



BOY'S SOCCER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



STATE CHAMPIONS



TOP LEFT: Seniors Nick Zouboukos and Riley Cole cheer on fellow classmates with handmade signs.

TOP RIGHT: Senior goalie Grant Murphy takes a free kick.

SECOND ROW LEFT: Blake Miller, left, and Grant Murphy after failing to douse Coach Dwayne Demmin with water following the win.

SECOND ROW RIGHT: Sophomore Aidan Lipovetsky makes a pass through the defense to another mid-fielder.

THIRD ROW LEFT: Members of the girls soccer team Allie Milner, Katie Joseph and Mary Kate Hamilton cheer the boys from the sideline with a handmade sign.

THIRD ROW RIGHT: Aidan Lipovetsky, Reed Collins and Grant Murphy celebrate after the win.

BOTTOM RIGHT: St. Joseph fans cheer in the rain.

All photos by Sydney Shoemaker/The Bear Facts

SPORTS LINE

BOYS BASKETBALL
ADVANCES IN TOURNEY



The Bruin boys basketball team heads to the Mississippi Coliseum today for a state tournament game against Leflore County. Tip-off is noon.

The Bruins finished the regular season at 22-6 overall and 8-0 in district play. They took on Loyd Star Attendance Center in the first round of the playoffs, winning 57-31.

The following week, the Bruins defeated St. Patrick Catholic School 61-34.

BASEBALL SEASON
UNDERWAY



The Bruin baseball team kicked off the 2018 season with a preseason jamboree at Ridgeland High School, where they tied Ridgeland 4-4.

On Saturday, the Bruins defeated Canton Academy at home with a score of 24-13.

- UPCOMING GAMES
- **MARCH 3:** Bruins vs. Winona Christian
 - **MARCH 6:** Bruins at Mize
 - **MARCH 9:** Bruins vs. Mize
 - **MARCH 10:** Bruins at Northwest Rankin
 - **MARCH 10:** Bruins vs. St. Benedicts at Ocean Springs



The Bruin softball season has so far been thwarted by weather. The jamboree, which was supposed to take place Saturday, was canceled.

The team resumes action Friday, March 2, against St. Andrew's.

- UPCOMING GAMES
- **MARCH 2:** Bruins vs. St. Andrews
 - **MARCH 5:** Bruins at Mize
 - **MARCH 8:** Bruins at Vicksburg HS
 - **MARCH 9:** Bruins vs. Yazoo County

Bruin Sports

Senior soccer players offer advice

By AMARI WELLS
The Bear Facts

The Bear Facts interviewed senior soccer players, asking them what advice they have or thoughts they would like to share with others. Here is what they said.

“With hard work and dedication, you can achieve anything you want.”



JULIAN BROWN

“Every negative has a positive, so never give up. My favorite quote is ‘Don’t stop when you’re tired. Stop when you’re done.’”



REED COLLINS

“‘On your wheels,’ was the quote of the season. Dedication, focus, hard work and great team chemistry is what got us where we are and will help them reach greatness in soccer.”



BRANDON DORSEY

“Always have more than one pair of cleats in your bag because you never know what will happen. I went through four pairs in two weeks. Your goals don’t count until the game is over. Always play like it’s 0-0.”



ANDREW DOTSON

“This year has been unlike any other. I have grown so close to this team, and they have become family. As for advice . . . all I can say is work together and always have each other’s backs on and off the field.”



JACK LEDOUX

“The team this year was more than just a team. It was a family. I’ll never forget what we’ve accomplished and the memories we made.”



GRANT MURPHY

“Because we had such a great connection between us, that helped us hold each other accountable on the field. We were able to remind each other of a goal whenever an obstacle hindered our path.”



RODNEY SELF

“You just have to keep going even when everything is against you. You have to believe in what you’re doing and always support your team.”



MARTA ANDREOLI

“Get to know the girls around you who are on the team. Don’t just be teammates with them, but become friends. It will help you trust each other on and off the field.”



LARISA ARMOUR



Photo by Sydney Shoemaker/The Bear Facts
Members of the Bruin boys soccer team celebrate the state championship.

“Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I’m possible” – Audrey Hepburn.



MACKENZIE BROWN

“One thing I learned is to never give up and never stop trying. “If you enjoy the sport, nothing should ever stop you from playing it. “I’ve been playing since the seventh grade, and I can tell you the feeling you get when making it to senior year is very rewarding. “All the hard work and dedication really pays off.”



KATIE JOSEPH

“Part of being on a team is having your own part and job. Every part matters. Even if you’re not on the field playing, you are helping the ones that start to improve and are helping yourself to get better.”



EMMA DOTSON

“Don’t give up. Keep pushing yourself and working hard. I was once a middle schooler who got benched and overlooked every single game, and now I’m headed to be a collegiate soccer player. Don’t give up on yourself and never give up on the team.”



