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2023

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 2023 Emmaus High School football team.

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Emmaus looks to bring success into postseason

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the Press

Emmaus High School football has found success and won games during the regular season over the past few seasons, but when the lights get brighter and the postseason comes around, the Green Hor-

nets have had trouble continuing the winning ways. Outside of a 2018 Eastern Pennsylvania Conference South Division co-championship, they haven't hoisted any trophies.

In 2022, Emmaus finished the regular season 9-1 overall and earned the top seed in the Dis-

trict 11 6A tournament. The Green Hornets defeated Wilkes-Barre Area in the quarterfinal round before falling by a point to Freedom in the semifinals.

Head coach Harold Fairclough, entering his eighth season at the helm, is hoping his team is motivated to accom-

plish more this season.

"Last year, we won 10 games and came away with no championships at all," said Fairclough. "That's more motivation than anything else. We're trying to make some history here. We're

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PRESS PHOTO BY MIKE HAINES

The 2023 Emmaus High School field hockey team.



PRESS PHOTO BY DON HERB

Jordyn Poll is one of several seniors that return to this year's Emmaus field hockey team

Hornets seek 35th straight D-11 crown

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the Press

The Emmaus High School field hockey team has been the class of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and District 11 for quite some time.

For as long as Sue Butz-Stavin has been the head coach, the Green Hornets have been a fixture atop both the conference and district and even the state, winning multiple state championships, to go along with 34 straight district titles.

Last season, Emmaus de-

feated Nazareth in the EPC final and then beat Easton in the District 11 championship. The Green Hornets came within one game of the state final, falling to Wilson West Lawn 2-1 in the semifinal round.

There is a key core of seniors who are back to lead the team this year, including goalie Emma Cari, Autumn Held, Haley Kvacky, Jordyn Poll, Sarah Schaffer and Melea Weber. Also, junior Autum Kernechel and sophomore Morgan Orobono are returnees that will contribute to the ros-

ter. Newcomers that Butz-Stavin highlighted that she will rely on in the lineup includes Cyan Kvacky, Emmy Horner, Lauren Kushma, Addison Povilaitis and Avery Burnett.

While, like every season, Emmaus graduates talented classes that go on to continue their success in college, the 2023 edition of the Green Hornets will still have experienced talent that can keep them on the winning path.

"Some of the strengths of this year's team are the ex-
See **HOCKEY** on Page A8



PRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE YARTYMYK

The 2023 Emmaus High School boys soccer team.

Boys soccer looks for more in 2023

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the Press

The Emmaus High School boys soccer team had no problem keeping the ball out of their own net during the 2022 season.

The Green Hornets, who finished with a 17-4-1 overall record, gave up just eight goals all season, never more than one in a game, and had 13 shutouts, 10 in the first 11 games. All four

of Emmaus' losses came by 1-0 scores.

When head coach John Cari looks toward the 2023 season, he knows where his team's strength lies and he knows what it needs to do better of this season.

"Defense," said Cari, of his team's strengths. "With our All-Conference anchor in Preston Eshelman back plus the addition of some

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Senior Ryan Kiernan and the Hornets are hoping to return to the top of the league and district this season after coming close last year.

PRESS PHOTO BY
SAL VERRASTRO

Senior Preston Eshelman returns to an Emmaus defense that posted 13 shutouts last season.

PRESS
PHOTO BY
LINDA
ROTHROCK



SOCCER

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newcomers like Dahlin Allport and Eli Pennell, and the rise of Garran Roth to go along with All-EPC Third Teamer Brayden Dang, I think we actually could be better defensively.

“We just need to score more goals. It’s that simple. We were able to hold on to 1-0 or 2-0 leads most of the year, but we need to be more pressing and dangerous in the final third of the field.”

Some of the top returning players for Cari and his staff include senior defender Eshelman, senior forward/midfielder Ryan Kiernan, junior defender Dang, junior midfielder Calum Harvey and sophomore midfielder Canyon Reinhardt. A couple of newcomers that should make it into the lineup include junior forwards Mohamed Hassanali and Kai Mattern, senior defenders Allport, Pennell and Roth, along with senior goalie Colin Wilson.

After a successful regular

season where they went 15-2-1, the Green Hornets lost in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and District 11 4A tournaments to Whitehall and Parkland, respectively.

Northampton and the Trojans played for the conference title, while Emmaus was defeated by Parkland in the district final. Cari believes it’s going to be a similar scene in the post-season this year as well.

