

Engadine Eagles

Engadine Looks To Repeat Success in Girls Hoops of 2005

Engadine High School's (EHS) success was one of the top sports stories in 2005 and the Eagles could repeat with the squad returning, but if the girls from EHS return, they will do it with a new coach. Joel Schultz resigned and will coach at Bark River-Harris, while Jerry Derusha will take over coaching for the Green and Gold.

Derusha is a 1986 graduate of EHS and has coached in the elementary and junior high programs while working 14 years with the State Correction System, presently at the Newberry Facility.

He and his wife, Susan, have been married for 18 years and the couple have three daughters, Elicia, a senior, Kristen, a sophomore, and Megan, in the sixth grade.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to coach this talented team," said Coach Derusha. "This is an outstanding group of girls that want to play basketball."

The Eagles will be led by the trio of Elicia Derusha, Shauni Rutledge, and Nicole Benoit with 12 years of combined years with the varsity program.

Derusha returns for her fifth season on the varsity and earned All-State, All-Class Dream Team in the Upper Peninsula, two time Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference (EUPC) Player of the Year, and



Engadine Eagles Varsity Basketball Team includes (front, from left) Lauren MacArthur-5, Shannon Browning-3, Tristina Browning-23, Kristen Derusha-12, Nicole Benoit-33; (back) Tiajanna Sherbrook-11, Shauni Rutledge-15, Coach Jerry Derusha, Elicia Derusha-21, and Chloe Fletcher-14.

The St. Ignace News All-Area Dream Team while scoring more than 1,000 career points. She holds the school single game rebound record.

Rutledge, in her fourth season, and Benoit, in her third campaign, were named to the All-EUPC and All-Area teams last season.

Senior Chloe Fletcher

returns for her final season at EHS, junior Tristina Browning is back for her second year, while sophomores Kristen Derusha, Lauren MacArthur, and Shannon Browning were part of the tournament run last year. Tiajanna Sherbrook is in her first season on the varsity.

The Eagles won the EUPC title last year, captured the dis-

trict championship and the school's first regional crown, and won the quarterfinals before falling to Frankfort in the Class D semifinals at the Breslin Center at Michigan State University.

Engadine and Frankfort have a return date during the regular season. Frankfort plays host to the Eagles Saturday,

ENGADINE EAGLES Girls Basketball (JV games at 6 p.m. unless noted)

August

29 at Pickford

September

5 Rapid River
9 at Newberry
14 Brimley
19 at Cedarville
21 at Mackinaw City
26 Big Bay de Noc

October

3 at DeTour
5 at Mid Peninsula
12 at Rapid River
14 at Frankfort (TBA)
17 Newberry
19 at Brimley
24 Cedarville
26 Mid Peninsula
31 at Superior Central

November

3 DeTour
7 Pickford
9 at Big Bay de Noc

October 14.

"This is a strong group of girls who have been successful and want to repeat the effort," added the coach.

The Eagles strong EUPC schedule includes Cedarville, Pickford, DeTour, and Brimley and tough non-league contests with Rapid River, Big Bay de Noc, Mid Peninsula, Superior Central, Newberry, Mackinaw City, and Frankfort.

Eagles To Fly Into Gridiron Season with 9 Returning Seniors



Engadine Eagles Varsity Football Team includes Head Coach Howard Hood, Assistant Coaches Frank Kuehn, Jim Zdebski, Frank Neumayer, and Brian Adams, and players Stefen Albright-2, Grayson Hood-8, Daron Emery-15, Michael Bennett-16, Sung Hart-23, Michael Mast-25, Chris Keller-31, Joel VanHise-40, Dylan Duflo-41, Doug Fulton-50, Ron Weger-56, Aaron Converse-57, J.J. Troyer-61, Shane Baker-72, David Derusha-81, and Nathan Butkovich-81.

Forty years ago Engadine High School (EHS) won its first Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference (EUPC) championship in its sixth season of organized football. In 2006, the Eagles will compete in the newly formed Mid-Eastern Football Conference (MEFC) along with other members of the EUPC and the Wolverine Conference (WC).

Howard Hood, in his 15th season on the sidelines for EHS, will have nine quality seniors returning in preparation for the first season in the MEFC.

"Overall the conference will be much stronger with the combination of both leagues," said Coach Hood. "We played

the majority of the teams from the WC, but this year the games have a stronger meaning with the league title."

Seniors returning for their final season for the green and gold are Stefen Albright at quarterback and safety, Grayson Hood at halfback and linebacker, Doug Fulton at offensive and defensive line, David Derusha at tight end and defensive line, Aaron Converse at offensive and defensive line, Sung Hart at halfback and linebacker, Ron Weger at offensive and defensive line, Dylan Duflo at offensive end, linebacker, and corner, Shane Baker at offensive and defensive line, and junior J.J. Troyer at offensive and

defensive line.

"This is a strong group of returning players. Teams need a strong senior class to be successful and this group of athletes can get the job done," the coach said.

First-year full-time players include juniors Joel VanHise at halfback, tight end, and corner, Chris Keller at offensive and defensive line, Nathan Butkovich at tight end, defensive end and kicker, and Michael Mast at fullback and linebacker, who all played a couple of games on the varsity team last year. Newcomers to the varsity are senior Robert Beaudoin at tight end and safety and junior Daron Emery at quarterback, flanker, and safe-

ty.

"We should have strong leadership skills, good speed, and players who can play a variety of positions. I wish we had more numbers, but this group will work hard and pick up the slack due to the number problems," the coach said.

The veteran coach will be joined on the staff by veteran assistant coach Frank Kuehn, along with John Troyer, Jim Zdebski, and Brian Adams and will prepare the Eagles for a tough MEFC schedule that includes Cedarville, Pickford, Brimley, North Dickinson, North Central, Rapid River, Mid Peninsula, Bark River-Harris, and a non-league game with Pellston.

ENGADINE EAGLES Varsity Football Schedule

August

25 Mid Peninsula

September

1 at Cedarville
8 at Pellston
15 North Dickinson
22 at Rapid River
29 at North Central

October

6 Pickford
13 Bark River-Harris
20 at Brimley

