

The Living Room Times

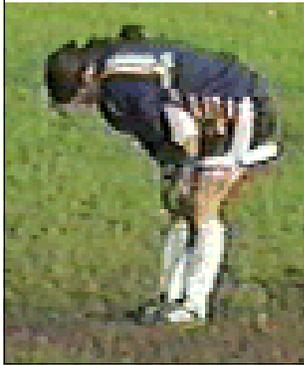
All the Nose that's fit to print... weekly!

261st overall edition — Ninth regular weekly edition of 1995-1996 season

Monday, November 13, 1995

Just like that, it's over... ...for both Newington soccer teams

“Dream Season” ends in nightmare, deja vu for girls team (16-1-0)



Girls Varsity Soccer Coach Paul Mallia said his team could play with anyone in the state.

They never got a chance to. The year which Mallia had, just a week earlier, described as “the dream season” for the Newington Indians came to a nightmarish end Wednesday

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Boys (14-2-2) out of playoffs as Staples wins with 0:16 to go



Staples High School doesn't have anything to do with “The Office Superstore” which shares their name.

But if you ask any Staples player whether his team has a berth in the quarterfinals of the CIAC Class LL boys soccer tournament, he may very well reply, “Yeah, we've got that.”

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Field Hockey team the last to go Loses in quarterfinals two days after soccer teams fall



Overshadowed all year by names like Enzo and Ela, players on Newington's field hockey team got the last laugh. Two days after both soccer teams had suffered disappointing losses that kept them from even making the quarterfinals, it was Tina Marci, Amy Strong, and Christina Giansanti who kept Newington's state title hopes alive the longest.

The NHS field hockey Indians lost Friday to Guilford in the Class L quarterfinals, but not before they made a name for themselves as Newington's last fall sports team to be eliminated from playoff action.

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It's deja vu for Newington

For third straight year, girls lose in first round



Above: One of the Newington girls soccer players needed a hug after her team's tough 3-1 tournament loss to Ridgfield on Thursday.

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as Newington lost 2-1 to the Ridgefield Tigers in the first round of the CIAC Class L state tournament Thursday.

The defeat made 1995 the third consecutive year Newington has lost in the first round of the tournament. It was the Indians' first loss this year after a perfect regular season record of 16-0.

"Overrated, overrated," Ridgfield fans chanted as time ran out with their Tigers leading 3-1.

"They chanted 'overrated' and that bothered me," said Coach Paul Mallia, "but I mean, that's part of any sport, anywhere you go, even up to the pros. If you don't achieve, you know you're going to get the negative tossed your way. That's part of it. And that disappointed me, because that's the way it was perceived: that we were overrated, and we had a crap schedule, and we were 16-0 yet we didn't play anybody good. And that's the perception that's going to be carried through everywhere."

"The only thing I said to the girls after the game [was].... I wanted to let them know that, no matter what anybody says—what you hear, what you read, or if somebody says something in school that we were overrated—we weren't. 16-0 is 16-0, I don't care who you play. You have to be really talented to do something like that. And I just told them 'When you wake up in the morning, the most important thing is to reflect on the season, not the game'."

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Heartbreaking finish for boys

Newington loses game in final sixteen seconds



Above: A Staples player slips on the muddy, rain-soaked field. Behind him are the legs of a Newington player, who also slipped in the mud.

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Staples reinforced the fact that November is *not* the "most wonderful time of the year" for Newington, as the Wreckers defeated the Indians by a score of 2-1 on Wednesday and eliminated them from the state tournament.

After going undefeated at 13-0-2 in September and October, the Indians were 1-2-0 in November, including a 3-0 loss to Glastombury in their last regular season game and a 5-2 qualifying round win against Norwalk as well as Tuesday's season-ending loss to



Above: Newington's Dennis Chow (left) tries takes a shot on goal on a header, as Staples goalie Wes Martino waits. The ball bounced off the top of the goal.

Staples.

The key to Tuesday's game, Newington Coach Dave Clarke said, was not which team played better or which was more talented, but who could "put the ball in the danger area," because of the terrible field

conditions. Pouring rain made the ground wet, and with players running and kicking on the field for eighty minutes, it became extremely muddy and slippery.

"All game plans probably went out the window as the conditions worsened," Clarke said. "It was always going to be a mistake that won the game. That's what I told the team before it, that's what I told the team at halftime, that's what I continued to tell them throughout the game. And unfortunately, we were the ones that made the mistake."

That mistake came with the score tied 1-1 and only sixteen seconds left in regulation.

