

# New direction

## Josh Sellers takes over Gladiators

BY JEFF PEEK  
Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY — The last name is the same. The head coach isn't. In some ways, they're not even close.

So begins the Josh Sellers era at Traverse City St. Francis.

Sellers, hired to replace his legendary father, Larry, as head football coach of the Gladiators, is off to a smooth start at St. Francis. Only 29 years old, Sellers ran fall camp like a well-organized veteran, much to the delight of his players and staff.

"The transition has been great," said quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator Pat Cleland, who was also on Larry Sellers' staff. "What Josh brings to the table is, he's very, very organized.

"He has a practice plan for the week. From 4:10 until we pray at 8:10, we know exactly what we're doing and when we're going to do it.

"He coordinates everything with his coaches," Cleland said. "If one coach is teaching his linemen a particular block, another coach is teaching the defense how to recognize that block. Then he brings it all together.

"There's no guessing about what's next, which helps us put all the puzzle pieces together at the same time. We're completely on the same page."

Senior fullback-linebacker Travis Sivek agreed.

"It's not a guessing game," he said. "We know what has to be done, and that helps."

Added senior Garrett Petterson: "It's easy to get motivated when your coach is as

### 2002 RESULTS

- St. Francis 28, Benzie Central 6
  - St. Francis 32, Glen Lake 25
  - St. Francis 40, Kalkaska 0
  - St. Francis 68, Elk Rapids 0
  - St. Francis 48, Charlevoix 0
  - Muskegon CC 46, St. Francis 14
  - St. Francis 27, East Jordan 6
  - St. Francis 69, Harbor Springs 6
  - St. Francis 23, Boyne City 20
  - St. Francis, 41, Mio 6\*
  - St. Francis 14, Coleman 12\*
  - Norway 21, St. Francis 7\*
- \* - playoffs

### 2003 SCHEDULE

- Thu. Aug. 28 vs. Benzie
- Sat. Sept. 6 at Muskegon CC
- Sat. Sept. 13 vs. Kalkaska
- Fri. Sept. 19 at Harbor Springs
- Sat. Sept. 27 vs. Grayling
- Fri. Oct. 3 at Elk Rapids
- Sat. Oct. 11 vs. East Jordan (HC)
- Fri. Oct. 17 at Charlevoix
- Fri. Oct. 24 at Boyne City

organized as he is. He brings a lot of energy and has surrounded himself with capable coaches. We have a lot of confidence in him."

Despite the accolades, Sellers admits that he hasn't made any sweeping changes — and he says he could be even more organized in some administrative areas of the program. But Sellers has already accomplished what Cleland believes is the most important thing.

"He's brought his own style and I respect that," Cleland said. "This has to be his program, and he's already placed his stamp on it."

Sellers likes how things have gone so far.

"It's been very smooth," he said. "The kids haven't experienced much change in the way things are done. There are just a couple of differences.



Record-Eagle/John L. Russell

New St. Francis coach Josh Sellers is pointing his seniors in the right direction.

"I've tried to be more efficient with the kids' time," he said. "I want to get them in here, do what we have to do and get them home.

"I want them to know that when I say we're done at a certain time, we're going to be done at a certain time," he said. "That's going to be more important when the season starts.

"The practice schedule is something I picked up in college (at Alma). I know how much I liked that system as a player."

Sellers has also added "family days" — days during the week in which there is no practice and no contact between coaches and players, giving the entire team a break from the game ... and each other.

"It gives us time for life out-

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