

Newcomers key to OU's season

By C.J. Rieck
staff writer

With each new season come new challenges, but this year Oakland University soccer coach Gary Parsons will have a greater number than in the past.

"We lost 11 guys off last year's roster," said Parsons, "including six starters and two sub tops. We've never lost this many."

Parsons stopped short of calling it a rebuilding year, but there are key holes he'll have to fill. Gone are top scorer Morris Lupenc and his twin brother Mike; midfielders Nick O'Shea and Steve Mastrogianis; and backs Munsald Numan and Terje Eneas.

Morris Lupenc, O'Shea and Numan will be hardest to replace. Each was an All-Mideast region selection, and Numan was All-America as a freshman. Both Lupenc, who netted 16 goals and 15 assists, and O'Shea, who is playing professional soccer in Oklahoma City, graduated. Numan has been sidelined by poor grades.

OF THE 11 new players on the OU roster, seven are recruits, two are walk-ons and two are redshirts. These are the players the Pioneers' season pivots on.

"They all have to either step right in and start or fill top substitutes roles," said Parsons.

Such a big turnover in personnel threatens to end OU's regional domination. The team, 18-8 in 1983, made it to the final four in the NCAA Division II tournament in each of the past two seasons.

That will be a difficult chore this year, yet not impossible. While an abundance of talent is gone, Parsons has found able — if untested — replacements.

THREE OF HIS prize recruits played at Rogers State (Okla.) Junior College last year but are from Monrovia, Liberia. Forward Meally Freeman (17 goals, 12 assists last season), midfielder-forward Gray Haisel and back Solomon Donnie are each expected to contribute heavily. Freeman and Donnie are juniors; Haisel's a sophomore.

"I was looking at some other players I was hoping to get," said Parsons of his discovery of the Liberian trio. Local players who decided to go out of state.

Tough schedule ahead

In a season with an abundance of roster changes, the schedule will prove no ally to Oakland University's soccer team.

Only seven of 20 players on the roster a year ago are back. The schedule that an untested group of Pioneers will tackle includes road games at Indiana-Purdue (Sept. 19), Central Michigan (Sept. 26), Michigan State (Oct. 3), Bowling Green (Oct. 13), Division I power Akron (Oct. 24) and Wright State (Nov. 3).

OU will also play at the University of Wisconsin-Plankton tournament Oct. 27-28. Northern Kentucky and Indiana State-Ellettsville are other participants.

But the biggest test on the Pioneer schedule will come in less than two weeks,

"The Rogers State coach, Al Fye, called me and said he had a couple of other players he wanted me to see. Parsons liked what he saw, and when Rogers State dropped its soccer program, he wasted no time signing them.

WHILE NICK O'SHEA has graduated to the pros, he'll have a legacy replacing him at OU. Younger brother Dan was signed after playing a year at Schoolcraft College. Dan O'Shea is a 1983 graduate of Livonia Francis and rates as another key contributor.

While primarily a midfielder, Parsons is toying with the idea of putting his newest O'Shea on the back line, because it's there where OU is thinnest.

"We lost four of our top five backs," said Parsons. "That's our biggest concern."

Chan-Ho Allen, a junior from Oak Park, is OU's only returning back. O'Shea, Donnie, redshirt Raul Delgado, a sophomore from Sterling Heights, and newcomer Greg Nasello, a junior from Lewis and Clark (Ill.) Community College, are candidates for starting posts.

PARSONS IS also juggling a bit at midfield, partly due to a broken foot Mike Vigh, a sophomore from Detroit, suffered during the summer. O'Shea, Haisel, redshirt Barrie Vince, a senior from East Lansing, and Don Gemmill, another junior transfer from Lewis and Clark CC, are top candidates.

Both at the forward line and in goal the situation is more stable. Paul Larkin, a junior from Scarborough (Ontario) with a school-record 21 shutouts in two seasons, and backup Dave Martilla, a junior from Okemos who was unscored upon in eight games last year, return in the nets. They combined for a 0.55 goals-against average in 1983.

Senior John returns Tag Graham (8 goals, 4 assists), a senior from Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Mark Christian (7 goals, 3 assists), a junior from St. John's (Antigua); and Marty Hagen (5 goals, 2 assists), a sophomore from Troy Athens on the forward line.

"We're trying to determine who will play where," Parsons said. "The only thing we've determined for sure is we have the potential to score goals."

when Oakland hosts the National Invitational Soccer Tournament. Four of the top Division II schools from 1983 will invade the OU soccer field Sept. 15-16.

