

Fall Sports Preview

By Ben Hochstetler

Summer break has once again come to an end and another school year is beginning. A new year means changes, including the departure of seniors and a wave of incoming freshmen which greatly impacts sports teams. There have been coaching changes, a new athletic director, and the annual changes in the teams' make-ups. However, despite these changes, the sports teams at Bethany are capable of having successful seasons.

The Bethany volleyball team, under Coach **Lois Mast**, compiled a 19-13 record during the 2009 season. Unfortunately, the season came to a halt when the Bruins fell to rival Elkhart Christian in 5 games in the sectional finals. Despite this loss and similar sectional stories the past 3 years, Coach Mast isn't letting past losses affect the new season. "I am really excited about this season. We have a good team this year as well as a strong and talented freshmen class, who are quick and energetic," she says. "We also have strong senior leadership to lead this team to success."

Former cross country coaches, Ken and Ann Willems, retired at the end of the 2009 fall season. New athletic director **Benji Hurst** has appointed **Krysten Parson** (K.P.) as the new head cross country coach for the guys and girls teams. Both teams had a mediocre 2009 season and have lost some significant members of last year's teams. Even though the top runners have changed, Coach K.P has faith in the team. "I am excited for this season. Coaching cross country is definitely a change for me, but I am still thrilled. I look forward to



watching these teams improve and grow, whether it is in relationships or by exceeding the personal goals each runner sets in the beginning of the season."

The girl's soccer team comes off a sectional winning season for the 2nd time in school history. After acquiring an 11-5-3 record last season, the team hopes to use their new-found postseason experience to make another run in the tournament. Despite having limited numbers this year, **Sharisse Yoder '11** said "I'm excited for this year's team! We have amazing chemistry and the potential to do great things."

The boys' soccer team, coached by **Hank Willems**, hopes to remain a soccer powerhouse, despite the loss of key players. Last year, the team compiled an impressive 14-3-2 record but lost to Goshen in the sectional finals. The team hopes to avenge this loss and go farther into the postseason than ever before. With strong returning varsity players including a sophomore class with a lot of varsity experience, the Bruins have a legitimate shot at postseason success this upcoming season.

The boy's tennis team accumulated a good record last season, but didn't advance as far into sectional play as they had hoped. However, Coach **Matt Miller** said that he is "beyond excited for this upcoming season," and believes that "this team will be one of the best in Bethany's history." The whole team has worked hard throughout the off-season and is ready to become a dominant force in high school tennis.

The fall sports seasons should be very eventful and many people hope that Bethany student athletes will proudly show the surrounding community how successful the athletic program can be.

New Teacher Interviews

By Eva Lapp

As a new school year begins, new faces appear in the Bethany community. This year, two new faculty members were hurriedly finishing up preparations for the start of school and sports. **Benji Hurst** is the new athletic director and **Nathan Swartzendruber** the new choir director. While some know Benji and Nathan a bit already, here's a look into their personal lives and their expectations for the coming year.

What were you doing the past year?

Nathan: I graduated in December 2009 from Goshen College and was a substitute teacher for Elkhart Community Schools in the spring.

Benji: I was a 7th grade Technology Education teacher at Goshen Middle School.

Why were you interested in a job at Bethany?

Nathan: I attended Iowa Mennonite School (IMS) and was drawn to the community, faith-based atmosphere that Bethany provided. I have a passion for musical excellence that Bethany has a strong tradition in also.

Benji: I love the Bethany community and I have a great passion for school athletics. It was a good opportunity to join the two together.

What are you looking forward to most this year?

Nathan: I'm looking forward to connecting with my students and making powerful music. Middle School and High School festivals in the spring are also highlights I'm keeping in mind.

Benji: Getting to know the Bethany students better.



What is your favorite high school music or sports memory?

Nathan: Choir festivals, Men's Quartet my senior year, Musicals

Benji: [Coaching] the Goshen High School girls cross country team running in the State meet. Actually, hearing our name announced at Semi-state.

What are you most nervous about in the coming year?

Nathan: I'm scared of being picked on by the older teachers and not having anyone to sit by at lunch.

Benji: Well, not Hank that's for sure! Just making sure that all the events can run as smoothly as possible without me messing them up!

What are some of your hobbies?

Nathan: I like cooking, watching baseball (Chicago Cubs), working with my hands, being outdoors, traveling, and exploring new cuisine and culture with my wife.

Benji: I enjoy some running, hanging out with my family, and reading.

What is something you do that might seem surprising or unusual to others?

Nathan: I sometimes sing to myself in obnoxiously high voices. I try to be a soprano, but it sounds a bit painful sometimes.

Benji: Nothing really...most things I do are unusual!

So, now that you know something about both Nathan and Benji, strike up a conversation! Sit with Nathan at lunch. Ask Benji some questions about sports. Make them feel welcome in the Bethany community that they are now a part of!



Top 10 ½ Baby Names for Amy

1. Willow
2. Petal
3. Fern
4. Cutleaf Toothwart
5. Pansy
6. Stamen
7. Flint
8. Basil
9. Placenta
10. Fawn
- 10 ½. Frosion