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## Living in the moment

### Cougars soccer focuses game-by-game, hunts for district crown

By Sue Teggart  
 C & G Sports Writer

ROCHESTER HILLS — Rochester Hills Stoney Creek boys soccer coach Phil Moore knows his squad is hovering near the top of the league standings.

But he'd rather not know exactly where the Cougars rank among the other elite squads in the Oakland Activities Association Red Division.

"I try not to worry about that area too much so that I can just focus on the day," Moore said.

That focus has helped the Cougars climb near the top of the standings, posting 6-2-2 in the OAA Red Division, 8-4-3 overall, at press time.

Stoney began the season by putting together a five-game winning streak. Now that his team is playing the meat of its schedule, Moore said things have become a bit more daunting.

"This is definitely the hardest part of the season," he said, noting the Cougars' past couple of losses against Troy High (Sept. 24) and Rochester Adams (Sept. 29).

The team rebounded Oct. 1, however, edging crosstown rival Rochester High 1-0, and will rounded out the heart of its schedule with Lake Orion High Oct. 6, after press time.

"Out of these six games that we'll end up playing ... I consider that the hard part of our schedule," said Moore of the stretch of games that also included Grand Blanc High Sept. 19 and Clarkston Sept. 22.

"We're just hoping to have more positive results than negative at this point."

"We put in as much effort as we can every time we step on the field," said senior Adam Kloess, who captains the team along with seniors Zach Schewee and Jordan Tyler.

Moore said the key to the squad's success so far is playing smart soccer.

"When we control the pace of the game, that's when we're at our best," he said. "If we lose control of how fast or slow the game is going, those are the games we've tended to struggle in."

The Cougars' 10 seniors are responsible for keeping the squad on pace. They provide a bev of experience in key positions throughout the field.

"Solid leadership from the upperclassmen has been keeping us above .500," Moore said.

"They're all in key positions. I have two center backs that are seniors. ... I have some upperclassmen that have been around the program for a couple years, so that's certainly



Photo by Tracy Dreslinski  
 Rochester Hills Stoney Creek senior Jordan Tyler takes on Rochester High junior Joey Franchini during their Oct. 1 game. o a lot of these guys who have been here for four years are eager to get into regionals."

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helped a lot.”

“A lot of us have been playing for quite some time now,” Kloess said. “Experience is just a key factor.”

On top of the senior leadership, Moore said freshmen Scott Alampi and Jack Sobczynski inject youthful exuberance into the squad.

“The young players have added a lot,” Moore said. “They’ve made an immediate impact.”

Moore added that the icing on the cake of the 2009 season would be getting through districts.

“I think this has been one of the most talented group of kids,” Moore said. “I think they’re all extremely motivated to get beyond the districts. To my knowledge, Stoney Creek hasn’t gotten out of the district round since they became a Division 1 school.

*You can reach Sports Writer Sue Teggart at [steggart@candgnews.com](mailto:steggart@candgnews.com) or at (586) 279-1107.*



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