



**NICK CASTELVECCHI
NVHS BOOSTER CLUB FEATURED ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
SOCCER PROGRAM**

The NVHS Athletic Booster Club is proud to present the featured athlete of this week, soccer player NICK CASTELVECCHI, one of Neuqua's soccer team's captains. Nick has found his passion for soccer at 4 years old, playing in the league his dad coached. The multi talented athlete has since also played everything from baseball to Tae Kwon Do and he confides that if he lived in Colorado, he for sure would have competed in snowboarding too. Nick channels his self professed competitive nature into hard work in sports, as well as in school and even when it comes to his hobbies. "I may not have the most skill on the field, but I will outwork anyone", he says. As a team captain, he encourages hard work in practice as well as communication and collaboration between teammates in the field.

Booster Club Reporter: *Soccer has been a big part of your life, specially in these last four years. What have you learned from the team and your coaches?*

Nick: My coaches helped shape the person I am today. They helped shape my competitive nature, the way I view the game. With them I learned to value the team and the sport. When you are in competitive sports you learn that you need to work hard. It's a lesson for life: you fight through the tough times and work your way out. Being in a team has taught me to test my limits and keep moving forward.

Booster Club Reporter: *You seem to be a very driven individual. Have you ever had the temptation to keep running with the ball to try to make the goal while you knew another player was best positioned and could have had a better shot?*

Nick: There is time to shine as a player and show your individual skill, but there are even more times to work with your teammates to better the team overall. I have been groomed by my coaches to always work together as a team and not be a one man show. At Neuqua we win together and lose together. If you are not a team, it shows in the field. You may win a game here or there, but that will never take you to the next level.

Booster Club Reporter: *And how do you cope with adversaries who want to win so badly that they use less than acceptable strategies to dispute a ball?*

Nick: It is pretty rough in the field sometimes, games can get dirty. The best strategy to deal with the "smack talk" is to let the scoreboard talk back. A modest player who lets his action speak is the best kind of player.

Booster Club Reporter: *You are a team captain, a leader. What would you say to students that are considering joining a team?*

Nick: It is an incredible experience that you will not regret. In fact, I wish I had known to really appreciate every game and practice during the seasons. Being a senior this year made me realize just how quick time goes and it makes me miss all the great times I had playing the game I love. I am definitely going to miss playing against friends with whom I have grown up who play in other schools' teams.

Booster Club Reporter: *I bet you will, Nick. Would you leave us with a last word from you, perhaps a quote that inspires you?*

Nick: One of my favorite quotes of all times is a Red Bull quote that says "the only limit is the one you set yourself." It just reminds me to keep pushing myself further in everything I do. I also get inspired by this quote: "when you want it as bad as you want to breathe, then you will be successful." I often ponder about this one when I am preparing myself for a big game.