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#### BOYS HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER: BROWNSBURG

## A leader on and off the field

Yogi Snider mentors elementary students in two programs

**By Paul Shepherd**

Star correspondent

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Jonathon "Yogi" Snider is known as something of an athletic diplomat off the field.

The Brownsburg High School soccer standout often visits children through his involvement in two clubs: Creating Positive Relationships and the NCAA Stay in Bounds Ambassador Program.

"Talking to little kids is fun. They look up to us," said Snider, a senior. "You never know; maybe you can help someone who's in trouble or needs help."

Snider works with elementary school students through Stay in Bounds, which focuses on the principles of RICHER -- respect, integrity, caring, harmony, excellence and responsibility. Creating Positive Relationships teaches abstinence-only curriculum to middle school students.

"I'll talk to them about abstinence and making the right decisions when it comes to that kind of stuff," Snider said.

Snider, who will attend Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis next year on a full athletic scholarship, is a leader on the field as well. Brownsburg coach Todd Frost, whose No. 4-ranked Bulldogs were scheduled to play Thursday against Hendricks County and Hoosier Crossroads Conference rival Avon, has called Snider the core of the team's defense.

"He's the general on the (field)," Frost said. "A lot of what we do -- any changes in formations or any tactical adjustments -- I usually send in to him. He's playing alongside (freshman George Green) back there and I think it's been great for that freshman, the mentoring he's gotten from Yogi. He's just a great leader on the field. I probably can't say enough about that."

Snider gets a great deal of satisfaction from his role as a defensive specialist.

"If I know they've got a good player, I know in my head I'm going to shut them down," Snider said. "I take a lot of pride if I'm able to stop them."

Snider's nickname comes from the cartoon character Yogi Bear. When Snider was a little boy, his mother, Michele, would make him a picnic basket filled with lunch items and he'd watch cartoons featuring the "pic-a-nic" basket-thieving bear who lives in Jellystone Park.

It wasn't long before Snider earned the moniker Yogi, and it stuck.

"Everyone knows me as Yogi," Snider said.

Snider credits his parents' support as a key to his success on and off the field. His mother, who never misses a game, raised him.

"I respect her more than anyone," Snider said. "I wouldn't be where I'm at today if it wasn't for her."

His father, Brad, also is at every contest and remains integral in Snider's upbringing.

"My dad (and I) are really close," Snider said. "He's been to every game this season. So has my stepmom."

Snider, who also plays club soccer for the six-time defending State Cup champion Indy Burn Eagles '90 team out of Pike, is excited about this year's Brownsburg team and its prospects. The Bulldogs had an 11-1-2 record after a 3-3 tie Wednesday at West Lafayette Harrison.

"We have a lot of potential," Snider said. "We're putting it together well."