

Many new faces on South hockey

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville South coach Sean Green has never been in a situation like this before.

Green lost 15 players off of last year's team, including forward Greg Reed (graduated) and goalie Thomas Tysowsky (playing at prep school in Boston), both division all-stars.

Green has replaced the 15 with nine youngsters from JV. Combine that with the returning players and Green is fielding a team of 22, his smallest roster ever. There are only four seniors.

"We kept the smaller numbers because we're so young," said Green. "The kids will get more reps in practice."

"They're great kids," he continued. "They're easy to coach and are hard workers."

At forward, Green returns juniors Jon Sherman and Austin White and sophomore Leo Schulz. Each has been with the team for two to three years. Senior Dustin Ditallio, a four-year varsity player, and sophomore Trevor Clark, who got a lot of ice time as a freshman, should lead the defense.

In between the pipes, Green brings back senior Brian D'Angelo and junior Matt Green. Coach Green feels both have played well early in the season.

"If one falters or gets hot, one will get more ice time," said coach Green.

Other returning players include junior defenders Shawn Jordan and Mike Anders,



Dustin Ditallio, right, is a four-year varsity player who brings leadership to the Williamsville South defense. Also pictured is Clarence's Adam Stover. South lost to Clarence, 2-1, last Thursday on the Amherst Pepsi Center Olympic Rink.

Photo by Joe Eberle

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junior forwards Garin Smith and Derek Caputi and senior forward Adam Baker.

Coach Green is looking for good play from freshman and sophomore forwards, Justin Dipasquale and Daren Powers, respectively. Dipasquale is new to the team; Powers returns after taking last year off.

Coach Green has not chosen captains yet but said many on the roster were captains on their "AAA" youth hockey teams.

Coach Green feels his team has to outwork other teams and play well in practice to compete with other teams in the Section VI Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation.

"If they do those things on a consistent basis, and get strong goaltending, I think we'll be competitive in many games," he said.

South finished last year 3-11-2 in league play. Its season ended last year with a 2-1

loss to Lancaster in the first round of the Federation playoffs.

The Billies opened its season 0-4. (see other story for results)

South 2007 Schedule

12-7 Niagara Falls (Niagara University's Dwyer Arena).... 9 p.m.
12-8 Bishop Timon-St. Jude (Feature)..... 3 p.m.
12-14 South Tournament vs. Glens Falls (Feature)..... 9 p.m.
12-15 South Tournament vs. Clarence (Feature)..... 3 p.m.
12-20 East (Feature)..... 7 p.m.
12-22 Amherst (Olympic) 3 p.m.
12-23 Ken. East (Buffalo State College)..... 3 p.m.
12-27 Niagara Falls (Olympic) 9 p.m.
12-29 Ken. West (Niagara University's Dwyer Arena) 6 p.m.
12-30 Ken. East (Buffalo State College)..... 1 p.m.
1-5 Sweet Home (Feature) 1 p.m.
1-9 St. Francis (Olympic) 7 p.m.
1-10 Bishop Timon-St. Jude (Olympic)..... 7 p.m.
1-11 McQuaid (Skaneateles) 5:30 p.m.
1-12 Skaneateles or Canandaigua (Skaneateles) TBA
1-26 North (Feature)..... 1 p.m.
2-2 Sweet Home (Olympic) 3 p.m.
2-6 East (Olympic)..... 7 p.m.
2-9 St. Francis (Olympic)..... 3 p.m.
* All games are played at the Amherst Pepsi Center's Feature, Olympic unless otherwise noted.

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Leaders unclear at Williamsville East

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville East comes into the 2007-08 hockey season with a lot of uncertainty.

The Flames graduated several players who had key roles last year, including a lot of scoring punch at forward with Anthony Clair, Eric Charlton, Kyle Smith, Chris Fabozzi and Spencer Barrett and leadership from defenseman Andrew Ross. Clair and Ross were all-state honorable mentions. Ross was a Section VI Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation Second Team all-league selection; Clair and Smith were Small School division all-stars.

"We have a lot of guys back who are somewhat unproven to the (Western New York Varsity Hockey) Federation," said East coach Mike Torrillo. "We're looking for seniors to step up and take charge of the team."

Returning forwards include seniors Eric Bogart (6-foot-3, 190 pounds), Max Kweller, Colin Lucey, John Gambacorta, Gary Styn, Justin Floss and Mike Esposito and junior Mike DeStephano.

Torrillo is hoping seniors Kyle Murray and Dan Tyx and junior Max Fogel, three more returning players, can provide leadership at defense.

Senior goalkeepers Matt Bradley and Jay Hall also return.

Hall and Bradley were fourth (.916) and sixth (.907), respectively, in save percentage in the Federation last year.

"It's one of the most important spots on the team," said Torrillo. "They'll push each other."

Torrillo is also excited about sophomore forwards Eric Esposito, James Faran, Joey Cantafio and sophomore defender Ted Trautalt. Senior defender Austin Barnett also returns after a two-year hiatus. Six-foot-4 304-pound Tyler Durinka could be a force in front of the opposing net.

