

# Sports

## The Fieldston News

### Fall Sports Preview: March of the Eagles

By SAM KREVLIN

When fall athletes reported to preseason on August 18 a new era of Fieldston sports began. With the departure of former athletic director Steve Bluth, and the arrival of his successor Gus Ornstein, the first official season of Ornstein's tenure had begun.

"It's going to be a big change," said senior striker Ben Gottschalk.

"Already Gus has been very supportive of the soccer team and got us our trip to Brookwoods Camps for four days."

"It is going to impact our entire community," said senior running back Jack Upton. "Gus is hungry to make changes."

New coaches have arrived, new players have emerged, new goals have been set, and there are new titles to defend with new leagues to conquer. Fieldston's players look to shine bright this fall season.

#### Football:

For most players, preseason is a time to reconnect and bond with teammates they haven't seen since last year's season ended. However, senior captains Jack Upton and Sam Green spent the summer attending college minicamps, where they conditioned and trained for the upcoming season.

They attended Brown, Boston College, and Wesleyan, hoping to prove to college scouts that they had the ability to play in college.

"We both love football and it would be awesome for us to play at the next level," said Upton. "This summer, we went out and gave everything that we had, and I think it worked out for us."

Facing an immense amount of pressure going into each camp, Upton and Green benefited from having a familiar face to ease the stress.

"I remember seeing Jack walk in, and I was so hyped to get back in the routine, back in the camps, back in the same old drills and work together," Green said. "Having someone you know takes the load off."

Upton worked on his speed and strength over the offseason, and has set high goals for himself this season. After rushing for 628 yards on 63 carries, Upton said his goal for this year is to record a 1,000 yard season.

While speed is one of Green's key attributes, he worked on gaining weight this year, hoping to reduce the weight discrepancy that limited him last year. Indeed, Green was on average 30 pounds lighter

thing starts here on this field."

Ben Gottschalk got the message, and he was named the team's only head captain of the 2014 season. Gottschalk is coming off one of his best seasons, in which he scored 14 goals. His defining moment of the season came during the final minutes of Riverdale's homecoming when Gottschalk scored a goal to tie the game at one apiece.

"You could feel the adrenaline and people yelling at you from the

dis if he wants win the Ivy League. Landis is starting for the first time in his high school career and is confident in his ability to lead the Eagles to a successful season.

"My main strength as a goalkeeper is shot-stopping from anywhere on the field," Landis said. "I believe that I can get to almost any ball that is coming towards me."

Landis has been working on his weaknesses this offseason, while trying to adapt to the new system that Coach Reilly has put in place.

"My main weakness as a goalkeeper is coming off my line in time to retrieve the ball before the opposing team can get a foot on it."

The members of the boys' varsity soccer team have formed a brotherly atmosphere. All the boys are close and Landis is looking to help foster this trend.

"Throughout past years, BVS has been one of the closest teams at Fieldston and that will be the case this year as well."

#### Cross Country:

Since Robbie Tanner left Fieldston three years ago, Track and Field has had a difficult time regaining its status as one of the top teams in the Ivy League. This year, with senior Ezra Hornick's blazing speed and a promising incoming freshman class, the Eagles look to regain their pinnacle of success.

"This could be the best team we've had since 2011, and I'm excited to see what we can do," said senior James Schapiro.

Going into preseason, many athletes doubted the team's ability to win meets. Unsure whether or not incoming freshmen would contribute, junior Michael Consuelos had his doubts about the team's depth.

But the incoming freshmen have surprised the upperclassmen and have proved that they can contribute significantly to the team's success.

"We've got the strongest freshman class in a few years at least, and when you add that to a solid core, you've got a really strong



PHOTO BY DEB LANDIS

The 2014 Fieldston Eagles boy's varsity soccer team

than the players on the other side of the ball. Green's goal this year is to record 10 sacks.

The Eagles are entering a new league with high expectations. While they have recently come close to beating many Fairchester teams, they believe this year they can seal the deal.

"If we become the first champions of our new league it would make a big statement," said senior wide receiver Kyle Axelrod.

#### Boys' Soccer:

On the first day of practice, new varsity head Coach Sean Reilly assembled his players on the sideline and delivered a speech to the team.

"You want to represent your school at the highest level," he said. "This is where you prove it. Every-

crowd, and it made me want to score," senior Ben Gottschalk said. "And in the last minute I scored to tie the game and it was a great moment."

Having four coaches in four years has been difficult for Gottschalk. Now a captain, he has double the pressure and responsibility, as he not only needs to learn a new system but also needs to lead his new set of teammates.

"It's been frustrating that you have to adjust," Gottschalk said. "You have to create your own legacy again and keep working hard to prove yourself. My teammates have been great, too. We are all working together and working hard out there to win the Ivy League."

Gottschalk will have to rely heavily on junior goalie Will Lan-