

Former Jacket plays part in made for Hollywood script

By Mike Maharrey
WOODFORD SUN SPORTS EDITOR

When the Kentucky Wanderers women's soccer club took the field at the United States Adult Soccer Association Region II Cups Finals, the players didn't even have matching shorts.

The Wanderers' competition rolled into Oak Forest, Ill., on chartered buses. Hailing from urban areas such as Chicago, Milwaukee and Detroit, opposing players exited their cushy rides, paid for by big money sponsors, wearing matching warm-ups, and they took the field in top of the line gear.

But when the tournament ended on July 20, the competing teams packed up matching gear bags and headed home. And the Wanderers returned to the Bluegrass State to prepare for a first ever trip to the Women's National Cup for a Kentucky team.

The Kentucky Wanderers went 3-1-0 in the Region II Cups Finals. They knocked off the Croatian Eagles 2-1 in the final game. But even with the win over the Wisconsin club, the girls from Kentucky had to rely on not one, not two, but three tie-breakers, earning a trip to Nationals by virtue of scoring one more goal than the competition.

Woodford County High School 2010 graduate Katrina Ott plays for the Wanderers.

"It's kind of like a story out of a movie," she said. "Nobody thinks of Kentucky as a soccer state. It's a pretty significant development for Kentucky, I think."

Team manager Tim Burton took the movie analogy a step further.

"It's really like a Hoosier story," he said, referring to the 1986 movie starring Gene Hackman, based on the story of the unlikely Indiana state basketball championship won

by tiny Milan High School in 1954.

Made up of players from around Central and Northern Kentucky, the Wanderers don't have top-notch practice facilities. They work out at Southland Christian Church.

"Sometimes the grass is two feet tall," Ott said.

The team lacks a major sponsor, and must scrimp and save just to pay its entry fees and travel expenses.

"We operate on a shoestring budget," Burton said.

But the Wanderers excel where it counts - on the field.

Ott says the team doesn't really think much about its disadvantages.

"It shows the growth of soccer in Kentucky. We just want to get better. We just want to play," she said. "But to actually be competitive and actually win... It's a big deal."

With the Region II Cup Finals championship game

win, the Wanderers earned the opportunity to compete against the best in the nation. The team will kick off its quest for the National Cup against North Texas Premier on July 30 in Feasterville, Penn.

The path to Nationals wasn't an easy one. The Wanderers earned a 4-0 win over the Illinois Move Makers and a 4-1 victory over Vardar from Michigan. But Kentucky stumbled, falling 2-1 to JB Marine from Missouri. That set up the championship game against the Croatian Eagles. Even after the 2-1 victory, the final result remained in question.

"It ended up taking a good bit of sorting out at the tent," Ott said.

The result - a three way tie. But after an analysis of all the tie-breakers, 11 tourney goals, one more than any other team, punched the Wanderers ticket to Nationals.

Ott said as a first time adult player, she didn't realize how



MEMBERS OF THE Kentucky Wanderers soccer club pose with their trophy after winning the United States Adult Soccer Association Region II Cup championship, becoming the first Kentucky women's team ever to qualify for Nationals. Woodford County High School graduate Katrina Ott is fourth from the right on the bottom row. (Photo submitted)



KATRINA OTT PUSHES the ball up field during last fall's 25th District Championship soccer game against Anderson County. The 2010 Woodford County High School graduate is now a member of the Kentucky Wanderers. The squad recently won the United States Adult Soccer Association Region II Cup championship, becoming the first Kentucky women's team ever to qualify for Nationals. (Photo by Mike Maharrey)

big a deal winning the region would be.

"It actually is a really big deal."

Ott earned an invitation to play with the Wanderers based on her performance in the Olympic Development Program. Wanderer coach Adrian Parrish also served as Ott's ODP coach.

The Versailles resident is the youngest girl on the team. Ott admitted that her relative youth and the fact she had yet to play college soccer, while most of her teammates have, made her a little nervous at first.

"I was afraid that I would be behind," she said. "It has actually been a really good experience and will help me in college."

Ott said competing against bigger, stronger, faster girls posed the greatest challenge in moving up to the adult level.

