

Lady Ocelot soccer recruits face beefed up schedule

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK

STAFF WRITER

Bill Tolstedt has upgraded the schedule for Schoolcraft College's women's soccer program this coming season. He believes he's improved the team, too.

"Last year at this time, I was concerned with (replacing) all the people we lost," Tolstedt said. "And maybe a month ago I would have said I was concerned we were not going to be as strong as we were this past season."

"But now I feel we are going to be at least as strong as last year and we were 22-1-3 and finished ranked fifth in the nation."

"We will have a stronger schedule, though. We're going to

go home and away with the only team to beat us (score: 2-1) in the nationals, and that was Young-Harris College of Georgia. I want to continue to upgrade our schedule."

The Ocelots return eight players from last season's team and have nine newcomers. Tolstedt is assessing another four on his Great Lakes Women's Soccer League summer team.

Kids returning include All-American Toni Perry and Katie Weber, two defenders selected off the squad to play on the All-National Tournament Team.

"Those two are key," the coach said. "Plus we've got Amy Dorogi (Canton) returning as goalkeep-

er, so we're pretty solid on the defensive end."

One of Webster's high school teammates at Troy Athens, Sarah McMaster, is joining the team after taking a redshirt season at Oakland University. She retains freshman eligibility and was an All-State high school defender.

Christie Cole is a key returns at midfield while outside defender Kristen Halt also is back.

Other veterans include defenders Aubrey Karavas, Erin Perkovich and Stephanie Shetton (Thurston).

Though the incumbent, Dorogi will face some competition for the starting goalkeeper's spot.

Jennifer Kitzman has transferred to Schoolcraft from Spring Arbor, where she was redshirted last year, so she retains freshman eligibility. She was an All-State goalkeeper at St. Clair Shores South Lake.

"She's coming in as the backup goalkeeper," Tolstedt said, "but she's really good so it's going to be quite a contest."

Tolstedt has bolstered his offense with newcomers.

"We graduated a whole bunch of our offense. Fortunately, however, we've got some placements coming in."

Two of the better ones are Kryatin Freeman of Linden, a four-time All-State selection

with 110 career goals on her high school resume, along with Chelsie Rustin of Dearborn Heights Crestwood, who has some 70 goals in the net and was an honorable mention All-State pick.

Midfielder Rachel Berezak of Plymouth Salem is joining the team along with Plymouth Canton product Leslie Hogan, who sat out last season with a torn ACL that has since been rehabilitated.

"We're lucky to get her," Tolstedt said. "She's an excellent young lady."

"We've also got a couple of other really strong players we think were overlooked by a lot of

other schools. They were both pleasant surprises."

One is midfield defender Jenni Hewlett of Gibraltar Carlson, "who has been outstanding for us in our summer soccer league," Tolstedt said. She was an All-District and All-Region player.

The other midfielder who will bolster the Ocelots is Maria Wiseman of Royal Oak Dondorff, an honorable mention All-State.

"It's a good group," Tolstedt said. "Now, I'm not guaranteeing the same record as last year. But in terms of the strength of the team itself, I feel we're going to be as strong as we were last year."

Lady Crusaders tap local schools for trio of basketball recruits

BY BRAD EMONS

SPORTS WRITER

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It's summer, but not too early to plan ahead for the 2001-02 Madonna University women's basketball season as far as coach Marjou Jansen is concerned.

Jansen, who lost five seniors off last year's 18-12 squad, has added three new recruits.

The fold are 5-foot-9 guard Jen Hunley, Livonia Ladywood's sixth man; Courtney Rehbine, a 6-1 post player from Macomb Community College; and 5-foot-10 forward Marwa Ayoub of Dearborn High.

Jansen also hopes to land 2-3

more players.

"Last year we got past more powerful and faster teams with our half-court offense and our half-court defense," said Jansen, who led MU to a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference title (11-3) and the finals of the WHAC Tournament.

"One of our goals is to become more athletic. What we're trying to do for next year is press and stretch out our defense a little more with some people who can run the floor.

"And so far I'm pleased with who we've brought in."

Hunley helped Ladywood finish 17-7 overall and reach the Class A regional finals. She had

a season-high 23 points in a district tournament victory over Livonia Stevenson.

"She's a cutting and slashing type of player with great fundamentals and good footwork," Jansen said. "She runs the floor well and she has a good attitude. And we love getting players from Ladywood."

Rehbine, a Clawson High graduate, played two years of volleyball at Macomb before switching over to the basketball court to lead the Eastern Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association in rebounding with 13.8 per game.

"She needs work on her skills

on the offensive end, but she's aggressive on the boards and is getting good on her putbacks around the basket," Jansen said. "She's really a coachable kid, too."

Ayoub gives MU an inside and outside presence offensively, according to Jansen.

"She'll hang inside, crash the boards and rebound, but she can also go out and hit the three," Jansen said. "She's kind of like Kathy Panganis (MU's leading returning scorer)."

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In the second game, the Rams exploded for five runs in the fifth inning to earn the win.

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