Because the scoreboard was not working, no one knew

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Good first half not enough as season ends for Indians

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Trying not to think about Wednesday's game is probably a good idea for the Indians. It was definitely not a pleasant experience.



Above: Ridgefield players celebrate after defeating Newington 3-1 on Thursday.

“Ridgefield played more of a physical game, in terms of not letting us physically do what we wanted to do.... There’s physical-dirty and physical soccer and they played physical

soccer. They went to the ball hard, and there was bumping and stuff, which is part of the game. We didn’t see that all year, and I don’t think we reacted well to it.”

One new experience Newington did react well to, at least at first, was playing from behind.

They fell behind on a goal just over a minute and a half into the game by the Tigers’ Tara Maloney. Suddenly, they were down 1-0—the first time they had trailed any opponent all season long.

“I think that there was missed assignment in terms of defense, because somebody was wide open in front,” Mallia said of Newington’s defense on the first goal.

But rather than let their first deficit of the year bother them, Newington recovered. 14 minutes after the Tigers took the lead, Newington’s Emily Bartkoski scored off an assist from teammate Ela Lapciuk to tie the game at 1-1. It stayed 1-1 through halftime.



Above: Emily Bartkoski, who scored Newington’s only goal Thursday, packs her bags after the season-ending 3-1 loss.

“The first half was an even first half. The 1-1 score dictates that,” Mallia commented. “Those first forty minutes, I wouldn’t have changed anything. They got a goal early and we reacted well—the first time we had been behind all year—and our reaction was to come out and come back stronger.”

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Sixteen seconds from overtime, Newington loses

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exactly how much time was left except the officials. But everyone knew time was running out, and the game was on the verge of going into overtime.



Above: Ridgefield’s Rich Martino (center) breaks through Newington defenders John Mota (left) and Brian Alexander (right) in a play which led to the game-winning goal.

Staples freshman forward Kyle Martino set up the play, as he dribbled the ball from the left sideline towards the goal. Newington goalie Marc Cappa moved to stop a potential shot by Martino.

So instead of taking a shot on goal,

Martino passed the ball to Rich Donoghue, who was right in front of the center of the net. Donoghue had a chance for an easy goal with Cappa on the left side. But when he tried to kick the ball, he missed.



Above: A Staples player celebrates his team’s game-winning goal.

But before Newington fans could breathe even a small sigh of relief, Staples junior midfielder Brad Tursi did with the pass from Martino what Donoghue couldn’t—got

his foot on the ball—and kicked. His shot from the 12-yard line landed in the goal and gave Staples a one-goal lead with less than a half-minute to go.

“If we were to lose, I was hoping they’d score with some time left,” Coach Clarke said in an interview with *The Herald*. “There are no comebacks with 16 seconds left. If we had come back, it would have been the miracle of the century.”

Newington tried their best, however. Knowing that they had almost no time left, they left their net empty with no goalie or sweeper and brought their entire defense up onto the offensive line. Another goal for Staples wouldn’t make a difference anyway, they figured, so they tried to make their offense as strong as

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Ridgefield wins on corner kick goal

Newington girls (16-1) finish short of perfection

Who kicked it out?

The critical play in the Newington girls soccer team's final game of the season was Ridgefield's second goal, which gave the Tigers a 2-1 lead. The goal was scored off a corner kick, which was caused by the most controversial call of the game. As seen in the pictures below, Ridgefield's Tara Maloney (left) and Newington's Stephanie Carlson (right) were chasing after the ball as they approached the Newington goal. The officials ruled that Maloney kicked it and it deflected off Carlson out of bounds. They therefore gave Ridgefield a corner kick, and that allowed the game-winning goal. Newington coach Paul Mallia said Carlson kicked it and it deflected off Maloney. If he is right, the corner kick should not have happened and the goal would not have been scored. What do you think?



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But in the second half, the coach said, Ridgefield made some defensive adjustments.

"What they did is, they just basically took away Ela," said Mallia, referring to the Tigers' defense of Ela Lapciuk, who scored 24 goals in the regular season, the most goals in the CCC South and second-most in the state. "Instead of marking her, they played a person in front of her. So they took her away, and I don't think we reacted well to seeing that."

"The second half started out [with us playing well], but the field got a little worse, and the two Therasas [Domingo and Uliano] in midfield had trouble controlling, and Ela had trouble controlling the ball. And that's our game. Our game is controlling the ball, not just kicking it around. And so, that was taken away from us."

