Island Sports

Students unable to topple teachers in soccer game

By Adrienne Downing

The 18 players on the Lawn Avenue School soccer team were not trying out for the role of teacher's pet at the annual Student-Faculty soccer game on Oct. 26.

Stephanie Nocon, the school's student assistance councilor, came up with the idea last year as part of the Red Ribbon Week to keep kids off drugs.

"Each day of the week has a theme to it, and Friday is sock it to drugs day. We have the basketball game every year and so I thought sock it sounded like soccer, so we should have a soccer game," she said. "The Jamestown Substance Abuse Task Force donated prizes with drug free messages on them to give out to the kids who were cheering or having positive involvement on the sidelines."

The game was held as the conclusion of the spirit week, and the younger set was not willing to show any mercy to their elders.

"They definitely were not taking it easy on us. They were going for the win," teacher Tom Carney said. Carney switched roles for the day, moving from his normal position as one of the team's coaches to coaching the faculty team.

"It is really good for the kids to see their teachers outside of the classroom and in a different light," Carney said. "They were competitive against us, but I love it."

The faculty squad was made up of teachers from both the elementary and middle schools, and included seasoned and novice players.

"We sent out an email to see who was interested and we ended up with just enough teachers, but we wanted a few subs, so my son, Ross, and Stephanie Nocon's sister, Amy Wordell, played as well," Mark Allard said.

Allard has officiated the games the last two years and he had a few surprises for players on both teams. "I can't play because I have bad knees, but I have watched over 2000 of my kids games in my lifetime so they figured I could referee," he said. "This year I gave Mr. Alfred a yellow card. It was contrived, of course, but he played right into my hands."

Will Sheppard, left, battles first-grade teacher Kelly Speck for the ball during the student-faculty soccer game.

Photo by Adrienne Downing

Alfred, who is the school's cross country coach, played in the game last year, but had not played competitive soccer prior to that game.

Science teacher Jim Kaczynski was also a newcomer to the game, but he fooled the crowd into believing he had previous playing experience. "I played football when I was younger, but not soccer," he said, "I think it is great for the kid's school spirit. I always play in the student-teacher basketball game, so when they asked me to do this I thought it would be great fun."

Despite having several former college and high school players on their team, the teachers quickly fell behind their pupils when team captain Zach Henning buried a shot in the corner of the net past a diving Kelly Speck in goal.

Speck, who played goalie when he was in high school, was rapidly back on his feet and ready for the next onslaught.

"I was a little taken by the competitive spirit the kids had, but then again, the teachers weren't there to mess around either," he said good-naturedly. "We don't want to look bad in front of the kids."

Emilio Kurz gave the students a 2-0 lead in the first half and the students on the sidelines let out a loud cheer.

"The kids that were watching were definitely rooting for their fellow students. There was no mistaking their loyalty," Carney said. The coach played the entire game and said he was "worn out" at the end of the day.

The teachers refused to go quietly, however, and Ross Allard netted the ball to bring the educators within one goal going into halftime.

A little rest during half time gave the teachers a second wind and Jeff Bonderew scored the tying goal for the teachers' team to knot the score at 2-2 in the third quarter.

Both teams had several shots on goal in the fourth quarter, but both defenses were on their toes and neither team could score the go-ahead goal.

Second grade co-teachers Faith Krause and Tara Higgins pointed out that the end of the game was their favorite part. "Neither Faith nor I had ever played soccer before, but it was a lot of fun," Higgins said.

"The best thing was when all of the teachers ran on the field together at the end to try to score. The kids were so good about it, they knew it was fun and they didn't complain at all," Krause added.

Teachers and students alike are big fans of the game and want to see it continue year after year.

"This year was a great balance between being very competitive and great fun," Allard concluded. "The kids were very respectful and no one got hurt. Everyone enjoyed themselves."

NK Field Hockey brings home state title

By Stephanie Cotsonas

The North Kingstown High School field hockey team regained the Division I state crown on Monday night after beating the Tiverton Tigers by a score of 3-0 in an exciting game at Cranston Stadium.

North won three straight state titles from 2002-2004 and Barrington has held the title for the past two years. Last year the Skippers lost in the semifinals to Barrington in triple overtime.

Coach Julie Maguire and, from left, Rory Kirby, Megan Greene, Cate Brennan, Meghan Farrelly, Talie Pruell, Haley Barber and Tory Dolce celebrated a state championship win on Monday.

Photo by Adrienne Downing

The sixth-seeded Tigers returned to the title game after a regular season record of 5-9-2. In two regular season match-ups with Tiverton this year the Skippers prevailed 1-0 and 6-0, although the Tigers defeated second seeded Barrington in the semifinals.

The Skippers earned a first-round playoff bye as the regular season co-champs with Barrington and a record of 14-1-1. They advanced to the Division I final after an awesome 2-1 overtime win against East Greenwich on Oct. 30 at Cranston Stadium.

Less than five minutes into the semifinal match-up against long-time rival East Greenwich, the Avengers scored the first and only goal of the first half. East Greenwich dominated the half with more shots on goal and time of possession than NK. This was not the case in the second half.

Co-captains Talie Pruell and Haley Barber, both of Jamestown, were determined to put the ball in East Greenwich's net and continued to attack repeatedly. Islander Megan Greene had two corners in a row before Cassie-Raye Stuart scored with an assist from islander Tory Dolce with only six minutes left in regulation play.

More determined than ever, and obviously exhausted, the Skippers began the 10-minute 7-on-7 overtime period. North was on a mission to score when Stacey Scott tapped the ball in with an assist from Stuart with 2:47 left to play in the overtime period.

Two of the four seniors on the team are from Jamestown. After the semifinal win, a very excited Barber said, "We realized that we weren't playing to our potential and we just needed to step it up especially for (us) the seniors. We just want it so bad that we couldn't walk away."

When asked what she told her team at halftime, Coach Julie Maguire, of Jamestown, said, "They weren't playing field hockey. I think everyone had to get the jitters out. It was almost like they

See "Field Hockey" on next page

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