

Making History

By Sydney Hauser

Along the walls of the gym, students, fans, and teachers will see banners of the school's state qualifying sports, but one banner is special in having made its first appearance ever. While the boys soccer team has only been around since 1999, no Mount Vernon team has qualified for state until the members of the 2016 team in their regional final on May 28.

Although they were able to beat them once, earlier in the season, Mount Vernon would have to travel to DeWitt and face the Sabers again, only this time there was something much bigger on the line: the state tournament.

Coming into the big game, the Mustangs were a little nervous but they needed to focus on making adjustments from the previous game.

"We needed to compensate for the wind and play solid defense especially

when we didn't have the wind on our side," said Coach Murray. And that's what they did.

Josh Trachta scored the team's first goal 11 minutes into the game to give the Mustangs an early lead. Neither team was able to put the ball in the net until the 36th minute when a second goal was scored by Trachta, and Mount Vernon was ahead 2-0 at the half.

During the second half, the Sabers got lucky and scored in the 65th minute. The Mustangs were able to defend Dewitt's aggressive play and came away with the victory.

"We kept the intensity and pressure up," said goalie Ian Bootsmiller, a junior. "We didn't get tired even though the other team did." Bootsmiller found this as one of the key things that allowed the Mustangs to make Mount Vernon boys' soccer history.

What was the key to your team's success?



"The key to our team's success is the leadership from our coaches and captains. Without guidance from them, I don't know how far we would've gone."

- Brynden Fisher '19



"When the defense plays well and the offense is passing fast, we can beat anybody. That's the key to our team's success."

- Travis Wright '16



"The key to our team's success is friendship. A lot of us guys have known and played with each other for most of our lives and our team chemistry is unmatched."

- David Taylor '16



STATE PARTICIPANTS

BOYS SOCCER

Team (Us-Them)

Marion	3-2
Benton	3-1
Denver	2-3
Independence	3-1
Central DeWitt	1-0
Dyersville Beckman	0-4
Anamosa	3-2
Solon	1-0
Western Dubuque	4-0
West Delaware	6-0
Iowa Mennonite	2-1
Maquoketa	2-0
Center Point-Urbana	0-1
West Liberty	3-4
Clear Creek-Amana	0-2
Maquoketa	1-0
Central DeWitt	2-1
Norwalk	0-6



1. Seth Russell, senior, chases after the ball against DeWitt on April 15. 2. Henry Carrasco takes the ball down the field in April. 3. Caiden Hauser, senior, kicks the ball down the field on May 17. 4. Senior Seth Russell finishes through on a kick towards the goal. 5. Boys Varsity huddles before a game against Dyersville on April 19. 6. Senior Joe Corcoran goes for a block along with a player from DeWitt. 7. Between plays senior Travis Wright watches for the ball on April 15. 8. Senior David Taylor holds back a player to get the ball on April 19 at a game against Dyersville Beckman.

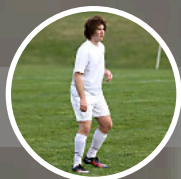




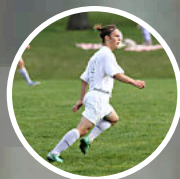
Carlos Castro



David Taylor



Travis Wright



Caiden Hauser



Seth Russell



Joe Corcoran



Henry Carrasco



John Cooper



Above: Brynden Fisher, freshman, defends a player from Anamosa on April 21. The Mustangs won 3-2.



Right: Senior Joe Corcoran battles against a Central DeWitt opponent. Mount Vernon won 1-0. Corcoran scored two goals this season.



VARSITY BOYS SOCCER TEAM. Front Row: B. Fisher, M. Phillip, S. Kringlen, Z. Kolker, C. Reyes, J. Panos, C. Loyd. Row 2: C. Connolly, Z. Perry, P. Anthony, S. Russell, B. McGuire, C. Hauser, H. Carrasco, R. Panos. Row 3: J. Trachta, P. Johnson, C. Miller, J. Corcoran, N. Kuntz, O. Egoft, D. Taylor. Back Row: Coach Stevens, Coach Murray, T. Wright, J. Cooper, I. Bootsmiller, K. Tyrdal, G. Herring, Coach Blythe.

Senior Seth Russell recovers the ball against Dewitt on April 15. Russell scored 10 goals this season and completed six assists. Photo by Lauren Kalm.

Boys Soccer layout by Abby Davidson and Haley Hepker 113