

The Durham College Chronicle

SPORTS

Bombino is back home

□ FORMER
PLAYER
RETURNS
AS COACH

BY VIKKI SPENCER
Chronicle staff

Stan Bombino is hoping to get by with a little help from his friends.

In fact, he's hoping his friends will help get him a championship banner.

"There's an old saying: 'If you surround yourself with successful people, you in turn will be a success,'" said Bombino, new head coach of the Durham College varsity men's soccer team, at a recent press conference.

Bombino has tried to put this formula to work in assembling the college's largest coaching staff.

Bombino was handed the reins of last year's OCAA championship-winning team this past February, and proceeded to surround himself with as much talent as possible.



STAN BOMBINO

First, he brought his brother Marlo Bombino, four-time coach of the year in the First Division Men's Soccer League, on board as assistant coach.

Then two former professional goalkeepers, Paul Nesbitt and Matt Gerr, were added to the coaching staff, with Gord Oliver rounding out the team as manager.

Bombino brings an extensive coaching background to his new position, having, in his own words, "coached from 40-to 4-year-olds."

He began playing first division soccer at age 14, and was a student athlete at Durham

College back in the '70s.

"The late '70s," he stresses.

An All-star soccer player, Bombino also won the OCAA scoring championship.

He has also played at the national league level in Toronto, and with the Ontario Soccer League.

He is an employee of the provincial Ministry of Finance by day, but, coaching has become a mainstay of Bombino's life.

He has been a coaching instructor with the Ontario Soccer Association, and works with both the National Coaching Federation of Canada and the Coaching Committee of Ontario.

Currently, he is working on his B-licence and level four coaching certification.

Through this experience he has developed a coaching system that relies primarily on discipline, an approach which he hopes will lead to success

for the varsity squad.

"I think most of our players, I hope 99% of them, have bought that this is the way to do it."

Bombino also places emphasis on the defensive aspects of the game.

"You build from the back," he explains. "It's like the foundation of a house."

To this end, Bombino has brought together three goalkeepers he believes could all be starting

players on any team, under the direction of Nesbitt and Gerr.

Bombino knows that last year's championship is a tough act to follow.

"I have quite a large pair of shoes to fill," he admits.

However, he finds confidence in the players and staff he has surrounded himself with.

"I really believe this team is closer knit," Bombino explains, "more disciplined, on and off the field."

'If you surround yourself with successful people you in turn will be a success.'

Stan Bombino

Durham's reputation key to recruiting

BY VIKKI SPENCER
Chronicle staff

There is an old saying that the past always affects the present. This is certainly true for Durham College's sports teams when recruiting season rolls around.

The success of past teams has given Durham's varsity programs a solid reputation with which to attract potential student athletes.

"Students like to know they might play for a winner," says athletic director Ken Babcock. "They want to belong to something successful."

Stan Bombino, head coach of men's varsity soccer, agrees.

"The program here speaks for itself."

A former student himself, Bombino sees the change in the calibre of players the school is attracting because of its successful record.

"When I was attending here, a lot of kids weren't playing soccer then. There were only three or four who played competitive soccer," explains Bombino. "Now, you hear kids wanting to go to DC for the soccer program alone."

Women's softball coach Jim Nemish also finds the school's winning tradition a selling point for potential recruits, but



Photo by Vikki Spencer

TIME FOR SOME B.P.: Jim Nemish, head coach of the women's softball team, watches as Leslie West hits some balls off the batting tee.

does not discount the value of a Durham College education.

"We've had a successful fastball program here," he says, "and we've got a good ratio of students finding jobs."

With the controversy surrounding recruiting practices at many post-secondary institutions, ensuring student athletes aren't just here for the sports has become a high priority. Nemish said that, through the recruiting process, he must look for athletes who are "academically sound", and who will succeed as students.

"The last thing you want to do is get somebody with a lot of talent who doesn't want to work hard at school," says Nemish. "It's a lost recruit."

To help student athletes maintain the necessary 2.5 GPA they need to compete, the athletics department works with the Intercollegiate Academic Athletic Success Program, trying to encourage coaches to act in a guidance role with student athletes and stay on top of potential academic problems.

And with limited money for

the scholarships that attract athletes to Durham College, ensuring student athletes meet the required academic standards to be eligible to play and receive their scholarships is a must. While it is possible for a school to offer one scholarship to each of its student athletes, Durham has set aside funds for just two scholarship recipients per team.

"We'll never max out," says Babcock of the scholarships offered here. "We're a little behind that way. But we're a smaller school."

Because of this, the sports programs rely on not only the school's tradition of winning, but also on the extra effort put forward by coaches in the scouting process. Nemish spends most of the summer recruiting, including going to bantam and midget games to find players who may be potential recruits years down the road. And it is this effort that provides the foundation for future successful teams.

"The teams have great reputations of being successful here," says Babcock. "[History and tradition] don't just happen overnight. They happen because a lot of great people over the years have built up that tradition."

Durham soccer off to fast start

BY LUKE ZEBRAK
Chronicle staff

In the Showdown soccer tournament hosted by Durham College, the men successfully defended their OCAA title while the ladies finished third next to Loyalist and the DC alumni team.

The men's team won the first game against the Royal Military College Paladins, 8-3.

Defender Chris Neskovski scored three goals on three penalty shots. On each attempt, Neskovski beat the RMC keeper to the same side.

Highly touted rookie George Carvalho scored three goals. Frank Barker and Kwame Wiafe-Annah, had one goal each.

With this win, the Lords advanced to the final of the tournament. In the championship game, the men needed one goal for the win.

The Lords beat the Erie Kats from Buffalo, on goals from Bill Argyle, James Prescod, Darryl Wright and Jimmy Kuzmanovski.

The final was 4-0 on a good performance from keepers Dave Staley and rookie Tony Carvalho. After the final, George Carvalho was named the MVP of the tournament.

The Lords looked impressive in the tournament and hoped to carry their luck into the Fanshawe Invitational, which Neskovski called their biggest test.

Athletic director Ken Babcock is impressed with the men's team and what he calls "an up-tempo offence".

He referred to Barker and George Carvalho as "two of the best in the city".

On the ladies side, Durham was defeated by the RMC Paladins who scored two goals near the end of the game. Lords' Jaime Kerr scored once.

The Lords faced the Lancers for third place and shut them out 3-0 as Jaime Kerr added another goal. Tracey Weightman scored twice.

The Durham alumni team faced RMC for the championship and they needed one goal to win.

Tournament MVP Marcy Skribe scored the only goal of the game.