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Hornets

EMMAUS HIGH SCHOOL

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2024

FALL SPORTS & ACTIVITIES



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Emmaus football team graduated some dominant linemen after last season, but returns a bevy of talented skill-position players.

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EHS must replenish line

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the press

The Emmaus High School football team had a subpar season in 2023, compared to its normal standards.

The Green Hornets finished 6-6 overall, winning a District 11 quarterfinal game over Freedom before falling to rival Parkland in the semifinals.

Head coach Harold Fairlough and his pro-

gram know they can do better and want more in 2024.

“We’re excited to be back,” said Fairlough, entering his ninth season at the helm. “It has been a long offseason. We got started on Jan. 2 and the kids have done a good job preparing for the season. The energy level is good.”

A lot of the talent and experience last season was featured along the

offensive and defensive lines. But graduation has hit those positions and the Hornets will be relying on some younger players there. But, they will feature more talent in the skill positions.

“We’re younger with some sophomores and juniors and just one senior up front,” Fairclough said. “We’ve got some talented skill-position guys in Rafael

Terrero, Danny Dugan, Ben Jones, Jah’Khi Daves. Reilly Bechtel, who scored two touchdowns last season, will be part of the backfield along with junior quarterback Jerek Cooper, who played well in two district starts last fall.”

Lineman Robert Edwards was another name that Fairclough mentioned to look out

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FOOTBALL

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for. Emmaus is looking to win the close games and improve on its seeding in districts to finally get over the top.

“Our goals haven’t changed,” said Fairclough. “It’s to be competitive week in and week out. We want to give ourselves an opportunity to win EPC and District 11 championships. We have got a lot of potential here.

“It’s a young group, but I like their work ethic and their chemistry. We’ve just got to keep our head down and keep grinding.”

Emmaus opens its 2024 regular season slate at Neshaminy on Friday, Aug. 23, in a non-conference game.

There was a bit of a change in the schedule as the Hornets will play both Allen and Dieruff and take on Reading in another nonconference matchup.

The first Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and home game is set for Friday, August 30, against Bethlehem Catholic.

“We’re looking forward to the opener at Neshaminy, which is historically a good program and will be good competition for us,” Fairclough said. “It will be good to get on a bus and have a road trip to a different place, different atmosphere, different environment.

“It’s important to see some new things and new people. I like the flexibility of the new schedule.”



Seniors Benjamin Jones (19) and Reilly Bechtel are part of a strong group of returning skill players on this year’s Emmaus football team.

PRESS PHOTO BY
MARK LINEBERGER



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PRESS PHOTO BY MIKE HAINES

The defending state champion Emmaus field hockey team graduated 10 seniors that accounted for 115 of the team's 168 goals last season.

EHS field hockey returns two seniors

BY MIKE HAINES
mhaines@tnonline.com

The Emmaus field hockey team has graduated large and successful senior classes in the past.

The Hornets send Division I recruits off to college programs every season.

But the 2024 class of EHS field hockey graduates will be as hard to replace as any the program has replaced be-

fore.

The team graduated its leader and one of the best goal keepers in program history in Emma Cari, along with nine field players who accounted for 115 of the team's 168 goals last season.

"Our starting group might be a revolving door here until we get things settled," said Butz-Stavin.

The Hornets return

six starters and have a few returning players that will help bring along the newcomers to the line up.

Leading the list of returnees are the team's only seniors Autum Kernechel and Emmy Horner.

Kernechel, a midfielder in her fourth year on the varsity roster, was second on the team with 24 assists last season.

"I think we can re-

place [the graduates]," said Kernechel. "A lot of the young girls are stepping up. We had a deep, strong bench last year. Those girls that were on the bench last year are on the field this year. I think they're doing a really good job filling positions. Going so far into the postseason and playing more competitive teams definitely helps the younger girls."

Horner, a forward,

was second on the team with 58 points last season, behind only team leader and University of North Carolina recruit Melea Weber (65 goals, 26 assists).

