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Local lacrosse players gaining more experience

Jason Deegan, March 25, 2009 9:19 a.m.



The Brighton boys lacrosse captains include Chris Irish, Bennett Estey and Tyler Staruch. - (COURTESY, CHARLIE ESTEY)

The sport of lacrosse continues to blossom in Livingston County and South Lyon.

Every year, more experienced players enter high school programs.

Three local players already have signed with Division I programs. South Lyon's Tyler Corcoran and Brighton's Tyler

Staruch have signed with the University of Detroit-Mercy's new program. South Lyon's Kelsey Kaminsky, who helped the Lions advance to the Division I state title game last year, will play for the University of Delaware.

"Three or four years ago, we would take anybody" on the team, new Brighton boys lacrosse coach Charlie Estey said. "Now our freshman team is made up of guys who began playing in the fifth grade. We have five sophomores on the varsity. We are getting real lacrosse players. That's nice."

Here's a season preview of each local team:

Brighton Bulldogs (girls)

Key players: Kelly LaChance (sr. attack), Hannah Krockner (sr. midfielder), Rachel Wentz (sr. defenseman), Kelly Slominski (sr. D), Brooke Shelton (sr. MF).

Comment: The Bulldogs (12-7) will be strong offensively and hope some new players will shore up the defense. Senior Kara Stoltze and junior Quinn Mengyan will share goaltending duties. "Our team shows a lot of heart. They work hard," new coach Mike Staruch said. "We'll improve on last year's record."

Hartland Eagles (girls)

Key players: Elizabeth Burnham (sr. MF), Bethany Stone (sr. MF), Felicia Hodge (sr. attack), Kelsey Lavalley (so. G), Nikki Cerovec (jr. attack/MF).

Comment: The Eagles (3-15-1) have just four seniors, but coach Christine Hite believes her team will be improved. "We are building on what we learned last year," she said.

South Lyon Lions (girls)

Key players: Kelsey Kaminsky (sr. MF), Rachel Curmi (sr. attack/MF), Ashley Glenn (jr. MF), Hannah Gorman (jr. D), Ashley Mushna (so. MF), Shannon Kennedy (sr. G).

Comment: The Lions (22-1-2) lost to Birmingham United, 8-6, in the state finals. They're talented enough to make another run. Coach Deanna Radcliffe believes defense is the key.

Brighton Bulldogs (boys)

Key players: Bennett Estey (sr. attack), Tyler Staruch (sr. attack), Chris Irish (sr. MF), A.J. Sweatman (sr. attack), Victor Progar (jr. D).

Comment: The Bulldogs (11-5) have moved Staruch to attack from defense to take advantage of his stick skills. He and Estey, who led the team with 25 goals, form a solid 1-2 scoring punch. Junior Alan Kimball, a first-year player, will start in goal. "We have the ability to score a lot of goals if we put it together," coach Estey said.

Hartland Eagles (boys)

Key players: Kyle Black (sr. MF), Zach Fry (sr. MF), Ross Bemben (jr. D), Trever Braun (jr. D), Chad Discher (jr. attack), Paul Marvin (jr. attack), Matt Kenwells (jr. MF).

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