

Sports

Football falls to Walpole



Joe Leanos and a host of Norwood defenders make a tackle during last weekend's game against Walpole. The Mustangs would fall to the Rebels, 35-6. For the game story see Page 11.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

Mustangs fall to rival Dedham on Senior Day

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

On Thursday October 17, on the team's senior day, the Boys Soccer squad dropped a game to Dedham 3-0. They are now 1-11-1.

The Norwood-Dedham rivalry was evident from the beginning as both teams were feisty and jawing at each other.

Norwood came out with some great passing up field to get into Dedham's box. Unfortunately Captain Sem Dacaj was injured when he

ting around the field and confounding Dedham. At the end of the first half newcomer Vanjiel Kutulla got some time at striker for Norwood. He hails from Albania and came to Norwood a few weeks ago.

Ioannis Siokas found the net again early in the second half to put Dedham up 2-0. Schallmo had some more saves but would succumb to the Marauders once more.

Alvin Di scored the third goal that would put Dedham up 3-0. From that point the game would get more aggres-

Girls Soccer secures first win

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

Norwood beat Sharon 2-1 on Sharon's senior day to grab their first win of the season and are now 1-12-1 on the season.

"I'm so happy for the seniors, these five seniors ... who have put in so much time and effort. [The] three captains did a great job in the offseason with our workouts ... I'm really happy they get a win in the last couple years of their career because it's well-earned," said head coach Joseph Oliver.

Goalkeeper Taylor Reed had a very strong game and made some great saves in the opening of the match. The defense hung tough all afternoon.

"Taylor[Reed] played very well today, they had a number of chances on her, she commanded the box, just a big presence in there, she's got sure hands, she's tough," said Oliver.

Senior Jessica Murphy would help the Mustangs keep the ball out of their territory with some great midfield play.

It was the offense though, especially the striker position, that was key.

Kara Shea had a nice shot on net that sailed just over the top bar, but in the 27th minute Julia Copponi would get one

into to put the Mustangs up 1-0.

At the end of the first half Norwood's offense started really clicking. There were a lot

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Kaylin Goncalves takes on a Sharon opponent during last week's victory.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO



Stephen Gross and the Mustangs celebrated Senior Day in a rivalry game against Dedham.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

battled with a Dedham player for a header. Dacaj had one of his teeth knocked loose and would not return to the game.

After Dacaj was injured Dedham went on the offense, making Mustang goalkeeper Joe Schallmo work with a few shots on net, some of them hit and bounced off the posts of the net much to Dedham's chagrin. Schallmo couldn't keep all the shots out though; Marauder Ioannis Siokas scored, putting Norwood down 1-0. He was assisted by Nick Garcia.

Joe Bartucca showed off his ball handling skills, get-

sive. Senior Midfielder Timothy Kent received a yellow card for his aggressive play. Frustration boiled over for Norwood as Stephen Gross was among the Norwood players involved in a brief spat with the Dedham coach. Referees had to have a word with the player and coach, but tempers calmed.

Mustang coach Jason Andrews implored his team to keep a level head through the end of the game.

Senior Karl Baer received a red card shortly after for an

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Mustangs fall to rival Walpole 35-6

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

Norwood can't catch a break this season, and it certainly didn't happen against a 20th ranked Walpole Rebels team. The Mustangs fell to the Rebels by the score of 35-6 and are now 0-6. On a positive note, the six points were the first points Norwood has scored against Walpole in three years.

"I was proud of their effort in the first half. We came out, we competed, we made a couple of stops on defense, we were flying around, taking good angles, finishing tackles, we just couldn't sustain anything on offense which has been our problem all year," said Head Coach John Sarianides.

The first quarter started off poorly, Norwood went three and out and Walpole scored on its first drive with a long QB run by Rebel Will Bolster. After the kick Walpole was up 7-0.

Mustang quarterback Jake Vail, who ended the game 6-of-10 passing for 68 yards, took a beating in the game getting sacked throughout.

