

The Living Room Times

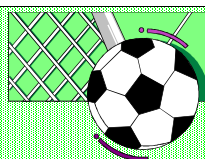
All the Noise that's fit to print... Weekly!

259th overall edition — Seventh regular weekly edition of 1995-1996 season

Monday, October 30, 1995

ONE DAY, TWO TITLES

Newington soccer teams win CCC South



Boys Varsity Soccer Player Enzo Faienza:

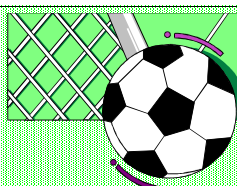
"I feel very happy, because this is the first time winning it, and the first time winning it is the best."

It seems fitting that on Newington's biggest day of the season, star player Enzo Faienza should have his best game on the year.

All season, much of the boys' soccer team's success has depended on Faienza. When he doesn't score much, the games are close. When he scores a lot, Newington wins easily.

Faienza scored five goals as Newington won in a 8-0 shutout Friday against Maloney, and clinched the CCC South division

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Girls Varsity Soccer Coach Paul Mallia:

"This is the best team, skillwise—position-for-position, player-for-player—I've coached in sixteen years."

The 6th-ranked Newington girls, the only soccer team in the entire state with a perfect record, clinched the CCC South division title Friday with a 1-0 win at conference rival Maloney.

Sophomore Kristin Donlin scored Newington's only goal six minutes into the second half, with an assist from her cousin, freshman Tara Boisvert.

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For Atlanta fans, Justice is served



Reuters News Service

Atlanta (Reuters)— The Atlanta Braves won their first World Series championship when Tom Glavine pitched an eight-inning one-hitter and David Justice hit a solo home run for a tense 1-0 victory over the Cleveland Indians Saturday.

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Volleyball playoff hopes dwindle

Newington has one game left

Newington's girls volleyball team lost 3-1 twice last week after one 3-1 victory, dropping their record to 8-8 and forcing their season-long chase after a playoff berth to come down to one game.

Sound bad? It gets worse. Newington's final game of the season is against the state's fifth-ranked team, Southington (14-3), a team which beat the Indians 3-0 (15-0, 15-9, 15-3) earlier this year.

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Newington girls are division champions

Defeat Maloney 1-0 to clinch; extend division record to 13-0

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In an interview several hours after the game, Paul Mallia, who now has 206 career wins in his 16 years as Newington's coach, talked the players' reaction to, and his own feelings about, clinching the division title.

"Ironically, it wasn't as exciting as last year," Mallia said of the team's reaction. "I thought about it, and in a way I'm pleased. They blew the whistle, and, you know, they all got excited, and ran out onto the field....a lot of high-fives and stuff like that. Last year, what we did when we won it was sort of like jumping around, roughing up, a lot more excitement. And I think what that did is, last year, they peaked at that point. And what I sort of saw today was that maybe they felt that they had more business to do the rest of the year....They were excited, but deep down, they know they've got a lot of work to do ahead of them."

As for his own reaction, Mallia said, "I feel, in a way, relieved, because now we can just concentrate on the rest of the year, and the tournament. And....I guess deep down inside, I feel a little surprised that it was, in a way, this easy, because I thought we'd come down to playing Southington at the end for the title."

Although they have already clinched the division, Newington will play an important game at Southington on Tuesday. The game will put Newington in the same position as they were in last season, and give them a chance for revenge. In 1994, they were 13-0 in division play, but a road loss to Southington broke up their chance for an undefeated season, and started a three-game losing streak which ended their year in the first round of the state tournament.

The Newington players are taking the game against Southington very seriously. After returning to Newington following their win Friday, goalie Sarah Reginio said, "We really want to beat Southington, so we're not going to consider it winning the conference until we beat Southington."

"That was mentioned as they were talking on the bus," coach Mallia said about the idea that division title isn't official until Newington wins at Southington. "Again, I think that's a very positive thing. We've clinched they division, but we've never beaten Southington twice in a year, and we haven't won at Southington in four years. So I think, in the back of their minds is the 'sweet revenge' type thing. The overall excitement, I think, would be if we win Tuesday."

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Boys soccer title first for Newington High since 1991

Enzo Faienza's five goals fuel division-clinching win



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title.

"I feel very happy, and great, because this is the first time winning it, and the first time winning it is the best," commented Faienza, a junior. "I'm just happy for all the seniors leaving, that they could finally win one. The last time we won one was '91, so it's kind of cool and stuff that we won it this year."

Other players had less to say about their feelings about winning the division.

"Happy," said goalie Travis Derr when asked how he felt. Derr combined with Marc Cappa for four saves in the clinching game.

