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Hornets

EMMAUS HIGH SCHOOL

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2025

FALL

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES



PRESS PHOTOS BY MARK LINEBERGER

Quarterback Jerek Cooper returns for an Emmaus football team that won seven straight games to reach last year’s district title game.

Hornets are not looking to settle for silver in ‘25

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the Press

There is a lot of positive hype and momentum surrounding the Emmaus High School football program heading into the 2025 regular season. It is well-deserved after Emmaus reached the District 11 6A championship game last year.

It didn’t always look like the Hornets would be one of the last two teams from 6A standing in the final game as they had a slow start to the year, winning just three of their first five games. A seven-game win streak propelled them to the district title game, where they fell 17-3 to rival Parkland.

“Losing in the championship game last year was devastating for the kids, and you don’t for-

get that easily,” said EHS head coach Harold Fairclough, who is beginning his 10th season at the helm. “You use it as motivation, and anytime things get hard in the weight room and you might not be feeling your best, you always draw back on that feeling you had after losing that last game and ask yourself, which one was worse?”

“If you pack it in here or have a crappy week, it should be in the back of your head that it could lead to you not finishing your season the right way.”

Emmaus went 10-3 overall last season and 6-1 in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference’s West Division, tied with the Trojans at the top.

See **FOOTBALL** on Page **11**

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EHS golf team starts 10-1

BY MIKE HAINES
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With just a couple weeks left in the regular season, the Emmaus High School golf team is having one of it's best years since it won a District 11 team title in 2019.

"I'm super-excited," said Hornet head coach Patrick Birns. "Every match we keep getting lower and lower."

The Hornets were 10-1 through three weeks of the season, with their only loss coming against a powerful Nazareth line up.

Emmaus owns wins this season over Northampton, Pleasant Valley, Pocono Mountain East, Liberty, Stroudsburg, Whitehall, Bethlehem Catholic, Easton, East Strouds-

burg North and Pocono Mountain West.

The win over ESN saw the Hornets shoot at team score of 364 at Pocono Hills Golf Course Tuesday, Aug. 19. It was the lowest team score in several years for the Hornets.

Evan Walters V led the team with a 64 against the Timberwolves while teammates Anderson Francis (73), Greyson Schmidt (75) and Silas Wellhoener (75) also went low in the match.

Walters, a junior, returns for his second season as the Hornets' top player. He finished third in last year's District 11 Championships to qualify for states and earn an exemption into this year's district champi-



Alexis Teichman

onship.

Senior Kyan DeLong will play in the No. 2 spot for Emmaus this year. He got his final high school season off to a hot start when he finished third in a tournament at Penn State University recently with a round of 5-under par 67.



Kyan DeLong

DeLong's round at PSU helped the Hornets finish 10th as a team in a tournament where they have not broken the top 20 in past years.

Wellhoener, a junior who moves up from the No. 4 position last year to No. 3 this year, shot 76 See **GOLF** on Page 11



PRESS PHOTOS BY NANCY SCHOLZ

Evan Walters returns to the top of the Emmaus golf line up after taking third place at last year's District 11 Championship to qualify for the state tournament.

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PRESS PHOTO BY MARK LINEBERGER

Avery Burnett is one of several returning seniors from a team that reached last year's state semifinal.



Addison Povilaitis



Sharlise Solano

EHS returns most of last year's roster

BY CJ HEMERLY
SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

The 2025 Emmaus High School field hockey team will look very familiar this season. That is a good thing for head coach Sue Butz-Stavin.

The Hornets are coming off a 25-2 season last year, winning both the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and District 11 3A titles while advancing to the PIAA semifinal round.

With the dawn of a new season, the turnover from last year's successful team is very low for the program, only graduating two players while returning nine players who were either starters or major contributors. That includes seniors Avery Burnett, Morgann Orobono, Aiko Price, Addison Povilaitis and Sharlise Solano, along with juniors Gracie Huffer,



Aiko Price

Maddie Lenig and Sadie Nawarynski and sophomore Rylie Povilaitis.