"Up front they physically took it to us. We just couldn't match [them] up front. Our offensive line got a reality check. [We've] got to bounce back next week because [the lineman] did not play well," said Sarianides.

Walpole scored twice more in the first half, on a 34-yard rush by running back Steve Cuqua, and on a Cuqua sweep

right after Vail was intercepted.

Norwood wouldn't go down easily however. Right before the half the Mustangs scored on a Vail to Brendan Walsh pass. The play was set up by a Jake Ryan toss, and a first down pass to John Galvin. The extra point was no good, and Norwood went in to the half trailing 21-6. Unfortunately they lost Ryan for the second half with a shoulder injury.

"He's our big play guy, he's our bell cow, he's the guy we count on, and when he got hurt that kind of affected us," said Sarianides.

The Rebels would close the window abruptly for Norwood in the third quarter. Walpole scored on its first two possessions. The first was a demoralizing 76-yard run by Steve Cuqua right up the gut to go up 28-6. Then Bolster had a 43-yard pass to Jack Lavanchy to make 35-6. Add some Norwood penalties and stout Rebel defense and the game was pretty much over.

"They are a little bit more experienced than we are but we didn't take advantage of the stuff that they gave us, so when you don't do that against a quality program like this, you're going to fall behind," said Sarianides.

Defensive end Joe Leanos had a solid game, but the Mustangs needed a lot more than they got out of their offensive line and defense.

"[We've] just got to keep working, we are what we are," said Sarianides.

The Mustangs take on Newton North next Saturday.



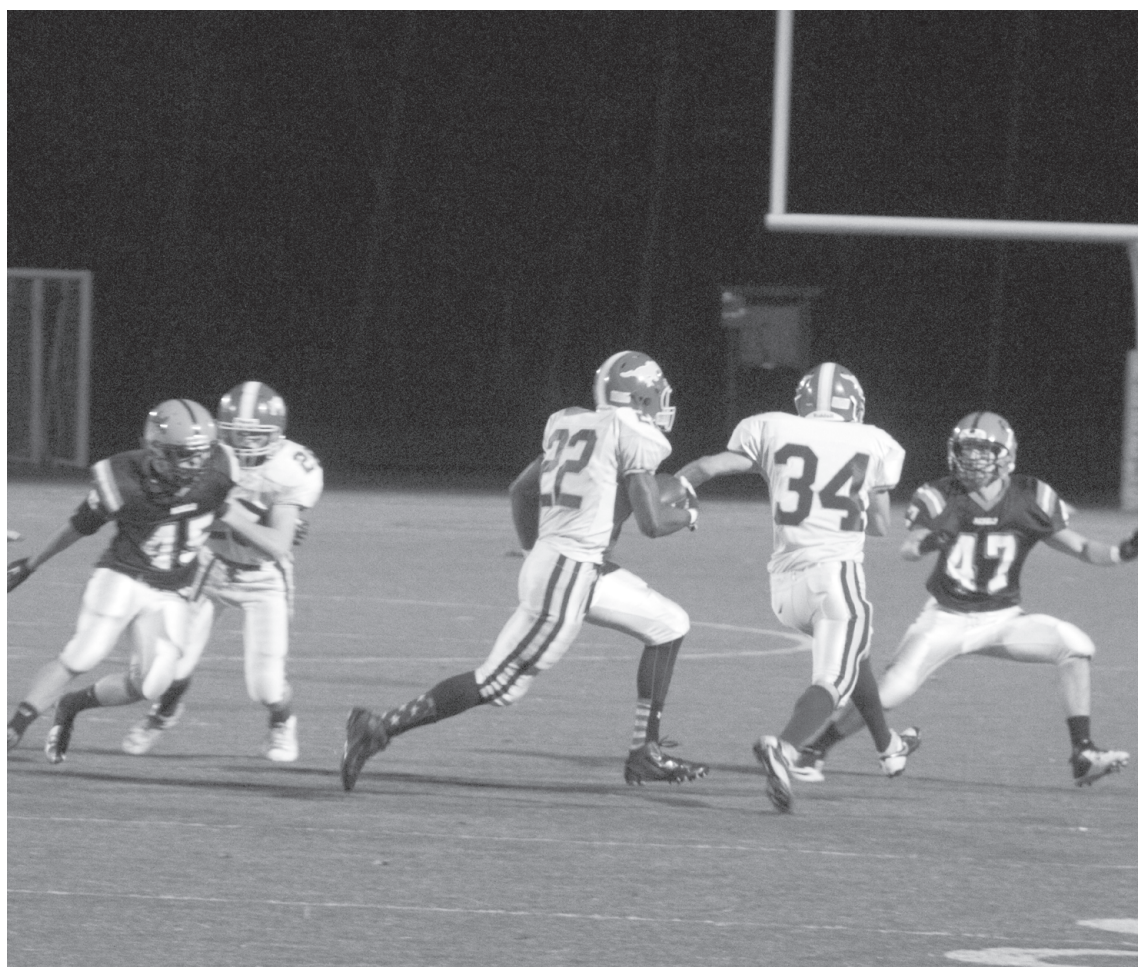
Head Coach John Sarianides discusses strategy with his quarterback, Jake Vail, during Friday's game against Walpole.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

