

EASLAKE SOCCER RELOADS FOR ANOTHER SEASON

Every season the cycle repeats itself for Eastlake soccer coach Adam Gervis, as a slew of new faces make their way to the varsity roster.

"It's brand new," said Gervis, who's entering his seventh year as the Wolves' head coach. "But we do this every year. That's the thing, that's what make us different from most high schools is we'll roll 11 (new players) every year."

The system has no doubt been effective as the Wolves have won the KingCo4A title three of previous six years, including two state appearances.

"We've been either No. 1 or No. 2 forever," Gervis said.

Eastlake is certainly on the path to repeat the trend. While a huge chunk of the roster are either seeing their first varsity time or saw limited varsity minutes last season, there is a solid core returning from the group that finished 73-3 and in second place of the KingCo 4A Lake Division last season. The Wolves bring back three full-time varsity players, including two Division I college recruits. Defender **Tyler Klein** leads the group. The senior co-captain will play at the University of Washington next season, and is touted as one of the top defenders in the region.

"He's a huge impact player," Gervis said.

Eastlake also returns its leading scorer from last year, senior forward **Jordan Softli**. The KingCo 4A second-team all-league selection will attend the University of Denver next year, and is considered one of the more athletic players in the league.

"He's got speed. He's got power. He's got finesse. He plays inside and out," Gervis said.

The Wolves also get back senior defender/midfielder **Brandon Haberly**. The co-captain was named to the KingCo 4A all-league second team last year as a defender.

"He plays a number of roles," Gervis said. "If we're short in the back, we'll play him in the back."

On top of their core returners, the Wolves have an abundance of new faces --

All of whom Gervis feels will make an impact.

"Everybody can play and they will play," he said. "They're all on varsity because they belong."

The team will be particularly tough up front, thanks to what Gervis considers one of his strongest groups of forwards ever.

Along with Softli, the Wolves return senior **Cutler Gray**, who saw significant varsity minutes before missing his last six games due to injury. Other impact forwards include senior **Justin Lewis**, junior **Michael Marsh**, junior **Amir Shabeneh** and sophomore **Nick Rudella**.

The defense will also be strong with Klein and Haberly. Senior **Easton Fix** will join that core. Senior goalkeeper **Robbie Marsh** will take over in the net. He spent nearly all of last year injured.

The midfield will be anchored by junior **Jordan Strong** and freshman **Chris Discolo**, who is only the third freshman to play on varsity in the previous six years Gervis has been at the helm.

“He plays well, plays intelligent, plays within himself, and if you can do that as a freshman, you know you’ve got nice things coming your way,” Gervis said.

As of press time, Eastlake was 1-1 overall and 10-0 in league. Gervis is pleased with the start, but isn’t ready to make predictions on how the league will turn out.

“Until you start to go through the league, there’s no point in saying we’re going to win this, we’re going to win that,” he said.

He did note, however, the Wolves will once again have a target on their backs.

“Every team who plays us, it’s the biggest game of the year for them,” Gervis said. “Every year I’ve had this. This year will be no different. Every team comes to play when they play us.