

KEEPIN' IT REAL WITH CALEB SIMPSON

By: Camryn Artimisi, for *The Lancer*



After an eventful run, Senior Lancer Varsity Goalkeeper, Caleb Simpson, rounds out his final High School soccer season with the team pulling in 8 wins, 11 losses and 1 tie.

Simpson found his niche at just 4 years old when he took the field for the first time. Since then, he has battled 13 years of competition on the pitch and has no plans of quitting any time soon. Although he is undecided as to where he will land, Simpson looks forward to playing in college. I got a chance to chat with Caleb about the season, some of his thoughts on school and sports, as well as his plans for the future.

When I asked Caleb his thoughts on how his final season went, he stated, "It could be better. We definitely need to convert our set pieces." With a record of 8-11 for the season, Simpson's reflection on the season is understandable, but anyone who has watched him guard the net would definitively know that he brings it and leaves it all on the field.



The Lancers aren't the only team that is lucky enough to have such a strong force in goal. Simpson also plays with Gateway Rush Soccer Club. Some of Caleb's personal goals with regard to his team philosophy is to "be the best we humanly can as a team and for me as a player." As for the future, he added that all that he cares about "is playing at the next level." He shared that his focus is to "go to a school that will make him better and develop him as a player."

Soccer has always been something that Simpson has had a lot of fun with. He stated, "I love every minute of it and seeing myself get better." As for his favorite memory of playing for the Lancers, he said that during his sophomore year, "We beat O'Fallon for the first time." In addition to soccer, he also enjoys playing disc golf; one activity that he does to help him stay healthy.

I asked Caleb how he plays a role as a leader on and off the field. He says, "I help direct the game on the field, and off the field, I just like to make people laugh and have fun with school because it's boring." The students, staff, and administration deeply appreciate your honesty and sense of humor, Caleb.



Before departing High School for college, Simpson's advice to next season's team is rooted in trusting your instinct. "Don't overthink it. Overthinking gives you the most problems", said Simpson.

Simpson shared a personal sentiment about his team. "They're all my brothers. They're family to me. Love my guys. Simple as that." This is the most valuable approach to any group or team. Without team cohesion, one would ask if it's really even a team.

Caleb wishes to thank his parents and Carolyn Mathenia for their love and support throughout the years.

Other pictures:

