



NEW COACH RESHAPES THE TEAM

he's a KEEPER

Coach Danny Pennington went from rookie coach to Centennial League's 2019 Coach of the Year.

Originally from Barnsley, England, Pennington had coached for the Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer program before becoming the varsity coach.

"As soon as I got here after the first couple of weeks, I realized that this an amazing group of students and that we could go quite far this year," Pennington said.

After two losing seasons, senior captain and defender, **Luis Soto Morales**, believed that this year would have a different outcome than the previous years because of the new coach.

"With his knowledge behind the game, the varsity team is possibly closer than ever to making it to playoffs and even farther," Soto Morales said.

It was captain and **senior Matt Anderson**'s third year on the team, and his experience made him feel responsible for his teammates.

"My job is to look out for my players, not even my players, my family," Anderson said.

Anderson and the other seniors appreciated how Pennington supported his team.

"Coach Danny listens to his players and uses them the right way," Anderson said.

Senior Trent Johnson was another captain and the goalkeeper.

"I try to raise people up, and we're more of a team than last year," Johnson said.

With the new coach's leadership, the team expected to make playoffs, the team fell just short after a 3-3 tie against Grandview High School ended their season.

"We expected to make playoffs but were off by one spot," Soto Morales said.

The unexpected end of the season was a big let down, Anderson said.

"We were so close but it made us appreciate how good we had become," Anderson said.



1. MAINTAINING FOCUS senior Luis Morales listens to Coach Daniel Pennington as he encourages the team to sustain their 4-0 lead against Vista Peak. Morales's favorite memory was when he got the Defensive MVP award. "We always push each other to find our purpose of winning," Morales said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA. **2. AMONG THE GROUP HUDDLE**, senior Adam Daroui listens to the coach. Daroui's favorite memory was their win against Eaglecrest. "I play soccer to have fun with my teammates and make good memories with the team as well," Daroui said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA. **3. FOCUSED ON THE BALL**, junior Komil Khatamov moves down the field. Khatamov prays before every game. "Self improvement always motivates me on the field to do better and try my best no matter what," Khatamov said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA. **4. PUSHING THE OPPONENT AWAY**, junior Simon Liga keeps the ball away from Cherry Creek. Liga's best memory was scoring against CT. "When I play soccer, I feel comfortable, energetic and I feel like no one can stop me," Liga said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA.



5. READY TO KICK THE BALL, senior Matt Anderson attempts to body off of a Creek defender to complete a pass. Anderson was a center mid-fielder. "I hope [soccer] teaches me discipline and how to be a good leader," Anderson said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA. **6. TACKLING HIS OPPONENT**, senior defender Gabe Dorra attempts to win the ball. Dorra played defense for the first time in his high school career. "Before a game I always vision myself on how I am going to play or come into the game," Dorra said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA.

SOCCER,

dear

MVP REFLECTS
ON HIS LOVE
FOR THE SPORT



From the moment I rolled up a set of socks and turned them into a soccer ball, I fell in love with you. I still remember the feeling of striking a makeshift soccer ball between the goalposts of a makeshift goal with an invisible net. On patches of dirt in Ethiopia and only sometimes with a ball somebody in the neighborhood had. At six years old, I could only imagine the pain and joy that I was yet to endure in our relationship. But still, I fell in love. Love so deep that it burned my heart, as the heat waves of Ethiopia burned my skin. I chased you for years and years, migrated thousands of miles just to keep chasing you. All for you to hurt me, physically and emotionally, but now I see the light you promised. The sweat and tears have all led to this final moment, and I can't thank you enough. No matter where I might end up next, I'll be just as eager to strike the ball as I was with a makeshift ball.

WRITTEN BY BENYAM YIFRU, 12

PASSING

HOW SOCCER PLAYERS PASS IN THE GAME AND IN CLASS

still



"Passing doesn't always have to go forward but it's used to make space for other players."

Julian Mohamad, 10



"Soccer is all about teamwork. When you pass the ball to your teammates its quicker and more efficient."

Munaf Harun, 12



"Soccer is a great motivator to get good grades in school. You can't play if you're not passing."

Kyle Siple, 12

post-game HABITS

THREE SENIORS EXPLAIN
WHAT THEY DO AFTER A GAME

"First thing we do is get all together, clap it out, and do a small jog to the other side of the field and come back, and thank the fans for coming out and supporting us,"

Zlatko Cerinsek, 12

"Towards the end, we all get together and talk about how the game went, what we did good, what we did bad, what we could do better for the next game."

Anis Hule, 12

"After the game is over, we shake hands with the other team and we jog as a team to the bleachers and clap for the people that came to supports us."

Rigoberto Ramirez, 12