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Mounts have experience to improve on last year's finish

By CHRIS BELL

"We were young last year and took some lumps, said Dallas head coach John McCafferty. "We lost several close games because of our own mistakes. We won't make the same mistakes this year." 11 who were at least part-time starters, the Dallas High School soccer team ex-pects to improve on last year's 7-10 record. With 21 players returning, including

defens ers. Senior John Fagan is back in goal while Richard Douglas, Eric George, Duane Sprau and Sean Killeen all return in the The Mountaineers will rely on a tough se which features five returning start



Dallas soccer coaches, John McCafferty left, Chris Chapple.

"Fagan has really improved over last season," said McCafferty. "He's elimi-

nated some of his mistakes." Douglas will make the transition from smart player who really knows the game midfield to sweeper. "He is very important to our success," said McCafferty. "He's a

Chris Nattress and sophomore Mike Keating are expected to see time at midfield as well. "We've got several players who are capable of playing at midfield," said McCafferty. "Cleary and the Kerteszes Four more returning starters, includ-ing Matt and Jon Kertesz, Mike Cleary and Mike McHale are all back at midfield. can also play up front which will help us to keep players fresh."

addition to our team," McCafferty said. With so much experience, McCafferty expects Dallas to be near the top of the iams, turning starters and Williams is a nice Lehman Samanas, Starting at forward will be unanas, Justin Hoover and Jess a sophomore transfer from Lake-an. "Samanas and Hoover are re-Rich Will-

standings in the Wyoming Valley Confer-ence Division I. "Our goal is to win," he explained. "We missed the playoffs last year and we didn't like it. We want to get Dallas back where it belongs."

Besides experience, McCafferty says the team's attitude is one of its greatest



Keating, Kevin Callahan, Josh Katyl. Second row; head coach John McCafferty, Vito Recchia, Lewis Spurlin, Jonathan Schneider, Rich Samanas, Mike Cleary, Justin Hoover, Mike McHale, Jessie Williams, Chris Nattress, Russ Eyet, Jon Kertesz, Matt Rice, ass't coach Chris Chapple. Third row; Frank Velde, Jay Carroll, Dave Finn, Duane Sprau, Eric George, Sean Killeen, Jamie Raub, Joe Murphy, Matt Kertesz, Seth LaJuenesse, Dave Spurlin. **DALLAS SOCCER** - From left, first row; Adam Clay, Brook Kryston, Keith Sprau, Colin McHale, John Fagan, Richard Douglas, captain, Nathan Hoffman, Wes Adams, Mike

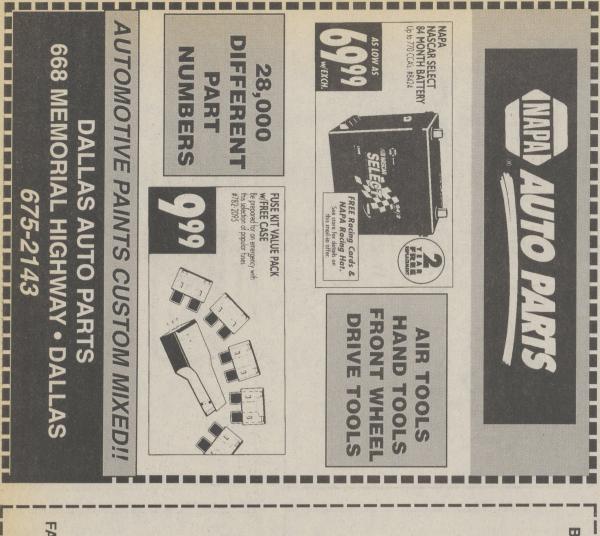


strengths. "I tic," he said. during the summer and they are playing as a team." practices. "The kids are very enthusias-uid. "We haven't had any bad The kids went to a team camp

The Mounts hope to utilize their speed to their advantage. "We are very fast and we will try to keep things flowing," said McCafferty. "We work very hard in prac-tice and we're in very good shape."

