

Serving North Penn, PA



Keller
Graduate School
of Management

15 MBA concentrations.
Find the one designed to grow the business of you.
» [Learn More](#)

Sports

Preview: Wissahickon soccer raising the bar

Published: Friday, August 20, 2010

[No comments posted.](#) | [Email to a friend](#) | [Print version](#) | [ShareThis](#) | [RSS Feeds](#)

By: Tom Kerrane



[Click to enlarge](#)

LOWER GWYNEDD — Under a steady rain one night last October, the Wissahickon High boys soccer team saw its season come to a premature end in the opening round of the District One Class AAAA playoffs.

The Trojans had gone undefeated for the year in winning the Suburban One American Conference and had

earned the chance to host a first-round game against Neshaminy.

But for a team that had not beaten a non-league opponent all season, the 2-1 defeat to the Redskins seemed to be an appropriate conclusion to the season.

It also could serve as a great motivational tool for the upcoming boys soccer season.

“We know we need to win those out-of-league games,” said co-captain Olu Amudipe, a senior defender for Wissahickon this season. “We are a smaller school and maybe we get less respect coming from a small conference, but at the same time, we have the players, the attitude, the ability to keep up with these bigger schools.

“Going undefeated in the league was great, but our reputation isn’t that great from it because we didn’t follow through with bigger wins.”

The Trojans finished up at 14-1-1 last year. Six starters from that team return this year, hoping to build on what the team has done over the past few years.

“They may be focused on what happened last year,” said head coach Stuart Malcolm, about to enter his 15th season running the Trojans. “The last two years (2007 and 2008), we had a playoff win each time, and last year, we were on the wrong end of a 2-1 result. They’ve experienced the highs of winning playoff games and the lows of expectations to win a game.

“You try to get them in the position to be able to get a high seed and win that first playoff game. That first game can give you the confidence to keep going.”

In 2008, the Trojans won a road playoff game in the first round of districts, then lost in the second round to Downingtown West, the eventual champions.

“We’ve always been a team that has done well in our conference, but had trouble outside of it,” senior midfielder and co-captain Javier Puga said. “The fact that we came off as the ninth seed and lost to the (24th), that’s really frustrating. It was pouring (rain), really disappointing. The last couple years, we had gone more than one round and last year, we didn’t.

“We can hang with those big teams, we know we can if we want to. In the playoffs, you always want to get at least past one round.”

It is once again the goal for Wissahickon in 2010. To that end, the Trojans’ schedule is lined with even more pitfalls than last year. Along with last year’s non-league slate of games against Council Rock North, Neshaminy, Central Bucks East and Souderton, the team has added two more in Pennridge and Father Judge.

The Rams reached the district quarterfinals last year before falling to Souderton while the Crusaders were Class AAA co-state champions out of the Philadelphia Catholic League.

“People ask why we would play a schedule where we went (winless) last year,” Malcolm said. “I think if we play those games tough, it will give us an edge in the tough league games. We might pick up a result in one of those games, then people will recognize we can play with the bigger schools.

“They are going to be as ready for a playoff game as they can be, should we do well enough in the league to get one.”

Wissahickon opens the season Sept. 3 versus Rock North, then plays CB East, Souderton and Pennridge before getting a sniff of the American Conference portion of the schedule.

“We definitely have high expectations,” Amudipe said. “This year, we need to make a statement that, even though we come from a smaller conference where not every team is as good as every team in other conferences, we have to show we can keep up with those teams and get some wins against them.”

The belief is the experience on the roster, and the experience of last year, will only help motivate the Trojans this fall.

“We have four or five kids on our team who have played together for six or seven years,” Puga added, “so we definitely want to utilize that to our strength.

“A lot of times, because we’re a smaller school, we have to show people what we are capable of doing.”

The Trojans had hoped to show what they were capable of last year in the playoffs. But that did not work out as planned.

Wissahickon has had to wait nearly a whole year to try to develop a new reputation.

Comments

The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of thereporteronline.com.

Login To Comment

You must be logged in to post a comment.

*Member ID:

*Password:

Remember login?
([requires cookies](#))

Login

Not Registered? Sign up today for free!

Do not use usernames or passwords from your financial accounts!

Note: Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required!

*Create a Member ID:

***Choose a password:**

***Re-enter password:**

***E-mail Address:**

***Year of Birth:**

(children under 13 cannot register)

***First Name:**

***Last Name:**

Company:

Home Phone:

Business Phone:

***Address:**

***City:**

***State:**

***Zip Code:**

[Create Account](#)