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# Examiner

SPORTS EXTRA

LOGAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

## WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW





# BENJAMIN LOGAN

## **RAIDERS**



### **2024-25 RAIDERS GIRLS BASKETBALL:**

FRONT Row (L to R): Elliott Butler, Bonnie Brunson, Daylin Varner, Lahna Cook, Molly Siefring, Miley Buettner, Bryleigh Burnside; BACK Row: Asst. Coach Tracy Gregg, Joplin Schneider, Aubrey Harris, Hailey Smith, Adilynne Gregg, Kaylee Hays, Kylie Harner, Head Coach Greg Saylor. (JEFF ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY)

# Lady Raiders turning to new faces for 2024

Greg Saylor is in charge for the third season. Last year, the Lady Raiders finished with a record of 6-4 in the Central Buckeye Conference, second in the Mad River division, and were 13-10 overall.

This year's team has just two returning letterwinners. Lahna Cook is the lone senior and is joined by junior Adilynne Gregg. They each averaged about four points per game last

year, along with four rebounds.

Other juniors on the roster are Aubrey Harris, Miley Buettner, and Kaylee Oglesbee. Rounding things out are sophomores Elliott Butler, Bonnie Brunson, Kylie Harner, Kaylee Hays, Lauren Kennedy, Molly Siefring and Alahna Rodriguez.

The freshmen include Bryleigh Burnside, Joplin Schneider, Madison

Shields, Hailey Smith, Daylin Varner, and Miya Willis.

Saylor said that this year's team is athletic. "We will focus on growth and understanding how to play the game," he said.

One area of focus for Ben Logan will be good decision making.

He looks for North Union and Graham to be among the top competitors for the league title.



Learn more by scanning here!



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# BENJAMIN LOGAN

## **RAIDERS**

### **Girls wrestling continues to build for Raiders**



This year's team has a mix of experience and youth, with three returning letter winners.

They are senior

Raegan Hites and juniors Sophia Harris and Livi Anchor.

Haley Bradley, a junior, is the team's other upperclassmen, and is

joined by freshmen Belen Palmer, Bella Hughes, Ella Stoodt, Mallory Chapman, and Addie Anderson.

Coach Bryan Newland returns for his second year.

"We will continue to build a program focusing on the fundamentals," said Newland.

He noted that the team has more than doubled in size from last year. "We return a couple girls with state experience and a few freshmen with middle school state tournament experience."

The Lady Raiders will continue to work hard, he said, since there is no league tournament.

#### **2024-25 RAIDERS GIRLS WRESTLING:**

FRONT Row (L to R): Belen Palmer, Mallory Chapman, Sophia Harris, Haley Bradley, Bella Hughes; BACK Row: Addison Anderson, Livi Achor, Raegan Hites, Ella Stoodt, Head Coach Bryan Newland. (JEFF ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY)

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# BENJAMIN LOGAN

## **RAIDERS**



### 2024-25 RAIDERS GIRLS SWIMMING

FRONT Row (L to R): Catherine Bramlage, Nora Kopus, Bailey Lewis, Kelley Forsythe, Fiona Sweeney, Annabelle Bingham; MIDDLE Row: Kaydence Hamlin, Montana Coleman, Junah Tingley, Annika Chappell, Leah Braddock, Charlotte Bodin, Kylie Curtis; BACK Row: Coach Schmidt, Annika Schmidt, Winifred Bodin, Maille Ricketts, Coach Sweeney. (JEFF ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY)



### 2024-25 RAIDERS BOYS SWIMMING

FRONT Row (L to R): Eric Hughes, Carter Yoder, Dylan Vance, Jerrik Stephens, Liam Sweeney; MIDDLE Row: Finch Hone, Colton Walley, Wyatt Gordon, Joseph Meeker, Gavin Jordan, Holden Zehner, Taavo Simovart; BACK Row: Coach Schmidt, Levi Hanson, Utah Coleman, Carter Daniels, Landon Braddock, Coach Sweeney. (JEFF ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY)

## Raiders swim teams are deep in the pool

### GIRLS

For the Lady Raiders, Andrea Schmidt will be the coach for a second season, having previously served in that role in 2021. She was also an assistant from 2017 to 2020.

The team has 16 total members, with seven of those returning letter winners.

