A fixture in the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) playoffs for over a decade, some may have wondered how the Misericordia University men’s soccer team would respond when they made the switch to the Freedom Conference in 2008.

The Cougars eliminated any doubts in 2008. “His passion for the game has driven him to giving the entire team confidence,” said head coach Chuck Edkins. “I am extremely confident with him at the back and I believe he makes us a contender.”

The entire starting defense also returns: senior captain Alex Parker, senior Cody Harman, junior Tyler Anderson and sophomores Chris Hummel. Harman was another all-conference selection, joining five teammates on the all-conference team. “The expectations are high for this group,” said Edkins. “For me, everything starts with the goalkeeper,” said head coach Chuck Edkins. “I am extremely confident with him at the back and I believe he makes us a contender.”

Junior Joey Scalon was another all-conference selection in 2008, his second such recognition in two seasons at MU. He will anchor the center midfield spot again for the Cougars in 2009. “His passion for the game has driven him to be an extremely dynamic force on the field,” said Edkins. Last season, Jay-P Evans and Dan Pinto split the other center midfield role, with each player complementing Scallon well. MU also has several young players ready to step in at winger after losing two seniors at the position.

Senior Josh Yoo and juniors Tim Bullis and Joey DiGirolomo return up front and are ready to help shoulder the scoring load for a team that produced 66 goals in 2008.

Goalkeepers Phil Schultes and Lauree Brophy are also back for their senior seasons. Other returning players are sophomores Matt Scott, A.J. Heintz, Bryan Kulbacki, Mike Martin, Kyle Slavetskas, and Aaron Barnhart.

Pre-season has also featured some impressive battles amongst a deep rookie class looking for a chance at playing time. “We have a good core of freshmen that can help immediately,” said Edkins. The freshman class runs 11 deep and includes Andy Bush, Nick Ferguson, Colby Gehers, Joshua Pfahl, Eric Kishbaugh, Kevan Nage, Shawn Smith, Greg Korhonen, Bryce Houdeshel, and goalkeeper Billy Sopko and Dan Fritz. Sophomore Alex Fuchylo is the other newcomer to the team.

The defending champions face a difficult schedule before they even begin conference play in 2009. Three of the season’s first five games (Dickinson, at Gettysburg and at Susquehanna) see the Cougars facing off against 2008 NCAA qualifiers. However, the team’s goals are the same.

“We strive to finish in the top four in the conference, then win the conference championship, and I think that’s a realistic expectation,” said Edkins. “We have at least the mentality and experience to make a run at the playoffs.”
The complex features a synthetic grass field and a six-lane indoor track and field. The center also features a six-lane swimming pool, an indoor pool, and an outdoor pool. The Anderson Athletic Complex was constructed in 2002 and serves as a home for the soccer, softball, and tennis teams. The University is dedicated to the values of the Sisters of Mercy: mercy, service, justice and hospitality. The hallmarks of 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. The hallmarks of the university, from programs of study to service projects. The hallmark of MU is a dedicated faculty and a high quality core liberal arts and sciences curriculum. In addition to their diploma, MU students can participate in a wide range of athletic, recreational, spiritual, social and cultural activities with more than 20 clubs and organizations on campus. Classroom size is purposely small to ensure personalized attention and our 1:1 student/faculty ratio allows students and faculty to truly know one another. The center features a six-lane swimming pool, indoor track, racquetball courts, fitness center and an aerobics/dance studio. The Anderson Sports Health Center attracts more than 75,000 visitors annually for recreational use. Mangelsdorf Field was constructed in 2002 and serves as a home for the soccer, field hockey, lacrosse and track and field programs. Named for the late Dr. Robert S. and Geraldine Ruth Daley Anderson, the Anderson Sports Health Center, Anderson Athletic Complex and Anderson Fields are tributes to their commitment to Misericordia University.

Mangelsdorf Field honors the dedication of Jack and Dorothy Mangelsdorf to MU and the region. The Mangelsdorf tennis complex was built in 2004 as part of a gift by the M&K Foundation.

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY IN BRIEF

Misericordia University is a liberal arts based, co-educational Catholic institution serving both residential and commuter students. Founded in 1924, Misericordia is the oldest four-year institution in Luzerne County and made the transition to University status in 2007. Sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy, MU is one of 18 Mercy institutions in the U.S. and 11 in the world. Misericordia welcomes individuals from all faiths and offers a variety of liberal arts and professional programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

MU offers 30 majors in three academic colleges: Arts and Sciences; Health Sciences; and Professional Studies and Social Sciences. The campus is comprised of 14 buildings and features a synthetic grass field, a six-lane indoor track and field, and a six-lane swimming pool. The center also features a six-lane swimming pool, an indoor pool, and an outdoor pool. The Anderson Athletic Complex was constructed in 2002 and serves as a home for the soccer, softball, and tennis teams. The University is dedicated to the values of the Sisters of Mercy: mercy, service, justice and hospitality. The hallmarks of 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. The hallmarks of the university, from programs of study to service projects. The hallmark of MU is a dedicated faculty and a high quality core liberal arts and sciences curriculum.

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