“It is going to be tough to get out of the district with only one team able to move on in 2023,” Cari said. “But if we can, I think we have the talent to be dangerous. It’s going to come down to beating those three teams again in big games in the postseason to be able to win a championship.”

The Emmaus season starts with a nonconference road game at Cumberland Valley on Saturday, August 26.

The home and conference opener is set for the following Monday against East Stroudsburg North.

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PRESS PHOTO BY MIKE HAINES

The 2023 Emmaus High School girls cross country team.

More stars are ready to shine for girls XC team

BY MIKE HAINES
mhaines@tnonline.com

While the front of the pack might look a little bit different when this year's Emmaus girls cross country team competes, the end results could be much the same as past seasons.

The Hornets graduated one of the top runners in District 11 over the past four years in Hailey Reinhard, along with classmate Nicole Nosal, who was also part of last year's top seven.

This year's team returns five of last year's top seven runners and will look to continue to be one of the top teams

in the East Penn Conference and District 11.

Emmaus went 16-0 in 2023 en route to winning league and district titles.

"Senior Sophia Kovalski will lead the way this season, along with seniors Brooke Miller, Addison Shank, and Ava Rincon," said Hornet head coach Kami Reinhard. "These four seniors show immense potential and we hope they can believe in themselves as much as we believe in them."

"We also welcome senior Addison Kleinle, who we expect to be a key contributing member to the girls team."

Sophomore Madelyn McCartney returns after finishing second in the league championship and third at districts last year.

Junior Addison Johnson (8th at districts), junior Payton Campbell (11th at districts), Kovalski (23rd at EPCs), junior Isabella Scarlata (28th at district) and Shank (27th at districts) also return from last year's postseason lineup.

Sophomores Kate Newhard and Olivia Fleck could also help the team this season.

"We have been so impressed with the girls

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Sophia Kovalski is part of a group of senior leaders who return for this year's Emmaus girls cross country. The Hornets went unbeaten last season and won league and district titles. Five of the team's top seven runners return this year.

PRESS PHOTO BY MARK LINEBERGER



PRESS PHOTO BY MIKE HAINES

The 2023 Emmaus High School boys cross country team.



PRESS PHOTO BY NANCY SCHOLZ

Junior Conor Fisher returns as the Hornets' top runner this season.

Boys XC must replace four key graduates

BY MIKE HAINES
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The Emmaus boys cross country team graduated four of the top eight runners on last year's team.

Oscar Felegy, Sam Dalton, Brett Pevec and Dominic Nunez have moved on. This year's team will miss their talent as well as their personalities.

"Those seniors also brought humor, drive and energy to the boys team to lead to one of the best experiences over-

all," said head coach Kami Reinhard. "There are several juniors and seniors who have stepped up this summer to become key contributors to the team this year."

Emmaus went 13-3 last season before finishing third at districts, the boys team's best finish in 20 years. Three members of last year's boys team earned trips to the state meet and two of them return this season.

Junior Conor Fisher See **BOYS** on Page A14

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GIRLS

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team overall, no matter where they finish on the tea," said Reinhard. "Losing a consistent top district and state performer will paint a different picture for the girls team, but at the same time, there are plenty of girls ready to take the lead.

"We look to Mady McCartney, Payton Campbell, and Addison Johnson to take the baton and unleash their full potential. Each of them have worked very hard training this summer, while also remembering the importance of rest and recovery. I believe they all have the ability to exceed Hailey's performances, and it will be exciting to watch it all unfold."



PRESS PHOTO BY MARK LINEBERGER

Madelyn McCartney finished second at leagues and third at districts last season.

HOCKEY

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experience and versatility of players with a strong bench that gives us great depth," said Butz-Stavin. "We are a strong and unified group that communicates well and works well together for a common goal. We just need to make sure we are finishing strong in both the offensive and defensive circles."

Emmaus is always one of the most talented teams in the state year in and year out, but when the Hornets find their success, it's when they communicate and share the ball.

"We will continue to challenge ourselves every day to be a better person and teammate," Butz-Stavin said. "We are successful when we play as one and work together."

Emmaus starts its season on the road in conference play at Stroudsburg on Friday, August 25. The home opener is set for the following Tuesday against Bethlehem Catholic.



PRESS PHOTO BY MARK LINEBERGER

Senior Hailey Kvacky and the Hornet field hockey team hope to make a longer run in the state tournament this season after reaching the semifinals last season.



