

BELLEVILLE MENNONITE BOYS SOCCER

Trojans' goal is to return to district title match

By **GREG WILLIAMS**

Sentinel correspondent

AT A GLANCE

BELLEVILLE MENNONITE SCHOOL TROJANS

District 6, Class A

Coach: Brian Renno, as-
sisted by Curt Yoder
2011: 14-3

BELLEVILLE — After hitting the top of the charts with a 13-2 regular-season record and an appearance in the District 6 Class A championship game in 2011, the Belleville Mennonite Trojans don't want to turn into a one-hit wonder.

"This is a new year and we don't want to rest on our laurels," said coach Brian Renno, who guided Belleville Mennonite to one of its most successful soccer seasons in school history. "We're not taking anything for granted. We have to work hard each and every game."

After all, this was the same Trojan team which went winless just three years ago. Since then, Renno has been rebuilding the program slowly. The Trojans won their initial playoff game against United in overtime last fall and came within a victory of a District 6 crown. A 4-0 setback to Bishop McCort was a downer to what had been an otherwise spectacular season.

"We were in that game and we had some opportunities," Renno said. "I hope they understand when you get to that level; you have to always bring your A-game."

Belleville Mennonite returns nine players who were in the starting lineup a year ago. Leading the way is junior Andrew Miller, a 35-goal scorer who powered the Trojan offense.

"He's a natural goal scorer," Renno said of his talented striker. "He's developed some leadership characteristics, which will really help us. Under pressure, he also stays composed and he does finish well, especially when he goes one on one with the keeper."

Scoring goals was not a problem a year ago as the Trojans tallied 80 goals in 17 games. Senior Jung Kim also returns after tallying 13 goals and 10 assists in 2011.

"He has a fair amount of speed," Renno said. "He's made great improvement each year, and we look for him to contribute again this year."

The other seniors are Matt Zook and Steven Yoder, who have both played at the varsity level for four seasons.

A midfielder/striker, Zook has become a student of the game, Renno said: "He's a fundamentally sound, intelligent player. He maintains his shape on the field and is disciplined."

Renno also is expecting another solid season from Yoder, another midfielder.

"He's developing good leadership skills and is a well-rounded player who understands the game," Renno said.

Renno also has big expectations for his juniors, led by Miller.

"It's time for them to take a leadership role. They've had two years of growing into the program," he said. "They're in a reverse role and being counted upon. I want the younger players to look to them to lead."

That starts in the midfield, where Austin Byler and Josh Pollock return. Both came into the preseason ready to play. That could be key as the Trojans lost midfielders Gar-



Sentinel photo by BUFFIE BOYER

Members of the Belleville Mennonite School boys soccer team are, from left, front, Derek Byler, Nickolas Beaulieu, Sammy Kauffman and Noah Anders; middle, Alex Suydam, Jake Knable, Josh Pollock, Steven Yoder and Colin Peachey; back, Andrew Miller, Austin Byler, Kyle Derstein, Matt ZOOK and Sam Morgan.

rett Byler and Evan Watson to graduation.

Renno said Byler and Pollock may also be called on to fill defensive roles.

"Austin worked really hard in the offseason in the weight room," the coach said. "He's improved the physical part of his game. He was a very good defender for us last year."

Pollock, another stronger player, works well under pressure, Renno said.

A three-year starter, Sam Morgan returns as a stalwart on defense.

"He's got a good understanding of the game and we really value his leadership," Renno said.

Speedy Alex Suydam is also back to man his defensive post.

"He's shown us a great deal of quickness and endurance, going up and down the field and playing a full 90 minutes," Renno said. "He's improved his game mentality and worked on his footwork."

In goal, Sam Kauffman



Sharon Brode
ABR, GRI REALTOR®
ASSOCIATE BROKER

Allow me put my education and experience to work for you!



office: 717-248-2122
cell: 717-994-7074
fax: 717-248-6031

email: sharon@sbroderealtor.com

501 Electric Avenue,
Lewistown, PA 17044
www.SA-RE.com

sports@lewistownsentinel.com