



CHARGER SOCCER

The 1964 Charger yearbook announced that 11 players compiled a 4 – 8 – 3 season but a memorable game was a hard-fought 3 – 1 loss to conference champions New Trier (10 – 0 – 0). That year the team recorded victories over Morton East, St. George, and two over Francis Parker.

The following season was a challenge for the Chargers as the “St. Joe Eleven” went winless in 15 games, having only two seniors on the team, Captain “Boog” Powell and All-Area Tim Dalton, who led the squad with 5 goals.

The following year, the Herald reported on October 7, 1965, that the Chargers ended an 18 game drought with a 2 – 2 tie versus Oak Park. Goals were tallied by Jack Linhart and Tom Dalton. The tie was followed by a 1 – 0 win over Lyons Township as reported by Suburban Life with the lone goal of the game scored by Dalton. Highlights of that season included a 2 – 1 victory over St. Mel, a 2 – 2 tie versus De La Salle and another 1 – 0 triumph over LT.

On November 4, 1965, the local paper reported the Chargers lost their final game of the season 2 – 0, to Roncalli. The loss completed a season record of 3 – 7 – 2, a marked improvement over the previous season’s campaign of 0 – 15.

Proviso Herald, on November 11, 1965, reported a 1 – 0 win for the Chargers over St. Mel at Rockne Stadium in Chicago. Goalkeeper Ed Crowley was strong as was the defense, led by fullbacks Tom Dunn, Al Lagattolla, and John Voller. The paper also reported that Coach John Aikman and St. Joes beat St. Mel 2 – 1 earlier in the season. At that time, the Herald reported that “St. Mel was rated the best soccer team in man-to-man defense.” Tim Dalton scored both Charger goals in that game.

The 1967 yearbook announced that during a 2 – 12 – 3 season, All-State honors went to Bob Dee, Dave Theil, and Captain Jim Ryan.

On September 7, 1967, both the Westchester News and the Suburban Life reported that the Chargers were anticipating an exciting season as evidenced by the number of students trying out for the team, three times as many as the previous season.

It was also reported that in the previous season sophomore Bob Dee was named to the All-State team. Also reported was that the Chargers would play an unusually long schedule – 24 games, under new head coach Brother Richard Steven and assistant coach Martin Woerter.

The Suburban Life reported that the 1967 season opened in September with a 3 – 2 win over Providence with goals by Bob Frascione, Joe Steltenkamp and Bob Dee.

The October 5, 1967, issue of the Suburban Life reported three scores, including two losses to the St. Joseph Seminary Lakers, 3 – 2 and 2 - 0, and a 1 – 1 tie with LaGrange.

The October 28 issue of the same paper reported three more scores, two losses against De La Salle, 6 – 0 and 1 – 0, and a 2 – 1 loss to St. Mel with Fabio Papo scoring the lone Charger goal.

On November 2, 1967, the Suburban Life reported that the LaGrange Lions defeated St. Joes 3 – 2 to retain “possession of the Electro-Motive Cup.” The game was played on a snow-covered field.

The Suburban Life, on December 2, 1967, reported that while Christian Brothers College High School (CBC) beat the Chargers 6 – 0 and 7 – 2, it was rare that the opposition scored against the team from St. Louis. That team had a roster of 28 players from the 300 who tried out for the squad. The yearbook indicated that CBC was the national champion last season. It also reported that the 5 – 14 – 1 team had to endure a season in which leading scorer Bob Dee was absent for a number of the contests.

The Suburban Life published on December 16, 1967, that three St. Joseph Chargers were named to the All-State soccer team: John Gerhardt (unanimous), “Beep” Jerding, and Mike Barnett.

In September of 1968, the Tribune reported a 3 – 2 win by the Chargers over Proviso East in double overtime. Jim Boan scored the winner after Tom Reif scored two goals late in regulation. That victory gave St. Joes a 2 – 2 – 1 record.

