

TWIBC SPORTS

THIS WEEK IN BERGEN CATHOLIC SPORTS

**HOCKEY
HITS THE ICE
AND DELBY
HARD!**

God - Family - Study - Athletics & Arts - The Brotherhood!

Hockey Starts Season with Emphatic Victory

November 29 – Hackensack, NJ – Coach Keough and his Crusaders have been looking forward to this evening since last March. It was an opportunity to make a statement. This was not simply for a moral victory with a close loss. This was an opportunity to show that moral victory was actually the sign of the growth of the Crusader Hockey Program.

As one might expect, the game, livestreamed on Facebook, started out with two heavyweights feeling each other out for the first period. But after a scoreless 18 minutes, the Crusaders started to get something going.

Nick Stoebbling used his speed to create offense and unsettle a normally composed Green Wave defense. As the Crusaders moved the puck, it wound up at the top left point where junior defenseman, Brenden Kelly let a hard wrist shot go toward the net. Stoebbling redirected the puck into the top right corner and BC grabbed a lead it would never relinquish at the 11:15 mark.



Brenden Kelly (2) watches as puck enters net off Nick Stoebbling's (26) redirect. Steve Saxton (12) keeps his defender occupied on the crease.

Later in the period, BC found themselves with a power play and senior defenseman, Jake Antonucci skated backward across the top of the offensive end. The Green Wave chose not to respect his shooting ability and Nooch made them pay with a laser at the 4:13 mark in the second, extending BC's lead to 2-0.



Crusaders celebrate Jake Antonucci's power play goal in the second.

Twenty-three seconds later, freshman, Aram Minnetian drove up the right side and let a wrister fly. Tommy Olson followed from the far wing and drove the rebound home, opening BC's lead to 3-0, with 3:50 remaining in the period.



Bryceon Lago handles the puck in the second period vs. Delbarton.

Delbarton scored to make it 3-1, fifty seconds into the third period, but BC played strong defense throughout the period. Nick Chiurazzi iced the game with an open netter with just forty-six seconds remaining.



Nick Chiurazzi (28) celebrates with the Craziies who were just moments away from a big win and 1-0 start to the season.



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JV Hockey Falls to Delbarton

November 29 – Hackensack, NJ – The JV Hockey team fell 4-0 to the Green Wave on Friday night, being outshot 28-17 by their opponents. Goaltender Jake Costanza recorded 23 saves and Charlie Borg stopped 9 of 10 shots.

JV Hockey Battles Ironmen to a Tie

November 30 – Hackensack, NJ – The Crusaders responded with a solid effort against Don Bosco Prep on Saturday night. Charlie Borg starred on the evening, turning away 24 shots. The offensive spark came from Steve Saxton and Leo Carlucci who scored BC's two goals.

Good things Come to Those Who Persevere...and Set Goals

November 26 – Garfield, NJ – As I entered the Venetian for one of their legendary cocktail hours, I was greeted by friends from St. Joseph Regional and we spoke. They were there in support of a young man who played soccer for the Green Knights and was now a member of the MLS's New England team as a goal tender.

Aside from Monahan, Shannon, Villafranca and a few other headliners, I must admit, I am not terribly well-versed in soccer except for one. Alecko Eskandarian. We talked a little about



Alecko in HS (at Bergen Catholic) and talked about how he ruined everything for every BC soccer player to come (kidding, not kidding). Well, I'm kidding in that he set a standard so high, scoring upwards of 180 goals in high school. Imagine playing in your senior year OF SOCCER and averaging A HAT TRICK PER GAME?!?! Alecko's 66 goals were recalled in his Senior All-County Dinner Speech, while I was sitting with a young

man who would go on to lead Notre Dame to the Fiesta Bowl in his freshman year at QB.

By the way, I wasn't kidding in that I don't know who will ever be able to break his record of 182 goals in 4 years of high school. **Dream big** (young guys) **and work hard**. (That was a Nick Suriano-ism).

Back to the story. Well, as you can imagine, Alecko didn't have to wait that long to make the team or earn All-County Honors. Both happened in his freshman year. But I kidded with Alecko after the dinner, "Alecko, why did you have to score so many goals?"

At that, he shared a story of how he scored 17 goals during his freshman year. It tied for Bergen County's lead in goals scored, yet Alecko was so upset. He spoke with his father about it and decided going forward, they would have to

LEAVE NO DOUBT. This would become a mantra a number of the teams I coached picked up and used for motivation.

I guess it worked as he continued on to University of Virginia, winning the Hermann Trophy (soccer's equivalent to the Heisman) and becoming the #1 pick in the MLS draft and becoming the MVP of the MLS Cup, leading the DC United to a title.

But I didn't write this story just to talk about Alecko. I met with Matt Turner, the young gentleman from SJR. He shared his story during the dinner and I wanted to let him know how much I appreciated it. Matt did not achieve the same individual accomplishment as Alecko early on. He did not make the varsity soccer team at SJR until his junior year. He only became the starting goalie when his teammate was injured. This theme continued with him through college, but he had a dream.

