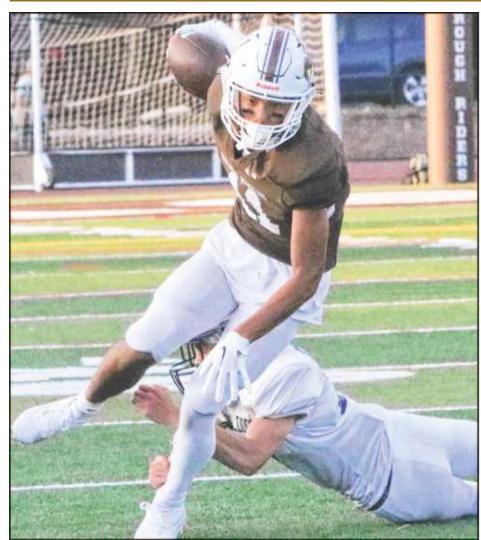




2024 FALL Sports & Activities



Jordan Bradshaw is expected to lead the way at wide receiver this season.

Rough Riders buy into the process under new coach

BY JEFF MOELLER Special to the Press

First-year Catasauqua head football coach Joe Henrich is ready to take the first step, and he knows there are more to come.

Henrich has been here before. He took over a Bethlehem Catholic team that had struggled since legendary Bob Stem left. Henrich took over a floundering program in 2011 and built a 67-41 record that included four district title and two state playoff appearances.

With the majority of his 32 Catasauqua play-ers getting inaugural varsity time this fall, Henrich has stated that it will be a true process.

"We're working to create a culture and expectations to be successful," stated Henrich.

outs. This is something chances." that I have always en-joyed because of the po-the backfield by Ruben tential for growth.

are getting into it."

The Rough Rider did lose eight starters from last year's 6-6 team that advanced to the district semifinals. Quarterback jured, will head a deep Aiden Hess transferred to Northampton, and the rest of the backfield was lost to graduation. Lineman and tackling machine C.J. Beller also is gone.

start to restock their turns to provide leadercupboard.

Aiden Reilly, who saw limited time last season, will get the start Eli Sandt will see their at quarterback.

'Aiden has done a nice job overall," said Henrich. "He is well

"It is a path that begins capable of running and with the weight room also has a nice arm. and the offseason work- We're excited about his

Concepcion and Caden "We can see the kids Estronza, both of whom will be seeing significant time for their first time.

> Jordan Bradshaw. who is currently ingroup of wide receivers that includes Manny Bolmer, Jo-Jo LaFond, Tyler Limandri, and Chase Kratochvil.

Up front, Jacob Ramos is back at center So, the Roughies will and Matt Fotta also reship and experience.

Braeden Smith, Evan Delong, Tavin Ying, and share of playing time.

See FOOT on Page A3



FOOT Continued from page A2

Defensively up front, Henrich plans to use a rotation of Ramos, Fotta, Smith, DeLong, and Ying.

In the secondary, Estronza, LaFond, Bradshaw, Limandri, and Bolmer all figure to be in the mix.

Kratochvil, Braden Chris Bartholomew, Wellington, and Juari Wright all will handle

the linebacking corps. Jon Cordon-Pinto and Jayden Olivencia will handle the kicking du-

ties. The Roughies host Mahanoy Area in their Henrich. "We're learnopener, and Henrich is a ing a new system, and stranger to the Colonial our level of execution League.

In a true process, there will be plenty of el of competition in the obstacles to overcome. league and how to com-Catty will have their pare what we have. We share. However, Hen- just have to avoid makrich isn't measuring ing mental mistakes. any success on wins and victories. Under former ready, and we may surcoach Travis Brett, the prise some people." Roughies were 21-22 in

four years. Before that, they were 12-63 over the previous seven seasons. "We're young and inexperienced," offered needs work.

"I don't know the lev-

"Our kids will be





Matthew Fotta gets set to block during a game from last season. Fotta is one of the key returning players on the line.



Field hockey looks to get back to playoffs

BY JEFF MOELLER Special to the Press

After getting back to the district playoffs last season, Catasauqua's field hockey team has its sights back on the postseason prize.

