

Soccer team ready and confident

Long Creek/Ukiah's season starts Sept. 26

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle



Wilbur Chan

Fifteen soccer players for the 1A junior varsity Long Creek/Ukiah team are charged and ready for the season to start next week.

"I'm looking forward to building on what we had last year," said sophomore Aaron Garinger.

He said last year's team was solid, and three returning players this season should help the team be even stronger.

Returning head coach Amos Studtmann said every year they start over with new team members because of several of the athletes being foreign exchange students — the benefit is that many times those students have experience playing the sport in their own country.

"I have many from different parts of the world who've played either recreationally or on a club team," he said.

The countries those students are from include France, China, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Mexico, Vietnam and Germany.

"We have a pretty positive team with good attitudes and good work ethic from the majority," Studtmann said.

Mathéo Buchart, a junior, scored during

the team's practice scrimmage Sept. 12 in Long Creek. He said in his home country of France he enjoys playing soccer with friends.

"I think this year we have a good team," he said. "We're going to try to win our games. We're going to give our maximum for the win."

Wilbur Chan, a senior from Hong Kong, hasn't played soccer in several years, but he said he enjoys learning more at practice.

"The team spirit is good," he said. "We have fun together ... I hope to win."

Studtmann said smaller schools have co-ed soccer teams. In the past, local girls have opted for volleyball, but this year two girls are trying soccer, including Katherin Vaughan and Heather Fan.

The coach said his goalies, Ben Combs and Jesus Olmos, are showing good instincts and reaction time in the position.

They'll face junior varsity teams from larger schools, including Riverside, Umatilla and Nyssa. They'll also match up with Four Rivers of Ontario, a team they've faced in the past.

"I'm grateful for the larger schools for letting us play their JV teams," he said.

Sophomore Thomas Kreamier, was on last year's team that won all their games except for two tied matches. He was named

2018 Long Creek/Ukiah JV soccer schedule

- Sept. 26: vs. Riverside in Long Creek at 3 p.m.
- Oct. 2: @ Riverside in Boardman at 4:15 p.m.
- Oct. 6: @ Four Rivers in Ontario at 4 p.m. (MT)
- Oct. 10: vs. Umatilla in Long Creek at 3 p.m.
- Oct. 12: @ Riverside in Boardman at 2 p.m.
- Oct. 18: vs. Nyssa in Long Creek at 3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 20: @ Umatilla in Boardman at 3 p.m.
- Oct. 27: vs. Four Rivers in Long Creek at noon

Rookie of the Year for 2017.

Kreamier said he likes hanging out with friends at practice.

"I enjoy the journey," he said. "I'm excited to see how this team develops camaraderie."

Josh Konig, a junior and returning Mountaineer/Cougars player, said they have a strong group, and he's willing to work with the players who've joined their team this year.

"I'm loving this new team," he said.

Canyon City resident shows Seattle Spartan spirit

By Angel Carpenter
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about strategy as she competes.

"You think about ways you can run smarter," she said.

Rebekah Rand of Canyon City battled at the Sept. 9 Seattle Spartan Sprint, finishing first in the 25- to 29-year-old age group for women with a time of 1:05.25.

Rand is Blue Mountain Hospital District's EMS director in John Day.

A total of 167 people ran the race, and Rand was seventh out of 48 women.

This was her third try at the competition, held in Snohomish, Washington, and it was the first time she's won her age group.

"The first year, on a different course, I finished in two hours," Rand said. "Last year, I improved to 1 hour, 20 minutes — I never expected to win."

As she started the course, Rand said she felt good and passed several runners.

"I kept my head down," she said.

She said, over the years, she started thinking more

The Spartan Sprint, 4.5 miles this year, includes an obstacle course with 20 challenges, such as a rope climb, a multi ring (like monkey bars, but with rings) and a spear throw.

"It's so much fun," she said. "It's exhilarating and kind of addicting."

This is her fifth race this year, and she plans to run in a CrossFit competition in Gresham Sept. 29 and has another in Salem in November.

She credits the training she's involved with at Megan Sherman's Canyon Creek Cross Training gym in John Day for her increased endurance and upper body strength.

She added, "I'm thankful for my biggest supporter, Damon (her husband)."

"When I finish a race there is a sense of accomplishment that you finished," she said.

"The gratification is huge."

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