

WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

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2024

FALL SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL



Talon Dogmanits will be a key member of this year's Whitehall football team.

Football team looks to contend again

BY JEFF MOELLER

Special to the Press

Whitehall's Talon Dogmanits had a special season last year, as he was one of the primary target of his brother quarterback Trey Dogmanits, who threw for over 2,000 yards and had 23 touchdowns.

Unfortunately, his older brother has graduated as well as several standouts from last year's 8-5 team that captured its second consecutive District 11 Class 5A title as well as their fifth in the last eight years.

Still, the younger Dogmanits is convinced his team will be back in the hunt this fall with a number of new pieces in place.

For starters, Tanner, his youngest brother who is a sophomore, was in the running for the starting quarterback position just before the

season opener.

There are some new pieces in play, but the goals are still in sight.

"Our team is very prepared," said Talon, who is a junior wide receiver. "Our coaches set a high standard during the offseason, and we knew what it took to meet those standards."

"Therefore, it really helped us to get more comfortable and ready. Everyone has confidence even the newcomers because of how the coaching staff has prepared us for the season."

The Dogmanits brothers will be an integral part of the Zephyrs' skill set this fall along with senior running back Carter Troxell, who rushed for 496 yards with five touchdowns last season. Seniors Alex Magarin and Adam Youwakim are two experienced linemen back to lead the charge.

Troxell believes his

team can be on a fast track toward another division title.

"At this point, I see the team progressing fast and learning quickly," he stressed. "Our scrimmage was a great learning experience for some of the younger guys."

Safety and wider receiver senior Brandon Bird also will be one of the leaders this fall. He has kept a positive outlook. He also has envisioned how Whitehall is beginning to gain its respectability back as one of the area's better programs.

"The team is in a great position going into the season," he stressed. "We are going to continuously get better throughout. We lost a good amount of players, but they left us a standard to live up to and surpass."

There always is a See **FOOT** on Page A11

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WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Zephyrs aim to continue upward trend

BY SCOTT PAGEL

spagel@tnonline.com

The Whitehall field hockey team is hoping to continue its trend upward under head coach Gabi Smith.

For the Zephyr girls, it's all about the simple things and the things they can control.

"Our goal is to compete fiercely on game days, recognizing the strengths of our opponents and always bringing our best game," Smith said.

Helping to do that will be a group of seniors as well as some up and coming players.

Matisyn Derkacs, a defender, is a "crucial asset," according to Smith, because of her understanding of both the offensive and defensive play, and she's an "integral part of our strategy," Smith added.

Olivia Fonzone is another senior who is a forward.

"Olivia's calm demeanor and consistent performance are vital for maintaining possession in our offensive circle. Her excellent field vision and team-oriented approach allow her to make precise passes and distribute the ball effectively across the field," Smith said.

Lydia Keppel is a senior midfielder who depends on her relentless hustle and ball control in the middle of the field.

"Her ability to connect our defensive and offensive lines greatly contributes to the overall flow of the game,"



Lydia Keppel is a returning senior midfielder.

Smith said.

Ava Kozak is another senior who plays offense.

"Ava's aggressiveness and quick, powerful hits position her as a key offensive player. We plan to utilize her in multiple offensive roles this season," Smith added.

Back between the pipes is Lilianna Troc-

ki, who is yet another senior.

"Lily is an outstanding goalie with quick reflexes and the ability to cover extensive ground within the cage. Her leadership in directing our defense is invaluable during high-pressure situations," Smith said.

Smith also pointed to three underclassmen



Matisyn Derkacs, left, is among a group of seniors ready to lead the field hockey team this season.

who are looking to take the next step.

They are: Josephine Shultz, a junior defender and Kerigan Dreisbach, a sophomore on offense, and Smith expects significant contributions from Celina Aboud (Jr.), Emily Kern (Jr.) as well as Molly McFetridge (Jr.), Sarah Mullin (Jr.), Audra Sommer (Jr.), and Ava

Kneller (Sph).

Smith and the girls are looking forward to seeing their hard work pay off this season.

"Throughout the summer, the team has worked hard, transitioning from a senior class of one to six. With a strong group of seniors, our goal is to build on last season's success," Smith said.

