

## Men's soccer returns to core: aiming high

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Losing just one senior from last year's squad, head coach Josh Gibbs is carefully optimistic about the 2009 season.

"Last year we were a collection of talented players," Gibbs said. "This year the players have come together to create a stronger team feeling."

Returning sophomore forward Marcus Harris will try to cause much trouble for opponents this year.

"He is one of the most electric players I have ever seen," Gibbs said. "He can change the game in a flash, and you seldom see a player that talented working as hard as Marcus does."

In addition to the players returning from last year, Gibbs hopes that junior transfer Ricardo Aguilera from University of the Incarnate Word, junior transfer Tyler Keith from UT-Permian Basin and freshman Clayton Herzog will be able to instantly further in-

crease the quality of the team. "Aguilera received good training at University of the Incarnate Word; Keith is a proven college player who provides a different element up top, and his hard work will allow his teammates to score. Herzog has a solid soccer background from playing with the Dallas Solar Soccer Club and is used to big situations," Gibbs said.

Freshman defender Henry Iraheta, defender/midfielder Roberto Campuzano and defender/forward Sean Maloney are also new additions.

On the sideline, the returning coaching staff is joined by Matt Walusimbi who spent the last four years as an assistant coach at Nolan Catholic High School.

Working with mostly the same squad that fell to UT Brownsville in the conference championship semi-final last year, Gibbs sees no need to change the team's goal.

"Our only motivation is to win a conference champion-



Courtesy of the athletic department

Sophomore Marcus Harris

ship," he said. "It is nationals or nothing."

This year's Rams soccer features nine seniors, and Gibbs is confident they will leave it all on the field their last year.

"They have wanted it for a long time, and they are good enough to achieve their goal [nationals]," he said. "For them it is do or die."

## Wesleyan Week-in-Sports

- The **Lady Rams Soccer** team beat Oklahoma Baptist University (1-0) after double over time Sept. 5 and Schreiner University (1-0) Sept. 5. The Lady Rams are now 4-0. Senior captain Jaimie Romaguera leads the Lady Rams with four goals. Goalkeeper Katy Houchin recorded three shutouts in four games.
- The **Rams Soccer** team is off to its best start in school history (4-0) after beating Oklahoma Baptist University (2-1) Sept. 5 and Schreiner University (3-1) Sept. 6. Sophomore Marcus Harris (three) and junior Theo Nabassi (four) are the Rams' leading goal scorers so far.
- The **Lady Rams Volleyball** team (1-3) suffered a 3-0 loss at Tarleton State University Sept. 2. Junior Kristen Venhuizen leads the team with 28 kills and 40 digs.

## The Weekly Sports Quote

"The lead car is absolutely, truly unique, except for the one behind it, which is exactly identical to the one in front of the similar one in back."

Grand Prix Race Announcer

## Lady Rams soccer team to build on success

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With the addition of Our Lady of the Lake University to the Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC), the Lady Rams will have to work harder to defend their regular and conference championship titles from last year.

"We are looking to continue our tradition of excellence," Coach Josh Gibbs said.

After making their first ever national appearance last year, the Lady Rams have brought in a large group of new players to build on the success.

Brandi Berrier, midfielder; Cara Lumpkin, midfielder;

Vanessa Lopez, midfielder; Meagan Williams, defender; Leah Valtman, defender; Jessica Watton, forward; Samantha Greer, midfielder; and Jordan Carrizales, forward, constitute the group of freshmen.

In addition, sophomore transfer Alysia Kroger, a forward from Northwood University, and junior transfers Kayla Doherty (defender, Lynn University) and Heather Pagano (defender, Navarro College) will further increase the quality of the team.

"I was nervous about the fact that the new players almost outnumbered the existing players," Gibbs said. "A

situation like that can be quite intimidating, but the returning players were very welcoming, and the new players still didn't take anything for granted. The team came together as a group incredibly fast."

Further, senior Alejandra Barrera, RRAC Co-Player of the Year last year in her first season with the Lady Rams, is returning for her last year.

Sophomore Katy Houchin will succeed graduated Honorable mention All-American Brittany O'Brien between the posts as the next in line of a proud tradition of successful goalkeepers at Texas Wesleyan. O'Brien stays with the Lady Rams as a goalkeeper

coach.

The talented newcomers are mixing well with the already well-established tradition of success within the women's soccer program.

Having appeared on the national stage once, the Lady Rams are looking to establish themselves as regular competitors at the highest level.

"The quality of our conference has improved, but so have we," Gibbs said.

According to Gibbs, the future looks very bright for the Lady Rams.

"This group has the potential to build on last year's success and be the best they have ever been," he said.

## Upcoming Sports

	Game	Time/Place
<b>Wednesday</b>	Volleyball vs. Texas Woman's	7 p.m. Denton
<b>Friday</b>	Women's Soccer vs. Texas Woman's Volleyball vs. Concordia Volleyball vs. Lubbock Christian Men's Soccer vs. Schreiner	1 p.m. Denton 3 p.m. Lubbock 7 p.m. Lubbock 7:30 p.m. Wesleyan
<b>Saturday</b>	Volleyball vs. Howard Payne Volleyball vs. Wayland Baptist	1 p.m. Lubbock 4 p.m. Plainview
<b>Tuesday</b>	Volleyball vs. Souther Nazarene	7 p.m. Wesleyan

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**MONDAY  
SEPTEMBER 14**

**7:00 P.M.**

**POLYTECHNIC UMC  
SANCTUARY**

Josh McDowell is a four time winner of the Gold Medallion Book Award and his book, *New Evidence Which Demands A Verdict*, has been named as one of the most influential books of the century by World Magazine.

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