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RAIDERS

BEN LOGAN PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY



Members of the Benjamin Logan varsity softball team are, from the left, front row: Keeli Rostorfer, Bailee Stover, Brooks Myers, Kyndal Cronkleton, Libby Siefing, Skylar Miracle and Sidney Sallee; middle row: Head Coach Davis, Kylie Harner, Britanna Jacobs, Adilynne Gregg, Rylan Norviel, Chloe Crumm, Courtney Bowers and Coach Flora; and back row: Coach Gregg, Coach Harris and Coach Parker.

Lady Raiders trying to get up to speed quickly with many new faces

With just four returning varsity players, Benjamin Logan's softball squad is focused on getting its numerous newcomers quickly acclimated to the varsity level.

"All of the players I have this season are playing a new position or stepping into a full-time starting

position as opposed to last year," said head coach Amanda Davis. "The girls have spent a great deal of time not only learning varsity experience, but also becoming acquainted with positions they aren't used to playing. With a new team dynamic, they will need to learn each other's

strengths and weaknesses on the field."

Ben Logan went 18-8 last year and finished third in the Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division.

"I'd like for our team finish with a solid winning record and make a deep run in the tournament," said Davis of the team's

goals this season. "Last year, we were third in our conference, and I'd like to be in the top two this year."

The Raiders will rely heavily on their four returning varsity players: seniors Brooks Myers, Bailee Stover and Libby Siefing and junior Chloe Crumm.

Myers, a middle infielder, enjoyed a stellar offensive campaign last year, batting .456 with seven doubles, one home run and 17 RBI.

Stover (outfield) drove in 12 runs last year, Siefing (outfield/catcher) batted .270 with 13 RBI and Crumm hit .385 in 13 at

bats.

Crumm will carry the load in the pitching circle. Last year, she shared time with Kyah Moore, who has since graduated. Crumm went 8-3 with a 3.13 ERA and 77 strikeouts in 71 2/3 innings.

See SPEED on Page 3

RAIDERS

Speed

Continued from Page 2

"We return four girls, three seniors and a junior," said Davis. "I will look to those girls to lead our team this season. I've got a fun team this season. We have a lot of girls who enjoy the game and playing it together. I think a positive team culture and playing in a

strong conference will make us a better team and get us ready for the postseason."

Those new to varsity roles are senior Kyndal Cronkleton (infield), juniors Skylar Miracle (outfield/infield), Keeli Rostorfer (infield/outfield), Sidney Sallee (infield/pitcher) and Courtney Bowers (catcher/infield), sopho-

mores Rylan Norviel (short-stop/catcher), Adilynne Gregg (pitcher/infield) and Tanna Jacobs (infield/catcher) and freshmen Kylie Harner (infield/outfield) and Lilly Kerns (infield/outfield).

The Central Buckeye Conference has been extremely strong in softball for years, and Davis

doesn't expect that to change this season.

"I expect Indian Lake to be solid again this season," said Davis. "The Kenton Trail has tough teams as well in Kenton Ridge and Jonathan Alder. Along with those teams, I look to be a part of a number of close games this season with many teams in our tough conference."



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A Message from the Bellefontaine Police Department



RAIDERS

BL girls T&F team returns talented group

Benjamin Logan's girls track and field team is poised to continue its streak of Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division titles this spring.

The Raiders have won eight in a row and will look to make in nine straight behind a team that returns 10 athletes who earned all-conference honors a year ago.

Last season the Raiders place third in the district meet out of 15 teams along with qualifying 11 athletes in 10 events to the regional

meet. From that group, Ben Logan returns nine athletes including Isabel Henderson, who placed seventh in the state meet in the long jump and ninth in the 200.

The Raiders a year ago saw school records set in the 400 relay (Kate Gulick, Mya Burrey, Hannah White and Henderson), long jump (Henderson) and the 100 and 200 (Henderson).

"We will have to work hard and have a little luck to keep up with that success," said longtime head

coach Mike Coder. "The team goals this season are much the same as in the past seasons. We would like to defend our CBC conference championship, move athletes onto the regional and state meet, and set at least two school records."

The Raiders will be looking for leadership from their veteran seniors.

"They have a good understanding of track and field," said Coder. "They know the work it takes to be successful. They have

spent time in the off-season with conditioning or winter sports."

The seniors are Georgia Bates (distance events), Mylee Boysel (distance events), Mya Burrey (sprints and jumps), Allie Fay (distance events), Lauren Hemmelgarn (throwing events), Henderson (sprint and jumping events), Kate Vickroy (pole vault and sprints) and Anni Kuntonen (an exchange student from Finland who is new to track and field).

The Raiders' junior class brings a lot of experience and track success. That group is made up by returners Lexi Archer (middle distance events), Lahna Cook (throws and sprints), Nora Elliott (pole vault and sprints), Kate Gulick (hurdles and sprints), Addie Huffman (throws), Bailey Lewis (jumps and sprints) and Estella Wenger (distance events). Junior newcomers are Kearstin Linkinhoker (throws) and Eveleyn Vanwinkle (jumps and sprints).

The sophomore class has a blend of young athletes, some who have had a lot of experience and others who are stepping up their game. Those athletes are Hadley Boysel (distance), Ella Chamberlin (sprints), Natalie Chapman (distance), Scarlett Elliott (pole vault, middle distance), Mercedes Marcinko (sprints) and Peyton Smith (distance). New to the program is sophomore Courtney Hart.

See GIRLS on Page 6

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RAIDERS



Members of the Benjamin Logan varsity baseball team are, from the left, front row: Bryden Morris, Carter Lyden, Robert Blackburn, Cayden Brown, Jerrik Stephens and Anthony Griffith Jr.; and back row: Austin Archer, Peyton Henry, Keaton Horney, Hunter Peterson, Ethan Martin and Camden Spriggs.

Raiders want to push for CBC title

After finishing fourth out of six teams in the Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division last year, Benjamin Logan's baseball team is focused on making a run at the league championship this year.

"We want to challenge for a league title and get better every day," said head coach Jeremy Allen. "This is a team with strong leadership and work ethic. We should also be strong defensively."

The Raiders went 9-14 overall and 5-11 in the Central Buckeye Conference a year ago.

Ben Logan will look to boost its win total behind a group that returns four returning letterwinners: seniors EJ Martin, Hunter Peterson and Keaton

Horney and junior Bryden Morris.

Martin hit .304 with six RBI last year. He also tied for the team high in innings pitched with 33. He went 2-3 with a 3.39 ERA. Martin will likely play third base when he's not pitching.

Peterson will also be a big part of the pitching rotation after going 2-3 in 18 2/3 innings last spring. He will also help out at first base.

Horney will be counted on to spearhead the middle infield defensively.

Morris is another player that will be needed to contribute heavily both offensively and on the mound. He hit .333 with 11 RBI and was 1-1 with a 4.08 ERA in 24 innings on the mound as a junior.

When not pitching,

Morris will be roaming the outfield for the Raiders.

While the Raiders do have some experience returning, they also need some new faces to step up.

Senior Austin Archer will play in the outfield and do some pitching and senior Peyton Henry is also in the mix for playing time in the outfield.

Juniors Jerick Stephens (catcher), Carter Lyden (shortstop/second base), Camden Spriggs (infield/pitcher), Anthony Griffith (infield/outfield) and Wyatt Blackburn (third base) are expected to play key roles.

Also looking to contribute are sophomore Cayden Brown (outfield) and freshmen Soli Hughes (pitcher/outfield) and Jacob Hawley

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RAIDERS



Members of the Benjamin Logan girls track and field team are, from the left, first row: Katherine Gulick, Alyson Fay, Anni Kuntonen, Georgia Bates, Isabel Henderson, Lauren Hemmelgarn, Katherine Vickroy, Mya Burrey, Mylee Boysell and Estella Wenger; second row: Maysen Daniels, Courtney Hart, Nora Elliott, Madelyn Daniels, Elliott Butler, Lahna Cook, Kearstin Linkinhoker, Mercedes Marcinko and Evelyn Van Winkle; third row: Aleah France, Lexi Archer, Kendall LeVan, Natalie Chapman, Kyla Godwin, Avah Miller, Haley Hughes, Peyton Smith, Ella Chamberlain and Kaylee Hays; and fourth row: Mallie Ricketts, Abigail Vance, Head Coach Coder, Coach Overturf, Coach Wenger, Coach Wical, Lauren Kennedy, Junah Tingley and Bailey Lewis.

Girls

Continued from Page 4

Rounding out the team are 15 freshmen.

"We are excited about adding 15 freshmen to the team," said Coder. "Most have experience at the

middle school level. They are working to find their spot on the team.

Members of the freshman class are Elliott Butler (middle distance), Mady Daniels (throws), Mayse Daniels (throws), Aleah

France (jumps/sprints), Kyla Godwin (throws), Kaylee Hays (throws/sprints), Haley Hughes (throws), Lauren Kennedy (distance), Storm LeVan (jumps/sprints), Avah Miller

(hurdles/jumps), Maille Ricketts (sprints), Junah Tingley (sprints), Roslyn Underwood (sprints), Abby Vance (sprints/jumps) and Lucy Wenger (middle distance).

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RAIDERS

Raiders relying on their juniors and seniors

In order to run its streak of Central Buckeye Conference Mad River titles to 14, Benjamin Logan's boys track and field team is going to need some new athletes to step up this spring.

The Raiders graduated nine seniors who scored points at the league and district meets.

"This year, our seniors and juniors will be the key to our success," said Kevin Butler, who is entering his 23rd year as the Raiders' head coach. "Leadership, work ethic and competitiveness are what these guys bring to the table. We will have 14 to 18 guys that will be big-time contributors. All of them will play a huge role in our success.

"We definitely lost some serious firepower, but that happens every year. We constantly talk about how it is now this group's turn to shine and make their mark on our program."

The senior group will be led by returners Evan Carpenter, Ben Chamberlain, Michael Dilbone and Eli Rhodes. Newcomers Izick Cox, Kane Gibson and Gavin

Troth fill out the senior class.

"All of these guys have a lot of experience and are talented and extremely competitive," said Butler.

Leading the juniors are Micah Ackley, Hunter Andrix, Grahsyn Bailey, Jacob Horton, Eric Hughes, Ethan Miller, Dylan Vance and Landon Zehner.