Three games later a local paper noted a 1 – 0 victory over Providence New Lenox with Bob Dee scoring the only goal. That victory gave the Chargers a 4 – 3 – 1 record.

The 1969 yearbook stated the Chargers season record as 4 – 16 – 2.

The 1970 yearbook headline was 7th IN STATE IN 70 with no copy.

The 1971 fall season (recorded in the 1972 yearbook) stated the Chargers suffered only 3 losses under Coach Mangiardi while recording 15 wins. Only 1 team scored 3 goals against the Chargers while SJ scored 3 or more goals in 14 games!

The 1973 sophomores were undefeated in conference play finishing in first place.

The 1974 Chargers picked up 10 wins, including 6 shutouts under Coach George Bourboulas. Carmen Soldato was named MVP, All-Conference and All-State.

The 1975 Chargers picked up 9 wins. Walter Arand was named All-Conference and Martin Anaya was honored as All-State.

In 1977, Roger Bauer was named All-Conference. The team struggled that year with a 4 – 15 record, but three of their victories were shutouts, including a 7 – 0 triumph over Notre Dame.

The 1978 team saw Brother Peter take over as head coach.

In 1979, the team finished over .500.

According to the yearbook, 1980 was the first year the East Suburban Catholic Conference had a “regular soccer league” and, in spite of a 6 – 12 – 2 record, the team was “in the conference race until the last couple games.” All-Conference honors that year went to Dave Dragas, Joe Stockhausen (MVP) and Ed Ciaglia (Team Spirit).

The 1981 team earned itself the conference championship with a 6 – 2 record in the ESSC and 14 – 7 overall. The sophomores finished 18 – 1 and 7 – 1 in conference play. The freshmen finished 4 – 2. All-Conference honors went to John Christopher, Milan Gajda, Peter Greco, Kevin Kent (MVP), Bob Lis, and Tom Mascari (MVP).

The 1982 team took the program a step further when it earned its first regional championship while it collected 18 wins overall. The sophomores also had an outstanding season with a record of 22 – 2 – 2.

The 1983 squad earned another conference championship behind MVPs Alex Nitchoff and Kevin Yurgil. One-half of the ESSC trophies went to St. Joseph High School!

More history was made in 1984 when the Chargers finished 4th in state! They earned another conference championship with a 6 – 0 – 1 record and 18 – 3 – 3 overall. All-Conference honors went to Jeff Berndt, Alex Nitchoff, Rich Waswil, and Kevin Yurgil. Nitchoff and Yurgil were also named to the Chicago Sun-Times All-Area All-Star Team.

In 1985 the Chargers recorded one more win than the previous season, finishing 19 – 3 – 1. Hoping to return to the IHSA state tournament, SJHS won a second consecutive regional championship, this time over Lyons Township. However, the Chargers would lose in the super sectionals, in double overtime to Oak Park. Five players shared MVP honors that season: Jeff Berndt, Mike Kelley, Phil Lencioni, Kotch Nitchoff, and Rich Waswil. Jeff Berndt was named to the All-State team.

The 1986 squad finished 11 – 4 – 4 and All-Conference earned by Jeff Berndt, Rich Chlopek, Pat Forbes, and Phil Lencioni (MVP).

In 1987 the Chargers nearly duplicated its record from the previous season finishing 11 – 4 – 5. Their season ended with a heartbreaking loss in the regional championship to Addison Trail, 2 – 1 in double overtime. All-Conference was awarded to George Chlopek, Terry Powell, and Travis Spiropoulos, who recorded 4 shutouts as goalkeeper and had an impressive 1.00 goals against average.

The 1988 Chargers did capture the regional championship but lost in the sectionals to Naperville Central in overtime. The team finished 12 – 4 - 2 overall.

