

MIFFLIN COUNTY CHRISTIAN GIRLS SOCCER

Full squad returns plus turnout grows for Eagles

By **KENNY VARNER**

Sentinel correspondent

AT A GLANCE

MIFFLIN COUNTY CHRISTIAN EAGLES

Coach: Craig Todd, assisted by Shane Harpster

SHINDLE — After fielding a team of seven last season, the popularity of the Mifflin County Christian girls soccer teams has jumped leaps and bounds, as the roster has doubled to 14 young players eager to get the season going in 2013.

“The team doubled its turnout from last year,” veteran coach Craig Todd said excitedly. “Boosted improvement in turnout to 14 girls from last season’s team.”

Nobody moved on from last year’s team so the team will have a mix of veteran players and newcomers that will come together and try to play in the Keystone Christian Education Association tournament at the end of their independent season.

The coach and assistant Shane Harpster are doing double duty this year since Shannon Murdoch, who coached a year ago, departed.

“We pretty much have everyone back from last year’s team plus a whole bunch more,” Todd said. “We have two senior girls we will be looking to for leadership.”

Taking the leadership roles

for the Eagles this season will be Julee Hoffman and Krista Groff as well as a lot of up and coming girls that will be coming up through to fill some good gaps.

Two big surprises came from some of the younger talent that Mifflin County Christian has.

“Tori Moon is coming back and she hit some clutch goals for us last year — and she is only in eighth grade and she has a lot of potential,” Todd said. “Joanna Hoffman started out in goal. She led a lot last year and I am expecting even more from her this year.

“We have some new girls that I am not sure about, just started practice so I am not sure what they are going to produce yet.”

Strengths the team will take to the field will come mostly on the defensive end.

“Our strongest part of the girls team is probably our defense although some of them play both sides so they push the ball up to the offense,” Todd said. “I think this year



Sentinel photo by MATT STRICKER

Members of the Mifflin County Christian Academy girls soccer team are, from left, front, Ashlyn Ort, Victoria Moon, Emma Todd, Jenna God, Audrey Weikel, Jade Hoffman, Joella Hoffman and Halle Brown; back, Emily Dunk, Jenna Dunk, Kiersten Dunk, Johanna Hoffman, Julee Hoffman, Alaina Brown and Krista Groff.

our goal is going to be just to work together and play with each other and read each other and know where the other one is going to go.”

Youth and inexperience may be the big weakness that the team will experience in the upcoming year.

“Just getting to know each other, having new girls that haven’t played with each other, they haven’t played with a full squad for a while so that’s going to be different,” Todd said.



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