

Panthers to field more balanced lacrosse team

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

There's a blend of old and new faces on Sweet Home, which should provide for a more balanced boys lacrosse team than coach John Faller has fielded in recent years.

"I think we have a good mix," Faller said. "We have good scoring from the attack and midfield and much more balance than the last couple of years. It's just a matter of the team coming together and mixing the young with the old."

Faller returns seven starters from last year's 8-10 team, including senior co-captains, midfielder Eric Schnirel and goalie Chris Lyon. Both were Class B second-team all-stars as juniors. The team's biggest loss from last year's team is 51-goal scorer Evan Witul, who is playing at Division III Mercyhurst in Erie, Pa.

Schnirel, coming off helping the basketball team win a section title, returns for his third year on the lacrosse team. Faller thinks Lyon (63 save percentage through four games) has good reflexes and will be one of the top goalies in the section.

Other returning starters are senior Sean Burns (six goals, five assists this season) at attack, sophomore midfielders Matt Zon and

Taylor Heald (seven goals this season) and sophomore and junior defenders, Steve Phillips and Craig Stallard, respectively. Burns, Zon and Stallard are returning Class B honorable mention selections.

New starters include sophomore Colin Cardinale, the team's leading scorer through five games (eight goals, six assists), as well as sophomore Chris Covell (five goals, three assists) at attack, sophomore Nick Cavalieri joining Zon and Schnirel's midfield line, sophomores Eric Galdys and Matt Cuddihy teaming with Heald on the second starting midfield line, and junior Nate James on defense. Junior Eric Danheiser will also see plenty of action at attack.

Junior Rich Baudet is one of five Panthers who can face off well. Others are Zon, Heald, Galdys and midfielder Donny Daniels. The team's best faceoff performance came in a huge 10-4 road win over Section V's Victor on March 29. Victor is one of the top teams in Class B in Rochester. Sweet Home won 15 of 17 draws. Cardinale had four goals and three assists.

"I've liked our faceoff work," said Faller. "I think they'll hold up against most teams."

Faller also lauded the ground ball work of long stick midfielder, junior James Cardinale, whom he refers to as the "ball magnet."

"He scoops up every ground ball and gets it up to the offense to clear it," said Faller. "He's a big plus for us at that position."

Sweet Home is 3-2 with the Victor win being the team's best performance so far, Faller said. However, the Panthers followed with an ugly 8-4 loss to Clarence on April 3.

"We showed our potential against Victor and it gave our kids confidence, but the Clarence loss showed that if you don't come to play every game, that's what could happen," said Faller.

Sweet Home's other games were wins over St. Joe's, 9-6, and West Seneca West, 10-6, and a 9-5 loss to Williamsville North.

Sweet Home's season last year ended with a 15-14 loss to Iroquois in the Section VI Class B quarterfinals.

Sweet Home 2007 Schedule	
4-17 Frontier.....	5 p.m.
4-19 East	5 p.m.
4-21 at Nichols.....	11 a.m.
4-23 at East Aurora.....	7 p.m.
4-25 at Hamburg.....	5 p.m.
4-27 Lake Shore.....	5 p.m.
5-1 at Amherst	5 p.m.
5-3 at Grand Island	5 p.m.
5-7 at Lancaster	5 p.m.
5-9 at Iroquois.....	5 p.m.
5-11 W.S. East	5 p.m.
5-15 South.....	5 p.m.

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Goalie Chris Lyon is one of two senior captains for Sweet Home.

Photo by John Rusac

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South baseball manufactures opening road win

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

Williamsville South had only three hits but found creative ways to pick up a 7-4 opening day road win at Lake Shore on April 2.

Two of the Billies' three hits came in a three-run first inning. With two outs, Steve McDermott doubled in Alex Walkowski and Frank Pieri, who were walked. Shane Hurley added a two-strike base hit to bring home McDermott. Chris Couche added a base hit later in the game.

South assistant coach Dave Delisanti said South's four other runs were "manufactured." Pieri scored on a passed ball in the third. The next inning, Walkowski scored on a double steal, and Dan Lynch and Couche scored runs on a fielder's choice error.

Lake Shore retired South's last 10 batters.

Pieri didn't throw great, allowing four earned runs and nine hits and striking out four, but he was backed up by great defensive work from infielders Scott Steimer (shortstop), Walkowski (second), Matt Minervini (third) and Lynch (first).

"We stress at South from the modified up that to win games, you need good pitching and solid defense and that's what we told the kids after the game," said Delisanti. "Frankie did not have his best game but it was good enough. We relied on our defense and guys made plays behind him."

Lake Shore scored one run in the third, two runs in the fifth and another in the seventh.

South's other two games last week, non-leaguers with Cleveland Hill and Albion, were cancelled and have yet to be rescheduled.

The Billies (1-0) return to league play at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 16 at Hamburg.

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Once filled out, they can be either faxed to our office at 633-8601 or mailed to P.O. Box 150, Buffalo NY, 14231-0150.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCOREBOARD

Amherst Central

Baseball — lost to W.S. East 11-2

Boys Lacrosse — lost to Niagara-Wheatfield 11-10, def. Nichols 11-5, lost to North 7-5, lost to Webster-Schroeder (Section V) 10-4

Girls Lacrosse — def. Bishop Ludden 11-4, lost to Liverpool 13-12, def. South 17-5, def. Iroquois 20-5

Softball — def. Niagara Falls 6-4, def. Niagara-Wheatfield 3-0

Sweet Home

Baseball — lost to Clarence 7-0, lost to East 5-2

Boys Lacrosse — def. St. Joe's 9-6, def. Victor (Section V) 10-4, lost to Clarence 8-4, def. W.S. West 10-6

Girls Lacrosse — lost to Grand Island 10-9 (OT), def. Lake Shore 9-7

Softball — def. Ken. East 6-5, lost to Clarence 4-2, lost to Ken. West 3-0

Boys Tennis — def. Niagara Falls 7-0

Williamsville East

Baseball — def. W.S. East 7-1, def. Iroquois 6-5, def.

Sweet Home 5-2

Boys Lacrosse — def. Canisius 9-3, lost to East Aurora 8-7, def. North Tonawanda 13-0

Girls Lacrosse — lost to Hamburg 9-5, def. Iroquois 14-7, def. Eden 10-3

Softball — lost to W.S. East 1-0, def. North 5-1

Williamsville North

Baseball — def. Jamestown 14-4, lost to Niagara-Wheatfield 8-7

Boys Lacrosse — def. Amherst 7-5, lost to Hamburg 7-4

Girls Lacrosse — lost to Orchard Park 14-4

Softball — lost to Jamestown 5-1, lost to East 5-1

Williamsville South

Baseball — def. Lake Shore 7-4

Boys Lacrosse — def. Lockport 10-4, lost to Lancaster 6-3

Girls Lacrosse — lost to Amherst 17-5

Softball — def. Hamburg 11-0