

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Shepherd makes staff changes

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Shepherd University head coach Monte Cater announced several changes to the football staff for the upcoming season.

Joel Gordon, a standout quarterback for the Rams from 1999 to 2002, rejoins the coaching staff as quarterbacks coach after a three-year stint as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Emory & Henry College. Gordon left the Shepherd staff after four seasons following the 2007 season.

AP FEATURED NEWS

Sunday August 7, 2011

Concord returns 16 starters including Grossi, Kennedy

by The Associated Press
The Associated Press

0 Recommend

0 Recommend

MCT REGIONAL NEWS

By Tom Bone

Bluefield Daily Telegraph, W.Va.

(MCT)

Aug. 07--ATHENS -- Concord football coach Garin Justice has 16 starters returning to Athens and most of the elements of an offense that was fourth in the nation in total yards.

And his team finished fifth among nine schools in last week's preseason West Virginia Conference coaches' poll.

If that irritated the new Mountain Lions head coach, it was undetectable in an interview on Saturday.

"I feel that we should definitely be higher," he said, "but you want to be higher in the postseason poll rather than the preseason."

Not that he has any grudge against the other coaches. "People are entitled to their opinion ...," he said.

Shepherd University, which reached the NCAA Division II semifinals last season, earned first place with West Liberty close behind. Concord, which went 8-3 last fall, was sandwiched in the middle of the poll results.

Justice said about the league, "It's always been competitive. West Liberty and Shepherd have been on top in recent years, and deservedly so."

"Then there always seems to be a team that surprises people. Last year nobody saw the year that West Virginia Wesleyan was going to have. Hopefully this season it's Concord."

Concord finished 2010 with 5,480 offensive yards, an average of almost 500 yards per game. The Athenians scored 400 points, with 54 touchdowns, while allowing 37.

Then head coach Mike Kellar, architect of CU's football turnaround, left to return to his former employer, California (Pa.) University.

Justice and defensive coordinator Paul Price are the only coaches remaining from last year. They are joined by four new full-time assistant coaches and two graduate assistants.

The first on-field practice of the preseason is set for next Saturday at about 8 a.m.

"We're very excited to be getting out there," said Justice, a former offensive tackle at West Virginia University.

"Concord used to have a great football tradition, and we want to continue to bring it back, as Coach Kellar did in the last two years," he said in an earlier interview in conjunction with conference football media day.

"What Coach Kellar did here was great. We had an 8-3 season and were the No. 4 offense in the country last year, and that was pretty impressive by any standard."

He said, "When I first got in here as head coach, we took a couple of steps back."

As word circulated about players and assistant coaches leaving Athens, it "threw the program into a little bit of turmoil at first," he said.

"But it's like I say, it's like you're standing on one mountaintop. We got on one mountaintop, and can see the peak where we're going. To get to that next mountain, we had to take a couple of steps back.

"That's kind of what we're going through now. We feel like we've gone through that valley and we're climbing back up the hill now."

Asked what he expected from the new season, Justice said without hesitation, "I want to win 'em all. That's not a cocky thing; it's just, if I don't believe in us winning all the games, how can I expect those guys to do it?"

"We're going to go try to win every ballgame. ... Our job is to prepare, and approach every game like it's our last one, and hopefully we can have the best outcome with that."

He believes an emphasis on team leadership will help those outcomes.

"Leadership-wise, I think we've come a long way," Justice said. "I felt we did some stuff in the spring to develop that -- with some unity councils, leadership councils. I think it's coming along.

"Guys who've been here the last few years saw how a lack of leadership has limited their success. Now they're starting to see how, it's their last go-round. They've been two or three years in the program, they've invested a lot into this.

"It's important for them to make it the best they can -- because it's hard to throw away all that hard work, in just one season, and not be a great leader."

"That's something, as coaches, we want to foster and develop, and hopefully it continues to snowball in a good direction."

The high-charged offense lost the conference's most prolific pass-catcher when Thomas Mayo transferred to join Kellar on the California Vulcans, but Concord returns running back Brian Kennedy, quarterback Zack Grossi and key players on the line, led by center Brandon Link.