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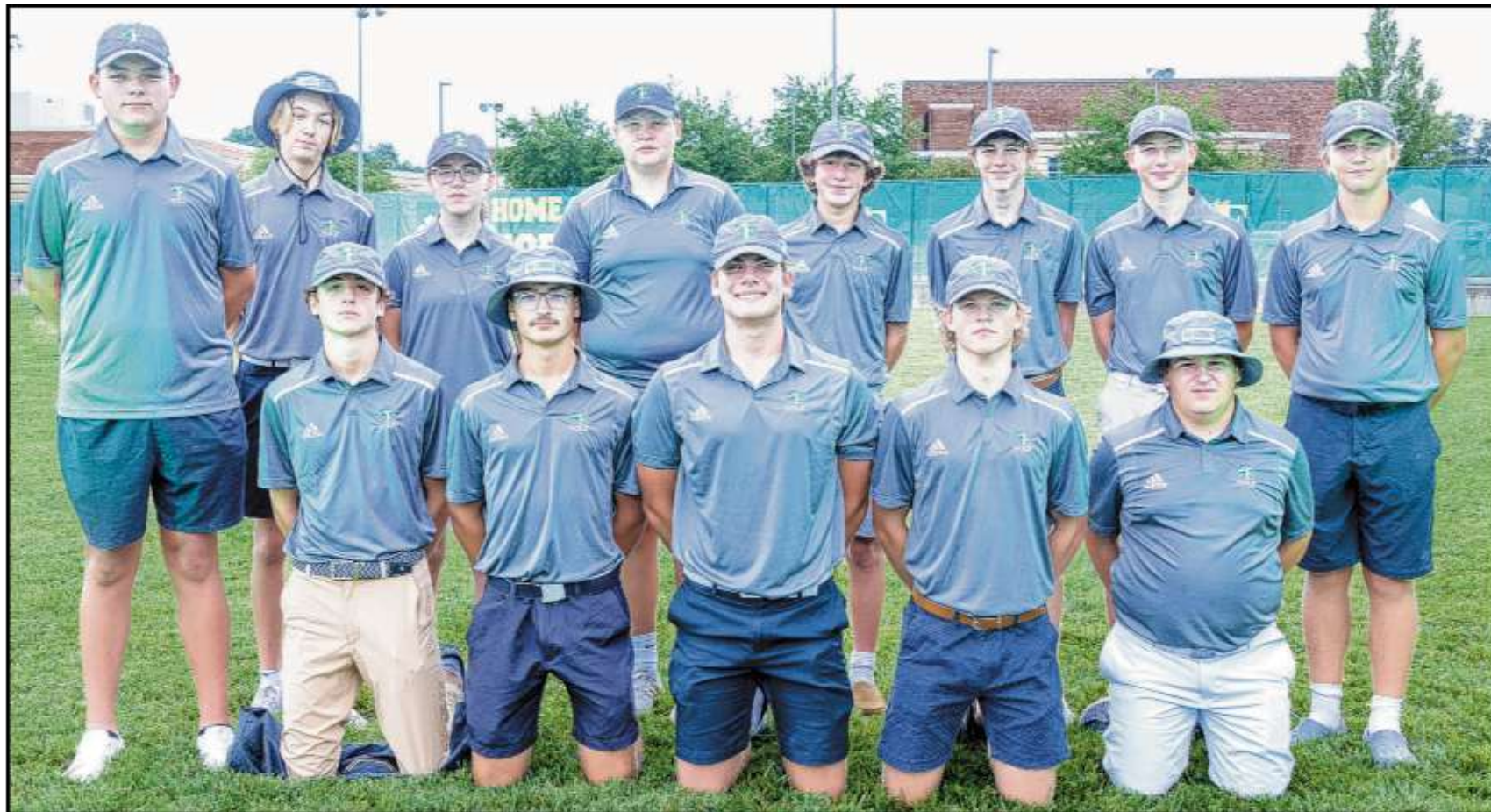
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The 2023 Emmaus High School golf team.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Schurman leads experienced team

BY MIKE HAINES
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Last year at this time the Emmaus High School golf team was in the midst of somewhat of a rebuilding season.

After graduating three state qualifiers and four other players who often figured in the team scoring in 2021, last year's team battled to a 10-6 overall record, went 10-5 in East Penn Conference matches and finished fifth at the league tournament.

While a few players graduated from last year's line up, several return this year, including the Hornets' top player last year in senior Noah Schurman.

As a junior Schurman finished fourth in the District 11 championships and competed in the state championship tournament.

"We have a lot of kids coming back," said second-year head coach Patrick Birns. "We have five seniors on the team. Expectations are pretty high with this group."