Horner, who is in her third year on the varsity roster, scored 20 goals and assisted on 18 in 2023.

The two seniors now find themselves in roles they once observed from a different perspective

as they're now the team leaders.

"I always looked up to Ava Zerfass, Abby Burnett and Rachel Herbine," said Horner. "They were really big role models for me. Even in the class ahead of me, Emma Cari and Melea Weber were always big to look up to. I hope [this year's younger players] look at us the same way."

See **HOCKEY** on Page 8



PRESS PHOTO BY MARK LINEBERGER

The Emmaus girls soccer team must replace seven graduates from last year's team.

Young girls soccer team expects success

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the Press

The Emmaus High School girls soccer team was just one goal shy of winning the District 11 4A title last season and qualifying for the PIAA state tournament.

This season, the Green Hornets will be trying to get over the top and win gold with a brand-new head coach as Chris Hain takes over

the helm for his first season.

Last season Emmaus finished 16-6-1 overall and 12-3-1 in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. The Hornets graduated a talented group of seniors following the season, including Mya Cooper, Ryleigh McNellis, Julia Adams, Mackenzie Huffer, Vivi Pinocci-Wrightsmen, Ananya Roy and Ashley Geder.

This season, Hain welcomes back top returnees in Kam McWhinney, Sophia Isaksson, Sophia Shutkufskiu, Ashley Stine, Lizzy Bender, Ella Daly and Gabriella Powell. Some key newcomers expected to contribute include Ella Sharper, Cecelia Lower, Olivia Haberl, Stella Pietrulewicz and Blair Stephens.

"We have very smart,

talented players, most of which play at a high level for their respective clubs which will help us create a style of soccer that we want to play," said Hain. "We have good leaders that will help us create a standard which builds good culture. Like probably every team, we would like to be able to finish (score goals). In the five years I've been here we

have always had good play makers that give us good chances to finish. We just have to be able to execute in those important moments."

Emmaus kicks off the new campaign on Saturday in nonconference play with a home game against Wilson. Hain is excited to be leading the program and the goals they have achievable ahead of them.

"I believe, even though we will be young we have players to be a great team this season," Hain said. "If we play the way we can, and everyone buys in we have the ability to be very successful this season. I believe in the group we have and I'm happy to be a part of this team along with the rest of the coaching staff."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

While the Hornets will have some new varsity players in their backfield this season, the team plans to continue its tradition of strong defense.

Boys soccer looks to defend D-11 title

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the Press

The 2024 season gives the Emmaus High School boys soccer team another opportunity to defend its District 11 4A championship.

After winning three straight from 2019-2021, rival Parkland won gold in 2022 to stop the streak. But the Green Hornets climbed back on top of the district last season, and are looking to start another run of district titles.

Head coach John Cari, entering his 20th season, is looking for-

ward to another season with his program and excited to see his team's quest for another district gold with the target on their backs.

"Our goal will remain the same, to compete at the highest level and be named district champions," Cari said. "The guys have been working hard all offseason to be able to defend the title. They want to be able to do that and I have all the faith in them accomplishing that goal."

Last season, Emmaus finished with a 19-3-1 overall record and went

"Although it is a relatively new-looking back line, we will continue to pride ourselves in our defensive play. On the attacking side, we bring back many players with plenty of quality varsity experience"

Hornet head coach
JOHN CARI

undefeated in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference at 16-0-1, earning the top seed in the conference tournament.

The Hornets lost to the eighth seed, Whitehall, in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinal round.

But they bounced back in districts and won all three games, including taking down the Trojans in the semifinals before beating the fourth seed, Freedom, in the finals.

Emmaus' season ended with a loss to Council

Rock North in the first round of the state playoffs.

Some of the top returning players this year, according to Cari, include senior All-EPC First Team defender Brayden Dang, senior All-EPC Honorable Mention midfielder Callum Harvey, junior midfielder Canyon Reinhardt, senior midfielder Mohamed Hassanali, senior forward Kai Mattern and junior midfielder Conner Powell.