"Then they had the corner kick, which is a mystery, because most people thought it went off the other player. But we can't change that. They got the corner kick, and it deflected off someone, past Sarah [Reginio, the goalie]. She didn't even have an opportunity to save it."

The corner kick Mallia was referring to came with less than 18 minutes left in the second half, and it was, by far, the most important play of the game.

Ridgefield's Tara Maloney broke free of most of Newington's defense and started sprinting towards the goal. Stephanie Carlson got control of the ball and was trying to change her momentum and kick it back towards midfield when Carlson came diving at her.

Somehow, the ball was kicked out of bounds. Who was responsible? The answer to that will vary depending on who you ask. The officials ruled that Maloney tried to take a shot on goal but the ball had deflected off Carlson, meaning that Newington had the last touch before it went out of bounds. The Tigers got a corner kick.

Newington coach Paul Mallia told a different version of what happened, however. According to Mallia, it was Carlson who tried to kick the ball, and it bounced off of Ridgefield's Maloney before flying out of bounds. If that was true, then the corner kick should never have happened.

But the officials' decision was that the ball deflected off Newington, and they gave Ridgefield a chance to take the lead. The Tigers didn't pass up the opportunity.

Kate Ritter took the corner kick for Ridgefield. She kicked the ball from the left corner, and it landed right where she wanted it to, in the heart of the group of players gathered around the net. It deflected off someone—no one knows for sure who it was, or even if it was a Newington or Ridgefield player—and flew into the left side of the net with 17:24 left in the game. Goalie Sarah Reginio didn't have a chance at the save.



Above: The corner kick goal, which gave Ridgefield a 2-1 lead with 17:24 to go.

"That's really what tournament soccer is a lot. It's getting a break, or misque, and Ridgefield got it," Coach Mallia said. "That sort of put us on our heels. We really tried to press, and force things, and it didn't work out. We got out of our game. And the third goal was just the third goal."

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Corner kick made the difference

Ridgefield's second goal "was basically *the game*"



Above: The reaction of Nicki Boisvert (right) after Ridgefield's go-ahead goal shows what Coach Mallia meant when he said, "You could just feel [the adrenaline] being sucked out of us."

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The third goal, scored by the Tigers' Suzie Amatuzzi off a pass from Heather Maloney—Tara Maloney's sister—with 3:16 left, gave Ridgefield some insurance and accounted for the final score. But Newington was running out of energy at that point anyway. Clearly, it was the controversial go-ahead goal that made all the difference.

When asked what was the turning point in the game, Mallia responded, "Well, obviously the corner kick goal...was not only turning point, but that was basically *the game*. In tournament play—we came back once from 1-0 early in the first half, which is possible—but falling down a goal again, and making it in the second half. That was *the game*. That goal was the game, as well as the turning point."

Despite what he said about the importance of the second goal, Mallia also said that Newington's players didn't give up until the very end.

"They didn't give up, but it's just tough, because [the go-ahead goal] gives Ridgefield so much adrenaline. They had been working hard and winning a lot of balls, and from then on, they just basically won everything. We tried our best....Even when they got the third goal, we continued to try hard. Adrenaline is a big part of the game, and when the second goal went in, you could just feel it being sucked out of us."

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Field Hockey team ends season 9-5-3

Loses 3-2 to Guilford in tense quarterfinal showdown



Above: Christina Giansanti (left) and Tina Marci (right) celebrate after Giansanti stopped a Guilford penalty stroke early in the second half.

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"Very sweet," said Coach Patty McComb, when asked how it felt to be the last fall sports team still alive in playoff action.

The four-seeded field hockey Indians defeated #13 Windsor 2-1 in triple overtime Wednesday, at the same time as the girls soccer team was suffering its first loss of the year, to Ridgefield, which eliminated them from the playoffs, and one day after the boys soccer team had fallen to Staples and had been knocked out of their state tournament.

Newington's next opponent would be #12-seed Guilford on Friday. GHS turned out to be too much for NHS to handle—barely. It was a very close game on a very cold morning, with Guilford's lead never exceeding one point, and Newington tying the game twice. But in the end, Guilford came out on top with a 3-2 win.

Guilford went ahead 1-0 on a goal by Meredith Ruck five minutes into the game. Newington's Tina Marci tied the score at 1-1 with 13 minutes left in the first half off an assist from Alana Aserelsky.

At the beginning of the second half, Guilford had two penalty strokes separated by less than a minute. Newington goalie Christina Giansanti stopped the first shot, but the second one—shot by Catie Canetti—sailed past Giansanti's head and into the goal for a 2-1 Guilford lead.