Justice, formerly Concord's offensive line coach, said, "He's very athletic, very strong. He's been one of our most consistent, dominant players on either side of the ball, the last few years. ... I can't say enough good things about Brandon."

When asked to predict a "breakout player" this season, Justice said, "I think Zack Grossi has had a great past two years. People know about him, but I feel the progress he's made last spring over last year is going to really catch people off guard."

Justice is not ignoring the other side of the ball, though.

He said, "I want the defense to look like the offense. The last few years offensively, I felt we've been very aggressive and very much in control of the tempo.

"Now, I know it's harder to control the tempo on defense, because you're not snapping the ball, but I want us to dictate to other teams.

"I want us to be aggressive. It may hurt us at times, but I want us to have an attitude that 'We're coming after you.' And

then our guys can feel, at the end of the game, win or lose, we did everything we could to win, and we didn't leave any bullets not fired."

"Defensively, we've got some good returners back, with Josh Miller at the nose, who has been pivotal for us. ... We've got all four linebackers returning, and all four secondary guys are back."

"I'm very excited about the way they flew around the ball this spring."

Concord begins its season on Sept. 3 at home against Lenoir-Rhyne (N.C.).

Prep Notebook: Southern grads prep together

By Mike Peters, The Capital, Annapolis, Md.

Aug. 10--Bryan Harris transferred to Southern High School from Bishop McNamara two years ago and started playing with Cody Joyce. Now they'll play together for at least one more season.

The All-County players from Southern decided to play a year of prep school at Massanutten Military Academy in Woodstock, Va., to get some more seasoning in preparation for their pursuits of Division I scholarships.

"It can't hurt to get an extra year," said Southern's new coach, Will Maynard, who's worked with Harris during the last two years and Joyce for four. "I'm really happy they both decided to go. Both of them drew college level

interest from all levels, but both of them had the desires to play Division I basketball."

Joyce, a 6-foot-7 forward, committed to Marist in July, but the school pulled its offer shortly after, leaving Southern's former big man without a school. Rather than play Division II basketball, Joyce looked to Maynard for a little help.

While at Shepherd University, Maynard played basketball with Massanutten Military Academy coach Chad Meyers, who needed a power forward. Maynard already sent Meyers a tape of Harris, so Joyce got a look, too. ★

Turns out Joyce is just the player Massanutten Military could use.

Joyce will need to learn to play a new position -- he primarily played under the basket and in the post with Southern -- and improve his perimeter game.

Harris, the Bulldogs' biggest scoring threat over the last two seasons, will need to make a transition from shooting guard to the point. At 6-foot-1, he's got the desired size and speed, but he'll need to develop a pass-first mentality and keep an eye out for others' opportunities rather than his own.

Maynard said Meyers, who was the director of operations at Radford before moving to Massanutten, is developing a solid recruiting class.

And in a year, should everything go to plan, the time Harris and Joyce spent at Massanutten will benefit them when the Division I programs come looking again.

"They've come a long way," Maynard said. "They worked hard, and everything we asked them to do, they've done. They showed the desire they want to make it."

HARVARD SHOWCASE: South River outfielder Nick Sia committed to attend the Harvard University baseball showcase this month. Sia, who'll be a junior next season, went 2 for 3 during the East's 16-8 loss to the South at the Maryland State Association of Baseball Coaches Futures game in July.

LACROSSE HONOR: Broadneck long-stick midfielder James Dunn, who plays on the Maryland Roughriders Elite Lacrosse Club, earned a spot on the Class of 2012 All-American team, selected by the National Scholastic Club Lacrosse Association. The three-day recruiting event took place last weekend at St. Joe's Metuchen High School in Metuchen, N.J. Players were chosen from lacrosse clubs throughout North America.