"Those guys contributed a great deal as sophomores and we look forward to seeing them have a breakout season this year," said Butler.

Newcomers Jaxon Bowman and Collin Powell are also expected to fill key roles for the Raiders.

Butler said he expects numerous freshmen and sophomores to help the team as well.

Sophomores Carter Buck and Tyler Shoopman placed at the league and district meets as freshmen. Joining them in the sophomore class are Gus Bibart, Cason Bothel, Landon Braddock, Elliot Carpenter, Brody Leonard, Davis Mathews, Roman Maxwell, Josh Rich, Candin Tucker, Ethan VanWinkle and Holden Zehner.



Members of the Benjamin Logan boys track and field team are, from the left, first row: Landon Zehner, Maxwell Troth, Gavin Troth, Evan Carpenter, Michael Dilbone, John Chamberlain, Izick Cox, Tyler Shoopman and Grahsyn Bailey; second row: Ethan Van Winkle, Cason Bothel, Braden Andrix, Elliot Carpenter, Owen Weak, Candin Tucker, Diesel Baughman, Kain Titus, Eric Hughes, Josh Rich and Cooper Buck; third row: Wyatt Gordon, Jaxon Bowman, Collin Powell, Holden Zehner, Cole Somerlot, Landon Simon, Sam Backus, Carter Buck, Davis Mathews and Johnathon Beikman; fourth row: Gavin Jordan, Ethan Miller, Dylan Vance, Brody Leonard, Brody Leonard, Vincent Bibart, Roman Maxwell, Roman Maxwell, Gabriel Elsasser, Landon Braddock, Elisha Rhodes, Kyle Kibler and Finch Hone; and fifth row: Head Coach Butler, Coach Overturf, Coach Wenger and Coach Wical.

The freshman class consists of Jonathan Beikman, Cooper Buck, Gabe Elsasser, Wyatt Gordon, Gavin Jordan, Kyle Kibler, Cole Somerlot and Maxwell Troth.

"I believe we have a well-rounded team that is better than average in 15 to 16 of the 17 events," said Butler. "We feel like if we

get guys into peak physical condition and put them into the correct events to help the team, we will be able to be a team that can compete at a high level.

"We have a solid team, but we still have tons of room for improvement. We can always be in better shape, and we definitely need to work on the mental

aspect of competing and making sure we are just as

ready mentally to compete as we are physically."

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LAKERS



Members of the Indian Lake baseball team are, from the left, first row: Dawson Finrock, Maddux Hall, Thomas Elliott, Camdon Tuttle, Burke Lillard, Lane Tucci and Evan Manley; second row: Caleb Shaffer, Colten Corcoran, Cyrus Cummins, Isaac Galbraith, Bryce Burton, Madden Lillard, Kolton Cummins; third row: Griffin Schaub, Joe Cummins and Cooper Hall; fourth row: Dalton Fullerton, Tyler Tidwell, Brody Black, Brady Golliday, Keth James, Colin Bendler, Jaxon Snipes and Wyatt Nichols; and fifth row: assistant coaches Josh Shelton and Wes Hall, head coach Ryan Lillard and assistant coach Alex Jacobs.

Pitching a strong spot for Lakers

Indian Lake's baseball graduated standout pitcher Gavin Lones from last year's team that won a share of the Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division title.

While losing Lones will be missed, the Lakers have numerous other talented arms ready to carry the load this spring.

"Experience, leadership and pitching depth are strengths for us this season," said head coach Ryan

Lillard.

Leading the staff this spring are seniors Camdon Tuttle and Burke Lillard.

Tuttle, who earned first-team CBC honors last year, went 4-1 with a 0.42 ERA. Lillard went 4-1 with a 2.17 ERA.

Tuttle will play in the infield when not pitching and Lillard will do some catching as well.

See LAKERS on Page 14

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LAKERS



Members of the Indian Lake boys track team are, from the left, first row: Brody Parsell, Grant McPherson, Tony Cummins, Logan Murphy, Heath Wilson, Vince Wilson and Charles Sickles-Sposa; second row: Bryan Mohler, Carter Dawson, Jayden Martin, Quest Clay, Stephens Spofford, Cameron Freyhof, Everett Wischmeyer, Jacob Freyhof, Daniel Wahl, Calvin Knief and Tristan Shoffner; third row: Noah Shirk, Weston Campbell, Franklin Kinney, Gavin Henry, Brandon Hutton, Jordan Vance, Collin Seymour, Silas Holbrook, Titus Kelly and Kade Richardson; and fourth row: Tyson Ramirez, Christopher Timms, Avyair Kuhlbeck, Evin Parker, Max Solomon, Cason Lacher, Will Faler and Caleb Timms. Not pictured are Carter Dawson, Drake Cosby and Hayden Hoffman. (PHOTO COURTESY OF IMAGES)

Laker boys have Mad River title in their sights

Benjamin Logan has won the last 13 Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division track and field titles. Indian Lake is looking to end that streak this year.

“Our team goal is to win the conference meet,” said Indian Lake head coach Justin Metzger. “We also want to advance individuals and relays during the postseason.”

“Ben Logan has dominated the Mad River division over the last decade. Our program goal every year is to win the CBC and we will continue to strive for that goal.”

The Lakers placed third in the Mad River division last year.

“We will rely heavily on a few of our veteran returners

but will need our younger athletes to step up and fill crucial roles,” said Metzger.

Sophomore Gavin Henry returns to lead the hurdlers. He finished fifth

at districts last season, just missing a regional berth. He also will cover some

jump events for the Lakers. Sophomore Noah Shirk will also be hurdling and run-

ning relays for the Lakers.

See TITLE on Page 14

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LAKERS



Members of the Indian Lake girls track and field team are, from the left, first row: Maggie Reese, Makayla Motter, KaiLea Miller, ILauna Rodabaugh, Sydney Hamilton and Marissa Shields; second row: Sylie Reaves, Reagan Rash, Evie Wagner, Ava Faler and Cameron Finfrock; third row: Kayleigh Taylor, Haley Metzger, Alicia Brielmaier, Maddie Miller, Hayden West and Addison Beck; and fourth row: Terra Beltz, Hailey Prater, Fancy Parker, Courtney Altstaetter and Audry Burton. Not pictured are Lily Lazo, Cambrie Warnecke, Mara Bihn, Hannah Estep and Hannah Metzger.

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LAKERS

Indian Lake's girls track and field squad aiming for another successful season

Indian Lake's girls track and field team wants to continue the tradition of success its has set.

"The last two years we finished second in the Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division," said head coach Justin Metzger. "Our goal is to have numerous CBC championships and qualify athletes on to the regional and state meets."

Leading the springs for the Lakers is sophomore Addison Beck. Last year, she was a part of the Lakers' record-breaking relay teams and a significant contributor to the team's sprints and jump events.

Junior Cameron Finfrock will be important to the Lakers' long sprints as she will contribute by running the 200 and 400.

Freshmen Hailey Prater and Fancy Parker will help in the sprint relays.

Mara Bihn and Sydney Hamilton will compete in the hurdles for the Lakers.

The distance squad has a good mix of experience and youth. Sophomore standouts Reagan Rash and Evie Wagner will lead the way. Both of them were regional qualifiers last year

and will be an integral part of the team this year.

Seniors KaiLea Miller and Hannah Metzger will also contribute to the distance events. Other contributors include seniors Maggie Reese, Makayla Motter and freshmen Alicia Brielmaier, Haley Metzger and Kayleigh Taylor.

The throws will be led Maddie Miller.

"Maddie is a hard worker and always strives to be the best at everything she does," said Metzger. "She had a good freshman year last year and we look for big things out of her this year."

The jumpers will be led by junior Ava Faler.

"Ava came off a successful indoor season which ended at the indoor state

meet," said Metzger. "She will compete in the high jump, long jump and pole vault for us."

After finishing second in the CBC Mad River division the last two years, the

Lakers hope to make a run at the title this spring.

"Benjamin Logan has won the conference meet for the last few years and is always a strong team to compete against," said

Metzger. "The CBC Mad River division should be very strong this year and we will need to put girls in the correct roles for us to be successful at that meet."

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LAKERS



Members of the Indian Lake varsity softball team are, from the left, front row: Kayleigh Zedlitz, Madison Brentlinger, Haylee Edwards, Katie Roby, Carmyn Weiner, Porscha Davis and Geona Spires; middle row: Chloe Wade, Annie Rapp, Abigail Elliott, Halle Roby, Mackenzie Dixon, Adeline Robinson and Addison Stinemetz; and back row: assistant coaches Jennifer Kaffenbarger, Paula Newland and Clint Zedecker, head coach John Stahl and assistant coach Kaylee Shelton. (PHOTO COURTESY OF IMAGES)

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LAKERS

After historic 2023 season, Lady Lakers' softball team eyes return trip to Final Four

The 2023 Indian Lake softball team will forever be a big part of the school's athletic history.

The Lady Lakers advanced all the way to the Division III state championship game before falling to Wheelersburg in the title contest.

With most of that squad returning, the Lakers are out to turn in another monumental campaign this spring.

"I believe in this team and believe we can achieve anything we put our minds to," said second-year head coach John Stahl. "Our ultimate goal would be returning to the state tournament finals again."

The Lakers, who are moving from Division III up to Division II this year, went 27-4 overall and 14-2 in the Central Buckeye Conference last season.

Indian Lake brings back nine letterwinners from that team.

Senior Madison Brentlinger is back after a sparkling junior season. She earned first-team all-Ohio honors last year. She won 25 games in the pitching circle and had a .551 batting average with 48 RBI. "Madison is a great

player and she will be one of our team leaders," said Stahl. "We will rely on her for most of the pitching duties."

Brentlinger's battery mate is also back in junior Mackenzie Dixon. She hit .473 with 43 RBI and earned all-district honors as a sophomore.

The Lakers' infield boasts a great deal of experience.

Junior third baseman Abigail Elliott returns to the starting lineup along with junior Halle Roby at shortstop. Roby was an all-CBC performer last year when she batted .450 with 49 RBI.

Senior Haylee Edwards returns at second base. An outstanding leadoff hitter, she batted .559 and stole 19 bases last season.

In the mix at first base are seniors Carmyn Weiner and Kayleigh Zedlitz, sophomore Annie Rapp and Addison Stinemetz.

