

By Dave Kvidahl
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Will someone please tell the Northwest soccer team to stop being greedy? Coach Ron Wilhelm's

**PREP
SOCCER**

team has been doing its best Ebenezer Scrooge impersonation.

The Lions allowed two goals in five games to go 5-0 and win the Sportport High School Invitational last week.

The Lions won all five games by the slimmest of margins, a single goal. In the final against McCluer North, Northwest forward Dave Brown had the golden goal in overtime for the 1-0 win.

Brown scored four of the team's seven goals in

the tournament. Three of Brown's scores were game winners. He was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player and leads the Suburban South Conference with 39 points on 14 goals and 11 assists.

"He's our big gun," Wilhelm said. "It was a good tournament. Our defense was key."

Northwest shut out Seckman and twice blanked McCluer North during the tournament. The Lions allowed only one goal in games against Westminster and Pattonville.

"We tightened up on defense," Northwest defensive back Bobby Peters said. "We'd put pressure on the ball and we buried it when we had to."

Northwest goalkeeper Joe Ellison posted his seventh shutout of the season in the title game. But he's quick to give credit to the Lions' defenders.

"My defense is the bomb. We fine tuned our

ense," Ellison said. "We won like a team." Wilhelm said Ellison turned in a terrific effort in the tournament.

"He's played unbelievable for us," the Northwest coach said. "He's been outstanding."

Northwest blasted past its shaky 1-3 start to climb to 11-5-1 overall and 1-1-1 in league play. Last season the Lions dashed through districts and ended the season on a 15-1 tear. Can history repeat itself?

"We've turned our season around," Wilhelm said. "These guys hadn't played together in the backfield."

"We didn't have the chemistry, it's all about chemistry," Ellison said.

A large part of the chemical equation is teamwork.

"We've bonded together," Peters said. "We're

Northwest: Wins with suffocating defense

Continued from Page D1

playing together to win games."

"We'd been used to playing as individuals," Ellison said.

"Now we're playing as a team."

After playing five games in seven days at SportPort, Northwest likely was a bit leg-weary for its Monday meeting with St. Pius, 5-7.

The Lions will be without second leading goal scorer Danny Reitz who has to sit after earning his fifth yellow card of the season.

"Not having subs won't really hurt the defense," Peters said.

"Our motto is we'd rather tie than give up a goal," Peters said. "Offense gets the glory, defense wins championships."