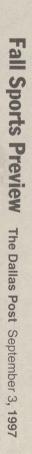
getting opportunities, but we're not fin-ishing them." against Lake-Lehman, September 3. According to McCafferty, one area the The Mounts opened the season with three games at the Middleburg Tourna-ment and will begin the WVC season team needs to improve is scoring. need to score more," he said. The Mounts "We do "We're

playoff bound. "We barely missed the playoffs last year and our primary goal is to get there this year," said McCafferty. "Once you get to the playoffs, it is a tournament and anything can happen." If they do that, the Mounts could be ayoff bound. "We barely missed the





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97 district championship nights have good shot at

Sports Correspondent By CHRIS BELL

team has reason to be optimistic about the 1997 season. After all, the Black Knights have 15 returning lettermen, in-cluding nine starters from last year's play-off team. The Lake-Lehman High School soccer

"We've got a lot of starters and lettermen back and we've got plenty of other players confident in their abilities and have looked can play as well," said Lehman head chark Stroney. "The players are good in the early going

who

very

Pankratz. "Both played varsity for us last year," said Stroney. "Mosier has gained valuable experience as member of the Lehman has two veterans in goal with sophomore Russ Mosier and senior Nathan



LL soccer coaches, Gary Norconk, left, Mark Stroney, center, Will Woronko.

United States Soccer Federation All-Re-gion team. He is getting some top-notch coaching with that organization." On defense, sophomore Brian Noler

and freshman Steve Moyer will start at Perlis will switch from midfield to back will return at sweeper along with junior Mike Kostrobala at back. Senior Jason

Three starters return at midfield, in-Steele will move up from sweeper. will be joined by Shaun Norconk. and Dan Dulebohn. Rittenhouse was the team's leading scorer a year ago while They

Walters are returning starters at forward. "We've got good offensive balance," said Stroney. "Scoring goals shouldn't be a problem this year." Juniors Andrew Verdekal and Nathan

Other returning lettermen who will play key roles include Russ Wenrich (forward), Tony VanScoy (forward/midfield), and Kenny Weaver (back/midfield). Fresh-man B.J. Lewis should also see time at

and our kids are able to adjust to different roles," he said. "The kids are very coachable and are working very hard. We held double sessions for two weeks in preparateam so far Overall, Stroney is impressed with his am so far. "Our skill level is very high



Lake-Lehman Soccer - From left, first row; Matt McMahon, David Fine, Rob Rodeakk, T.J. Dougherty, Chip Harrison, Giles Moore, J.B. Bucha, Andy Weaver, Josh Gregg. Second row; B.J. Lewis, Kenny Weaver, Mike Kostrobala, Nathan Walters, Andrew Verdekal, Chris Crawford, Ryan McDade, Tom Brislin, Shaun Manzoni, Steve Moyer. Third row; Jason Perlis, Shawn Norconk, Eric Rittenhouse, Justin Kreller, Dan Dulebohn, Mark Steele, Nathan Pankratz, Russ Mosier, Drew Salko, Tony VanScoy, Brian Noler, Russ Mosier, Dusty Rhodes, Jeff Welby

Lake-Lehman SOCCER

tion for the regular season. The Knights participated in the Lock Haven Tournament August 30 against Red Bank Valley, Westmont-Hilltop and Athens and will begin Wyoming Valley Conference Division I action against Dal-"We've looked

Stroney. "We're not as big physically as looked very smooth," said

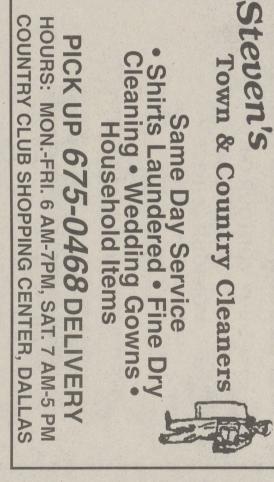
some of the Lehman teams in the past, but we've got good speed and good balance. We're shooting for a district title. We would like to win the league, but the district title is our main goal."

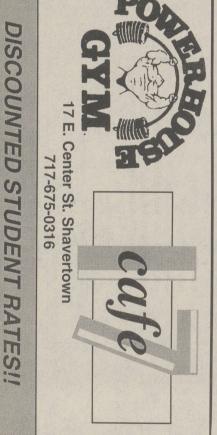
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Mark Stroney

Lake-Lehman coach





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