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## Searching for consistency

### Young Troy Athens soccer team can play with anyone

By Mike Moore  
C & G Sports Writer

TROY — Tim Storch has a pretty good idea of how talented his Troy Athens soccer team can be, and he's reminded of it every time he looks at the standings in the Oakland Activities Association Red Division and sees the 6-1-1 record of Lake Orion High.

That one setback for the Dragons was his squad's 4-1 victory Sept. 10.

Unfortunately, as Storch admitted, when he glances at the record of his own team (3-4-1), he's reminded just how inconsistent a team loaded with youth can be.

"We're a young team with good days and bad days," Storch laughed. "This year's been a kind of roller coaster at times. When we beat Lake Orion, they were one of the highest-rated teams in the state. But then we turned around and lost some games we should have won."

While he wasn't using it as an excuse, Storch knows youth has been a serious factor. Of the 21 players on his roster, only four are seniors and only one senior starts. The other 10 starters comprise seven juniors and three sophomores, most of whom are seeing time on varsity for the first time.

"We've seen and experienced some of those youthful errors that come back to bite you," Storch said. "It's not very typical of a high school soccer team to have just one senior starter, but that's what we're working with right now."

"Work" is the word, according to Storch.

While he knows it will take time and experience to help shape his squad, he's also stressed the fact that their desire and habits can speed up their development.

"Work ethic, that's what can set us apart," Storch said. "We're going to face teams all season that are stronger, faster and more talented than we are right now. But if we embrace the idea of working harder than anyone we play, we're going to find the win column more often than not."

This year and beyond.

The youth of this season's squad is only going to transform into a collection of seasoned veterans as time passes.

"That's what I really like about these guys," Storch said. "With as many younger guys as we have playing right now, we have the chance to be good for years to come."

You can reach Sports Writer Mike Moore at [mmoore@candgnews.com](mailto:mmoore@candgnews.com) or at (586)



Photo by Tracy Dreslinski  
Alex Serwatka, pictured in a game earlier this season, is one of three sophomores who have seen considerable playing time all season for Athens.

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