

Section V Boys Soccer Preview

Monroe County East

Preview

Webster Thomas Titans

The defending Class AA sectional champs and Western Region finalists return forward Tim Crawford, along with defenseman JR Premo, and middies Sean Doohan and Ivan Alvarez to the line-up.

Crawford was on the AGR team last year and is explosive.

Top newcomers include goalkeeper Mike Konzel and defenseman Mike Iulianello.

The Titans are a very smart team that should play well together.

Coach Grose always positions his team well and in Webster, they don't rebuild, they reload. Should be an interesting season as the Titans could accumulate more sectional points as a 'AA' team playing a mostly 'AAA' schedule in the rugged MCL East Division.

Rush-Henrietta

Royal Comets

The Comets finished a respectable 11-7-2 a year ago as they fell 1-0 to Fairport in the Class AAA title game.

They will have to replace a trio of talented players who graduated as Chris Bond (nine goals), Chris Proukou (seven goals) and Alex Harling (two goals, seven assists) are all gone.

Key returnees include Chris Fallon (two goals, five assists), Cam Thurnherr (three goals, one assist) and Sasa Kotic (two assists).

Top newcomers include forward Nick Watson and defender Eric Widanka.

Look for the Comets to move the ball well as a team, and play with great balance.

They need to finish more scoring opportunities as a team than they did a year ago, as they will create plenty of chances.

“We will be young, but solid,” said coach Peter Dietz. “Playing in Monroe County is always a grind, we just have to continue to improve and sustain a high level of play. The league should be very competitive this year, but we are looking forward to it.”

Last season was one of their best seasons in recent memory.

Coach Dietz seems to be putting a good system in place at RH — something they've lacked over the years. The new MCL alignment will have some pluses and minuses for the Royal Comets. They won't have to play Hilton who gave them a tough time last season or 2009 contender Churchville-Chili, but they've added the 2008 AA champion Webster Thomas, and 2009 AA contender West Irondequoit to their league schedule.

RH also has early season non-league games with Class A powerhouse Aquinas and AA contenders McQuaid. With the way Class AAA is setup, there's still a distinct possibility RH could go into sectionals with a No. 4-type seed.

Irondequoit Eagles

The youthful Eagles finished a disappointing 4-12 a year ago.

But, while all the top teams in Monroe D2 were senior heavy last season, Irondequoit only had two seniors.

This year on the other hand, they have about 20 players returning from last year's team along with senior transfer Justin Bounomo. Most of the team played together this summer with Joe Aratari and Matt Carrozo combining well in the attack for a team that finished close to the .500 mark.

If they can manage wins against the larger schools in Monroe County-East perhaps the extra sectional points will help their cause as well. Class AA is a very tough sectional bracket, but seeds 4-7 should be wide open for the taking all season long.

They will have to replace Steve Tomsic, who scored nine goals a year ago, and Sam Kennedy, a first team all-county selection.

Key returnees include Joe Aratari, Vincent Baccari, Matt Carrozo, Kevin Connelly, Dan Buerkle, Matt Wolfe and Matt Hohler.

Top newcomers are Justin Buonomo, Jakob Graff and Charlie Cosentino.

“We hope to be competitive in a very tough division, playing almost all larger schools,” said head coach John Tichacek.

Fairport Red Raiders

It was a great year in 2008 for the Red Raiders as they captured the Class AAA title with the 1-0 victory over a feisty R-H team.

Fairport finished the season 14-3-3, while also claiming the MCL Division I crown. They finally finished when they lost their state qualifier to Webster Thomas.

They will have to replace several key players including striker Ryan Black, who scored seven goals with eight assists; along with middies Ryan Smith, who was the D-I Player of the Year and AGR selection and Dan Garcia, a first team all-country pick.

But the Red Raiders return plenty of horses in their barn including goalkeeper Kyle Metcalfe, last year's 'AAA' title game MVP and a first team all-county pick.

Also back is Fairport's leading scorer from a year ago in Brendan Saylor (11 goals), who was a first team all-county pick as well as AGR member.

Center backer Brad Fitter and middle Adam DeJean, both talented players, are also back in the Red Raiders' line-up.