The 1989 Chargers made history by finishing 3rd in state with a 1 – 0 win versus Addison Trail, the team which beat them two seasons ago in the regional championship. The team also revenged a loss from the previous season versus Naperville Central, by beating them 4 – 3 in penalty kicks. All-Conference awards went to Tony Bifero, Scott Berndt and Pat Sulin. Scott Berndt earned All-State honor while Duane Archer and Gustavo Nicosia made the All-Sectional team.

The 1990 Chargers finished with a 16 – 9 – 3 record. They did capture their third straight regional championship with a 2 – 1 win over Glenbard East. However, they had their hands full with Naperville North in the first sectional game, losing 5 – 1. Pat Sulin was named All-Sectional, All-Conference, and he was awarded the ESCC MVP. Also making All-Conference and team MVPs were Bryan Sirota and Julio Salverredy. Meanwhile the freshman squad became the first soccer team in school history to be both undefeated and untied on route to the conference championship. They also recorded the greatest margin-of-win game having defeated Notre Dame 17 – 0.

In 1991, the Chargers finished 14 – 4 – 2 but lost the regional championship game to Sandburg 5 – 4 after winning the first regional game over Morton before, according to the yearbook, a record crowd of 400 spectators.

In 1992, the Chargers captured another regional championship, beating Stagg High School. However, the team was surprised by Hinsdale South in the sectional where they lost 3 – 2. All-Conference honors went to Arnold Gonzalez, Joe Krasucki, Ivan Rodriguez, and Jimmy Roussakis,

The 1993 Chargers remained undefeated until a very tough loss on penalty kicks to Sandburg in the super sectional. The ESCC champs finished the year with an amazing 24 – 1 – 1 record, including the seventh consecutive year winning the Christian Brothers Cup. Keith Cable earned All-State, Ivan Rodriguez All-Sectional and Arnold Gonzalez was named to both the Sun-Times All-Area and Tribune All-State teams. Meanwhile, the freshman squad won the ESCC as well.

For the fourth time in school history the Chargers headed to the Elite Eight in 1994. They played convincingly in the post-season, winning the regional championship over St. Rita, 5 – 0, the sectional championship over Oak Park – River Forest, 3 – 0, and the super sectional championship over Homewood Flossmoor, 4 – 1. The Chargers then lost to eventual state champs Sandburg by one goal. It was their only loss during the season. The team recorded its second consecutive ESCC crown while picking up 24 wins. All-Conference honors went to Mike Baranski, Matt Cherney, Danny Galvez, Ryan Paveza, Carlos Rodriguez, and JJ Ruane. JJ was also named to the Illinois Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team and the Sun-Times All-Area 1st Team. Paveza was named to the Illinois Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team, Honorable Mention 2nd Team and the Chicago Tribune All-State Team and 2nd Team All-Area.

In 1995, the Chargers won 18 games before bowing to Oak Park – River Forest in the sectional championship 3 – 2. All-Conference honors were earned by Matt Cherney, JJ Ruane, Joe Santucci, and Mike Sowinski. JJ was named honorary captain of the Pioneer Press All Chicagoland Soccer Team.

In 1996, the Chargers returned as ESCC champions and captured the regional championship before losing the sectional championship to Downers Grove South. They finished the season with a record of 18 – 4 – 1. All-Sectional awards were given to Joe Santucci and Mike Sowinski. Earning All-Conference honors were Santucci, Sowinski and Ricky Ruane.

The Chargers got as close to the top as possible, coming in second in state in 1997! Ricky Ruane led the offense with 17 goals and 21 assists. The team finished the season with a record of 16 – 6 – 1.

In 1998, the Chargers finished 13 – 6 – 2, losing 2 – 1 to St. Ignatius in the sectionals.

The 90s finished well for St. Joes as the Chargers finished third in state! The 1999 regular season ended for them with a record of 13 – 3 – 1. The post-season included a win over previously undefeated Wheaton Academy as the Chargers went 6 – 1 after the regular season. Andy Mistretta recorded 12 shutouts working with a strong Charger defense.