"We came together last year and made a district run," said sec-ond-year head coach Amanda Freiler. "The girls worked hard to pull it together last year. and they saw what they

could do.

starters from last year, Vazquez, juniors Shelby see how a class of seven gether since winter in learn, and have created and we will work to tran-Haldeman and Dakota freshmen develop, and tournaments. sition into this season."

lost six seniors from last meralda Serrano, and year's 9-9 squad that lost Lizzy Bass to lead the to Moravian Academy, team. 2-1, in the district quarterfinal round. Among returning leading scorer the key losses were lead- with six goals, and Bass shoes to fill," offered this year smooth. The run.' ing scorer Abigail Antipas, who tallied 13 goals, and goal keeper Sophia Becker.

vear, Freiler This

is looking to seniors will be in the nets. "We did lose some Zoe Roth and Juliana The Rough Riders Kamryn Pushkar, Es-

Haldeman is the top

Velas, and sophomores she doesn't see any ris-leagues, and summer already. I have a really ing newcomers in the leagues to progress. pack yet.

Freiler. "But our girls girls are ready to work Freiler is waiting to have been working to- hard every day, eager to

"They had adjust- season. The coach has an op- ed and put in the extra timistic and realistic work during our off sea- is to improve on our reoutlook for the season. son to make the transi- cord from last year and "We have some big tion from last year to make a district playoff

indoor a great team chemistry good feeling about the

"Our goal, once again,



Shelby Haldeman is the leading, returning scorer for the field hockey team this season.



Zoe Roth is a key senior back for the girls this season.

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Colonial League announces division setups

unanimously ed Jim Thorpe into the Colonial League as full members to begin in August of 2024.

At subsequent Jim its division setup. Thorpe and Lehighton board meetings, they accepted the offer and decided to join the league.

Since March of 2023, the Colonial League has been working on league

On Dec. 1, 2022, the organization and updat-Colonial League vot- ing its rules. This seato son will be the first seainvite Lehighton and son of 15 full member schools in the Colonial League.

> Below is a breakdown of each sport with

Football (With Schuylkill League) Red Division

Lehighton, Blue Mountain, Pottsville, North Schuylkill, Tamaqua, Jim Thorpe, Southern Lehigh, Bangor, Northwestern

White Division

Palmerton, Palisades, Wilson, Notre Dame, Salisbury, Salisbury, Catasauqua, Saucon Valley, Pen Argyl, Northern Lehigh

Blue Division

Pine Grove, Panther Valley, Schuylkill Haven, Shenandoah Valley, Williams Valley, Mahanoy Area, Minersville, Tri-Valley, Marian, Nativity

Field Hockev West Division

Lehighton, Northern Lehigh, Northwestern. Palmerton East Division

Bangor, Moravian Academy, Pen Argyl, Wilson

South Division Catasauqua, Palisades, Saucon Vallev. Southern Lehigh

Baseball, Basketball West Division

Jim Thorpe, Lehighton, Northern Lehigh, Northwestern, Palmerton

East Division Bangor, Moravian Academy, Notre Dame, Pen Argyl, Wilson South Division Catasauqua, Palisades,

Salisbury, Saucon Valley, Southern Lehigh

Softball West Division

Jim Thorpe, Lehighton, Northern Lehigh, Northwestern, Palmerton

East Division Bangor, Notre Dame, Pen Argyl, Wilson **South Division** Palisades, Salisbury, Saucon Valley, Catasauqua, Southern Lehigh

Wrestling

(based on previous year) A Division 1st-3-5-7-9-11-13 **B** Division

2nd-4-6-8-10-12-14



West Division Catasaugua, Jim Thorpe, Lehighton, Northern Lehigh, Northwestern, Palmerton, Salisbury

East Division

Bangor, Notre Dame, Palisades, Pen Argyl, Saucon Valley, Southern Lehigh, Wilso



All teams compete in one division.

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The Press is looking for sports writers to cover events in Catasaugua and Whitehall. Email spagel@tnonline.com



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Faith Daku is a returning senior for this year's girls soccer team.



Girls soccer team gets a new coach

BY JEFF MOELLER Special to the Press

Over 14 years, David Harth had a varied girls' soccer coaching background with the Catasauqua youth program and various clubs.

He thought one day that he would explore the opportunity to become a head high school coach.

For Harth, that chance recently surfaced, and he knew it would be a good fit.

Harth was recently hired as the Rough Rid-ers' head girls' soccer coach, replacing Kayla Cunningham who resigned after three seasons.

His older daughter, Madison, graduated in 2022, and younger daughter, Julia, is a junior on the current roster.

Harth likes the makeup of his club for the fall, as he has six returning seniors back in the fold. Seniors Caroline Rodriguez, Faith Daku, Maya Osorto, and Lily Gacitus; his daughter Julia and other juniors Eva Gomes, and Brooke Barna, and sophomore Ana Ramos-Rodriguez.

