

BLAIR SOCCER

Summer 2026 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Blair Boys' Soccer,

I write to you with much excitement to establish the Blair Boys' Soccer Newsletter.

In this inaugural installment of what will soon become a core feature of our program, I will be celebrating our graduating seniors, recapping the offseason, recognizing the off-field success of our student-athletes, previewing our summer preparations for fall, and welcoming new players and families to the program.

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2026

On May 21, our Class of 2026 bid farewell to Blair. Here is what each of these 10 impressive young men will be doing next year. We wish them and their families the best of luck as they embark on these new and exciting journeys.

- Asser Eldemerdash will be studying computer science and playing squash at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.
- Layton Glover will be studying biology and playing soccer at Christopher Newport University.
- Steven Groseibl will be studying allied health at the University of Tampa.
- Ansel Hamlin will be studying international economics and management at Bocconi University in Italy.
- Prode Jindahra will be studying business and technology law at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.
- Michael Lynch will be attending New York University.
- Dash Neville will be studying philosophy at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.
- Guy Phisuthikul will be studying environmental science at the University of California, Los Angeles.
- Brandon Wood will be studying agribusiness at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Andrew Zhang will be studying economics and running track at Trinity College.

CELEBRATING LAYTON'S COMMITMENT

As mentioned above, Layton Glover '26 will be continuing his soccer career at Christopher Newport University, a perennial top-25 Division III program, in Newport News, Virginia. Layton will join recent alums Andrew Antunes '24 (Franklin & Marshall College), Evan Chomow '24 (Fairfield University), and Cayden Walton '25 (St. John's University) among the collegiate ranks. My calendar is already marked for September 22, when Layton and his team travel north to play at Montclair State University!



BLAIR
ATHLETICS

RECAPPING THE OFFSEASON

We made lots of gains on campus this offseason. In the winter, along with having Sunday afternoon sessions, we trained before classes twice a week in the Bubble, which was a good test of discipline and a great way to start the day for the guys. Upon returning from spring break, we took advantage of the nicer weather and continued to put in the hours on the ball with three sessions after school each week with our soccer-focused group, in addition to our Sunday afternoon 11v11 intrasquad scrimmages with the full team.

For these Sunday scrimmages, we often had our rising sophomores and juniors serve as captains, picking their teams, running warmups, setting up their shapes with tactics boards and delivering team talks to get practice for doing so in the fall.

Perhaps the biggest highlight for me was our first Sunday session this spring, when we played a full 80-minute intrasquad scrimmage that required a dramatic, penalty-kick shootout ending to decide a 4-4 barn burner of a match.

The energy and excitement around this team are palpable. It has been so rewarding for me to watch the group work hard this offseason and enjoy their time together playing the sport they love.

RECOGNIZING OFF-FIELD SUCCESS

Off the pitch, many of our student-athletes had great success this year in the academic and community life of Blair and were recognized at the end-of-year prize assemblies. Ansel Hamlin '26 was inducted into Cum Laude. Michael Lynch '26, Gavin Kwarula '28 and Jin Yip '28 were each awarded the Edyth Jeffrey Shakespeare Essay Prize for excellence in Shakespearean studies. Gavin Kwarula was also awarded the John Kinch Leach Merit Award, given to two sophomores for a record of scholarship, participation and citizenship, that has been a special credit to the School and an example for others to follow. Lastly, Victor Adebayo '27 was awarded both the Henry Cowan Prize for being the top junior in the English department this year and the John H. Wyeth Yearbook Prize for his tireless behind-the-scenes work in putting together the yearbook.

Our dual sport athletes performed at a high level this spring and many of them took home hardware for their efforts. On the golf course, Mark Hu '29, Daniel Kim '27, Rob Lesley '28, Dash Neville '26 and Will Weston '27 contributed significantly to the boys' golf program's repeat as MAPL champions. On the turf, Toby Curran '27, Layton Glover '26, Luca Ingenito '28, Jack Pagotto '29, Tucker Seamans '28 and Brandon Wood '26 helped the lacrosse team to win the New Jersey prep "A" state championship. On the hardcourt, Chase McCrimmon '29 won the MAPL Fourth Flight for the tennis team.

WELCOMING NEW FACES

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the following incoming players and their families, who will be officially kicking off their Blair journeys in just a few months. They each will contribute much to the School and our program over the next few years.

- Sebastian Alvarez '29 (Blairstown, New Jersey)
- Ian Gong '29 (Shanghai, China)
- Collin Kushner '30 (Hackettstown, New Jersey)
- Osuke Nabeshima '29 (Tokyo, Japan)
- Roman Oghayore '30 (Montclair, New Jersey)

PREVIEWING THE SUMMER

After a long school year, I look forward to the opportunity for myself and the team to recharge our batteries, watch lots of World Cup matches and continue our preparations to make this fall one to remember.

As many of you know, we kick off our email chain this month. In this tradition, each player, manager and coach has two dates throughout the summer when they send a message to the whole team, updating everyone on what and how they are doing while away from Blair, and answering a few set questions about themselves. Examples this year include:

- What is your favorite family tradition?
- If you had to teach an Intersession class on any subject, what would it be?
- Which World Cup jersey is your favorite this year?

The players and I are using the Strava fitness app as another way to stay connected and to motivate one another as they prepare for the two-mile fitness test at the start of preseason.

LOOKING AHEAD

I will be back in touch in late August with a summer recap featuring photos, anecdotes and reflections from some of the awesome adventures and experiences we will have had within the program. At that point, I will also preview our preseason.

IN CLOSING

I hope you each have a restful and restorative summer, and I look forward to reconnecting with many of you soon!

Best,
Eamon Gara Grady
Head Coach, Blair Boys' Soccer

If you are interested in giving a gift to the program, please be in touch at gradye@blair.edu. I am in the process of growing our restricted account to make even more programming and experiences possible and would love to share my vision with you.