"It's great," said Dennis Chow, who had an assist.

"It's an accomplishment," said coach Dave Clarke. "It's not the goal that we set out to achieve, but it's a nice accomplishment for the players, especially the players."

The goal they had set out to achieve, Clarke said, was to "win one more game than we did last year, and come one position higher."

"We came third last year, so we've jumped from third to first. It's going to be a tough act to follow in '96."

"The key to this victory," Clarke continued, "was that we did the things we've been working on in practice for eighty minutes instead of ten. When we do that, we're a difficult team to live with. They did exactly what I asked of them. Everybody to a man. That was the difference between the two teams."

According to the coach, today's game against Southington is still important even though Newington

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Newington will play at Southington and Berlin to end year Last two regular season games on Tuesday and Wednesday

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After their final CCC South game, Newington will play the next day in their last game of the entire year, a non-divisional showdown at Berlin, the second-place team from the Northwest Conference (NWC).

Like Southington, Berlin was in the same spot on Newington's schedule last year, and like Southington, Berlin beat the Indians to drop their overall record to 14-2.

"They're a little bit weaker than last year, but they're a very skilled team," Coach Mallia said about Berlin. "They play offside trap, they play a defensive-type game, opportunistic offense. In other words, low-scoring: 1-0, 2-1 games."



Above: Kristin Donlin gets by a Bulkeley defender to score one of Newington's nine goals on Tuesday. Donlin also scored Newington's only goal against Maloney on Tuesday.

"If we get past Southington, I think they'll be more incentive for [Wednesday's game against Berlin] than we've ever had, and the reason is that last year, we played [Berlin] last game of the year, and after we lost to Southington, we lost to them 2-0. But the other thing that was involved last year was that that was the last home game for the seniors, and it left a bad taste in our mouths, and actually was a downfall, going into the tournament on a bad note, and then losing in the first round. So I think, Wednesday's game, if

we get through after beating Southington, it'll be in the back of our minds that maybe we'll just make it a thing that we're going to dedicate it to last year's seniors. Because, you know, this year's seniors game against Bulkeley last week went very well. We won, all the seniors scored, it was a lot of fun. So I think the revenge for next Wednesday will be to get even for last year."

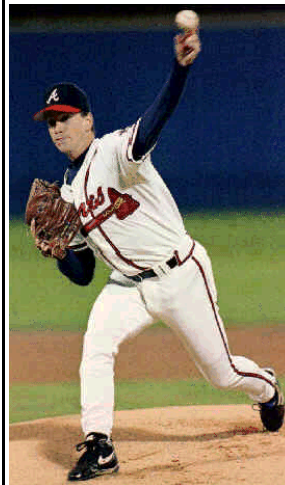
Playing two days in a row will be tough, Mallia said of the Southington and Berlin games on Tuesday and Wednesday, but he thinks the team can manage it. "It depends how the games are going," he said. "I anticipate both of them being hard-fought, intense games. But I think, if it was early in the year, it would be different. I mean, right now, they're all in top-notch condition....They're used to working hard back-to-back [in practices] and I think the emotional aspect of it will carry them through."

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Glavine near perfection as Braves win Justice provides the offense with solo HR

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The Braves, who have been in three of the last four World Series, won the best-of-seven Series four games to two and became the first franchise to win the World Series in three different cities, in Boston in 1914 and Milwaukee in 1957 and now Atlanta.



Glavine, named the Series Most Valuable Player for victories in Games 2 and 6, yielded only a sixth-inning single to Tony Pena before leaving for a pinch hitter in the eighth inning. He struck out eight and walked three, pitching to just three batters over the minimum for eight innings.

Mark Wohlers retired the side in order in the ninth for the save, completing the first combined one-hitter in World Series history and the fifth one-hitter overall.

Justice, who had angered fans by criticizing their spirit in comparison with Cleveland fans and had said the Braves might get run out of town and their homes burned down if they didn't win, led off the sixth inning with a homer to right field for the only run of the game.

"I just want to thank our fans for a lot of support tonight," said Justice.

Jim Poole, who came on in relief of starter Dennis Martinez in the fifth, took the loss, yielding the Justice home run. Martinez gave up just four hits but five walks, one intentional, in 4 2/3 innings.

It was the first professional sports

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First-year players lead Newington girls to third straight CCC South soccer title

Donlin goal with Boisvert assist all they needed to clinch



Above, from left: Kristin Donlin and her cousins, sisters Tara and Nicki Boisvert, watch from the sideline during a game against Bulkeley last Tuesday. On Friday, Kristin scored Newington's only goal against Maloney with an assist from Tara.