This large group of returning players will go a long way in what could be another

successful season and keeping the streak of conference and district titles going forward.

"Two of our greatest strengths this year will be our experience and



Morgann Orobono

our depth," said Butz-Stavin. "We bring back a lot of talent and experience that played a ton of minutes last year. Something we can work on and get a little bit

better at is circle performance under pressure."

Some other players that will be vying for more time include seniors Kaitlyn Carter,

Sarah Palazzo and Ady Truckenmiller, juniors Megan Martino, Kate Rainford and Elena Rosati, along with sophomores Marissa Gigliotti, Ella Horner and Alex Jensen.

This group is still a bit of an unknown to Butz-Stavin and her staff, but they will showcase their talents during the preseason and look to make an impact on the team this season.

"A couple weeks of preseason will give us a better outlook about the team and what we have," Butz-Stavin said. "I believe we will be strong contenders in the conference and in districts. We just need to continue to play harder and play smarter every time we step on the turf."

Emmaus has won 36 straight District 11 titles and is seeking its 16th state title in 2025.

Girls tennis will have strong doubles

BY CJ HEMERLY
special to the press

The Emmaus High School girls tennis team was strong in doubles last season, earning silver medals in one doubles format and gold in two others at the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Tournament.

The Hornets should once again be strong in that area and as a team overall. While the team lost some talented competitors from the lineup to graduation a year ago, head coach Robert Dragotta expects a strong group back.

“We graduated some very good tennis players from last year’s team,”

said Dragotta. “This year’s players have been working very hard and they have improved their games. We want to be able to take that next step and win team titles at leagues and districts.”

Emmaus finished last season 15-5 overall and 11-4 in the conference.

The duos of Brooke DiGiacomo and Natalie Hillegass, along with Kylie Gleason and Anahi Kanani took home gold at EPCs in doubles. Parkland won the league and the conference tournament, along with winning the District 11 3A tournament. The Hornets defeated Freedom in the district quarter-final round before fall-

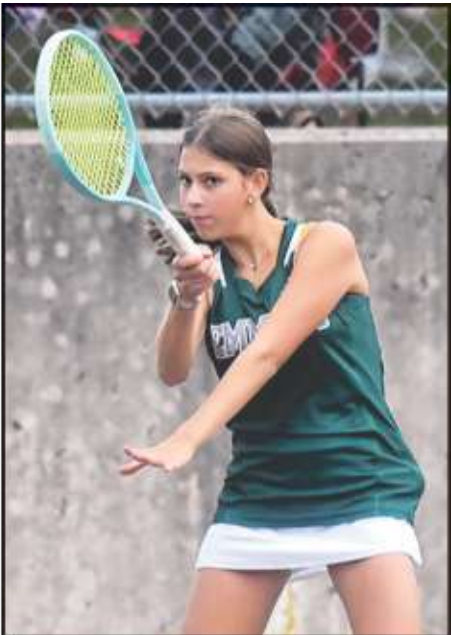
ing to the Trojans in the semifinals.

Some of the top returning players in the lineup for Emmaus this season include Sophia Kaufman at No. 1 singles, Gab Tranguch at No. 1 doubles, DiGiacomo and Hillegass at No. 2 doubles, Kanani at No. 3 doubles and Katy Kapp at first alternate doubles. A couple of newcomers that will look to break into the lineup and contribute include junior Fiona Harvey, sophomore Emily Kaufman and freshman Zoe Santana.

“We should once again be strong in doubles and very much improved in our singles



PRESS PHOTO BY MARK LINEBERGER
Natalie Hillegass was part of a doubles team that won an East Penn Conference gold medal last season.



PRESS PHOTO BY NANCY SCHOLZ
Gab Tranguch will return as a doubles player for Emmaus this season.

portion of the lineup,” and continue to find working hard every day Dragotta said. “We need the right placement of to better themselves.” to be more consistent our shots. The girls are



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PRESS PHOTOS BY MARK LINEBERGER

Goal keeper Will Peck and forward Canyon Reinhard (20) are part of a large class of returning seniors on this year's Emmaus boys soccer team.

