

## 2003 MYNDERSE ACADEMY BOYS' SOCCER TEAM



**Sitting:** Doug Brewer, Troy Gotham, Nate Loucks, Jase Clark, Colin McKeveny, Mike Sciotti, Sam Agnello, Kyle Olmstead, Mike Lesslie, Aaron Ryrko, Coach Loucks, Couch Ryrko

**Standing:** Kurtis Dawley, Kevin Gillon, Mike Johnson, Joe Sloan, Adam Sanderson, Kevin Olmstead, Adam Capozzi, Sean Johnson, Billy Moody, John Marino, Jeremy Buffone

**Missing:** Greg Blanchard

After losing in the Sectional Final in the 2002 season this team, determined to not only reach the 2003 Sectional Championship game, but to take care of “Unfinished Business”. This was a team with great grit and passion to play. They worked very hard throughout the offseason to improve, as well as create team chemistry. This led a mature team through a successful pre-season, as the coaches asked them to develop a new system of play (3-5-2) and be more fit than our opponents. We opened the season at the 9<sup>th</sup> ranked team in the nation, Wayne Central. We played “on the front foot” right from the opening whistle, taking a 2-0 lead into the half. Then, as expected, Wayne rallied to level the score at 2-2 before Kevin Olmstead finished off a great pass, which opened up the Eagle’s defense. It was a great result that night at Wayne, but the team was a little concerned at the end of the game as Greg Blanchard was hurt and would be out of the lineup until the Sectional Final.

Yes, the Wayne match put the team in a great place and pulled everyone together as they won nine in row to open the season. The next big weekend was at National Soccer Hall of Fame’s Mayor’s Cup in Oneonta, New York. The guys had

worked hard to raise money so we were able to take a Coach bus and treat the team like young professionals. They dressed the part, in shirts and ties, as we arrived at the hotel for our first night. After a quick training session at SUNY Oneonta and a quality night's sleep, we played Catskill High School, from the Albany area. It is a game I won't forget. However, we sure did not play well in the first half, trailing 0-2. After a firm discussion of how we can play at the half, the boys went right to it in the second half, scoring midway through to make it 1-2. With under a minute to go, Jase Clark scored an outstanding goal to level the game at 2-2. Three minutes into the first OT, Kevin Olmstead scored on a penalty kick to give Mynderse a huge come from behind win and onto the Championship Match the next day vs. Maine-Endwell. Throughout the two games, this team continued to come together as each and every student-athlete on the roster made a contribution. In the tournament final, Mike Lesslie made a really big play, with a goal just before the halftime whistle. The team held on to win 1-0. The Wayne game and the Oneonta tournament truly helped this group come together and create a bond that led them all the way to a Sectional title.

During the season this GREAT group of young men was also very involved in school and community activities. The group was volunteering at youth soccer programs, school events, community festivals and much more. They had the support of the town and they were committed to win a title for Seneca Falls. In the Sectional Tournament, Mynderse beat Dansville 6-0, Hornell 4-0 and Bath 1-0 in the final, with the winning goal being scored by Greg Blanchard, who was just returning from the injury he suffered in the first game of the year at Wayne. The 2003 Mynderse Boys Soccer Team "Finished Business" and truly played well. They were Champions.

Here are a few facts about the 2003 team:

- Scored 87 goals in twenty games while only allowing 14 goals in 20 games
- 71 assists on the 87 goals – showing how well they played together
- 13 clean sheets (shutouts)
- An overall record of 18-2-0
- Titles: Mayor's Cup, Finger Lakes East Champions, Section Five Class "B" champions
- Number One seed in sectional tournament.
- Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in NYS rankings.

This team was a joy to coach and played outstanding team soccer. Congratulations lads.