

Mounts are young, but deep and enthusiastic

By SCOTT CRISPPELL
Sports Writer

After a two-year absence, there will be a familiar face on the sidelines at Dallas High School soccer matches this season.

John McCafferty, who spent 13 years as head coach after starting the program in 1981, returns to coach the Mountaineers in 1996.

"I needed a break after 13 years," said McCafferty, who took one year off and spent last season as the coach at Bishop O'Reilly. "I feel refreshed."

His new energy is matched by the youthful enthusiasm of his team, which includes just four seniors along with 10 juniors and 16 sophomores.

"The team is very young, but they are very excited," said McCafferty. "They work hard and really want to play the game. They are very quick learners."

With an 18-game schedule in the Wyoming Valley Conference Division I team depth is essential and McCafferty thinks the Mounts will be able to use it to their advantage.

"Our depth should be one of our team strengths," he explained.

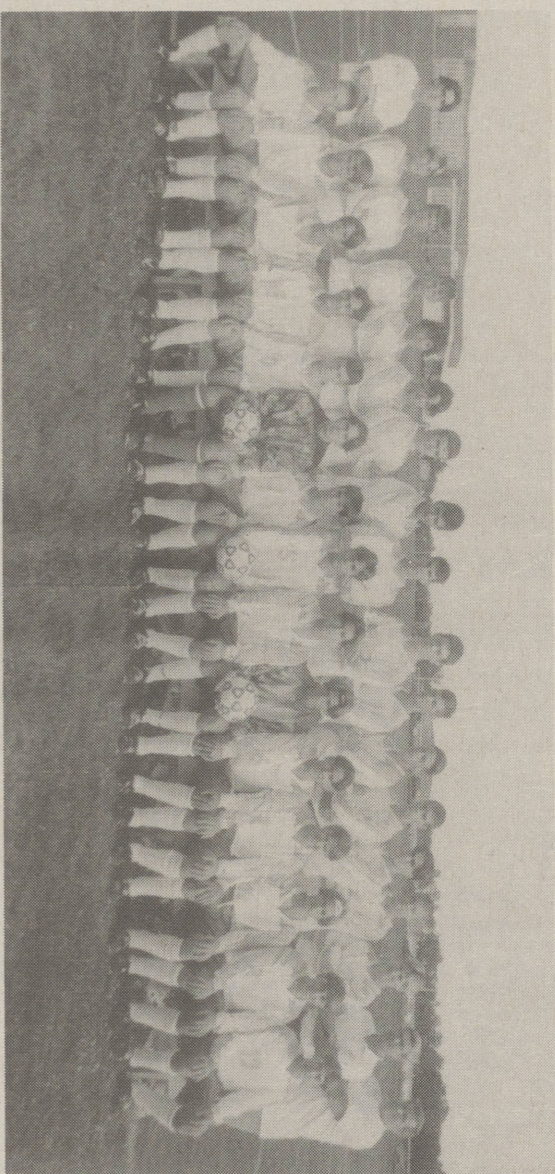
Dallas SOCCER

"With so many skilled players, we will be able to make constant changes without weakening the team. It is always important to have fresh legs in the fourth quarter."

A trio of experienced veterans will be relied to provide experience as the Mounts hope to improve last season's 5-11 record. Mitch Bailey will anchor the forward line while Justin Kerr anchors the midfield and Devon Michael leads the defense at fullback.

Junior John Fagan and sophomore Neil Dymond are battling for time at goalkeeper. "Both players have been impressive in the pre-season and are staging a good fight for time in goal," said McCafferty.

Several sophomores have been impressive in the early going as well. Josh Dukas and Rich Semanits will see action at forward while classmates Mike Cleary, Justin Hoover, Mike Michale and Duane Sprau and Matt Kertesz will



Dallas Soccer - First row from left: Matt Rice, Wesley Adams, John Zimmiski, Matt Kertesz, Mike Michale, John Fagan, Mike Cleary, Justin Kerr, Justin Hoover, Neil Dymond, Jon Kertesz, Devin Michael, Rich Samanias, Chris Natrass, Seth Lalunnesse. Second row: asst. coach Chris Chappie, Damian Temperine, Joe Murphy, Russell Eyer, Joe Dreier, Richard Douglas, Eric George, Carl Goerfinger, Sean Killeen, Frank Velde, Duane Sprau, Mitch Bailey, Kevin Pizzano, Jamie Rave, Josh Dukas, C.J. Tyrrell, head coach John McCafferty, asst. coach Reese Finn.

"We play 18 games and I expect to be competitive in each of them."

John McCafferty
Dallas soccer coach

play at midfield. Sean Killeen, John Zimmiski, Frank Velde, Eric George and Duane Sprau are expected to play

in the back. Another newcomer who will provide some punch to the offensive attack is junior Rich Douglas, whose family recently moved to the area from South Africa. Dallas will participate in the Middleburg Tournament over the Labor Day weekend before opening their Wyoming Valley Conference schedule September 4 against Lake-Lehman. The Middleburg Tournament will give us an opportunity to get some game experience before our league opener," said McCafferty, whose team will play three games in one day in the tournament. "It will also be a good test of our depth."

As goals for his team, McCafferty is very simplistic. "We play 18 games and I expect to be competitive in each of them," he explained. "This team is very capable of doing that."

Knights looking for someone who can score consistently

By SCOTT CRISPPELL
Sports Writer

With back-to-back district championships under their belts, the Lake-Lehman boys soccer team faces the challenge of a threepeat in 1996.

Although his team returns just six lettersman from a year ago, fourth-year head coach Mark Stroney isn't ready to surrender the title of district champions just yet.