The Indian Lake outfield will be very strong again this season. Senior left fielder Katie Roby hit .390 with 15 RBI and senior center fielder Porscha Davis hit .390 with 31 RBI last year.

The Lakers are looking for a new right fielder. Options include senior Geona Spires, Chloe Wade, Rapp, Stinemetz and Adeline Robinson.

Stahl continues to be impressed with the way his players approach the game.

"The team has been working hard and we have great talent, great softball minds and good team chemistry," he said. "This

team is able to celebrate other players' success which is a rarity sometimes.

"Each and every game in the tournament a differ-

ent player stepped up to make a big play when we needed one. I expect that again this season. I've coached for a long time and this is one of the best

groups of young ladies I've ever coached. We did move up to Division II, but it does not change our goals of making a deep run in the tournament."

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LAKERS

Title

Continued from Page 9

Junior Quest Clay will lead the Lakers' sprints and jumps. He qualified for the indoor state meet this winter.

Clay will be aided by a talented group of sprinters including seniors Heath and Vince Wilson and

Everett Wischmeyer and juniors Drake Cosby, Jacob and Cameron Freyhoff and Bryan Mohler. Other contributors will be Weston Campbell and Cason Lacher.

Senior Brody Parsell is the team's top returner in the pole vault. He is a two-time CBC champion in the

event. The Lakers will also look to senior Vince Wilson and freshman Will Faler to round out the pole vault group.

Seniors Grant McPherson and Tony Cummins will lead the middle distance squad while Titus Kelly and Daniel Wahl will fill crucial

roles in the distance events. Cason Lacher, Silas Holbrook and Evin Parker are expected to contribute as well.

Sophomore Christopher Timms is looking to break the school record in the discus.

"He has worked hard during the offseason to

perfect his form and is ready to set huge PR's this season," said Metzger.

Seniors Charles Sickles-Sposa and Logan Murphy will provide some depth and leadership to the hrows.

"Franklin Kinney, Brandon Hutton, Tristan

Shoffner and Colin Seymour are new additions to our team this year and we look for them to continue to improve throughout the season," said Metzger.

Lakers

Continued from Page 8

Manley, Finrock and Elliott will see time in the outfield, too, while Tucci

will help out in the infield.

Finrock, a first-team all-CBC selection last year, will spark the offense for the Lakers

after he hit .407 with seven RBI as a junior.

Junior outfielder Bryce Burton will look to build on a sophomore season in

which he batted .293 with 12 RBI.

Tucci also brings an experienced bat. He was second on the team with 13 RBI last season.

Rounding out the Lakers' varsity squad are senior Maddux Hall (outfield) and juniors Cyrus Cummins (catcher) and

Kolton Cummins (outfield).

The Lakers, who went 18-9 in 2023, are seeking lofty goals.

"We want to return as league champions and we also want to be district and regional champs," said Lillard.

The Lakers shared the Mad River title with

Graham last season.

Graham is one of several teams that should provide tough competition for the Lakers this spring.

"Our league is competitive every year," said Lillard. "We are looking to compete for another league title and this year we don't want to share."



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PIRATES



Members of the Riverside varsity baseball team are, from the left, front row: Michael Shockey, Cooper Crouch, Camden Shoe, Gavin Robinson, Austin Noggler, Dom Stotler, Landon Purtee and Bryson Eaton; and back row: Gavin Orsborne, Hayden McCully, Colton Hurley, Sam King, Aiden Manning, Huston Anderson, David Gross, Syler Clark, Damien Smith and Wyatt Leiss. RIVERSIDE PHOTOS COURTESY OF KYLIE JEAN PHOTOGRAPHY

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PIRATES

Pirates' baseball team looks to rise to top of the TRC standings

For the Riverside Pirates baseball team, the goals for this season are clear: Clinch the Three Rivers Conference title and make a formidable run in the sectional tournament.

Under the guidance of head coach Todd Guthrie,

the Pirates are gearing up for a season filled with promise and determination.

The roster boasts a formidable lineup, including seasoned seniors Gavin Robinson, Sam King, Michael Shockey, Reece Jenkins, Nate

Copas, and Dom Stotler. Alongside them, the junior talents of Gavin Orsborne, Landon Purtee, Damien Smith, Aiden Manning, Huston Anderson, Wyatt Leiss.

Sophomores are Hayden McCully and Camden Shoe. Freshmen:

Cooper Crouch, Syler Clark, Colton Hurley, David Gross, Bryson Eaton and Austin Noggler.

Last season's record of 10-15 overall and 8-6 in the league, finishing as runners-up in the TRC Conference, has only fueled the team's hunger

for success. Bolstered by returning lettermen such as Orsborne, Robinson, Purtee, King, Smith, and Shockey, the team is poised to build upon last season.

Still, Guthrie acknowledges the need for improvement in pitching,

base-running tactics, and clutch hitting situations.

In a league filled with talent and competition, Riverside faces formidable opponents from the likes of Bethel, Miami East and Lehman, each posing a significant challenge.

RHS track team looks to integrate newcomers, returning experience

Consistent growth and progress are priorities for this year's Riverside High School boys and girls track teams,

With a roster filled with talented athletes -- both seasoned veterans and newcomers -- the team is poised to build on success from last season.

Last year, the Riverside track team showcased its potential on the track and in the field events, and this year, they are setting their sights even higher.

According to head coach Tim McGill, the primary goal for this year's

team is clear: "We are looking to have some of our returners challenge to place high in the league and be ready to advance to the regionals/state at the end of the season," he said.

With a mix of experience and potential, the team boasts several strengths across various events. McGill highlights the boys' shot put and discus, pole vault and relay teams as areas of particular strength. On the girls' side, hurdles and jumping events stand out as strong suits for the team.

The boys roster includes freshmen Daniel Esh, Gabe Steineman and Dylan Trimble. Sophomores are Joel Brooks, Xavier Herron, Kaden Lillard and Ce'Jay Watson.

The junior class includes Houston Anderson, Ryder Arnett, Travis Brooks, Ayden Clary, Jordan Dunham, Carter Kreglow and Dominick Trimble. Seniors Dylun Burchett and Dylan Cooper round out the team, providing leadership and experience.

On the girls side, freshmen include Aleliena

Mazariegos-Hurley, Kenna Johnson and Kailyn Lemly. Sophomores are Maggie Beaty, Gillian Knight and Shaye McGill. Juniors are Julia Meade, Kamdyn Ireland and Kaylee Fulkerson. Cassie May is the lone senior.

McGill notes that the challenge lies in integrating new runners into the team and helping them find their competitive edge. "New runners trying to be competitive," is an area that McGill, along with coaches Morgan Robinson and Maelinn Myers are focusing on to ensure a

well-rounded team performance.

To achieve success this season, the coaching staff emphasizes the importance of weekly improvement and consistency.

With a focus on individual and team development, the Pirates aim to peak at the right moment and deliver standout performances when it matters most.

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PIRATES



Members of the Riverside track and field team are, from the left, front row: Gabe Steineman, Gillian Knight, Shaye McGill, Kenna Johnson, Kamdyn Ireland, Lei Hurley, Julia Meade and Dominic Trimble; middle row: Kaden Lillard, Dylan Cooper, Kailyn Lemly, Maggie Beaty, Cassie May, Dylan Trimble and Ryder Arnett; and back row: Houston Anderson, Travis Brooks, Ayden Clary, Dylan Burchett, Jorden Dunham, Daniel Esh, Zavier Herron and Joel Brooks. Not pictured is Carter Kreglow.

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PIRATES



Members of the Riverside varsity softball team are, from the left, front row: Emilee Robinson, Miah Carmen and Brook Hunkler; middle row: Aubree Huston, manager Bella Robinson, Halyn McClintick, Katie Schlumbohm, Savanna Salo and Taylor Dillon, and back row: Jayden Hoffer, Avery Perk, Keira Manahan, assistant coach Kylie Purtee, head coach Andy Phelps, Riley Dillon, Jaidyn Jackson and Zoey Ransbottom.

Lady Pirates poised for tourney glory

With a roster featuring a mix of experienced veterans and promising newcomers, the Riverside High School softball team is gearing up for an exciting season ahead, brimming with talent and determination.

With last year's record of 15-11 overall and 8-6 in the league, the Pirates finished fourth in the Three Rivers Conference.

Head Coach Andy Phelps outlines the team's goals for the season, emphasizing a desire to compete in every game and vie for a league title while making another deep tournament run. Despite the loss of key seniors, the team's depth and experience from last year's District Champion squad

provide a strong platform for success.

This year's roster includes seniors Katie Schlumbohm, Halyn McClintick and Savanna Salo; juniors, Taylor Dillon, Aubree Husdon, Brook Hunkler, Jayden Hoffer, Jaidyn Jackson and Avery Perk.

Sophomores include Riley Dillon, Emma Strayer, Zoey Ransbottom; and freshmen Miah Carmen, Emilee Robinson and Keira Manahan.

Returning letterwinners include Schlumbohm, McClintick, Dillon, Hunkler, Huston, Hoffer, Jackson, Perk and Dillon.

Strengths of this year's team are evident in their work ethic and depth, with players pushing each other

to excel in practice and earn starting spots. However, areas needing improvement, such as refining basics like fielding, throwing, and bunting, are being addressed diligently to ensure a well-rounded performance on the field, Phelps said.

Phelps underscores the importance of team chemistry and unity as keys to a successful season, emphasizing the need for players to support each other and fulfill their roles to the best of their abilities. With a collective effort and focus on steady improvement, the team aims to achieve their goals and make their mark in a competitive league.

"Last year we were very young with only three girls with varsity experience. We

lost three great seniors to graduation, but have a lot of experience back," Phelps said.

In the challenging landscape of the TRC, the team faces tough competition from formidable opponents like Miami East, Milton Union, Covington and Bethel. However, Coach Phelps believes that by executing the fundamentals and showing up with determination every day, Riverside can compete with the best.

"This year we want to compete in every game and try to get a league title and make another tournament run. We want to improve everyday on the little things to make us a better team," Phelps concluded.

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CARDINALS



Members of the Triad varsity baseball team are, from the left, front row: Alfred Johnson, Wyatt Smith, Duncan Funderburgh, JJ Roberts, Waylin Holtsberry and Connor Hayes; middle row: Jayden Blackburn, Aiden Cooper, Braydan Hoffman, Blayk Thomas, Brant Bollack, Brodey Deam and Gage Heitman; and back row: head coach Jon Roberts, Larry Lease, Hayden Beswick, Colton Thomas, Adler Perry, Noah Meadows, Dylan Warner and Jake Kohler.

