

Sports



Captain Joey Ryzewski chases Natick quarterback Troy Flutie during Saturday's game. The Mustangs fell to the Redhawks 28-0.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

Mustangs hang with tough Natick team but fall short

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

The winless Mustangs chalked another one in the loss column against the undefeated Natick Redhawks. Despite losing 28-0, Norwood is looking better and stood on a sturdy defense.

"I'm proud of my football team today, the score might not reflect it, but we played hard. They executed our game plans on both sides of the ball," said Head Coach Sarianides.

The first half was scoreless but senior captain free safety/running back Jake Ryan intercepted a pass from Natick quarterback Troy Flutie. The BC-bound nephew of Doug Flutie had 16 for 26 completion rate and threw for 207 yards and four touchdowns.

The Norwood offense had trouble producing. Quarterback Jake Vale was sacked and threw a pick in the first quarter. The offense turned a lot to Ryan looking for a spark, but he too would be limited by Natick's defense to only 68 yards in the game.

"Jake will give you everything he has. He's a three level player — offense, defense, special teams. Gives you everything he has. We're young up front and he's making the

best of it," said Sarianides.

Another interception of a Vale pass early in the second quarter would give Natick the opportunity to go up 7-0 on a Flutie pass. The Mustangs defense stepped up again and sophomore Zac Pungitore intercepted Flutie. The offense floundered however and could not capitalize. Flutie would put Natick up 14-0 before the half.

"We had a couple of break downs with personnel in the

first half. That certainly hurt us, that gave them that second score. That's on me, that's on this coaching staff," said Sarianides.

The second half was more of the same for the Mustangs. The defense hung tough, and the offense missed a few key opportunities. Norwood's Kick returner Brian Lenane brought one out to the 49 yard line, and Ryan picked up a 1st

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Quarterback Jake Vale releases a pass. Vale and the Mustang offense couldn't get anything going against a tough Natick defense.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

Volleyball scores a win

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

The Mustangs improved to 5-6 on the year and 4-5 in the Bay State Conference with a 3-2 win at home against Framingham on October 3.

Captain Emily Clifford's serving and the big plays of Amanda Springer anchored the team.

"Amanda, at the end when we needed her to finish plays, she finished plays, which was huge. The block, the kill at the end, her serving at the end definitely helped us out," said head coach Paul Nimblett.

Norwood took the first set

communication errors. The Mustangs battled back from an early deficit and tied it 15-15. Emily Flavin had a great weak side hit and Sarah Maloney chipped in an ace but Norwood would drop the set 28-26.

Framingham also won the third set 25-22 to put Norwood down 2-1. The Mustangs came out strong in the beginning of the fourth set with solid setting and spikes. Springer had an ace on Framingham and Flavin kept a volley going with a hard earned dig. Springer's serves helped the Mustangs win the set 25-18, to even the game 2-2 and forcing a fifth set.



Captain Emily Clifford serves the ball during a recent win over Framingham.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

25-19. Springer got the Mustangs going early with a few scores. Libero Lauren Plasko had some nice digs, but Framingham would tie the frame before Norwood eventually pulled it out.

"I can't say enough about my libero Lauren, getting everything up. Her serve-receive was great, leading the back row," said Nimblett.

The second set saw Norwood down early, due to a few missed hits and com-

Springer was the star of the fifth set. The Mustangs were down early 8-5 but the girls dug in and held their ground. Springer ended the set with a spike and a block, allowing Norwood to win it 16-10.

"You know what it is? It's the girls pulling together and saying 'we're going to make this play,'" said Nimblett,

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Girls Soccer falls to Ursuline Academy

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

The Norwood Mustangs fell to the Ursuline Academy Bears 5-3 at Ursuline on Tuesday. This is the Mustangs seventh straight loss. The girl's soccer team is now 0-10-1. Mackenzie Sheehan had some great stops for the Mustangs, but Ursuline overpowered them.

"Not the result we wanted. We tied them the first time around. Obviously we feel like we are a better team than we showed today. We should be able to play with Ursuline a lot better than we showed," said head coach Joseph Oliver.

Ursuline got the lead out early, really backing the Mustangs down. Ursuline forward Jill Kamphaus forward scored 1:50 into the game, putting the Bears up 1-0.