"In the offseason, we focused on quick shots in the circle, strategic passing, and refining our footwork for solid tackles. As we enter the season, we aim to enhance our flow of play, create productive movement on the field, and support each other through cuts, accurate passes, and recoveries," she added.

WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Boys look poised for another big year

BY SCOTT PAGEL

spagel@tnonline.com

There's a lot to be excited about surrounding the Whitehall boys soccer team.

Last year's team was coming off the first-ever District 11 title, and with a majority of the team returning for 2024, hopes are high for a repeat performance.

Head coach Chris Malone enters his third year at Whitehall with an overall 27-18 mark during that time. The Zephs also made it to the EPC semifinals a year ago.

"This year may be my deepest team in my tenure," Malone said. "We only graduated 3-4 seniors. The experience, there's tons of potential but what remains to be seen is getting this group to really come together and gel. We need upperclassmen leadership to really step up and embrace their role. That's the big key for this team."

"I believe and have been telling the guys good teams are coached by coaches, great teams are coached by the players. The best teams I have ever seen, coached or been on, that was true to where the upperclassmen players played a tremendous role in being an extension of the coaching staff on and off the field."

Some top players returning this season are: Aiden Taylor, 3rd team All-Conference defender, senior; Cole Richards



Aiden Taylor is a returning third team EPC defender who should help to anchor the backline of the Zephs.

keeper, junior; Reed Felker senior forward/midfield; Justin Hussett forward/midfield; Eddie Saloum senior forward; Benji Campbell Jr. forward.

"All-in-all there is a lot of upperclassmen on this team with solid var-

sity experience and it would be hard to name all of them," Malone said. "The potential is there for a great year but it's very early and there's a lot of work to be done."

Despite that, it's hard not to be excited for the



Reed Felker is one of many key, returning players back for the boys soccer team.

upcoming season and the team's goals certainly reflect that.

"Our goal is to challenge for a league and, or district title," Malone said. "That's really the standard and mindset I am trying to instill in our program year in

year out. The last two years we have made it to the EPC semifinal after a difficult first round matchup only to fall short, we want to get over that hump."

"This year we have moved up to 4A, but honestly that is no different

than the competitive EPC we play every year and contend in. If your finishing in the semis of EPC's being 4A is really no different."

WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Golfers look to build up the program

BY SCOTT PAGEL
spagel@tnonline.com

For the Whitehall golf team, they are looking to put the building blocks in place.
The team is young this year but looking to establish a program that can contend year-to

year.
Head coach George Cowitch is at least encouraged so far by how things are gone.
“We are a young team, shooting good scores, but have come up a little short in our three quad matches,” Cowitch said.

“Looking to build the program and be much more competitive in the future years.”
So far the team is led by senior Tommy Lloyd and junior Jack Lloyd.
“Jack Lloyd and Tommy Lloyd are our top two golfers leading the

way in scoring so far this season,” Cowitch said.
Other seniors on the team are Matthew Nomie, Julian Saba and Gehrig Sedora. Juniors are Mason Nomie, Parker Ziegenfuss, Brett Cohan, Tanner Sweeney

and Jordan Rex.
Zach Kresge is a sophomore and freshmen Thomas Brokenshire and Logan Shean round out the roster.
“Julian Saba and Matt Nomie have also contributed to the team score as the season has

gone on,” Cowitch said.
“We are also getting contributions from Brett Cohan and Mason Nomie.”

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WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Harriers look to take the next step

BY JEFF MOELLER
Special to the Press

As he begins his second season as Whitehall's head cross country coach, Brandon Hampton is confident his team can take the next step. Hampton got a further look last spring, as he also is the Zephyrs' head track and field coach.

"As a team, I think we have the potential for a lot of growth this year now that I've had the opportunity to work with the kids for a full year," offered Hampton. "Last year, our teams performed as I had expected. Our boys lost a ton of top runners and the record reflected it,

while the girls were mostly young and inexperienced, but showed improvement consistently as the season progressed."

Despite losing four seniors – the Zephyrs top girls and their second and third boys' runners all of whom did a bulk of the scoring – Hampton has liked what he has seen so far from his lineup for the fall.

Senior Aiden Borkenhagen was the Zephyrs' top boy runner last season, and he'll enter the season off a solid summer training block. Hampton believes he can be among the area's top runners.