The veterans are seniors Bailey Lewis and Kelley Forsythe, juniors Nora Kopus, Annika Chappell and Winnie Bodin and sophomores Catherine Bramlage, Maille Ricketts and Junah Tingley.

Other members are freshmen Annabelle Bingham, Lottie Bodin, Leah Braddock, Montana

Coleman, Kylie Curtis, Kaydence Hamlin, Annika Schmidt, and Fiona Sweeney.

"In my years of coaching," said Schmidt, "this team has the most accumulative experience of any team I've coached. There is also a great camaraderie among the girls which makes for a fun experience for all of us. This combination of experience and enthusiasm bodes well for the team's development."

Schmidt said that the team's goals include a top-three finish in the Central Buckeye Conference. "We have some returning upperclassmen in Chappell, Bodin and Forsythe who are all eager to drop time and see what

they can do this year."

She added that she is excited to see the development of the freshman group. "Every year, I am always excited to see our newer swimmers learn and develop as well. It is amazing what they can accomplish and seeing them improve week to week."

Regardless of experience, Schmidt said, "There is always room to improve. We are always working on our fitness and technique."

The keys to Ben Logan's success will be "a good attitude, being coachable and hard work. So far I've seen a lot of all of these this season. We also have the benefit of strong depth across

Continued on P7 >



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# BENJAMIN LOGAN

## **RAIDERS**

# Looking to move up in the ranks

Benjamin Logan's boys basketball team looks to improve this season and climb up the standings in the conference.

The Raiders finished 2-21 last year and were 2-8 in the Mad River division of the Central Buckeye Conference.

Scott Vermillion will hold the whistle for the fifth year.

Letter winners returning from last year's squad are senior guards Gavin Neeley and Collin Powell,

senior forward Ethan Miller and junior guard Cayden Brown, plus senior Camden Spriggs and junior Peyton Vermillion, who will be manning the post.

Helping them out at guard are senior Davin Meyers, junior Clayton Jenkins, sophomores Xavier Allen and Diesel Baughman, freshman Maddox Vermillion, and junior forward Roman Maxwell.

"We want to compete in more games and be a

contender on our side of the CBC," said Vermillion.

"Our guys seem to understand that we have to improve our effort and are buying into the new ideas that we are implementing," he said regarding the team's strong points. "Our biggest strength is knowing the abilities of each other and working together to get the most out of our strengths."

For ways to get better, Vermillion said, "We have



**2024-25 RAIDERS BOYS BASKETBALL:** FRONT row (L to R): Peyton Vermillion, Collin Powell, Camden Spriggs, Ethan Miller, Gavin Neeley, Davyn Myers, Clayton Jenkins; BACK row: Manager Anna Johns, Head Coach Scott Vermillion, Roman Maxwell, Maddox Vermillion, Cayden Brown, Diesel Baughman, Xavier Allen, Asst. Head Coach Joel Phillips. (JEFF ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY)

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to improve on both ends of the floor this year. It is critical that we increase our defensive intensity and take better shots on offense."

The Raiders will be seeking to learn from mistakes and make in-game adjustments quicker, he said. "If we can play as a team, and recognize each

other's strengths, I believe we have the opportunity to improve significantly. If we can improve the team shooting percentage we will be much more competitive," explained Vermillion.

Looking around the CBC, "I think anyone on our side could pull an upset any night of the week, but the first team that always needs to be considered is the returning champions. Indian Lake is probably the team to beat because of the success they have had the past couple of years."

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# BENJAMIN LOGAN

## **RAIDERS**

### **Raiders boys bowlers hoping to strike back**



#### **2024-25 RAIDERS BOYS BOWLING:**

FRON Row (L to R): Pierce Jenkins, Jace Lyons; MIDDLE Row: Dylan Stewart, Conner Chambers, Wyatt LeVan, Colton Klopfenstein, Asher Wade; BACK Row: Coach Kerri Sullivan, Jarrett Buckenroth, Landon Stoodt, Nate Davis, Caleb Knight, Head Coach Barney Sullivan. (JEFF ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY)

The Raiders boys bowlers bring back five members of last year's team that went 15-3 and won the Mad River division in the Central Buckeye Conference.

They were second at sectionals, fourth at districts, and wound up sixth in the Division II state tournament.

Barney Sullivan enters his third year as the team's coach.

