

under pressure
Tied 2-2 at the Bowie game on Feb. 22, sophomore midfielder Luc Scranton takes a penalty kick. After a hard fight, the varsity lost the game by one penalty kick at the very end of the match.



sarah guthrie

on the fly
With no defense around him, sophomore midfielder Austin Fagerberg takes his opportunity to dribble toward the goal in the Akins game on Feb. 26.



andrew baggett



sarah guthrie

lead the team
Senior team captain Matt Favaron heads the ball to his forwards. “I love the Westlake soccer program,” Favaron said. “I’m glad that I get to be captain because of that.”



david oliver

moving forward
Against Del Valle, junior midfielder Jacob Peplinski passes his defenders. “This season I learned a lot about dynamics and how everyone works well together,” Peplinski said.

go for the goal
Setting up to strike the ball, senior Eric Tan gets ready to clear the ball to his forwards. “I like playing soccer because it’s my favorite sport,” Tan said, “and I get to hang out and play with my friends.”



david oliver

backinaction

Senior returns from year-long injury with more love for the game

It only took a few seconds for senior right back Keyur Mehta’s junior season to get completely turned around.

“I planted with my left leg to clear a ball in a game and twisted my left knee awkwardly,” Mehta said. “I heard the pop and felt it give out.”

This was back in January 2012. At first his knee seemed to be strained, and he did physical therapy to ease some of the pain, but the relief was temporary.

“I’d feel it give out, and a numbness would spread through my entire leg,” Mehta said, “though it never hurt bad enough to keep me away for more than a day.”

It wasn’t until March that his injury had been officially diagnosed as a torn ACL. He learned he needed surgery, which meant sitting out the rest of the 2012 season.

“We had amazing seasons on both JV and varsity, so it was great to watch the boys become something so special,” Mehta said, “but it was tough not to be able to contribute to that cause physically.”

Tearing his ACL was actually the second

major injury Mehta had suffered in just over a year.

“You would think that I would have gotten used to watching and not playing,” Mehta said, “however I never truly became comfortable with that feeling.”

In October, after being on crutches for weeks and going through physical therapy, Mehta started jogging and doing agility drills. Soon, he progressed to sprints, and by December he was back to full-contact soccer.

“Once I was finally able to return this year, the learning curve was steep,” Mehta said, “but it felt great to get out there and move again.”

All the hard work to get back in shape was worth it, though, because this season on varsity, Mehta was able to pick right back up where he left off.

“Spending all that time sitting out, I had forgotten how much I loved the game,” Mehta said. “Coming back really helped restore the balance between my academic and athletic worlds.”



keyur mehta

david oliver



david oliver



sarah guthrie

heads up
Guarding Bowie players during a corner kick, junior defender Alex Lopez and senior defenders Matt Favaron and Jacob Zodikoff keep their eyes on the ball to try and clear it.

run for it
As time runs off the clock on Feb. 8, sophomore forward Manolo Gonzales beats the Del Valle defender, dribbling toward the goal. He was one of three sophomores on varsity.

some more



“I like the dedication and personality of the team — everybody is friends, and we all work well together.”

kael anderson, 12



“I like being on the team because I like to play soccer and go after the championship with the team.”

kyley bradshaw, 12



“It is an honor to play with this bunch of guys. They are really easy-going, but when it comes down to it, very goal-oriented and intense.”

austin fagerberg, 10



“I like being on the team because I’m part of something larger than any one member and because this team is so strong yet has so much potential.”

cheuk tse, 12

Before games I like to:



“Do back stretches.”



“Eat a large Thundercloud.”



“Eat Honey Nut Cheerios.”



“Focus and stretch.”



“Prepare mentally.”



“Sleep, listen to music and pray.”