Newington didn't give up. With 8:25 left in the game, Marci struck again to tie the game at 2-2. But with 3:09 to go, it was Guilford's Canetti who was given credit for the winning goal—which, according to *The Hartford Courant*, deflected off a Newington player—and Guilford won the game 3-2.

Despite the loss, Newington accomplished what they set out to achieve. "That was our goal—which we achieved—to win one game in the tournament," said Coach McComb before the Guilford game, "and we've done that, so everything else is gravy."



Above: A Guilford player celebrates after her team defeated Newington 3-2.

Officials, weather key in boys team's loss

(Continued from page 3)

possible in an attempt to score the tying goal. That last-second plan failed, and Staples came away with the 2-1 win.

Earlier in the game, Newington took a 1-0 lead on a goal by Enzo Faienza—his 25th of the season and 5th in the tournament—with 11 minutes left in the first half. Staples's Jon Hendrickson scored the tying goal five minutes into the second half. The score stayed at 1-1 until Tursi's deciding goal.

Almost as important to the outcome of the game as the nasty weather and field conditions were the officials, who made several controversial calls. After letting the game be quite physical early, they gave two yellow cards to Staples players and one to a Newington player—who, unfortunately for the Indians, happened to be Faienza—but didn't call anything on what appeared to be an attempted punch at Newington player Dennis Chow.

"It was right in front of them," Coach Clarke said of the punch, which Chow ducked. "They didn't act on it."

"I don't think the referees are strong enough to handle a game," Clarke continued. He then added, trying not to make excuses for the loss, but seeming to contradict himself, "I mean, it wasn't a factor in us losing, but a tighter called game might have seen a different outcome."



It looked like a punch...

These four pictures seem to show a Staples player swinging his left arm around and trying to punch Newington's Dennis Chow. Chow successfully ducked the punch, and the officials didn't call a penalty. Afterwards, Chow raised his arms in the air in disbelief that nothing was called on the play.



Above: A Staples player (left) and one of his coaches (background) anger Newington Coach Dave Clarke (right).

There was also some controversy revolving around a Staples player taken out of the game for a yellow card. As he walked off the field, he, apparently along with another player or coach, said some things to Coach Clarke which the coach thought were inappropriate. He started yelling right back.

"They said a couple of things to me that they shouldn't have said," Clarke explained. "And they said it in a manner, and in a tone, in which they shouldn't have said it. And they used a little profanity that they shouldn't have said. And I was upset at that. And then, the fact that their coaches didn't step on the kid, and joined in, make it even worse."

Despite the controversial calls by the officials, Clarke continued to stress that the weather was what dictated the game. Again, though, he tried to avoid making excuses, saying, "It wasn't that it was the deciding factor in their favor. It would have been the deciding factor in our favor [if we had won], because I think it was going to be a mistake that the goal was going to come from. Unfortunately, it was our mistake, as opposed to theirs. I mean, if we had won, I wouldn't have been saying, 'Oh, it was a great performance.' I would have been saying, 'Well, it was a struggle in tough conditions, and we won.' But as it was, it was a struggle in tough conditions, and we lost."

"In a couple of days, they'll look back, and they'll be proud of what they accomplished this year: being in the Top Ten, winning the conference, getting to the second round in the tournament, six players all-conference."

But right after the game, Clarke said, the team was extremely upset about the loss.

"Players were crying their eyes out. It was a tough loss. Sixteen seconds to go in a game that they could have won, where they know that they're better than the opposition. That's tough for any team. They had every right to be upset and disappointed, and I won't take that away from them."

When asked if Newington had enough talent that they could have won the state championship, Clarke said yes, but, "It would have taken a huge, huge effort, and lot of luck. And we just ran out of it."

**TOP TEN SIGNS
CHRISTOPHER
DARDEN AND
MARCIA CLARK
ARE IN LOVE**

10. RECENTLY SPOTTED NECKING IN BACK ROW OF THE MENENDEZ TRIAL
9. LATELY, WHEN HE RISES, IT'S NOT ALWAYS TO OBJECT
8. THEY'VE ASKED JUDGE ITO TO PRESIDE OVER THEIR HONEYMOON AND DRAG IT OUT FOR MONTHS
7. THEY'RE COVERED WITH EACH OTHER'S FINGERPRINTS, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN
6. THEY BOTH GIGGLE WHENEVER THEY HEAR THE WORD "SUBPOENA"
5. THE L.A.P.D. LAB SAYS THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THEY'RE *NOT* IN LOVE--SO THEY MUST BE IN LOVE
4. THAT LINGERIE IN DARDEN'S LAUNDRY WASN'T EXACTLY PLANTED BY MARK FUHRMAN
3. HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OUT IN FAVOR OF CAMERAS IN THE BEDROOM
2. SEEN CHECKING INTO A HOTEL UNDER THE NAME "MR. AND MRS. KATO LOPEZ"
1. SHE OBTAINED A SEARCH WARRANT FOR HIS PANTS

