

Boys soccer season kicks off

By Sophia Hignite
entertainment editor

As the boys soccer season starts, the team is motivating each other to be the best version they can be to win games.

"Sam Thompson is a really great player; he's one of our center backs. He holds the defensive line together that's for sure. He's probably going to be captain," senior Quintin Cain, center field and outside back, said.

Their first game against Perry was challenging.

"Our first game against Perry was a really good game. We have lost every game against them for the past four years, so I think this year will be a lot different, especially with the seniors who graduated," Cain said.

Adding newer teammates helped, though.

"We have a whole new group of players so I think we will have a good chance. We lost all of our seniors that graduated so we have a new line up our entire mid-field left so that has kind of been our struggle this year is finding spots for that, but we do have good players out there. We have EJ and Za out there, which will be really good. I think our Sectionals will be different this year so that might be tough," Cain said.

Motivating everyone will be essential.

"I think Emmanuel Jackson is really good. Oscar Sahm, Jose Moreno, Quintin Cane. Starting off with Emmanuel, he is amazing on the ball. He has kind of like a Brazilian flare. He is very creative with what he does. Then moving on to one of my buddies Oscar. Some of the time he doesn't have that much paste on the ball, but he is very creative with the ball; he can always find a passing lane. Then Jose Moreno, he is very good at dribbling the ball and finding crosses into the box. He also has some sort of flair that he carries around. Quintin Cane is very good at making decisions with the ball. He's a very great defender and makes good tackles," junior Zeigen Mahachanh, attacking center mid, said.

Having tough games to look forward to can help a team win, too.

"The top games this season are Center Grove. Center Grove is going to be tough, but that's one of the key games we'll be playing. We also have Perry Meridian and



Sophomore Jose Moreno battles through the midfield to dribble past the opposition. Moreno hit the post twice in the loss to Perry Meridian. Isabella Higareda photo

Franklin. They all have really good programs and will be looking forward to playing against them," Mahachanh said.

Losing people can make the team appreciate and look up to someone more.

"We are losing quite a lot of leadership. We've lost two captains our last year with our remaining captain being Sam Thompson. Sam is very good at leading into this season. We are just a little malnourished with the amount of leadership that we have. We have a lot of young stars that have a lot of potential, but they just need a little bit of direction," Mahachanh said.

Knowing how teammates play can help the team learn how to work with their abilities and win games.

"Stand out players to look for is Landon Holt. He has improved a lot over the off season and will be a key player in the squad this year. Kayden Wilking and Sam Tompson are very big in the upcoming season being defensive backs. They are, in my opinion, the strongest ones in the conference. One more player is Jose Moreno. He is a very quick player and is outstanding on the ball. Last year he had the most assists, and I'm looking forward to next



The boys soccer team huddles before kickoff. The Woodmen lost the first game to the Perry Meridian Falcons. Adrian Monroe photo

season," Mahachanh said.

A comeback can make a team closer.

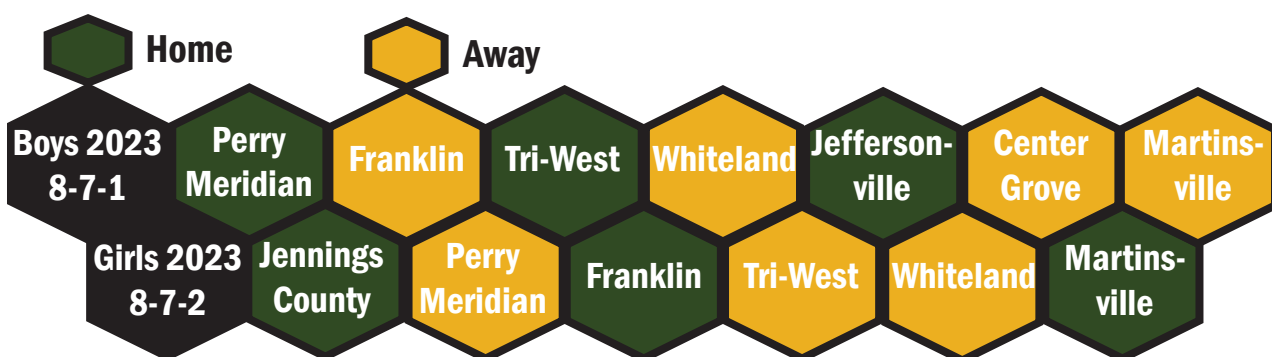
"Some really big games coming up to watch out for are Perry. We have never beat them and they are always one of the best teams. My freshman year it was 4-0, but the year before that was 9-1 and it is going to be a really good game. For me the biggest game is going to be Center Grove. We have never played them but they are very very good. I know that they have the strongest team that we will play, but it will be interesting to see how we can play," Mahachanh said.

Having a positive attitude and pushing teammates to be better is essential to every sport.

"Some major changes are the attitude on the field. The attitude has to change to lock in during the games. That's why we lost some games last year. Once we find that lock in mode during the game, we are set," Mahachanh said.

Upperclassmen can make everyone better players.

"Sam Thompson is a stand out player to me. He's consistent and always gets the ball in his foot efficiently," freshman Tyson Holt, center defensive mid, said.



Lady Woodmen get stadium's first win

By Dom Williams
editor-in-chief

After a heartbreaking Sectional loss to Franklin Central to end last season, the Lady Woodmen soccer team is ready to prove themselves. They are starting off hot with a win in the season opener at home.

Through the off-season, teams are bound to face changes on the roster through graduating seniors.

"We graduated four starters last year and even more on the bench who were key pieces to the team. But, this year we have a big core of senior girls who are experienced in leading the team," Coach Daniel Appelbaum said.

Along with people stepping into new roles, the team continues to grow in other ways.

"We have grown so much as a team since last year, especially in our communication skills and the

way we play together," senior captain Joelle Young, midfielder, said.

When playing the same teams yearly, there are always big games between rivals and highly-talented schools.

"Our biggest opponents this year are probably Plainfield and Whiteland. Both of them are bigger than us, but we put up good fights against them. We tied Whiteland last year and lost to Plainfield, but we should turn both of those into wins this year," freshman Lylah Wallischeck, defender, said.

Another Mid-State rival school could be a challenge for the Lady Woodmen.

"I expect that Martinsville will be one of our hardest opponents this year. I know that they're pretty good at a lot of other sports, and they're ranked well in the state for soccer, so that will be a tough game," junior

Melanie Le, wing, said.

Before games, different players take different approaches to getting themselves ready to play.

"To prepare for a game I usually drink lots of water throughout the day and eat healthier than normal. I also like to listen to music to calm my nerves," Le said.

Some players have pre-game traditions they stick to.

"Before games, I go to Subway and have a sandwich, chips, and a cookie. I eat Subway before every single game," Wallischeck said.

The team comes together to get ready with each other, too.

"To prepare for games this year, we have been focusing on how we play as a team. We've decided to not play according to the level of our competition but to make our competition step up to our level," Young said.



Sophomore Ava Brawley pushes past the Southport defender during a counter attack. Brawley is starting her third season as a starting midfielder for the Lady Woodmen. Robert Coon photo



Freshman Katia Loper buries the penalty kick. Loper helped the Lady Woodmen stack a goal in a win over Southport. Robert Coon photo