Boys soccer team is poised for a promising season

BY CJ HEMERLY
special to the press

The Emmaus High School boys soccer team had a successful 2024 season, winning the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference tournament, the program's first league title since 2020, and finishing with a 19-3-1 overall record and a spot in the District 11 4A semifinals.

The Hornets are

poised for another promising season in 2025 as they return a large portion of the roster from last season.

That group includes leading scorers in senior midfielders Canyon Reinhardt (15 goals, 17 assists) and Conner Powell (12 goals, four assists), along with senior midfielder Robbie Tumblin, senior defender Rio Johnson, senior

goalies Will Peck and Gavin Yartymyk, junior defender Ben Grossi, junior forward Noah Tinkle and sophomore midfielder Brennan Stack.

Head coach John Cari is excited for who he has coming back and working with a similar group.

"We bring back a majority of players who either started or logged significant time last year," said Cari. "I

like the additions the new players are bringing to the team. We should have a well-balanced midfield, and as always, we pride ourselves on our defensive play. We look to control the things we can control, not getting beat on set pieces, errors, and counter attacks."

A couple of newcomers that are entering the

See **BOYS** on Page 11



Benjamin Grossi



Conner Powell



Robert Tumblin

Emmaus girls soccer looks to return to state tournament

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the Press

The Emmaus High School girls soccer team had a successful first year under new head coach Chris Hain in 2024, advancing to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference semifinals and finishing runner-up in the District 11 4A tournament.

The Hornets were 17-5-2 overall and earned a spot in the PIAA state playoffs.

Looking to take that next step and hoist gold in either conferences or districts will be difficult, as Emmaus graduated a talented senior class last year, including Kam

McWhinney, Kirsten Esterly, Morgan Tandy, Madison Shutkufski, Ashley Stine and Gabriella Powell.

Some of the top returning players to this year's team include senior defender and captain Emma Paradise, along with junior forward and captain Elizabeth Bender, who is the leading scorers back from the team with 16 goals and 18 assists last season. Others include junior forward Giuliana Meyer, junior midfielders Sofia Isaksson and Sophia Shutkufski, sophomore midfielder Ella Scharper and sophomore defender Stella

Pietrulewicz.

Some key newcomers to the varsity program that will look to make contributions on the pitch include sophomore forward Celeste Peralta, sophomore defender Phoebe O'Hara and freshmen midfielders Brynn Campbell, Amelia Lower and Meghan Puentes.

Hain knows what the team did last year and wants this year's group to remember that success and build off of it and continue to better themselves.

"Our goal as a team is to improve every day and build off of last See **GIRLS** on Page 11



PRESS PHOTOS BY MARK LINEBERGER

Senior captain Emma Paradise and the Emmaus girls soccer team are looking to return to the state playoffs this fall.



Giuliana Meyer



Sofia Isaksson



Elizabeth Bender



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Girls volleyball team returns large senior class

BY CJ HEMERLY
Special to the Press

The Emmaus High School girls volleyball team was under the direction of a new head coach in 2024 and there were some bumps along the way, but also some success as well. The Hornets finished the year 14-7 overall and qualified for both the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and District 11 4A tournaments.

Emmaus fell in its opening game of EPC tournament, but bounced back and won its district quarterfinal

in sweeping Northampton, before dropping a five-set match in the semifinals to rival Parkland.

Year two under head coach Jessica Olang, the Hornets look to build upon last season and hoist some gold medals.

In 2025, Emmaus will have a large and talented senior class, including setter Alyssa Heffner, outside hitter Maleya Hinds, defensive specialist Sophia Freemont, opposite hitter Kylie Heffner, outside hitter Amanda Rivera and Claudia Walls and defensive specialists Haley

Seidel and Corrine Slivka.

Some key newcomers looking to break into the lineup include juniors middle hitters Draya Flowers and Rosie Landino, setter Ashley Hoppes and defensive specialist Keira Martino.

