

dvet: Chris Meyer returns to a starting role in the midfield for the Farmington seccer team.

Falcons rely on strong midfield

BY DAN O'MEARA

The property of the team," Junior Khiz Trunk is the other trongest part of the team," Junior Khiz Trunk is the other trongest part of the team," Junior Khiz Mere and Language to the strongest part of the team," Junior Khiz Mere and Language the subjects of the farming the fallow and they're also very dangerous on the state.

Noble scored eight goals and Ramires five, and both players.
Noble scored eight goals and Ramires five, and both players had five assists last season. Junior Chris Meyer returns to start again in the midfield, and the fourth halfback will be varsity veteran Phil Giovannini. Meyer was a defender at the start of last season but moved to the midfield in the second half.

"I think (the midfield) is the strongest part of the team," Junior Khit Trunk is the other fullback and Nate Wiest the strongest part of the team," Junior Matt Trunk is the other fullback and Nate Wiest the strongest part of the team," Junior Matt Trunk is the other fullback and Nate Wiest the strongest part of the team," Junior Matt Trunk is the other fullback and Nate Wiest the strongest part of the team," Junior Matt Trunk is the other fullback and Nate Wiest the strongest part of the team, "Junior Matt Trunk is the other fullback and Nate Wiest the strongest part of the team," Junior Matt Trunk is the other fullback will be played the game a lot.

"The property of the full didn't was last year, too, but the didn't was last year, too, but didn't was last year, too, but didn't was last year, to pat lain the sum of the part was last year, to pat lain the seam abould be much better the team abould be much better th

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finders, too, 'Juncaj said.

"I think the defense is going to be a lot better than last year. From what I've seen so far I think it's going to be much stronger and better balanced.

The Falcons have a veteran keeper in senior Boott McKey, who started last season. He has improved and should be a big benefit to the team, Juncaj said.

Sonior Wojtek Radz, who had seven goals and three sassiss, is back at one of the forward positions.

back at one of the forward posi-tions.

The other forward could be ei-ther sophomore Paul Mitchell, who was on the JV; senior Kevin Willanen, who didn't play last year, or senior Steve Saro, who re-turns to the varsity and scored

turns to the varsity and scored one goal.
"I think the forward line is going to have to got a lot of belp from the midfield to score goals," Junes said. "I'm sure we're going to get that from Noble, Ramirez and Meyer, so we should be able

midfield last year, and Wiest spent most of his time on offense.

"But they make pretty good defenders, too." Juncaj said.

"I think the defense is going to be a lot better than last year. From what I've seen so far I think it's going to be much stronger and better belanced."

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Senior Wojtek Radz, who had Senior Wojtek Radz, who had some seals and three assists, is

A tournaments — return veterant-teams too.
"I think we're going to be vet/-competitive, and the games are-going to be close," Juncal said. "I "I think we're going to be ac-good team — above average for-sure — and should be able to stay" with any team. If things go well, we should do quite well this, vear."

year."
The Falcons begin the seasog:
Friday when they play Birmingham Seaholm in the Detroits
Country Day tournament. The
winner meets the DCD-Edeel.
Ford winner in the second round.

Stevenson rates as top preseason team in area

World Cup "04% is here.
And guess who's Observerland's Brazil?
To nobody's surprise, the Livonia Stevenson boys accert team is
the odds-on favorite to win it all
this season. They're not only the
team to beat in the area, but also
among all Class A schools in the
state.

among all Class A schools the visit of the championships to their credit aince the Michigan High School Athletic Association began asnetioning tournaments in 1922, came within one minute in sudden death overtime of sharing the Class A crown with Warren De-LaSalle, De-LaSalle won 2-1. Stevenson lost six seniors to graduation, but only two west estarters including first-team All-Area middlelder Chris Grodxicki

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(now at Central Michigan University).

To say the Spartans are loaded this season would be gross understatement.

to say the Spartans are loaded this season would be gross understatement. Three first-team All-Observer picks return including senior forward Nick Deren, who led the area with 25 goals; senior goalskeeper Mo Lenapeary (0.70 goals against average) and junior defender Scott Sersen.

Second-team All-Area mid-fielder Sizew Williford returns along with six other starters.

"There's only one thing we couldn't do last year," said Barrett, who coached the Spartans to beck to the state finals and not have to go overtime. That final 1:17 sticks in everyone's mind."

Barrett doean't mince words content alking about his talented cast.

"This is the best finesse team I've ever coached," he said. "I'we can overcome the high school power game and long-ball throwins, there's no reason we can't get back to the state final and not have to go overtime."

Youth is also on Barrett's side.

"This is a young team that has alo to figames behind them," he said. "But they have senior attitudes. Their attitude is as good as last year. Even on a bad day, teams won't like to play us."

Barrett, however, is wary of several teams on the Spartan's schedulo including perennial Western Lakes Activities Association powers Plymouth Salem and Livonia Churchill.

