

Shamrocks hope to improve record in '99

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Detroit Catholic Central's lacrosse team barely finished above .500 last season, but the record was deceiving.

Playing in the Midwest League, which features 16 teams from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan, an 11-9 overall record was nothing to be ashamed of, according to fifth-year CC coach Scott Tynan.

Tynan thinks a better win-loss percentage is possible in CC's second season against the toughest competition in the Midwest.

The Shamrocks lost three players to graduation, including first-team all-state midfielder Brian Cox, but there are several starters returning among a 27-player roster.

Cox and Josh Christenson, now playing at Northwest University, helped solidify the mid-field last year. Lee O'Connell, a defender, is playing at Arizona State.

"Although the record didn't look as good, we did play the top teams," Tynan said. "That's

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preparing us better for this year."

CC is among four teams from Michigan in the Midwest League. The others are three-time defending Division I state champion Birmingham Brother Rice, Detroit Country Day and Birmingham.

Rice's three-year winning streak against Michigan schools ended last Saturday with a loss to Country Day.

CC opened the season on Saturday with an 8-6 win over host University of Detroit-Jesuit.

Seniors Eric Tessier, Brocc Naysmith, Brian Beardsley and junior Billy Voyles scored two goals each for the Shamrocks. Tessier also had four assists.

"It was a lot better than expected for the first game so early in the season," Tynan said. "We came out, made very little mistakes, took a lot of shots. The kids played hard and pulled out a big victory for us."

The Shamrocks appear

strongest at the attack positions where Tessier, Naysmith and senior, George Madias, will start.

Tynan said Tessier and Naysmith have all-state potential. Each scored 21 goals last year.

"It's nice having three senior attackmen with a lot of experience," Tynan said.

Beardsley returns for his fourth year on the varsity to anchor the midfield. Also starting at mid-field are junior Kevin Cox and senior Mike DiGiovanni.

"Beardsley's got a great shot and can really take control of an offense," Tynan said.

Seniors Marc Frohm and John Abshire return as starting defenders. Junior Brandon Davis, a member of the junior varsity last year, also has secured a starting job on defense.

Frohm, Abshire and Beardsley were starters on defense on CC's two-time defending Class AA state football champion.

Tynan is hoping senior Matt Venning can return to his old form as a goalkeeper when recovered from knee surgery.

Venning, who injured his knee in soccer season last fall and had surgery in November, is expected to return to practice next week.

Sophomore Steve Pogoras, the starting keeper in the opening day victory over U-D Jesuit, "has been outstanding," according to Tynan.

Some of the top reserves include sophomore Matt O'Connor, senior Jim Varlese and juniors Mike Madoj, Brandon Kalenicki and Derek Loyer.

"This team can go as far as it wants to go," Tynan said. "We know who the top teams are: Country Day and Rice. We scrimmaged both over the winter and know we can play with them. It's a matter of who comes to play that day. We have good senior leadership and underclassmen with potential."

The Shamrocks plan two-day practices and a couple scrimmages during a spring break trip starting Tuesday in Charlotte, N.C. CC will resume its regular-season schedule on Tuesday, April 13, with a game at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

Red Hawks upset Spartans, who lose 1st game since '96

The state's longest win streak in girls soccer came to an abrupt halt Tuesday when host Troy Athens upended two-time defending state champion Livonia Stevenson, 2-0.

Stevenson, 42-0-2 overall the past two years, lost its first game since the 1996 regional semifinals when Brighton handed the Spartans a 3-0 defeat.

Athens, which opened its season Saturday with a 5-2 victory over defending Division III state champion Bishop Foley, scored a pair of second-half goals to end Stevenson's 43-game unbeaten streak.

Tiffany Laskowski scored five minutes into the second half. Kristan Weible added an insurance goal to seal the Spartans' season opener.

"Troy played extremely physical and they beat on us pretty good," Stevenson coach Jim Kimble said. "They're a good high school team. They'll win a lot of games."

The Spartans were missing all-state defender Andrea Seld, who has been touring with the U.S. Junior National Team in Europe. Midfielder Cheryl Fox missed the

match with a hyperextended knee, and Stevenson played most of the second half without all-state forward Lindsay Gault, who went down with a leg injury.

"It's difficult being that it's the first game," Kimble said. "It's a new group and it will take time to sort things out, but overall I was happy with the effort."

"This is a game that tests you. And they don't like it at all that they lost. We'll find out how it affects us."

In the first half, Stevenson tried to protect goalkeeper Lesley Hocker with a defensive approach. Kimble went with a 3-4 attack in the second half to create a more scoring opportunities.

"We got a couple of chances, but in a game like this we obviously didn't get enough chances to win," Kimble said.

"They realize they're still the state champions until somebody knocks them off, and we have at least until May to find that out," Kimble said. "I think we'll make some positive strides from this."

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fastball. (Harrison coach) John Herrington was very impressed with him."

Senior Mike Barnett has experience as an infielder but moves to left field this year. He had 27 plate appearances and hit .370 with a .563 on-base percentage. He'll do some pitching, too.

"He's going to Western Michigan next year, and I honestly think, if he has a good year, he could play at Western," Horwitz said. "He's that good. He could play at Western, but he'd probably have to walk on."

Senior Matt Kelmigian was used a lot as the DH, hitting

.416 with four doubles in 41 trips. The left-hander might play some first base and be called on as a relief pitcher.

Senior Jason Melvin will start at third base. He batted .429 and had one home run in 21 chances. Melvin also pitched one game and won it, 1-0.

"He's a good ballplayer; he just couldn't get in the lineup," Horwitz said. "He's going to be a real good third baseman and will get some pitching time."

The sixth returning senior is Matt Lash, who replaces Andrew Weitz at catcher and has looked good in practices, according to

Horwitz.

Junior Ross Patterson is slated to be the second baseman. He also did a lot of pitching on the JV and is expected to be the third pitcher on the varsity staff behind Penta and Feldman.

Joining Barnett in the outfield will be juniors Brian Lafer in center field and senior Ryan Vieder in right field.

The roster also includes senior Justin Goodwin and juniors Paul Kammer, Zack Lessway, Mike Livernois and Adam Sternagast.

"I have a real good defensive team," Horwitz said. "I think our defensive team can be as good as

last year. We have some guys filling in there who we think are going to be pretty good."

The Raiders begin the season Wednesday, April 14, against Livonia Churchill in a Western Lakes crossover game.

"The big thing for us, because of our inexperience, is the weather," Horwitz said. "If we have a spring like last year and don't have to play doubleheaders, we can rest kids."

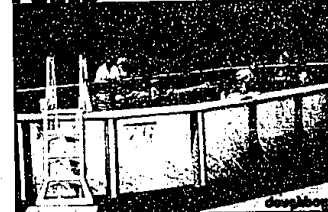
"You always knew Troos or Taylor was going to go seven innings for you. With these guys, I don't know yet, except for Garry."

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