The Mustangs wouldn't bow out early. A header would tie the game 1-1. Norwood began picking it up after they scored. Sheehan had some nice saves. Julia Copponi also

dominated the wing, and had a few shots up the side. The Mustangs got into Ursuline territory and wouldn't relinquish. They had two corner kicks in a row with 8 minutes left in the half. Senior captain Jessica Murphy had a shot on net that dinged the post. Kaylin Goncalves helped keep the ball around the Bear's net.

"That certainly could have turned the tide ... obviously it's a different game because then they're playing catch up. When we start to play catch up we get out of position and other teams get chances," said Oliver.

The Bears would eventually break free and Leah Shalby would score again for Ursuline, putting them up 2-1 before the half.

Mustang Julia Copponi came out and scored in the second half to level the game 2-2. Coach Oliver has been impressed with her play.

"[Julia had] one of her best games of the year. She's really come on the last couple of weeks or so to be one of our



Kaylin Goncalves makes a move with the ball against Ursuline. The Mustangs would fall to Ursuline by a score of 5-2.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

better players. She had a really strong performance. The goal was nice," said Oliver.

Then the game began to get away from them. Shalby scored again on a penalty kick to put the Bears up 3-2. Ursuline captain Courtney Sepe chipped one

in to get the Bears up 4-2.

The coup de grace came from Ursuline junior Amy Piccolo at 30:20. She knocked one in for the final score 5-2. After that coach Oliver made a full line change, putting in his subs.

"We've got to continue to

work on our first touch, we've got to continue to work on our spacing, we've got to continue to work on just being aggressive and competing," said Oliver.

The girls have Milton and Dedham next week.

Boys Soccer nets first win of the season

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

The Boy's Soccer team were handed their eighth and ninth losses this week losing against Walpole 3-0 on Tuesday October 1st, and against Dartmouth 4-0 on the following Saturday. The Mustangs, however logged their first win against Catholic Memorial on Tuesday, 2-1.

"The middle third was killing us today, we did not play our game for some reason getting the ball out to the wings, we got sucked in to the middle, but honestly it wasn't us, it was Walpole. They're very good. I think they're the best team we've played so far this year," said Head Coach Jason Andrews about the game against Walpole.

Goalie Joe Schallmo had several great saves in the first half against the Walpole Rebels. Despite Norwood's aggressiveness, The Rebels brought pressure and the ball down the throats of the Mustangs.

"[Joe] played really well, he took a lot of shots, I thought the defense played well too," said coach Andrews.

Norwood had a large contingent of fans at the game, making up their own cheering section.

Captain Mark Powers was

all over the place, flying around the field and taking on players much larger than him. Fellow Captain Sem Decaj had a great steal and fast break at the 30th minute.

"[Powers] is outstanding. He is tough as nails, and smart as he does it," says Andrews.

Unfortunately the Rebels kept on pounding at the door. Ian Fair scored for Walpole in the 21st to put the Rebels up 1-0.

At the 13:00th minute Walpole scored again, this time by Matt Brownsword.

Walpole was getting great penetration and showcased their ball handling. The Rebels scored again by Robbie Ellis just before half to put the Rebels up 3-0.

Norwood continued to get beaten inside.

In the second half, near the 19th minute, Captain Sem Decaj had a great breakaway, getting deep in to Walpole territory. He was fouled, but Norwood missed the set play opportunity. Goalkeeper Schallmo continued to make a lot of great saves in the seconds half.

"We need to work on soccer skills ... create triangles on the field and create plays out there and get more offensive chances and try and lock up on D," said captain Mark Powers.

At the end of the Walpole

game, Coach Andrews put in some fresh faces. Backup Kaushik Suryanarayanan entered the game to a cheering ovation.

On Saturday the team fell 4-0 to Dartmouth. Norwood got good games out of cap-

tain Sem Decaj, Jesse Fleming and Danny Farrell.

The Mustangs finally got their first win Tuesday against CM. Decaj and striker Cam Ryan scored. Powers assisted Ryan.

"My defense was stellar:

Jesse Fleming, Danny Farrell, Ryan Stanton, and Antonio Varitamos. Joe Schallmo was amazing in the net. Tim Kent and Ben McGrath were fantastic on the left side. Big win for us against a tough team," said Andrews.



