



MEN'S 2007 SEASON RE-CAP

The MCC Blue River Trailblazers inaugural season started successfully with two victories and one loss in August 2007. After two weeks of practice and two preseason games, the team earned their first victory in the first official game of the season. The Trailblazers beat Kansas City Kansas Community College 3-2 in overtime. This was a game the Trailblazers trailed 0-1 at halftime; however, second half goals by Jonathan Calfas from Truman High School and Tyler Hamann from Center Place Restoration H.S. saw the game tied 2-2 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Jonathan Calfas scored the third goal. This victory was followed by a close 2-3 loss to STLCC Forest Park and a 3-2 victory over Independence Community College.

In the month of September, the Trailblazers won 2 of 6 games; however, the team competed well in many of the losses. The Trailblazers beat the University of Central Missouri's club team 6-3 and STLCC Florissant Valley 3-2. Jonathan Calfas scored a total of five goals over the two games. We also endured a close 0-1 overtime loss to Maple Woods Community College and a 2-4 loss to East Central Community College. The Trailblazers competed well in both of those losses and were disappointed not to get better results.

The other result that stood out in the month of September was a 1-6 loss to the Graceland University Junior Varsity Team. Graceland's Varsity won the NAIA National Championship in 2006. Their J.V. team is comprised of their freshman and sophomore recruits and is very good. Although the loss was lopsided, it would set the stage for one of the high points of the season three weeks later.

The Trailblazers season ended on October 20th with a loss to East Central CC in the regional playoffs. The team did not get many positive results in October, but did play some very good soccer in a 2-3 loss to STLCC Florissant Valley and a 0-2 loss to Hesston Community College. The Trailblazers out shot Florissant Valley 15-10 and out shot Hesston 14-8; however, the team was not able to convert their many scoring opportunities. The best game of the season was on October 5th. The Trailblazers had a rematch with the Graceland University Junior Varsity Team. The Trailblazers won the game 2-1 behind two first half goals from Jonathan Calfas. The Team played balanced on offense and defense and avenged the 1-6 lopsided loss. The Blue River players matched up well during the 2-1 victory and showed the potential the Trailblazers Program will build upon in 2008.

Overall, the Trailblazers finished the season with a 5-13 record in all competitions. The team scored 30 goals. Jonathan Calfas led the team with 16 goals and earned a spot on the NJCAA Region XVI Men's Soccer 1st Team. Other players contributing goals were Cary Lanzoni from O'hara H.S. (2 goals, 3 assists), Kyle Youngstrom from William Chrisman H.S. (2 goals, 3 assists), Bradley Calfas from Truman H.S. (2 goals, 2 assists), Justin Henny from Fort Osage H.S. (2 goals), Tyler Hamann from Center Place Restoration H.S. (2 goals, 2 assists), Joseph Johnson from the KCE Lazars Home School Team (1 goal), Jerrod Pierschbacher from Belton H.S. (1 goal, 2 assists), Craig Stoll from William Chrisman H.S. (1 goal), and Daniel Stewart from Harrisonville H.S. (1 goal). Strong performances on defense were consistently given by Bradley Calfas, Eric Baker from Platte County H.S., Aaron Brown from Center Place Restoration H.S., Thomas Soltau from Grandview H.S., and Brandon Maurer from Blue Springs South H.S. as a first year goalkeeper.