

WALK THE LINE

JV soccer players share about this season's struggles



"Playing with a team that I didn't really know at first or their tactics was hard, but as the season went on it was easier."

omar garcia, 9



"Running six blocks, the football field, and the bleachers with varsity was so hard."

miguel lopez, 9



"In the middle of the season we lost our coach to another school, so we had to get used to Coach Lang's style. It worked out in the end."

kellar kratz, 9

"My favorite soccer memory was the first time I played when my grandparents came to watch me."

Hayden Mills, 11



"Our team motto is 'ARAMBAY' which means to work together as one."

Michael Pitts, 10



REACHING new goals

Players share their thoughts on season

The boys soccer team went far, despite the difficulties of early morning practices and soggy fields. They finished the season 7-9-3.

"I felt like the season was great," Alfredo Enriquez, 12, said. "I don't think we could have done anything better; we tried our hardest."

During the last game of the season, the goalie, John Chambliss, 11, took a hit on the field on the head and started having seizures. He was then taken to the hospital.

"When JC got hurt it was kind of unreal. People were crying, and some people looked sick to their stomach," Caden Stovall, 11, said. "We all just started praying right when it happened, even the other team was helping."

The game ended in a loss against George County after going into overtime.

The players went through intense training this year including running, weights, and other training.

"We had strenuous conditioning during pre-season and continued conditioning during the season," Kyren Seymour, 11, said. "We primarily practiced defending corner kicks because that's our weakness. The team had a tradition before every game to do a dance and yell. "Before games we warm up together," Seymour said. "We stretched in two lines, did some jogs, and 20 yards."

Before the first playoff game the team decided to bleach their hair together.

"I completely regret it," Graham Gill, 12, said. "I think we just wanted to do something stupid and funny that would help us bond and be more of a unit."



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER
Blake Ortego, 10, battling for the ball with against a player from Moss Point. "When people are aggressive on the field, I am just aggressive back," Ortego said. "My goals this season were to score more goals, to get assists, and to get some playing time because that's hard as a sophomore." // Avery Stephan photo

BEND IT LIKE BECTON
Blake Becton, 12, looks for an opening down the field to score. "The last game wasn't what we wanted, but it showed us that life is more than one sport or one season," Becton said. "Once we saw JC go down, we knew that was what God wanted." // McKenzie Woodard photo

NOSE GOES
Finn Mattocks, 11, gets his nose checked after taking a big hit on the field. "All I could think about was how I didn't want to come out of the game," Mattocks said. "They had to use a solution to get the blood out of my uniform so I could get back onto the field." // McKenzie Woodard photo

FIELD DAYS

Varsity soccer tells about their favorite parts of this season

"I like hanging out with the team because we did pretty good this year and went to playoffs. Hopefully we can go to State next year or at least South State."

Caedon Grover, 11

"My favorite part of this year has been us making it past the 1st round of playoffs for the first time in a long time. I look forward to the team getting stronger and going further than we ever have before."

John Chambliss, 11

"My favorite part of this year was having team bonding and bleaching our hair. I can't wait for next year's season; I hope we can push ourselves to work hard and make it to South State."

Paul Anderson, 11

"My favorite part of this year was winning the first round of playoffs against Pearl; that was really exciting. Next year I look forward to getting more playing time and making more of an impact."

Nathan Mars, 10

"My favorite memory this year was going to Firehouse before every game. The workers there used to know when we were coming, know our orders, and wish us luck before every game."

Tyler Montgomery, 10

HEADS UP

Warren Trussel, 11, jumps for a header in a game won against Moss Point. "It doesn't really hurt when the ball hits your head; it just feels like a pat on the head," Trussel said. "My favorite part of soccer is getting to know all my teammates." // Avery Stephan photo

KICKING IT UP A NOTCH

Clay Symanski, 10, looks across the field for an open player to pass the ball to. "Our goal this year was to go as far as possible like State, but it didn't end the way we wanted with JC's injury," Symanski said. "Hopefully we can push to do better next year." // courtsey Chuck Lick



JUST FOR KICKS

Elian Fajardo, 11, kicks the ball at a game against Hattiesburg High. "I have to think about the best thing for the team, whether that's assisting or going for a goal," Fajardo said. "I've played soccer since I was five, and I've tried to play everyday since." // Logan Meadows photo

GOALS IN MIND

Walker Fairley, 10, runs across the field to find a gap between Ocean Springs. "I love to play striker because you get to score goals," Fairley said. "I'm constantly thinking about what my next move is, like who I'm going to pass the ball to." // courtsey Chuck Lick



JUMPING FOR JOY

Adam Stone, 11, celebrates after scoring a goal in a game against Ocean Springs which ended in a 2-1 lead. "It feels awesome when you score; I feel like I'm on top of the world," Stone said. "My proudest moment this season was scoring the leading point at Brandon." // courtsey Chuck Lick