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Friday's game was one of the closest Newington has played all year. It was the second time they have won by only one goal, the other being another 1-0 win, at Farmington on opening day.

After the game, Mallia praised Kristin Donlin, a sophomore in her

first year on varsity, who scored the winning goal, and freshman Tara Boisvert, who had an assist on Donlin's goal, for their improvement during the year.

"The two of them really have grown," he said. "In preseason, I never envisioned them being the starting forwards. I had a lot of thoughts going through of combinations of Ela and somebody else [as the forwards]. Then we went to the 'diamond' and it created an opportunity to get two strikers....The two of them, side by side, have just grown and matured from day one....Their maturing has made us a better team. They learn in every practice, every game. They make mistakes, but they learn from their mistakes. They've come along a lot quicker than I expected."

Donlin and Boisvert were forced to step up in the game Friday partly because Ela Lapciuk, who leads the team and the division in scoring, and is among the Top Five scorers in the entire state, with 16 goals, was neutralized by the Maloney defense.

"They marked Ela with two players and had a third player very close to her," Mallia explained. "She was completely shut down, so it's the responsibility of the other players to get involved....Donlin's a sophomore, and the pass that she received was from Tara Boisvert, who's a freshman. Ela was useful in helping to distribute the ball, but Ela doesn't have an opportunity to finish, and we have other players do it."

After playing Berlin on Wednesday, Newington will head into the state tournament. First-round pairings will be announced on Friday, and will appear in Saturday's edition of *The Hartford Courant*, as well as next week's

regular Monday edition of *The Living Room Times*.

Although he labeled two traditional powerhouses—Simsbury (8-3-0 overall; 6-3-0 CCC West) and Wilton (10-2-0 overall; 7-1-0 FCIAC East)—as the toughest teams to beat in the tournament, Mallia said the first round may be the most difficult for Newington.

"The first game will be a week from Tuesday at home, that's the way the schedule is set....Right now, even if we fall over our feet the last week here, we should end up with a home game [in the first round], and it should be against a relatively weak team....The hope is that we don't draw as we did the last two years. A lot of people don't understand—We had a great record, and the two teams we played had lost, you know, four or five games. Two years ago, we lost to Trumbull, which was third in their conference with Ridgefield and Wilton, so a lot of people knew they were a good team. And last year, Manchester was second in their conference, yet they had lost four or five games, and they beat us 3-2. So, I would hope to draw an easy team, and only because the girls need a little tournament confidence. But if and when we get past that first game, I don't think there's a limit with this team. This is the best team, skillwise—position-for-position, player-for-player—I've coached in sixteen years, and I think that getting over that first hurdle will be big. I think the first game is going to be the toughest for them. If we get over that, I think that things can go very well. I think they can play with anybody in the state, the way they're playing now."

Right:

Junior Danielle Thompsen (right) hugs senior Dena Bacinskas (left) as Bacinskas comes out of the game after scoring a goal in her final regular season home game at Newington last Tuesday. Newington won 9-0 on Senior Day, and all of the seniors except goalie Sara Reginio scored goals. Kathy Freitag scored two. The win gave Reginio her tenth shutout of the season.



Faienza powers Newington to division title

20 season goals put him in third place on state list

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has already clinched the division title.

“All the games are the same. I mean, we’re unbeaten right now; we’d like to hold on to that. We don’t want to give [Southington] a chance to say ‘Well, we knocked them off.’ I’d like to just take it, draw 0-0 or win 1-0. I wouldn’t like to lose to them, but it wouldn’t be the end of the world if we do.”

Enzo Faienza echoed his coach’s sentiment that the Southington game is still an important one for the Indians, saying that the players are not focusing on the state tournament until the regular season is complete.

“We’re not thinking about the tournament right now. We’re thinking about Southington on Monday and Glastonbury on Wednesday,” he said when asked about the state tournament. “We’ll think about the tournament when that time comes.”

Meanwhile, Faienza continues to move up on the list of the state’s leading goal-scorers. His five goals Friday moved him from a tie for eighth place to sole possession of third place, with a total of 20 goals during the season. That’s just two less than co-leaders Vin Cloffi from E.O. Smith and Dave Francalanga of Berlin.

About his chances of ending the season as the leading goal-scorer in the state, Faienza said, “I’m a few behind, so I’m not thinking about that. I’m thinking about how well the team does. If the goals come, they come.”



Above: Enzo Faienza is lifted into the air by senior Brian Alexander and an unidentified Newington player holds up his arms in celebration as Shane Grigas, Luis Murillo, and Robert Bowtruczyk look on.

