

WOOSTER BOYS SOCCER SHINES WITH IMPRESSIVE 15-3-3 RECORD



2024 Wooster Boys Varsity Soccer Team; photo credit Wooster Yearbook

By Syou Ishiguro, Jazmine Echeverria-Fulmer, Gladis Rangel Aranda

The Wooster High School boys’ soccer team closed out an impressive season with a 15-3-3 record, securing their spot as one of the region’s top programs. With a blend of relentless defense and dynamic offense, the Colts navigated a challenging schedule, earning key wins that showcased their skill and determination. The team’s success is a testament to the hard work of both players and their coach, setting a high benchmark for future seasons.

This soccer season has been a challenging one for Hector Rangel, Daemian Guzman, and Jason Acosta Plascencia, as they juggle schoolwork, athletic commitments, and personal aspirations.

“Keeping my grades up and showing up to practice has been the hardest part,” Damien admitted. For Hector, the struggle has been about maintaining consistency. “Consistency during games—that’s where I’ve had the most trouble,” he shared. Jason, on the other hand, has focused on time management. “I usually try to get my work done during school, so I don’t have to worry about it later,” he explained.

The team’s game against Coronado High School was a defining moment. “We stopped believing in ourselves after the third goal and gave up,” Hector said candidly. Damien echoed his sentiment: “We had the chance to win, and we let it go.” Jason reflected on the same match, saying, “The key lesson was to not give up during the game. We could’ve done better.”

Reflecting on last season’s goals, Jason said the team aspired to make state playoffs. While they fell short, there were notable strengths within the squad. “We were pretty

strong all around, from our defense to our attacking. We had a solid midfield,” Jason observed. He also noted how team chemistry improved this year. “Everyone understood how to play with each other,” he added.

When asked what advice they would give to younger players, and all three emphasized the importance of dedication. “Practice, and hard work goes a long way,” Damien said. Hector encouraged players to “show up to practice and don’t be late,” while Jason kept it simple: “Try your best and listen to Coach Oscar.”

For these players, soccer is less about a professional future and more about personal growth. “It’s a distraction,” Hector said. Damien called it “a fun little hobby every once in a while.” Jason agreed, stating, “I don’t see it as a career.”

Balancing academics and athletics have required discipline. “Usually after practice, I just do my homework,” Hector said, with Damien concurring. For Jason, the key has been staying ahead of his schoolwork during the day.

Even though last season’s goal of making regionals was unmet, the team has learned valuable lessons. “We could’ve done better against Coronado,” Jason admitted. Looking forward, he said the focus is simple: “Try harder.”

As they progress through their season, Hector, Damien, and Jason are committed to tackling every challenge, one step at a time, with an eye on continuous improvement.



Hoofprints Investigates:

Why Do Kids Ditch?

Despite administrative efforts to curb truancy, the adolescent trend continues. Hoofprints Investigates spoke with students and assistant Principal Gingerich to get to the heart of the matter.

Hoofprints Music Reviews: Mitski

Musical genius Mitski recorded her first two studio albums while still in college. Never listened to her? Rose Berrocal tells us why we should.

Hoofprints Investigates: Why Do Kids Ditch?

By David Juarez Menjivar and Leah Navarro Chavarin

Why do students ditch and what do administrators at Wooster do to prevent as many students as possible from ditching? Hoofprints news recently asked a series of questions to Ms. Gingerich and anonymous students that were ditching to compare why students ditch and what admin does about this situation.

All students that were ditching were asked why. About half of these students responded by saying that they ditch because the “teacher sucks,” and they have no friends in that class or because they just don’t feel like being there.



Ms. Gingerich agrees that these are common answers for students that are caught ditching.

One of consequences of repeating ditching is getting cited by a truancy officer, and `Ms. Gingerich says admin is working on lowering the amount of truancy citations this year. This year, compared to other high schools, Wooster has an attendance rate under the average attendance rate of 94%.

According to Ms. Gingerich, quite a few changes/policies have been made to lower the number of students ditching. The F10L10 is one of those new implemented policies.

“Sometimes students do have a good reason as to why their ditching, but we do our best to get them back to class,” Ms. Gingerich said. She also mentioned that in her and the admins’ opinion, students ditch because of peer pressure, they’re stressed, fun, or in most cases “because ‘why not’ ”.

Although in some students minds ditching is fun and what not, at the end of the day there are consequences to ditching, and admin will always try to ensure that students are not ditching and in class.

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Hoofprints Music Reviews: Mitski

By Rose Berrocal

Mitski, born September 27, 1990, is an American singer-songwriter whose music blends rock, pop, and classical influences to create a unique sound. One interesting fact about her is that no one knows the name of her cat. Mitski’s childhood was far from typical—she lived in 13 different countries, which helped shape her worldview. She sang in her high school choir, and at the age of 18, while living in Ankara, she wrote her first song on the piano.

After high school, Mitski moved to the United States to attend SUNY Purchase College's Conservatory of Music, where she studied studio composition. While in college, she recorded and self-released her first two albums, *Lush* (2012) and *Retired from Sad, New Career in Business* (2013). These albums were originally part of her senior project. Mitski has said that the music industry made her feel like a "super-saturated version of con-

sumerism," and she began to regret using her real name to release music because it no longer felt like an expression of her true self. She feared that if she continued in the industry, she would start creating music she didn’t care about.

Among her biggest successes are the following albums:

Puberty 2 (2016): This album was praised for its lead single, "Your Best American Girl," and its themes of isolation, depression, and growing up. It was featured on several "best albums of 2016" and "best albums of the 2010s" lists.

Laurel Hell (2022): This album made the top ten in several countries. The song "Working for the Knife" showcases Mitski's vocal range and explores themes of alienation in the music industry.

The Land Is Inhospitable and So Are We (2023): The third single from this album, "My Love All Mine," became Mitski’s first song to chart on the Billboard Hot 100.

What she loves most about making music is that it allows her to give something of herself to the world.

She has said that her music is a place to express her emotions, and that she has a deep passion for pop

music because it’s what she grew up listening to. However, she also fears the commercial side of the music industry, particularly the idea that her listeners might interpret her music in a way that doesn’t reflect her true experience.

One of my favorite songs by Mitski is "Once More I Get to See You" from *Puberty 2*. It’s an incredibly emotional track, and I’m drawn to how deeply she pours her heart into the song. Her music is so personal, and knowing that many of her early songs, including some from her senior project, are inspired by her own life is truly inspiring. Mitski’s ability to express her feelings so openly and honestly in her music resonates with me, and I admire how she shares so much with her listeners.

In conclusion, Mitski’s music is deeply inspiring and relatable to many people. What makes her work so special is the emotional depth and authenticity she puts into every song. She is an artist who gives her all in both her music and performances, making sure her fans never feel disappointed. The emotions she conveys in her songs are what make her music meaningful—not just to me, but to anyone who listens.