

MIDD-WEST GIRLS SOCCER

Longtime boys assistant swaps roles for Mustangs

By **ZACH KNEPP**

Sentinel correspondent

MIDDLEBURG — This fall will mark the 10th straight season Russ Goodling will spend patrolling sidelines for a Mid-West soccer team.

However, it will be the first as a head coach. It will also be the first coaching the girls after nine seasons as an assistant in the boys program both at Mid-West and predecessor Middleburg.

The former Middleburg player believes his time as an assistant prepared him well for his first head coaching position.

“I owe both Shawn Calendar and Chris Sauer a great deal of gratitude,” Goodling said. “They gave me a lot of experience that I hope to bring to the girls program.”

Sauer, the current Mid-West boys coach, and Calendar, his predecessor who just stepped down after a successful run at Lewisburg, provided Goodling with a solid pedigree — one that will be needed as he fills the shoes of former coach Gary Keister.

Keister coached every game in program history and stepped down after a surprisingly successful 2011 campaign in which he produced a playoff team after huge graduation losses from the year before decimated the roster.

The new coach admits the transition has been a little challenging.

“The biggest difference between coaching boys and girls is how you communicate to them. You still look to accomplish the same thing as a coach, but you have to use a different approach to get girls to do things for you.



Sentinel photo by BRADLEY KREITZER

Members of the Mid-West girls soccer team are, from left, front; Clair Sankey, Alexis Horst, Jenna Yarger, Rachel Elliott, Nicole Horst, Morgan Goodling, Hannah Stauffer, Kierra Brown, Karli Arbogast, Makenzie Kauffman, Brianna Beiler and Miranda Heeter; middle, Jessica Kratzer, Amanda Straub, Hannah Cherry, Allie Camp, Morgan Shirk, Katie Kreider, Kenedi Moyer, Julie Hurst, Nackea Bachman, Caitlyn Holland, Kelsey Bachman, Megan Kirk and Taylor Hockenbrock; back, Kierra Brown, Chloe Wagner, Mikayla Beiler, Janelle Arbogast, Kelsey Stuck, Kori Hasinger, Kaitlin Gemberling, Kayla Keister, Paige Kauffman and Jessica Jones.

You can definitely use a more direct approach with boys.”

The girls seem to be doing their best to help out their new coach during the preseason.

“The preseason is going well so far,” Goodling said. “They have transitioned to a new coach very well and they are putting in a lot of hard work for me.”

Along with a new coach, Mid-West will be adjusting to a new formation. Goodling hopes the change in the formation will produce more scoring chances for the team that finished 8-8-3 a season ago.

“We need to find someone to step up and be our goal scorer,” he stated.

Three juniors — Janelle Arbogast, Kenedi Moyer and Hannah Stauffer — are the players Goodling expects to

carry the goal-scoring load for the Mustangs. Arbogast should be the scorer to watch after her second-team all-start selection as a sophomore.

While Goodling is trying to find his scorers, he is confident he has the midfielders who should keep Mid-West in every game: The midfield will be dominated by the senior class.

Returning starters who will see action in the center of the field include Mikayla Beiler, Allie Camp, Katie Kreider, Hannah Cherry and Miranda Heeter. Beiler, Camp and Kreider each were first-team all-stars last season.

“I expect the seniors to step up and lead this squad throughout the season,” Goodling said.

Defensively, the Mustangs have plenty of options. De-

AT A GLANCE

MIDD-WEST MUTANGS

District 4, Class AA

Coach: Russ Goodling, assisted by Heidi Moyer, Bill Shirk and Brooke Keister

2011: 8-8-3, 5-6-3 Heartland Conference

spite no returning all-stars, Goodling has several choices for his back four including Morgan Goodling, Nichole Horst, Kayla Keister and other returners and newcomers.

“I feel really good about this group of girls,” Russ Goodling said. “They seem excited about the season and are buying into what we’re trying to teach them.”

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