Other key returnees See **RUN** on page 11



Felicity Coulthard is back for the girls.



Jackson Rozycki and Habib Leyos are back for the boys runners.



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WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Girls soccer ready for challenges of 2024

BY SCOTT PAGEL
spagel@tnonline.com

For head coach Chris Blead and this year's Whitehall girls soccer team, the goals are pretty simple.

"We will compete in all matches and look to improve with each practice and game," Blead said. "Certainly, qualifying for the 4A district tournament is a significant goal, but not as important as learning to play as a team and representing Whitehall High School in a positive way."

Blead said this year's team is plagued by unusually low numbers so the girls are using the preseason to prepare for a season that will include several challenges as a result.

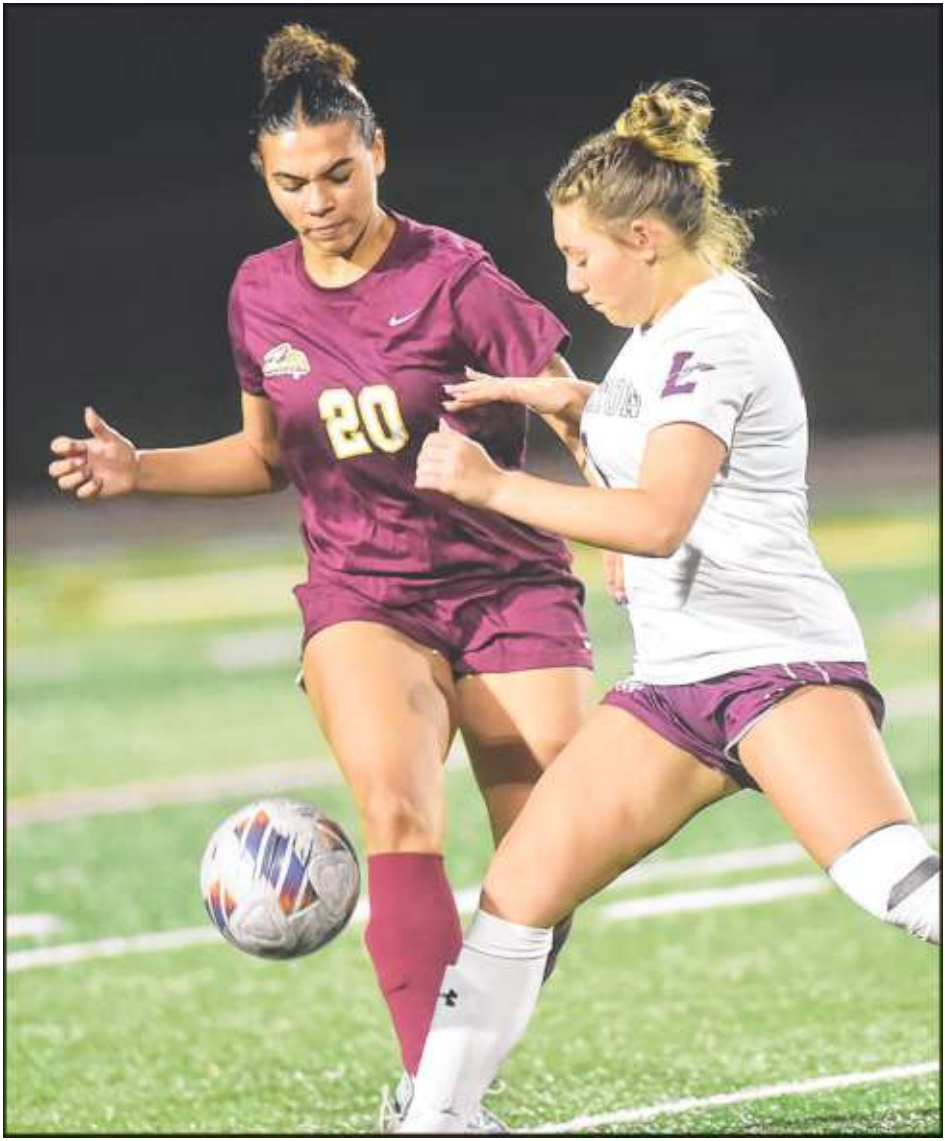
"Many young players will need to mature quickly as they will need to quickly adapt to the varsity level," Blead said.

