

# Varsity soccer: Unsung hero of St. Joe athletics

If any of our fall sports ever give a mediocre season or if their playoff bid falls flat, St. Joe has one sport on that will never deny us a great season: soccer.

Let's take a minute to thank the ever-competitive soccer program at our school. It often has been an unsung hero in St. Joe athletics.

Throughout the years it hasn't been a question of whether the team will make the playoffs. Rather, it's been a question of how far will the team advance it in the championship tournament.

Hanging in our gymnasium is a blue-and-gold banner. On it, you can clearly read: "Dwayne Demmin Coach of the Year 2009."

Demmin joined St. Joe in 2004 as the head boys varsity soccer coach.

The very next year in 2005 under his guidance, the team was listed as one of the top 10 in the nation.

In the past, Coach Demmin taught keyboarding to middle schoolers. Currently, he coaches varsity soccer.

Before coaching high school, Coach Demmin was a professional soccer player. He certainly has the experience, skill and determination to



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make St. Joe varsity soccer a continuous top-notch contender for the playoffs.

Assistant Coach David Wissel agreed.

"Since its inception, St. Joe soccer has always been competitive and very successful," Coach Wissel said. "We've been known around town for our soccer team."

It's fairly safe to assume that the success of the program continues to lie in Coach Demmin's hands in addition to the talent of the students on the team.

Many said that the loss of 11 seniors from the previous year's team would hinder the success of this year's team. I maintain it was a godsend.

Demmin brought in a number of exceptionally talented eighth- and ninth-graders to repopulate the gaping hole left by the graduated seniors.

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*“ St. Joe soccer has always been competitive and very successful. ”*

*– David Wissel  
assistant soccer coach*

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He put in the entirety of his time and energy in coaching the team to not only maintain the

skills of his upperclassmen, but also to bring the former junior varsity players to his standards.

These standards leave minuscule room for failure. As soon as the younger players learn this, the sooner they will become leaders on the field.

Coach Demmin has been training with his varsity and junior varsity teams since late fall.

The 2012-2013 season came to an abrupt halt as the team was eliminated from the playoffs in its first game. We could certainly use a change in pace with new leadership.

Seniors Charlie LeDoux and Josh Speyerer brought a level of accomplishment to the team that hasn't been seen in years.

After not playing last year, Speyerer brought with him a new energy and a new mantra. "We are going to win the real championship," he said.

Through Coach Demmin's rigorous regimen of training and preparation, the team met its first goal of becoming back-to-back district champions. The Bruins marched into the playoffs with their shoulders high as they took on Franklin County and arose victorious.

Unfortunately, the road to the state championship ended as they were cut after their loss in the second game. I look forward to their season next year, which will certainly pick up from the successes our team left off on this year.