Standout freshman class provides boost for Triad baseball team

The 2023 season was mostly a struggle for the Triad baseball team. The outlook is brighter this spring, though, as the arrival of a promising freshman class gives the Cardinals hope for more success.

"I think our freshman class will really provide a spark for the program," said head coach Jon Roberts. "I've been around this group since they were little. They have played a lot of baseball and they are very competitive. I definitely feel like we can fare better in our league this season."

The Cardinals went 3-19 overall and 3-13 in the Ohio Heritage Conference

last spring.

Triad returns some experienced players and also will count on several freshmen as it hopes to improve in the win column this season.

On the mound, the top returning pitcher is senior Gage Heitman. He led the team in innings pitched last year with 30.

Juniors Braydon Hoffman and Russell House combined to throw 19 innings last year and are expected to help the rotation again this season.

Also being looked at to help out on the mound will be JJ Roberts, Blake Thomas and Colton

Thomas.

Junior Hayden Beswick will help spark the Triad offense along with Heitman and junior Brodey Deam, who came over from West Liberty-Salem. Deam hit .314 with seven RBI for the Tigers last spring.

Triad's focus on offense will be to get runners on base and use its speed to manufacture runs.

"We are going to play a lot of small ball," said Roberts. "We stole over 100 bases last year and we are going to be aggressive on the base paths again. We are going to use the bunt a lot more, too."

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CARDINALS



Lady Cards want to improve their fundamentals

Second-year Triad softball coach Chelsie Matthews hopes her team learned a lot of lessons last year and can propel them into an improved season this spring.

The Cardinals went 3-13 last season.

"Last year we kind of set the expectations," said Matthews. "We have to

continue to be better with our fundamentals. I felt like we improved last year and we want to continue to build this season."

Triad has a solid core of returning players to build around. Senior Lilly Greene returns in the pitching circle and she also led the team in most of the offen-

sive categories last year.

Greene can also play in the outfield for the Cardinals.

"Having Lilly back in the circle is big," said Matthews. "She is one of our better hitters, too."

Senior first baseman/pitcher Morgan Alexander will also be relied upon heavily after hitting .375 last season.

Seniors Hailey Blackburn (third base/second base), Allison Harlan (pitcher/first base), Kaley Nott (second base/outfield), Jaylynn Smith (catcher/third base) and Mallory Hayes (catcher/third base) are

expected to be major contributors for the Cardinals. Also looking to help the team have success are jun-

iors Kaydee Roberts (short-stop/pitcher), Autumn Feasel (outfield), Madi Bruce (outfield) and Jessica Bernardi (outfield) and sophomores Hannah Russell (outfield/catcher), Gracie Martin (outfield), Ava Phillips (outfield/second base), Gracie Goehring (outfield), Riley Haser (third base/second base) and Jenna Jones (outfield).

Triad has not enjoyed a winning season since 2019. Matthews said her team has to play with confidence to become a winning program again.

"It's about the mindset," she said. "The girls have to want to win and they have to believe in themselves."

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CARDINALS



Members of the Triad boys track and field team are, from the left, first row: Cohen Millice, Brody Hess, Hayden Williams, Wyatt Robison, Jacob Haser and Henry Beaverson; second row: Zayden Williams, Gaven Heitman, Awsom Mitchell, Noah Campbell, Logan Harper, Cayden Everhart and Devon Minor; and third row: coach Mackenzie Swary, coach Michael Yoder, Connor Eaton, Landon Hall, Noah Meadows and coach Niki Smiles. (PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYSVILLE JOURNAL-TRIBUNE)

Standout Eaton to again power Triad's girls track and field team

After placing sixth in the 100-meter hurdles at the Division III state meet last year, Triad's Cayla Eaton is looking for another memorable run in her final season this spring.

"We are expecting big things from Cayla again this season," said Triad coach Michael Yoder. "She made to the state indoor meet in the long jump and hurdles and made the podium in the hurdles, so that is a nice springboard going into the spring season."

Eaton qualified to state in both hurdle events last year and she also has a chance to get to state in the long jump.

Eaton leads a Triad girls track and field team that will look to take another big step forward this season.

"There is no doubt this is one of the best girls teams Triad has had in a long time," said Yoder.

Joining Eaton on the girls team are Elliana Zimmerman, Gracie Martin, Ellie Johnson, Arlo

Monroe, Ava Keel, Emma Ferguson, Abbey Overfield, Kimber Instine, Olivia Hall, Ashtyn Millice, Valerie Gaier, Melissa Graham, Mia LeMay and Bre Parsons.

Assistant coach Niki Smiles worked with the cross country team in the fall and believes the experience her runners gained then will help this spring.

"Our 4 by 8 relay should be pretty strong," she said. "I really think cross country helped those kids."

Triad boys plan to make a big leap forward this season

It was a learning season for the Triad boys track and field squad last year. While the Cardinals did not taste a lot of success, coach Michael Yoder believes his team showed a lot of growth.

"We finished last in the conference last season, but we had a lot of guys that battled injuries," said Yoder. "Awsom Mitchell didn't compete at the league meet last year. Having him this year should help a lot. I think our boys team will definitely be more competitive this season."

Mitchell, a junior, brings a lot of athleti-

cism to the track. He has starred on the football field and on the wrestling mat for the Cardinals. He just finished as a state runner-up in the Division III state wrestling meet.

Along with Mitchell, the Triad boys team includes Cohen Millice, Brody Hess, Hayden Williams, Wyatt Robison, Jacob Haser, Henry Beaverson, Zayden Williams, Gaven Heitman, Noah Campbell, Logan Harper, Cayden Everhart, Devon Minor, Connor Eaton, Landon Hall and Noah Meadows.



Members of the Triad girls track and field team are, from the left, first row: Elliana Zimmerman, Gracie Martin, Ellie Johnson, Arlo Monroe and Ava Keel; second row: Emma Ferguson, Abbey Overfield, Kimber Instine, Olivia Hall, Ashtyn Millice and Valerie Gaier; third row: coach Mackenzie Swary, Michael Yoder, Cayla Eaton, Melissa Graham, Mia LeMay, Bre Parsons and coach Niki Smiles.

TIGERS

Lady Tigers pursue 9th straight OHC title

West Liberty-Salem's girls track and field team has the depth, talent and firepower to win its ninth straight Ohio Heritage Conference title and repeat as district champion this winter.

But head coach Ann Vogel said her team is focused on accomplishing short term goals first.

"I really like to think about the process and not the outcome when it comes to the team goals," said Vogel. "Of course, we want to win a conference title and make some noise in the postseason, but it's really a work in progress day in and day out. My goal for the girls on our team is to gain the confidence they need through hard work and positive daily habits so they can compete at their best and have fun. It's really about the ability to believe in oneself."

The Tigers have 13 returning letterwinners and if they stay healthy, they should be able to score points in every event.

The senior class is led by returners Mallory Bostick (sprints/relays), Sophia Hardwick (hurdles/throws), Taylor Kennedy (distance), Claire Longshore (hurdles/jumps/relays), Lily Smith (distance/relays) and Ashley Yoder (distance/relays).

"We have a large senior class with many of the girls having big meet experience leading our team," said Vogel. "Along with our leadership, we have a lot of depth in almost all of our



Members of the West Liberty-Salem girls track and field team are, from the left, front row: Addison McAuley, Ashley Yoder, Taylor Kennedy, Sophia Hardwick, Lily Smith, Claire Longshore, Mallory Bostick and Julia Wilson; middle row: Alaina Irving, Anna Cole, Geneva Estep, Tori Douthwaite, Malia Miller, Celia Marin, Lexi Hausler, Hattie Jacobs, Chloe Griffith, Elise Longshore and Isabella Hughes; and back row: assistant coach Mandy Lauck, Gwen McCullough, Delaney Jones, Isabella Hardwick, Addison Hutton, Lyndee Harrison, Mariska Smith, Emma Smith, Mylee Dooley and head coach Ann Vogel.

events."

Rounding out the senior class are Addison McAuley (distance/relays) and Julia Wilson (sprints).

Isabella Hardwick and Delaney Jones (sprints/jumps) headline the junior class for the Tigers. Jones did not compete for the Tigers last sea-

son but was a state placer as a freshman.

Other juniors are Anna Cole (sprints), Alaina Irving (hurdles/sprints) and Celia Marin (sprints).

Returning letterwinners in the sophomore class are Tori Douthwaite (pole vault/sprints/relays), Chloe Griffith (sprints/jumps),

Lyndee Harrison (throws), Elise Longshore (pole vault), Gwen McCullough (distance) and Malia Miller (distance).

Rounding out the sophomore group are Mylee Dooley (distance), Geneva Estep (sprints), Lexi Hausler (relays), Addison Hutton (throws)

and Emma Smith (sprints).

The Tigers have three freshmen on the team in Isabella Hughes (sprints), Hattie Jacobs (hurdles/sprints) and Mariska Smith (distance).

Hard work and being a good teammate are long staples of the Tigers' pro-

gram, and they are areas of focus again this season.

"I believe when athletes put the team first, do the work and believe that they can do whatever they set their mind to, then we've achieved success no matter what the outcome of the season," said Vogel.

TIGERS

Keeping the bar high is the focus for WL-S boys

West Liberty-Salem's boys track and field team doesn't want to rest on its past laurels.

The Tigers went 96-7 in regular-season competition last year and won the Ohio Heritage Conference and Division III district championships.

Led by a talented core of returning athletes, the Tigers are hungry for another fulfilling season.

"We have numerous goals," said head coach Aaron Lauck. "We want to make a commitment to our training and team val-

ues. We can't accomplish much without this.

"We want to represent WL-S by in a manner that makes our community proud and people from other

schools cheer for us. We want to contend for a OHC title and send as many athletes as far as possible to the DIII regional and state meets."

The Tigers are not lacking for bodies or talent. They have 45 athletes on the team and returning a multitude of athletes with postseason honors.

Seniors Gabe McGill and Slayde Merriman will help lead the Tigers.

McGill will compete in the sprints. He was regional qualifier in two events last year and was a state qualifier in 2022.

