

SEASON RECAP

Thank you and good evening....

As with any large undertaking, there are many people who are deserving of special recognition. It's always a fear of mine that I may miss someone when it comes to showing my heartfelt appreciation. So please allow me one grand thank you on behalf of our coaches and players for all your support this season. From our loyal and understanding parents, to the school administration and alumni, straight through to our parent's board – thank you – without your support, our program would not be able to function the way it does.

The freshmen team compiled a 11-4-3 record. Under the guidance of Coaches Mike Biddle, Chuck Meissler, Mike Rector, Sean Dugan & Zack Elwell. It's important to note though that more than the season record the continual learning and growth process taking place at the entry level of our program is so very important. Our freshmen are more than ready to step in to contribute not only on Junior Varsity but on the Varsity level as well. That was most evident on varsity with one freshmen garnering significant minutes and two more practicing and dressing thru this magical championship run.

At this time I would like to call up Freshman Head Coach Mike Biddle for the team MVP Award – Michael Maciocha

Our Junior Varsity squad under Coaches Biddle, Dugan and Tick compiled a record of 9-3-7. The coaches returned to lead our boys through the rigors of another season, a campaign full of many highs and lows. As all the coaches here tonight will tell you, coaching a JV squad is not an easy task. But our Coaches always had this team prepared to compete and these boys were always ready when called upon to support the varsity squad be it on the field or on the sideline. Coaches I thank you for an awesome job this past year with our JV Boys.

At this time I would like to call up JV Head Coach Mike Biddle for the team MVP Award Junior, Junnell Appel

Last fall, they remained. The faithful painted in purple. The players, teary eyed and exhausted, both mentally and physically. And the coaches, outwardly they remained stout hearted men, but on the inside it hurt, it hurt a lot. In the quick of the night, the Cahillites saw their championships dreams quelled rather unexpectedly in overtime. That was then. This is now.

It's often said, you have to get a taste of a championship before you earn the right to drink from its fruitful cup. There was no rally cry entering the 2015 campaign, it was more like a quiet storm of confidence. These are Cahillites after all. No trash talking, selfish, all about me players.

These teammates started their season in the heat of August, and in the chill of November, they were still rolling. After a solid performance at the pre-season SEPA High School Tournament, the boys experienced that the difference between champion and runner-up was indeed one mistake... Soccer is unforgiving that way.

As Catholic League play began, combined with a sprinkling of tough non-league matches with Holy Ghost Prep, Wissahickon and Penn Charter, the familiar foes rolled in and were quickly rolled out. On a wet, damp, Friday night in October, a game and feisty St. Joe's Prep side fell to the purple and gold for the first time in 17 years. It wouldn't be the last of the league's heavies to meet their long awaited fate at the feet of the Cahillites.

One of the more interesting matches of the season included a rematch with Archbishop Wood, last year's champions to Roman's runner-up. As a wild and vocal Wood fan based laid into our boys, a low level fog engulfed the pitch and from the smoke came the fire. The Cahillites quickly quieted the crowd and avenged their final loss of the 2014 season with a 3-0 win.

In the build-up to the current season, oddly, but not totally unexpected, it was Fr. Judge receiving the pre and early season press with state and national rankings. A head to head regular season finale with both squads boasting undefeated records culminated in a 1 nil victory for the NorthEast based rival. But the record crowds in attendance no doubt realized, the better team may not have won.

The Prep and LaSalle soon fell victim to the purple playoff wave in the quarter-finals and semis respectively setting the stage for the rematch so eagerly anticipated. And so it was, Roman vs Judge for the PCL Championship. It doesn't get any better and it certainly did not disappoint.

The crowd, 4 and 5 deep at its heaviest, largely donned with purple pride, witnessed a classic. Everything a championship fight between two heavyweights should have. Two teams, leaving it all on the pitch for the sake of team and school. After a scoreless 110 minutes, it came down to penalty kicks. After successful takes by Senior Captain Brandon Gutekuest, Junior Matt Flannagan, and Senior Captain Pat Madgey and two glorious saves by Senior Captain Goalkeeper, Mark Tobin, it came down to one.

In a made for movie moment, Stefano Aiello-Pang, the senior who fought so hard to return from a season's long surgery recovery, stepped to the mark. In a swift, fluid strike of the ball, your Cahillites returned the honor and glory of Catholic League Soccer to Broad and Vine.

This fall, they remained again. But the final chapter ended in this edition with the thrill of victory and tears. Tears of joy. After all, that was then and this... This is now.

PCL CHAMPS 2015!!!!!!!!

Offensive MVP

Every engine needs a spark plug. And in a dynamic season in which the Cahillites' offense really took flight, our team was fortunate enough to feature many different spark plugs to kick start our exciting offense.

Through it all however, we repeatedly looked to one of our leaders, our field general if you will, to not only single handedly bring the Roman attack to the opponent, but rally the troops around him to construct and create of a force so fierce, opponents generally had no answer.

That brings us to our Offensive MVP for 2015, a senior captain who is a previous two time team MVP, once on the defensive side and now twice as our offensive MVP. He's a 3 time 1st team All Catholic selection and now he deservedly adds an All State honor to his list of accomplishments. He had a 23 point season, 14 of which were goals which gave him 23 for his magnificent career. He exemplifies our playoff motto of "Roman Never Stops" perfectly, please help me congratulate...

Brandon Gutekunst

Defensive MVP's

A popular phrase in sports is "protect this house". In this case the house, is our house - Roman Catholic Soccer. A good defense can often pay dividends on both sides of the fifty. Knowing that your home front is protected by the secretary of defense and his cabinet, it's easy for the offensive minded guys to play without fear going forward.

This year we feature two Defensive MVPs. The first being a junior back who anchored the center of the pitch and patrolled the back end of the pitch more like a middle linebacker than a center back. He garnered a well deserved first team All Catholic nod and will be a major part of the Cahillites 2016 campaign.

Joining him in this honor is a senior captain, who's been called everything from the harbor master to the wall, to the rock. I've often said, call him anything you want, but definitely call him the best.

He's had an outstanding career. This year in addition to being named 1st Team All Catholic for the second consecutive year, he's also been named All State. He was our 2014 Defensive MVP, finished with 30.5 shutouts for his career, including 13 when they counted most, our PCL Championship year....

Please help me welcome respectively... Arthur Dolan and Mark Tobin.

Coaches Award

The coaches award is usually the most debated award amongst the coaching staff. There are so many deserving players, from those who were asked to play out of position, step in for a injured starter or just that amazing teammate who will do anything for sake of team and school. Everyone of our players could be cast into those roles and they all emulate these descriptions. We are that lucky. But in the end, there's that certain intangible that helps decide this award.

You've already heard me talk about The Secretary of Defense and his cabinet, I am truly honored to present our coaches award to two more members of that group, the senior starters of our back line. These two gentlemen, one a captain who was the ultimate thinker on the field who finished with a goal and 5 assists for his career and a 2nd team All Catholic selection.

The other, a hard working left footer who arrived on the big stage just at the right time only to have the back end of his remarkable season come to a slow draw because of an untimely bout with mono.

Both of these young men were former captains of our JV squad and their leadership throughout their rise in our program was evident at training, on the sidelines, on the pitch and mentoring our youngest players.

Please help me congratulate respectively on jobs very well done, Nicholas Tarducci and Shea Alcorn