The team has returning

seniors Caleb Knight, Jarrett Buckenroth, Landon Stoodt and Nate Davis, and sophomore Dylan Stewart.

Also contributing will be junior Wyatt LeVan and sophomore Colton Klopfenstein, plus the freshmen group of Asher Wade, Conner Chambers, Jace Lyons and Pierce Jenkins.

Sullivan said that the team wants to return to the state tournament and improve on its finish.

The team will look to combine the senior leadership and capabilities with the talents of the younger members. He added that their success will be based on teamwork, cohesiveness, talent and dedication.

"Spare shooting is always an area that can be improved upon," noted Sullivan.

He sees Kenton Ridge as among the teams to offer competition in the CBC.

### **Girls bowlers have plenty of experienced members return**

Experience is a big key for Benjamin Logan's girls bowling team.

The Raiders have five returning letterwinners from last season and are looking to improve upon a 5-11 record last season.

Tammy Poling has returned as the coach.

Ben Logan has four seniors, Lorali Klopfenstein, Reigan Thomas, Jacey Kohler and Gi Saunders. The junior members are Maddy Hamm, Hunter McCulloch, Kaydon Wilber and Natalie Chapman.

Klopfenstein, Thomas, Kohler and Hamm are letterwinners, plus sophomore Kaelyn Corwin.

Sophomore Aubrey Zedlitz and freshmen Makinzy Legge, Kailey McCollough and Hailey Stanley fill out the squad.

"The goal for this year will be to build on our strengths and to work on consistency as a team and to get more experience for the new underclassmen," said Poling.

She noted that four members with varsity experience is a big plus. "The girls work really well together as a team," Poling said.

Poling will also focus on improving the mechanics and skills for the team's new players.

"We will be working hard on skills, putting in the work and practicing on their own when they can," said Poling. "We are limited on time and days to practice, so the girls need to do some on their own." She expressed appreciation for T-P Lanes allowing the use

of the facility on Sundays for that practice.

In the Central Buckeye

Conference, Poling sees Graham and Urbana as the top competitors.



#### **2024-25 RAIDERS GIRLS BOWLING:**

FRONT Row (L to R): Kaydon Wilber, Maddy Hamm, Kaelyn Corwin, Hailey Stanley; MIDDLE Row: Hunter McCulloch, Jacey Koehler, Lorelei Klopfenstein, Gi Saunders, Reigan Thomas; BACK Row: Head Coach Tammy Poling, Natalie Chapman, Aubrey Zedlitz, Kailey McCollough, Makinzy Legge, Asst. Coach Deb Ward.



#### **2024-25 RAIDERS CHEERLEADERS:**

FRONT Row (L to R): Kate Gulick, Makayla Williamson, Skylar Miracle, Lexi Archer; MIDDLE Row: Storm LeVan, Caroline Spriggs, Leina Brunson; BACK Row: Gwen Smith, Lily Studebaker, Zoey Lavender. (JEFF ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY)



# BENJAMIN LOGAN

## **RAIDERS**

### The bar is set high for Raiders wrestling



#### 2024-25 RAIDERS BOYS WRESTLING

FRONT Row (L to R): Jeremiah Parker, Maxwell Troth, Bode Clapsaddle, Cole Somerlot, Maximus Clapsaddle; MIDDLE Row: Kyle Kibler, Ethan Carpenter, Hayden Hites, Owen Weaks, Cooper Buck, Levi Achor, Jordan Pender; BACK Row: Carter Buck, Daniel Koehler, Charles Neer, Cameron Roberts, Dylan Jordan, Kendall Plikerd. (JEFF ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY)

The Raiders' wrestlers bring back a boatload of district qualifiers and returning letter winners for this season.

Coach Kyle Seeley is marking a decade as the team's coach.

Last season, Ben Logan went 8-0 in dual meets and was second in the Central Buckeye Conference behind only perennial powerhouse Graham.

Returning letter winners include seniors Kendall Plikerd (150-157 pounds) and Owen Jordan (190-215); junior Carter Buck (126-132); and seven sophomores. They are Cooper Buck (120-126); Kyle Kibler (132-138); Owen Weaks (138-144); Jordan Pender (144-150); Hayden Hites (165-175); Ethan Carpenter (175-190) and Levi Anchor (190-215).