Other members are seniors Alicia Avila and Morgan Kessler, juniors Mia Gomes and Eriana Vazquez, sophomore Uyen Li, and freshman Jessica Mankos.

"The girls have worked really hard," stressed Harth. "We weren't too successful scoring last year, but we have a lot of returning seniors.



Julia Harth is a returning junior this season.

with them so far, and Aug. 26 and Jim Thorpe a lot of fun. They want Aug. 28. to learn, and we ran "We played well," two-a-days during the said Harth in reference summer. They all really to the scrimmage. "Postepped up and support- cono Mountain West ed one another. We seem isn't a strong team, but to have a good chemistry here so far."

In the future, Harth fense." hopes to address the development of the middle from their summer he sees as a pipeline to initial positive outlook the future of the pro- for the season. gram.

Pocono Mountain West, have thrown at them," 6-1, in a scrimmage, and he said. "We had a good they opened the regular scrimmage, and we exseason hosting Kutz- pect some good things town Aug. 24 before they from them.'

"It has been great traveled to Salisbury

we played good balanced soccer on offense and de-

With some good vibes school program, which workouts, Harth has an

"They have respond-The Roughies downed ed well to everything we



Jonathan Cordon-Pinto figures to be an important player back for the boys soccer team this season.

Osmar Ferre is one of the key pieces back for the boys soccer team which is looking for a postseason berth.

Postseason the goal for boys soccer team

BY JEFF MOELLER Special to the Press

For the Catasauqua boys' soccer team, it will be about getting to the postseason.

Last season, the Rough Riders finished with an overall 7-11 record, and they had a postseason berth in their grasp. They won three of their final four regular-season games,

four of their previous from graduation, and be- nior midfielder Osmar time. five contests.

coach Josh Inman is improve upon the team. confident his team can We ended up 0.07 powbe in the running for a er-ranking points away to bring stability in the experienced players and and end our program's postseason bid. Inman from a district berth." took over the program before the 2017 season.

itive outlook on the sea- don-Pinto, senior mid- freshman defender/mid- Inman. "We are workson," beamed Inman, "It fielder Lvnkan Moore, fielder Owen Arancibia ing on finding our scoris mostly because we did senior midfielder/for has been impressive and ing punch much like in

lieve the newcomers and Ferre, junior midfield-This season, head returnees can fill and

Inman will look to

er/forward Jayden Ol- of his seasoned unit. ivencia, and sophomore goalie Liam McGinley strong leadership from make the step forward early going.

Newcomers senior midfielder/de- defender/midfielder Ni- have not made it to in since before my coach-"We have a great pos-fender Jonathan Cor-koloz Kemashvili and many years," stressed ing tenure."

but they had dropped not lose many players ward Daniel Jones, se- should vie for playing years past, but we be-

have a good group desire postseason junior to reach heights that we which has been ongoing

lieve we have the group Inman likes the core to solve that problem.

"As a team, we be-"I believe we have lieve we are ready to drought,



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Evan Reed is one of the key returning runners for the Catty cross country team this season.

Harriers will look to make strides during 2024 season

BY JEFF MOELLER Special to the Press

Catasauqua's cross country team will be in a rebuilding and transition phase this fall, but ever-optimistic head coach Kyle Rusnock is make some strides.

"We have been working hard all summer," said Rusnock. "We lost some runners who had made an impact with the program, but we're confident that our younger runners can step up.

"We have had some good practices and are preparing for the season to begin.'

The Rough Riders lost a number of steady performers from last year's squad. Olivia Bear was a state qualifier along with seasoned runner and state qualifier Ava Smith. Bear was eight at the District 11 and Smith was 11th at last

year's District 11 meet. Aguirre and Mikhail and Shakayla Roberts. Hartranft.

has a core of 11 runners. first-year runner for On the boys' side, se-nior Jonathan Rizzo, girls have been coming confident his bunch can nior Jonathan Rizzo, and juniors Evan Reed, Gavin Hacker, and Jack Brubaker will look to set the season at the annual the pace. Reed finished Moravian Academy Li-29th at the district meet last season.

> "Evan Reed looks fantastic, and she should be a runner to watch," noted Rusnock. "We like what our boys have done season, Rusnock knows so far."

> Freshman David Mercado and junior Nikolaz Kemashvili have been and they will be running impressive in the early going.

> seniors Caroline Rodri- first meet ever. guez and Nhi Thai along with sophomore Uyen do well when we are at Li should set the pace. full strength and peak at Newcomers on the girls'

side are sophomore Ana On the boys' side, the Rodriguez, and fresh-Roughies lost William men Kailyn Stewart,

"Kailyn Stewart This season, Rusnock looks really good as a along."