Top newcomers include sophomore defender Ben Grossi, junior

defender Rio Johnson, senior defender Bryson Moyer and junior midfielder Robbie Tumblin.

The strength of the team lies mainly in the offensive front.

"Although it is a relatively new-looking back line, we will continue to pride ourselves in our defensive play," said Cari. "On the attacking side, we bring back many players with plenty of quality varsity experience."

Emmaus begins the 2024 season on Tuesday, August 27, at home against Whitehall.



PRESS PHOTO BY MIKE HAINES

The Emmaus girls volleyball team graduated a large class of seniors last season and has just one senior on this year's roster.

Hornets look to return to postseason in '24

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the Press

Entering the 2024 regular season, the Emmaus High School girls volleyball team will look dramatically different from last year.

The Green Hornets graduated a strong senior group that helped the team to an 11-9 overall record and 10-6 mark in Eastern Pennsylv-

ania Conference competition last season.

Emmaus qualified for both the District 11 and East Penn Conference playoffs last season, but did not win a postseason match and looks to return to both tournaments later this fall.

Enter a new head coach and entirely new coaching staff, led by first-year head coach

Jessica Olang. Olang knows she has some challenges ahead of her with a somewhat inexperienced roster, but she is ready to take them on.

"We have a ton of talent among our junior class," said Olang. "While we are excited about the strength of our starters, we are equally enthused about our depth of talent. We

only have one returning senior, Lauren Horvath, who has the opportunity to continue to fill the libero role. Our coaching staff is focused on honing what is already a skilled team. We are looking to hone technique and strategy to take this team to the next level."

Outside of the lone senior in Horvath, the

junior class that Olang complimented include Cirrae Cuffy, Sophia Freemont, Kylie Hefner, Alyssa Heffner, Maleya Hinds, Amanda Rivera, Haley Seidel, Corrine Slivka, Sierra Stevens and Claudia Walls. It is a large class and one that should make their foot print this season.

Emmaus had two

scrimmages during the preseason before it opens the regular season with a home match in conference play against Whitehall on Tuesday.

"We do not simply have goals for this season, we have a belief in what this team is capable of," Olang said. "We are going to strive every day to make that belief a reality."

HOCKEY

Continued from page 4

"They're always watching you," Kernechel said of leading the younger players. "You just want to show them how we react to pressure. We've been in the program and we know the coaches' expectations. How they present themselves on the field and how they react to the coaches, I definitely learned a lot from [older players]."

With six starters graduating last season, over half the line up will be new to the starting lineup season.

Less than two weeks into preseason practice, junior Aiko Price was penciled in as the team's starting goal keeper, with sophomores Emily Romano and Anastasia Christman also competing for the job.

Anchoring the back line this season will be center back/sweeper Morgann Orobono, a junior in her third year as a starter.

Junior Jordyn Poll will also play in the backfield, with other defensive positions still up in the air as juniors Addison Povilaitis and Avery Burnett and sophomore Gracie Huffer are among the candidates to help fill the back line.

Povilaitis scored the team's only goal in last year's state title game, a 1-0 win over Manheim Township. The only goal of her

sophomore season was the last one the team needed.

Kernechel returns to the mid-field where Povilaitis and junior Sharlise Solano are both in the mix to earn a spot alongside the senior.

Horner will earn a full-time role on the front line, where she will likely be joined by Huffer, who is recovering from a knee injury and could spend some time on the back line until she's back to full speed.

It could take a few weeks for the line up to be solidified.

"It's all going to be on performance level," said Butz-Stavin. "There's a lot of kids vying."

The Hornets won't get any sympathy from opponents. Coming off their 15th state title in program history, Emmaus is seeking its 36th consecutive district title.

"We'll have growing pains, but I hope we grow from those pains instead of them becoming more painful," said Butz-Stavin, who heads into her 48th season as the team's head coach.