Also stepping into the circle will be seniors

Charles Neer (113-120), Cameron Roberts (157-165); sophomores Holden Woodruff (113-120), Maximus Clapsaddle (144-150), Maxwell Troth (150-157), Cole Somerlot (165-175); and freshmen Jeremiah Parker (113-120) and Bode Clapsaddle (138-144).

"We believe a huge strength this season is the competitiveness in the room," said Seeley. "With nine returning district qualifiers, state qualifier Cooper Buck and state alternates Owen Weaks and Hayden Hites, that have high experience at high levels of competition, the practice room will be competing every day. This season is an 'iron sharpens iron' mentality."

He noted that the grapplers will look to sharpen their mental focus and overcome adversity before

and during matches. "Wrestling is known to be 90 percent mental when out on the mat, and we need to be tougher when we face adversity, because as student athletes they will face it on and off the mat."

To achieve success this season, Seeley pointed again to competition and the mentality of "it hurts to win."

"Wrestling is a long season and victory often comes with pain, sacrifice and the willingness to push through discomfort," he said. "Our wrestlers have to stay committed, keep grinding, understand that winning hurts. But embracing that pain is what sets champions apart." He added that remaining healthy will be a challenge due to the grind of the season.

## BL SWIM TEAMS

### Continued from Page 4

all strokes, which allows us to fill events strategically at meets," said Schmidt.

She expects Northwestern to be among the top competition in the league.

#### BOYS

The boys team is under the direction of Mitch Sweeney for a fourth season.

Last year, they took first place in the Mad River division of the Central Buckeye Conference.

The team has 16 athletes,

with an even dozen being returning letterwinners.

The latter group is made up of seniors Jerrick Stephens, Liam Sweeney, Dylan Vance and Carter Yoder; juniors Landon Braddock, Utah Coleman, Carter Daniels, Finch Hone, Joseph Meeker, Taavo Simovart, and sophomores Wyatt Gordon and Colton Walley

Others on the deck will be senior Eric Hughes, junior Holden Zehner, sophomore Gavin Jordan, and freshman Levi Hanson.

"This is the most experi-

enced, deepest and largest team I have coached," said Sweeney. "We will be able to have a full slate of swimmers for the conference championship meet, which is a huge step to winning the conference. On top of that the swimmers we do have are very good and have a chance at being named to an all-conference team." He added that early morning practices result in attracting swimmers who are willing to put in effort to improve.

Ways the Raiders will look to improve are the ability to push through being

tired. "Many of our swimmers haven't realized their full potential," said Sweeney. He hopes that the veterans are able to pass those lessons on to the younger team members.

The season goals consist of winning league and sectional titles and reaching the podium at the district meet.

The other schools with full teams in the CBC are London and Bellefontaine. He noted that there will also be a number of individual swimmers in the hunt for conference titles.

# INDIAN LAKE **LAKERS**



## 2024-25 LAKERS BOYS BASKETBALL

Front row, from left: Jaxon Snipes, Weston Campbell, Madden Lillard, and Cooper Hall. Back row: Coach Josh Shelton, Tyler Tidwell, Colin Bendler, Brodey Reisinger, Avery Pequinot, Coach Seth Bodenmiller, and head coach Zach Overturf.

## Laker boys are seeking to gain experience

The Lakers come into this season with just one senior on the roster, and three returning lettermen.

Last season, Indian Lake was 10-0 in the Central Buckeye Conference and 19-6 overall.

Letterwinners are senior Madden Lillard, junior Avery Pequinot and sophomore Brodey Reisinger.

Helping them out will be juniors Weston Campbell and Cooper Hall

and sophomores Jaxon Snipes, Colin Bendler, and Tyler Tidwell.

Zach Overturf returns for a sixth season as the head coach. "We want to go 1-0 each day, and be playing our best basketball after the first of the year."

He said that "we have a group of guys who just like to compete no matter the circumstances. I think we saw that with the run our football guys went on. It's a group that brings different

skills to the table and are willing to just put their head down and work."

Overturf said that the players "will be seeing stuff at the varsity level for the first time. We just have to continue to put them in spots to be successful and control what we can control."

