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Soccer: Holy Name girls' team working hard on, off the field

Carl Setterlund Soccer

The eighth-ranked Holy Name High girls' soccer team is really starting to jell. The Naps scored their second 6-0 win over Burncoat High this season and improved to 6-1.

But Holy Name should also be proud of its accomplishments off the field.

On Sunday, every player on the team and coach **Bill Manzello** participated in the 13th annual UMass Medicine Cancer Walk, raising more than \$3,000 for cancer research and care. They completed the 5-mile route around Lake Quinsigamond, although one member of the group walked a little farther.

"I got there late, and they had already taken off," said Manzello, who ended up doing an extra mile trying to catch up with his players. "After about three-quarters of a mile, I turned around and walked all the way around the lake the opposite way to catch them."

Junior **Ann-Marie Zinkus** was the fundraising leader, but said she received plenty of help from captains **Corrie DeRosier**, **Hannah Owen** and **Rene Bousquet**.

The Naps set a goal of \$2,000, but with a collective effort and a healthy bit of emailing and social networking, they far exceeded their target.

The Holy Name team is no stranger to fundraising. Last year, it held a car wash that raised more than \$900 for breast cancer research.

"Doing things to support a cause helps us come closer as friends and teammates because we all worked together," Zinkus said.

On the field, the Naps are a cohesive bunch, too, having allowed only two goals this season, both on Monday against Tantasqua Regional. Zinkus thinks their on- and off-field results go hand-in-hand.

"We're a really close team — we like to do things together like pasta parties and just hanging out," she said. "Doing this together made us even closer."

Unbeaten Leicester eyes playoffs

After an 8-0 start, the fourth-ranked Leicester High boys are distancing themselves from the pack in the SWCL West, but don't give coach **Scott Smith** a pat on the back for another successful season just yet.

Almost always successful, the Wolverines are focused on more than just a league title this season.

"We're a veteran team," said Smith, who returned seven starters from last year's 11-4-4 squad. "We expect to be very competitive again this year. We set our expectations pretty high."

Senior co-captain **Mat Tyndall**, a Central Mass. All-Star, has been the leader of a potent front line with seven goals and five assists. **Justin Kachadoorian** has also been productive; he has eight goals and six assists and leads the team in scoring.

"Justin has been starting the last few years, just not in a real prime goal-scoring position," said Smith, who has used Kachadoorian to fill the role vacated by the graduated **D.J. Colby**.

Former all-state defender **Mike Rieder** has also chipped in with five goals since moving up to midfield this season.

Leicester knows it will be in the playoffs, and with a high seeding, but the Wolverines' focus is their record in the postseason.

Smith said Nipmuc has shown regular-season records mean nothing. The Warriors beat higher-seeded Leicester, 4-0, in last season's quarterfinals on the way to a second consecutive Central Mass. Division 2 title.

"We certainly want to do far better this year when it comes around to districts," Smith said.

Burncoat finds defense

Burncoat shows the signs of a potential Inter-High champion, scoring goals in bunches this season. The Patriots are 5-2-1 with both losses against a technically advanced Holy Name squad.

The leader of the offense has been senior striker **Taylor McGrail**, a co-captain who is tops in the league with 10 goals and six assists.

However, with the defense a target for improvement, McGrail thinks the Patriots' best game of the season might have been a scoreless tie against Doherty last Thursday

"Our Doherty game was the best game we've ever played," McGrail said. "We all came together for the biggest Inter-High game, and we expect more out of everyone as the season continues."

Nasuti sets Millbury mark

Congratulations to Millbury standout senior forward **Emily Nasuti**, who became the Woolies' all-time leading scorer with her 78th career goal last Thursday against David Prouty.

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