

Capsule Previews

Written by Jim Metcalfe
Monday, August 19, 2013 12:07 AM -

By JIM METCALFE

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A capsule preview look at local high school teams beginning their fall campaign.

TODAY'S OPENERS

JEFFERSON GIRLS SOCCER

The Jefferson girls soccer crew began the Josiah Stober tenure with a 5-10-2 mark in 2012.

He hopes for better results in 2013 with six returning starters and three more letterwinners.

Back for the sophomore coach are starters in lone senior Brooke Hesseling (midfielder), along with a quartet of juniors: Kylee Haehn (striker), Bailey Miller (midfielder), Elisabeth Miller (midfielder) and Jordyn Radler (backer); and sophomore striker/backer Logan Hamilton.

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The other three veterans are junior Adrie Miller (midfielder), sophomore Tasha Schaeffer (backer/goalkeeper) and classmate Brandy White (backer).

The Wildcats open today at Van Wert (5 p.m.), followed by a home date (at Hamel Memorial Field in Fort Jennings) against Ottoville Thursday, a trip to Lima Stadium to tangle with LCC noon Saturday and a home date with Miller City Aug. 26.

FORT JENNINGS GIRLS SOCCER

Three starters and six letterwinners will begin the season for the Fort Jennings girls soccer unit as they host Wapakoneta tonight (5 p.m.).

Starters back from last fall's 13-2-3 campaign (1-1-2 in the Putnam County League) are seniors Emily Grone (forward), Cassie Horstman (fullback) and Ashley Gable (fullback). Also back are veterans in seniors Jamie Saum (fullback/midfielder), Nicole Ricker (fullback) and Marissa Good (forward); juniors Alyssa Louth (midfielder/fullback) and Erin Osting (goalkeeper); and sophomore Brandi Kaskel (forward).

The Lady Musketeers will also host St. John's 1 p.m. Saturday and Miller City (5 p.m.) Aug. 28.

VAN WERT BOYS SOCCER

When Van Wert boys soccer coach George Scott's Cougars take the pitch at Ottoville tonight (5 p.m.), he will only have three starters and three other lettermen back from last fall's 2-13-1 edition.

Back to the starting lineup are senior Kyle Money, junior Joe Lisa and junior Josh Overholt.

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Expected to step into three of the open eight spots in the first 11 are veterans in senior Sean Miller, senior Ritchie Espinoza and sophomore Andrew Perry.

Besides this afternoon's match, Van Wert has a home game versus Lima Temple Christian 5 p.m. Aug. 22.

VAN WERT GIRLS SOCCER

When Van Wert's girls soccer crew takes the field at home versus Jefferson this afternoon, about the only difference in the lineup is at the head of the bench as Larry Lamb takes over for Rich Nouza after a 5-12 finish last fall.

A full lineup of letterwinners back from 2012: seniors Hannah Hulbert (forward), Lauren Mathew (midfielder), Lexi Myers (defender), Claire White (defender), Olivia McKeddie (defender) and goalkeeper Rachel Gordon; juniors Emily Bair (forward), Cassy Zartman (midfielder), Carisa Burgos (midfielder), Alea Hill (defender); and sophomore Shianne Baldwin (defender); should help the Lady Cougars get off to a quick start.

Besides the opener, two other matches are slated in the first two weeks of the season: at Ottoville Tuesday (6 p.m.) and at O-G 5 p.m. Aug. 27.

TUESDAY OPENERS

ST. JOHN'S GIRLS SOCCER

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John Munoz has four seasons under his belt as the St. John's girls soccer coach.

With 13 letterwinners back, he hopes to continue building the Lady Blue Jay fortunes.

Back are seven seniors: Samantha Bonifas, Maddie Burgei, Madison Kreeger, Lindsey Warnecke, Jessica Koverman, Lyndsay Mohler and Brelyn Stepleton; three juniors: Elizabeth Winhover, Samantha Wehri and Emilee Grothouse; and a like number of sophomores: Erin Williams, Rachel Pohlman and Ashlyn Troyer.

The Jays open at St. Marys Memorial 7 p.m. Tuesday, with Wapakoneta next at home Thursday (7 p.m.) and at Fort Jennings 1 p.m. Saturday.

LINCOLNVIEW VOLLEYBALL

Lincolnview volleyball coach Heather Crow returns three letterwinners from last fall's 11-13 edition.

That trio is led by 3-year Northwest Conference honorable-mention pick Ashley McClure (fourth-year senior outside hitter), third-year senior Kelsey Mohr (setter/right-side hitter) and third-year junior Devann Springer (middle hitter/setter).

With holes to fill with the loss of four senior starters from last fall, the quartet the coach looks to take their places are junior Ashley Teman (left-side/outside hitter), junior Baylee Neate (middle/right-side hitter), sophomore Ashton Bowersock (right-side hitter) and freshman outside hitter Katie McClure.

The final member of the varsity is sophomore defensive specialist/outside hitter Grace Gorman.

