Meet the Loy Norrix Mens Soccer Seniors

Amy Halpern
Guest Writer

The clock has long run out, two overtime periods have passed, the score is tied 2-2, and it is down to the final Coldwater player waiting to kick the last of 10 penalty kick's. Suddenly the ball rips into the net, and yet another game has been ripped away from the Knights.

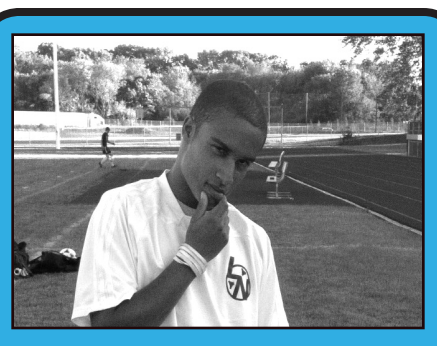
Close games have not been uncommon for the Loy Norrix Men's Varsity Soccer team. Many teammates agree that their record is much lower than expected. As senior midfielder Alex Foti puts it, "We don't suck this year, we just can't win."

Senior midfielder Daedal Derks added, "We have good players, but not necessarily enough to do good things on the field."

Despite a losing season, most LN senior members agree that the soccer team as a whole has progressed since freshman year. But behind every struggling team, is a group of seniors striving to have not only one last winning season, but also to guide the younger team members to keep the soccer program alive and strong. Let's take a minute to meet the seniors of the Loy Norrix Men's Varsity Soccer team.

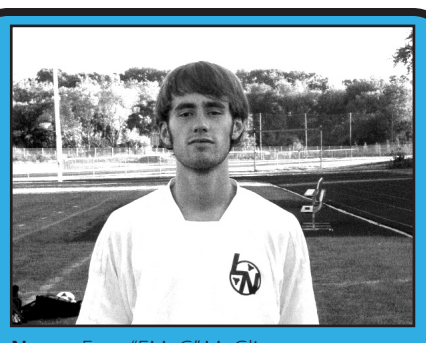
ALL PHOTOS BY ANGELO MURRAY/ KNIGHT LIFE

Name: Clay "Rueben" Hagen
Years in Soccer: "I've been playing soccer since I came out [of] the womb."
Years Varsity: 2
Best Memory: Sophomore year beating both Portages and cutting Alex Foti's hair.
Worst Memory: Losing to K-Central this year
After Graduation: Attend MSU and major in business management.
Future Soccer Plans: Most likely continue playing club soccer.



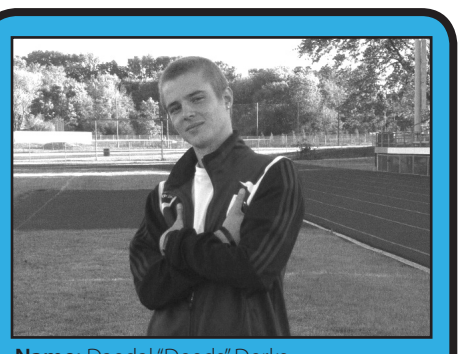
Name: Adam "Bean" Jackson
Years in Soccer: 13
Years Varsity: 2, 1 year as captain.
Best Memory: Sophomore season beating Portage Central and Portage Northern.
Worst Memory: Losing in districts last year.
After Graduation: Attend WMU and room with Alex Foti.
Future Soccer Plans: Not decided

Name: Baltazar Montes "Balls"
Years in Soccer: 3
Years Varsity: 1
Best Memory: First game played and won.
Worst Memory: "Losing pretty bad."
After Graduation: Attend WMU or MSU.
Future Soccer Plans: Keep playing somewhere.



Name: Evan "EMcG" McGlinn
Years in Soccer: 12
Years Varsity: 2, 1 year as captain.
Best Memory: Sophomore year season beating Portage Central and Northern.
"**Worst Memory**: Losing to Kalamazoo Central this year.
After Graduation: Attend U of M, MSU, or Kalamazoo College.
Future Soccer Plans: Definitely keep playing either club or pick up soccer.

Name: Trevor "Pelle" Pellerito
Years in Soccer: 6
Years Varsity: 2
Best Memory: Scoring first goal against Lakeview.
Worst Memory: "Scoring on my own team by accident last year."
After Graduation: Attend WMU and play lacrosse.
Future Soccer Plans: Probably just pick up games.



Name: Daedal "Deeds" Derks
Years in Soccer: 8
Years Varsity: 2, 1 year as captain.
Best Memory: 10th grade scoring 2 goals in the fourth quarter
Worst Memory: Breaking collar bone and ending this season short.
After Graduation: Attend Kalamazoo College.
Future Soccer Plans: Play soccer at K college or a larger school.

