

# Maryville soccer standout geared up for upcoming season

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As one football season is ending the other football season — soccer — is gearing up, and Maryville High junior Ridge Carter can hardly wait.

In October Carter learned that he was one of 43 students chosen from the region for the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's (TSSAA) All-State team. Though Ridge excels both on and off the field, his love of soccer has propelled him to succeed.

According to Carter's coach, John Kerr, Carter is one of the youngest students — a sophomore when nominated — to actually be awarded with district and region MVP as well as All-State honors. Carter is one of 11 midfielders recognized as an all-state player, with the rest being awarded to juniors and seniors and his sophomore selection was one of only two on entire team.

Coach Kerr said it has been a long time since a Maryville player was chosen as District and Region MVP as well as being selected to the All-State team. Kerr further noted that it is more impressive because the region in which the Rebels play includes such traditional soccer powers as Farragut, Oak Ridge and Bearden.

Despite the honors, Carter remains humble, noting that he couldn't have gotten to where he is without the help of many people. He said his parents have been a dedicated and driving force to help him discern what he wants to do with his life. Carter also says his coaches have all contributed to teaching him very important aspects of the game, as well as about himself, and that even his teammates are vital to his success on the field.

In the off season, Carter has been working on playing indoor tournament soccer with one of the Knoxville leagues, and he says he is geared up for next season.

The junior said he is a little worried that he has to set the bar even higher, but his coach said it will not be a problem.

"Carter has an amazing, competitive drive and with unbelievable raw talent, it is remarkable what spirit and drive he brings to the game," Kerr said.

As for the future, Carter isn't really sure what he wants. He is looking into his options for colleges and looking at the possibility of playing soccer professionally, but ultimately it is the love of the game that keeps Carter coming back to it every year and he says that whatever he does he doesn't want it to become boring.

So for now, Carter says he is going to continue making good grades, hanging out with his friends and family, representing the junior class in the student government and doing what he enjoys most — playing soccer.

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