

Girls soccer readies to start season

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The girls soccer squad has several veteran players returning to their squad this year, and new players are adding depth to the roster. New Head Coach Jaron Jacobsen told *The Nugget* that they each bring their own unique quality to the field, which will make for an exciting season ahead.

Rylee Weber is the lone senior back for her final season as a Lady Outlaw, and she looks to be a threat up top. Rylee brings great leadership to the team, both on and off the field. Jacobsen said she has a strong work ethic and wants to get better this season.

Jacobsen said, “It’s rare to have a kid who has only picked up soccer a few seasons ago to be where she is at and wants to get even better.”

Juniors Alexa Stewart and Sophia Bianchi are also back and will bring knowledge and experience to the squad. Stewart brings great energy to practice every day, and her quickness and attitude will be a key to the team this year. Bianchi also brings positive energy, a good work ethic, and will be a big component in the Outlaw’s back line as defender.

Sophomores will make up the bulk of the team. Grace Sundstrom, Olivia Houghman, Lola Green, Emma Horner and Rheanna

Salisbury will all play a big role on the team this year.

Sundstrom is very versatile and will be able to provide help at all positions. Her quick decision-making will be very important for the Outlaws this year, and she has a rocket of a shot. Jacobsen stated he would not want to be an opposing goalkeeper when Grace lines up to shoot.

Houghman will be key in the midfield. Olivia has quick feet, makes smart decisions, and is able to go hard into any tackle. Jacobsen told *The Nugget* that Olivia has a fearless mentality, which you can’t teach.

Green will also be a key factor in the midfield. She plays with composure and has a strong soccer mentality. Jacobsen stated that Lola has a lot of knowledge for just a sophomore, and to look out for her in the years to come.

Horner is a very athletic player with lots of endurance, which enables her to seemingly be able to run forever. Emma will make a big impact at the wing position. She’s aggressive and always works to get better.

Salisbury is competing hard at the starting goalkeeper position, and Jacobsen said she is like a wall between the goal posts.

Sophomores Brianna Bachmeier, Allison Mansfield, Josie Aylor, Madeline Busick and

Caitlyn Schwab will all be competing for varsity spots. Bachmeier will bring a tremendous amount of speed to the squad, Mansfield will bring depth to the wing/forward position, and Aylor will bring her great attitude and hard-work ethic. Busick and Schwab, according to Jacobsen, are getting better daily.

Hallie Schwartz, sophomore transfer student, will bring quick-thinking, strength on the ball, and experience to the team. Hallie will also be competing for a varsity spot.

Freshmen Emilie Turpen and Madi Larrabee are new to the squad this year, and Jacobsen said they are both working hard and competing for spots on the team as well.

Coach Jacobsen said, “The girls have been working hard at practice, and we’re still expecting more girls to come out. They are slowly trickling in, and my hope — fingers crossed — is to have both a varsity and a JV team this year.”

Sisters Country birds

By Douglas Beall
Correspondent

The high-pitched whistling of the hooded merganser (*lophodytes cucullatus*) is often heard in the spring within forested freshwater wetlands. These “mergies” are the smallest of their species in North America. They nest high — 10 to 90 feet — in tree cavities and lay 5-13 white eggs. They will occasionally deposit the eggs in the nest of another hooded merganser nest. One nest was discovered to contain 44 eggs.

A long incubation period lasts from 26-41 days. Within 24 hours the young are coaxed to jump the nest by their mother on the forest

floor.

Their diet consists of crayfish, aquatic insects, mollusks, small fish and some vegetation. They use sight to find their prey and possess the unique ability to change the refractive properties of their eyes to improve underwater vision. The young are able to dive underwater when only one day old.

The oldest hooded merganser known was 14 years old.

A collection of mergansers is known as a “raft,” “paddling,” “brace,” or a “flush” of ducks. To see more images of these ducks, visit <http://abirdsingsbecauseithasasong.com/recent-journeys>.

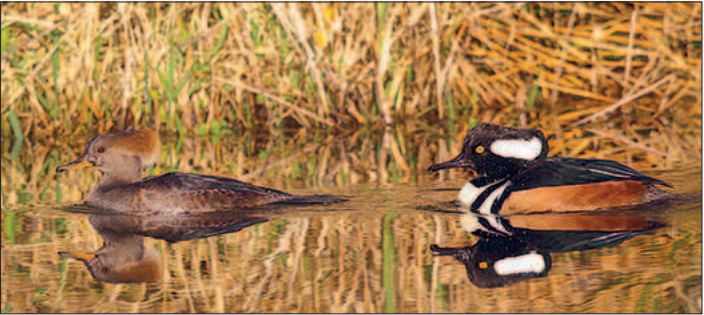


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