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Dear Trudy:

The Final of the soccer World Cup was a couple of days ago. I ended up watching tons of games (taking many vacation days to do so) and constantly remembered what a terrific time I used to have playing the sport at Baldwin.

There were memories like playing Varsity as an 8th grader because there weren't enough bodies around to actually have both JV and Varsity teams (in hindsight, it made me a better player though!), "Baldwin weather" which meant that the afternoon rains kicked in and we would gain an advantage because we knew how to play on a muddy field, riding back home on top of old towels (because of the muddy field!), coaches like "Yabucoa" as well as Rene Llerandi, and memories like playing at San Antonio Abad and being denied water from them at half-time because we forgot to bring our cooler with us (how Christian, no?).

Of course there was also the ultimate soccer memory (8th grade - '80 I think; if not 9th): We arrived late to Baldwin after a French Class Field Trip to a French restaurant where Thomas and I had enjoyed plenty of wine for lunch and also had a cognac (as one should after a good meal). We were quite tipsy and the team bus had already left for Country Club. Our only ride left was Mrs. Bilder who was the High School Principal of course. So there we are, Thomas and I, riding with her while she is asking us about our field trip. Since both of us were reeking of Courvoisier (yes, we've had good tastes even in childhood) we tried to open our mouths as little as possible limiting ourselves mainly to Yes/No answers whenever possible... Looking back, I guess we fooled no one. Once we got to the field, Thomas quite literally fell asleep behind the bench!!! I was less lucky. For the first time that season I was made a starter. So there I was playing with a buzz...

Anyway, all those memories lead to the attached. This donation is meant specifically for the Varsity and JV Soccer teams in their upcoming seasons. Hope they all learn and remember that it isn't a foul if you tackle someone as long as you get the ball first!!!

Saludos and Best Regards,

Carlos Leute