Volleyball team needs win over #5 Southington

Playoff hopes come down to Wednesday’s big game

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But in the words of Sandy Pilz, Newington’s girls varsity volleyball coach, “Anything is possible.”

“I’m going to be realistic and say it’s a longshot, but we’ve got nothing to be afraid of.” Pilz continued in an interview after losing to Bulkeley, when Newington still had two games left. They lost the



first of those two games to #6 Maloney, and will play #5 Southington on Wednesday. “Let’s just go out there and assume that we’re probably not going to make it, but hey, we’ve got nothing to lose.”

“If I tell them ‘Now you *have to* beat these guys,’ it just makes them more nervous. And maybe [if I don’t tell them that] they’ll play loose, and who knows, anything’s possible.”



Newington brought themselves within

one game of the playoffs with a 3-1 win (15-10, 7-15, 15-6, 15-7) last Tuesday at home against Wethersfield, but then lost Wednesday at Bulkeley 3-1 (14-16, 15-13, 15-13, 15-13) in one of their closest matches of the year, and fell to #6 Maloney 3-1 (4-15, 15-9, 15-8, 15-4).

Newington may or may not make the state tournament, but they will get very familiar with the playoff atmosphere in their game against Southington.

If they win, they advance to the next round—which, in this case, is the first round of the state tournament. If they lose, their season is over.

Single elimination begins Wednesday for the Indians.

Atlanta Braves win first World Series

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championship of any kind for an Atlanta team.

The Indians, in their first World Series in 41 years, have now gone 47 years since last winning the championship by beating the then Boston Braves in 1948.

"This is the biggest thing that ever happened to me but I wasn't nervous," said Glavine. "I was cool, I wasn't worried."

The left-hander, the current Brave with the longest service, threw 109 pitches, 67 of them strikes.

Glavine is the last National League Cy Young Award winner since his teammate Greg Maddux, soon to be named to his fourth straight, began his streak. Glavine, who would be the ace on most other teams, was a popular choice among his teammates to clinch the Series.

"We're all glad for Tommy," said fellow pitcher Steve Avery, winner of Game 4 in Cleveland. "He was the pitcher we wanted to win it. He was super."

John Smoltz, the loser of Game 3 who would have been the starter for a Game 7, said: "We told Tommy to go out and do it. Now we feel we can challenge Toronto as the team of the '90s." The Toronto Blue Jays have won two World Series in the decade, one against Atlanta in 1992.

"Glavine was just outstanding," said Indians second baseman Carlos Baerga.

"Atlanta is loaded with Cy Young pitchers," said Cleveland general manager John Hart.

The Braves mounted threats in the second, fourth and fifth innings before breaking through on Justice's homer.

Justice and Ryan Klesko started the second with back-to-back walks but Javier Lopez popped out to short and Rafael Belliard grounded into a double play.

In the fourth, the Braves loaded the bases on a two-out Justice double to center followed by an intentional pass to Klesko and a semi-intentional walk to Javier

Lopez.

But Belliard, thrown into a starting role due to regular shortstop Jeff Blauser's injury, failed again at the plate, popping out to center to end the inning.

Then in the fifth, again with two outs, Mark Lemke walked and Chipper Jones beat out an infield dribbler to put men on first and second. Cleveland manager Mike Hargrove then brought in lefty Jim Poole, who struck out left-handed slugger Fred McGriff on three pitches.

Pena's hit in the sixth was a weak flare to short center. "I knew I had a no-hitter going but I didn't expect to have a no-hitter in this," said Glavine. "This is about winning, not no-hitters."

He didn't let the hit hurt him.

After Poole failed to bunt, Kenny Lofton hit a grounder to Glavine, who threw to second for the force on Pena, but Belliard's throw to first was too late to catch Lofton.

Lofton then stole second but Vizquel hit a pop foul-out.

Justice homered in the bottom of the inning. "It was a fast ball inside. I was ready for it," said Justice.

"It's an unbelievable feeling. I won't sleep tonight, I won't sleep at all tonight. We're going to celebrate. The organization turned it around since 1990, and I'm so glad for Tommy."

He also admitted he had made a mistake with his criticism of the Atlanta fans.

"I was wrong. The monkey was definitely on my back," Justice said. "I was listening for the occasional cheer among the boos."

In the ninth, after Glavine had told Atlanta manager Bobby Cox he was tired, Wohlers came in and got Lofton to pop out as Belliard, showing why he was in the game, ran a long way into foul territory to backhand the ball. Pinch hitter Paul Sorrento and Baerga flied out to center to end the game.

Right: Atlanta's Mark Lemke is tagged out at second base by Cleveland's Omar Visquel in the second inning.