The Lakers will seek to be difficult to guard with ball movement and body

Continued on P14 >

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# INDIAN LAKE **LAKERS**

*Lakers have small but dedicated group of swimmers*



## 2024-25 INDIAN LAKE BOYS & GIRLS SWIMMING TEAMS

LEFT: Standing (L to R): Titus Kelly, Gavin Spring, Caleb Altstaetter, Matthew Culp, Crew McPherson, Coach Lori Zarnosky; RIGHT (L to R): Dani Braun, Reagan Rash, Evie Wagner, Quinn Imm, Coach Lori Zarnosky.

Making up this year's team are five boys and four girls.

The boys are senior Caleb Altstaetter, juniors Matthew Culp, Titus Kelly and Gavin Spring and sophomore Crew McPherson.

The girls members are juniors Danica Braun, Reagan Rash, and Evie Wagner plus sophomore Quinn Imm.

Coach Lori Zarnosky is in her 12th season with the program.

Last season, the boys

were fifth in the Central Buckeye Conference and the girls were sixth.

"Going to districts is always a goal," said Zarnosky. "The boys were alternates last year, but we'd like to qualify this year."

She noted that all the boys swimmers are returning, so they should be a strong group.

The girls are mostly newcomers, but Zarnosky said they are working very hard.

Keys for the Lakers' success will be continuous improvement and dropping times.

She expects Bellefontaine and Jonathan Alder to be among the main competitors in the league.



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# INDIAN LAKE **LAKERS**



## 2024-25 LAKERS GIRLS BASKETBALL

FLOOR (L to R): manager Owen Strayer and manager Kaylee Hurley; SEATED: Carly Strayer, Mackenzie Dixon, Kennedy Schwaderer, Rya Pequignot; STANDING: Coach Yasmy Inskip, Coach Kaylee Shelton, Coach Todd Inskip, Brylee Buyer, Courtney Altstaetter, Alivia Kinney, Haley Metzger, Coach Renee Metzger, and Coach Mike Pequignot.

## Lakers look to climb in the CBC standings

The Indian Lake High School girls varsity basketball team is gearing up for the 2024 season with a focus on building a strong team culture and striving for success in the Central Buckeye Conference.

Under the leadership of head coach Yasmy Inskip, now in her third season, the Lakers aim to improve upon last year's 8-15 record and fourth-place league finish.

Returning letter winners Mackenzie Dixon, Carly Strayer and Kennedy Schwaderer help

lead a roster that features a blend of experience and youthful talent. Dixon, a senior, provides leadership and stability, while juniors Strayer and Schwaderer bring versatility and defensive prowess to the team.

Sophomore contributors include Haley Metzger, at guard, and Courtney Altstaetter, a strong presence at center. A talented group of freshmen—Brylee Buyer, Alivia Kinney and Rya Pequignot—adds depth and energy to the lineup.

Inskip is optimistic about the team's potential this year, emphasizing a focus on core values such as sisterhood, respect, hard work, and toughness.

"Our goal is to maximize our potential individually and as a team," said Inskip. "We're working hard to build a strong team culture and establish an identity rooted in defense, rebounding, and taking care of the basketball."

One of the team's strengths lies in its roster's versatility. Many players can handle the ball effectively, play on the perimeter and defend multiple positions. This flexibility will be crucial as the Lakers work to improve their consistency in key areas like defense, rebounding, and ball handling.

Inskip also highlighted the importance of staying healthy and injury-free to allow the team to develop chemistry and perform at its best.

"We need to defend at a high level, rebound well, and take care of the ball each game," she said. "Efficient offense and strong team leadership will be keys to our success."

The CBC promises to

be competitive this year, with North Union standing out as the team to beat after dominating the league with an undefeated record over the past three seasons. However, Coach Inskip believes the race for the league title is wide open, with all teams returning quality players.

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# INDIAN LAKE **LAKERS**



## 2024-25 LAKERS GIRLS WRESTLING

FRONT Row (L to R): Lili Mackesy, Diem Martin, Izzi Mackesy, Annie Rapp, Karsyn Newkirk. Standing, from left, Graysen Dowden, Addyson Roby, Myiah Ankrom, Maddie Miller, Riley Shaner, Kiylee Haude, Augusta Biederman, and head coach Philip Mackesy.

## *Lakers girls wrestlers are staying prepared*

Philip Mackesy has taken over as the team's coach.

They are led by juniors Riley Shaner, Augusta Biederman, Kiylee Haude, Annie Rapp, Maddie Miller and Lili Mackesy.