The rest of this year's EHS field hockey roster includes juniors Kaitlyn Carter, Sarah Palazzo and Adelyn Truckenmiller; sophomores Maddie Lenig, Megan Martino, Sadie Newarynski, Kate Rainford, Elena Rosati, Avery Rudoi and Elsey Truckenmiller; and freshmen Avery Aquino, Marissa Gigliotti, Ella Horner, Lovey Pilarski, Rylie Povilaitis and Peyton Webb.



PRESS PHOTO BY MARK LINENBERGER

Emmy Horner scored 20 goals and assisted on 18 in 2023. She's one of two seniors on this year's Emmaus field hockey team.



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PRESS PHOTO BY MIKE HAINES

The Emmaus golf team narrowly missed a District 11 team playoff spot last year. The Hornets plan to qualify for that event this season.

Golfers look to make D-11 tourney

BY MIKE HAINES
mhaines@tnonline.com

The East Penn Conference and District 11 Class 3A golf hierarchy has changed over the last 10 years.

For a few decades Emmaus and Parkland were the dominant teams, trading places at

the top every year or every few.

Neither of those teams have won a title since Emmaus earned back-to-back district titles in 2018 and '19 as Liberty, Northampton and Nazareth have been the top teams lately in the league.

Southern Lehigh, out of the Colonial League, won last year's district title.

This year Nazareth and Northampton look like the teams to beat again. The Blue Eagles started 7-0, including a win over Northampton. The Konkrete Kids ha-

ven't lost to any other team and own wins over Parkland and Emmaus, the top contenders in the EPC.

The Hornets missed out on a berth into team districts last year because Blue Mountain came out of the Schuylkill League with

a higher rating in the district rankings.

This season the Hornets are playing a regular season match against Blue Mountain in hopes it will put them ahead of the Eagles in the district rankings.

The goal is to finish in the top four and earn a

spot in the district team tournament.

"If we have the two losses to [Nazareth and Northampton] and take care of business at Blue Mountain," said Emmaus head coach Patrick Birns, "We have a shot at qualifying and See **GOLF** on Page 14



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The Emmaus cheer team will perform at football games and other events and competitions during the 2024-25 school year.

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PRESS PHOTO BY MIKE HAINES

The Emmaus girls cross country team has won 49 straight dual meets and five consecutive districts. This year's team has the potential to extend both streaks for another season.

Girls XC returns top two runners

BY JEFF MOELLER

Special to the Press

The beat goes on for the Emmaus girls cross country team.

The Green Hornets will enter the 2024 season as the five-time defending East Penn Conference and District 11 champions, which is the longest run in the program's annals.

This season, there doesn't appear to be many obstacles in the way for the Hornets to claim their sixth crown.

Yet, head coach Kami Reinhard knows the bar will be raised even higher this year.

Emmaus posted a 16-0 clean slate last year, and has an ongoing 49-0 streak.

"There are several girls teams who we expect to be extremely strong this year," said Reinhard, who will enter her fourth year as head coach. "So there lies a challenge ahead to perform at an even higher level than last year to defend those titles. The

girls team lost a large group of girls in the senior class of 2024, so we are looking to replace four of our top eight from last year."

Junior Maddie McCartney won the EPC and district individual title last year, and she will again set the pace.

McCartney finished the district meet in a time of 19:13.57, nearly a half minute ahead of the second-place finisher. She went on to medal at states and finish 25th in a time of 19:19, which

was 1:26 faster than she did the previous year. Overall, the team finished 14th at states.

Senior Payton Campbell, who finished fourth districts last year, also is back in the fold along with Addison Johnson (17th at districts), and Isabella Scarlata (26th at districts) to form a solid core that should again make its share of noise this fall.

Also returning are Grace Nosal, Julia Murphy-Peterson, Isabella Alwine-Balliro, Olivia

Fleck and Ava Palamara.

The Hornets did lose graduates Sophia Kovalski, Brooke Miller, Addison Shank and Addison Kleinle, who were all part of their top seven last season.

Among the top newcomers to the program are Samantha Reidnauer and Kendall Shriver.

