

Soccer Team Shows Late Improvement

By Danny Plunkett

This season was a long one for the MHS boys' soccer team. We played 18 difficult games, and never stopped battling. Last season, our team won only a single game, tied the same number, and was defeated in all the rest.

This year hopes were definitely high for an improved record. Well looking back, we absolutely achieved that goal. Although at times during the season it felt as though we could not buy a goal, we ended the season at 2-13-3, more than doubling our point total from last year.

True blowouts were extremely rare, and we felt like we stood a chance of winning almost every game. I know that for the seniors on the team it was a disappointing way to finish a high school soccer career, but we played as a team, lost as a team, and actually had some fun.

Losing can take the spirit out a group quickly, and the season had it lows. The thing about losing though is that it makes winning feel unimaginably sweeter. Manchester Essex may have thought the pig-pile on our goalkeeper was an over-celebration, but after our first win it seemed incredibly inadequate.

The team certainly faced its share of adversity this season. Even in the preseason it was apparent that we had our work cut out for us, as two of our captains, I being one of them, got injured in early August. Mike Brennan tore his meniscus

and I fractured my pelvis, and it was disappointing to start our senior year standing on the sidelines.

Other injuries continued to plague our team, as we lost multiple defenders early on and our third captain, Chris, obtained a concussion against Revere.

The beginning of the season was certainly a struggle, but the boys showed up everyday

with the attitude that we could win the next game. The seniors on the team, instead of despairing, just played even harder, and results eventually showed.

Toward the end of our schedule, we began to see a glimmer of hope for a strong finish. With six games left, we played with a complete roster for the first time and the team played the last string of games with a renewed passion. Mike, Chris, and I recovered from our respective injuries at roughly the same time, and were eager to spring back into action. We managed to get two wins and one tie in the last five games of the season, an uplifting way to go out.

We had our ups and downs, but we won and lost as a team, and had some fun despite a disappointing record. The MHS boys' soccer team of 2011 made a statement. We don't give up.

Danny was a captain for this year's soccer team.