

Men's Soccer: Lancers Hope To Contend For GPAC Tourney

BY ROYAL MCGREGOR
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A year after coming up just short in a chase for a conference tournament berth, the Mount Marty College men's soccer team will look to its returning talent to kick-start another push.



Headlining this fall's team will be sophomore Jonathan Curiel-Lopez, who finished his freshman year second in goals scored in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) on the way to a second team all-conference honor.

Though the Lancers graduated GPAC co-defensive player of the year Derek Otton, the team's goalkeeper, head coach Dan Hendricks said the team has been working on its defensive strategies to replace Otton.

"Otton is the most decorated player in school history," Hendricks said. "It's definitely a tough loss, he is probably one of the best goalies that this conference has seen in the last seven to eight years."

"In our first practice that was one of the first drills that we ran," he added. "Since we don't have Derek back in the box, we have to be more organized defensively."

Hendricks said junior Brandon Frey and freshman Diego Ortiz are in the mix to start at goalkeeper, while junior Chandler Olmo has the opportunity to again key the Lancers on



LANCERS: Chandler Olmo

the field. "Chandler has a chance to be a two year starter at center/mid-field," he said. "He can really dictate the tempo, he is kind of like a point guard on the soccer field."

Mount Marty ended last season with a 6-10-2 mark, including

a 3-7-2 record in the GPAC, and was only one game away from making the conference tournament.

Hendricks said that there are some key objectives that they have been working on this year.

"We are looking to control the possession to not allow to the

other team multiple chances to score during a game," he said. "The other thing that we want to do is make sure that we are really to come out in play every single game."

"There were a few games last season that we came out and didn't bring our best game to the table, but I think partly that was due to the youth of our team."

In the end, the goal is to not only contend for a GPAC postseason berth, but get to the tournament.

"We are hoping that this season we can get to the conference tournament, if we can do that then that is a successful season for us," Hendricks said. "We only have one senior on the team this year, but we have the talent to get to the conference tournament."

"We are really looking forward to that challenge this year."



MMC: Johnathan Curiel-Lopez



LANCERS: Jade Steinberg

MMC XC

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"We have been improving numbers and leadership throughout the years and we are looking for that to pay dividends this year," Fischer said.

Mount Marty's men's team will be lead this year by junior team captain Titus Kosgei who will take on the role of the teams number one runner. Kosgei placed 25th in the GPAC meet in 2009.

Kosgei will be helped out this year with the addition of Sam Lopez from Brawley, Calif.

There are also six new freshman that will add to this year's team.

"We have more depth this year and are much stronger, we hope to move up in the standings as the season progresses," Fischer said.

The Mount Marty women are hoping to improve their team as well.

The leaders for the women will be junior Jade Steinberg who placed 32nd in the GPAC meet in 2009. She will be helped out by sophomore Brooke Fischer, junior Becca Jensen, and junior Alicia Pick.

A newcomer to the team will be freshman Morgan Millar from Mount Vernon, who placed 5th in the South Dakota state cross country meet in 2009.

"I think we will have a good season this year, but it is good not to become overconfident," Fischer said.

Mount Marty is looking forward to the season which will start on Sept. 11 with the Nike Heartland Meet in Sioux Falls.

"Our veteran leadership will hopefully progress and we will see how the season plays out. We are very excited about it," said Fischer.

Lancers Lose Star Power, Gain Depth

Hendricks: All-Time Leading Scorer Gone, But MMC A Much Deeper Team In '10

BY ROYAL MCGREGOR
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The Mount Marty Lancers women's soccer team lost its star player Lauren Donlin this season and are hoping that the mark that she left on the program leads them in the right direction.



"Donlin was an immense key to our success last year," Hendricks said. "She was a three year captain of the soccer team and every year she was here she led the team in goals scored."

"Donlin was everything for us offensive," he added. "Not only was an offensive key, but she was also a great team leader, she inspired people around her to work harder."

The Lancers women's team finished with an overall 2-16 record (0-12 GPAC). This 2-16 record was a slight improvement from the year before, where they had finished 1-16-1 overall.

"Since I have been at this program, we have slightly improved on our record each season," Hendricks said. "Our team has definitely gotten better and better each year our record just really hasn't shown it."

"The first year that I was here we were losing games eight to nothing, but last year we were losing games three to one, but obviously wins and losses is how everyone measure success, but we have making small gains to



LANCERS: Hayley Rutledge (16)

get where we need to be." Hendricks is hoping that the experience that the team had gotten from last year helps the team settle down and gets them into a groove this season.

"Since last year we have improved overall on our level of play," he said. "I think we found some consistency and last year was a year that I think we really settled in to our style of play."

One of the players that Donlin tried to groom for success is senior defender captain April Dolezal, while the Lancers are looking for big things from junior Hayley Rutledge and sophomore

Hannah Miller. "Miller is really going to be our go to forward, since Donlin is gone," Hendricks said.

The Lancers are looking to use their favorable schedule to help win some early games to gear them for success later on in the season.

"Coming into this season we do have a very favorable schedule," Hendricks said. "We also have a lot more depth this year than we have ever had, we might not have a star player on the team but we have a much deeper team."

"We had a group of girls that

are hungry and they are getting better every year."

USD XC

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test this season, as the Coyotes will compete in the season-opening Creighton/UNO Classic, which will serve as a double dual for the Coyotes against Creighton and Nebraska.

From there, USD will run in the Oz Memorial Invitational (Sept. 10) and the Roy Griak Invitational (Sept. 25) in St. Paul, Minn., as well as the Chili Pepper

Festival (Oct. 16) in Arkansas. The Coyotes will also host the Tim Young Dakota Days Open on Oct. 1 in Vermillion.

"The competition level is by far the toughest we've faced in my three years," Fitzsimmons said. "We've seen either the individual national champion or team national champion the last two years."

"We're consistently going to toe-to-toe against some of the best in the nation."

The Great West Conference Championships will be held Oct. 30 in Edinburg, Texas.

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