

UNDEFEATED

Recapping the Men's Soccer Team's unforgettable season

By Ben Daecher



Shock and disappointment hung in the air as the Knights walked off the soccer field for the last time this season. Dozens of students quietly filed out of the bleachers, shaking their heads in disbelief. The seemingly impossible had happened. The undefeated men's varsity soccer team lost to Arapahoe High School 1-0 in the state quarterfinals.

Up until the night of Nov. 3 the season was nothing short of perfect. Undefeated. Ranked first in the state. Ranked fifth nationally. All signs pointed to a strong performance in the playoffs and the Knights winning their first ever state championship. Despite the ultimate playoff exit, this was still a season that few will forget.

The Knights started the season in dominant fashion, out-scoring teams 18-2 in their first six games. The team's confidence was high, but they became sure of their ability to win state after two key rivalry games at the end of September.

Fairview overcame a 1-0 deficit and scored three goals in the final 20 minutes to beat Monarch High School. Senior Myles Ellis scored an incredible header to defeat the arch-rival - then number one ranked - Boulder High School in double overtime.

"After the last 20 minutes against Monarch and after beating Boulder, we knew that we

had something special," said Ellis.

The leadership of the seniors was instrumental in the team's success. Not only were Cooper Harmon, Sajji Singh and Myles Ellis among the team's top performers, they also motivated the underclassmen and juniors to step up all year long.

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Harmon said, "I felt that the group of seniors that we had leading was sort of a perfect combination. We had leaders vocally and leaders, like [Myles Ellis], who would just work all day. It set an example for the younger guys and it just set our team up for success. The seniors knew that we would be a good team, but we needed everyone to perform."

Talent from multiple grade levels was certainly an area of strength for the Knights. Junior goalkeeper Carter Melton was rock-solid, allowing just one goal in 925 minutes and largely contributing to the team's mere 0.188 average goals against. Sophomore Sebastien Mazur led the team with seven assists, playing a significant role in the team's strong midfield.

"We were all bought in to the common goal of winning a state championship," said Ellis. "This year kids were able to buy into their roles and we started playing for each other and the results just came that way."

"It was inspiring to me to see such high quality play," said Athletic Director Terrin Kelly. "The way that they controlled the ball and the way that they execute the game together, you don't often see at the high school level."

Fairview students and teachers attended every home game, and with each win they came in greater numbers to witness the undefeated Knights' quest for a championship.

"Once it became clear that we were going to into the tournament as the number one seed, the that energy level picked up," said Kelly.

Senior super fan Didac Garcia-Grau said, "The team was really good and really fun to watch. To have a team that was number

The team celebrates its victory over Boulder High School

PHOTO BY JAKE ALOIA



PLAYING INDOORS

PREVIEWING FAIRVIEW'S WINTER SPORTS TEAMS

By Will Griffin

Girls Swim:

Well, this no doubt is a very talented group of athletes. With seven girls having already committed to Division-1 schools and three committed to Division-2 schools, there's plenty of buzz around this team. It's clear they rely a lot on senior leadership, but that's not all that defines them. They are very talented swimmers. "Our next event is the 100 fly as we have the most people that score in it," said senior Mya Dross. We can expect this talented team to make a really strong push for a state title.

Monarch Hockey:

Although, not directly affiliated with Fairview, the Monarch hockey team has four fellow Knights: Ian Capdeville, Shin Steinbarth, Jordan Finney and Alex Scatena. It's a team that doesn't get a whole lot of attention in the hallways, but they are a force to be reckoned with in 5A hockey. "We have a great group of guys who work hard all the time. Our captain Jordan Finney really pushes us to keep up that work ethic on and off the ice," senior goalie Ian Capdeville said. "We are always having fun together." Keep an eye out for the monarch on the ice

Girls Basketball:

This team is a relatively young team, experience-wise. However, they aren't afraid of any team or program. With just three returning players from last year, they will need to rely on senior Kayla Lampert's leadership and experience. The strengths on the team mostly come from a leadership standpoint. Having been on varsity the last two years, I'm confident with our skills and I am able to guide some of the younger players," said Lampert. A couple other players to watch on the team are the other two returning players, Izzy Munson and Adaya Richmond as well as freshman Kailey Paige.

Boys Basketball:

With five seniors and five returning starters, this team has no shortage of experience. I mean "no shortage" literally, as there are only three players on the roster listed under six feet tall. The only thing on the team's mind this year is State Championship. To get there they will rely on experience, shooting, and size. "We just compete every day and we are gonna continue to come out ring chasing the whole season. We want the whole state to know about our 'lights out' shooting ability," senior Nate Gann said. The Knights tip-off November 30 vs Clearwater.

five in the country was pretty cool, just to be able to tell people from others schools that we were undefeated."

The Knights were cemented as a top team in the state, and never lost their edge in the following weeks. They finished the regular season with an undefeated 15-0 record, improving to 17-0 after defeating Mountain Vista and Rock Canyon, both in overtime, in the first two rounds of the playoffs.

However, on Nov. 3, the magical season came to a sudden end. The eighth-ranked Arapahoe Warriors emerged victorious over the Knights, shocking every player, coach, parent and student.

Despite the disappointing finish, this remarkable season will never be forgotten. "I was just shocked after we lost because it was my last time playing on a team that I loved," said Harmon. "A little bit after I just felt happy that I went through the season with the players that I went through it with."



Izzy Munson looks to lead the team as one of its few returning members

PHOTO BY JIVAN WEST