This year's team a close knit group who have played together for a long time.

"It is difficult to play as the defending Section V AAA champions – we need to be on top of our game – every game," said coach Gianni Bussani.

Webster Schroeder

Warriors

Junior midfielder Ryan Lotzar and senior middle Eric Benson will both be back this fall as they try and lead the Webster Schroeder soccer team.

Last year the Warriors finished 7-9 and lost their opening round sectional game to Rush-Henrietta.

The Warriors will have to replace a duo of talented players in forward Alex Kittelberger, a AGR selection who scored seven goals with two assists, and keeper Eric Read, who was a second team All-County pick.

This team has several newcomers that should provide help as sophomore forwards Anthony Rozzano and Jonathon Malecki will get the offense going while junior Kyle Cole and sophomore Michale Hyners will help the defense.

This team has technically improved from last season and is hungry to win. They have more depth than last year and are very dangerous going forward.

They need to overcome their youth and inexperience with five sophomores on the roster.

“I think many people will overlook us since we lost eight starters and will be so young,” said coach Urbanski. “However, the kids are hungry and want to win. We should be more skillfull and a deeper unit than last season. Hopefully, we can score a lot more goals this season.”

Monroe County West

Hilton Cadets

After posting a 7-8-3 mark a year ago, Hilton will look to rebound as they try and advance further than last year’s ‘AAA’ semifinal loss to Rush Henrietta.

The Cadets will have to replace plenty of scoring as Nathan Smith (seven goals), Jim Gaffney (two goals, six assists), and Joe Caricatti (seven goals, four assists) have all graduated.

Keepers Zach Kruizenga and Tom Kress are also gone.

They will count on returners Max McCune, Mike Vincelli, Pat Vaughan and Eric Luisi to pick up the slack at both ends.

This team will rely on their defense this season. But they have little depth and experience to work with so patience is a virtue early on.

“If we can defend consistently we should be in every game,” said head coach Greg Booth.

Churchville-Chili Saints

Head coach Ryan Raftery (75-39-16) returns for his eighth season as the Saints look to make a move after going 10-7-2 a year ago.

The No. 7 seeded Saints fell to No. 2 seeded Webster Thomas in the ‘AA’ quarterfinals.

The Saints will have to replace forward Damien Pagano (11 goals, 10 assists), defender Sean Tanner (four goals, two assists) and forward Jake Steven (career stats 16 goals, 11 assists).

Both Pagano and Tanner were first team All-County a year ago while Steven was second team.

Five starters return including senior forward Dino Banitskas (six goals, two assists); senior middle Andy Schuler (two goals, two assists); senior defender Mark Walther (one goal, two assists); senior defender Jake Brown (two assists) and senior middle Kevin Oswald (one assist).

Those five will be back in the starting line-up along with senior forward Tim Randall (three goals, three assists) and senior keeper Ken Clar, who started two sectional games a year ago.

Look for newcomers Pete Psomiadis (Jr., Forward), who scored 12 goals on JV a year ago, and Brian Lang (Jr., Defender) to also help out this fall.

“Last year was very difficult start, but the plan all along was to prepare for the post season. Winning a game like that (McQuaid) was the highlight to our season. It also showed that the program continues to move in the right direction” said Saints head coach Ryan Raftery.

The Saints, who have appeared in seven straight Section V semifinals under Raftery, have a difficult task repeating that with a move up into the ‘AAA’ classification. The Saints also enjoy a new league alignment with the development of the “Western Division” in the Monroe County League. The Saints will need returning third year starters Dino Banitskas, Andy Schuler, and Mark Walther to anchor the Saints attack.

“Its great to have some of the experience we have, but its going to take the entire team to make this another successful campaign” added Raftery Greece Athena Trojans

Last year the Trojans settled on a successful 10-5-3 season that ended with a ‘AA’ semifinal loss to Brockport.

They will have a few standouts to replace from graduation including forward John Mastrella (nine goals, two assists) and defenders Kyle Burke and Tim Fitzmorris.

They return one of the top defenseman in the area in Nick Garcia, a AGR pick a year ago.

