

Eye on Sports

They're Back!

By Katie News
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Get your pom-poms ready because Penn State Delco has a new cheerleading squad.

The squad's coach is Cynthia Small, who has about 12 years of experience in cheerleading in both judging and coaching. Small is certified for both of these duties in the AACCA and NCA.

Small's daughter, who is 16 years of age, is a cheerleader and Small has been coaching her and other teams over the years. She also runs and is involved with various other programs, and holds board positions in the community.

Small has over 30 possible candidates for the 20 to 22 person squad. Not only does Small believe that 20 to 22 girls are enough, but those are all the uniforms she has available at the moment.

Not only will the squad be cheering for all the men's home games, but after basketball season has ended, the ladies will continue to cheer in competitions. The girls will be doing three community service projects that are "cheer related" through their season.

Small is uncertain as to whether or not she will be holding try-outs. Although, if she holds a try-out, it will take place the week of Sept. 19th.



The Delco leaders in cheer and pom poms.

Photo by Matt Kelly

Eye on Delco Volley Ball

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After going 8-8 last season, the women's volleyball coach, Brian Phipps, has high hopes for this coming season.

The Lady Lion's Volleyball team has strong senior leadership with returning seniors Stacie Mann (setter), Karen Craig (middle hitter), Cathy Basquill (outside hitter), Laura Burns (outside hitter), and Jackie DeSalvo (defensive specialist). DeSalvo is a super-senior returning from University Park for her third season, with thanks to the new four-year eligibility that is available for the sports teams.

Alongside the seniors are three freshmen: Mina Schaffert (outside hitter), Kerri Quinn (outside hitter, defensive specialist), and Allison Rankin (setter).

"I have three freshmen who have come in and made an immediate impact on our team," said Phipps.

Major contributions have also come from sophomores Leah Semmelhaack (setter) and Natalie

Camponile (outside hitter). Semmelhaack was the setter and captain of the men's club volleyball team last spring.

"Given the strength within our squad, I expect to be able to contend for the league title this season. The first major hurdle will be getting past [Penn-State] Mont-Alto, which is perennially one of the Final Four teams in the PSUAC," said Phipps.

Last season the team tied for the division lead with Mont-Alto, who won the tie-breaker leaving Delco as second seed in their division as they headed into playoffs.

"Assuming that we take care of business throughout the season, if we're able to get by Mont-Alto in our two matches against them in October (home on the 3rd, away on the 6th), that should put us in great position going into playoffs on October 17th or 18th," says Phipps.

The team's ultimate goal for the season is to be the leaders in their division. If the team is leading in their division for the season, they will have the opportunity to host playoffs. If they win playoffs, they will continue on as one of the Final Four teams in University Park on October 22nd.

Delco soccer team line-up promises a strong season

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"If we can remain healthy, we could be a force to be reckoned with in the PSU-AC athletic conference," said men's soccer coach Jim Gastner.

The men's team has experienced players returning from last season. Among them are tri-captains Critter Wrigley, Hesham Rahmi, and Kevin Reigner. Critter was an All-CAC player last year. Reigner will be joined on defense by returning sophomore, Delbert Hazeley, and Senior, Ryan Meade.

Alongside the returning players are three freshmen.

David Hartman was the co-Captain of the Upper Darby Central League champs and was selected for 1st team All-Delco honors. Denny Nicholson played for Marple Newton and was selected for 2nd team All-Delco soccer and 1st team All-Delco track. Ejaj Uddin played for University City High School and was a member of the All-

Public Division A team.

"We will shut down our opponent's offense through speed and immediate pressure on the ball," said coach Gastner.

The center of our mid-field will be anchored by returning stand outs Dan Aiken, Abdul Muktar, and Aziz Almandani. Our outside mids will be called upon to supply speed and a scoring punch for our offense. We are fortunate to have a bevy of quality players to fill this role. Sophomores Foday Sayon and Patrick Wilson will be working with freshman additions Matthew Jones, Eggert Binjaku and Chekwube Ofili. We will be using one striker this year to make the offense click. This position will be ably filled by returning sophomore William Boadi and freshman Ibrahim Turay."

Goalie duty will be shared between senior Hesham Rahmi and Sophomore Kwesi Cato.

"We will give every team in our league a reason to worry when they hear they have to play Delco," said Gastner.