Torrillo is comfortable with his team depth.

"I feel comfortable with all four lines," said Torrillo. "Defensively,

we should be OK because we have enough experience back. And we're excited about our goaltending."

For his team to have success, Torrillo feels they will have to outwork other teams.

"We can't go to sleep in our defensive zone," said Torrillo. "If we take care of that and capitalize on our chances, we should be in every game."

East finished 16-7-3 last year and 10-4-2 in league play. Their season ended with a 3-1 loss to Lancaster in the second round of the Federation playoffs.

Torrillo expects his team to be in the mix at the end of the year.

"It's going to be how well we play as a team," said Torrillo.

East is 1-0-1 (see other East story).

East 2007 Schedule

12-6 Amherst (Feature).... 9 p.m.
12-8 North (Olympic)..... 5 p.m.
12-13 Lancaster (Olympic) 9 p.m.
12-14 South Tournament vs. Clarence (Feature)..... 7 p.m.
12-15 South Tournament vs. Glens Falls (Feature)..... 1 p.m.

12-16 Sweet Home (Buffalo State College)..... 5 p.m.
12-20 South (Feature)..... 7 p.m.
12-21 at Batavia Tournament vs. Frontier..... 6 p.m.
12-22 at Batavia Tournament vs. New Hartford or Batavia 1 p.m.
12-27 Bishop Timon-St. Jude (Olympic)..... 7 p.m.
12-29 Ken. East (Feature)..... 1 p.m.

1-5 at Webster-Schroeder (Webster) noon
1-10 Sweet Home (Feature).... 9 p.m.

1-12 Ken. East (Feature). 1 p.m.
1-17 Bishop Timon St. Jude (Olympic)..... 7 p.m.
1-19 Orchard Park (Feature)... 1 p.m.

1-21 Amherst (Feature)... 3 p.m.
1-24 St. Francis (Olympic) 9 p.m.

1-26 Niagara Falls (Feature) 3 p.m.
1-31 Niagara Falls (Feature) 9 p.m.
2-6 South (Olympic)..... 7 p.m.
2-11 St. Francis (Rink No. 2) 3:30 p.m.

* All games are played at the Amherst Pepsi Center's Feature, Olympic unless otherwise noted.

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Tigers

(Continued from page 20)

especially compared to our forwards, but we have no doubt that these boys can step in and contribute right away," said Crozier.

They have already as Fanelo was named to the all-tournament team for his efforts in the Tigers Early Bird Tournament last weekend.

The goaltending responsibilities once again will be given to sophomore Sean Smith. Smith made an appearance in all 25 games as a freshman.

"Not that we gave him much of one, but the learning curve is over for Sean," said Crozier. "He has a season under his belt and knows what to expect from this league. He has the ability and skill to steal some games for us this season and we're counting on him to keep us in games."

Backing up Smith will be returning senior DJ Filer and senior newcomer Kevin Weber.

"Overall, I like the make-up of our team," said Crozier. "Don't get me wrong. There still will be some games where the cards are stacked against us, but we'll surprise some teams this year. For the first time in awhile, we feel that we have 20 players that have the capability of winning hockey games. Quite simply, the rebuilding is over."

Amherst opened its Federation season 0-2 after falling to Lancaster, 8-0, and Clarence, 2-0.

Amherst Central 2007 Schedule

12-6 East (Feature)..... 9 p.m.
12-9 Niagara Falls (Buffalo State College)..... 5 p.m.
12-16 St. Francis (Buffalo State College)..... 3 p.m.
12-20 Niagara Falls (Niagara University's Dwyer Arena) 9:15 p.m.
12-22 South (Feature)..... 3 p.m.
12-27 St. Francis (Feature) 7 p.m.
1-1 Canisius (Holiday Twin

Rinks)..... 3:30 p.m.

1-3 Sweet Home (Olympic) 9 p.m.

1-11 Glen Falls Crossover - South

Glens Falls (Glens Falls Civic Center)..... 8 p.m.

1-12 Glens Falls (Glens Falls Rec. Center)..... noon

1-21 East (Pepsi Center Rink No. 2)..... 3 p.m.

1-24 South (Feature)..... 9 p.m.

1-25 Geneseo Tournament - Victor (Geneseo State College).. 6 p.m.

1-26 Geneseo Tournament - Geneseo (Geneseo State College) 3 p.m.

1-31 Sweet Home (Olympic) 7 p.m.

2-2 Ken. East (Feature)... 3 p.m.

2-7 Bishop Timon-St. Jude (Olympic)..... 7 p.m.

2-9 North (Feature)..... 1 p.m.

2-10 Ken. East (Riverside) 5 p.m.

2-12 Bishop Timon-St. Jude (Feature)..... 7 p.m.

*All hockey games are played at the Amherst Pepsi Center Feature and Olympic Rinks unless otherwise noted.

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