

JOHN GROESCH TROPHY
CITY CHAMPIONS
CYO Varsity Boys' Mid-Atlantic Soccer

"John"

John was born November 8, 1988 in Washington, D.C. and died suddenly December 23, 2002 after falling into a diabetic coma November 29, 2002 from which he never awakened. This happened just two weeks after playing goalie for the Region II (Prince Georges County) CYO Soccer All-Stars. He lived in Lanham Maryland where he was a member of St. Matthias parish. There John was an honor roll student who participated in baseball as well as soccer. At the time of his death John was making the difficult decision of which catholic high school to attend to further his education.

In his 14 years, John touched the lives of parents, coaches, classmates, teammates and his opponents in all sports. John was the youngest of three brothers who made sure he knew his place in the family circle. It was clear from the beginning that he wanted to be more than just a soccer player; he wanted to be a goalie. John wanted to be a goalie and that is where he was meant to play. When a child shows up with his own goalie jersey, his own gloves, and kneepads, you know better than to ask him where he wants to play. But he didn't just play the position – he defined it. He developed into one of the most skilled goalkeepers around. It didn't take long for John to build a reputation as a top goalie. He would frustrate the best shooters in all the leagues he participated. John's performance in a losing cause in the 2002 CYO All-Star game against the Montgomery County team has already become legendary.

Many miss John's determination but his spirit remains in our minds and hearts