



BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

Joe Nora's career in soccer has always been sprinkled with success, whether he was playing or coaching. Which is a good reason for Redford Catholic Central to want him to coach their team.

And that's the decision they made. Nora, a Plymouth native and former CC player who has coached Plymouth Salem's girls team the last three years, was hired to replace Dana Orsucci, who resigned after last season because he is moving to New Jersey.

For Nora, the chance to coach the team he played for a dozen years ago was too much to pass up. "I heard a rumor in January the job might be open," Nora recalled.

"So I made some inquiries and they called me back and told me it was open, so I asked for an inter-

view."

But with all his other commitments — besides the Salem girls team, Nora coaches the under-14 girls Northville Sting and the under-17 boys Novi Jaguars while taking classes at Madonna University to become a certified teacher in Michigan — would Nora have jumped on this job had it been another school?

"It was just because it was CC," Nora admitted. "I had been coaching Salem's boys JV team and I liked working with (Salem varsity coach) Ed McCarthy."

He'll give that up now, but not the Salem girls team.

"The first thing I did when I wanted to apply was, I met with (Salem athletic director) Tom Willette to make sure there was no conflict of interest," he said.

And Nora figured, with the present court case facing the Michigan

High School Athletic Association and the threat of putting both the boys and girls seasons at the same time, now was the time to jump on the opportunity.

"When I heard the seasons might be changed, I figured this might be the last chance to get to coach my high school team," he said.

What both the CC administrators and Nora would like to happen is a return to prominence, something similar to what the Shamrocks enjoyed when Nora played there.

With players like Dominic Scieluna, a Redford resident who now coaches Schoolcraft College's men's team, and Kerry Zavagnin, like Nora a Plymouth native now playing Major League Soccer for the Kansas City Wizards, CC reached a No. 1 state ranking in 1989.

Ironically, they were eliminated from the state tournament in the regional by Salem.

It wasn't that way last season. The Shamrocks struggled, failing to win a game until beating Livonia Franklin in the districts. They finished at 1-10-5.

"They had six or seven one-goal games," noted Nora. "I talked to a lot of people and they said they were just having trouble putting the ball in the net."

"I want to bring in a positive attitude, a fresh start. Definitely, the No. 1 goal is the importance of working hard. Every time you step on the field, you should do the best you can. That's all I can ask."

To that end, Nora has instituted a pre-season conditioning camp, which players are currently going through. Tryouts will begin in mid-August, with the season starting in late August. That's when Nora's affect will truly be understood.

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Mid-Michigan Bucks move closer to playoff berth

BY C.J. RISAK
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Call it a make-or-break trip. And the Mid-Michigan Bucks took the first option.

Recalibrating their hopes for a playoff berth in the Premier Development League were slipping away. The Bucks traveled to Sault Ste. Marie last weekend for two matches against the Thunder Bay Chill of the PDL's Heartland Division.

The Bucks needed points, and they got them with a pair of high-scoring wins that not only secured them four points

for each victory but also two bonus points, one for each win with more than three goals scored.

The Bucks improved to 10-2 overall, collecting 10 points for a season total of 50 — six more than West Michigan (9-6-1, 44 points) in a battle for the final playoff berth in the Great Lakes Division. Their final regular-season match is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday against Dayton; a win could assure them of a playoff berth.

Thunder Bay is 4-11-1.

On Saturday in Sault Ste. Marie, Ryan Mack (from Birmingham Seaholm) scored

one goal and assisted on another and Pat Noonan got two assists to lead the Bucks to a 4-2 victory.

The game started in all-out, familiar fashion for Mid-Michigan when it surrendered an early goal to the Chill, in the 16th minute.

But the Bucks managed to tie it at 1-all late in the first half, Mack scoring in the 43rd minute on an assist from Boyzz Khumalo.

In the second half, the Bucks gained control with a goal by Jason Perry (from Mack) in the 56th minute and another by Adam Heinemann (from

Noonan) in the 64th minute. A Chill goal narrowed the gap to one just two minutes after Heinemann's score, but the Bucks wrapped it up with an added-time goal by Will Kietzien (from Noonan).

Joe Zawacki (Livonia Stevenson) was in goal for the Bucks.

Sunday's match featured a different look for the Bucks. Back in the lineup were midfielders Dario Brose (also the team's coach) and Tino Scieluna (Redford/Detroit Country Day), neither of whom played Saturday.

Their affect was easy to

detect — Brose scored two first-half goals and Scieluna had a goal and an assist in the Bucks' 6-2 triumph.

Paul Snape (Oakland University) also scored two goals for Mid-Michigan and Mack got his second goal of the weekend. Eric Pogue (Troy Athens) was in goal for the win. Something else the Bucks did differently: They took the lead from the start and kept it. Instead of allowing their opponent to score first, which was developing into an annoying habit.

Brose and Scieluna made certain that wouldn't happen

this time, each getting a goal in the first 21 minutes of the match. Brose's second goal of the half gave the Bucks a 3-1 lead at the break; Mack's goal made it 4-1 in the 56th minute. Snape accounted for their final two goals.

The 10-goal outburst made the Bucks the division's highest-scoring team with 45 goals. Unfortunately, their defense is still lacking: They've allowed 35 goals, the second-highest total in the division, and they have yet to shut out an opponent.

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FUNDAMENTAL HOOP CAMP

The Metro Basketball Association will hold its Fundamental Basketball Camp, 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday

through Friday, July 22-26, at Garden City High School, located at 6500 Middlebelt (between Ford and Warren roads).

The cost is \$100 per player. Each additional family member is \$90. Each camper will receive a T-shirt

and basketball.

Instructors will be John Kreger and Keith Anleitner. For registration information, call (734) 522-8872 or mail to: Metro Basketball Association, 27676 Cherry Hill, Suite 101, Garden City, MI 48135.

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