

# Legacy soccer team looks to build on last season's success

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After a successful 2023 season in which they finished as runners-up at state and being ranked first in the WDA preseason poll, the Legacy boys soccer team are ready for another season full of accomplishments.

“The team's excited to get back on the pitch after a successful season last year,” head coach Tom Marcis said. “It's always exciting to get the boys back and at it, especially after you've had success the year before.”

The Legacy team will kick off their season on Friday against Williston. There will be a lot of young and fresh faces on this year's team.

“This is a little bit younger team than last year's team, and so I think that the talent level is pretty similar to last year,” Marcis said. “But it's a younger team, so it's going to take a little while for them to find their personality as a group.”

Marcis has been impressed with the new players and how they have slotted into their new roles.

“They're ready to step in,” he said. “So, it's just everybody finding their niche, finding their role and working together as a team.”

The point of emphasis for the offseason has been team defense. Marcis says he wants this team's identity to be “defense and possession of play,” and they have been working to continue the team's history of being strong defensively and a dangerous competitor.

“Defense has always been one of our strengths,” Marcis said. “But we're sliding a lot of new people, talented people, into the defensive position and side of the ball, and so just trying to get people acclimated into new roles.”

Anchoring the green defensive core is veteran goalkeeper Liam Horner, who Marcis says the team is fortunate to have and who he expects to have a good season, extending the tradition of strong goalkeeping for Legacy.

“He stepped in last year when we had to make some changes due to injury and ended up starting about half of the season last year, so he's ready to go,” Marcis said. “Soccer always starts in the back, and so anchoring your defense with sound goalkeeping and moving forward makes a big difference.”

Marcis also named senior Captain Kamden Kooiman and junior James-Matthew Guenther as two players they will rely on this season.

“Kamden Kooiman is our senior captain, and he's been a solid presence in the middle of field. We anticipate him doing that and continuing to take it to the next level,” Marcis said. “Junior James-Matthew Guenther has been a starter since his freshman year, and he's continued to progress again as a middle of the field player.”

Along with veteran players, Marcis hopes that this team will carry over the swagger they had last season.

“The confidence that every time we step on the pitch, we should be the team to beat,” Marcis said.

The Sabers were tied for first place in the WDA preseason poll with 7 first place votes. They are tied with Jamestown, who they beat twice last season.

“We're one of the better teams in the conference,” said Marcis. “We have to show it on the field. It's nice to have that kind of ranking, but ultimately, we always know it comes down to what the boys do on the field.”

Coming off such a successful 2023 season, the Sabers have great ambitions for this year.

“We'd like to win the WDA conference again,” said Marcis. “And we'd like to make the state tournament and get into the championship game.”

