

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **KENNEDY BOYS SOCCER HEADING TO THE PASSAIC COUNTY FINALS**

*Knights beat Wayne Valley, 3-1; will face Clifton on Saturday to try to bring home the title that has eluded them since 1996*

\*\*\*Photos attached: See end of release for captions.\*\*\*

PATERSON – The Kennedy High School Boys Soccer Knights will have a rematch against Clifton for the Passaic County championship after their 3-1 victory over Wayne Valley on Saturday.

Last year, the Knights lost to the Clifton Mustangs in the Passaic County Championship final, 3-1, extending the drought for the county title that has eluded Kennedy since 1996. The pandemic canceled the tournament in 2020, and the year before Kennedy was edged out by Pompton Lakes in the semi-final.

Nevertheless, Head Coach Richard Solis said this could be the year that Kennedy finally brings the title home.

“Making it to the county championship game for a second straight season is a great accomplishment,” said Solis. “On Saturday, we will have one more chance to win the county title. It is a privilege to be there, this year with a more experienced team, and we will try our best to bring the championship home to Paterson.”

The Knights showed their ability to win against a higher-ranked team last Saturday. They were tied with Wayne Valley, 1-1, at halftime. But by the end of the game, senior Luis Portillo scored a goal and two assists, senior Christopher Chavarria scored a goal and an assist, and senior Criss Escoto scored a goal. Goalie Javier Sanchez, also a senior, had three crucial saves. A week earlier, the Knights shut out the Passaic Indians, 2-0.

“The excitement continues with our Kennedy Boys Soccer team, and we everyone in the district continues to be proud of everything they’ve accomplished this season,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer. “We wish them the very best of luck on Saturday and no matter what the outcome, we are proud of Kennedy Boys soccer team.”

Shafer also congratulated Solis, as well as Athletic Supervisor Scott Durham, Coach Alfredo Serrano, and everyone who works with the Boys Soccer program for bringing out the best in their student-athletes.

The Knights will face Clifton in the championship round on Saturday, October 22, at 3:30 p.m. at Passaic County Technical Institute in Wayne.

Photo 1: Kennedy Senior Luis Portillo gives a thumbs up after his team’s victory over Wayne Valley on Saturday.

Photo 2: The Kennedy Knights jog off the pitch after winning their way into the Passaic County Tournament’s championship round.

Photo credit: Danielle Volino

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