Reinhard, who will begin her 10th year overall after serving six years as an assistant, sees McCartney and Campbell setting the

pace.

"Maddie and Payton are awesome working together, supporting each other and pushing each other," said Reinhard. "The team is looking good right now, but there are too many question marks for me to commit how they will perform against other teams."

"If we can stay healthy, things will align."



PRESS PHOTO BY MIKE HAINES

A young Emmaus boys cross country team went 14-2 last season.

Boys harriers are more experienced in 2024

BY JEFF MOELLER
Special to the press

With the Emmaus girls team capturing five consecutive East Penn Conference and District 11 titles, the Green Hornet boys cross country team appears ready to take the next step in its quest for a title.

Emmaus posted an overall 14-2 record and appear ready to meet high expectations. In the past three years, the Hornets have posted a 43-6 record in meets.

A young team last year, Emmaus endured

its share of growing pains only to mature as a unit at the end of the season.

"The boys team has had two large and strong incoming freshmen classes the past two years," said Green Hornet head coach Kami Reinhard. "They are extremely dedicated to the sport of cross country. The coaches find it refreshing to see so much energy on the boys' team."

Connor Miller and Tyler Finck both graduated, and the duo was

among the team's top five runners.

But Reinhard will look to a full supporting cast to fill out the top roles.

Senior Conor Fisher, junior Ryan Fach, senior Jared Petre, and senior Richard Will all are back and finished among the top 30 runners at districts. Fisher was 12th; Fach was 15th; Petre was 16th; and Will was 26th.

As a team, the Hornets were fourth at districts last year, and the previous year they were

third. They are working toward a team milestone, placing in the top two at districts to earn a trip to states for the entire team.

"We continue to strive to be the top two teams in the district, which hasn't happened since 2001," said Reinhard. "We were close two years ago and now these boys are seniors."

Other contributors this fall will be sophomores Matthew Sirignano, Calvin Schucker, Max Miller, and Brady McKechnie. Freshman

David Hearn, Kyle Gamler, Max Socci have shown promise in the early going, and they will be counted on.

Reinhard expects a solid team effort throughout the season led by the upperclassmen.

"Richard Will, Ryan Fach, Jared Petre and Conor Fisher have been training as a pack," she stated. "They are pushing each other and supporting each other."

"Our sophomores have improved significantly since last sea-

son, Max Miller, Calvin Schucker, and Matthew Sirignano are working hard to keep as close they can to the top group."

With plenty of potential, Reinhard believes the team can reach a higher level.

"Our main goal is staying healthy," she said. "If we can achieve that, we will be in good shape. I'm positive they can get better. They just have to believe that they can do it."

GOLF

Continued from page 9
being that third team from our league to qualify, which I think would be pretty cool."

The Hornets graduated two of their top players from last year in Noah Schurman and Zach Yenawine, along with classmates Andrew Kleist, Josh Teichman and Colton Beiber.

Schurman and Yenawine played in the top two positions last year, while Kleist and Teichman regularly scored in the top five in matches, where the top five scores count toward the team total.

"That's a big loss having five of those guys go where four of them were always in our starting eight," said Birns.

This fall sophomore

Evan Walters will lead the Hornet line up. He was one of the team's top players in his first season and will likely benefit from last year's experience, when he shot 88 at both the league and district tournaments.

Junior Kyan DeLong is playing in the No. 2 slot this season. He also got postseason experience last year when he played in the league tournament, district qualifier and district championship.

Senior Karson Krasley has played in the third position for Emmaus this season, while sophomore Silas Wellhoener and senior Zach Heller give the Hornets a solid top five. Senior Alek Fenstermaker will also be looked upon to help the team score.

The rest of the roster includes a number of

players who could help the team when they're called upon, including senior Maya Shutz, who finished eighth in last year's girls district championship; juniors Matthew Grim, Ryan Maloney, Boden Rainford and Alexis Teichman; and freshmen Greyson Schmidt, Ella Bloszinsky and Anderson Francis.

