

Raiders undergo rebuilding phase

By NEAL ZIEPSE
STAFF WRITER

With nine new players on the North Farmington boys soccer team, coach Kris Galsczyk might want to consider leasing name tags.

The Raiders return eight players after losing 10 from the last year squad and will rely on an influx of players from the JV.

"We will rebuild this year," said Galsczyk, now in his fourth season. "We lost the core of our team. We return virtually no one on defense and none of our halfbacks."

Galsczyk hopes the new faces will improve North's records in recent seasons. After going 0-12 two years ago, the Raiders were 1-11 last season.

"Last season was disappointing as far as the record, but we did play at our ability level," Galsczyk said. "We lost a lot of close games. We usually lost because of minor mistakes on defense. Any team that's successful needs luck, and we will need some luck this year."

Galsczyk will spend the early part of the season experimenting with his players and their positions and doesn't expect success to happen over night.

"I understand it will take about five games until we start playing like a team," Galsczyk said. "Some of the players played together in the spring, but they don't understand each other like they have been playing with each other for a couple years. They will need time to get to know each other."

"We are physically ready to start the season, but we will have to work on team work and understanding the different positions."

The "core" from last year's team — stopper Jared Lawrence,

SOCCER

fullback Jay Zimmerman and center halfback Marcus Geiger (five goals) — all graduated. One constant for North remains. Senior Brad Judd will start his third season as goalkeeper.

"I have no concerns about Brad," Galsczyk said. "He has excellent skills, good vision and isn't afraid to dive."

Judd will have a couple recognizable faces in front of him. Juniors Cory Mosher and Ryan McKelley return to lead the defense.

Senior Tetsuya Umemoto and junior Dennis Rica move from forwards to halfbacks.

Senior Denny Bandemer leads the offense. The four-year varsity player missed last season after breaking his leg in the first game but is fully recovered.

Junior Joe Zima and sophomore Chris Kemp also return at the forward positions. Galsczyk hopes Kemp will use his great speed to help him score.

Seniors David Qing and Mark Miller and juniors Brian Lattin and Derek Sorensen, all of whom played on JV last season, will help out on defense.

The halfback positions will be supported by juniors Sam Jeno and Fred Lumaj, sophomore Brendon McKelley and senior Darren Bruckeleer. Senior Matt Horn will also see playing time as a forward.

"Right now, the returning players are the starters, but that can change after our first scrimmage," Galsczyk said.

The Raiders open their season Tuesday when they play host to Redford Union.



Mercy hoops: Glenda Lee is a returning varsity player who will play a key role at one of the guard positions.

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Mercy will go with a small forward this year, using 5-4 Zandre Simmons — the other co-captain and the only senior — and 5-6 junior Amanda Northcross, who was on the junior varsity.

"Both are very effective on our press," Baker said. "Amanda for her size gives us some good rebounding. Zandre played in every varsity game as a sophomore and junior, so she brings some savvy and experience to the team."

"If we're looking for more size and strength, we have the option of going with Piper Metz," a 5-8 junior who was idled by a thumb injury.

Getting help for Angell at the other post position is a key, since starters Dana Wade and Marshelle Brooks (an average of six rebounds apiece) were lost to graduation, along with wing Katie Heffernan.

"That's of particular concern because we have so much size in the Central Division," Baker said. "They were determined rebounders and that is an essential part of our physical league, keeping people off the boards."

The other post players are juniors Felicia Brooks (6-10), Miti Ruddock (6-9), and Holly Taylor (5-10). Brooks and Ruddock are returning varsity players.

"One of our strengths will be our depth in the post," Baker said. "All have the size to play inside and are aggressive players. Felicia has the edge in rebounding and defense, and Miti has been scoring real well in the scrimmages."

'We'll be able to run a number of players on to the court and play an aggressive, up-tempo game. For the returning players, the key is getting off to a strong start and establishing some consistency.'

coach Larry Baker

"Any combination of any two of those players (including Angell) will hold down the post effectively for us. Our overall level of play doesn't fall."

The Marlins play another rugged schedule, and not just in the league. They open tonight at Walled Lake Central and will host Grand Rapids Catholic Central, one of the top Class B teams in the state, on Saturday, Sept. 4. "It's important, given the quality of our schedule, we get off to a good start, gain some confidence and find our game style early," Baker said.

"They enjoy pressing, playing up-tempo, fast breaking and shooting the three. I'd like them to develop their confidence in that style early so they can play with a lot of enthusiasm as they have so far."

"At this point, we're not very polished. It's far from textbook basketball, but it's fun to watch them slip and down the court and play aggressive defense."

Tour de Michigan ends in Birmingham

By JIM TOTH
STAFF WRITER

If this Sunday's trip through Birmingham is anything like last Sunday's trek through Rochester, the 1993 version of the Blue Care Network Tour de Michigan will be one that is long remembered.

Highlighted by a nail-biting finish in the Pro/Ellite category, the day's activities around the mile-long course featured more than five hours of intense competition in Kids Mini-Tour, Be-

ginners, Sport, Expert and the Pro/Ellite divisions. When all was said and done, the featured Pro/Ellite race crowned Coors Light team member Roberto Gaggioli of Italy as its champion. Gaggioli, who edged out Coors Light teammate Scott McKinley to pocket \$3,000 for winning the inaugural Blue Care Network race in Rochester, wheeled his way through the pack of riders on the final of the 40 laps to claim the victory.

"It was a team effort," said

Gaggioli, referring to the one-two finish by the Coors Light riders. "We had a pretty good race day."

Two days later in Lansing, Gaggioli and McKinley switched positions at the top. This time McKinley slipped past his teammate for his second first-place finish in four stops and a tie for the top spot in the overall point standings. His 77 points equaled that of Gaggioli with four races remaining on the eight-race circuit.

One local participant who re-

mains in the hunt for the overall title is Redford's Tim Swift. A member of the Kinetic Systems racing team, the Livonia native has chalked up fourth (Midland), fifth (Muskegon), sixth (Rochester) and 10th-place (Lansing) finishes in his first four starts.

"It's a big difference in terms of distance and caliber of riders," said Swift when asked about his initial season on the professional circuit.

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