# Women's Soccer Welcoming New Coach and Many Freshmen

**Maggie Sikkema**
Sports Editor

After losing four starters from last year, the women's soccer team welcomed four new freshmen to the team, two of which will be starters in upcoming games. The ladies in the past have struggled with filling a junior varsity team but that didn't seem to be an issue this year with about 10 freshmen on the JV team. Having more freshmen is going to help build a stronger program for the future.

"Long-term [having a lot of freshmen] it will be awesome," said new Assistant Coach Corey O'Bryan.

O'Bryan is currently a math teacher at Loy Norrix and the coach of the JV team. Although he has never coached soccer before, he has many years of soccer experience under his belt. O'Bryan has been playing soccer his whole life, in college he played on an intramural team.

"I don't have a lot of background on JV. I want to get a majority of the kids to come back next season," said O'Bryan.

Freshman Lauren McGlinn hopes to get more people to come out for the team during her next few years on varsity. McGlinn played for American Youth Soccer Organization [AYSO] when she was younger, but for the past couple of years she has been playing for TKO Premier Soccer Club. McGlinn hopes that the soccer program will stay strong and become even stronger.

"I want to make the defense stronger," said McGlinn.

The freshmen this year are beginning to build the soccer program back to what it has been in the past. Since the freshmen have not yet played for LN they haven't experienced any of its ups and downs, which senior varsity goalie Elliott Krueger thinks will really help the team.

"They're able to help out our team, and they have a lot of motivation because they weren't here when Norrix soccer was at its low, so they're always trying their hardest," said Krueger.

The team spends lots of time together bonding. They have pasta parties before most games because they feel it is important to have a close connection with each other on and off the field. Krueger especially feels this is necessary.

"You have to trust each person on the team, you have to trust they're going to have your back if you mess up or make the wrong run. You aren't going to pass the ball to someone you don't trust," Krueger stressed.

MAGGIE SIKKEMA / KNIGHT LIFE

**Junior Katie Miller steals the ball away during an intense play in a scrimmage against Plainwell High School on March 15th.**

# LN Men's Golf Team Goes for Last Hurrah

MAGGIE SIKKEMA / KNIGHT LIFE

**Senior Kellen Seaton swings at the par 3 at Milham Park Golf Course. Seaton plays on the varsity golf team at LN.**

**Kelsey Hassevoort**
Staff Writer

It was amidst the cold and blustery weather of early March that the Loy Norrix Men's Golf team prepared to begin their season. Because of court-mandated season changes, this year marks the first year that the men's team will play in the spring. Playing in the spring has presented new challenges for the team.

"I am 100% against the season change from fall to spring because it takes away from the length of our season," said senior and two-year varsity golfer Kellen Seaton.

"We used to start in August before school began and ended in October, but now we'll start the season with snow on the ground, not knowing whether we'll even be able to play outside in March."

Also, because of the inclement weather at the beginning of the spring season, finding practice time and facilities has been more difficult and time consuming for the team.

"Another benefit to having the season in the fall was that it was a lot easier to practice because you would play outside during the spring and summer," said Seaton. "Now it's harder because you have to go out to the dome [an indoor driving range] in Schoolcraft. It's hard to find time during the school year, especially when you have homework and a job," said Seaton.

Senior Barrett Kelpin does not mind the season change quite as much but admits that the gap between seasons was too long.

"I don't really care either way [about the season change], but it was kind of annoying to have to wait one and a half years between seasons," said Kelpin.

Unlike a number of sports teams at LN, the men's golf team roster has not been greatly affected by the change in seasons. The team's top four golfers will all be returning for the 2008 season. However, three of these four golfers are seniors, and their graduation will have a major effect on next year's team.

Sophomore and two-year varsity golfer Clinton Buell attempts to accurately paint a picture of next year's varsity team.

"I don't even know how to describe it. We won't be nearly as good next year even though we have nine freshmen on JV and one on varsity," said Buell. "This year we should be at the top of the conference. Next year we'll be somewhere in the middle."

As far as this year's season is concerned, the boys are optimistic. Seaton predicts that LN will once again field strong varsity and junior varsity teams.

Buell shares Seaton's confidence in the team, adding that having the district tournament on a familiar course should help the team's chances of making it to the regional.

"I think that with districts at home, we have a good shot at making regionals and possibly the state tournament," said Buell.

Kelpin agrees with his two teammates, noting that the practice put in by team members in the long off-season should make the team stronger this year.

"On paper we look pretty good right now, based on everyone's improvements. Now we just have to perform in the matches," said Kelpin.

All of the seniors on the varsity team are looking forward to their last season as high school golfers and have high expectations for the team.

"As seniors, this is our last year to make it to State, and if we can be consistent in matches, we will have a great chance to accomplish what we want to accomplish," said Seaton.