Birns' primary goal for this year's team is qualifying for the District 11 team tournament, which takes place simultaneously with the individual district championship, slated for Oct. 1 at Steel Club in Hellertown.

"Our top three should qualify for districts," said Birns. "I'd like to see five and I think Silas and Zach are pretty close and senior Alek Fenstermaker, he's real-

ly starting to come on so maybe we could get six to qualify."

While most fall sports just began last weekend, the high school golf season starts and ends earlier than others because of shorter fall days and the need to play in daylight hours.

Emmaus started 6-1, but had its opening match postponed against Stroudsburg, Liberty and Nazareth, which are all teams that have two or fewer losses through their first seven matches.

In their opening match against Northampton, Pleasant Valley and Pocono Mountain East on Aug. 13, Emmaus scored 416 at Southmoore Golf Course to beat the Bears (421) and Cardinals (452), while losing to the Kids (390).

Walters led the way with an 80 in the opening tri-match, while teammates DeLong (81), Krasley (83), Wellhoener (85) and Heller (87) helped make up the team score.

In their next match, wins over Whitehall, Easton and Bethlehem Catholic on Sept. 20, the Hornets posted a 404 at Bethlehem Municipal to cruise to wins over the Zephyrs (446), Red Rovers (438) and Golden Hawks (434).

Walters was the medalist in Bethlehem with a 75, while DeLong (77) also broke 80. Fenstermaker carded an 85 in the match, while Heller (87) and Wellhoener (88) rounded out the team scoring.

The Hornets hosted their first home match of the season last Thursday and beat East Stroudsburg North 406-

587 at Brookside Country Club.

Walters shot 1-over par 73 in the match, followed by Krasley (76), DeLong (80) and Wellhoener (84).

With more than half the regular season already in the books, Emmaus will have important dual matches against Blue Mountain (Sept. 4 at Brookside) and Parkland (Sept. 12 at Twin Lakes) during the final two weeks of the season.

The EPC Championships are scheduled for Sept. 16 at Great Bear. The District 11 qualifier will be played eight days later, Sept. 24 at a site to be determined. The qualifier has been played at Olde Homestead the past several seasons.



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PRESS PHOTO BY MIKE HAINES

The Emmaus girls tennis team graduated four members of last year's line up from a team that went 12-6 overall and 10-5 in league play.

EHS girls tennis looks to improve on 12-win season

BY JEFF MOELLER

Special to the press

With a number of returnees back in the fold, the Emmaus girls tennis team will look to improve from its mark last season.

The Green Hornets finished with an overall 12-6 record (10-5 East

Penn Conference) and advanced to the quarterfinal round of the district tournament before they were eliminated by Stroudsburg.

Emmaus graduated number two singles player Keira Gilboy, number three singles player Natalie Marks,

number three doubles player CeCe Coleman, and number two doubles player Josie Jackson.

But the Hornets do return a stable of players and should be in the hunt once again. Head coach Robert Dragotta sees his squad as a total team effort

"The players have work hard all year," said Emmaus head coach Robert Dragotta, who is beginning his sixth season. "Tennis is a team sport, and we have a good team."

Junior Sophia Kaufman will open as the number one sin-

gles player, and senior Ashlyn Phy will be at number two. Senior Ava Grace Saab will be at number three.

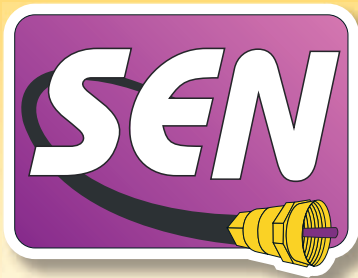
Kaufman and Saab played second doubles, and Phy played some number one singles last year.

Senior Malena Stetz

and sophomore Gab Tranguch will play second doubles. They played first alternate doubles last year.

Sophomore Brooke DiGiacomo and Nat Hillegass will play third doubles after they played fourth doubles last year.

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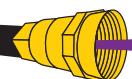
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