

Boys' soccer still strong

On verge of clinching 11th league title

By: Nick Groman

After a great 18 win, one tie, one loss season, the New Richmond Lions boys' soccer team is looking to clinch its 11th straight league title. The Lions, despite losing eight seniors, come in this year feeling that they are still a top contender in SBAC.

"Last year we had a very deep team," said senior Zach Branam, "And even though we are somewhat deep this year, we have more individual players than we do team players. It seems that we rely on a few select players to carry the whole load of the team."

One of the captains for the Lions this year is senior Matt Kilgore, who is a returning varsity starter from last year's team. Kilgore said he believes that this year's team will continue to dominate the league.

"We have a great group of seniors this year as well as some talented juniors that are stepping up this year. And compared to our league so far, we seem to dominate."

The Lions this year are coached by Doug

Flamm. Flamm, who was the New Richmond girls' varsity coach three years ago, has returned to New Richmond soccer with a winning attitude.

"Coach Flamm, from a coaching perspective, is a great coach," said Branam, "He is more involved in practice and expects a lot from his players."

"Flamm is a really good coach," said Kilgore, "He has helped all of us expand our skills as soccer players, as well as helping us expand as people off the field."

One of the team's main goals for this year is to go deep into the end of the season tournament. The Lions have been knocked out of the tournament for the past two years in a row and feel like it is their time to shine.

"We are going to have to work extremely hard in practice in order to achieve our goals in the tournament this year. I hate it when we slack off and lose early in the tourney. It's kind of a let down," said Branam.



Goal! Seniors Matt Kilgore and Jake Ottlinger, along with Coach Doug Flamm try to fire up the team during player introductions

Senior Nick "Sid Fresh" Paynter also wants to get past the second round.

"I'm tired of losing in the second round, all these years of winning league and dominating

eastern Cincinnati, it just seems like we can't take the next step. But with some fan support, I feel like we can go far."

Start slamming!

Volleyball looks to win big

By: Brandi Dickerson

It's a lot of sliding burning jumping slamming bending reaching moving stretching... a lot of girls in jerseys spandex gym-shoes knee-pads hair-ties pre-wrap leg-socks... it's excruciating pain and a whole lot of hard work. It's volleyball.

The New Richmond High School volleyball team has had a spectacular start to the season, with victories over Deer Park, and one of its most competitive rivals, CNE. But that's what the team said they expected: to dominate.

All returning team members agreed in saying the volleyball team has improved since the last couple of seasons. Senior Staci Curfman said the attitude of the team last year affected the way they played. "It is so much easier for us to stay positive when everyone gets along. And when we act like a team, we play like one."

Junior Amberly Newberry agreed with Curfman in saying there was a lot more "teamwork and communication" on the team this year.

Carla Corbin, who's been the volleyball coach at New Richmond for five years, said she sees

major improvement, also. "The girls are getting to volleyballs that we were not able to before, we are no longer watching them hit the floor," she said.

"It's such an easy sport." Volleyball has earned a fake reputation in the macho-department. So it's not a helmet-head sport where the players get tackled, and the chances of player breaking her spine in a game are extremely slim, but it certainly can't be credited as "easy." Endurance, speed, fast reaction times, and concentration are all key components in volleyball, so it's understandable when the players get defensive when their sport is made into a joke.

"I wonder if these people have ever even stepped on court before," said junior Robyn Corbin. "How would they like to dive on the floor while having standard sized volleyballs slammed at their heads? It's not fun."

Each player has had her fair share of floor burns, spikes to the face, and digging bruises. Curfman said she experiences multiple in the

same week. But it's all in respect for the game... the high school game. "I take volleyball seriously, but I don't see myself playing in college," Curfman said. "I thought about playing sand volleyball in the summer, but that's about as far as I'd go."

Other girls, like sophomore Kate Schumacher, want to take it a bit further. "I hope to get a college scholarship in volleyball," she said. But for the most part, the players will mainly continue for the sake of some fun in the sun... and the sand.

The team has set a range



Spike! Back Row: Ashley Newberry, Jordan Yeardley, Staci Curfman, Jena Tisdale, Coach Carla Corbin. Front Row: Katie Schumacher, Myla Gordo, Brandy Strunk, Amberly Newberry, Robyn Corbin. Photo/R. Glutz

of goals for themselves this year, from simple things such as calling the ball and keeping their spirits up, to making varsity next year.

Schumacher said she feels it necessary to "help each other develop as players."

All team members have areas of improvement. But freshman Sarah Abellanida said the most important thing to keep in mind is "to try the best [they] can."

And with skills like these girls have, is trying that important of an asset? Oh yes. "We have a challenge," said freshman Tyler Gaud, who said she expects opposing teams to be better.

"Everyone is capable of beating everyone else," said coach Corbin. "It just depends on who is having the better game at the time."

And according to Robyn Corbin, the competing high school volleyball teams are a bit, well, conceited. "I expect them to come to play us with an attitude like they already won," she said. "But hopefully this year they will be sadly mistaken; we won't go down without a fight, and we will always strive to win." Spoken like a true volleyball player.

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