Garcia is always listed as a defender, but he has a lot more offensive responsibilities than you usually see in a centerback. He acts as the de facto holding/defensive midfielder collecting balls and distributing to the wings and the attack.

Sophomore keeper Brian LoTempio is also back between the posts after getting five shutouts a year ago.

Middies Chris Dean and Gianluca Cuomo, along with defenseman Brandon Hank are also back.

Look for newcomers Alex Palermo (M), Mike Natale (F), and Corey McNair

(F) to each make impacts.

This year’s team has a strong senior class and will play exceptional defense.

“We should have a solid season and should be competitive throughout the season,” said coach Hueber.

Monroe County

Small School

Greece Odyssey

Leopards

The Leopards should be a force this season as Mike Bernard (For), Jason Snook (For), Joe Walsh (Mid), Adam Cottorone (Mid), Tim Alesio (Mid) and Dave Samentello (Def) all return from a team that went 10-6-3 while winning the Class B title a year ago.

All in all, eight starters are back in the line-up this fall including their top five leading scorers.

Odyssey's experience gives it the edge in a wide open Class B tournament again this year.

Look for top newcomers Chris Terwilliger (Def), Ben Twait (Def) and Victorin Kothor (For) to each get plenty of minutes.

Honeoye Falls-Lima

Cougars

The Cougars exit the Livingston Conference for the Monroe County as they will try and repeat last year's sectional title in Class A.

Last year HF-L finished second in the LCAA standings but did manage to win the Class A championship with a big victory over Aquinas, which sent them into the state quarterfinals.

The Cougars will have to overcome the loss of their three top scorers in Mike Trinidad (20 goals), Jonny Day (19 goals) and Tyler Burgasser (10 goals). Trinidad was an AGR selection.

Some key returnees are back including seniors Mickey Allan, Alex Moyer, Jimmy Burgasser, Jay Tallon, David Gaglio, Alex Holton, Chris Kusminsky, and Aaron Mehlenbacher, each of whom started a year ago.

This team has 15 seniors on the roster and should bring a level of experience to this season.

“The Monroe County Division III league will be extremely competitive and we hope to be right there competing for a league championship in our first season,” said head coach Mike Merrill, who enters his second season. “Most often when a team is returning 15 seniors you'd talk about their experience and how it can help them to a title. With this team it's hard to look past the 49 goals that left and where the goals will come from this season.”

Pittsford-Mendon Vikings

The Vikings finished 10-8-1 a year ago, not great by P-M standards but they do return plenty of offense this fall.

Although defensively the Vikings will have to work off some early rust as all four defenders have graduated, three of which were All-County players.

The Vikings' top two players are back including senior forward Luke Tylutki and junior middle Andrew Smith. Both were first team All-County a year ago.

Also back in the line-up is Thomas Rodenhouse (Sr., Def); Jonah Larson (Sr., Mid); Josh Klein (Jr., GK); Brandon Winn (Sr., Def); Phil Brogan (Sr., Mid) and Rory Foster (Sr., Mid).

Top newcomers this season are Seyefe Brouk (Soph., Def) and Michael D'Amico (Soph., Def).

This team will be sound fundamentally and will provide solid depth.

Goal scoring and communication are early question marks.

"If we work hard, stay positive and finish opportunities we can do very well, but there are many very good teams and players out there so we have to get some breaks as well," said coach Mark Hurley. "We have a group of hard working players who have great personalities, they make it fun every day. If we push it and reach our potential good things can happen."

East Irondequoit-Eastridge Lancers

The Lancers got it going at the end of last season as they strung together a couple of solid wins, then went into the sectional tournament full of confidence despite their No. 13 seeding as they knocked off host and No. 4 seed Wayne in the Class A sectional tournament.

Leading scorer John Martello and top defenseman Pat Walsh are both gone to graduation and each were four-year varsity starters.

Nick and Luke Martello are both back as is Nick Doarn, Steven Service, Stephen Iodice, Thomas Waterhouse and Taryn Latore.

Top newcomers include Patrick Thomas, Markus Lembcke, and Jakub Aschenbirer, who is a Slovakian exchange student.

This team could make some noise as they have numerous players with high skill level.

Small team numbers and inexperience could hurt as more than half of the team are sophomores.