

## MIFFLIN COUNTY CHRISTIAN GIRLS SOCCER

# Former college coach arrives to lead small squad

By **KENNY VARNER**

*Sentinel correspondent*

**SHINDLE** — A new beginning is at hand for the Mifflin County Christian Academy girls soccer team for the 2012 campaign, as the Eagles will look to Shannon Murdock to take over the helm.

Last season, Murdock was an assistant coach at the collegiate level.

“I had the privilege of coaching at the college level last year,” Murdock said. “It was Northland International University in Dunbar, Wisc.”

With a small roster of eight players, Murdock is going back to the basics and working on getting in better shape, as the team will sport a new look.

“We’re down in numbers, we only have eight girls, so we will be doing a different configuration on the field,” Murdock said. “I think I want to bring unity to the team. I don’t think this group has had enough of specialized attention so I just really want to teach them the game of soccer so they can enjoy it and feel comfortable. And just bring in a lot of unity to the team.”

The Eagles only lost one player from last year’s team but gained her back in a volunteer coaching role early in the practice season.

“Genevieve Hoffman, she’s been helping us this week but she will be heading down to Pensacola Christian College next week. She was our only senior,” Murdock said. “We’re really going to miss her. She has really been an asset to our team.”

Murdock will be looking to a younger member of the same family to fill in the leadership role for the young Eagles team.

“Julianne Hoffman,



Sentinel photo by  
MATT STRICKER

Members of the Mifflin County Christian Academy girls soccer team are, from left, front, Emma Todd, Victoria Moon, Jenna God and Krista Groff; back, Erin Rose, Johanna Hoffman, Julee Hoffman, Eve Gilkey and head coach Shannon Murdock.

### AT A GLANCE

**MIFFLIN COUNTY  
CHRISTIAN  
ACADEMY  
EAGLES**

Independent

Coach: Shannon Murdock

Genevieve’s younger sister, is probably going to be one of our strong defenders,” Murdock said. “We have a little spitfire named Tori that be strong for us on the offensive side and we will also be strong in goal.”

Being new to the team, Murdock didn’t know what the different talents she had on her team.

“I wasn’t sure who I was going to have,” Murdock said. “I just met them all on Monday for the first time. I am hoping we can pick up a few players and make a full team of 11.”

This isn’t the first time turnout has been an issue for Mifflin County Christian, whose boys won the Keystone Christian Education Association 7-on-7 tournament two years ago.

Murdock sees her team’s strengths as coming from the duration of energy the team will have from beginning to end.

“We are going to be conditioned. We are going to be in shape. We are going to be

able to play the whole 90 minutes,” Murdock said. “I don’t think we will be a speed team but I want us to be a passing team. I want us to pass with speed. I think we will control the ball and be in shape.”

One of the teams that Murdock sees as tough will be a team from a neighboring county.

“I think one of our biggest rivals is Huntingdon (Calvary),” Murdock said. “I think that would be our hardest rivals.”

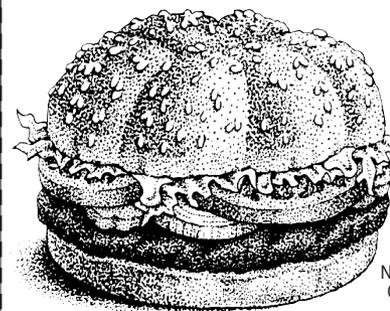
Mifflin County will begin its season Tuesday.

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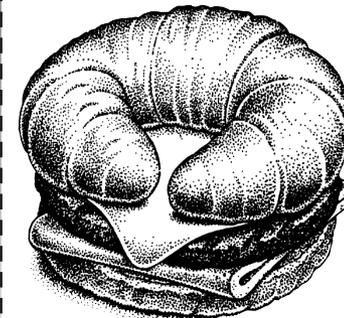


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