Merriman, a pole vaulter, was a district champion last year.

Juniors Quentin Rudolph and Asher Knox will spearhead the distance events.

Rudolph was a member of the team's state qualifying 3,200 relay last year and was a member of the 2022 3,200 relay squad that

placed eighth in the state meet.

Knox placed ninth in the 3,200 at the state meet last year.

Junior Cam Bair leads the throwing events for the Tigers. He is a two-time regional qualifier in the discus.

Junior Troy Bradley and sophomore Brevin Louden lead the middle distance events.

Bradley was 13th in the 400 at the state indoor meet this winter and Louden was a regional qualifier in the 1,600 relay last year.

Junior Jackson Steider will be a key contributor in the hurdles and sprints this season. He was a regional qualifier in the 110 hurdles, long jump and 800 relay last year.

Juniors Lincoln Henderson and Jack Bahan will provide depth in the sprints and sprint relays and junior Craig Stanford is the team's top pole vaulter.

"We continue to have good numbers overall consisting of a solid core of experienced athletes and a robust group of underclassmen who want

to learn and work," said Lauck. "We have been impressed with our guys' commitment to training thus far. We also believe we can develop a balanced team of distance, sprints and field events this year."

Lauck said another strong point of the team is his assistant coaching staff.

"An additional strength is our coaching staff," he said. "Mike Louden, Larry Steider, Jason Steider, Mandy Lauck, Hannah Rapp and Jace Wade are fantastic people and coaches."

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TIGERS



Members of the West Liberty-Salem boys track and field team are, from the left, first row: Slayde Merriman, Mason Barger, Joey LaRoche, Gabe McGill and Max McCombs; second row: Troy Bradley, Quentin Rudolph, Isaiah Reminder, Mark Bair, Jack Bahan, Sam Peraza, Silas Kauffman, Lincoln Henderson and Josh Wilcoxon; third row: Bradley Petry, Jackson Steider, Casey Boyer, Hunter Knotts, Craig Stanford, Max Rudolph, Silas King, Brevin Louden and Caleb Larson; fourth row: Levi Kramer, Dustin Bolton, Aaron Campbell, Daniel Neer, Dylan King, Garrett Wallen, Taryn Bradley and Jacob Lauck; fifth row: Zander Gluckle, Tanner Myers, Namen Stidham, Sam Strapp, Lance Saylor, Bryson Jones, Silas Krabill and Zeke Sidders; sixth row: Asher Knox, Zac Carter, Lucas Merriman, Bryant Eaton, Levi Kramer and Maverick Reames; and seventh row: coaches Jason Steider, Mike Louden, Aaron Lauck and Mandy Lauck.



Members of the West Liberty-Salem varsity softball team are, from the left, front row: Kiersten Stoll, Maddie Adkins, Addyson Mattox, Whitney Strapp, Briley Sullivan, Shyanne McClintick, Kaylee Blair and Brielle Milliron; and back row: Audrey Collins, Olivia Reichardt, assistant coach Ashley McIntosh, head coach Jenni Blair, assistant coach Ashlee Smith, Taylor Cook and Kennedy Wallace.

Blair takes over WL-S softball squad

The West Liberty-Salem softball team has new leadership this spring as Jenni Blair takes over as head coach.

Blair takes over for Danielle Norton, who led the team the last two years.

Blair and the Tigers hope to improve on last year's record of 5-14. WL-S went 4-11 in the Ohio Heritage Conference to finish fifth out of six teams in the North division.

"We want the girls to not only grow as a team but to also improve every game," said Blair.

Junior Kennedy Wallace headlines the group of returning letterwinners.

Wallace was the team's primary pitcher last year, working 95 2/3 innings. She also will be one of the team's top hitters.

Senior Whitney Strapp batted .283 last year with six doubles and eight RBI.

Other returning letterwinners for the Tigers are senior Briley Sullivan, juniors Shyanne McClintick and Audrey Collins and sophomores Taylor Cook, Brielle Milliron, Kaylee Blair and Olivia Reichardt.

"With several returning letterwinners, we will have the experience needed to hit the ground running," said Blair. "This is a

special group of girls who love the game and are coming together as a team."

Also looking to be in the mix for playing time this season are sophomore Addyson Mattox and freshmen Maddie Adkins and Kiersten Stoll.

Blair said one of the areas they are focusing on this year is not dwelling on mistakes.

"We will continue to work on our short-term memory," she said. "When we make mistakes, we can not live there. We must find what we need to do to get back into a good mindset and better the next ball."

TIGERS



Members of the West Liberty-Salem varsity baseball team are, from the left, front row: Caleb Hershberger, Josh Wilcoxon, Reese Oder, Dallas Koons, Isaac Sertell, Austin Olejniczak and Jeremiah Johnson; and back row: head coach Sean Stormes, Carson Vesey, Jake Evans, Eli Allen, Isaiah Reames, Sam Lauck, Peyton Hull and assistant coaches Matt Hull and Mark Nelson.

Tigers out to make noise in OHC North division

Following a solid 13-9 campaign last season, West Liberty-Salem's baseball squad wants to continue to make strides forward this spring.

"The goals are to continue to build on our successes from last season," said head coach Sean Stormes. "We have worked hard to build a solid program and we need to continue to improve as players, leaders and men."

The Tigers have what it takes to accomplish those goals. They return eight letterwinners.

"Experience is a strength for us," said Stormes. "We are returning a lot of players who had a lot of varsity playing time last season."

The Tigers look to be strong on the mound as ace Eli Allen is back. He went 6-0 with a 0.38 ERA last season.

Allen, who earned first-team all-league honors, was fourth in the Ohio Heritage Conference in strikeouts with 60.

Junior Jake Evans will look to build on a sophomore season in which he struck out 47 batters and had a 3.55 ERA in a team-high 43 innings of work.

Senior Peyton Hull also should figure heavily into the Tigers' rotation. He went 3-0 in four appearances and 12 2/3 innings last year.

Senior Austin Olejniczak will help spark the WL-S offense after hitting .306 with eight RBI last season.

Other letterwinners back for the Tigers are senior Sam Lauck, junior Isaiah Reames and sophomores Isaac Sertell and Jeremiah Johnson.

Rounding out the varsity squad are juniors Josh Wilcoxon and Caleb Hershberger and sophomores Dallas Koons, Carson Vesey and Reese Oder.

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CHIEFTAINS



Members of the Bellefontaine boys track and field team are, from the left, front row: Kelton Roberts, Jordan Reed, Matt Finch, Dylan Pickering, Anthony Stamm, Wes Dunn, Evan Greenbaum, Jacob Henry, Tristyn Wilson and William Myers; middle row: Brandon Wong, Carter Kuhn, Kaiden Foulk, Blake Loomis, Kailyn Organ, Tony Stewart, Hayden Maus, Zavier May, Draven Drake, Jacob Moreland, Fredy Hernandez and Ty Johnson; and back row: Gabe Ferguson, Alexander Sandoval, Oliver Mooreland, Alexander Crabill, Cayden Downing, Reid Varner, Caden Snapp, Harper Scott, Haiden Manns, Tobias Thornburg, Seth Taylor, Ethan Orahod and Oliver Grandstaff.

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Davis has high hopes for Bellefontaine's boys track and field squad

After finishing second in the Central Buckeye Conference Kenton Trail division a year ago, Bellefontaine's boys track and field team hopes to be chasing a title this spring.

Bellefontaine boasts a veteran squad that is deep and talented.

"We want to win the CBC and stay healthy," said head coach Ben Davis of the main goals for his squad this spring. "We want to develop talent to fill field event holes. We have veteran laden team. They need to lead by example by doing the little things."

Leading the distance events for the Chiefs will be

senior standout Tony Stewart, who has enjoyed a great deal of success in both track and cross country during his high school career. He finished 16th in the 3,200 at the state meet a year ago.

Seniors Seth Taylor and Wes Dunn and sophomore Hayden Maus will also be strong in the distance events.

Senior Haiden Manns will power the throwing events for the Chiefs. Manns finished 11th in the shot put at the state meet last year.

Seniors Kailyn Organ and Harper Scott will spearheaded the sprinting events for Bellefontaine. Sophomore Kaiden Foulk

will provide depth there.

Junior Carter Kuhn won a league title in the pole vault last year and is poised for a strong campaign this year.

"Our strength is in our returning upper class talent and leadership," said Davis. "If we stay healthy, we can have a dynamite squad."

While the Chiefs have a lot of experienced athletes, part of the challenge this season is finding some new ones to fill key spots.

"It will be exciting to see who will fill the uncertainty at several events," said Davis. "Our upperclassmen absolutely need to show the new faces how to get it done."

CHIEFTAINS



Members of the Bellefontaine girls track and field team are, from the left, front row: Ella Reier, Parker Penhorwood, Harper Penhorwood, Haley Coe, Kahanna Dixon, Elyncia Allen, Kenzie Setser, Ryann Gatchel, Hannah Wilson and Gina Sandoval; middle row: Brianne Sechrest, Kaileigh Flora, Jaylinn Foulk, Carisse Comstock, Claire McDaniel, Madison Christman, Jillian Ullom, Abby Geboy, Gracie Hood, Annabelle Myers, Claire Brown and Amanda Delgado; and back row: Kailyn Newman, Emma Merrin, Ella Fultz, Claire Grandstaff, Kelsie Snapp, Ashton Carey, Alexis Robinson, Perri Neeld, Kylie Adams, Ava Reeves, Grace Brown, Ashlyn Akers, Callie Shumaker and Rylie Reames.

Lady Chiefs have lofty potential

The sky is the limit for the Bellefontaine girls track and field squad this year.

The Lady Chiefs return an extremely talented nucleus of talent as they look to make a big statement in the postseason.

"There are several strengths for our girls program this season," said longtime head coach Ben Davis. "First, the coaching staff has been around a long time. They are experienced. Secondly, we return a lot of state caliber talent from last year's regional championship team. We have seasoned veterans coupled with young talent."

Bellefontaine finished 11th in the team standings at the Division II state meet last spring and all the state qualifiers from that team are back this year.

Leading the list is junior Kylie Adams, who finished fourth in the 300 hurdles, fourth in the long jump and eighth in the 100 hurdles at the state meet.

Sophomore Kelsie Snapp finished third in the discus and ninth in the shot put and senior Lexi Robinson finished 15th in the discus.