BRACELET BINGO: The Archbishop Spalding boys basketball program is running a fund-raising event, Pandora Bracelet Bingo, at 7 p.m. on Aug. 12 at the Colombian Center in Severna Park. Tickets, which are available for \$15 in advance, are good for 20 regular games of bingo; extra cards at \$5. There will be special games for \$2 and \$3 along with a raffle. Good and drinks will be available, too. The proceeds will go toward the team's Christmas break tournament in Disney World. For more information, call 410-360-5118.

COACHING VACANCIES: South River is in need on a varsity cheerleading coach. All interested applicants contact athletic director David Klingel via email at dklingel@aacps.org.

St. Mary's is looking to hire a varsity girls lacrosse coach and an assistant boys soccer coach. Anyone interested in the lacrosse position should contact athletic director Matt Hogan, 410-990-4218. Those interested in the soccer position should get in touch with Mike Love, 301-602-6360.

Severn is looking to find a replacement for Stan Brudish at its varsity boys basketball coach. Anyone interested should contact athletic director Julian Domenech at j.domenech@severnschool.com.

Mike Peters is the high school sports editor at The Capital and can be reached at 410-280-5923 or mpeters@capitalgazette.com.

Rams kicker named to watch list

POSTED: August 12, 2011

SHARE 

0

Senior kicker Eric Dobratz of the Shepherd University football team, was one of 50 collegiate place-kickers named to The Watch List for the Fred Mitchell Award. The watch list is comprised of Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), Division II, III and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics collegiate place-kickers. Watch list members were nominated by their colleges for excellence on the football field and in the community.

Dobratz hit on 61-of-64 extra points and nailed 7-of-15 field goals for the Rams in 2010. He was third on the team in scoring with 82 points. A Second Team All-WVIAC selection, Dobratz set new Shepherd single season records for most extra points (61), most extra point attempts (64) and kick-scoring points (82) last season. He was one of 20 NCAA Division II kickers selected to the list.

The Award's Selection Committee Chairman Chris Kearney said, "These place-kickers are terrific on the football field and off the field representing their schools, their football teams, their conferences, their communities, their families and themselves. We look forward to following their accomplishments during the next few months."

The Watch List includes place-kickers from more than 750 eligible colleges.

Fred Mitchell said, "It is a pleasure to include these fine young men on the Watch List for this Award. We are delighted to recognize them based on outstanding performance in the community and expectations going into the 2011 college football season."

Rams staff experiences shifts

POSTED: August 12, 2011

SHARE 

0

Shepherd University head football coach Monte Cater announced several changes to the football staff for the upcoming season. Advertisement

Joel Gordon, a standout quarterback for the Rams from 1999 to 2002, rejoins the coaching staff as quarterbacks coach after a three-year stint as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Emory & Henry College. Gordon left the Shepherd staff after four years following the 2007 season to take a position at Emory & Henry.

Gordon replaces Sam Williams, who resigned to accept a position with the football staff at Vanderbilt University.

Longtime defensive assistant Josh Kline has been elevated to the defensive coordinator position. Kline, a defensive lineman for the Rams from 1998 to 2002, has worked with the Shepherd defensive line since 2003.

Kline replaces Bob Haley, who retired after spending 13 years, 12 as defensive coordinator, with the Rams.

Southern's Joyce, Harris to team up again

Southern forward **Cody Joyce** received an eye-opening introduction to college basketball this summer when he accepted a scholarship from Marist only to be told **two days later that the offer had been rescinded.**

"I give him a lot of credit," said **Will Maynard**, a longtime Southern assistant who took over as head coach this month. "He was upset for a couple days, which is to be expected. But he took the mentality that if one school offered me a Division I scholarship, you know what? I can get another one."

★ Joyce took the next step toward a potential DI future this week by signing on to do a post-grad year at **Massanutten Military Academy** in Woodstock, Va. Joyce will play for a former teammate of Maynard's at **Shepherd University** in **Chad Meyers.**

"He needed a big and it was just the perfect match," Maynard said. "Cody worked out and they liked what they saw."

Joyce will be joined at Massanutten by combo guard **Bryan Harris**, who averaged around 18 points for the Bulldogs as a senior.

