third time's the charm when record

HAT TRICK
scored by sophomore

The players of the men’s soccer team put their accomplishments together to produce a winning season overall. With only three games going into overtime as opposed to last season’s seven, the Tribe’s winning streak came as a breath of fresh air. “We played with more heart this season and basically had more will to win,” junior mid-fielder Jeremy Harris said.

The already young team welcomed seven new freshmen who had to adjust to a Division I style of play. “The transition from high school was very tough. Everyone is extremely skilled, and they are all as strong as you are,” red-shirt freshman Matt Becker said. Becker, along with his twin brother Tim, came to the College through their parents were professors at Virginia Tech. The team’s close-knit, family-like demeanor and style of play attracted the twins to the College’s soccer program rather than the team at Virginia Tech.

Major individual successes include junior forward Price Thomas’ selection as CAA co-player of the week on November 10th after helping the team to secure a number two seed in the conference. He had one goal and two assists in the game to help clinch a CAA tournament bid. Sophomore forward Alan Koger scored a hat trick that shook the stadium of Albert-Daly Field. It was the fastest hat trick in CAA history as he scored successively in the sixth, 13th and 22nd minutes of the first half.

With all of the strong individual players on the team, the Tribe beat many schools that they had previously struggled against. The team’s win against Hofstra was a stand-out game of the season. “It wasn’t our best performance of the year, but it was a great win considering the weather conditions. It was a must-win game, and everyone fought hard the whole match,” Harris said.

Because of the team’s large amount of sophomores and freshmen, team bonding was an essential way to create close ties on and off the field. The men gathered for pre-game dinners four hours before the games to eat plenty of carbohydrates for added energy. While they did discuss game strategies, the dinners were mostly a time to just hang out and eat.

Another long-standing tradition was creating nicknames for the incoming freshmen on the team. The names were usually very short, like “Lance” used for freshman goalie Brad Morgan. These short names made it easier to communicate on the field.

For the second year in a row, the team clinched a coveted spot in the CAA tournament, this year taking the number two spot overall. The scoreboard for the season as well as each players’ individual contributions reflected the men’s progress from last season.