The team is not without their seniors who will be leaned on to lead the way. They include Sage Snyder and Jade Alvarez.

The junior class is led by Morgan Laub, who once again has come to the season very fit and much improved from a year ago, according to Blead. Other returning juniors include: Emma Potocnie, Isabella Brogna and Audrey Muller, who has returned to full strength



Morgan Laub is another key returner this year.



Jade Alvarez is one of two seniors the team is will lean on this season.

after ACL reconstruction at the end of her ninth grade season.

Collene Sommers (2023 EPC 2nd team) headlines the talented

sophomore class along with returning goalkeepers Cora Mussleman and Dayna Nelson.

Blead added Kyla Braun and Olivia Tabara

rani will also be key contributors after gaining significant varsity experience as freshmen.

Kaila Wexler and Greta O'Brien also re-

turn with a great deal of junior varsity experience from last year.

Blead added the team has only three ninth grade players, but

Larken Good and Jade Snyder appear ready to contribute to this year's Whitehall team.

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WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Volleyball young but working hard



Kyra Miller is one of several key players back for the volleyball team this season.

BY SCOTT PAGEL
spagel@tnonline.com

For the Whitehall girls volleyball it all starts with the little things. The Zephs are a young team this season but it hasn't stopped them from putting in the work. "During the off-season, the main point of focus was consistency in the basics," said head coach Cristal Hernandez. "Weekly, these girls put in the work in the weight room and gym. By focusing on the basics during the off-season, we've been able to speed up our level of gameplay to compete with the higher-level teams in our league." Back for the girls is

Keona Spooner, a senior, middle blocker, Kyra Miller, senior, outside/opposite hitter, LaSereon James, sophomore, outside hitter, and Allison Keck, junior, defensive specialist/outside hitter. "This year we're super excited for the raw talent this group of girls have. We're a very young team with only three seniors, however, our key players are stacked in different positions allowing us the opportunity to sidout quickly," Hernandez said. While the younger players develop, Hernandez knows she'll be able to count on her leadership. "We look forward to

a competitive season as our defensive lineup with seniors, Keona and Kyra, provide a towering block and powerful offense," Hernandez said. "They say good things come in small packages and that is exactly what Allison and LaSereon bring to the team. Although their height may seem like a disadvantage, these girls surprise opponents with their adaptability and court presence. "Every athlete has approached practice with focus and determination. The girls have already proven themselves and they can only continue to grow from here."

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WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Tennis team has positive attitude

BY SCOTT PAGEL
spagel@tnonline.com

For the Whitehall tennis team it's all about attitude.

The girls return of group of players from last year and also have a host of newcomers.

"Whitehall is looking forward to the 2024 season and excited about the growth the team has made," said head coach Susan DiGiacomo. "Incorporating mindfulness in our team practic-

es has allowed the team to approach the season with a positive outlook which also carries over into their daily routines off the courts."

Back for the Zephyrs on the courts are: Aleksandra Niski (12), JessicaLin (12), Elena Attieh (10), Marilyn Ogunsam-ore (10), Lamitta Layous (10), Gigi Burgio, (10) and Trinity Goeh (11).

Newcomers to the team are: Grace Ruta, Jenna Abdalla,

Leah Bachour, Nicole Bachour, Elina Dabbou-
ra, Aeradin Glass, Re-
ina Haddad, Jana Han-
na, Tatyana Mallouhi,
Kadijah Sidee, Llaremi
Alcantara, Alyssa-Lynn
Collazo, MiaDib, Jor-
dyn Howard, T'Nai
LaRonde, Angelina
Ramirez, Maya Sankari,
Hope Warren and Nicole
Aljoubar.

DiGiacomo is assist-
ed by B. DiGiacomo.



The 2024 Whitehall tennis team.

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WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Cheerleaders look to keep fans excited

BY SCOTT PAGEL
spagel@tnonline.com

The Zephyr cheerleading teams are ready to keep the crowds excited this fall season.

