

# Boys soccer scoring their way to the top

Oakton boys varsity soccer ends their regular season with an impressive record, a ranking and a motivation for victory

Oakton boys soccer ended last years season with a disappointing loss in the state semi-finals. However, they enter into district rounds this year with an impressive record and a hunger for the district, regional, and state champ title.

Oakton varsity boys soccer finished last year with an overall record of 18-1-2, suffering their only loss in the state semi-finals in an upset against Crosby High School. Although the season began rough due to many starting players unavailable to play due to injury, the team persevered and is currently ranked #2 in the district with an overall record of 8-2-2.

“Overall, our season is going really well,” said Junior Armand Jeffris. “We are aiming to win districts for the second year in a row and move onto

regionals which we already have an automatic bid for.”

With districts just around the corner, the cougars will face some tough competition, but are feeling confident in their chances for the district title.

“It’s hard to tell who will be our toughest competition during districts because there are a lot of very good teams this year. Herndon is a pretty big rival though,” said teammate and junior Sam Bundren. “The team is very good at playing well together and we play a nice style of soccer so I am confident that we will go out and put up a great fight during districts.”

District rounds came to a close with a Cougar win against rival Herndon High School. Bsoc looks ahead to regionals which begins next week.

courtesy of armand jeffris



Armand Jeffris leads the team this season in most goals scored with a total of 9. He is confident in the team’s chances for victory going into Districts. “We want to pick up where we left off last year, and try to win States,” said Jeffris. “The team has a very relaxed but determined attitude. We like to have fun but we are also ambitious.”

**christiana meyers**  
staff writer

# Girls soccer manager brings a fresh perspective

Freshman Ally Veltman starts a new job managing for girls soccer as one of three of the program’s new members

Girls soccer is a veteran team returning 21 of its 23 players. Its biggest addition this season has not been on the field, but on the side line in freshman team manager Ally Veltman. Ally is the younger sister of senior captain Katie Veltman, who convinced Ally to manage for GSOC.

“I manage because Katie volunteered me and I thought it would be fun,” said Ally. Senior sister Katie saw value in spending her last spring season with her sister.

“It is our last year together, and I thought we would get to spend a lot more time together if she managed,” said Katie. “I also thought that managing would be a really good experience for her as a freshman to do something professional.”

Ally’s professional duties included going to every game and practice, taking statistics, filling up water bottles and giving rosters to the press box and coaches at games.

Although sometimes it can be stressful, Ally’s work keeps the program running smoothly, and the players know it.

“Ally is great,” said junior midfielder Sarah Hanson. “She is

really supportive and helpful. She keeps our practices running efficiently and gets the job done.” For all her work, the team values Ally as more than just a manager. “We treat Ally just like she is a player, so I think we are just as close to her as any of the girls on the field,” Hanson said. “Also, Ally is really funny, and it is always fun watching her and Katie bicker.”

Katie, too, appreciates all that Ally does. “It is different,” Katie said, “I never thought I would be at soccer practice or games and my sister would be on the bench right there with us. I have liked having her there and supporting all of us. I think she likes being with everyone too.”

“It has been a good, overall experience,” Ally said, “but I do not think I will be doing it in the years to come. Managing takes up a lot of time and is kind of stressful because I do not have a lot of time to do homework.”

Instead of managing, Ally will focus on playing field hockey. She has

been playing for three years for both club and Oakton JV teams. There, she will be thankful for her own managers.

**jennifer prosser**  
spotlight editor

courtesy of jennifer brooks



Even though Ally’s job description includes being water girl at games and practices, she still feels like a part of the program. “The team was really nice to me throughout the season,” Ally said. “I feel like some teams are really rude to their managers and treat them like they are nothing, but here, I do feel like a part of this team.”