Football Schedule

Sept. 14 at Holliston, L 48-6
 Sept. 21 vs. Wayland, L 35-7
 Sept. 28 vs. Milton, L 28-14
 Oct. 5 vs. Natick, L 28-0
 Oct. 11 at Wellesley, L 48-7
 Oct. 18 at Walpole, L 35-6
 Oct. 25 at Newton North, 1:00
 Nov. 28 at Dedham, 10:00

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Brian Wright rushes the ball against the stout Walpole defense. Wright was one of a couple of running backs stepping in for the injured Jake Ryan.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

Cross Country looks to finish strong

The Mustang Cross Country teams ran against two of the best teams in the Bay State Conference last Wednesday facing off against Walpole. Individual runners showed improvement as they prepared for divisional rival Dedham. On the girls side Alanna Keady ran the 2.57 miles in 18:00, good for 15th overall. Sam Baturin finished second for Norwood with a time of 19:27, and finished 22nd overall. Freshman Kelly Blake again took the number three spot followed by fellow freshman Alyssa Abruzzi at 22:02 and Devin Bartlett with at time of 22:03.

The boy's squad all ran well and stuck together in a strong pack. J.J. O'Donnell again finished as the number

one runner for the Mustangs with a time of 15:16, finishing 24th overall. John Maloney was second for Norwood with a time of 15:26, finishing 27th overall. Sophomore Dan Curley continued to show promise and finished third with a time of 15:38 and ended at 29th overall. Fellow sophomores Josh Ostrum and Clifton Clark were the number four and five runners for Norwood. Freshman Noah Kerns ran in his first high school meet and completed the JV course in a time of 13:31.

The week before, both cross country teams ran against Wellesley, at Elm Bank Reservation's 2.57 mile

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Senior Captain Olivia Philbrook battles for the ball in last week's win over Sharon. The team notched its first victory of the season.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

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of great passes and turns. The Mustangs midfield was a little lacking however, allowing Sharon to bring it back to Norwood's end. Goalkeeper Reed had a great save, body-checking an opponent out of the way, and the Mustangs offense began to whirr again.

Norwood scored again off a direct kick. Philbrook crossed it and Copponi would kick it in to put the Mustangs up 2-0 before the half.

"Kara Shea played some

striker for us, Olivia Philbrook played some striker for us and Julia Copponi played striker. Both Julia's goals in the first half came while she was playing the wing, one off a great direct kick by Olivia Philbrook to give her the assist," said Oliver.

Sharon scored early in the second half. Sharon came out aggressive and stayed in Mustang territory, doing everything it could to even the game. The Eagles were living next to the Mustangs net. The

game got a little chippy at the end as Norwood's eagerness for their first win and Sharon's frustration culminated in physical play.