Boys Soccer Captain Mark Powers controls the ball in a recent game against Natick. The Mustangs netted their first win of the season last week.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

Golf team falls in three straight matches

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

The Norwood golf team has dropped three straight losing to Needham, Framingham and Walpole. The team is now 6-7 after hitting a rough patch.

“The match against Needham we lost pretty big. That was our worst loss of the year... They got a couple of good players. A lot of guys haven’t played that course before,” said head coach Jim Sweeney.

The Mustangs lost the game 81-27 with their lowest score being 43.

“We were so-so,” said coach Sweeney speaking about their 67-41 loss to Framingham.

They had four players score 39 on the par 35 course: Senior captain Walker Alexander, Mike Murphy, Mike Roy and Chris Ciriello.

“They played really well at home, they had two 34s, two one under pars, “ said

Sweeney, “Walpole is arguably the toughest course we play. I would say they have as much a home course advantage as anybody.” On Tuesday the team lost to Walpole 72-36. Mike Murphy did well shooting a 39.

On Thursday is the Bay State Conference Championship match. Walker Alexander, Mike Roy, and Mike Murphy all qualified.

“I’m excited, I think they get an opportunity to make it... Hopefully we have a pretty good day and they all have a shot at cracking that top 10 to get the all-star,” said coach Sweeney.

The team has a final game against Newton North on October 15. The team needs a win in order to qualify for sectionals.

The Mustangs are hopeful that the team can finish on a high note with some strong performances at the Bay State Conference Championship.

Deadline

The deadline for all press releases for The Norwood Record is Monday, 12 p.m.. Send to: The Norwood Record 1 Westinghouse Plaza, Hyde Park, MA 02136 Tel: (781) 769-1725 / Fax (781) 501-5611 E-mail us at news@norwoodrecord.com

Cross Country at Needham Tri-Meet

The Norwood Boys and Girls Cross-Country ran against Natick and Needham last week. Ten junior varsity runners moved up to run in their first varsity meet, all performing well for the Mustangs. On the girls’ side Alanna Keady continued to be the top runner for Norwood coming in 15th overall in a time of 22:53.

Fellow senior captain Samantha Baturin was number two for the Mustangs finishing in 18th place with a time of 23:39. Freshman Kelly Blake continued to show improvement coming in third for Norwood and 32nd overall. Devin Bartlett was fourth with a time of 26:09, followed by junior Alex Avakian at 26:10. Avakian has had strong showings in her last two meets. Two freshmen running in their

first varsity meet had great runs — Alyssa Abruzzese with a time of 26:46 and Rose Murray at 27:04.

The boys had seven runners compete in their first varsity meet. J.J. O’Donnell continued to lead the team as the number one runner. He finished the 3.1-mile course in a time of 18:57 good for 21st overall. Sophomore Clifton Clark moved up to the number two spot for Norwood with a time of 19:04 and finished 23rd overall.

Another sophomore, Dan Curley, took the number three spot for the Mustangs with a time of 19:11. Senior John Maloney was fourth at 19:18 and Josh Ostrum took the fifth position for Norwood with a time of 19:28. Freshmen Patrick Forrest and Tom Driscoll continue to show promise for the Mustangs.



Sarah Maloney tips the ball over the net in a recent win.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

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“they brought it together like ‘we’re not going to let them get another point, we’re going to pull through.”

Amanda Springer ended

the game with 11 Kills, 3 Blocks, 4 service points, and 2 aces. Captain Emily Clifford had 10 service points, 5 aces, and 7 service receptions. Captain Nicole

Butts had 11 Service points, 4 aces, 7 kills, and 2 blocks.

“Nicole was huge on her serves at the end, she played a great match all around,” said Nimblett.

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Running Back Jake Ryan is brought down by a Natick defender on Saturday.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

away and steal the game and it didn’t work out that way, but I can’t complain about our effort. It was there today,” said Sarianides.

Natick was running the spread well and Flutie picked up the third touchdown from shotgun on a

crossing pattern. Mustang cornerbacks Tresor Wrensford and John Galvin defended two passes back to back at the end of third quarter on tight coverage, but Flutie would pass for one more TD in the fourth putting Natick up 28-0.

“I tip my hat to this team. We played hard... we didn’t quit. This is also a rivalry for Norwood. They know Norwood-Natick is a big game,” said Sarianides.

The Mustangs will face Wellesley on Friday, looking for their first win.