

Women's golf league teeing off May 2

The Amherst Women's Senior Golf League will tee off between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. on Friday, May 2, at Oakwood Golf Course, 3575 Tonawanda Creek Road. The league is currently accepting new members. Interested golfers should contact Jackie at 835-5712 or Pat at 635-0556.

## Girls outdoor track

# North seeks ECIC Division I crown

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

If Williamsville North is going to be considered one of the elite girls outdoor track teams in the state, the Lady Spartans have to knock off one of the best programs in the area early this spring.

North's first dual league meet of 2008 is slated for 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, at Clarence. Clarence beat North, 78-63, last year and won ECIC Division I with a 4-0 record. North finished 3-1, its best record in ECIC I since 1988.

"This meet has been our focus since the end of last season," said North coach Julian Blake. "Everything the kids did in cross country and indoor track has been geared towards beating Clarence. If we can beat Clarence and win the division, which is our goal, it would prove to me that we are state contenders."

Blake thinks his team has a legitimate shot at defeating Clarence because they have more depth and balance in the lineup than in previous years.

"We now have depth and balance - two key components for a successful season," said Blake. "We have a lot of veteran girls in this sport and younger girls who recognize that the track program is just as strong and good as lacrosse or softball."

North is led by senior captains Meredith Kirby, Sarah Mikulski and Michele Bauman and junior captain Lauren Triantafillou. Each has been with the program for at



Michele Bauman, far left, Sarah Mikulski and Lauren Triantafillou are three of the four captains for the Williamsville North girls outdoor track team. Missing from the photo is Meredith Kirby.

least three years. Kirby returns for her fourth year and second year as captain.

Blake calls Kirby a "powerful runner with speed" whose best event is the open 400 meters. Kirby can also triple jump, run the 200 and has been working on running farther distances than normal, like the 800.

Mikulski took second in the 100 hurdles at last year's Section VI Championships and qualified for the state meet. She also went to indoor states in the 55 hurdles. In addition to the 100 hurdles, Blake said Mikulski has been training to run the 400 hurdles. She's also capable of running the

open 400 and 800.

Bauman is a good middle-distance runner whose strongest events are the open 400 and 800.

Triantafillou is coming off a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee that she sustained during the soccer season in the fall. She was named a captain for the indoor season but never competed. When cleared to compete this spring, Triantafillou will help North in the 800, 4x800 relay and possibly the 1,500.

Other returning seniors include Emily Curry, Kim Schueler and Dawn Hu. Curry, who is headed to the University at Albany

to compete in the heptathlon, should be dominant in field events, said Blake.

Curry took ninth in the discus and 11th in the triple jump and high jump at last year's sectionals.

Curry, in her fourth year on the team, can throw the shot put and disc, high jump, long jump and triple jump and run the 100 hurdles and the 800.

Schueler, also in her fourth year, can run middle-distance events starting from the open 400 up to the 1,500. She can also run a leg in the 4x800 relay and high jump.

Hu will show off her racewalking skills at the WNY Classic at Lancaster on May 24.

Juniors who should also be strong contributors are Kim Berus, Amy Loud, Caitlin Curry and Caitlin Triantafillou.

Berus and Caitlin Curry are first-year outdoor runners who gave up playing lacrosse in the spring to help the outdoor team. Berus can run the open 400, 800 and the 1,500. Berus broke the school indoor record in the 1,000.

Caitlin Curry will also help in the 800 and the 1,500.

Loud is a dynamite sprinter who made it to the semifinal heat of the 100 hurdles and the 200 at sectionals last spring. In addition to these events, the three-year varsity runner can also run the open 100 and 400 hurdles.

"Amy has worked extremely hard at running," said Blake. "She stopped playing

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# League foes on North boys tennis team's mind



Eighth-grader Tony Miller returns as the starting first singles' player for the Williamsville North boys tennis team.

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

Clarence and Orchard Park have given the Williamsville North boys tennis team fits over the last two years, but hopefully this is the year the Spartans are the ones on the winning end and are able to compete for the ECIC Division I title.

"We have been unable to defeat Clarence and Orchard Park the previous two seasons, and both teams should be very strong again this year," said North coach Mike Vendetti. "In order to improve on our (8-3) record (from last year), we must play the big points well (game points, break points and tie breaks) against those two teams."

North already lost once to Clarence this season, falling 5-0 last Thursday at Clarence. The rematch is May 2 at North.

Most of the Spartans' starting lineup is set, although Vendetti said many of the positions are competitive between teammates and could change.

Eighth-grader Tony Miller returns at first singles. Miller, a sectional qualifier last year, has been groomed for tennis success at a young age, said Vendetti.

"He's very skilled in all phases of the game," said Vendetti. "He's been developing a big serve. His forehand is one of the best I've seen. He will have a chance to go undefeated at first singles and do well in postseason play."

Senior three-year starter Jack Jagodzinski is at second singles. Jagodzinski, a returning ECIC qualifier, is a good all-around athlete with consistency

who has improved each year, said Vendetti.

"He's also comfortable coming into the net and is a tough competitor," said Vendetti. "We're looking for consistent performances from him throughout the season."

Alex Bronsky, a three-year starter, gets the start at third singles. Bronsky plays tennis all year long, has big ground strokes and loves to play from the baseline, said Vendetti.

"Alex should be more comfortable in his starting role this year and will put up a strong record at third singles," said Vendetti.

Returning three-year starters seniors Mike Beato and Julian Rothschild and first-year starters juniors Mark Balsom and Ben Joyce start at first and second doubles, respectively.

Vendetti said Beato and Rothschild should make a formidable doubles team all year long. Vendetti said Beato moves well, runs down every ball, has improved ground strokes and volleys, and communicates well with Rothschild. Rothschild, a returning ECIC qualifier in doubles, has consistent ground strokes and has been improving his serve variety and placement, said Vendetti.

Beato and Jagodzinski are returning captains. "Both display leadership qualities on and off the court, whether it is organizing team-building activities or showing genuine care about their teammates and success for the season," said Vendetti.

Vendetti said Balsom has a good forehand, and Joyce's strength and movement on the court have improved.

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**“He’s very skilled in all phases of the game.”**

— Mike Vendetti, North tennis coach about Tony Miller