MU Football Has Sights Set on 2012

Even though the Misericordia University football team won’t begin varsity competition until September 1, 2012, the football era has already begun on campus.

Head Coach Mark Ross and his staff have been conducting a non-traditional season with approximately three dozen players in preparation for next fall’s official kick-off.

“I’m happy with where we are at this point,” said Ross. “We achieved some of our recruiting goals and we have some students on campus who have solid football backgrounds.”

The team is practicing three days a week with the focus on getting acclimated to the college game.

“It’s going well,” said Ross. “The kids are getting a feel for the college game and the coaching staff is evaluating each player.”

Ross is joined on the coaching staff by offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Jack Lydic and offensive line coach Chris Gray.

“Our coaching staff is taking shape,” said Ross. “Jack and Chris were both outstanding players who have solid coaching backgrounds. They will play key roles in the development of the football program at Misericordia.”

In addition to the fall season, Ross and his coaching staff are busy recruiting to fill MU’s first varsity roster.

“We brought in some freshmen this year,” said Ross. “But, our work is ahead of us. It is exciting to be able to recruit players to be a part of history. Only one group of student-athletes will be able to say they were part of the first football team in school history.”

In recruiting, Ross and his staff are looking for the total package. “We want to recruit kids who can be successful here,” said Ross. “We are looking at academics and character and leadership as we try to recruit the best possible football players.”

On the field, that will translate to versatility. “We’ll put kids in position to be successful,” said Ross. “Our scheme will be versatile enough to adapt to our personnel. Ultimately, we will do what our players do best.”

As for expectations, Ross’ first goal is to create an atmosphere of competition.

“We want to compete hard every week,” said Ross. “If you do that, you will give yourself a chance to win.”

Ross believes that his experience as an assistant under two legendary head coaches - Denny Douds at East Stroudsburg and Mike Welch at Ithaca - will benefit him as a head coach.

“I’ve had the opportunity to work under two great coaches and teachers,” he explained. “They taught me so much and let me do my job. I plan to surround myself with good assistant coaches like they did and let them do their jobs so I can do mine.”

While there are many challenges that come with starting a new program, Ross wouldn’t have it any other way.

“This experience is like writing a book and we’re starting with the introduction,” said Ross. “We get to have a say in every aspect of the program, from the ground up. We’re looking forward to building something that will make the Misericordia community proud.”

With opening day less than a year away, Ross expects his team to be ready for the challenges of the MAC.

“The MAC is a real tough football conference and it will take a few years to get a full complement of kids into the program,” he said. “In the meantime, we will measure our success by the progress that we make week to week. I don’t know what the record is for start-up programs, but we’re going to prepare ourselves to win and shoot for it.”

2012 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

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& first game in school history
@ first home game in school history
# Homecoming
* MAC Opponent
American in the 100 breaststroke.

from New York City and Philadelphia.

atmosphere and is only nine miles from Wilkes-Barre and two hours

MU also features an 89% retention rate and 97% placement rate.

With an average class size of 17, small class size

With a total enrollment of 2,300 students, including 1,450 full-time,

The hallmark of MU is a dedicated faculty and a high quality core

throughout the University, from programs of study to service projects.

The University is dedicated to the values of the Sisters of Mercy:

mercy, service, justice and hospitality. These values are found

institutions in the United States and welcomes individuals from all

Catholic institution located in northeastern Pennsylvania.

eight hits.

with 58 career assists.

American at 800 meters.

MU is in its fourth full season of competition in the Freedom/MAC

after 16 years as a member of the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference.

The Freedom Conference/MAC sponsors competition in 23 sports.

Men’s sports: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, indoor track & field, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis and outdoor track & field; Women’s sports: basketball, cross country, field hockey, golf, indoor track & field, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, outdoor track & field and volleyball.

Formed in 1938, the EAC is the nation’s largest athletic conference with more than 300 members in Divisions I, II and III from Maine to North Carolina.

ATHLETICS FACILITIES

The athletics facilities at Misericordia University are highlighted by the Anderson Sports-Health Center and the Anderson Outdoor Athletic Complex.

The facilities - all located on campus - also include the Anderson Field for soccer and softball, six tennis courts and a baseball field.

Since 1993, the Anderson Center has provided a home for the Cougars’ basketball, volleyball and swim teams.

The Anderson Center features a six-lane swimming pool, indoor track, racquetball courts, fitness center and an aerobic/dance studio.

The building attracts more than 75,000 visitors annually for

track, racquetball courts, fitness center and an aerobic/dance studio.

The facilities - all located on campus - also include the Anderson Field for soccer and softball, six tennis courts and a baseball field.

Named for the late

Dr. Robert S. and Geraldine Ruth Daley

Mangelsdorf Field will be home to Misericordia’s football team when it makes its varsity debut in 2012.

A fieldhouse, including a fitness center for MU student-athletes, will be constructed at the outdoor complex along with a new baseball field.

The Anderson complex features a synthetic grass field and a six-lane synthetic track which allow MU’s student-athletes to compete
even when weather conditions are less than ideal.

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Coaching Staff of the Year.

At Susquehanna, he helped the Crusaders to a conference

championship in 2009 and was part of the Liberty League

Mangelsdorf Field honors the dedication of

Jack and Dorothy

Mangelsdorf to MU and the region.

Misericordia tennis complex opened in 2004 as part of a gift by the M & T Foundation.

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