

GREENWOOD BOYS SOCCER

Wildcats look to construct another district title run

By **KENNY VARNER***Sentinel correspondent*

AT A GLANCE

GREENWOOD WILDCATS

District 3, Class A

Coach: Tom Magill, assisted by John Magill and Aaron Anstine

2012: 20-3, 12-2 Tri-Valley League

MILLERSTOWN — The question facing Greenwood's soccer program is whether this will be a year of rebuilding or reloading.

Coach Tom Magill said predicting which isn't the easiest task. For example, he felt last year's team was not as loaded as his 2011 squad — yet it went further in the playoffs, claiming District 3 gold for the first time in school history and advancing to the second round of the PIAA Class A playoffs to cap off a stellar 20-3 season.

The Wildcats defeated Biglerville 3-1 to claim the district crown before bowing out at the hands of eventual state champion Mountain View.

The team lost six starters from last year's district championship team, including two Tri-Valley League first-team all stars — Josh Ferguson, who scored 48 goals a season ago, and goalie Ryan Kerstetter. The squad also lost a trio of second-team TVL honorees to graduation in midfielder Alex Potter and backs Roy Miller and Scott Kerstetter.

In addition, Magill loses Garrett Fortenbaugh — a TVL second-team all-star from a year ago — as he will be studying in Spain as an exchange student this year. Fortenbaugh led the greater Harrisburg area with 28 assists in 2012.

Despite the losses, Magill is guardedly optimistic. He said he did not want to put too much stock in a preseason scrimmage, but the Wildcats overcame much larger Heartland Conference opponent Selinsgrove, something they had never

done before — and outshot them as well, which Magill said is a very positive sign of potential things to come.

The team has four returning starters from last year's squad including a pair of seniors with two years of starting experience under their belts — center/back Garrett Myers and midfielder Tyler Fegley.

Magill characterized Myers as a relentless defender with decent speed. Fegley is the team's leading returning scorer and tallest player on the squad. Magill stated Fegley will be the team's major force in the air as balls served in his direction will be moved in his direction.

Magill also has high expectations of junior midfielder and second-year starter Hunter Wirth, whom he said has an incredibly powerful left foot. Junior Hunter Miller — also a second-year starter — is an unrelenting defender and the quickest player on the team who will anchor the Wildcats' left side.

Magill noted his 'Cats are stocked with several seniors who have patiently waited their turn in line and are now hungry for action. He believes the experience of having to pay their dues has forged character and fostered leadership skills that should pay dividends this season. Backfielders Cody Cauff-



Sentinel photo by LAURIE HOUCK

Members of the Greenwood boys soccer team are, from left, front, Michael Gothel, Trent Hess, Abbey Korber, Jeremy Bower, Andrew Lyter, Dan O'Toole and Josh Kline; second row, Adrik Woodard, Kevin Sheaffer, Seth Ferguson, Noah Schaeffer, Hunter Wirth, Hunter Miller and Hunter Roth; third row, Cody Cauffman, Joseph Shugart, Corey Losch, Curtis Mather, Garrett Byers, Lucas Grimm and Tyler Fegley.

man and Curtis Mather are midfielders Lucas Grimm and Corey Losch are players Magill sees in that mold and expects they will deliver big things this season. He noted the number of lopsided games his team was involved in last season allowed these players to get valuable varsity experience which should pay dividends this year.

In addition to Fegley, a pair of sophomore forwards — Seth Ferguson and Kevin Sheaffer — will be called on to deliver the offense for the Wildcats. Ferguson finished his freshman season with a double-digit goal count and Sheaffer lettered a-year ago. Another returning letter-

winner junior Hunter Roth should play a significant role as well. Roth delivered a goal in the district championship game.

Between the pipes, Noah Schaeffer — a sophomore who comes to the Greenwood program through its co-op agreement with Newport — will take over for the departed Ryan Kerstetter. Schaeffer did get enough playing time last season to letter as a freshman.

The highly-skilled junior midfielder Abbey Korber should see significant playing time as well.

The Tri-Valley League looks to be highly competitive this year. Magill feels defending champion East

Juniata has to be the favorite until somebody knocks them off.

Other contenders include Juniata and Lancaster County Day, who each lost very little. Of note, Halifax has a new coach who played professionally with the Harris-

burg Heat, which could trigger a soccer renaissance at the Dauphin County school.

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