

1963/1964 SEASON OVERVIEW - 13 games

Won – 7 Lost – 6

1. Total Goals Scored – 28
2. Individual Scorers
 - 17 Hoppe
 - 4 Carr
 - 3 McGill
 - 2 Fairbrother
 - 1 Reissig
 - 1 Landt
3. First winning team in Bear history.
4. More games won than any previous Academy soccer team. The former mark was five.
5. Three of the six losses in the season were by one goal.
6. Atlantic Coast Conference teams played in regular season that the newspaper clips stated were highly rated:
 - A. Bridgeport University –63/64 NCAA Nationals after defeat by Coast Guard 2-1 in same season and also played in 64/65 NCAA Nationals
 - B. Trinity College – 64/65 NCAA Nationals
 - C. University of Connecticut
 - D. University of Massachusetts
 - E. Wesleyan University

1963/1964 SEASON GAME SCHEDULE - 13

Won – 7 Lost 6

Coast Guard - 2	U-Massachusetts -1	Strong team; lost to Army 1-4 the week before
Coast Guard – 3	U-Hartford - 4	
Coast Guard – 3	New York Maritime – 1	
Coast Guard – 1	Wesleyan – 4	
Coast Guard – 1	U-Rhode Island – 2	Erroneously Tide Rips loss 0-1
Coast Guard – 1	Wooster Poly Tech – 0	
Coast Guard – 3	MIT – 1	MIT highly favored; big upset
Coast Guard – 0	Middlebury –1	
Coast Guard – 7	Clark University – 1	
Coast Guard – 0	U-Connecticut – 2	60/61 NCAA Soccer Nationals
Coast Guard – 5	Brandeis – 0	
Coast Guard – 0	Trinity – 4	64/65 NCAA Soccer Nationals
Coast Guard – 2	Bridgeport – 1	63/64 and 64/65 NCAA Soccer Nationals

1963/1964 GAME OUTCOMES & DETAILS

ONE - U-Mass, Amherst, MA – McGuirk Alumni Stadium

At their season opener the Bears surprised a strong U-Mass eleven by 2-1. The Bears, playing under a new coach Jerry Bechtel, were solid on defense, particularly fullback Norm Saunders and Gene Franzen and halfback Bob Walker. Although U-Mass shot nearly twice as many times as the Bears, their lone goal came on a penalty try.

Trailing 0-1 at the half from a penalty kick, the Bears came back all fired up with a fine defensive match and a rousing display of fine passing and shooting. Only two minutes after the third quarter began, it was Gerry McGill who powdered the ball on an excellent pass to Bill Carr with Carr tapping it neatly into the nets. Four minutes later, "Hopping" Marty Hoppe was in the clear, took a pass from Gene Franzen and blasted a shot for the Bear's second and winning goal.

The loss was the second for U-Mass with their first last week to a strong Army team 1-4.

The offensive line, composed of starters Reissig, Carr, Hoppe, McGill and Hamblin led the attack. Fullbacks Gene Franzen, Captain Norm Saunders combined with halfbacks Bob Walker, Billy Ladd and Curt Knight, controlled the defense through a hard fought match.

The Bears starting lineup included four 4/c freshmen, bringing promise of even better things to come.

TWO - U-Hartford - Academy Field

U-Hartford's soccer team put all its eggs in one basket – the second period – but it was enough to win 4-3.

All of their goals were in a period of 15 minutes, one of them the result of a penalty and another the gift of a cadet player. Hartford dominated the first quarter and half of the second by scoring four times in the first twelve minutes of the second quarter.

Then the Bear's spirit shot upward with a strong determination not to be defeated on their home field. Eighteen minutes into the second quarter, Billy Ladd gave Marty Hoppe a sharp pass which was all it took for Hopper to boot in into the goal. This started the Bears offensive play as they gave the spectators something to cheer for.

Following their first goal, Hartford literally lost control of the game. Trailing 1-4 as the fourth period started, the Bears put pressure on the Hartford defense, scoring twice but the tying goal just wouldn't come – although the cadets had plenty of chances.

Halfback Bob Walker and full backs Saunders and Franzen continually fed the ball to the line during the third quarter, but, although the cadets took many shots, they just could not seem to find the goal.

In the fourth period, the Bears continued to dominate the game. With a pass from Marty Hoppe, Billy Carr tallied. Then Hoppe took a shot, barely missing the goal by two inches. With just minutes left, Drew Hamblin belted a high pass to Hopper and Marty headed it for the Bears third goal.

THREE - New York Maritime - Academy Field

Coast Guard Academy's soccer team did all its scoring in the first period and it was enough for a 3-1 victory.

The Bears scored three quick goals in the first 22 minutes, then settled back to play a defensive game that kept the visitors scoreless until the final quarter. Marty Hoppe, Center Forward, scored all three goals for the cadets within 15 minutes of each other. He has five goals in his last two games and leads the team with a total of six goals scored this season, giving him an average of two goals per game.

