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Monitor



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By JAN WILLMS

With a 19-2 record season, its first-ever trip to the state tournament and its coach, Eric Erickson, named as Minnesota Class A State Coach of the Year, it has been a dream season for the Como Park Cougars soccer team.

Although the varsity team lost its first match with St. Cloud Cathedral the opening night of the state tourney, it did not dampen the spirits of the players, their parents and fans.

"It's been a dream season for everyone in the program," said Erickson. The varsity team was St. Paul City Conference champions for the second time, achieving that honor also in 2009. The junior varsity team also won city conference with scores of 13-0-3. The C team scored 10-3-2 and took second place in the city conference.

"The future looks bright with our younger teams doing so well, too," Erickson said. "It's the best season we have had, and everybody at all levels has done a fantastic job."

Erickson, who is also a social studies teacher, has been coaching varsity soccer at Como Park High School since 2004. He has played soccer his whole life, at Minnehaha Academy and as a college student at North Park University in Chicago.

The Cougars became Section 4-A champions by winning four games in the district tournament with scores of 10-0, 5-0, 5-0 and 3-0.

Erickson said the championship game played against Simley from Inver Grove Heights was a crowning achievement for the team.

"It was a great day for Como to go to state by winning on our

Como Park Cougars savor a dream season for soccer



The Como Cougars displaying their plaque: Front Row L to R: Abdurazak Omar, Lah Htoo, Simer Sho, Seik Seik, Su Aye, William Xiong. Middle Row L to R: Assistant Coach Jonah Fields, Hsa D Moo, Aaron Heng, Jacob Cohen, Sahal Hassen, Ebrahim Hashim, Will Kidd, Yeng Yang, Thor Will. Back Row L to R: Henok Debesay, Joe Krivit, Zach Lee, Doug McCune-Zeirath, Keiron Sauer, Max Inskeep, Head Coach Eric Erickson. (Photo by Mike Krivit)

home field in front of the fans," he said.

There are 60 boys in the soccer program at Como, with 29 players on the Varsity team.

"We have a very diverse

group of players that reflect our school's population," Erickson explained. "Many have played in their country as well. Some learned in refugee camps in Burma, some in Ethiopia and some

at St. Paul Parks and Recreation. It's a very fun cultural exchange to play together at Como."

Joe Krivit, senior captain of the varsity team, agreed.

"At the beginning of every year, we ask the team members where they were born, and how many languages they speak," he said. "I think half of our team was not born in the United States, and that's really cool."

think the final score of 2-1 necessarily reflected which team was better, but he just enjoyed being at state and feeling the excitement.

"Being captain this year, I learned a lot about leadership skills," he said. "We didn't really have a superstar on our team; it has just been a good team that played well together. It's one of the best teams of any sport I have ever played on."

Erickson also reflected on the skills the students learn from playing soccer.

"All sports teach kids the greatest life lessons they can learn, as far as maximizing their skills and talents," he said. "They're taught how to handle adversity, achieve success and see growth through their hard work."

Erickson emphasized that the goal of all high school sports teams in a competitive setting is to get to the state tournament. "That's the ultimate goal," he said. "Como Park has been close to that goal in many previous years. We have had wonderful teams with excellent records."

He said qualifying for the state tournament is an especially challenging task that Como Park finally achieved this year. "That accomplishment has brought the school and community great pride," he added.

He said the Cougars have been bolstered by the support of fans and parents. Although because of work schedules and other responsibilities, some of the parents had not been able to see the games, Erickson said there is a core group of parents that have offered spaghetti dinners and team barbecues.

Erickson said that coaching requires a lot more effort than just running practices.

"You have to run a program, be an administrator, fill out bureaucratic forms, manage the players and issues and equipment, stress academics and pro-

"It's the best season we have had, and everybody at all levels has done a fantastic job."

- Eric Erickson

Como Park Senior High Varsity Soccer Coach

Krivit, who has played soccer since he was about 6, said the most exciting game he can remember took place in mid-October when the Cougars faced Simley in the district championship game. "That win sent us to state!" he said.

