

# Our sincerest heartfelt "Congratulations" to Gloucester resident and native son **Michael Enz**

**He has earned recognition in the Tidewater Region for the 2014-2015 season as an  
"All Conference Varsity Soccer Player"**



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Michael is a Junior at **Williamsburg Christian Academy High School** and is currently in his first year as a transfer student from Gloucester County. Throughout the fall 2014 sports season, the six foot starting forward for the WCA Varsity Soccer Team has played a key role in helping lead the **"Eagles"** to one of their best seasons ever. The **15-4-2 Eagles Soccer Team** has truly **soared** in many ways this season. Through persistent and unselfish **Team Work**, the success achieved by the Eagles throughout their fall soccer schedule (similar to most colleges in number of games and frequency) is reflected in the high rankings they have earned within the Tidewater Metro Conference and Virginia State standings. It is also reflected in the fellowship, sportsmanship and dedication that is genuinely exhibited both on and off the field by this exceptional group of young men.

The high rankings noted above are truly remarkable when one considers the total population of this high school in proportion to the many praiseworthy academic and sports achievements of its' students.

This school year, Michael has been truly blessed as both a student and athlete. He gives thanks and praise to the Lord for the entire WCA Family. Special thanks to the Cardenas & Gibson Families, his "Eagle" Teammates and Varsity Soccer Coach Tim Cristian. Through their guidance, strength and mentorship, Michael has at long last realized God's Outline for him by fulfilling His Plan. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works." Interestingly enough, this verse from Matthew 5:16 is transcribed on the Eagles warm-up jackets. May it and Michael's perseverance serve as a source of inspiration to those who struggle with adversity.

Even though Michael has modestly acknowledged references to his performance during

this season, he has repeatedly downplayed any mention of his individual recognition. He firmly points out that the "Eagles" are defined as "Team before self" with a dedication to "All In." This being said, there are many individuals that strongly feel this young man has not hit full stride just yet. They likewise point out the significance of certain events that have occurred and are in agreement that at least a few of these should be brought to light.

First and foremost, this young man is 16 years of age and through no fault of his own, has had more than his fair share of adversity to overcome in recent years. At this point, as a first year high school transfer student at WCA, Michael continues adjusting to a new school that is nearly 40 miles from his home. In addition, as a **Junior**, he has just completed his very first year playing high school soccer. Despite these facts and the many hours Michael has dedicated to the Eagles Varsity Soccer Team since mid-August (just prior to the beginning of the school year) he currently maintains a 3.5 academic GPA. Michael strongly feels that this is the most important statistic of all.

Since the varsity soccer season has concluded, Michael jokingly states that he misses the 4:15 a.m. wake-up calls for the first of two daily practice sessions conducted for the Team. While this statement may be poking a bit of fun at early bed times, it confirms the true commitment of First Class Coaches, the dedication needed to accomplish the hard work necessary to build a Cohesive Team and the need to develop individual God Given Ability; all of which cannot be denied.

Michael has contributed 15 goals and 3 assists during the Eagles 2014 season. As a result of his consistent athletic performance, Michael was honored as **"Athlete of the Week"** by Rev City Sports in early October. The week immediately following this tribute, he turned in an even better performance scoring 4 goals against opposing teams.

The 2 most memorable goals Michael contributed the following week were against two formidable conference opponents'. The first was a "stunning strike" against the undefeated, division leading, Portsmouth Patriots. Within the first 2 minutes of the contest, Michael split two Patriot defenders inside of 15 meters and placed a lower right corner shot into the goal. The visiting WCA Eagles subsequently went on to defeat the home field Patriots handing them their first loss of the season 2-0.

The second goal was two days later (at home) on Senior Night against the Denbigh Minutemen. The Eagles had not defeated Denbigh in over four years and the entire Eagles Team wanted to honor their departing Seniors that night. Less than 45 seconds after the whistle blew to begin the contest, the demons of years past began to fade when Michael drove an "off foot" shot past the Denbigh Goal Keeper providing the Eagles with their opening score. Approximately four minutes later, Michael's forward partner added a second goal and the Eagles went on to defeat the Minutemen 5-0.

Also worthy of recognition is the athletic ability that Michael displayed against the Portsmouth Patriots in the early minutes of the Metro Conference Championship Game on 25 October, 2014. Eleven days after first scoring against this top-seeded team in just under 2 minutes, he once again completely "stunned" the Patriots on their home field. Shortly after the game began, Michael seized the opponent's pass in their end of the field, split two defenders and drove a shot into the Patriots' goal less than 1 minute 35 seconds into the Championship Contest. Unfortunately, at the conclusion of the overtime contest, the score board reflected a 2-1 advantage for the Patriots and the Eagles were denied the Conference Crown along with their 10th straight victory.

As result of the exceptional season Michael has had this fall, he was selected as an **"All Conference Varsity Soccer Player"** for the Tidewater Region in the last week of October.

Michael credits his Teammates and Coaches with the honor he has received and dedicates this season I.M.O. his Grandfather **Fay M. Bray**. Since beginning soccer at age 4, Michael is reminded that there are many individuals and organizations that have played a significant role in his development. Through inclusion below, he would like to acknowledge each of them.

- Mr. Billy Moore of the Gloucester Parks & Recreation Soccer League. He/they were the first Soccer Coaches that taught Michael the true definition of sportsmanship, fair play and commitment.

- The Mathews County YMCA Soccer League & Coaches

- The Virginia Rush Soccer Club & Coaches. A special thanks to: Epic Soccer Coach Matt Smith

- Head Men's Soccer Coach Chris Norris & the Coaches at The College of William & Mary

- The Virginia Legacy Soccer Club. Director/Coach Bobby O'Brien. A special thanks to: Virginia Legacy Soccer Coach Jimmy Newell for teaching the game "old school."

- The WCA Varsity Soccer Coaches & his "Eagle" Teammates.

A Special thanks to: Head Varsity Soccer Coach Tim Cristian for his true dedication and guidance!

- Michael is truly thankful for his family, close friends and members of the community who have remained supportive of him throughout the last 3 years of adversity he has endured. Likewise, Michael is continuously reminded that he is in good company which reaffirms his faith. As revealed through scripture, He too was denied 3 times but ultimately prevailed. An interesting revelation worthy of note is that Michael coincidentally wears #3 on his uniform.

This young man continues to pray & request prayers for, those who perpetuate bias and those who by their actions or failures to act, allow bias to occur or continue. May the Lord help guide these individuals and reinforce their strength to do what is right for all of his children. Michael's Mother and Father were recently asked for their explanation of his ability, compassion and perseverance.

Mom's reply, "God is in control." Dad's reply, "Something in the Water."