

INTERVIEW WITH THE SOCCER COACH

(Mr. Joe Kayser, American Government and AVID Teacher here at Woodlawn High School, responds to questions about his first year as head coach of the Boys' Soccer Team)

FIRST QUESTION: How was your first-year as head soccer coach? What was your motivation in the first place? Were there any language barriers?

My first year as head soccer coach was great. I coached them last year as an assistant, but being head coach takes on a whole other level of responsibility. I wanted to coach the soccer team because it is a great sport that always produces a high level of competition. My ultimate goal is to build a powerful soccer program at Woodlawn High School. The language barriers were very difficult to overcome. Luckily we have a few players on the team that are bilingual and could help Coach DuPrau and I translate. It also allows me to practice my Spanish and definitely expands my knowledge of other cultures.

SECOND QUESTION: Tell us about the players. Who were the captains? Who were the best returning players? Who were the best newcomers? What were some individual accomplishments?

The captains of the soccer team were Juniors Chris King and Javier Herrera. From the first day of practice they took on that leadership role and never looked back. I am looking forward to having them lead my team next year. There were not many returning players, since the majority of our team was freshmen. Torin Hart and Chris King were the key returning players on the squad and they used their experience to guide the younger players. There were several key newcomers to the squad led by freshman Artem Ivanov and Henri Guevara. These two young players became a very important part of our offense as the season progressed. Since it was a key rebuilding year, we do not celebrate individual accomplishments. As a team, we worked our butts off to be competitive every time we took the field. We will continue to work hard in the offseason in order to become a team that will be a force in the playoffs next season.

THIRD QUESTION: What were some memorable games of the season?

The most memorable game of the season has to be our first win against Carver. Wins were few and far between during this rebuilding year, so the first one was definitely something to appreciate.

FINAL QUESTION: What can be expected from the soccer team next season? Who are some of the best returning players? Who are some of the graduating players who will be most missed? What would you say to Woodlawn students who are thinking about joining the soccer team next year?

Coach DuPrau and I are expecting big things from the soccer team next season. We are returning all but two of our players so they will already have great chemistry. Both captains, Chris King and Javier Herrera will be returning to again take on that leadership role as Artem Ivanov, Henri Guevara, Eddie Naldo, Pious Teah, and Jose Ventura develop into key elements of a winning soccer team. It will be tough to replace Torin Hart as our stopper next year, but big things are expected from the Woodlawn Soccer team in 2009. Anyone that wants to be a part of a winning program for years to come should think about joining our team. As a part of our team you will build character and leadership skills that translate into success on and off the field.

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