Shaner, Haude and Miller all qualified for the state tournament last year and Biederman finished sixth at regionals.

Joining them are sophomores Myiah Ankrom and

Addyson Roby, plus freshmen Karsyn Newkirk, Diem Martin, and Izzi Mackesy.

"Our strengths are having girls that have had early success and already expect to repeat what they accomplished the previous year," said Mackesy. "That will help carry over to the girls that are new to the sport."

He said that the goal is to become the best version of themselves.

"Wrestling is a sport

that takes doing it to prepare," Mackesy said, "and all I want is for us to keep getting better day to day and week to week and we will be where we want when it matters."

He added that success "is based on their accountability to be the best they can be and challenge themselves every single day at practice and on their own."

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# INDIAN LAKE

## LAKERS



### 2024-25 LAKERS GIRLS BOWLING

FRONT Row (L to R): Kylee Harford, Kacie Craft, Addison Castle, Raelyn Horne; BACK row: Coach Sue Bishop, Raelynn Richmond, Payton Davis, Chassy Dolan, Rena Knox.

## Girls bowlers keep rolling right along

Sue Bishop returns for her second season with the Lady Lakers. She had previously coached nine years at Granville.

The roster for this year's team includes three returning letterwinners — junior Addison Castle, and sophomores Kacie Craft and Raelyn Horne.

Others on the team are sophomore Raelynn Richmond and freshmen Payton Davis, Chassy Dolan, Kylee Harford, and Rena Knox.

Last season, Indian Lake was 10-6. Bishop said the goals for this season are to have fun and make it to the state tournament.

She notes that Castle, Craft and Horne gained experience in competition last year.

The team will look to improve its converting of spares and learning how to read the lanes.

The keys to success, Bishop said, are the right equipment and practicing and mastering spare

shooting.

In the Central Buckeye Conference, she sees Bellefontaine as one of the main competitors.

## Indian Lake's boys bowlers are trying to climb the ladder

Brad Hoover returns for the sixth season as the coach. The team was 1-15 last season.

There are three returning letter winners — junior Cody Jacobs and sophomores Tommy Jones and Brody Black.

Also rolling out for the Lakers are senior Ethan Kirkpatrick, juniors Jeremiah Galbraith, Kadin Howard, and sophomores Orion Reames, Gabe Stidam, and Pierce Ginn.

"I would like to improve our record in the conference," said Hoover. "I would like to see the team advance through sectionals."

He added that many of the members have improved during the offsea-

son. "This brings a lot of opportunities to the team this year," he noted.

A big focus will be converting spares. "We miss a lot of single pins, and making spares is a quick way to increase scores quickly," said Hoover.

He noted that the Central Buckeye Conference is a very competitive conference. "I plan to see many of our teams and individuals advance at the end of the season," Hoover said.



### 2024-25 LAKERS BOYS BOWLING

FRONT Row (L to R): Orion Reames, Jeremiah Galbraith, Brody Black, Kadin Howard; BACK row: Ethan Kirkpatrick, Cody Jacobs, Thomas Jones, Gabe Stidam, Coach Brad Hoover.

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to all local teams!*



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# INDIAN LAKE **LAKERS**



## 2024-25 INDIAN LAKE BOYS WRESTLING

FRONT Row (l to r): Bryce Dawson, JJ Shirk, Zaiden Bates, Jordan Henderson, Kimsey Kennedy, Cash Scott, Brayden Riffell, Bronx Dickson, Max Solomon; MIDDLE Row: Dawson Stevenson, Draden Stevenson, Dalton Fullerton, Gavin Henry, Czar Dickson, Noah Shirk, Keshawn Blackwell, Collin Seymour, Bryan Mohler, Brodie Sargent; BACK Row: Head Coach Ryan Dickson, Adrian Crumley, Lucas Chamberlin, Blake McVety, Aaron Rapp, Logan Hale, Tristan Shoffner, Owen Pummel, Taylor Clem, Christopher Timms, Zander Davis, Coach Thomas Taylor.

## Lakers have plenty of help on the mat

The Lakers boys wrestling team has 14 returning lettermen plus a large group of new faces for this year's campaign.