"One of the first things you notice is the physicality. The speed of play is a lot faster," she said. "I get pushed around a lot."

Burton didn't voice any concerns with Ott's self-perceived weaknesses. He called her a "defensive anchor." The future Western Kentucky Hill-topper also brings some versatility to the squad. Along with her tenacious defensive play, Ott earned the opportunity to add some offensive punch, playing some midfield during regionals. She will likely play up front at times during Nationals.

"She's just a super, super player," Burton said. "That's not embellishing."

Burton added that Ott possesses a maturity level that belies her youth.

"I know she's one of the youngest, but when I talk to her, she's just got her head on straight. She's so focused."

Two more Woodford County products will take the field with Ott in Pennsylvania. Stephanie Patterson, will join the team for Nationals. The 2009 Woodford County High School grad is preparing to begin her sophomore year at the Air Force Academy. Morgan Binder will also take the field with the Wanderers. She graduated from Woodford in 2008 and plays soccer for the University of Indianapolis.

As the Bluegrass girls seek to continue their Hoosieresque story in the Keystone State, Burton works to defray some of the costs. He said he hopes to charter a bus so the team can travel together, and he'd like to see his squad take the field in matching shorts. Burton said the total cost of the trip to Nationals, including travel, entry fees, lodging and meals will come in somewhere around \$10,000.

The club has some sponsors, but Burton said they continue to look for more. Any businesses or individuals interested in helping with funding can contact Burton at tmburton5@aol.com or by calling (859) 312-8085



WOODFORD COUNTY PARENTS and students pose after working the Bluegrass State Games 5K race at the R.J. Corman facility in Nicholasville on July 17. Woodford County will also lend a hand in the Bluegrass State Games soccer tournament, hosting games at the WYSA soccer complex. Track and field events will take place the weekend of July 23. Participants can register at www.bsgs.org. Pictured left to right: Genie Graf, Jim Jarman, Kevin Hall, Darcie Jarman, Bret Kennedy, Adira Jarman, Nathan Greathouse, Meredith Davis, Becky Davis, Susan Grenfell, Natalie Grenfell, Jill Hall, John Mulvaney and Brent Mulvaney. Not pictured - Darrin Grenfell. (Photo submitted)

A man of leaps and letters

By Mike Maharrey
WOODFORD SUN SPORTS EDITOR

A Versailles man continues to make his mark at Centre College, both on the basketball court and in the classroom, collecting a number of athletic and academic honors.

Centre College senior Alex Lloyd earned a spot on the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) student-athlete Academic Honor Roll for the 2010 spring season.

A student-athlete qualifies for the honor roll by maintaining a minimum grade-point average of 3.25 for the term, while competing as a member of a varsity athletic team in a conference sport.

The SCAC also named the 6-foot-8 center to its All



VERSAILLES RESIDENT and Centre College basketball player Alex Lloyd excels both in the classroom and on the court. (Photo courtesy of Centre College)

Sportsmanship Team.

On the court, Lloyd finished the 2010 season ranked 38th in blocked shots nationally in Division III, swatting away an average of 2.0 shots per game. He was also ranked 42nd in rebounds, averaging 9.7 boards per game.

Lloyd helped lead the Colonels to an 18-9 overall record and a 14-5 conference mark. Centre repeated as conference champion and returned to the NCAA Division III Tournament for the fourth straight year. For his efforts on the court Lloyd was named the 2009-2010 SCAC Defensive Player-of-the-Year.

Lloyd is the son of Duncan and Dee Dee Lloyd of Versailles and is a graduate of Sayre School in Lexington.

Ladies Day Golf Tuesday, July 22

9 Holes

Low Gross - Chris Franklin (37)

Low Net - Valorie Gray (33)

Specials - Mary Ann Myhre

18 Holes

Low Gross - Melinda Hendricks(84)

Low Net - Sherrie Haggerty (60)

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	\$990 86 CADILLAC DEVILLE RUNS GREAT, LOCAL TRADE #54134A		\$2,850 99 TOYOTA COROLLA AUTO, GREAT SHAPE, LOCAL TRADE #R4822A		\$4,980 01 VOLKSWAGON JETTA GLS RUNS GOOD, LOOKS GOOD #P4840B
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