



# HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL MENS SOCCER

**Rusty Cowley, Head Varsity Coach**

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March 08, 2024

*For Immediate Release:*

## **HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL MENS SOCCER HOSTS INAUGURAL HOOVER SOCCER NIGHT.**

On March 07, 2023, the Hoover High School's Mens Soccer program hosted the first "Hoover Soccer Night" in conjunction with the Hoover Soccer Club. All three Hoover High teams faced off against the Thompson Warriors in front of hundreds of young soccer fans who currently play for the Hoover Soccer Club. The HSC players participated in an International Walkout alongside the high school players, served as ball boys/girls during the game, and had fun playing soccer based games on the field between the games and during halftime. Hoover High's Varsity Head Coach, Rusty Cowley stated about the night, "I don't know that anything could've gone better. Every HSC kid was so excited to participate in their own way, whether that was walking out with the team pregame, competing in half time events, or running the sidelines as ball boys and girls. It was also great to see our HHS boys interact with the younger kids and get an idea of the impact they can have on future HHS players."

Coach Cowley, in his first season as Hoover's Varsity Head Coach, has already started making his mark on the Bucs program. "One of my goals entering into the season was to build our relationship with Hoover Soccer Club, so finding a night to invite the players and coaches of HSC to campus was a no brainer. These are the kids we hope will continue to play the sport in the coming years and one day play for us, and what better night to do it than against an area opponent where the stakes are high and the environment is going to be great." Coach Cowley correctly predicted the reaction from the crowd, as the 350+ spectators at each of the three games enthusiastically cheered on the Bucs with matches resulting in a 2-1 win for the Freshman team, a 1-1 tie for JV, and a huge 1-0 area game win for Varsity.

Hoover Soccer Club's Director of Coaching, Paul Welch, was on hand for the duration of the event. "It went smoothly and all the kids all had a great time, showing really great support!" In addition to the matches, the Hoover Soccer Club took time to recognize four HHS seniors for their longtime commitment to soccer in Hoover. All four boys (Roderick Bartenge, Elijah Kim, Matthew Kincaid, and Sam Whitlock) began playing soccer for HSC when they were just 3-5 years old before transitioning to Hoover Bucs when they reached high school. Tomas Fox, HSC Executive Director, thought that, "it was a magic night of soccer for the Hoover Soccer community - where the Hoover soccer club and the Hoover High School soccer program brought the Hoover soccer community together to celebrate the Hoover Soccer Club Senior class at Hoover High School".

Overall, the intent of the evening was to come together to celebrate soccer and the past, present, and future impact the sport has in the Hoover community. Going forward, Cowley and the Hoover High Soccer program look forward to welcoming the Hoover Soccer Club back and continuing to work with the youth players of the Hoover community.

For those of you who missed out on this event, HHS Soccer would love to see more of the Hoover community at their remaining games this season. You can find a game schedule and additional information on their website:

<https://hooverhighathletics.com> If your child is interested in playing soccer in Hoover, recreational and competitive teams are offered via the Hoover Soccer Club for both boys and girls at all age levels beginning at 3yrs. Please visit their website for additional information: <https://www.hooversoccerclub.com>

- Photos Attached

**For further information or additional pictures please contact:**

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