Name: Julio Linares "Julio"
Years in Soccer: 14
Years Varsity: 1
Best Memory: Beating Mattawan last year on JV and "scoring my first goal."
Worst Memory: Losing against Coldwater last year and losing 0-1 against Mattawan this year.
After Graduation: Attend WMU.
Future Soccer Plans: Maybe continue club soccer.

Name: Kumar "Kooch" Kothari
Years in Soccer: 13
Years Varsity: 2
Best Memory: Beating Portage Northern and Portage Central sophomore year.
Worst Memory: Finding out that the draw for districts this year was East Kentwood, the number one team in the state.
After Graduation: Attend MSU for a degree in sports administration.
Future Soccer Plans: "Maybe on a local or club level, but nothing super competitive."

Name: Alex "Dubey" Foti
Years in Soccer: 12
Years Varsity: 1
Best Memory: Sophomore season and scoring the perfect goal freshman year.
Worst Memory: First coming into season and going to conditioning every year.
After Graduation: Attend WMU.
Future Soccer Plans: "Maybe some pick up games here and there."

Practice Improves Football Team

Rachel Stuut
Copy Editor

Longer and tougher practices seem to be helping Loy Norrix football team improve. Practices are everyday from 3-6 pm. The team started practices before last school year was over. They are not only physically demanding but also mentally.

"On a certain day we have study hall for about an hour. Then others we run, lift weights, drills and scrimmages. Also some days we don't wear pads," said Brett Bailey, junior, offensive line/defensive line.

Through the rain, snow, and blazing heat you will see the LN football team practicing. The only time they call it quits is during a thunderstorm. Bailey also said that they have been working more as a team rather than splitting off into different groups and that seems to create a stronger bond between players and the coaches.

With the record of 1-8, people may feel that the football team is just the same as last year. The football team is constantly being ridiculed for not winning and Kyle Moon, senior, quarterback/ kicker, gets agitated with all the comments.

"It [ridiculing] makes me feel bad and no one comes out to help," said Moon.

You would think all the ridicule and being made fun of would be enough for some to quit and not come back to play. That is not the case for LN football. The bond of teammates and the fun of the game keeps players coming back.

"The love of the game, the feeling of a 'family' and the drive to win is why I come back," said Bailey.

LN won their first game 21-12 against Benton Harbor, breaking their three year losing streak.

"It [the team] is getting better. The attitude is better," said Jordan Van Dyke, senior, offensive line/defensive line.

TESHIA TRUHAFT/ GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Loy Norrix player Adam Jackson tackles a Portage Northern player. Loy Norrix lost this game 6-39.

LN Golf Team Finds Way To Have Fun On Course

Alex Foti
Guest Writer

"Practice is all joking around. We take it serious about five percent of the time," said junior golfer Maggie Sikkema.

Jokes and laughter are a familiar sound during the matches and practices of the Loy Norrix Women's Varsity Golf Team.

The team is currently 0-2 this season and recently took 11th place in the Southwest Michigan Athletic Conference Tournament. Junior Sydney Kelpin and Sikkema were selected for the All-Division team after the five conference matches.

The Lady Knights are playing decent this year and are looking forward to playing together next year. Many players will return next year, with seven juniors and two seniors on the roster this year.

Next year, the team will be adding prospect 8th grader Mary Farner, who practiced with the team during the summer and was the team manager. Farner showed she can compete at the varsity level, even though she is only in 8th grade. Farner, Kelpin and Sikkema playing together next year could possibly be the triple-threat that the Knights desperately need.

Although the team is having a rough year, they are getting along great and having lots of fun. Practices and matches are full of laughs, where many jokes are made about other members and their coach.

"Even though we make a lot of jokes, it is all harmless fun. Our team wouldn't be the same without our constant laughing," said senior golfer Jocelyn Hillard.

Before matches, while other teams are hitting practice balls on the range, the LN team can be seen huddled up joking about the other teams and themselves. The team would be slightly more warmed up if they hit a few more balls, but joking around relaxes everyone and makes the game more enjoyable.

"In tournaments we try not to get last place, but if we do then we try to have fun doing it," said Sikkema.

While winning is important in high school sports, it isn't everything. The Lady Knights have shown great character this season by proving that they do not necessarily have to be great athletes in order to have fun and enjoy themselves on the course.

JOCELYN HILLARD/ GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Elizabeth Welch concentrates as she hits a drive. Welch could not participate in Loy Norrix Swimming this year due to Michigan's recent change in the sports season.