Junior Ava Reeves placed ninth in the 100 and was 15th in the long jump. Sophomore Callie

Shumaker finished 12th in the prelims of the 300 hurdles.

Other key contributors returning are Parker Penhorwood, Kailyn Newman and Rylie Reames.

Also expected to provide a big boost will be freshman distance standout Grace Brown, who was a state qualifier in cross country in the fall.

"Our goals are to develop our new talent and have upperclassmen embrace their roles as leaders creating one cohesive formidable unit," said Davis. "Talent alone does not win championships."

Davis said he expects his veteran athletes to be strong leaders.

"We need our seasoned veterans to continue to embrace their roles as leaders and teachers while not resting on their past success," he said.

The Chiefs finished second in the Central Buckeye Conference Kenton Trail division to Jonathan Alder last season. Davis said he expects the Pioneers and Kenton Ridge to be the strongest competition in the league race this year.

"Alder beat us last year and Kenton Ridge has a talented bunch," said Davis.



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CHIEFTAINS



Members of the Bellefontaine boys tennis team are, from the left, front row: Brayden Studnicki, Brendan Murray, Noah Torsell, Sanjay Patel, Lorenz Henry, Jeff Smith and Lane Howard; back row: head coach Jason Calton, Max Fissel, Bryce Harris, Truman Howell, Trey Taylor, Elias Abrego, Xavier Sims, Quin Slagle and assistant coach Jim Ball. Not pictured is Alex Moon.

BHS netters set to defend CBC crown

The 2023 season was a memorable one for the Bellefontaine boys tennis team, which went 17-5 and won its first Central Buckeye Conference title since 1989.

With two district qualifiers returning this spring, the Chiefs are focused on repeating as CBC champions this spring.

“Our goals are always to compete for a CBC title and then to get some players to the district level to compete against some of the best players in the state at The Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason,” said BHS head coach Jason

Calton. “We return six of our seven varsity members from last year. We have some experience and we have some kids that have grinded in the offseason to get better.”

Leading the Chiefs are seniors Truman Howell and Trey Taylor. They both qualified for the district tournament last year as juniors.

Other returning letterwinners include juniors Elias Abrego, Bryce Harris and Xavier Sims and sophomore Max Fissel.

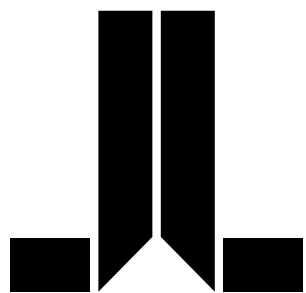
Rounding out the team this year are juniors Quin Slagle and Jeff Smith, sophomores Sanjay Patel, Lane

Howard and Lorenz Henry and freshmen Noah Torsell, Alex Moon, Brayden Studnicki and Brendan Murray.

While the Chiefs return a lot of experience, they did graduate Drew Phillips, a first-team all-league performer and record holder for most doubles wins with Taylor.

“We need to continue to lift our game to be able to play at a high level consistently,” said Calton. “We will miss Drew Phillips. We will have some players playing in different spots to give us the best opportunity to win.”

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CHIEFTAINS



Members of the Bellefontaine varsity baseball team are, from the left, front row: Luke Levan, Ashton Foreman, Spencer Stolly, Sutton Daring, Jaxon Hoskins, Carter Caudill, Zane Tevis, Cayleb Overmann and Beckham Harmon; and back row: assistant coach Mike Mosbarger, Alex Crabill, Patrick Stolly, Liam Yoder, Charlie Bible, Riley Neer, Jayden Temple, Jose Sandoval, Brody Boy, Chris Fogan, Owen Larison and head coach Russ Hogue.

Experience a strength for BHS baseball team

The Bellefontaine baseball team lost a big piece off its squad last year in Lane Reeves, but the Chiefs feel like they have the experience and talent to make a run in the tournament this season.

“Our goals for this year are to continue to battle at the top of our conference and have a winning season, and make strides throughout the year to help us get ready for a deep postseason run,” said head coach Russ Hogue.

Bellefontaine went 15-11 overall and advanced to the Division I sectional final last year.

Reeves was the Chiefs’ ace pitcher last season. His departure leaves a big hole at the top of the rotation. The Chiefs also lost Kaden

Reames, who went 4-2 in 40 innings.

The most experienced arms returning are senior Chris Fogan and junior Alex Crabill.

Fogan, who earned second-team Central Buckeye Conference honors last season, went 3-1 with 34 strikeouts in 22 innings last year. Crabill went 2-2 in 25 2/3 innings.

Fogan and Crabill are two of nine returning letterwinners.

Senior outfielder Riley Neer was a second-team all-CBC selection last year.

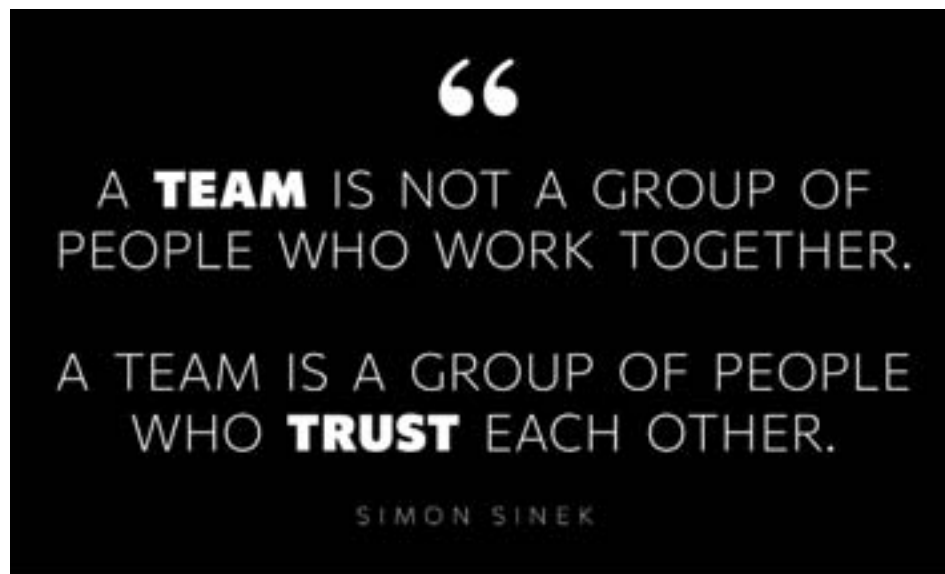
Senior catcher Owen Larison also returns to a key role. In addition to providing strong defense behind the plate, he was second on the team in RBI with 14 last spring.

Other letterwinners back for Bellefontaine are seniors Jaxon Hoskins and Zane Tevis, juniors Brody Boy and Liam Yoder and sophomore Carter Caudill.

Junior Jayden Temple came over from West Liberty-Salem. His arrival will provide a boost. He earned second-team all-Ohio Heritage Conference last season when he hit .349 with three doubles, two triples and 12 RBI for the Tigers.

“The strength of our team is depth,” said Hogue. “We have nine returning letterwinners and we have some underclassmen trying to earn a spot on varsity as well.”

See BHS on Page 31



Good luck to all the local teams & athletes



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CHIEFTAINS

Baseball
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TS	REGIONALS	
2009	1977	2012
2012	1992	2014
2014	1997	2016
2016	2004	
	2005	
	2006	
	2009	

Baseball
"Championship Row"

Appearances	State C
2021	2002
	2004
	2005



Members of the Bellefontaine varsity softball team are, from the left, front row: Ava Dolan, Ava Watson, Airiana Young, Kassi Prine, Carissa Cozad, Addison Wical, Laila Butler and Andie Eicher; and back row: assistant coach Jeff Morrison, Emma Crabtree, Rianna Fullerton, Averie Vigansky, Ellie Mitchell, Alexza Clifton, Kylee Boggs and head coach Katie Buffkin.

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Multitude of veterans to power Chieftain softball team this spring

The Central Buckeye Conference Kenton Trail division should once again be loaded with talent this spring, and Bellefontaine believes it has what it takes to be in the mix for the league championship.

The Chiefs went 13-13 overall and finished in fourth place in the Kenton Trail division last year.

With five all-CBC play-

ers returning this spring, Bellefontaine is poised to improve its league standing this year.

"The goal of this year's team is a CBC championship and making a strong run in the tournament," said Bellefontaine head coach Katie Buffkin.

The Chiefs will be powered by a strong senior class.

Outfielder Alexza

Clifton was a first-team all-CBC selection last year when she hit .470 with 10 doubles, three triples, three home runs and 24 RBI.

Infielder Rianna Fullerton made the CBC second team in 2023. She batted .416 with two doubles, three triples and 13 RBI.

See POWER on Page 31

CHIEFTAINS

Power

Continued from Page 30

Infielder Emma Crabtree was a second-team all-league pick as a junior. She hit .491 with six doubles and 10 RBI.

Averie Vigansky earned special mention all-CBC honors last year after hitting .377 with four doubles and 15 RBI. She also won seven games and had a

3.43 ERA in the pitching circle.

Ellie Mitchell, who can play both in the infield and outfield, is another senior with a lot of varsity experience. She recorded a .311 batting average with five doubles, five triples and 10 RBI last season.

"The connection and maturity of the team with

its senior leadership is a strength," said Buffkin.

Junior outfielder Kassi Prine will be counted on heavily as well for the Chiefs this spring. Price was a first-team all-CBC selection as a sophomore. She batted .447 with three doubles, four triples and 18 RBI. She also went 6-2 while working 58 innings in the pitching circle.

Sophomore Addison Wical (outfield/catcher) had a stellar freshman season and will look to build on that this season. Wical hit .372 with 12 doubles, two triples and 19 RBI a year ago.

Junior utility player Airiana Young was a full-time starter last year and will provide another experienced bat and glove for

the Chiefs.

Junior Carissa Cozad (outfield/pitcher) and sophomore Ava Watson (infield) also return to the varsity team.

Filling out the varsity roster are senior Kylee Boggs (outfield), juniors Laila Butler (catcher), Andie Eicher (outfield) and sophomore Ava Dolan (pitcher).

Kenton Ridge and Jonathan Alder were the top two teams in the CBC Kenton Trail division last year, and Buffkin expects those two squads to again be tough this spring.