“These athletes have worked and are continuing to work hard not only physically but mentally,” said Olang. “The coaching staff is challenging them to level up in every way. Especially when it comes to team unity. These young women are tremendous-

ly strong athletes and skilled, experienced volleyball players. Their ability to connect, see past themselves, and be for each other is transforming the vulnerability and energy in the gym.”

Olang mentioned the work that the team has put into the offseason and now preseason, looking to climb to the top of the league and district.

“The sky’s the limit,” Olang said. “Right now, we are putting in the work it takes in the gym to produce our desired outcomes.”



PRESS PHOTOS BY MARK LINEBERGER

Senior setter Alyssa Heffner and the Emmaus girls volleyball team are looking to build on last year’s 14-7 season.



Claudia Walls



Amanda Rivera



Kylie Heffner

EHS girls XC seek seventh straight D-11 title

BY MIKE HAINES
mhaines@tnonline.com

Both Emmaus cross country teams ended last season in Hershey after both qualified for the state championship meet.

The Hornet girls team won its sixth straight District 11 title last fall, led by two-time league and district champ Mady McCartney.

The Emmaus boys team took second place at districts to qualify for states as a team for the first time in 23 years.

Heading into the 2025 season, both teams will have a lot of graduates to replace from last year's line ups.

The Hornet girls team, which went 17-1 in dual meets last fall, has McCartney returning for her senior season. She earned her second state medal last season with a 13th place finish in Hershey.

Four seniors graduated from the Emmaus girls line up in Payton Campbell, who finished third at districts last year, along with Isabella Scarlate, Ava Palamara and Addison Johnson. All four graduates were part of the Hornets' district and state teams last fall.

Juniors Grace Nosal and Isabella Alwine-Balliro both return this season after running in leagues districts and states in 2024.

Nosal was the team's third runner at districts with a 16th place finish, while Alwine-Balliro finished 30th overall.

Senior Olivia Fleck, who finished 17th in last year's East Penn Conference Championships, along with senior Amanda Gulliver and junior Julie Murphy Peterson, who were both part of the Hornets' league championship team last



PRESS PHOTOS BY MARK LINEBERGER

Hornet senior Mady McCartney enters the 2025 cross country season as a two-time defending league and district champ. And she leads a team seeking its seventh straight District 11 title.

season.

The rest of this year's girls roster includes senior Lexie Doemling, Riley Finck, Emma Gerhart, Sarah Longbons and Morgan Schuler; juniors Leah Pulcini, Leah Schwyer, Kendall Shriver and Ella Weikel; sophomores Clara Baker, Angelina Bast, Kiley Decker, Aubrey Kazmierczak, Arianna Lutz, Samantha Reidnauer and Chloe Timmins; and freshmen Joyce Danial, Myla Felegy, Nitzana Jamaica, Mia Moyer and Cora

Ramirez.

The Emmaus boys team went 14-3 in 2024 and finished in third place at the league meet before a second-place finish at districts propelled the team to states.

The Hornets will graduate their top two runners from last season and three of the seven runners from their district team last year.

Conor Fisher (District 11 runner-up), Jared Petre and Richard Will all graduated after four years on the team.

Returning from last

year's district team are senior Ryan Fach, sophomores David Hearn and Michael Carwell and junior Zachary Zap-pile.

Fach was a top-10 finisher at districts last year and a top-20 finisher in leagues, placing third on the team at both events.

Also returning this year are sophomore Sullivan Hochbein and juniors Matthew Sirignano and Maximus Miller, who were part of last year's team for league championships but did



Grace Nosal



Ryan Fach

not run at districts.