Seniors Zachary Yenawine, Andrew Kleist and Josh Tiechman return to the line up this year, while classmate Colton Beiber rounds out the senior class.

Junior Alek Fens-termaker, sophomores Kyan DeLong and Boden Rainford and freshman Evan Walters joined

Schurman, Yenawine, Kleist and Tiechman in the line up for the Hornets' first match.

Emmaus went 2-1 at the season-opening quad match, beating Pleasant Valley and Pocono Mountain East while falling 382-403. Schurman carded the lowest score of the match with a 2-under par 70, while Walters (80), DeLong (82), Yenawine and Kleist (87) made up the rest of the team score in the match played at Indian Mountain.

The rest of this year's Emmaus golf rosters included junior Karson Krasley and Maya Schutz, sophomores Ryan Maloney and Matthew Grim.

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The 2023 Emmaus High School girls volleyball team.

Girls volleyball is filled with leadership

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the Press

The Emmaus High School girls volleyball team was under the direction of new head coach Jessica Attieh last season and the Green Hornets went 14-7 overall and 11-5 in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, qualifying for both the conference and District 11 4A tournaments, winning a match at districts along the way.

Emmaus graduated a talented senior

class, but Attieh, in her second year at the helm, has some experience and leadership back and continues to put her imprint on the program to find success both on and off the court.

"I look forward to continuing to grow this program and these girls as student-athletes," said Attieh. "I always say that it is important to not only develop volleyball skills, but also life skills that these girls can take with

them into every aspect of their lives. We have an older group with great leadership and a younger group with a lot of talent, which gives Emmaus a bright future."

Some of the top returning players for the Green Hornets this season include Sammy Spiro, Lauren Horvath and Cirrae Cuffy, all of whom Attieh is excited about and knows what they bring. Then there is a group of underclassmen that she talk-

ed about that she feels will contribute in a big way.

"Rosalia Landino is a freshman with incredible potential," Attieh said. "The sophomore class, especially Amanda Rivera Ayala, Claudia Walls and Alyssa Heffner, has stepped up and demonstrates significant improvement in their skill level, communication, confidence and competitiveness."

"Each year an individual stands out as a leader," said Attieh. "I

noticed that the senior class all lead by example and look to improve every day we are on and off the court. The upperclassmen bring so much talent and competitiveness that pushes everyone in the gym to do better. I can happily say that each individual brings something to the table that makes them unique, and they all have a desire to be better volleyball players, students, and individuals."

There aren't many

flaws with this group, but there are always areas to improve upon.

"You could say every team has an area to improve," Attieh said. "One of the main areas I see that is consistent is rising above the mistakes made and overcoming adversity."

Emmaus has its season opener in conference play at Whitehall on Tuesday, August 29th. The home opener is set for that Thursday night against Allen.

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PRESS PHOTO BY MIKE HAINES

The 2023 Emmaus High School girls tennis team.

Girls tennis must replace top seven players

BY MIKE HAINES
mhaines@tnonline.com

The Emmaus girls tennis roster was hit especially hard by graduation last year. The Hornets said goodbye to their top three singles players and top two doubles pairings, as well as an alternate double player.

With seven or eight seniors in the line up last season, Emmaus went 14-4 and reached the District 11 semifinals before falling to champion Parkland.

"We graduated very good players," said Hornet head coach Rob Dragotta. "The returning and new players are

good also. I am looking forward to see what this year's team is capable of doing."

Junior Ashlyn Phy played third doubles last season and will move into the No. 1 singles position this year. Her former doubles partner, senior Natalie Marks, will play No. 2 singles in

2023.

Senior Keira Gilboy, who played as a substitute last season, moves into the No. 3 singles position this year.

Junior Ava Grace Saab and sophomore Sophia Kaufman will be the Hornets' No. 1 doubles pairing, while senior Cece Coleman and

senior Josie Jackson will play at No. 2 doubles. Those four doubles players all saw playing time as either substitutes or alternates last season.

Freshmen Natalie Hillegas and Brooke DiGiacomo are playing No. 3 doubles.

The rest of this year's

varsity roster includes seniors Malea Stetz, Sydney Stuckey, Kirra Everett, Dani Balik, Bri McClain, Hope Brzezinski, Annabell McDonald, Kylie Gleason, Skyler Thompson, Gab Tranguich and Anshi Kanani.

FOOTBALL

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trying to win the school's first district title, that's the motivation."

Emmaus reached the district final in 2021, but also dropped the game to the Patriots.

