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Proctor Fall Sports Preview: Boys Football And Soccer

By Scott Allenby
Proctor Academy Athletic Office

The first of a two-part series, Proctor's varsity football and varsity boy's soccer programs are highlighted in this month's article. Two teams that experienced challenges during the 2009 campaign will look to learn from tough losses last season and effectively utilize the experience of key returning players.

Next month's article will highlight the varsity girl's soccer, varsity field hockey, and cross country teams in preparation for Proctor's upcoming fall athletic season.

Varsity Football Season Outlook

Proctor's head varsity football coach, Ben Rulli, and his staff are excited about the upcoming football season, as the 2009 team was full of learning opportunities and growth for a young team. The coaching staff and returning players are anxious to build on the lessons learned last year during the team's 4-4 campaign.

Returning veterans Mirwan Abid of Karachi, Pakistan, Fenny Wilkinson (Washington DC), Aaron Thomas (Chinle, Arizona), and Derrick Nowell of Andover will prove to be key factors in returning the football program to the New England Bowl Game status it enjoyed during the 2006 and 2008 seasons.

Abid was a focal point on the team last year and someone that the team will look to continue pushing his teammates each day on and off the field. Wilkinson is going to be a key component of the defense and as a linebacker he will be expected to be in the mix on every defensive play. Thomas will be a four-year member of the Proctor football team and someone who saw playing time last year and will be a key contributor to the team, while also serving as Assistant School Leader for the student body this fall.

Finally, Junior Derrick Nowell will be the anchor of the offensive line. Nowell as a freshman started in the Class A New England Championship game and has continued to develop into a reliable, talented, and physical force in Lakes Region play.

Coach Rulli will not only look to returning veterans for key contributions, as talented newcomers will grace the roster at multiple positions. De'Vaghn Millington (Ridgefield, Connecticut) will be a great addition to the team, as he is an athletic specimen and someone who has the potential to become a dominant player in the league. Millington recently participated in the Connecticut versus Rhode Island All-Star Game.

Similarly, Everick Johnson (New Orleans, Louisiana) was a 4A All-State running-back in Louisiana prior to his enrollment in Proctor this fall. He, along with Millington, add speed, experience,

and leadership to the team this fall. While the contributions of Millington and Johnson will undoubtedly be important, the talented and balanced incoming football prospects should prove to impact the program at all levels.

As Coach Rulli states, "Every season brings with it unique challenges and new faces to our program. Our goal is to make every Saturday this fall count, since every team in our league is a contender. We hope to see alumni and local fans alike at our games, as we love the support!" It should be an exciting season on the gridiron, and Proctor's players, coaches, and greater community look forward to sharing the experience with all who are able this fall.

A season schedule will be posted in the next issue of *The Andover Beacon*.

Boy's Varsity Soccer Season Outlook

Proctor's boy's varsity soccer team struggled to pull out wins last year despite playing its Lakes Region League schedule competitively. Coaches Scott Allenby and Ian Hamlet reflected on last year's season, recognizing that ties against traditional powerhouses of New Hampton School and Brewster Academy, along with close losses to Holderness School and Tilton School, demonstrated the potential within the young Hornet team; however, injuries to key players and an inability to put the ball in the back of the net frustrated the team throughout the 2009 season.

The 2010 season looks far more promising, as 10 returning varsity players will contribute significant experience in a variety of positions, and incoming young, talented players will fill out the roster in September.

Senior co-captains John Howard of Salisbury and Brett Kangas (Williamstown, Massachusetts) will provide leadership and a steady work ethic to the squad up front, while senior goalkeeper Connor Hayes (East Sandwich, Massachusetts) will continue to be a presence in net. Returning starting defenders David Cho (Seoul, Korea), Ian Hislop (Greensboro, Vermont), and Ryan Rumble (Toronto, Ontario) will anchor the defensive third in front of Hayes.

Returning midfielders Ryan Kangas (Williamstown, Massachusetts), Dan Yeom (Seoul, Korea), Ben Straus (New York City), and Patrick Shine (Williamstown, Massachusetts) will also prove to be essential pieces to this year's success, as each started multiple games last year. Each of these student-athletes has proven their merit, both on the soccer field and in other athletic endeavors at Proctor, and it is their grit and determination to compete that Allenby and Hamlet are most excited about coaching this season.

Joining the core returning group
See Proctor on page 47

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