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The Lady Lancers open at Van Wert Tuesday (5:30 p.m. JV start), followed by a home match versus Antwerp Saturday, at Continental Aug. 26 and home to Ottoville Aug. 27.

ELIDA GIRLS SOCCER

Brady Overholt should be able to build the 2013 edition of Elida Lady Bulldog soccer around a solid core of returning starters.

This year's crew should be led by seniors Cassidy Slusher (defender), Lindsey Hall (forward), Alisha Brenneman (midfielder), Caitlyn Shroyer (goalkeeper) and Ashley Erman (midfielder/forward); and juniors Brett Pauff (midfielder) and Jenna Halpern (midfielder/forward).

Coldwater pays a visit to Elida Middle School 7 p.m. Tuesday against Coldwater. The Lady 'Dawgs visit Liberty-Benton 1 p.m. Saturday and Defiance Aug. 27.

ELIDA VOLLEYBALL

Kevin King's Lady 'Dawg volleyballers finished 2012 with a 9-14 mark, including sixth in the Western Buckeye League.

Nine letterwinners, including six starters, return from that unit.

The starters back for King are seniors Torie McAdams (middle hitter), Erika Kiel (libero) and Ally Bader (opposite); juniors Katie Hawk (setter) and Aubrey Williams (outside hitter); and sophomore Summer Grogg (middle hitter).

Other veterans off the bench are seniors Alicia Zuber (defensive specialist) and Andrea Stocker (defensive specialist) and sophomore Karmyn Martinez (defensive specialist/outside hitter).

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Elida visits Miller City 7 p.m. (no JV) Tuesday, while hosting Leipsic 6 p.m. Thursday, visiting the Parkway Invitational 9 a.m. Saturday and visiting Hardin Northern Aug. 27.

KALIDA BOYS SOCCER

Long-time Kalida boys soccer mentor Mark Czubik had another solid season in 2012 with a 11-4-3 mark (3-1-0 in the Putnam County League).

A full lineup of veterans are back for the 2013 campaign.

Back are seniors Ian Richey (midfielder), Adam Langhals (midfielder/forward), Trevor Guisinger (midfielder) and Andrew Krouse (defender); juniors Brent Hovest (goalkeeper), Logan Roebke (defender), Luke Langhals (defender/midfielder/forward) and Devin Kortokrax (defender/midfielder/forward); and sophomores Austin Swift (midfielder/forward), Drew Hovest (defender/midfielder) and Grant Unverferth (midfielder/forward).

The Wildcats open at home 7 p.m. Tuesday versus Wapakoneta, then visit Van Buren 11 a.m. Saturday and host Shawnee 7 p.m. Aug. 26.

KALIDA GIRLS SOCCER

Kalida girls soccer coach Dave Kehres will have 18 letterwinners — nine starters and nine others that saw time off the bench — back from last fall's historic LadyCats' run to the Division III regional finals for the first time ever in the program's history, as well as a Putnam County League championship unit (4-0-0) and a 19-1-1 overall mark.

Those nine starters include seniors Kiersten Recker (defender), Justine Verhoff (midfielder/forward), Whitney Smith (defender/midfielder) and Sarah Verhoff

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(goalkeeper/forward); juniors Mariah Doepker (midfielder/defender), Jackie Gardner (midfielder/forward) and Makenna Vorst (forward/midfielder); and sophomores Cathy Basinger (defender) and Brittany Kahle (midfielder/forward).

The other experienced hands are led by juniors Courtney Buss (forward/midfielder), Molly Ellerbrock (midfielder), Lindsey Erhart (forward/midfielder) and Megan Vine (midfielder); and sophomores Alexa Ellerbrock (forward), Joni Kaufman (defender/midfielder), Laine Laudick (midfielder/goalkeeper), Makenna Richey (midfielder/defender) and Paige Roller (midfielder/forward).

The LadyCats open 6 p.m. Tuesday at home versus Van Buren (Parents Night) and host LCC 5 p.m. Aug. 28.

CRESTVIEW GIRLS SOCCER

Melissa Mefferd begins her fourth season at the helm of the Crestview girls soccer team with 12 letterwinners from a 2-12-3 edition (1-4-1 Northwest Conference).

Those returnees are led by second-team All-NWC senior Brooke Bowen (forward/midfielder) and honorable-mention senior Riley Guest (midfielder/goalkeeper), along with seniors Courtney Grote (defender), Jamie Moore (forward/midfielder) and Ali Macki (midfielder); juniors Lauren Schmid (defender), Bekka Tracey (midfielder), Karlee Trammell (midfielder) and Kylee Gent (midfielder); and sophomores Jada Preston (defender/goalkeeper), Siera Wood (midfielder) and Alyssa Walter (midfielder/goalkeeper).

The Lady Knights open at 5 p.m. Tuesday, then host Cory-Rawson Thursday and visit Lincolnview Aug. 26.