The only shot to get by goalie Ken Thompson was a penalty kick in the last quarter. The Bears defense played another outstanding game, with Norm Saunders, Gene Franzen and fourth classmen Cole and Montreal leading the way.

Coach Jerry Bechtel's Bears now have a 2-1 record for the season and play their next game in Middletown against a strong Wesleyan University team.

FOUR – Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT – Jackson Field

Wesleyan outclassed the Bears with a 4-1 defeat. The cadets had a tough time of it against the superior Wesleyan booters. Most of the game found the Bears hopelessly trying to defend their goal. Another factor which may have played a small part in the loss of the game were injuries to a few cadets. 4/c Curt Knight will be out of action for about a week due to an ankle injury.

Marty Hoppe tallied the lone Bear goal in the second quarter on a sharp pass from Gerry McGill.

FIVE - U-Rhode Island - Academy Field

The Bears lost by the narrow margin of 2-1 even though they controlled most of the game. Once again they had trouble finding the nets, as can be readily seen by the fact that they took nearly forty shots, with only one by Marty Hoppe finding its mark eight minutes into the first period. It was Hoppe's eighth goal of the season.

The cadets worked well together and, in general, played an excellent game on defense as well as offense. After being scored on in the third quarter, however, the Bears were just never able to come back with the points needed to get back in the game.

SIX - Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Worcester, MA – Alumni Field

The Bears defeated the favored WPI team 1-0 by literally running them off their home field. It was an exciting contest. The cadets displayed their soccer ability by outhustling the opposing team on just about every play. Proof of this may be evidenced by the fact that goalie Ken Thomson handled the ball only twice in the first half - while the Bears shot liberally throughout the game.

Playing his first game of the season, Denny Fairbrother turned in a fine performance while veteran Gerry McGill tallied the Bears lone goal shortly after the start of the second half on a penalty kick.

The Bears dominated play and controlled the ball much of the time, but they had trouble finding the net. Two of their three losses to date have come in games where they have outplayed the opposition but haven't been able to hit the net often enough.

SEVEN – Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - Academy Field

Tuesday saw the Bears win again as they defeated highly favored MIT 3-1 – a big victory. The cadets built up a 2-0 lead in the early going, then held off the favored visitors.

Marty Hoppe opened the scoring for the Bears in the first period with his ninth goal of the season. Before the period was over, Dennis Fairbrother had made it 2-0. Before the period ended, Walt Reissig made it 3-1 for the Bears midway through the second period and that's the way the game ended.

The victory was the fourth of the season for the Bears against three losses and they are 3-3 in the New England League.

Under the leadership of Captain Norm Saunders, the Bears held the opposing team to only one goal and dominated most of the play. High scorer Marty Hoppe tallied first by belting a goal early in the first quarter. However, shortly after, MIT came back with a fine play, netting them their solitary point in the game.

The starting team at this point consisted of:

<u>Reissig</u> Outside Left	<u>Carr</u> Inside Left	<u>Hoppe</u> Center Forward	<u>McGill</u> Inside Right	<u>Fairbrother</u> Outside Right
	<u>Landt</u> Left Halfback	<u>Walker</u> Center Halfback	<u>Cole</u> Right Halfback	
	<u>Saunders</u> Left Fullback		<u>Franzen</u> Right Fullback	
		<u>Thompson</u> Goalie		

EIGHT –Middlebury - Academy Field

The Bears just didn't seem to have the same "get up and go" as they did against U-Rhode Island or MIT. The Middlebury team controlled most of the game and ended up winning with a 1-0 score. Ken Thompson had close to thirty saves and it was his superb performance that kept the score from being higher.

NINE - Clark University – Worcester, MA – University Field

The tide returned as the Bears had a field day by tromping Clark 7-1. The game started on a low note with Clark's center forward scoring just three minutes after the start of the contest.

From then on, though, it was "CGA All The Way" as Hoppe thirty seconds later headed his fourth goal of the game on a pass from Wally Reissig. Marty literally used his head on three of his goals. Toward the end of the third quarter, Billy Carr tallied again on a sharp pass from Pete Gipson. In the same period right halfback Jim Landt walloped a long one, scoring the final goal of the game. All in all, it was a fine day for the cadets as Coach Bechtel was able to clear the benches.

Marty Hoppe moved within two goals of the all-time Coast Guard Academy scoring record of 15 goals for a season. In leading the Bears to a 7-1 victory over Clark University, Hoppe banged four goals through the nets as the Bears posted their fifth win of the season in nine games. Hoppe now has 13 goals and has two games left to break the old mark of 15 set by Dave Hastings three years ago.

Bill Carr scored twice and Jim Landt once.

TEN - University of Connecticut - Academy Field

It was a close match as both teams were about equally skilled with U-Conn winning 1-0. The breaks came hard for the Bears. While the forward line had trouble finding the nets, goalie Ken Thompson played a fine game as did Norm Sanders, Bob Walker and Gene Franzen on defense. Although wings Reissig and Fairbrother had good crosses all day, the cadets were never able to score.

