

NAMES AND NEWS

New pro soccer player won't be kicking back

Former CBS star Kevin Goldthwaite '01 lands in San Jose.

By Jason Jones
BEE STAFF WRITER

Kevin Goldthwaite is one of those fortunate recent college graduates who work in their preferred profession.

The former Christian Brothers High School soccer star is a rookie with the Earthquakes of Major League Soccer after four stellar years at Notre Dame.

San Jose's second-round selection (17th overall) in the 2005 SuperDraft is finding life as a pro appealing.

"It's kind of like a win-win situation," Goldthwaite said. "There's no more schoolwork, and now we're getting paid to play."

A rookie defender, Goldthwaite practices with the Earthquakes and plays in the reserve league - a 12-game season for younger players and veterans coming back from injury.

Goldthwaite has learned in practice and games that the competition is more intense and, of course, the level of play is higher.

Then again, these players have much more to play for.

"It's a lot different than the college experience, with me competing against guys where this is their job," Goldthwaite said. "They've got wives and families to feed."

Goldthwaite gets the most out of practices and games, largely because of a mature perspective. He's a backup to six-year MLS veteran Wade Barrett, a former All-Star with U.S. national team experience.

In the 2003-04 season, Barrett played for AGF Aarhus in the Danish SuperLiga.

"I'm not playing over Wade right now," Goldthwaite said. "He's a much better, much more experienced player."

Goldthwaite has no complaints about life off the field right now. Though he misses friends from college who are still in South Bend, Ind., Goldthwaite didn't miss the white winters and is glad to be back in California.

He visits his family in Sacramento about every two weeks, if travel and team commitments allow.

Goldthwaite had long been warned of pricey rental costs in the Silicon Valley. Right now, he's "living it up" with roommates and teammates Robby Fulton, Danny O'Rourke and Chris Wondolowski in a townhouse not far from HP Pavilion. Three other Earthquakes players live in the same complex.

The younger players have a special bond since they are usually teammates in reserve games. They often find themselves playing against players they know well from their college days.

"We kind of joke about it," Goldthwaite said. "That's our thing, not the first-team guys' thing."

SIDELIGHTS

Rangers, Crew advance to soccer regionals

Two area competitive boys soccer teams advanced to the United States Youth Soccer Far West Regionals from June 19-25 in Aurora, Colo., after recently winning California Youth Soccer Association-North State Cup titles in Livermore.

In a rare all-Sacramento final, the San Juan Rangers defeated the Placer United Prestige 87s 3-2 May 1 for the Under-18 boys championship. In the Under-14 boys, the El Dorado Crew won its third state title in the last four seasons with a 1-0 victory over the Santa Rosa United Gold '91 April 30.

The Crew, which outscored its opponents 23-2 in seven matches, also won last season's U-13 USYS Far West title in Spokane, Wash.

In the U-18s game, the Rangers' Chris Wright headed in a "golden goal" on an assist by Kebba Manjang to end the match. The teams had battled to a 2-2 tie in regulation, with forwards Brian Davis and Jason Duvall scoring for the Rangers.

The State Cup is the Northern California championship for competitive-level teams.

KEBBA MANJANG '05

NAMES AND NEWS

CBS kicks its playoff drive into high gear

By Jason Jones
BEE STAFF WRITER

At Christian Brothers High School, it's already playoff time for the girls soccer team.

Coach **Tony Perez** said he believes the Falcons can assure themselves one of the Sierra Valley Conference's two playoff spots by winning the rest of their games.

Not only would that be an impressive way to close the regular season, it would illustrate the Falcons' tremendous growth.

Early in the season, CBS, the defending Sac-Joaquin Section Division II champion, was dogged by mental mistakes at inopportune times. Those errors, combined with a tough nonleague schedule, had the Falcons struggling to win close games.

CBS recorded just three victories to go with two ties in its first 11 games. At one point, CBS lost four straight.

But in all fairness, these Falcons aren't the same ones that won it all last year.

CBS lost four captains to graduation, including The Bee's 2004 Player of the Year, **Leslie Campbell**. Also gone are All-SVC performer **Carla Vellutini**, along with **Lauren Schaub** and **Jillian Franzoia**.

"We continued to play the top teams in the area," Perez said. "But we knew we were going to have a very different team."

The Falcons struggled to find their individual roles, which led to some of the mental breakdowns. But as of late, they have won four straight to stay in playoff contention.

"Their confidence is building because they know they've been in every game," Perez said.

CBS (8-6-2, 6-2) moved into second place behind Ponderosa after a 1-0 win Monday at Oak Ridge. Victories over Cordova, Ponderosa, El Dorado and Galt in their final four games would put the Falcons into the postseason.

"We're right in the middle of our league, and we have to win every game," Perez said. "It's up to us because we're not going to get any help from anyone else."

"We're looking to get into TOCs. And if we get into TOCs, anything can happen."

Though the team has been slow to jell, Perez does have some talented returning.

Senior **Amanda Plasencia** was a top goal-scorer last season and leads the team with six this season. But this year, the midfielder is in a different role, trying to create chances for teammates.

Marina Baham, a senior forward who will play at Cal State Monterey Bay, has five goals.

Senior defender **Meaghan Hilson** and junior defender **Katie Ward**, a transfer from Oak Ridge who had to sit out last season, have also been solid.

"This year, individually the team has played OK, but we haven't had the individual step up and take over," Perez said. "They're a very good team. They just haven't really jelled."

Recent play would indicate the Falcons are on their way to playing as a unit, especially as everyone becomes comfortable in her role.

"We can't win the way we won last year," Perez said. "We're going to have to do it differently."

□ □ □

THE SPOTLIGHT

FRIDAY/APRIL 22

Christian Brothers musical

Christian Brothers High School presents the hilarious and rollicking musical comedy, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." 7:30 p.m. Christian Brothers High School, 4315 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Sacramento. \$7 general, \$5 students. (916) 733-3600.

CBS players make All-SVC basketball teams

Christian Brothers' **Bo Henning** made the first-team boys and **Brittany Woodard** the first-team girls in voting by Sierra Valley Conference basketball coaches.

Henning, a sophomore guard, averaged 18.3 points and four assists. Woodard, a freshman forward, led the girls in scoring (13.8), rebounding (8.5), steals (3.1) and blocked shots (1.7).

SPORTS