

New coach is no stranger to Hawks

By DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Harrison has a new girls soccer coach for the first time in many years, but Greg Strickland isn't unknown to the majority of the players.

That's especially true for junior Danielle Strickland, the team's leading scorer. It's her dad who will be coaching the Hawks.

Greg Strickland replaces Glenn Bruhan, who coaches the boys hockey team and retired rather than be responsible for two programs.

For seven years, Strickland coached recreational, select and premier teams in the Farmington Soccer Club.

He also coached many of the Hawks in an outdoor league last summer. Strickland will be assisted by fellow club coach Mark Diehl.

SOCCER

"It's a new system I'm bringing in," Strickland said. "A lot of these players are going to be playing positions they haven't played before, and they'll have to get used to that."

"I'm looking forward to it; that's for sure. I want to make sure it's a fast-paced game. I don't like to be walking. Winning is a good thing, but we're there to learn, too."

Harrison's three seniors — midfielders Emily Jackson and Amber Kosis and goalkeeper Moira Morel — will have important roles to play. All three are returning starters.

Jackson is one of the team's most experienced and talented players. As the center midfielder, she'll play a pivotal role on the field.

"She's like the quarterback of

the team," Strickland said. "She's very vocal. She tells everyone what's going on, and she helps a lot of the freshmen. It's good to have older girls to learn from them."

Danielle Strickland and twins Emily and Abbey Houser, Lauren Liebowitz and Abby Adams are juniors who were together on Greg Strickland's club teams.

Liebowitz is a veteran stopper who'll take a step back, according to Strickland.

"She's Miss Hustle," he said. "She's always after the ball and controlling the backfield as the stopper."

Danielle is a forward who led the Hawks with 12 goals and had nearly as many assists.

"There's a lot of toughness to her game," said her dad. "She's an all-around player."

Adams and junior Marina Domyer can play either mid-

field and forward. Juniors Taylor

Good, Jenny Blashfield and Arly Golombok are defenders. The varsity includes sophomores Gail Pupillo and Beth Diehl and freshmen Alexandra Cicero, Diana Plin, Sabrina Bander and Michelle White. Cicero and Platt will help immediately as midfielders.

"I think we're going to be strongest in the midfield and forward area," Strickland said, adding the Hawks need to work more on defense.

"It's a good bunch of girls. They want to be a good team; they want to be better than last year. It will take a little getting used to everything we're trying to do in the midfield again."

"We have to have a winning attitude from the girls, and that's the thing we're going to work on most."

The Hawks start the season Friday at home against Lakeland. Game time is 7 p.m.

Raiders from page C1

where she is. Lindsay did a nice job for us last year and is going to be more than just a player."

North's 19-player roster includes juniors Joyce Chung, Kelly Hogan, Anna Muir and Amanda Park. All return with varsity experience.

Chung plays a midfield position with emphasis on defense. "She's just a tremendous hustler and a very good one-on-one defender," Russell said, adding Chung's passing has improved a lot.

"She always had a terrific attitude. She's probably one of the most capable players I've ever had. All fits into that, too."

Hogan also plays in the midfield and has been a starter since she was a freshman.

"One of her great strengths is she's strong with both feet," Russell said.

Muir begins her third year as the goalkeeper.

"She comes out very well on the ball; she's very solid on the ground," Russell said. "One of her greatest strengths is her team spirit; she keeps the team fired up."

Park fills the role of the 12th player and is pretty much anywhere, Russell said. "There isn't a position she can't play; she can play all over the field."

The Raiders have the benefit of added depth this year with the return of sophomore Nicole Adena, Lauren Hogan, Jenna Street and Megan Callahan to the varsity and the addition of talented freshmen.

"We're looking at being 13 to 14 deep," Russell said. "This is the first year we've had options

instead of having eight or nine players we could rent out on."

"We're picking up three or four solid premier players every year. It would be good to get seven or eight every year, but it's been a little slower than that."

Adena is the striker and main offensive threat, having led the Raiders in scoring last year.

"She's very solid on the ball; she has a nose for the goal," Russell said. "This year we really expect some great things from her."

Hogan will play a wing position along with her sister, Nicole. She has an excellent touch on the trap and is good with either foot, according to her coach.

Street also can play a number of spots but is primarily a defender and backup keeper. An ankle injury kept Callahan out

of action for a portion of last season, but she is ready to play in the midfield again.

"I'm excited about her playing midfield, because she'll be a good hub for our offense and defense," Russell said. "She's good at receiving and distributing the ball. She'll be a good transition player both ways."

The Raiders have added five sophomores from last year's JV team: Nurit Golenberg, Sarah Jakob, Nina Rizzo, Danielle Navas and Lauren Young.

North will have two freshmen in the starting lineup. Ashley Lynch will play sweeper and Michelle Boothroyd outside defender.

"Both are super to work with," Russell said. "They take every suggestion and try to work it into their game immediately."

St. Mary's headed to state semifinal

By CHRIS MATYER
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The quarterfinal round didn't spell the end of the line for Orchard Lake St. Mary's this season.

The Eagles are headed to the boys basketball state semifinals for the first time since 1994 following a Class B quarterfinal win Tuesday over Chelsea at Eastern Michigan University, 74-49. Jonte Jones scored 18 of his game-high 28 points in the second half as OLSM wore down the upstart Bulldogs.

The next stop for St. Mary's (23-0) is the Breslin Center in East Lansing. The Eagles are scheduled to face Niles (19-0) at 7:50 p.m. in the second of two semifinal games.

"We got over the quarterfinal hump this year and now we have to stay focused," said Jones, a senior guard. "It's important we continue to take one game at a time and do the things that have allowed us to get here."

One thing the Eagles had to do Tuesday was subdue a scrappy Chelsea team in the second half with one of their senior leaders, forward Jermaine Gonzales, on the bench with four fouls.

Gonzales picked up his fourth and exited the contest with 4:21 left in the third quarter and St. Mary's holding a 36-30 lead. Jones, however, scored 15 points during a game-clinching, 24-9 run that made the score 60-39 when Gonzales returned with 5:08 remaining.

BASKETBALL

"You don't want to just sit back and wait for the other team to come in and beat you," Jones said. "I think we did a good job of that."

"I've watched a lot of games on St. Mary's," Jones said. "I've seen a lot of good players. I've seen one said that was when it's time to turn it up. They have the ability to turn it up, and they turned it up when they had to tonight."

Chelsea (15-8) managed to stay close in part to its ability to protect the ball and the scoring of 8-8 junior Tony Scheffler (20 points) and senior guard Sean Davis (15 points). But the Bulldogs faltered over the final 11 minutes, committing 11 of their 20 turnovers.

"We kept the heat on the whole time and you hope fatigue will set in," Porritt said. "That was the key in the fourth quarter. We kept pressure on them, and it's hard to bring the ball down the floor and have to shoot it, also."

OLSM senior guard Maurice Searight scored 20 points, and his dribble penetration helped break down the Bulldogs' defense. Junior center Charles Davis had a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Gonzales finished with seven points.

St. Mary's lost to River Rouge in the Class B quarterfinal last season.



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