Wolfpack Boys Soccer

West Valley High School

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Head Varsity Coach: Howard Maxwell
Junior Varsity Coach: Brian Luoma
Keeper Coach: Eric Court
Strength & Conditioning: Bill McKenzie

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Attention: Potential Boys Soccer Players

The West Valley Boys Soccer Program is about to begin. The coaches are excited to begin the season and get out on the pitch! We'd like to pass along some important information to all potential players before the tryout process and practices begin. Please pass this information along to your parents or guardians as well as any interested players who were unable to attend the informational meeting.

Tryouts will begin Monday March 15 in the West Valley gym. There *may* be some open gym times during spring break (or before) depending on availability—stay tuned for the days and times. Tryouts will *tentatively* run from 6:00-8:00pm. Players should be **ready** to participate at least 10 minutes prior to start times. Unsupervised students are not allowed in the gym or locker room before or after tryouts. Any student trying out must have a physical form on file and must complete an activity form. Tryouts will include both fitness testing and soccer technique. Tryout and practice footgear should include soccer flats for gym floors and running shoes (if you prefer to run in something other than indoor soccer shoes).

The Coaches place academics as a top priority. It is unacceptable to the coaches if student athletes neglect school-work in pursuit of sports. All students must be academically eligible to participate in the Wolfpack Soccer Program. If teachers inform the coaches that players are missing major assignments or are neglecting their studies, we reserve the right to limit participation in travel and/or local games. We will set as a team goal: the highest Team-GPA in the MAC Conference and in the State.

It is likely that the team will travel once or twice during the season. The trips have the potential to be great experiences and great for the development of the program, but the travel will require financial outlays as well as other difficulties and hardships such as missed school and conflicts with school social events. Keep in mind that participating in student athletics is a privilege not a right--personal and social sacrifices will be required for the boys soccer program to be successful.

You will find that the Wolfpack Coaches are flexible and will work with players and parents to ensure their experience is positive. Having said that, one area where we will not be flexible is in the area of TEAM CONCEPT—that is--we will demand that each player always put the team first and put team needs before individual needs. This will start with the self-discipline to be physically prepared and mentally focused as you begin the tryout and pre-season practice periods. Players are expected to be fit as tryouts begin and are expected to maintain their fitness levels throughout the season; to be in any other condition is to let down your team-mates and your coaches. Coach McKenzie will assist you in maintaining your strength and conditioning once the season starts, but it is **your duty as a player to come in fit and strong.**

The team concept also applies to behavioral issues. No single player is larger than the team. Our expectations are that you will always behave as gentleman. You will be a good student, a good team-mate and a good citizen at school, at practice, during games, and on the road. You will compete hard, you will give your all for the team, but you will compete within the principals of fair play and you will always display good sportsmanship. If you deviate from these behavioral expectations and the principal of the TEAM CONCEPT, the coaches reserve the right to discipline you in whatever ways are appropriate including travel restriction, play-time restriction, and in the extreme, dismissal from the team.

Because soccer is an out-sourced sport, parent boosters and associated fund-raising will be required. Given the travel, uniform, and equipment costs associated with the program, it is very likely there will be substantial out-of-pocket payments required from each player, regardless of the amount fund-raised by boosters. We recommend pursuing sponsorships NOW. Your target should be two $275 banner sponsorships each. The coaches and managers can help you with the sponsorship paperwork. If we are lucky enough to win our region, airfare to Juneau will be required.

We will have a parent meeting once the team composition has been established. We will be looking for parent volunteers to assist with team management and fund-raising. If you can volunteer, please contact the coach. We NEED volunteers! The team will only be successful if we are backed up by strong parental support. Parents, please make an effort and do what you can by attending booster meetings and by chipping-in in whatever ways you are asked.

The soccer schedule is still being worked on and will be released by the coaches when it is finalized. Due to the compactness of the season and the variability in break-up, there will be scheduling inconveniences and there will likely be modifications. Our attempts to schedule out-of-conference games in other regions of Alaska, if successful, will further compress the conference schedule--with likely back-to-back games on consecutive weeknights on several occasions. Please be patient, and please contact Coach Maxwell first with questions. The Coach will post any schedule changes to the team web site [http://www.wolfpacksoccer.org]. Players and parents will be responsible for staying abreast of the schedule. Coach Maxwell and the West Valley Athletic Director should be the points of contact—please do not pester the district central office or sports coordinator, as the AD and Coach will have most up-to-date West Valley-specific information.

If you have questions about any of the information in this letter or the soccer program in general, please feel free to contact Coach Maxwell via email [hmaxwell@northstar.k12.ak.us] or via phone at 907-388-4073. The coaches are looking forward to a great soccer season! With hard work and great attitudes, the sky is the limit for boys Wolfpack Soccer in 2010. See you all at tryouts!

Howard Maxwell
Head Coach, Boys Soccer