

# KICKING INTO ELITE EIGHT

**VARSDITY MAKES ELITE EIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY**

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**2. TEAM PLAYER** After a goal against Rocky Mountain on Oct. 25, Wyatt Sparks, 11, congratulates his teammate Gustav Blom, 12. Varsity won 3-2 in overtime. Photo by Kendelle Hansen



## GOAL GETTING

**THE RUSH OF SCORING A GOAL**  
SOME GOALS ARE A LUCKY COINCIDENCE. THE REAL trick is mastering confidence through repetitive practice. By reading the game, redirecting the ball, and finding time to make a follow up shot, players need to practice every moment they get to find ways to get goals. "Getting a goal is pretty much the best feeling to get during a game; just the feeling of helping your team out in the most impactful way," senior Caleb Graham said.



**KICKING AWAY** While surrounded by opponents, Caleb Graham, 12, goes for the goal. "It's all about repetition, especially over the summer," Graham said. Photos by Kendelle Hansen



**1. ON THE OFFENSE** Wyatt Sparks, 11, runs the ball down the field during the Rocky Mountain game on Oct. 25. Varsity won 3-2 in overtime. Photo by Kendelle Hansen **3. HUDDLED UP** At the Oct. 25 game against Rocky Mountain, Bradley Venalanzo, 12, huddles up with his teammates. "We had a lot of communication and we always found a way to agree on things. We never went against each other, and always lifted each other up," Venalanzo said. Photo by Kendelle Hansen **4. BE AGGRESSIVE** Ryker Blom, 10, attempts to steal the ball from Rocky Mountain opponent on Oct. 25. "We did the coach's drills and practiced hard to get better at attacking," Blom said. Photo by Selena Abureesh **5. BREAKING AWAY** After getting away from the group at the Aug. 19 game against Valor Christian, Matthaeous Steinhoff, 12, heads for the goal. "You always want to make sure you're in the right position before you get the ball," Steinhoff said. They beat Valor 3-0. Photo by Jackson Zimmerman

## CLOSE BONDS

**THE TEAM'S TEAMWORK LED TO SUCCESS**  
AFTER THE FIRST ROUND OF PLAYOFFS AT THE STATE tournament, the boys varsity soccer team beat Rocky Mountain High School, 3-2 in overtime. Many on the team have claimed that they wouldn't have gotten all the way to the final four without teamwork.



"We work on teamwork at practice and at team dinners, just having fun with each other and communicating. We are very open with our problems in our games and we are able to fix them," senior Tyler Kirchner said.

**COMING TOGETHER** After a tough game against Rocky Mountain during the first round of state playoffs, Tyler Kirchner, 12, hugs his teammate. "It was more of a brotherhood this year," Kirchner said. Varsity won 3-0. Photo by Kendelle Hansen

### FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY THE VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

team made it to the elite eight. "It felt great, mostly because I was just playing with friends and having a great time," senior Ryan Stewart said. "Being able to take Legend as far as we have ever been in the playoffs, was just a fun experience." A vital factor to their success was building stronger connections as a team and changing the attitudes

they had towards one another. "We just eliminated being toxic to each other, and started to play as a team," Stewart said. "We bonded with each other, and focusing on not arguing allowed us to get as far as we did." The team had gone into the game that entered them into the elite eight with a positive mentality. "We had already beat ThunderRidge previously, so we knew we could win the game."