*Copyright Worldwide Pants, Inc.
Friday, November 3, 1995*

**LATE SHOW
TOP
TEN**

**TOP TEN
MISTAKES
CLINTON SAYS
HE'S MADE
IN OFFICE**

10. SIGNING AN EIGHT-YEAR LEASE ON THE WHITE HOUSE INSTEAD OF FOUR
9. NOT HANDING HILLARY OVER TO WHITEWATER INVESTIGATORS WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE
8. THINKING LETTERMAN WOULD BE GREAT HOST FOR ACADEMY AWARDS
7. BUYING CBS STOCK WASN'T EXACTLY LIKE BUYING THEM CATTLE FUTURES
6. DURING SHOOTING ATTACKS ON WHITE HOUSE, SHOULD'VE RETURNED FIRE AND GOT SOME DAMN COMBAT EXPERIENCE
5. TOO MUCH BACK-TRACKING, NOT ENOUGH FLIP-FLOPPING
4. BAD IDEA TO DO SHOT WITH YELTSIN BEFORE PRESS CONFERENCE
(videotape of Clinton laughing hysterically at a Boris Yeltsin joke)
3. NOT GETTING SOCKS FIXED
2. NOT GETTING PACKWOOD FIXED
1. GENNIFER FLOWERS

*Copyright Worldwide Pants, Inc.
Thursday, November 2, 1995*

**TOP TEN REAL
REASONS COLIN
POWELL ISN'T
RUNNING**

10. HAVE YOU EVER MOVED INTO A HOUSE AFTER HILLBILLIES HAVE LIVED THERE?
9. AFRAID HIS SECRET DRAFT-DODGING PAST WOULD BE REVEALED
8. WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION HE'D HAVE TO MARRY HILLARY
7. DUTIES AS PRESIDENT WOULD TAKE TIME AWAY FROM DUTIES AS SECRETARY TREASURER OF LEONARD NIMOY FAN CLUB
6. TAKING RELAXING 2-MONTH VACATION ON OJ'S "SEARCH FOR THE REAL KILLERS" CRUISE SHIP
5. THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE FUN TO SIT BACK AND WATCH CLINTON SCREW UP ANOTHER FOUR YEARS
4. AFRAID HE'D BE EMBARRASSED BY HIS DEADBEAT BROTHER, ROGER POWELL
3. WOULD RATHER GET A JOB AMERICANS STILL RESPECT
2. SAME REASON I'M NOT HOSTING NEXT YEAR'S ACADEMY AWARDS--THE PEOPLE WANT WHOOP!
1. FIVE WORDS: "WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT SAM DONALDSON"

*Copyright Worldwide Pants, Inc.
Thursday, November 9, 1995*

Varsity football team loses, drops to 0-9; freshman football finishes 6-2 with win

Newington's varsity football team put itself one game away from its second consecutive winless season by losing 24-12 on Friday, one day after the freshman football team completed an extremely successful season with a 26-20 win.



The 1995 freshman football season is the most successful in the history of Newington High School. The team finished a 6-2 season with a 26-20 win over Hartford Public, capped by a 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown which put the game nearly out of reach for HPHS.



Meanwhile, after their 24-12 loss to Bristol Eastern (2-7)—a team which had been on a seven-game losing streak until they came into Alumni Field on Friday—Newington's varsity football team is just one Thanksgiving Day loss away from an 0-10 season, which would surpass their futility level of last year, when they were 0-9-1.

They have not made it to a CCC South division championship game since 1991, and haven't won the division championship since 1985. Their last state title was in 1981. More importantly, they haven't won a game since 1993.

After a 0-0 first quarter, Newington took the lead in the second quarter on a 13-yard run by Robert Post. A two-point conversion attempt failed, and the score was 6-0.

