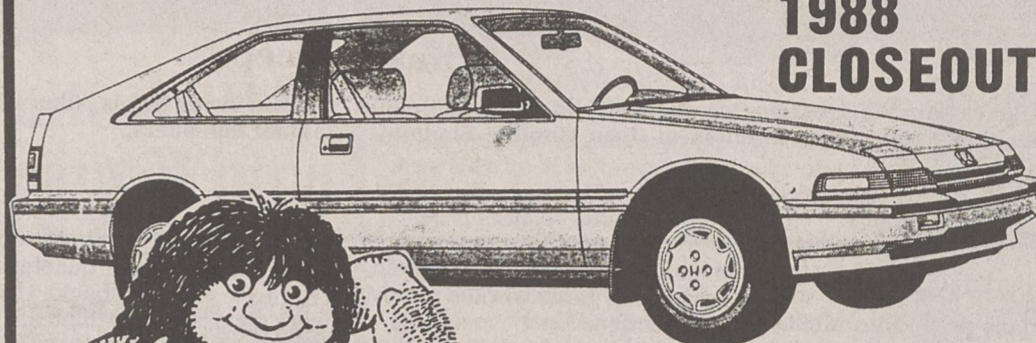
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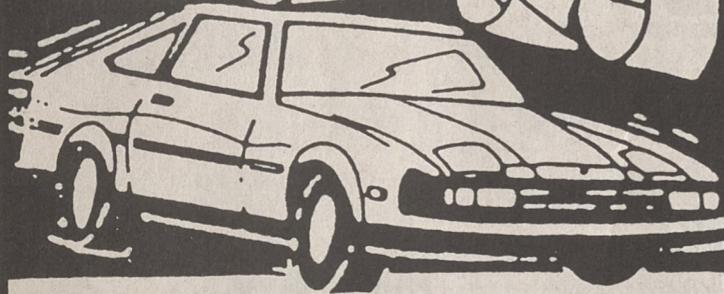
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