

MIFFLIN COUNTY CHRISTIAN BOYS SOCCER

Full team returns, full squad to play for Eagles

By **KENNY VARNER**

Sentinel correspondent

SHINDLE — Sporting a host of returning players and losing none from last year's squad, veteran coach Craig Todd and assistant coach Shane Harpster are excited about the prospects of this season's Mifflin County Christian Academy boys soccer team.

The team will field a full squad this season and will be facing off as an independent with no league affiliation.

"We play a lot of teams that are part of the league that other Christian schools are in," Harpster said. "This year and in the last four seasons we have been an independent. We play and try to get tournaments."

"The tournament that we won states three years was the KCEA, a statewide Christian league that was for small schools. Independent but we play as many teams as we possibly can."

Despite a rain shortened 2011 season, the Eagles finished with an impressive 7-3 record.

With a team of 15, the Eagles are looking for promising things from their group.

The Eagles are going to be led by two seniors; one junior and one sophomore will be coming back as well.

"One senior, Tom Breneman, and the other senior, Cameron Aumiller, and junior Jay God will be some of the returnees we will be looking for leadership," Harpster said. "Those three have been the ones that have been around for a while and have played a lot of soccer but some of the kids that are older are still kind of young in soccer mentality. So I would say those three will



Sentinel photos by MATT STRICKER

Members of the Mifflin County Christian Academy boys soccer team are, from left, front, Chris Koller, Jathan Gutshall, Caleb Purdy, Cody Wilson, Luke Todd and Justin Groff; back, coach Craig Todd, Colton Aumiller, Tommy Breneman, Cameron Aumiller, Jay God, Brad Smith, Brendon Groff, Caleb Brenamen and assistant coach Shane Harpster. Also on the team are Kyle Ort and Nathan Diven.

AT A GLANCE

**MIFFLIN COUNTY
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY
EAGLES**

Independent

Coach: Craig Todd, assisted by Shane Harpster
2011: 7-3

be whom we look to.

"We didn't lose anyone so we are looking for good things out of them."

Younger kids are aplenty when being looked at for playing strong roles on the field.

"We have several younger players who have played pretty decent," Harpster said. "Luke Todd, will be in eighth grade this year, and Caleb Breneman, who will

be in ninth, have grown up in our soccer program from the very, very beginning. So they played fifth and sixth grade games and now varsity games those two along with our goalie, Brad Smith, will be strong with another year under his belt."

Harpster said some of the tough teams the Eagles will come up against will be Calvary of Huntingdon, Blair County Christian and Northumberland Christian.

The goals are simple for

the Eagles team this season: Do well in tournament play.

"We have, hopefully, two tournaments depending how are team does," Harpster said. "We have the KCEA tournament again at the end of the season and Erie. We have a couple big tournaments this season the boys would love to go to. The reward would be if they did well this year."

Mifflin County Christian's boys season is already under way.



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