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Sports Editor

As things start to heat up for the winter season, the boys' soccer team looks to defend their district title under a new coaching staff. Former head coach Aldo Nardiello announced in mid October that he would be stepping down as the head coach for the 2009-10 season.

Due to the new rule of the Florida High School Athletic Association stating that a coach and player tandem cannot be a part of the same high school team and club team. This rule became an issue when one of Nardiello's club players, Ron Lind, transferred from Island Coast to Cape Coral in order to be admitted to the International Baccalaureate program. Either Nardiello or Lind would have to skip the upcoming season.

According to an email Nardiello sent to the Cape High faculty on October 12, "The decision was easy. I've been at this for almost thirty years and there's no way I would allow a kid to miss the joy and wonders of the high school athletics experience."

As a result, Cape High Spanish teacher Hector Martinez will take over as the squad's head coach. Seahawk alum David Torres will continue his duties as the team's training coach. Torres, in his third season with the Seahawks, has aided Nardiello in leading Cape to back-to-back district championship appearances.

Okay, so Lind is new to Cape High, but he's very familiar to Nardiello. A man with 30 years of coaching experience under his belt wouldn't make a decision like this unless he knew what Lind was capable of.

With only seven seniors lost, the boys will be able to utilize Lind's experience to defend their first district title in 18 years. With all the young talent returning, the Seahawks have enough skill for Martinez to work with and get the boys back to the state tournament.

In a situation like this, everyone is either upset that Nardiello has departed, or excited that Lind is joining the squad. One way or another, someone should blame the FHSAA.

Yes, a coach that has a protégé in both a school and club sport can have the privilege of tending to that player on double the time, but the club players are paying hundreds of dollars for their opportunity to play, why should it matter if a club happens to have the same coach?

Now because of this, Cape High has lost the coach who has led them to back-to-back state tournament appearances and the program's first district title in 18 years. No one can be too sure of what to make out of this whole fiasco, or what the soccer team will be able to produce.

While we can still be hopeful and positive for the success of the Seahawks with the talent they do return, all great leadership in sports starts with a head coach. Replacing Nardiello will be no easy task. Expect things to get interesting this winter.