

Indians lose the hair, win the game

Boys soccer beats Rham after “hazed” players’ heads are shaved

“It was peer pressure. It’s something kids don’t want to do, even though they say, ‘Oh yeah, I want to get it cut.’ But the reason they want to get it cut is [peer pressure].... If students came in with weird hairdos, Mr. McGrath felt it would be a distraction, and also—his word was strong—he said it’s a form of hazing.”

—**John Brunetti, Jeff Brunetti’s father**

“I don’t think it’s hazing. We’re free to do it. The people who didn’t want it done, didn’t have it done, and that’s all... Nothing was forced.”

—**David Downes, whose head was shaved**

“It’s complete garbage.”
—**Milan Cisar, criticizing the school’s crackdown on the head-shaving**

“They’re taking a big chunk of tradition out of this school.”

—**Todd Stigliano**

“While it may seem harmless, the whole thing here is the principle of what it can lead to....Just remember this for next year. This is the last time such a thing will happen.”

—**Boys Soccer Coach Des McAleenan, speaking to the JV team**

The Living Room Times’s first issue will come out in the next few weeks, and will report more on this.



Above: Following a directive from Mr. McGrath to eliminate the crazy shapes he and some teammates had engraved into some underclassmen’s heads previously, Matt Feshler re-shaves the head of sophomore Ryan Cichowski—this time leaving it completely bald. At right, looking on, is co-captain Todd Stigliano.



Above: Before yesterday’s game, Matt Kagan (left) and Jeff Santos (right) wait in the locker room for their heads to be re-shaved. *Below:* Kagan (15) and Santos (6), their heads shaved completely, celebrate Newington’s first goal.



Opening Day was a stressful day for the Newington boys soccer team.

Concerns about the “hazing” of five first-time varsity players— all of whom reportedly agreed to have their heads shaved into strange patterns, in keeping with tradition—caused talk of possibly suspending players from yesterday’s game against Rham of Hebron, or perhaps even forfeiting the game entirely.

In the end, the repercussions were not that severe—but there were repercussions.

The seniors responsible for the head-shaving were not allowed to start the game; they came in a little less than nine minutes into the first half. And as for the four players whose heads were shaved in various strange patterns, they were told they must fix their hair before the game by shaving their heads completely.

Bald or not, the Indians were ready to play when they took the field, and they defeated Rham, 3-0.

When asked if the hair scandal had any effect on the game, Matt Kagan said, “We all forgot about it. We just played the way we normally play, if we had hair or if we didn’t have hair.”

“No,” Jeff Brunetti agreed, then added, “Well, maybe some headers were better, ’cause they’ve got less hair.”