"I know Churchill will always be ready to give us a game," Bar."

Barrett doean't mince words retained that team."

Stevenson's ambitious non-league schedule opens Tuesday at the state top two eague schedule opens Tuesday at the state top.

And if that's not enough, Set and that's not enough, Set a malional record last year with its seventh consecutive state title (despite settling for a tien (29 and 193).

There were runors the rively would be dropped because of a philosophical difference in terms of scheduling public schools against private school power and the set a malional record last year. Stevenson and Country Day and the set a malional record last year with a seven of the state's top two eagues at the state top two eagues at the state top two eagues at the state's concerniti

"Everybody would have been disappointed if we hadn't played," Barrett said. "It's like Michigan against Notre Dame."

As for the rest of the area, Churchill (12-44) and Redford Catholic Central (11-5-3) will be missing key players, but have high hopes.
Churchill lost All-Area picks Justin Monson (Michigan State) and Goran Rauker (University of Detroit Mercy), while CC must fend for itself in the Catholic League's formidable Central Division without forward Rich Walos (Butler), midfielder Adam Borchert (Harvard) and midfielder Matt Kopmeyer (Valparaiso).
CC, however, returns first-team All-Area senior defender Brian Collier, while Churchill will rely on senior defender Kevin Callaway and senior forward Charlie Roberts.

Livonia Franklin (8-1-2), which, carmed a tie with Stevenson and; lost 3-2 to Country Day last seather, son, was also hard hit by gradudytion, losing tough midfielder Jason Buelow (Carnegie-Mellon, Pa.) and speedy forward Victor, Rodopoulos (Central Michigan). Rodopoulos had 51 career goals,

Franklin's top returnee is four-year letter winner Dan Kulick, a senior defender.

As for Lutheran Westland (8-8-2), the Warriors boast a 20-man roster and could challenge in the Metro Conference.

Meanwhile, Westland Huroh-Valley (3-13-2) will rely on new-comers to move up the ladder in the Michigan Independent Ath-letic Conference.

See capsule summaries on page

ODP's aim to boost national state of the game

NAT WHITES

A cursory examination by the uninitiated at the effect soccer has had this year, with the invasion of the World Cup and all, might lead one to believe it was nice but it's over now.

Don't be misted. As important as constructing a sound professional soccer league (that plays out of doors) is, it can safely be said the sport is hardly dependent on it.

on it.
It's proved not just by the huge
numbers involved at the agepropul sevia, but by the success of
such structures as the Olympic
Development Program.
And just what is that? The
ODP, quite simply, caters to the
silte. Through a series of tryout
cump, it sorts out the good playon from the medicore, and the exstraint is the form the exord.

title auggesta), but feeding a World Cup program and helping atrong players find places to play particularly in college.

The latter has begun to take on added emphasia. More and more schools are adding soccer to their arenda. University of Michigan, Oakland University and Northwood University will field women's teams this year, and Madonna University has added a men's team.

team.

The ODP camps help college coaches find the ellie players without traveling state to state, tournament to tournament.

And just what is that? The comment to tournament. ODP, quite simply, caters to the elite. Through a series of tryout scamps, it sorts out the good players from the medicore, and the exceptional from the good.

The object isn't just developing a strong Olympic team (as the

SOCCER each age group to try out for the ODP regional team.

each are group to try out for the ODP regional team.

The regional pools in each girls division (under-19, under-17, under-16 and under-14) will be selected using the same basic formula: 30 players plus four keepers, with 18 chosen to compete for the ODP national teams.

There are four regions in the country for girls. The boys follow a similar format, except there are six regions and aix age divisions, and their state tryout camp is in the spring (due to conflicts with the high school season).

The region Michigan competes in, the Midwest or Region II, includes 13 states (with Ohio divided into north and south). And

ciudes 13 states (with Unio divided into north and south). And how does Michigan's ODP team fare?

"We do a very, very good job," said Bob Bukari, who heads the state ODP program for both boys and girls. Figures back up his claim: Michigan has the most

"We'd like to do more, like trav-ol interstate and play more often," said Bukari, who also is an assist-ant coach at Detroit Country Day. "But we have no major sponsor-ship, so it all falls back on the shoulders of the kid and his par-

Any in-state camp or competi-tion (this weekend's tryout costs \$35 per player) is funded com-pletely by the player. Travel to re-

representatives on the girls regional teams, with 27 of a possible 132 slots in all four pools.

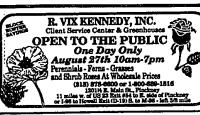
Pretty good, considering the program's limited resources. Although the ODP has grown considerably in the past few years—Bukarl has a coach overseeing both the girls (Nick O'Shea, of Livonia Churchill and Oakland University) and the boys (Aaron Smith of Lansing) programs, each with administrative assistants—the lack of funds could prohibit further growth.

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