The Mustangs held out and garnered their first win this year. Senior Captain Olivia Philbrook had a dominant game, popping everywhere on the pitch.

"[Philbrook] had a huge game in the middle defensively and offensively to control the tempo in the middle. Olivia was huge today," said Oliver.

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off ball kick. The kick wasn't particularly egregious, but the referees were stern and extra vigilant for the rest of the game to keep on track a game that got out of their control for a minute.

Kaushik Suryanarayanan

came in at striker and got some good touches at the tail end of the game.

All seniors got some playing time that day, but it wasn't enough to add up to a win for the Mustangs.



A Dedham player heads the ball well wide of the net. The Marauders would best the Mustangs with a 3-0 win.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

Cross Country *continued from page 11*

course last Wednesday.

The young Mustang teams continued to improve with several freshman breaking into the lineup. On the girls side Alanna Keady came in fifth overall, first for Norwood with a time of 17:46. Fellow senior Sam Baturin was second for Norwood with a time of 18:33. Freshman Kelly Blake took third for Norwood and 12th overall with a time of 19:08. Alex Avakian was fourth for Norwood in a time of 20:08 and freshman Alyssa Abruzzese scored in her first varsity meet

with a time of 20:19.

On the boys side J.J. O'Donnell was first for Norwood and seventh overall in a time of 14:37. Sophomore Clifton Clark was third for Norwood and tenth overall, followed by Captain John Maloney with a time of 14:53. Sophomore Dan Curley ran a time of 14:58 good for 13th overall and Josh Ostromb came in at 15:35. Freshmen Tom Driscoll and Patrick Forrest showed great improvement coming in at 15:58 and 16:00 respectively.

Field Hockey keeps on rolling, wins on Senior Day

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

On the Field Hockey's senior day on Tuesday the girls beat the Natick Redhawks 4-2 for their seventh straight win. The team is now 11-1-3.

"We've had four awesome seniors this year ... they all started, they all played well when they were in today," said Head Coach Allison Doliner.

Norwood started out well, but faltered early. Once Natick got the ball close to the Mustang's net, Norwood had a hard time getting it out. Natick player Kayla Donahue scored to put Natick up 1-0. Even after the score the ball wouldn't leave Norwood territory.

"Natick had some really strong free hits, we're not used

to the big balls ... we play more of a stick to stick passing game," said Doliner.

It would take two break-aways from Kacie Smith and captain Sheila Carroll for the Mustangs to break free and begin scoring.

Carroll scored first on a penalty corner evening the game. Maura O'Neill had the assist. Norwood then took complete control over the game.

Shortly after Kacie Smith scored just before the half to put Norwood up 2-1. Inside passing really helped the Mustangs dominate.

The second half was more of the same. Natick got the ball near the Mustang net, and would not leave. Norwood goalkeeper Niki Nuygen was put to the test as Natick kept

shooting it her way, but Nuygen was a brick wall for a while, denying shot after shot, but eventually Natick's Gabi Levine snuck one in.

The game heated up and was becoming more physical. Kacie Smith received a warning from the official. Redhawk Amber Callahan was penalized for pushing Smith and went to the box for five minutes.

Doliner called a time out to focus her team. Out of the timeout Norwood took the ball on a break away down the field and captain Sammy Hayes scored to put the game in Norwood's hands 4-2. Hayes was assisted by both Maura O'Neil and Hannah Benson.

"Sammy Hayes and Lisa Moynihan both played unbelievable today, It wasn't our



prettiest game of the season, but we got the job done," said Doliner.

This was the last regular season home game for Norwood. They take on rival Walpole on Thursday and then the girls will be getting ready for the post-season.

"It should be an intense game, we played [Walpole] well [at home] now we get to go in there on their senior night and hopefully come out with a victory," said Doliner.

Post-season seeding comes out on Monday.