

South Oldham star Vitalis is Mr. Soccer

By Jason Frakes

Will Vitalis, who scored 40 goals for South Oldham High School this season, has been named Kentucky's Mr. Soccer.

Vitalis helped the Dragons finish 16-5-2 with 16th District and Eighth Region championships. Their season ended with a 4-0 loss to eventual state champion St. Xavier in the Section Two game.

"He just has a knack for taking the ball and putting it into the net," South Oldham coach Denis Beall said. "He was double- and triple-teamed all year, and as the season went along people tried to find different ways to stop him. He was still able to get the ball to his foot and create."

Vitalis, who also had 12 assists, has committed to the University of Louisville.

"He'll definitely fit right in with the success U of L is having," Beall said. "He is a great athlete and can take defenders one-on-one. I see him being very successful there."

Vitalis was one of eight players from the Louisville area named to the All-State West team for Regions 1-8, joining St. Xavier's Oliver Brown and Tyler Riggs, Trinity's Sunny Jane and Lepe Seetane, Collegiate's Layth Masri, Atherton's Andrew Farrell and Ballard's Trevor Bruner.

Here are the complete All-State teams:

WEST (REGIONS 1-8)

First team: Will Vitalis (South Oldham); Layth Masri (Collegiate); Sunny Jane, Lepe Seetane (Trinity); Andrew Farrell (Atherton); Trevor Bruner (Ballard); Christo Nousiadis (Daviness County); Jack Goblirsch (Elizabethtown); Logan Guess (Greenwood); Oliver Brown, Tyler Riggs (St. Xavier).

Second team: Ado Maksumic (Ballard); Peter May (Bowling Green); Nick Link (Elizabethtown); Caleb Mills (Henderson County); Taylor Hafiling (Male); Asa Miller, Ben Rathnow (Manual); Sam Devore (Marshall County); Chase Bryan (Oldham County); Ross Gilliam (Owensboro); Brycen Howard (South Oldham).

Honorable mention: Julio DeLeon (Atherton); Matt Vine (Ballard); Charles Carpenter (Bowling Green); Noah Wiersema (Central Hardin); Max Burge, Eric Nieto (Collegiate); Jordan Ratliff (Daviness County); Beau Bouthilette (Elizabethtown); Aldo Torres (Fort Campbell); Daniel Mark (Kentucky Country Day); Dylan Terry, Emery Hamada, Luis Romero (Male); Gabe Buttram (Meade County); Jordan Benton (Murray); Ryan Stallings (Nelson County); Brandon Causey (North Oldham); John Cantrell (South Oldham); Hernan Cortez (St. Mary); Barrett Metzger, Taylor Parker (St. Xavier); Alex Winrich (Trinity).

EAST (REGIONS 9-16)

First team: Ryan Horn (Madison Central); B.J. Hall (Lexington Catholic); Zach Byrd (Paul Dunbar); Garrett Justice (Covington Catholic); Christian Jauregui (Montgomery County); Evan Sizemore, Griffin Appel (Woodford County); Alec Robbins (Scott High); Christian King (East Jessamine); Phillip Manga (Henry Clay); Jason Lewis (Highlands).

Second team: Adam Jones, Bryce Burton (Franklin County); Robbie Gorham (Lexington Catholic); Jack Little, Matt Coffey (Woodford County); Cody Blue (East Jessamine); Ryan Stadtmiller (Bishop Brossart); Jake Hils (St. Henry); Ryan Moberley (West Jessamine); Cole Little (Newport Central Catholic); Angel Hernandez (Montgomery County).

Honorable mention: Jesse Zilio (St. Henry); Zane Hill, Dillon McConvey (Ryle); Matt Kees (Scott High); Seth Beasley (Anderson County); Garrett Davis (Woodford County); Joe Baker (Montgomery County); Evan Talkers (Covington Catholic); Cody Inabnitt (Pulaski Southwestern); Tyler Crombie (Franklin County); Grant McIntosh (Madison Central); Brandon Johnson (Lexington Catholic); Stefon Slovo, Bennett Morris, Neil Sharma (Paul Dunbar); Corey Mounce, Ben Blevins (Somerset); Vann Pollack (Boyle County); Jon Manga (Henry Clay); Dakota Beerman (Highlands); Cameron Miller (Scott County); Adam Howard (West Jessamine).