He said the state experience was great, with so many fans in attendance. He said he didn't

vide support," he said.

"I don't enjoy all the administrative details," Erickson said, "but they have to be taken care of to run a successful program."

Meanwhile, he realized that in a few years, he will also be the parent of soccer players.

"My two daughters will be playing soon," he said, cracking a proud smile.



Above, excitement mounts at the conclusion of the Section Championship Game vs. Simley at Como High School on Oct. 18. The photo was taken as the final horn sounded and the Cougars had won the Championship and earned their trip to the State Tournament. (Photo by Jeff Roberts)

By JANE MCCLURE

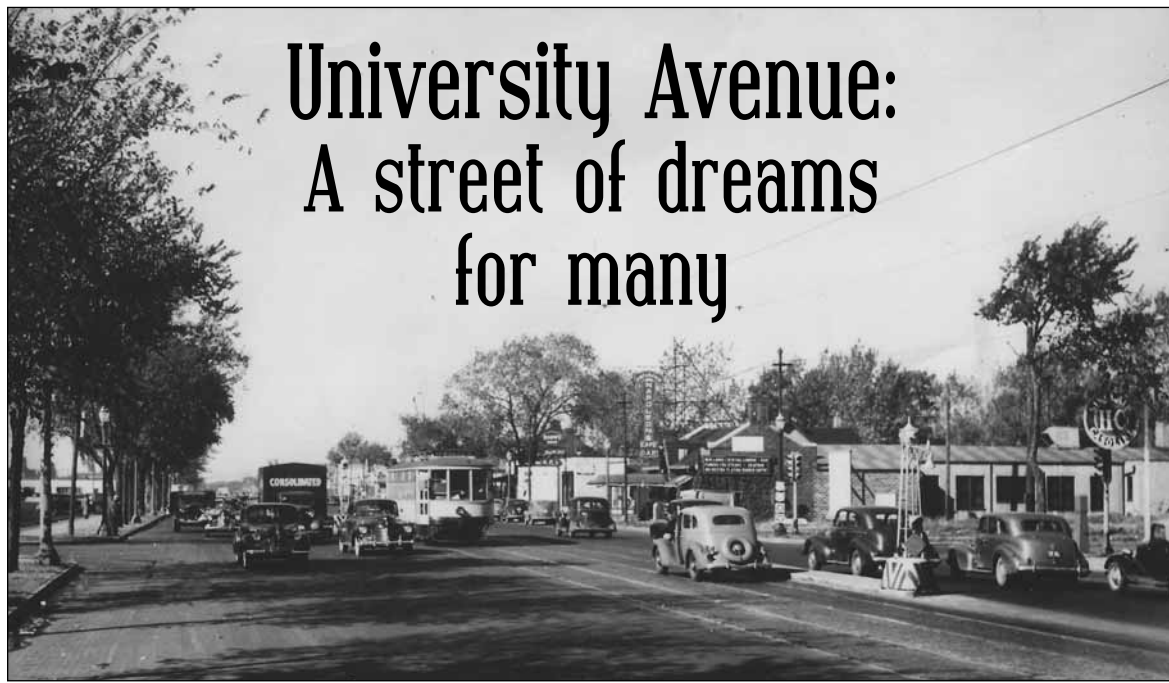
For countless people, University Avenue has been their street of dreams. It was a place where small shops owned by immigrants thrived. It was a place where people found jobs and supported their families, at any one of a number of factories turning out everything from tractors to paper projects to groceries. It was where people bought their horses and later, their cars and clothes and everything else they needed.

University Avenue was a place where people could do everything from attend a baseball game at the old Lexington Ball Park to dance at the original Prom Center. The street was home to one of the Twin Cities busiest streetcar lines and a large streetcar yard and barn. In the pre-freeway days, it was a major connection to Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul.

University was also home to notorious X-rated theaters and bookstores, as well as vacant and boarded-up buildings. But as University Avenue is once again transformed by the Central Corridor light rail line, new businesses and houses keep the latest set of dreams alive.