"I always thought he could be ... a Division I basketball player," Maynard said. "Coaches were concerned about whether he could make that transition from off-guard to the point."

Maynard said he's excited for Joyce and Harris to prove themselves at the prep-school level and potentially earn DI offers. He's also looking forward to his first season leading his alma mater.

"It's exciting," he said. "When you lose eight seniors that have been together four years, it's very challenging. But I'm very excited about running the program. I'm very fortunate to have coached under somebody like Ray Bowen. He gave me a lot of freedom as an assistant. He's fully prepared me for this day. I understand it's not something that's going to be easy. Success isn't going to come overnight. Hopefully it will, but I just want to run a nice, clean program with kids that are playing hard and having fun while they're doing it."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Rams 11th in AFCA poll

Shepherd University is ranked 11th in the AFCA Division II Coaches' Preseason Poll, released Monday.

Defending national champion Minnesota-Duluth is the preseason No. 1.

The Rams open the 2011 campaign on Sept. 3 when they host Shippensburg at noon at Ram Stadium.

SHEPHERD SPORTS: Former Greenbrier East standout Gaby Dugan was among five players signed by the Shepherd University women's basketball team.

Dugan, a 5-foot-3 guard, lettered in basketball, track and cross country with the Spartans. She was captain of the basketball team and was a second-team All-Mountain State Athletic Conference selection.

Also joining the Rams are Gabrielle Flinchum of North Potomac, Md., Rachel Johnson of Frederick, Md., Priscilla Moseh of Springfield, Va., and Alexandra Weakland of Camp Hill, Pa.

- Part-time coach Jess Detrick has been promoted to a full-time position with the Shepherd softball team. Detrick, a Berkeley Springs native, enters her fifth season with the Rams program.

Ram women sign five players

August 19, 2011

From staff reports

Save | Post a comment |  SHARE   

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University women's basketball coach

Melanie Ford announced Thursday that five student-athletes signed letters-of-intent to play basketball for the Rams in the 2011-12 season.

Gabrielle Flinchum (North Potomac, Md./Wootton), Rachel Johnson (Frederick, Md./Frederick), Priscilla Moseh (Springfield, Va./Robert E. Lee/Frederick Community College), Alexandra Weakland (Camp Hill, Pa./Cumberland Valley) and Gaby Dugan (Kearneysville/Greenbrier East) will join the Rams.

Flinchum, a 6-foot-3 forward/center, was a four-year letterwinner in basketball at Wootton. A three-time all-county selection, Flinchum also gained honorable mention all-Met honors. She averaged 15.1 points, 13.0 rebounds, and 3.9 blocks as a senior.

Johnson, a 5-6 guard, lettered in basketball, soccer and track at Frederick. Johnson led Frederick to the 2011 3A state championship. A three-time all-area choice, Johnson was a first-team selection for the past two seasons.

She also garnered all-MVAL honors and MVAL Scholar-Athlete accolades. A four-year standout for the Cadets, she scored more than 1,000 points in her career and was voted as Outstanding Senior Athlete and Athlete of the Year for 2010-11 school year.

Moseh, a 5-8 guard, lettered in basketball and track at Robert E. Lee. She was a three-time all-district player who also earned second-team all-region accolades. Moseh gained MVP and defensive player of the year honors. She is a transfer from Frederick Community College.

Weakland, a 5-9 guard, lettered three years in basketball at Cumberland Valley. She gained Patriot News Big 15 second-team honors and was among the Pennsylvania capital area's 3-point leaders. A senior team captain, Weakland led her team in scoring last season.

Dugan, a 5-3 guard, lettered in basketball, track and cross country at Greenbrier East. She was a team captain and was named best offensive player.

Dugan was a second-team all-MSAC selection as a senior.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Detrick goes full time

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University softball coach Leslie Lopez announced Thursday that Jess Detrick has been elevated from a part-time to a full-time assistant softball position with the Rams.

Detrick, a Berkeley Springs native who enters her fifth season with the Shepherd staff, will also serve as coordinator of event management operations.