ALLIE MILNER

CHAMPIONSHIP, from page 6

Crusaders goalkeeper Carson Hall.

“The ball landed perfectly on my foot,” Self said.

“The next thing I knew, the ball was in the back of the net, and everyone was crowded around me, and we were celebrating because we were now up by 2 goals in the game.”

Indeed, this goal would prove to be huge later in the game. Sacred Heart pulled closer with a goal in the last 15 minutes, making the score 3-2.



DWAYNE DEMMIN



REED FRY

The Crusaders were in striking distance, and potentially forcing overtime.

Fortunately for the Bruins, with the game winding down, they got a free kick. Collins stepped back, gathered himself, and calmly put a huge right kick into the ball, sending it flying through the air and into the back net of the Crusaders.

“That was the biggest moment in the game,” sophomore defender Reed Fry said. “Reed (Collins) hit it perfectly

into the bottom right corner. It sealed the game for us and put it completely out of the reach of Sacred Heart.”

An incredible game by Reed Collins and others gave St. Joe yet another title. With Demmin at the helm, St. Joe has dominated the Mississippi high school soccer scene.

With many key members of the team – such as Aidan Lipovetsky, Reed Fry, Blake Miller and Winston Kidd – returning next year, players say they are in a prime position to make a run for a second straight state title.

“Reed (Collins) hit it perfectly into the bottom right corner. It sealed the game for us and put it completely out of the reach of Sacred Heart.”

– Reed Fry, sophomore defender

PEARSON, from page 6

The tall, lanky, dark-haired kid seemed to be a step ahead of everyone in his age group. He would effortlessly move the soccer ball up-and-down the field, running circles around his competition.

But Collins didn’t just use his athleticism on the soccer field. He also played quarterback for the Bruin football team.

During Collins’ sophomore season, however, he suffered a major setback. In a blowout game on the road against the Lake Hornets, Collins was sent in to the game.

DANGEROUS INJURY

“Collins! Give me Reed!” Miller Todd, the Bruins head coach that year, yelled on the sideline.

Todd searched through the ranks of freshman and other sophomores on the sideline looking for his backup

quarterback. When Todd found Collins, he threw him into the game.

Collins lined up at quarterback in the shotgun formation, called the play, and took the snap. Three Hornet defenders broke through the offensive line, chased Collins, grabbed him around the neck and threw him to the ground.

Bruin faithful gasped as Collins lay motionless on the ground. He suffered a serious neck injury. Play was stopped. And after a maddeningly long wait, an ambulance arrived and rushed Collins to the hospital.

“The hardest thing for me was in 10th grade, when I hurt my neck,” he remembered. “I laid in the hospital, thinking I would never play sports again.”

ROAD TO RECOVERY

It was a long road back to the field

for Collins. He wore a neck brace for months, and rehabbed even longer.

Eventually, however, he made his return. He had an incredible junior year on the pitch and was instrumental in the deep postseason run the Bruins made that year.

For his senior year, Collins was determined to make it to a state championship – football or soccer.

He trained all summer for the upcoming football season. The Bruins were 2-2 going into a match-up against Jackson Prep.

Then, in the third quarter, Collins was injured when he went down with a sack. He twisted his leg and tore the medial collateral ligament, or the MCL, in his knee.

ANOTHER SETBACK

“I thought my knee was done, and I would never be the same,” Collins said.

Yet again, intense recovery was in front of Reed. He went to rehab for the next two months.

Despite the setback, Reed had a phenomenal year at quarterback – racking up almost 2,000 yards passing with 17 touchdowns. He was named to the All-District team.

Once soccer season started, any fear that he would regress soon disappeared. In a spectacular season, he scored 45 goals to go along with 19 assists.

“Reed has been amazing all season long,” said head soccer coach Dwayne Demmin. “He has been a goal-scoring machine.”

The most important was obviously the free kick that sealed the game for the Bruins in the state championship game.

Despite all setbacks, Collins said he wouldn’t have it any other way.

“It all worked out for the best because we’re state champs,” he said.

GIRLS SOCCER, from page 6



Photo by Walker Gosa/The Bear Facts
Sophomore Bailey Miller slides for a ball in the North State Championship at Ridgeland High School. The girls battled the whole game, but came up short in the end, losing 3-1.

step up and fill the empty leadership positions.

Despite losing many seniors, the team plans to carry what they learned into next season.

“We have a very young team, so next year I’m looking forward to being a captain and a strong leader so we can start over, rebuild our team and we can find our place,” said sophomore Bailey Miller.

So with a great postseason run this year, the Lady Bruins will build on that experience for next year.

The young players that got valuable playing time will lean on that experience next year, as they push once again for a state championship.

“We have a very young team, so next year I’m looking forward to being a captain and a strong leader so we can start over, rebuild our team and we can find our place.”

– Bailey Miller, sophomore