

E.U.P. Spring Sports Now Underway After Wintry Start

By David Latva

In the first year that *The St. Ignace News* has produced a Spring Sports Preview for baseball, softball, track and field, and golf, the nine schools featured in this preview are sometimes at the mercy of Mother Nature's weather with their spring schedules. Owing to weather, some games were rescheduled in the seven-week season.

Boys golf has been added to the spring season this year.

Sports featured, and their coaches, include St. Ignace Saints boys track (Angela Abercrombe), girls track (Diane Huskey), baseball (Louie Grondin), softball (Bill Pechta) and golf (Ben Brown); Cedarville Trojans boys track (Ryan Wilson, girls track (Kris Hill), boys golf (David Duncan), and girls golf (Sonja Duncan); Mackinac Island Lakers boys and girls track (Nicole Charbonneau) and golf (Mary Patay); Pickford/ Cedarville co-op baseball (Dan Rambo), softball (Heather Salmi), boys track (Gerald Rairigh), and girls track (Dan Barry); DeTour Raiders boys track (Matt Peterson) and girls track (Jody Peterson); Engadine Eagles boys track (Cheryl Hood), girls track (Sonja Wilcoxon), boys golf (Steve Miller), and girls golf (Robyn Albrecht); Brimley Bays boys

track (Kyle Rairigh), girls track (Joyel Hyvarinen), and softball (Scott Church); Mackinaw City Comets baseball (Steve Balyo) and softball (Bob Downing); Rudyard Bulldogs baseball (Ron VanSloten), softball (Dennis Mesnard), boys track (Pat Maloney), and girls track (Paul Healey).

Pickford and Cedarville will co-op in baseball and softball and Mackinac Island will join the Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference for golf and track and field.

The spring sports were set to begin play during the second week of April, but the late spring snowstorm forced all the schools in the area to change or reschedule games during the short seven weeks.

"The late spring weather means for a short season," said St. Ignace Saints baseball coach Louie Grondin. "We are at the mercy of mother nature. You can only practice so long inside."

"We will have to reschedule our games, meets, and matches," said St. Ignace Athletic Director Marty Spencer. "Baseball, softball, track, and golf will have an unusual season with the change of schedules."

Good luck to all of the teams. Our appreciation goes to all of the high school secretaries and individuals for providing photographs.



Above, the St. Ignace Golf Club opened Monday, April 21, for the 2008 season and Saints golfers were able to practice on their home course for the first time.

Below, the St. Ignace Golf Club shows large amounts of snow on the number three fairway and the number seven tee April 2.



The Pickford/Cedarville Pirates pitcher Justine Hatfield (left) and catcher Callie Smith before the road game at St. Ignace, Friday, April 25. The softball/baseball double headers were called after two innings owing to thunder, lightning, and rain.



St. Ignace Saints golf team (front, from left) Curtis Gustin, Justin Visnaw, Shaun Horn, Jeff Gamble, Erik Grondin, (back, from left) Allan Honeycutt, Justin Frazier, Dane Christiansen, Tyler Mapes, Jamin Corwin, Chris Binger, and Coach Ben Brown.

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