The Roughies opened ons Invitational where they have had success in the past. They then travel to Southern Lehigh Aug. 28.

At the start of the there will be varying degrees for his runners.

"Some will be ready, well," said Rusnock. "Some are working and On the girls' side, preparing to run their

"As a team, we should the right time.'



Email: spagel@tnonline.com

CATASAUQUA FALL SCHEDULES

Cross Country

8/23 at Lion Invite 2:50 p.m.
8/28 at So. Lehigh 4:30 p.m.
8/31 at NH Invite 9 a.m.
9/4 home meet 4 p.m.
9/10 at Salisbury 4 p.m.
9/17 at Pen Argyl 3:30 p.m.
9/24 at Lehighton 4 p.m.
10/1 at Palisades 3:30 p.m.
10/8 at Northwestern 3:30 p.m.
10/16 CL meet 3 p.m.
10/23 Districts

Field Hockey

8/27 vs. Palmerton 4 p.m.
8/30 vs. Salisbury 3 p.m.
9/4 vs. Wilson 7:15 p.m.
9/6 vs. Moravian 4 p.m.
9/7 vs. Pen Argyl 10 a.m.
9/10 at Salisbury 6:30 p.m.
9/11 at No. Lehigh 4 p.m.
9/13 at Palisades 4 p.m.
9/17 at Saucon Vy. 4 p.m.
9/19 vs. So. Lehigh 4 p.m.
9/23 vs. Bangor 4 p.m.
9/25 at Lehighton 4 p.m.
9/27 at Niwestern 3:30 p.m.
9/30 at Wilson 4 p.m.

10/1 at So. Lehigh 3:30 p.m. 10/3 vs. Saucon Vy. 7 p.m. 10/5 vs. Palisades 2:30 p.m. 10/10 vs. Pocono E. 6:30 p.m.

Football

8/23 vs. Mahanoy 7 p.m.
8/31 at Wilson 12 p.m.
9/6 at Palisades 7 p.m.
9/13 vs. Salisbury 7 p.m.
9/20 vs. N. Dame GP 7 p.m.
9/27 at Saucon Vy. 7 p.m.
10/4 at Jim Thorpe 7 p.m.
10/11 vs. No. Lehigh 7 p.m.
10/18 vs. Pen Argyl 7 p.m.
10/25 at Palmerton 7 p.m.
11/28 at Northampton 10 a.m.

Soccer Girls

8/24 vs. Kutztown 2 p.m.
8/26 at Salisbury 6 p.m.
8/28 at Jim Thorpe 5:30 p.m.
8/30 vs. Wilson 6:30 p.m.
9/3 vs. Bangor 6 p.m.
9/5 at Palmerton 4 p.m.
9/7 vs. Lehighton 1:30 p.m.
9/10 at Moravian 4 p.m.
9/11 at So. Lehigh 6:30 p.m.

9/14 at Notre Dame 10 a.m.
9/16 at Tamaqua 6:15 p.m.
9/18 vs. Palisades 6 p.m.
9/20 at No. Lehigh 3:45 p.m.
9/24 vs. Pen Argyl 4 p.m.
10/2 at Salisbury 6:30 p.m.
10/5 vs. Saucon Vy. 4:30 p.m.
10/8 vs. Northwestern 4 p.m.
10/9 vs. Dieruff 6 p.m.

Soccer Boys

8/24 vs. Tamaqua 10 a.m. 8/28 vs. Jim Thorpe 4 p.m. 8/31 at Wilson 6:30 p.m. 9/3 at Notre Dame ES 6:30 p.m. 9/5 vs. Palmerton 6 p.m.

9/7 at Lehighton 12:30 p.m.
9/7 at Lehighton 12:30 p.m.
9/10 vs. Moravian 4 p.m.
9/11 vs. So. Lehigh 4 p.m.
9/14 vs. N. Dame GP 10 a.m.
9/18 at Palisades 6:30 p.m.
9/21 vs. No. Lehigh 10 a.m.
9/24 vs. No. Lehigh 10 a.m.
9/26 vs. Notre Dame ES 6 p.m.
9/28 at Bangor 10 a.m.
10/2 vs. Salisbury 6 p.m.
10/5 at Saucon Vy. 2:30 p.m.

10/7 at N'western 6:30 p.m.