The rest of this year's Emmaus boys cross country roster includes seniors Anthony Cicconetti, Adriano Clements, Noah Edge, Jackson LaRussa and Eric Reichenbach; juniors Ethan Brown, Evan Busse, William Fessler, Henry Klinetob, Brady McKechnie, Gavin Morris, Aaron Sallash, Calvin Schucker, Max Trach and Ethan Yang; sophomores Julian Borkowski, Christopher Eck, Tyler Eid, Ivan Fel-egy, Kyle Gamler, Blake

Hackman, Christian Hazlett, David Hearn, Sullivan Hochbein, Kaden McCartney, Nathan Mecouch, Patrick Molitoris, Michael Roosa, Aston Sabo, Maxwell Socci, Eli Theodore and Roen Woolf; and freshmen Ronan Bash, Aaron Baum, Adam Busse, Owen Cannon, Owen Fisher, Luke Harris, Mason Hipp, Gabriel Marrero-Bernal, Ishan Patel, Caleb Rosario and Jack Seeley.

Kai Jefferson hauls in a pass during a game last season.



PRESS PHOTO BY MARK LINEBERGER

FOOTBALL

Continued from page 2

The team will be led by reigning EPC Defensive Player of the Year in defensive lineman and senior Robert Edwards III. He was a member of a defense that allowed just over 11 points per game, the best in the conference.

Offensively, the keys will once again be in the hands of senior quarterback Jerek Cooper, who finished last season with 1,020 yards and 10 touchdowns through the air and also ran for 662 yards and eight scores.

He has some talented players at the skill positions back for him to distribute the ball to, including wide receivers Kai Jefferson and Tyler Carmosky and running back Jay Santos, along with some returning offensive lineman in Asher Dougherty and Brody

McHugh.

So, will this year's squad be the team that finally gets over the hump and wins a district title?

"That's part of our goal every year to get that first one under our belt," Fairclough said. "And it seems to be the hardest one to get. But we know that's where we want to be. You want to be in that mix at the end every year. We've just got to get over that hump. Our guys know it, our staff knows it and we feel it every single day. It's what drives us and motivates me. We're going to keep working to get there."

Emmaus kicks off the 2025 campaign at home in a nonconference game against Neshaminy on Youth Night, Friday, August 22nd. The Green Hornets then hit the road to take on Bethlehem Catholic next Friday night in the conference opener.

GOLF

Continued from page 3
at Penn State.

Senior Alexis Teichman was one place away from qualifying for states last fall when she finished fifth at districts.

Senior Boden Rainford carded an 81 as the team's No. 7 player in the Hornets' season opening match. He and fellow senior Ryan Maloney, who is in his fourth year on the team, could drop into the top five on some days to help the

team scoring.

Francis, a sophomore who wasn't on the team last year, has been playing in the No. 4 spot this year and shot 79 in his first match of the season.

Ben Nichols, a junior and one of several Hornet golfers who also play ice hockey, has been in the No. 6 position in matches.

Senior Jack Sparango and Greyson Schmidt, a sophomore, also have shown a lot of promise, Birns said.

Birns said the competition for the top eight

spots has been fierce this season and he's used different line ups in each match because he's got so many players who deserve to be in the line up.

With most of the season played before the school year starts, the golf team will wind down this year's early in September with matches against Central Catholic (Sept. 2), Blue Mountain (Sept. 4) and the season finale against Parkland Sept. 9 at Brookside Country Club.

BOYS

Continued from page 6

fold and will be looked to counted on to contribute include junior forward Ant Suida, junior midfielder Alecks Przybylski, junior defender Tyler Evans and sophomore midfielder Noah Delgado.

The Hornets are looking to defend their EPC crown, but also get back onto the top of District 11, having lost to rival Parkland in the district semifinal round last season. Emmaus last won a district title in 2023. The goals remain the same for the program in 2025.

Parkland went to last year's state title game

and lost to Cumberland Valley. The Hornets beat both of those teams during the 2024 regular season.

"As always, our goals are to be conference and District 11 champions," Cari said. "After watching a state final against two teams we beat, we will strive for state greatness."

GIRLS

Continued from page 7

season's success," said Hain. "As a group (players and coaches) we

grew and learned some valuable lessons together last season that will hopefully help us this season. We have a great group of very talented girls who are willing to

buy into what we are trying to accomplish which will help us build a team culture that will help our success."

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