

## MIFFLIN COUNTY BOYS SOCCER

# Enthusiasm guides Huskies into new campaign

By **SARAH WHITESEL**

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LEWISTOWN — In terms of competition, the Mifflin County boys soccer team was put through the ringer in 2012.

With the team's rough debut into the Mid-Penn Conference — in which the Huskies only managed one win and suffered many lopsided losses — plenty of potential for discouragement arose. However, the tone this preseason is not one of discouragement, but of enthusiasm.

Coach Bob Lepley, who was an assistant in years past but is taking the helm for the first time this year, said that while the team's debut into the Commonwealth Division was a humbling experience, it also offers an opportunity to restructure the team's approach for a better fit into the division.

"Our goal this year is to change the culture of our team to be able to play in that league," Lepley said. "We want to be more competitive, we want to be more organized, we want to be disciplined."

In short, it's a restructuring year for Mifflin County boys soccer. And the changes are not only taking place across the field, but in the coaching department as well.

Lepley has brought on coaches Jody Carter and Christian Knouse, both of whom bring specific skill sets to the table, and he is very excited about what the new staff has to offer.

Carter, who has worked with the Mifflin County Soccer Club and who Lepley described as "a fan of world soccer," brings a broad understanding and knowledge



Sentinel photo by BRADLEY KREITZER

Members of the Mifflin County boys soccer team are, from left, front, Evan Hartsock, Jordan Fisher, Trevor Middaugh, Noah Fisher, Zachary Stauffer and Clay Morgan; second row, Nick Brought, Levi Sunderland, Hunter Wray, Ben Renninger, Kyle Bodtorf, Ian Shelly, Josh Pursel and Andrew Larson; third row, Braydon Harpster, Andrew Traxler, Bailey Harshbarger, Zach Bonson, Kevin Cahill, Weston Shugarts, Caleb Neff, Evan Zewe, Matt Hackenberry and Isaiah Harshbarger.

### AT A GLANCE

#### MIFFLIN COUNTY HUSKIES

District 6, Class AAA

Coach: Bob Lepley, assisted by Jody Carter and Christian Knouse  
2012: 1-17, 1-15 Mid-Penn Commonwealth Division

of soccer to the field as he focuses on working with the team's mid- and backfield. Knouse, a former coach at Lewistown, is also very knowledgeable about the

game and is working specifically with the goalkeepers.

"Coach Knouse has been working with developing (the goalies) for half an hour each practice," Lepley said. "There are tough battles every night, so it's very specific to each one of their needs."

Last year's goalie, Derek Heimbach, graduated, so Lepley and Knouse have been testing senior Trevor Middaugh and sophomore Noah Fisher as possible replacements. As of the preseason, Lepley is still neutral about which athlete will get the starting bid, but he's been

pleased with the work and effort he's seen from both.

Out of a graduating class of seven, Lepley mentioned defender Bret Pallotto and midfielder Ben Kauffman as other high impact players who will be missed; however, even though these defensive players will need to be replaced, Lepley said there is work to be done across the field.

"We need to increase as a team. We need to bring the offense together with the defense and with the keepers.

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