Volleyball

12:45 p.m. 8/24 at Salem Ch. 2:15 p.m. 8/26 at Palmerton 6 p.m. 8/28 vs. Northwestern 6 p.m. 9/3 vs. Pen Argyl 6 p.m. 9/5 vs. Notre Dame GP 6 p.m. 9/7 at Tamaqua 12 p.m. 9/9 at Saucon Vy. 6 p.m. 9/11 vs. Jim Thorpe 6 p.m. 9/14 vs. Dieruff 11 a.m. 9/16 vs. Tamagua 6 p.m. 9/17 at So. Lehigh 6 p.m. 9/19 at Lehighton 6 p.m. 9/21 at Williams Vy 11 a.m. 9/23 vs. Palmerton 6 p.m. 9/25 at Laurel High 6 p.m. 10/1 at Pen Argyl 6 p.m. 10/3 at Notre Dame GP 7 p.m. 10/7 vs. Saucon Vy. 6 p.m. 10/8 at Jim Thorpe 6 p.m. 10/10 vs. So. Lehigh 6 p.m. 12/12 vs. Lehighton 11 a.m.

Cheerleders ready to go this season

8/24 at Executive Educatoin 12:45 p.m. BY SCOTT PAGEL spagel@tnonline.com

> The Catasauqua cheerleading team will be back in action this year.

> Head coach Kawaunna Waldron told the Press about what's on the agenda this fall for the team.

"We will be in the catty parade and we are also returning to doing competitions this year," Waldron said.

Members of the high school team will be: seniors Alyssa Baker, Anessa Rodriguez, Caroline Rodriguez; juniors Kadince Waldron, Jay-

lynn Bonilla, Janetliz Burgos, Kayla Davis, Julia Harth, Jezial Kelley, Alivia Kurczewski, Cianni Lafantano, Ariella Miller, Madison Monberger, Dakota Velas and Maliya Walp; sophomores Jadalyn Bradshaw, Zhariyah Bucknor, Jaylynn Garica; freshmen Jessica Mankos and Shakayla Roberts.

The middle school team consists of: Isabella Garcia, Alisha Perez-Porrata, Marigny Saldana, Madeline Stock, Ciara Gass, Savannah Rodriguez and Victoria Rodriguez.



CATASAUQUA HIGH SCHOOL Future starts now for volleyball team

BY JEFF MOELLER Special to the Press

took a swing in the upward direction and participated in the district playoffs for the first time in 17 years, Cata- returning seniors Kara sauqua's girls' volley-ball program will be in a rebuilding phase for the 2024 season.

The Rough Riders graduated six seniors from last year's team. Delanie Popa and Adriana Molinary will be both continuing their careers at Lehigh County Community College, and Amanad Hunsberger will be playing at Arcadia University.

"Over the last two years, we have made great strides with the program, and we have hit some milestones along the way," said head coach John Cesanek. "It was an incredible feeling taking these girls to the district playoffs.

"But this year, we are faced with a challenging year, as we rebuild our group.'

Cesanek welcomed 45 girls this summer, and he cut the roster to 11 varsity players and 12 junior varsity players.

"Despite losing most of our starters, we have After the program a great group of girls returning, and we had quite the surprise in the turnout we had."

Cesanek will look to Gruver and Yaneisha Martinez for their passing skills. He also will rely on a large returning junior core of Makayla Bird, Madison Monberger, Amber Faust, Davina Fields, and Maliya Walp. "Makayla, Amber, and Madison all have very powerful serves, and these four girls have been working hard learning and perfecting new sets and plays, especially in the middle. Makayla has really buckled down and improved her game play tremendously, and she's looking to another record setting year when it comes to serving.

"Maliya will run the show as our setter. If she can continue to focus, she can be a powerful force at the net. Madison has stepped up, and she will also give it a try. We double-rostered have sophomore Kira Kell, who was a pleasant surprise as a natural setter last year."



Cara Gruver, shown here during the summer, is one of the key players back for the volleyball team.

Rounding out the var- Jim Thorpe and Lehigh- past three years. sity team are seniors ton have been added to Alvssa Baker.

be boring. He noted that been with him for the out. We have loads of tal-

Kennosh Brown and Al- the schedule, and Salis- be an interesting year, together, I think we will yssa Baker, and junior bury and Pen Argyl have and our record could go have a chance at a great begun programs. He also either way," he added. rebuilding year." Cesanek anticipates praised assistant coach "We're not exactly sure a year ahead that won't Edward Popa, who has how this year will pan

ent, and if they can play "Overall, it's going to and apply those skills



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