"Jonathan Alder and Kenton Ridge will be the top competition in the league," said the Chieftain head coach.

BHS

Continued from Page 29

Filling out the BHS varsity roster are senior Charlie Bible, junior Luke Levan, sophomore Cayleb Overman and freshman Jose Sandoval.

Bellefontaine had to lean on pitching and small ball last year as its offense struggled to score runs. Hogue hopes the Chiefs can be more potent at the plate this season.

"The areas where we

will need improvement is our hitting, last year we were able to win 15 games but we only hit .218 as a team," said Hogue. "If we can improve our team batting average with timely hitting we will have a

successful season this year.

"The keys to having a successful season is having our pitchers be consistent on the mound, our team defense to make the routine plays and for our

hitters to have timely hitting," he said. "If we do that we will have a successful season."

The competition in the Central Buckeye Conference looks to be strong again this season.

"The top competition in our league this year on the Kenton Trail side is Kenton Ridge and Jonathan Alder," said Hogue. "On the Mad River side it is Indian Lake and Springfield Shawnee."

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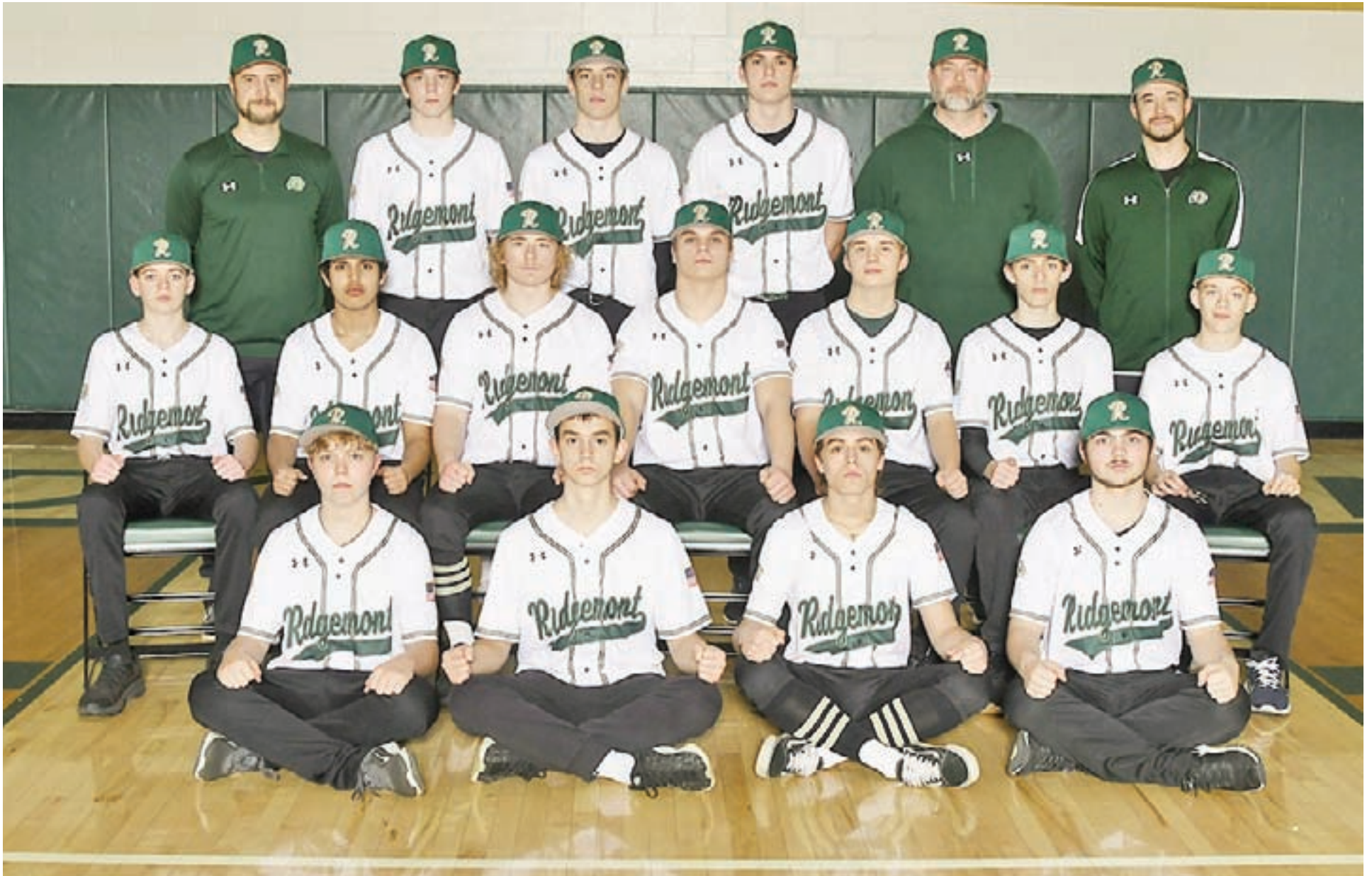
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Members of this year's Ridgemont baseball team are, from the left, front row: Mason Woodruff, Eldar Musayev, Kody Kiser and Maverick Dawson; middle row: Connor Eckstein, Youssef Belhaj, Jayden Sifrit, Jevin Henderson, Maddox Thompson, Memphis Harvey and Brenden Eckstein; and back row: head coach Matt Thompson, Ethan Scott-Moore, Jon Cromer, Xavier Stuck, assistant coach Nick Stuck and assistant coach Tyler Tillman.

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GOPHERS

Thompson takes over Gophers' baseball program this season

BY THE KENTON TIMES

First-year Ridgemont baseball head coach Matt Thompson is huge on emphasizing process over outcome.

"My coaching philosophy is to continue to build on what we have," he said. "Process is huge. We are trying to hit the ball hard and see where it falls."

The Gophers were 12-11

and finished third in the Northwest Central Conference before getting mercy ruled by Mohawk in the sectional finals.

Losing top ace and top hitter Jebadiah McGue to graduation will hurt. He was 5-3 on the mound with a 1.82 ERA. At the plate, he led the team in hits (24), runs scored (21) and batting average (.353).

Coach Thompson said they have a bunch of guys that are willing to get better, but they are not overly experienced.

"We had some good off-season workouts and hopefully we see the returns from that this year," he said.

Ridgemont will be relying on new pitching with sophomore Ethan Scott-Moore and junior Xavier

Stuck being their top returning arms. McGue and Hayden Oates are both gone, so they will need guys to step up on the mound.

"We're going to be relying on some new guys. Last year they relied on Jeb heavily. This year we're going to branch out. We're going to ask a lot of guys to step up and fill in. We're still working on the exact

rotation, but Ethan and Xavier will get a lot of innings," coach Thompson said.

He said Stuck has been their most consistent hitter and will see a lot of time in center field this year. He batted .268 with 16 RBIs and scored 11 runs.

"Xavier will play a lot of center field. Left and right are going to be platooned based on pitching. Jon

Cromer, Kody Kiser, Mason Woodruff and Jevin Henderson are all going to be part of our outfield," coach Thompson said.

Scott-Moore is coming off a tough freshman season but got a lot better after playing travel ball in the offseason.

"He's maybe the most all in of anyone on this team. He's out there a lot. He's probably the cleanest fielder on the team. He has one of the best arms on the team, and we're looking at him to do some pitching this year, too," coach Thompson said.

Sophomore Maverick Dawson and junior Jevin Henderson will battle for the starting catcher job. Henderson may not have a defined role on the field, but is a leader on and off the diamond for the Gophers and can play almost any position.

"That's a real work in progress there. We have a freshman that has caught at the younger levels for a number of years, but that's a big step up. Jevin used to catch, it's been a while. We'll see how he does getting back into it," coach Thompson said.

Maddox Thompson will likely start at first base, but coach Thompson said they are still figuring out their starters.



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See **BASEBALL** on Page 35

GOPHERS



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Members of the Ridgemont softball team are, from the left, front row: manager Alaina Hamilton, Albrey Bailey, Kylie Shreve and manager Alana Watkins; middle row: Matty McLane, Ruth Eckstein, Amiah Jones, Kaeleigh Hooker and Braylyn Caldwell; and back row: head coach Bret McFadden, assistant coach Kimberly Bailey, Olivia Newland, Jayda Dondrea, Reis Menenhall and assistant coach Josh Shreve.

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GOPHERS

Ridgemont's softball program focused on putting it all together during 2024 campaign

BY THE KENTON TIMES

Second-year Ridgemont softball head coach Bret McFadden is confident in her team's abilities, they just have to put it all together.

The Gophers were 7-15 overall last year and fourth in a loaded Northwest Central Conference at 4-7.

"Definitely another year of building," McFadden said. "I'm excited. We have a lot of talent this year, we just have to put it all together. Having three returning seniors (Matty McLane, Jayda Dondrea and Reis Mendenhall) is nice because they know how to run the team. I look

to be a strong defensive team this year."

Ridgemont lost top ace Hallie Howard and Charlie Chronister to graduation. Filling Howard's void will be difficult with her command of the strike zone, but having Amiah Jones and Braylyn Caldwell on the mound this year plus a strong infield will lessen that loss. Howard threw the bulk of the team's innings at 98.1 and went 5-11 with a 2.63 ERA.

Jones, a Hiram College commit, will be their lead pitcher after a strong sophomore campaign behind the mound, in the outfield and at shortstop. She posted the highest batting aver-

age on the team at .394 to go along with 10 RBIs and 14 stolen bases. She posted a 4.34 ERA with a 1-2 record and tossed 29 innings.

"I'm super excited to watch Amiah work this year. She's worked really hard in the offseason, so I think she's going to do really well this year," McFadden said.

Kylie Shreve, a junior, possesses the most power on the team and will star at catcher. She batted .342 and belted both of Ridgemont's homers. She recorded 15 RBIs, as well as a team-high 23 stolen bases and 22 runs scored.

"Kylie will be our catcher. Excited to see her work this season, she worked a ton in the offseason. She's a powerful hitter," McFadden said.

Caldwell, a sophomore, will see time on the mound when Jones isn't throwing. She batted .216 last year with six RBIs and six stolen bases.

Senior Jayda Dondrea will be on first base again. She batted .261 with a team-high 18 RBIs last year. She also stole 10 bases.

Second base is up for grabs according to McFadden, with junior Albrey Bailey and sophomore Ruth Eckstein jostling

for that spot.