The Chargers enjoyed a 14 – 5 – 2 record in 2000 with a highlight a 1 – 1 tie versus eventual Class A state champion Benet Academy. All-Conference was awarded to Alberto Boy, Eric Orozco, Bobby Orozco and leading scorer Lenny Rizzo.

In 2002, the Chargers surprised themselves. In spite of losing 7 starters from the previous season, the team succeeded in returning to the Elite Eight after capturing the ESCC championship. Lenny Rizzo, who scored 34 goals during the season, was named the ESCC MVP.

The Chargers hit a rough spot in 2003 when they posted a 6 – 10 -2 season.

St. Joes came roaring back in 2004 to finish with a 15 – 8 – 2 record. Their season ended with a tough 2 – 1 loss to Illiana Christian in the sectional championship. All-Conference honors went to Juan Acevedo, James Cho, Mike Faxel, and Nick Berndt who, for the second year in a row, was named All-Sectional.

2005 saw the Chargers earn another trophy finishing 4th in state! The team compiled a 14 – 6 – 1 record.

The 2006 team quietly compiled an impressive 16 – 5 – 1 record.

While the 2007 squad's record the following year was a little less impressive at 13 – 9 – 2, they did capture the Class AA regional championship, beating Hinsdale Central 3 – 2. All-Conference honors went to Marco Gutierrez, Aaron Herrera, and Mauricio Ramirez.

In 2008, the Chargers played several close matches before losing their first regional game to Hinsdale Central, who would finish 4th in state that season. Making All-Sectional were Aaron Herrera and Marco Gutierrez.

New head coach Stan Niemiec took a group of talented Chargers downstate to earn a 3rd place trophy in 2009. Mario Gutierrez earned All-State honors while Roberto Almazan was named All-Section and the Suburban Life's Player of the Year. Taking home All-Conference awards were Roberto Almazan, Jovani Castanon (also the ESCC MVP), Alex Gutierrez, Marco Gutierrez, Juan Perez, and John Porvaznik.

In 2010, the Chargers did capture another regional championship but lost in the sectional championship in double overtime. History was made as Marco Gutierrez scored 38 goals, bringing his Charger career total to a record 113 goals.

In 2014, the Chargers returned to the state finals and picked up a second place trophy in Class 2A. Their only loss of the entire season came in the state championship game, losing to Wheaton Academy. Finishing their season at 23 – 1 – 1, the team outscored their opponents during the regular season, 101 – 18. All-Conference honors went to Anthony Gulli, Eduardo Gutierrez, Victor Moreno, Tony Orozco, Aaron Rivera, and Jonathan Rosales. All-State and All-Sectional were awarded to Gulli, Gutierrez, and Moreno. Anthony Gulli also received the Chicago Catholic League Player of the Year.

The 2015 Chargers did not make it to the IHSA finals but they did capture their 8th consecutive regional title, beating Farragutt. All-Conference honors went to Danny Magallanes and Aaron Rivera.

Second in state and nine consecutive regional titles were made possible by the success of the 2016 team. Their season-ending loss came in the championship game, 3 – 1 to Normal University. Post-season wins included victories over Immaculate Conception (7 – 0), Phoenix Military (7 – 0), Chicago Hope Academy (6 – 0), Montini (7 – 1), Francis Parker (4 – 0), and Corner Stone Christian Academy (4 – 0). All-Conference honors went to Emmanuel Lopez, Danny Magallanes, and Jesus Vargas.

The 2017 Chargers struggled with a season highlight a victory over Montini in penalty kicks.

Below we will be printing reflections by former soccer players on their experiences while playing for the Chargers. Please submit your reflections to Mr. Q at tquattrochi@stjoeshs.org.

MORE HISTORY COMING!

Please add your reflections by emailing Tony Quattrochi at tquattrochi@stjoeshs.org.