"We have a lot of new faces, but I don't think we're in a rebuilding situation," said Stroney. "We're just not experienced yet. We've gotten used to winning and having high expectations."

Eric Rittenhouse, Dan Dulebohn and Mark Steele, a trio of juniors, will provide leadership to a team which returns just six goals and seven assists from last season.

Rittenhouse and Dulebohn will play forward and midfield while Steele will play on defense. "These three players will play key roles for us, especially in the early going," said Stroney. "They have plenty of experience and will be looked at as leaders."

Sophomores Russ Werrlich and Andrew Verdekai will also play forward along with Brazilian foreign exchange student Fabio Marques, a senior who can also

Lake-Lehman SOCCER

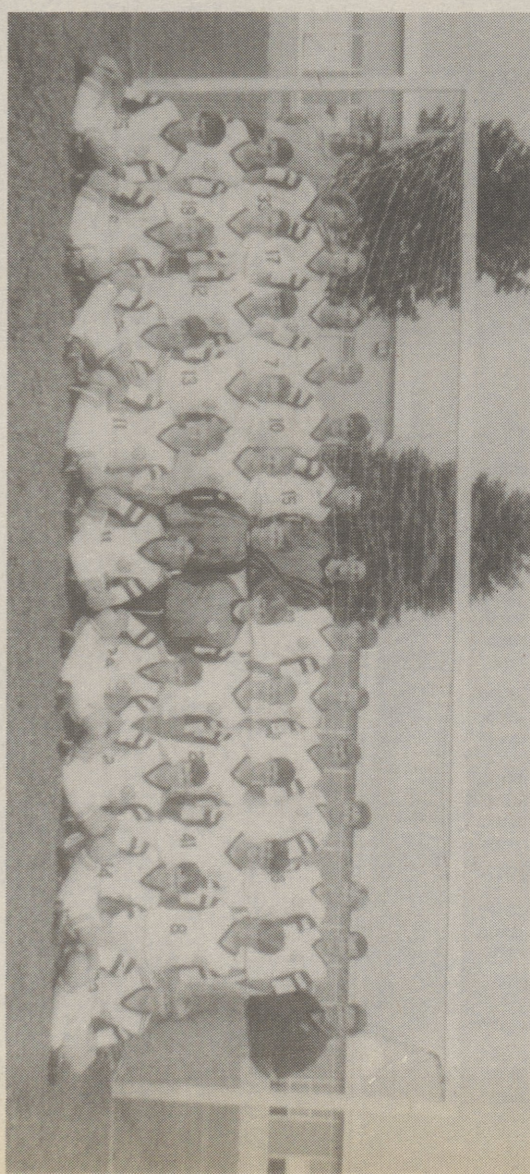
play midfield. "Our biggest question mark is at forward, not because of lack of talent, but because of lack of experience. We don't have a proven varsity goal scorer," said Stroney. "If we can get some consistent production on offense, we can be a competitive team."

Goalkeeping is a team strength where junior Nahman Parkratz will likely start, but is being challenged by freshman Russ Mosier. "Both players have looked very good and provide us with a strong duo in goal," said Stroney. "Our keepers may be the strongest area on this team."

The midfield will be anchored by senior Brad Diefenbacher, the state silver medalist in the high jump, and sophomore Mike Kostrobala, a smart defender who can also help on the offensive end.

"With his height and leaping ability, Diefenbacher is an excellent player out of the air," said Stroney. "He is a threat on restarts and corner kicks."

In order to continue their winning tradition, the Knights must rely on their strengths at goalkeeper and team depth. "We are strong in goal which



Lake-Lehman Soccer - From left, first row: Andy Verdekai, Chris Crawford, Tom Brislin, Matt McMahon, Nate Walters, Jason Peris, Rob Roderick, Sean Manzoni, Andy Weaver. Second row: Mike Kostrobala, Jeff Welby, Joe Maskalis, Ryan McDade, Brian Noler, Russ Mosier, Chris Rogers, Tony Van Scoy, Russ Werrlich, Ken Weaver, Dusty Rhodes. Third row: Mark Stroney, coach, Martin Noon, David Fine, Shaun Norcock, Eric Rittenhouse, Fabio Marques, Mark Steele, Nate Parkratz, Brad Diefenbacher, Dan Dulebohn, Justin Kreiler, E.J. Isthley, Drew Salko, Jeff Kernag, coach Jim Welby.

"We have a lot of new faces, but I don't think we're in a rebuilding situation."

Mark Stroney
Lake-Lehman coach

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6	Crestwood	A
10	Meyers	A
12	WVW	A
16	Wyoming Sem.	A
18	Abington Heights	A
20	Hazleton	A
24	Bishop Hoban	A
26	Coughlin	A
Oct. 1	Lake-Lehman	A
3	Crestwood	A
5	Meyers	A
8	WVW	A
11	Wyoming Sem.	A
14	Abington Heights	A
16	Hazleton	A
18	Bishop Hoban	A
21	Coughlin	A

Head Coach: John McCafferty, Game Time: 4:15

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6	Abington	Away
10	Hazleton	Home
12	Bishop Hoban	Away
16	Coughlin	Home
18	Wyoming Seminary	Home
20	Crestwood	Home
24	Meyers	Away
26	Wyoming Valley West	Home
Oct. 1	Dallas	Away
3	Abington	Home
5	Hazleton	Away
8	Bishop Hoban	Home
10	Coughlin	Away
14	Wyoming Seminary	Home
16	Crestwood	Home
18	Meyers	Away
21	Wyoming Valley West	Home

Coach: Mark Stroney

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* Source: Figures from The College Board Annual Survey of College Data Base, 1994.



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