

# Dickson brings back four boys, seven girls to scene

By Cory Forshaw

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Seven girls who lettered return to the scene for the Plymouth girls track team, while head coach Doug Dickson welcomes back four lettermen on the boys side.

Couple those lettermen with a mix of solid underclassmen and Dickson feels his club can improve upon last year.

For the girls, seniors Amber Kropf and Heather Roll lead the way. Both have been involved in track since their freshmen campaigns, with Kropf participating in the sprints and 800-meter run and Roll running in the distance races.

Juniors Nicole Baker and Jenny Reber will run in the sprints, while classmate Kim Howard will run in both the sprints and hurdles.

Sophomores Lindy Seel and Richelle Smart round out the list of lettermen. Seel will run the sprints, while Smart will throw the shot put and run the sprints and hurdles.

"A strong number of returning lettermen should be a good foundation for the team," Dickson said. "We need to get more points from the distance and field events and try to

work more people into more events."

Other prospects out for the team include Beth Betts, Brianna Cassidy, Julie Chinchock, April Schwaderer, Stephanie Cunningham, Ashley Reynolds, Amy McClintock and Alexis Sheely.

Reber, Kropf and Seel comprised three of the four legs in the 3,200 relay last year that finished sixth in the Firelands Conference meet. Roll was fifth in the 3,200 run in the FC meet, Howard was sixth in the 110 hurdles and Smart was fourth in the shot put and sixth in the 300 hurdles.

In addition, Schwaderer was first in the SMS meet in the 1,600 run, Cunningham was second in the high jump and Reynolds was second in the high hurdles and fourth in the low hurdles.

"The younger athletes should be able to help the team, as several placed in the middle school conference meet last year," Dickson said.

For the boys, Jay Follett is the lone senior lettermen on the squad. Follett will spend all of his time in the distance races.

Three juniors return to the fold, including James Akers,

Matt Anderson and Ryan Click. Akers will run the 400 and 800, Click will run the sprints, long jump and 800 and Anderson will compete in the field events.

"Our distance runners have improved from last year," Dickson said. "Eliot Fackler was injured last year and couldn't stay out, but he has been running during cross country season and the winter. Jay Follett has shown improvement in the distance races and was on the third-place 4x800 relay team.

"Also back on the team are James Akers and Ryan Click. Ryan will be getting points in the long jump and has been to the regional meet in the 4x100 relay team."

Top prospects include Nathan Resendez, Michael Anderson, Mike Blankenship, Mike Branham, Nick Keaton, Chad Kirkpatrick and Cole Hinkle.

"We need to get more points from the distance and field events to be able to win meets," Dickson said. "We hope we can work more people into more events."

The Big Red will kick off their season Tuesday at Seneca East.