Bristol Eastern tied it at 6-6 on a 63-yard touchdown pass to Ryan Moreau—the extra point was blocked—late in the second quarter, and then took a 12-6 lead in the third quarter on a one-yard run by QB Billy Woods. Again, the extra point failed. Newington game back to tie it again on a 28-yard touchdown run by Robert Post, and the score was 12-12. The extra point was no good.

But Eastern scored another touchdown in the third quarter—on a 36-yard dash by Darin Pelletier—and one in the fourth quarter—another one-yard run by QB Woods—missing the extra point both times, to win 24-12.

Newington girls ousted from playoffs



Above: Newington players take down the nets after the 3-1 loss to Ridgefield which ended their season.

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When asked how the players reacted to the loss, Mallia said, "They took it pretty hard."

"We had to take down the nets, so there were a lot of sad faces. Seniors were crying, because they were disappointed....I think they took it hard because, obviously, it was the first loss of the year. And then I think maybe, subtly, they felt, maybe, that they let everybody down, because they had been expected to do well now that they were 16-0. Yet, they didn't."

As for his own feelings, Mallia said there was a lot of deja vu, considering that Newington also had tremendously successful regular seasons in 1993 and 1994, and then lost in the first round of the tournament.



Above: Senior A.J. Zolad prepares to leave after playing in her final high school soccer game, a season-ending 3-1 loss to Ridgefield in the CIAC tournament.

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Ridgefield stops Newington girls



Above: Coach Paul Mallia after Wednesday's 3-1 loss to Ridgefield.

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“A lot of deja vu. I just—I don’t know what the word is, but we’re stuck—doing well, getting knocked out; doing well, getting knocked out; doing well, getting knocked out; and it’s almost like, I’m second-guessing myself in terms of the way we approach the season. Maybe putting so much emphasis on the season, maybe we should schedule the two out-of-conference games against, maybe, Wilton and Simsbury.”

“But yeah, after the game—actually when it was 3-1 with a couple minutes to go, I started having those thoughts. When the reporters came over, their first questions were....’Do you think the schedule you had hurt you?’ and ‘Are you feeling the same type of thing: You have a good season, yet when you get to the tournament and you meet these teams, the Trumbulls, the Ridgefields, the Manchesters that come out of’ what they call ‘the black-and-blue divisions...’ and yeah, [those teams] are better prepared, needless to say.”

As for scheduling out-of-conference games against two of those “black-and-blue” teams, Mallia said he’s tried it before without success, but will try again this year.

“I’ve tried that in the past, and they don’t have the openings,” Mallia said, referring to Wilton and Simsbury. “I would think that next year—already thinking about next year—I’ve got to

make up the schedule in two weeks. And, I would think that probably, I would have to try to get some out-of-conference games that are, you know, maybe even losses. I mean, 14-2....It’s going to be 14-0 in conference again next year, unless something crazy happens, so I would think that maybe I should schedule a Wilton. That’s the only thing we haven’t done in the last three years is really force [ourselves] to play up a couple levels, at least the last game of the year.”

“The underlying feeling was that this would be the year that it would be different.”

It wasn’t. In 1993, Newington went 15-1 in the regular season before losing to eventual state champion Trumbull in the first round, 2-0. In 1994, their regular season record was 14-2, but they lost again the first round, 3-2 to Manchester. This year, they were 16-0, their best regular season record ever, before losing 3-1 to Ridgefield.

When asked how he’ll view this season when he looks back on it, Mallia responded, “Well, hopefully, I’ll view it as the most successful season we’ve had....You really, in a way—and this is hard for people to understand—you’ve got to, really, forget the tournament. Because one team will win its last game, and everybody else will lose their last game. So that if you judge your season on how you do in the tournaments, or what you’re supposed to do in the tournaments, or whatever, then every season—unless you’re state champions—every season is going to be considered unsuccessful. And I think that’s the way I’m going to approach it when I give my speech at the banquet [Thursday at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria] in that the season is eight, nine, ten weeks long, and the tournament is, maybe a week and a half, even if you’re state champ. So, I would have to view it as, obviously, the most successful season we’ve ever had, probably one of the most successful seasons anybody in the state has had. I haven’t looked at the records, but maybe Simsbury’s been undefeated once or twice, and I think Wilton was once. So, I would put us up with, basically, any of those teams, seasonwise. Because, I don’t think the schedule matters. A lot of things have to happen [to go undefeated]. There’s injuries and sickness, things like that, and luck. And so, I think that we overcame a lot.”



Above: Newington's Kerri Donlin (left) hugs teammate Stephanie Carlson (right) after the season-ending loss to Ridgefield.