OU faces California State-Los Angeles at 3 p.m. Saturday, with Florida international taking on Lock Haven State in the tourney opener at noon. The championship game is 3 p.m. Sunday, following the noon consolation contest.

Florida International and OU each made it to the Division II final four last season. Florida International won the title in 1982. State's A test central Division II champ Seattle-Pacific in the West Region Finals and Lock Haven was ousted in the Midwest Region final by OU last year.

North kickers pass early test

It's safe to say that the North Farmington soccer team survived a major test.

The Raiders, a young team, opened the season with a grueling three games in three days, playing Livonia Stevenson, Novi and Plymouth Salem. They won one of the three, and played good in two of the three — a credible achievement.

After losing a 2-0 tangle to No. 1-ranked Stevenson, the Raiders roared back to whip Novi 6-0 at home Wednesday. Kieran Fenton scored a pair of goals for North. Jim Hagland, Josh Hoffman, Jeff Keller and Jeff Juliano also scored.

"Four of the goals were on breakaways," said North coach Cathy Cole. "We were the quicker team."

Goalie Dennis McCarthy got the shutout, though he made just six saves. On Thursday, the rough schedule got to the Raiders as they stopped their way to a 4-0 defeat at the hands of Salem.

"Basically, we gave them the game," Cole said. "I don't like to make excuses, but playing three games in three days would take (it) toll on any team. We made a ton of mental mistakes. We were OK physically, we are in good condition. But, it took its toll mentally."

Salem got first-half goals from Mark Flower and Steve Moran, but didn't score again until the 70-minute mark of the match. That's when the Raiders were beset by mental lapses. Salem's Kevin Sullivan scored taking advantage of an errant Raider pass and Ken Julian scored on a ball actually kicked by a Raider defender.

Ken Johnson, Salem coach, praised both his team's defense and the Raiders' improvement.

"I couldn't really see anything they (North) did wrong. It's just that they played so well, especially defensively," Johnson said. "North Farmington is a good team. They have a lot of nice young players."

Salem enjoyed a 38-10 edge in shots on goal.

Cole praised the efforts of McCarthy and fullback Curt Flugly.

BENTLEY 5, FARMINGTON 6: After opening the season Tuesday night with an impressive 2-1 win against Southfield, the Falcons ran into the area's second-best team. The results were predictable.

Yet, Farmington hung with Bentley in the first half, trailing just 1-0 after 40 minutes.

"I don't know what happened," said Farmington coach Ed Bartram, "something happened in that second half and we were off of fell apart."

What may have happened was a let down after Bentley's Brad Haise scored the second goal. The Falcon goalie bobbed Haise's shot and it trickled in behind him.

Against Southfield, Farmington got from Doug Prince, on a nice feed from Jerry Potter, with four minutes left to trip the Blue Jays. Jason Forge scored Farmington's first goal, unassisted.

The Falcons dominated the game, outshooting Southfield 22-16, but had trouble denting the twine.

"We hit the post, missed, did everything but score," Bartram said. "Southfield came out very aggressive in the second half and took the play away for awhile."

FARMINGTON 6, NOVI 1: Chris Hackmen had a hand — or, rather, a foot — in half of the Falcons scoring in Friday's homefield victory over a young Novi squad.

Hackmen scored once in each half and assisted on Jerry Potter's first-half goal. Greg Mineweaser and Doug Prince also notched goals in the first half as Farmington led 4-0 at the intermission. Potter assisted on Mineweaser's score and Kevin Hause assisted on Prince's.

Jason Forge added a goal and an assist in the second half for Farmington, which improved its record to 2-1. The Falcons had a commanding 30-10 shot advantage.

Men's golf tournament sponsored by O & E/Whispering Willows

Men's 36-hole medal play: Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 22-23. Entry fee is \$30. Handicap maximum is 38.

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Tuesday, September 11th:
"The Audio-Video Connection" by Mr. Mike Piehl, Regional Sales Manager, Proton Corp.

Wednesday, September 12th:
"Pre-Amp and Amplifier Design for the Digital Age" by Mr. Merrill Smith, National Sales Manager, Adcom Corp.

Thursday, September 13th:
"Staying at the Forefront" by Mr. Dean Miller, Director, Home Audio Division, Nakamichi Research.

Friday, September 14th:
"Speakers in Relation to Digital Technology" by Mr. Paul DiComo, Director of Sales, Polk Audio Corp.

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