The high school team will be made up of: Alanna Staas, Alexis Jaikes, Amya Robinson, Anaya Simmons, Britney Okoth, Dayra Herrera, Daysha Ortiz, Desiree London, Elianna Young, Gabriella Jaikes, Hope Warren, Isabella Klempke, Janelly Caban, Janixy Zorrila, Jaylene

Rodriguez, Laney Headman, Makenzie Gery, Maya Williams, Mena Hartzell, Nicole Buitrago, Noah Feliz, Noelia Molina, Olivia Hall, Rose Zulu, Rylie Balikian, Sadaayah Brown, Trisha Theagene and Vinessa Eggleston.

Members of the middle school team are: Zion Damore, Alison Delgado, Madison Dohanish, Hadeleen Dominguez, Elisania Garrido Rodriguez, Melisa Gomez, Julianna Gunderman,

Caroline Kline, Autumn Larkin, Takai Lowery, Angelique Malave, Pamela Mallouhi, Danielys Marrero, Auryanna Martinez, Natasha Masters, Hope-Mouchia Ade, Shayla Perez, Eileen Precious Teyim, Grace Sulter and Jaynalli Acevedo.

The girls will be coached by Alexis Freedman (head coach), assistants Alyssa Boyer and Cora Peters, Mandy Peters (middle school) and assistant Erica Re-

nig.

"We plan to begin our competition season Nov. 9, at Cumberland Valley High School but we will also be competing around the Lehigh Valley at competitions like Becahi, Emmaus, and Southern Lehigh," Freedman said. "During our competition season we will be competing in EPCs at Easton Area MS as well as Districts."

Our Varsity competition team will be a team of 15 high school cheer-

leaders.

"We hope to see our fans and supporters in the stands on Friday nights this fall season as well as in the stands during our winter basketball season."

Some volunteering opportunities the girls will be participating in this season is visiting Fellowship Manor, hosting the youth camp on Sunday and several other events.

The Zephs won first in sideline chant and

was the overall champion runner up. The team features three All-American cheerleaders and one Pin It Forward recipient.

"The girls did absolutely wonderful and we're so proud of all their hard work," Freedman said. "The season has just started and we're already on a roll."

FOOT

Continued from page A2

sense of confidence in our locker room, but we always know that there is never time to become comfortable, only a time to get better."

The Zephyrs will open the season at non-conference opponent Wilkes-Barre Area Aug. 23 before they host Nazareth the following week. It is part of the new East Penn Conference county opponent schedule.

Whitehall will host

Northampton – annual Cement Bowl game – Dieruff, Allen, and Allentown Central Catholic while they will travel to East Stroudsburg South, Pocono Mountain West, Emmaus, and Parkland.

Head coach Andy Marino is well aware of the transition, and the third-year head coach just plans on keeping it simple. The Zephyrs averaged nearly 28 points a game and allowed nearly 27 per contest.

"We have a lot of new faces, and it will be a weekly process," he stat-

ed. "If we continue to get better every week we will be where we want to be."

"We have to avoid turnovers. Up front, we're going to have to get off blocks and sustain blocks and we're going to have to play hard for four quarters. We learned that when we went through a rough three-game stretch last year against the best teams in the league."

"If we can do the little things, we'll have a shot to do well."

RUN

Continued from page A6

are senior Jackson Rozycki, junior Habib Leyos, and sophomore Kihan Resto. Senior Zarius Sabater and junior Luke Thomas are newcomers who are beginning to make their mark.

On the girls' side, sophomore Marli Jacobus, juniors Felicity Coulthard, Emma Sargent, Janelle Kies, Ash-

ley Mendoza, and senior Grace Tsamutalis are a solid core whose places will be determined at the start of the season.

Both teams have a good number of incoming freshman that could compete for a varsity spot as the season develops.

Hampton is optimistic his team can gradually mature throughout the season.

"We've got a lot more senior leadership on

both sides this year," he stressed. "We'll be counting on them and some other returning runners to not only lead us in competition, but also to help build the competitive culture we want to have here year after year."

"I'm hoping both teams can improve their records from last year, and we can continue to see the week to week personal bests that peak in mid-to-late-October."

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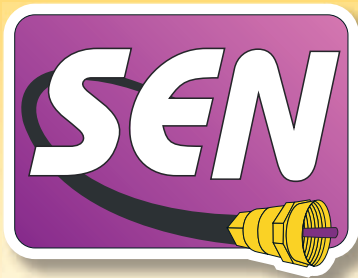
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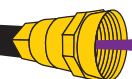
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