

ENGLEWOOD RAIDERS

Head coach

Carlos Gomez (1st year)

Last year

7-6-2, lost in first round of North 1, Group 2 tournament

Home field

Englewood High School
Knickerbocker Road,
Englewood

Lights: no; Turf: no

Returning starters

Oswaldo Gallego, senior M; Diego Quintero, senior M; Jaivon Palmer, junior F; Carlos Triana, junior F; Christopher Gallego, senior D; Jose Botello, junior D; Jonathan Hincapie, junior M.

The offense

Palmer is the Maroon Raiders' top returning scorer with eight goals and two assists last year. He and Triana, who sat out much of last season with an injury but still managed to score four goals, will be counted on for most of the scoring. Each has a strong shot but not the speed that Englewood has counted on up front in recent years. The midfield is experienced with Oswaldo Gallego, Quintero and Hincapie all returning. Gomez is looking to play a ball-control offense, with any or all of those three carrying the ball through the midfield to set up Palmer and Triana up front.

The defense

The Raiders suffered a major blow with the graduation of goalkeeper Fabian Velasquez, who kept them in many games

THE SCHEDULE

Sept. 8	QUEEN OF PEACE	4
Sept. 11	CLIFFSIDE PARK	4
Sept. 13	FORT LEE	4
Sept. 15	at Westwood	4
Sept. 18	DUMONT	4
Sept. 25	at Rutherford	7
Sept. 29	at Tenafly	4
Oct. 4	at Ridgefield Park	4
Oct. 10	RUTHERFORD	4
Oct. 13	WESTWOOD	4
Oct. 16	RIDGEFIELD PARK	4
Oct. 19	at Queen Of Peace	4
Oct. 24	at River Dell	4

by allowing one or fewer goals in nine of 15 games. Senior Luis Pelaez is being pushed by a freshman for the goalkeeper position. Christopher Gallego moves up from the JV to take over at sweeper. But in nearly a week of practices, Gomez was still unsure of the makeup of his defense. A lot of what Englewood does in the back could be dictated by the opponents' offensive style.

The outlook

Gomez spent four years as an assistant to Harry Bassett, who retired with 301 career victories. He inherits a team that has been a regular qualifier in the State sectional tournament but has not advanced. The Maroon Raiders had one of their largest turnouts with 26 players currently on the roster and fewer freshmen on varsity than last year. With Palmer leading the offense, the biggest questions lie with the defense. It's a complete turnaround from last year when the defense was experienced and the offense young. Without Velasquez in goal, the defense can't make many mistakes. They will need to play a physical style to compete in the tough BCSL American.

— Greg Schutta



Oswaldo Gallego



Christopher Gallego



Diego Quintero



Jaivon Palmer



Jorge Londono