Lifelong St. Paul resident and documentary maker Peter B. Myers brought those dreams to life in a new documentary, "University Avenue: One Street, A Thousand Dreams." The documentary tells the story of the many interesting people and places in University Avenue's history.

The documentary was shown Oct. 25 during the Midway Chamber of Commerce annual meeting at Hamline University. It will have free screenings later this month. Gordon Parks High School, 1212 W. University Ave., will host a



Lifelong St. Paul resident and documentary maker Peter B. Myers brought those dreams to life in a new documentary, "University Avenue: One Street, A Thousand Dreams." (Photos courtesy of the Ramsey County Historical Society.)

University Avenue: A street of dreams for many

screening at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8. The school is on a former industrial site and is near the former "circus hill" where circuses set up tents years ago.

The Wilder Foundation, 451 N. Lexington Parkway, will host the film at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 17 and 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19. Wilder's building stands where Lexington Ball Park stood.

Admission is free but reservations are required. Call 651-744-1204.

The documentary will be broadcast on Twin Cities Public Broadcasting in December, on the channel TPT2. The showings will be at 8 p.m. Tuesday, December 18 and Friday, December 28.

The creator of the documentary is a former Twin Cities Public

Television executive. Myers produces documentaries as part of his communications business, which is based in Landmark Center. He works in public relations for clients ranging from the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts to the International District Energy Association.

His video production work has been used by many Twin Cities nonprofit groups. One of Myers' documentaries, Never Stop Singing, is about Minnesota's choral music legacy. This video won a Midwest Regional Emmy Award, in the arts and entertainment program category.

Myers has served on boards ranging from the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra to Westminster Town Hall Forum. He has also

served on the Minnesota Zoo Board.

Myers got the idea to make the film while driving down University Avenue with his wife, in 2009. They admired old cars parked near Porky's Drive-In and got to talking about the history of University Avenue. The project included interviews and extensive photo research.

Myers grew up in St. Paul and remembers going to University Avenue businesses with his father.

"My dad and I would go to Montgomery Ward, which was a great treat," he said. "And we always enjoyed going to the car dealerships and looking at cars. Those were things we loved to do."

The documentary, which is about an hour long, shows how University Avenue has changed over the decades. Myers said he got the idea to make the documentary while driving along University and observing its activity and history. Once he delved into the street's past, Myers found a history he thought others would enjoy learning about.

While he was able to draw on some of his own memories, Myers enjoyed learning about earlier history. He was especially interested to learn more about University's manufacturing history. "That was something I didn't know as much about. I found it fascinating, all of the things that were manufactured here."

The history may be a revelation to those who don't know much about University Avenue and its past. Once-famous items were manufactured here, ranging from Model T Ford autos to International Harvester farm equipment. The street had many movie theaters, dance halls and a wide array of restaurants.

University was also a major shopping district, led by the large Montgomery Ward store and Ward's Upper Midwestern warehouse. Midway Marketplace stands on that site today. Many smaller shops also were part of the neighborhood. In the 1950s Midway Center became one of the city's first "modern" shopping centers.

The documentary does depict the light rail construction of today, but doesn't speculate as to how that will transform University in the future. Myers said he'd like to document that in the future, possibly a few years after light rail is up and running.






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9 am – 5 pm

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**Lyngblomsten Auxiliary's
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Thursday, December 6, 2012
2:00 – 7:00 PM

Newman-Benson Chapel at Lyngblomsten, 1415 Almond Ave., St. Paul

Donations of cookies (and other baked goods) will be collected on December 4 and 5. Please bring them in dozens to the front desk at the Lyngblomsten Care Center. Questions? Call (651) 632-5357.

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Tuesday, December 4, 4:30-5 p.m.

Kick off the holiday season with Hamline University's annual Tree Lighting Celebration! Join Hamline students, faculty, staff, Hamline President Linda Hanson, and your neighbors near the Bishop in the heart of campus to "light-up" Hewitt Avenue. Enjoy cocoa, coffee, cookies, candy canes, and carols!

For additional information, call or email Hamline University Office of Special Events
at 651-523-2611 sw-events@hamline.edu



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