Returning letter winners are seniors Czar Dickson, Owen Pummel, Taylor Clem Zander Davis, and Tristan Shoffner, juniors Gavin Henry, Noah Shirk, Christopher Timms, Draden Stevenson, Silas Holbrook, and Keshawn Blackwell, plus sophomores Logan Hale, Zaiden Bates, and Dalton Fullerton.

They will be joined by senior Bryan Mohler and sophomores Collin Seymour, Max Solomon. The freshmen group includes Bronx Dickson, Lucas Chamberlain, Kimsey Kennedy, Blake McVety, Dawson Stevenson, Bryce Dawson, Brodie Sargent, Cash Scott, Brayden Riffle, Jordan Henderson, Aaron Rapp, and J.J. Shirk.

Starting his ninth season will be Ryan Dickson. Last year, the Lakers were fourth overall in the Central Buckeye Conference. They placed third at sectionals and were

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Continued on P14 >



# INDIAN LAKE LAKERS

## IL BOYS WRESTLING

from Page 13

eighth at the district tournament.

"We believe one of our greatest strengths is our excellent mix of youth and experience on this team.," said Dickson. "The leadership we have on this team with our seniors is something special and the

excitement the young guys bring is really fun to be around, making our job as coaches exciting and tons of fun. Our numbers are great which will lead to healthy competition in the room and make for an exciting season."

The team's goals are to improve each week and peak at the end of the sea-

son, he said.

Other keys "are first and foremost staying healthy and being grateful for the opportunities that we are presented. If we are grateful and approach each day with enthusiasm, we'll have great fun and a very successful season," Dickson said.

## IL BOYS BASKETBALL

Continued from Page 8

movement, Overturf said. On defense, the team will need to communicate well and rebound at a high level.

The Lakers will face

plenty of competition in the CBC. "There are a lot of teams that return a good chunk of their roster," said Overturf. "North Union returns a good team, Northwestern has a talented sophomore class.

Ben Logan returns a lot of guys and are senior loaded. Graham has their leading scorers coming back and Shawnee is always good. It should set us up for good basketball on Friday nights."



### 2024-25 LAKERS CHEERLEADERS

FRONT Row (L to R): Addison Beck, Kiera Penny, Makenna Hurley; MIDDLE Row: Grace Johnson, Ryanna Gross, Ava Faler, Riley Ross; BACK Row: Kolten Manahan  
Not pictured: Coaches Jamie Ross and Michelle Parsell

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# RIVERSIDE PIRATES



**2024-25 RIVERSIDE GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
FRONT Row (L to R): Maddie Lemly, Miah Carman, Aubree Huston, Avery Perk, Kenna Johnson, Emilee Robinson; BACK Row: Head Coach: Scott Mann, Asst. Coach Kyle Knight, Kenzie Stotler, Randi Doyle, Molly Carman, Chloe Purtee, Valerie Knight, JV Coach Megan Graves, Managers: Preston Burchett, Khai Johnson.

## Lady Pirates hoping hard work pays off on the hardwood this season

Scott Mann leads the Riverside girls basketball team for his second year with five returning letter winners.

The team was 8-15 overall last season, going 4-10 in the Three Rivers Conference.

Letterwinners are seniors Avery Park and Aubree Huston and sophomores Emilee Robinson, Kenna Johnson and Madalyn Lemley.

Joining them on the floor will be sophomore Miah Carman and freshmen Randi Doyle, Chloe Purtee, Mckenzie Stotler, Molly Carmen and Valerie

Knight.

“We want to play hard and reach double digit wins,” said Mann. “We also want to start winning tournament games.”

“The strength of this team is definitely their work ethic,” he said. “They have really worked hard through the preseason.”

The Pirates will look to improve their shooting percentage, said Mann, defend at a high level and limit turnovers.

For the competition, Mann said he sees Miami East, Northridge and Covington as all very solid programs.



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# RIVERSIDE PIRATES

## Pirate boys looking to compete in TRC



### 2024-25 RIVERSIDE BOYS BASKETBALL

FRONT Row (L to R): Brody Orsborne, Damien Smith, Jaxon Woods, Gavin Orsborne, Landon Purtee and Braylon Dunn; BACK Row: Coach Jayden Burchett, Camden Shoe, Hayden Sanford, Blaine Shoe, Syler Clark, Colton Hurley, Corbin Reed, head coach Tim Woods.

The Pirates boys basketball team comes into this season with three returning letter winners and seek to improve on last year's finish of 10-12 (5-9 Three Rivers Conference).