McFadden said senior Reis Mendenhall will play in right or left field. She didn't play last year, but is one of the more athletic girls on the team.

Sophomore Olivia Newland and freshman Kaeleigh Hooker are newcomers to the sport. Newland will play in the outfield with her speed and vertical ability.

McFadden likes the experience that her team is bringing back.

"I think we have a lot of experienced players so that makes me excited. They mostly know how this works. They work well as a team so I think we will do

well in the team aspect," she said.

McFadden noted that they have a new batting cage over in the Ridgeway gym, which has tremendously helped them over the course of the offseason.

"One of our keys to success is always being positive. We need positive attitudes," McFadden added.

Elgin is the reigning league champion, having gone a perfect 12-0 last year. Ridgedale was 10-2 and Upper Scioto Valley 8-4. Ridgemont was fourth, and they are hopeful for a better finish with another year of growth.

Baseball

Continued from Page 33

"Jevin, Maddox and Jayden are all batters that I've seen have a little pop at times. Hopefully they can drive in some runs and be productive," coach Thompson said.

Freshman Mason Woodruff and sophomore

Connor Eckstein could feature at second base, depending on who is pitching.

Sophomore Jayden Sifrit is a utility infielder and could play at shortstop, second base or third base.

Sophomore utility Connor Eckstein will fit in where he can, coach

Thompson said.

Freshman Kody Kiser could be their starting shortstop or third baseman.

Youssef Belhaj is a foreign exchange student. Memphis Harvey will split time between track and baseball.

Coach Thompson just

wants to see his players improve throughout the year, and hopefully the wins will come if they put in the work. There are still a lot of question marks, but this group is excited to see what they can accomplish under new leadership.

"We hope to see some steady improvement as the

year goes on being as young as we are. I think they could be competitive in a lot of ways. It will depend on the pitching. How often will we be able to put the ball in play? Those are the main things," coach Thompson said.

Principal Nick Stuck and head basketball coach

Tyler Tillman are helping out with coaching.

Elgin is the reigning NWCC champion after going through the gauntlet unblemished. Hardin Northern was second in the league last year and returns a lot of its production. Waynesfield-Goshen figures to be a tough out.

GOPHERS

Ridgemont's track and field program returning three regional qualifiers

BY THE KENTON TIMES

The Ridgemont track and field team had three regional qualifiers last year and could make it to state in multiple events this year if all goes well.

The Gophers have 20 boys and 10 girls to work with this season. They had several others that placed in the district meet.

Head coach Nick Cox said he is excited to see what kind of success they will have after a tremendous indoor track and field season.

Senior Clayton Patterson will look to take that next leap and reach the pinnacle in the long jump. He was seventh in the Fostoria regional with a top long jump of 20-10.75 and 16th in the 100-meter dash in 12.35.

Junior Patrick Stacklin qualified for the indoor state track meet in the high jump again and is poised for a breakout outdoor season.

"He's qualified back-to-back years now. He's consistently jumping over 6-foot. One of his goals is to

break the school record, which is 6-3.5. He is very, very close to doing that. He had an indoor meet that he was very close to jumping 6-4. It's just a matter of doing it," Cox said.

Sophomore Mason Howard had a solid freshman long jump campaign.

"We'll see if he can build on that," Cox said.

The Gophers lost top thrower Weston McKinley to graduation, who went on to continue his track and field career at Otterbein University.

Juniors Carter Ruppriht and Landon Eaton are their two most experienced returning throwers. Aiden Hanson is also back, but not as experienced as the other two.

"They've got big shoes to fill from a leadership perspective and a throwing perspective as well," Cox said.

Freshman Kaine Ruppriht is in line for a huge season and is expected to be their best shot put and discus thrower by the end of the season, according to Cox.

Freshman Luke Stacklin

is a thrower that is still working on fine-tuning his technique, his coach said.

"We have four guys capable of throwing the discus over 100 feet, and he's one of them. To my knowledge, we've never had that kind of depth before," Cox said.

Junior Kolton Manns will be expected to contribute points in the 400. Cox said he has the potential to be a sub-55 400-meter runner.

Junior Kenny Feasel is one of their premier longer distance runners. Cox said they would like to see consistency from him this year.

Junior Dillon Hooker is a newcomer to the sport, and Cox figures he will run the 800 and be part of the relays.

Sophomore Weston Nichols has spent time bodybuilding and should develop into a good thrower.

"He's no longer going to be a sprinter like he used to be last year. He's bulked up so much and hasn't really worked on flexibility. He's tried shot put and he really likes it," Cox said.

Sophomore Mason Swavel had a "solid freshman pole vaulting season," Cox said. He hopes Swavel can improve on his 8-6 height.

The Gophers have two foreign exchange students in Eldar Musayev and Joe Belhaj. Cox said he is not sure where they will fit in yet.

Freshman Memphis Harvey is splitting time with baseball and did pole vault in middle school. Freshman Maverick Dawson is also a baseball-track dual-sport athlete that will run the 400.

Freshman Jacob Wallace was a 400/800 runner in junior high, and Cox said they will see where he best fits because it will be hard to do both in high school.

Freshman Bryce Mendenhall will star on the 4x800 relay and possibly the 800. Freshman Tanner VanBuskirk will do the short sprints and might be on the 4x100 and 4x200 relays.

Sophomore Elle Livia Manns is coming off of a stellar freshman year that

saw her place 12th in the girls high jump regional with a 4-10 personal record.

"The work ethic needs to match the talent. She has all the potential to be a phenomenal high jumper. It's just a matter of are we going to put in the work to do it, and we know we are capable of it," Cox said.

Sophomore Anna Ramsey placed at the district meet in high jump, and will score some points for the Gophers throughout the season.

Reis Mendenhall is the lone senior on the roster and a talented sprinter, but will split her time between softball and track.

Junior Lauren Wingfield was a thrower in junior high, but didn't come out for track until this year. "She's doing a good job for us already and will be one of our top throwers by the end of the season," Cox said.

Sophomore Kaytlin Billenstein also threw in junior high, but is a newcomer. Sophomore Zoey Miller will help out in shot put and discus.

Sophomore Olivia Newland is a utility athlete for the track team, and will be playing softball this spring. She competes in a wide-range of events from shot put to relays to long jump.

Sophomore Kate Stahler is a short sprinter.

"She had a solid freshman year so we are looking forward to seeing her build on that in the 100 and the 200 and potentially in the relays," Cox said.

Sophomore Vaidea Knox is a pole vaulter, but had shoulder surgery in the offseason. Cox said she was recently cleared, so they're hoping she can contribute. If unable to vault, she will assist in relays and the short sprint events.

Freshman Kamy Kiser is a standout short sprinter.

"She ran indoor track and had a solid season. We are hoping that'll translate, especially in the 100. We're doing some 4x100 and 4x200 work as well," Cox said.

Darcy Ruppriht, Mike Bell and Chris James are assisting Cox with coaching.

GOPHERS



Members of the Ridgemont boys track and field team are, from the left, first row: Kolton Manns, Youssef Belhaj, Eldar Musayev, Dillon Hooker and Tanner VanBuskirk; second row: Memphis Harvey, Clayton Patterson, Kaine Ruppright, Patrick Stacklin and Luke Stacklin; third row: assistant coach Darcy Ruppright, Weston Nichols, Mason Swavel, Mason Howard, Jakob Wallace and Maverick Dawson; and back row: Aidan Hanson, Bryce Mendenhall, Landon Eaton, Carter Ruppright, assistant coach Chris James and assistant coach Mike Bell. Not pictured is head coach Nick Cox.



Members of the Ridgemont girls track and field team are, from the left, front row: Zoey Miller, Vaidea Knox, Anna Ramsey and Elle Livia Manns; middle row: Kate Stahler, Reis Mendenhall, Kamryn Kiser, Kaytlin Billenstein and Lauren Wingfield; and back row: assistant coach Chris James, Olivia Newland, assistant coach Darcy Ruppright and assistant coach Mike Bell. Not pictured is head coach Nick Cox.

SPARTANS



Members of the Calvary Christian track and field team are, from the left, front row: Gracie Gaertner, Abriley Krabill, Anna Knox and Makarios Kariuki; Ruby Slemmons, Anastacia Rogan, Madhuri Cook, Lexi Reames, Natalie Wish and Abigail Reinhard; and back row: Ian Willis, Clay Howard, John Gaertner, Elias Peterson, Ian Schmidt, Charles Krumm, Christian Rogan and Luke Gaertner.

SPARTANS

Spartans like their balance on track and field team

Calvary Christian's track and field team is not boasting big numbers this season, but the Spartans have the talent and balance to be very competitive.

"We are a smaller team, but well balanced across the events," said head coach Courtney Reinhard. "The kids are all great kids and their work ethic is phenomenal. They also are quick to encourage their

teammates."

The Spartans have 10 girls and nine boys on the team this spring.

Returning letterwinners for the girls team are seniors Madhuri Cook (sprints/relays), Lexi Reames (middle distance/throws), Abigail Reinhard (hurdles/sprints), Anastacia Rogan (sprints/jumps) and Ruby Slemmons (middle dis-

tance) and sophomore Gracie Gaertner (throws/sprints).

Rounding out the girls team are senior Natalie Wish (throws/middle distance), junior Anna Knox (jumps/sprints), sophomores Abriley Krabill (distance) and Makarios Kariuki (hurdles/sprints).

Returning letterwinners for the boys team are senior Clay Howard

(sprints/jumps), juniors Luke Gaertner (distance) and Ian Schmidt (throws/middle distance) and sophomores Christian Rogan (sprints/jumps) and John Gaertner (distance).

The remaining boys team members are senior Charles Krumm (throws/sprints/jumps), sophomore Gideon Soma (distance) and freshmen Elias Peterson (middle dis-

tance/distance) and Ian Willis (middle distance/throws).

Reinhard said the Spartans have three main goals in mind this season.

"We want to glorify God, have personal improvements from the beginning to the end of the season and compete well at districts," said the Spartans' head coach.

Since the Spartans don't

have their own track to practice on, they do have to work to create adequate practice time.

"Not having our own track is a down side, so we have to get creative with practices at times," said Reinhard. "It is a challenge for field events and hurdles, but we are thankful to have a nearby school that allows us to rent their facilities."



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