The Green Hornets lost some talented seniors last season, but return more, led by senior quarterback Josiah Williams. Williams played behind Jake Fotta last year, but saw time as a sophomore when Fotta missed time due to injury.

"It's huge for him having that experience," said Fairclough. "Experience like that is invaluable going into this year now. He knows what a varsity game is. He has played in a championship game. He's played in some tight games and come-from-behind games. He has that overall experience, that overall wherewithal."

Some talented skill position players graduated following last season, including EPC MVP Dylan Darville, but Williams has a good group to throw to, including juniors Rafael Terrero and Ben Jones, along with seniors Jordin Mitchell and Cael Kratzer.

Mario Landino and Ben



PRESS PHOTO BY MARK LINEBERGER

Mario Landino returns to the Hornet offensive and defensive lines after a stellar season last fall.

Mercado will anchor the line on both sides of the ball and are leaders of those units.

"They're our rocks. They're the cornerstone of this program," Fairclough said. "Their hard work has paid off with scholarships to play at the next level to really good schools. We are going to lean on those guys for sure and it's good to have two re-

turning guys on both sides of the ball up front. They've done a great job of bringing along the other three guys on the offensive line."

The defensive group will also be led by senior linebacker John Wassel, who is the top returning tackler from last season. Reilly Bechtel is another returning starter on both sides of the ball.

Seniors Ryan Nimas, George Attar and Jasiyah Banks all return from last season.

The 2023 campaign for Emmaus began the season with a game at Pocono Mountain East August 25. The Green Hornets then have their home opener against Nazareth a week later.

BOYS

Continued from page A7

returns to lead the pack for Emmaus after finishing eighth in last year's District 11 Championships to earn a trip to the state championship meet. Jared Petre also qualified for states last year, finishing 16th at districts.

Senior Tyler Finck (23rd at districts), junior Richard Will (30th at districts), sophomore Sean Daubert (39th at districts) and sophomore Ryan Fach (43rd at districts) return this year, along with seniors Connor Miller and Nate Smeltz.

Newcomers Sam Strzempek (senior) and Matthew Siragnano (freshman) are also expected to help the team scoring this season.

The Hornets are looking to take another step forward this season as they want to place in the top two at districts to earn a team berth into the state championships.

"We look to keep that bar high, with the goal of finishing top two in the district to get this team to the state meet," said Reinhard. "We look to juniors Conor Fisher, Jared Petre, Richard Will, and seniors Tyler Finck and Connor Miller to lead the pack for the boys. Sophomores Ryan Fach and Sean Daubert should also be key performers for the boys team."



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PRESS PHOTO BY MARK LINEBERGER

The 2023 Emmaus High School girls soccer team.

Girls soccer defense expected to shine

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the Press

The Emmaus High School girls soccer team had a successful 2022 campaign, reaching the championship games of both the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and District 11 4A tournaments, falling in both to rival Parkland by just one goal in overtime of each title game.

But last season's Green Hornets team

saw a large and talented senior class play its final season in green and gold. Head coach Sarah Oswald knows she will need some new players to step up and fill the void and she believes she has that with a solid core returning.

"Emmaus girls soccer lost a very talented senior class to graduation," said Oswald. "But we expect to return a solid group of starters and younger players to fill in the gaps. We are

going to rely on the experience of Mya Cooper and Ashley Geder in the back line, as well as our two-year starter in goal, Ashley Stine.

"Kamryn McWhinney has been impressive in the offseason and we are excited to see the productivity she has for us in the attack. We look to continue the grit and sportsmanship we exhibit on the field, competing our way back to the EPC and District 11 playoffs."

Some of the key returners Emmaus has back that Oswald highlighted include senior defenders Cooper and Geder, junior forward McWhinney, junior goalie Ashley Stine, junior midfielders Ryleigh McNellis and senior forwards Julia Adams and Sammy Walkiewicz.

A newcomer duo that will be counted on is junior midfielder Gabby Powell and junior defender Kirsten Esterly.

The defensive third will be one of the strengths of this year's team, while the middle of the field and the offensive third will be areas the Hornets are looking to get better in each and every day.

"With the loss of Madison Woodward and Kaitlyn Dill in the midfield, we look to work with our new midfield group to generate an offense to their strengths," Oswald. "Additionally, we will

need our returning group of forwards to be consistently productive in the offense third."

Emmaus begins play with a road nonconference game at Wilson on Saturday, August 26. The Green Hornets then remain on the road for the EPC opener at East Stroudsburg North the following Monday before having their home opener on Wednesday against Liberty.



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