With only three games left the soccer team is at 5 wins and 5 losses. These five wins are more than were ever scored previously by the soccer team. The Bears have a strong desire to make this the first winning season in the team's history.

ELEVEN – Brandeis University - Academy Field

The 5-0 victory for the Bears over Brandeis started almost halfway through the first period. Gerry McGill broke the ice by tearing free on a pass from Hoppe and tapping it neatly into the nets. From then on, the cadets dominated the entire game as only three minutes later Marty Hoppe scored the Bears next goal. Still in the first period, Wally Reissig sent a high shot toward the nets and it was Denny Fairbrother who was at the right spot to score again for the cadets.

Exactly four minutes into the second period, Hoppe pounded another goal on an assist from McGill. In the same period, Hoppe scored his third goal of the game by outfoxing the Brandeis goalie on a penalty shot.

Coach Bechtel was able to clear the benches by the end of the second quarter and the rest of the game saw the cadet's dominate play with first and second string players alike.

Marty Hoppe now holds the record for the Coast Guard team by scoring 16 goals - the most goals ever scored in one season in the history of the Academy. Hoppe topped the previous record of 15 goals held by Dave Hastings from the fall of 1960.

TWELVE – Trinity College, Hartford, CT- Trinity Field

Even after literally dominating the entire first quarter, the Bears fell behind as Trinity scored early in the second period. With that goal as their spark, the Trinity team outplayed the Bears – winning 4-0. With one game left in the season against Bridgeport University, the Bears have a 6 and 6 win-loss standing to date and are looking for an upset victory to claim their first winning soccer season ever.

THIRTEEN- - Bridgeport, Kingston, RI – John F. Kennedy Stadium

The Bear defense was outstanding in this 2-1 victory, outhustling the highly regarded, strong, rated and only once beaten Bridgeport team - holding them to just one goal - making this 63/64 team the best yet in Academy history.

Playing against a strong crosswind, the cadets portrayed the true spirit of an Academy team, by defeating Bridgeport on desire and endurance. Having the wind in their favor at the start of the game, the cadets began early to display their soccer ability in front of a crowd of approximately 200 spectators. The Bridgeport goalie saw plenty of action that first quarter as Hoppe, McGill and Carr shot continuously on crosses from Reissig and Fairbrother. Shot after shot missed the nets by inches as the Bear offense, led by Marty Hoppe, pounded mercilessly at the goal.

Gerry McGill bombed a direct kick near the start of the game which sailed over the goal by less than six inches. Then, fourteen minutes of play into the game, Hoppe tapped one into the nets on a long cross from left wing, Wally Reissig. This brought even more spirit and precision play into the Bears offense as they continued to move against the bewildered Bridgeport team.

With the start of the second quarter, Bridgeport began to take over and was able to keep control of the ball through most of that period.

The wind was an important factor in the contest as whichever team had it in its favor was able to play their own game. The players discovered early in the game that in order to move the ball against the wind, it had to be kept low on short, accurate passes. Quite often a high powerful kick, which on a calm day would have gone fifty yards, was stopped by the forceful wind and even blown backward in the opposite direction.

Thus, in the second quarter, the Bears had little opportunity to score and eventually fell back to defend their own nets. Halfway through the second period, Bridgeport's right wing managed to sneak the ball past Ken Thompson on a fluke play to tally.

This tied the score and Bridgeport rallied in an attempt to score again. However, the Bears defense, headed by Captain Norm Saunders and Gene Franzen, pulled the strings tight, thus blanketing Bridgeport for the remainder of the period.

At the start of the second half, the Bears again marched to the offensive and began working together like a well-oiled machine. Again, they had trouble finding the net as they shot relentlessly. With less than two minutes of play left in the third quarter, the Bears were awarded a free direct kick 23 yards from the nets. Gerry McGill took the shot and belted it into the top corner of the goal. Elated with joy, the cadets entered the last quarter determined to prevent the Bridgeport eleven from scoring.

The Bears put on what was probably one of the finest shows of defensive soccer this season. Playing almost totally on the defensive, the cadets out hustled and outplayed the Bridgeport team with a combination of strong desire and “guts” soccer. With Jim Landt, Bob Walker and Curt Knight as halfbacks, and backed by fullbacks Franzen and Saunders, the Bears stopped Bridgeport cold.

Ken Thompson played a terrific game guarding the nets and his outstanding play may be evidenced by the fact he totaled thirty-five saves – many of them difficult ones. The game wound up with Thompson holding possession of the ball after a brilliant stop.

Marty Hoppe broke the record for most points scored (16) that he set in the last game and now holds the record for the total number of goals scored in one season by a cadet since the start of the soccer team. By tallying 17 goals, he ranked high in the league as a top scorer. Coach Bechtel is looking for him to do even better next year. With this final victory, the Bears completed the season with 7 wins and 6 losses, thus finishing with the first winning season in the history of the Academy.