In Matt's freshman year, he hung a set of short, medium and long-term goals in his locker. He caught a lot of ribbing from his teammate who saw he wanted to become team captain, although he was not even a starter. But as time went on, Matt accomplished goal, by goal, by goal. And with each goal accomplished, he saw his teammates start to celebrate his accomplishments and encourage him to reach the next ones. Today, not only is Matt a member of the New England Revolution, he earned a spot on the National Team for the United States of America.

My reason for writing this reflection is this. I know many of you tried out for teams and you may not have made them. If that's the case, join a new team. Compete. Prepare for next season. Don't give up. That was not the reason you were called to Bergen Catholic in the first place. There is something far greater is in store from you and we are counting on you realizing that. DEUS VULT!

Bird of the Week: Peregrine Falcon

November 28 – Rockleigh, NJ – If you are familiar with the Palisades Parkway, travelling northbound, there is a place called the State Line Lookout. There, you can see the Tappan Zee Bridge over the Hudson, you can even see the Long Island Sound over the Westchester peninsula. And 12-months out of the year, you can find resident Peregrine Falcons, the fastest animal in the world. Enjoy!



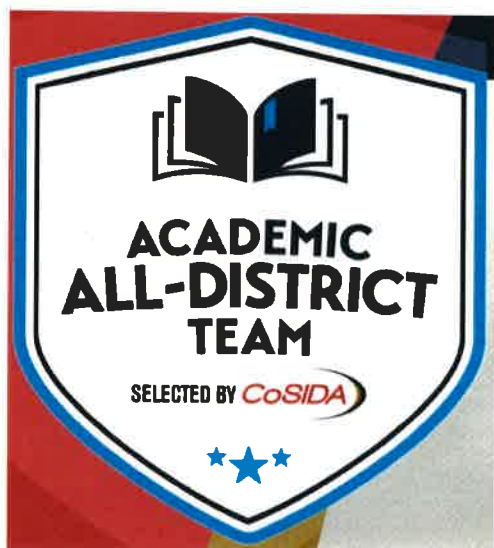
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Bergen Catholic Sports Next Week at a Glance

Day/Date	Time	Sport	Opponent	Location
Wednesday, December 4	2:30 PM	Var Hockey	St. Peter's Prep	Ice House, Hackensack
Wednesday, December 4	4:15 PM	Swimming	Hackensack HS	Hackensack HS
Friday, December 6	7:15 PM	Var Hockey	St. Joseph (Met)	Ice House, Hackensack
Friday, December 6	9:00 PM	JV Hockey	Seton Hall Prep	Ice House, Hackensack
Sunday, December 8	8:20 PM	JV Hockey	St. Joseph Regional	Sport-O-Rama

Prayer of Thanks for Blessed Edmund Rice

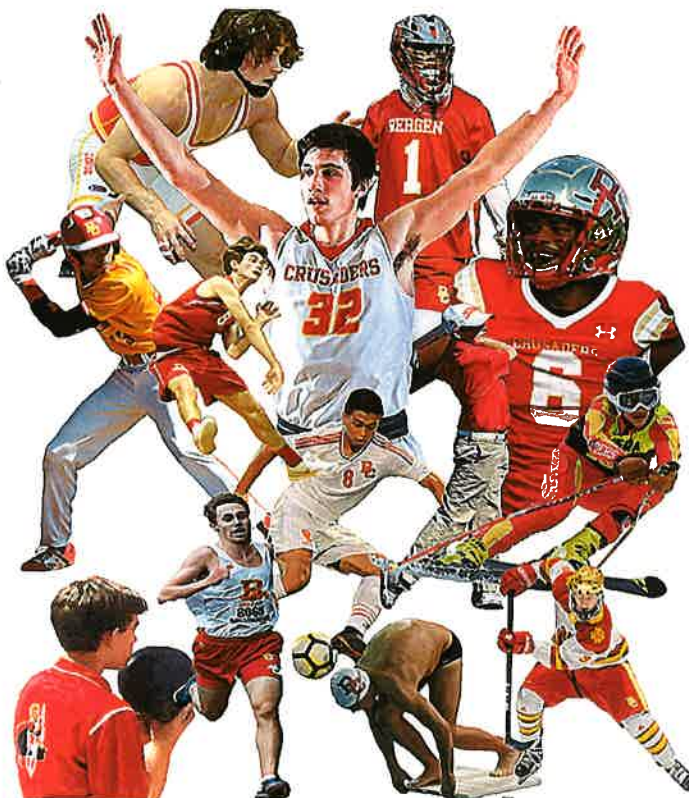
O God, we thank you for the life of **Edmund Rice**. He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. Grant us the courage and compassion of **Edmund** as we seek to live lives of love and service.



November 7 – Swarthmore, PA – Junior, Joe Barile – BC '17, earned Academic All-District Honors this fall. As a member of Swarthmore College's Men's Soccer Team, Joe's 3.81 GPA displayed the outstanding athletic and academic achievement the Sports Information Directors Association is proud to recognize. Barile also earned All-Centennial Conference Honors for the Garnet.

Three Alumni Honored at YMCA 52nd Annual Sports Award Banquet

November 26 – Garfield, NJ – Three Crusader Alumni were recognized for their exceptional HS athletic careers, academic achievement and contributions to the community at the Venetian. They included Braedon Fiume (Cross-country), Nick Foca and Jacob Cardenas (Wrestling).



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