

# Clark Athletics

## Men's Soccer

### 2004 Men's Soccer Newsletter - Postseason

#### SEASON REVIEW

The men's soccer team enjoyed a successful fall season winning nine games for the first time since the fall of 1990. The team was bolstered by junior captain Matt Mattice who was leading the NEWMAC conference in assists (10) in 11 games until a season-ending ACL injury. Freshman forward David Blum proved to be as good as the squad had hoped as he ended his rookie campaign ranked fourth in the conference with a team-leading eight goals. The squad is optimistic for next fall as they graduate only one senior, Jared Swerzenski. With a few top recruits Coach Kulik feels the team will be in a position to attain double digit wins for the first time since 1987.



The program has shown steady improvement having compiled two consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 1986 and 1987. With the majority of the players returning Coach Kulik thinks the squad could make an impact next fall in the conference. "The NEWMAC conference is one of the toughest in Division III men's soccer. The conference finished with three of the top six ranked teams in the 68-team New England region. This year we were one own goal late in our

Springfield match from hosting a conference tournament game." The Cougars can take solace in the fact that they ended their season with a last minute loss in the conference tournament at eventual champion Babson. "The players are committed to the off-season strength and conditioning program that has been set. They all understand to be successful in a conference as tough as ours we need to make every effort to match the athleticism that all conference teams bring to the table."



The program had some impressive wins along the way as Clark beat a powerful Brandeis team 2-0 in Waltham and the team also took a close 2-1 victory over Rhode Island College, the second-place team in a good Little East conference. In addition, the Cougars defeated WPI 1-0 on the road. "People that follow college soccer know how difficult it is to win away at Brandeis and WPI. This team had excellent leadership and the freshmen were an integral part of our success." With the return of virtually the whole team, there is likely to be fierce competition for playing time next fall.

This fall the program opened up their new grass field next to the Dolan Field House on Beaver Street. The players were thrilled that what they can call home is arguably the finest field in the region. "Every one of our opponents commented on the quality of the new field and facility. The players are proud to have not only a tremendous grass surface but also the state-of-the-art sport turf field right next to it," stated Kulik. The Cougars had competed on the sports turf the previous two seasons as the grass field matured enough to play on. The future looks bright for the program.

#### 2004 RESULTS - 9-8, 1-5 NEWMAC

##### September (Home games in Bold)

<b>Wed. 1</b>	<b>vs Anna Maria College</b>	<b>W 2-0</b>
<b>Sat. 4</b>	<b>vs Rhode Island College</b>	<b>W 2-1</b>
<b>Wed. 8</b>	<b>vs Johnson &amp; Wales University</b>	<b>L 0-2</b>
Sat. 11	at Brandeis University	W 2-0
Wed. 15	at Lasell College	L 0-1
Sat. 18	at WPI*	W 1-0
Wed. 22	at Fitchburg State College	W 4-1
<b>Sat. 25</b>	<b>vs MIT*</b>	<b>L 0-3</b>
Mon. 27	at Nichols College	W 4-0

##### October

Sat. 2	at Springfield College*	L 2-3 (OT)
<b>Wed. 6</b>	<b>vs UMass Boston</b>	<b>W 3-0</b>
<b>Sat. 9</b>	<b>vs USCGA*</b>	<b>L 0-1 (OT)</b>
<b>Mon. 11</b>	<b>vs Colby-Sawyer College</b>	<b>W 1-0</b>
Sat. 16	at Wheaton College*	L 0-6
<b>Wed. 20</b>	<b>vs Albertus Magnus</b>	<b>W 2-0</b>
<b>Sat. 30</b>	<b>vs Babson College*</b>	<b>L 0-2</b>

##### November

Wed. 3	NEWMAC Championship Quarterfinals at #3 Babson	L 0-1
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\* NEWMAC Game

#### First-year Forward David Blum Named to NEWMAC All-Conference Second Team

First-year forward **David Blum** (Irvington, NY/Irvington) was named to the 2004 New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Men's Soccer All-Conference Second Team. Blum led the Cougars with eight goals and was ranked fourth in the league. He had three game-winning goals including the only goal in a 1-0 win over conference and cross-town rival WPI. Blum helped lead Clark to a 9-8 record, the team's best record since the 1990 season.



*Friends of Clark Men's Soccer has been formed under the umbrella of Friends of Clark Athletics. If you are interested in supporting the men's soccer team and would like more information, please contact Head Coach David Kulik*

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