Tim Woods is back for a fourth season as coach. He said that this year's team "has solid guard play with good shooters, and a big (player) that can make the right reads out of the post."

Senior guard Gavin Orsborne (5-foot-10), senior forward Jaxon

Woods (6-2) and senior guard Landon Purtee (5-9) are the letter winners.

The rest of the roster includes seniors center Carter Kreglow (6-5), forward Braylon Dunn (5-10) and guard Damien Smith (6-1); juniors guard Hayden Sanford (6-0), Blaine Shoe (5-9) and freshman guard Brody Orsborne (6-0).

"Defensively we need to lock it in on every possession this year. We can't afford to have let-downs on this end of the floor," said Woods.

"Our goals are to compete every night we step on the floor," he said.

Keys for success are "staying healthy, keeping guys out of foul trouble and being in better shape than our opponents."

Looking at the rest of the Three Rivers Conference, "This year the league is wide open. We graduated some really good talent across the board from the TRC last year," said Woods.



### 2024-25 RIVERSIDE CHEERLEADERS

STANDING (L to R): Morgan Shockey, Kamdyn Ireland, Shasta Dunn, Brook Hunkler, Bre Brandyberry, Alex Thuel, Cayman Courter, Mariah Williams

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# RIVERSIDE PIRATES

## Riverside's bowlers bring experience to the lanes

Zerah Crouch returns for his 11th season as the boys bowling coach.

The lineup consists of seniors Aidden Manning and Kaitlyn Jackson, juniors Zavier Herron and Gabe Stienman, and sophomores Jace Lemly and Cooper Crouch.

The Pirates were 10-4 last year in the regular season. The Three Rivers Conference does not have league competition for bowling.

"Strengths with this

team are returners who know how to work at getting better," said Crouch. "We have a solid core and each one of them have improved from last year."

He said that the goals are to make it out of sectionals and qualify for the state tournament.

As for ways to improve, "my main focus will be spare shooting and reading the lanes," Crouch said. "There is always room for improvement in those two areas."

He said that for the Pirates to have success, "if the team can come together as a unit and have good chemistry they can be successful. Physically, the game is there with execution and teamwork."

Area competition for Riverside are Mechanicsburg and West Liberty-Salem. Also, he said, "I expect Ben Logan to be by far the most talented team we will see. They have an excellent team coming back this season."



### 2024-25 PIRATES BOWLING

FRONT Row (L to R): Gabe Steineman, Cooper Crouch, Zavier Herron; BACK Row: Coach Jaime Yelton, Aidden Manning, Kaitlynn Jackson, Jace Lemly, Coach Zerah

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# TRIAD CARDINALS

## Girls basketball team aims to be a tight-knit bunch



### 2024-25 TRIAD GIRLS BASKETBALL

FRONT row (L to R): Coach Erica Trainer, Bre Parsons, Mia LeMay, Abbey Overfield, Lillian Fitak, Coach Millice; BACK row: Gracie Martin, Emma Bailey, Melissa Graham, Taylor Queen, Jazz Ford, April Hillman, Lillian Allison.

The Lady Cardinals are looking to rebuild after losing three starters from last year, and have just 11 on the roster in all.

"We need to focus on chemistry and getting this group to gel together and step into some new roles," said Coach Erica Trainer. "We need to be able to make up for some points lost to graduation as well as rebounds. We are working hard on defense and trying to strategize with our low numbers on how best to keep our stamina up. We are focusing on players' skills right now, and getting better every day."

Returning letterwinners for Triad include seniors Abbey Overfield and Mia LeMay, junior Gracie Martin and sophomore Jazz

Ford. Bre Parsons and Melissa Graham are other varsity players.

Splitting time between varsity and JV will be April Hillman, Bre Parsons, Lillian Fitak, Lilly Allison, and Emma Bailey. Due to the limited number of players, the junior varsity contests will be only two quarters.

Overfield averaged 7.4 points per game last year, shooting 31 percent from the field and 48 percent at the free throw line. She also averaged 5.8 rebounds and 2.3 steals per game. She led the team in assists with 49 (2.1 per game).

LeMay had the highest field goal percentage last season at 42 percent. She also contributed an average of 8 points, 8.6 rebounds,

and 3 blocks per game.

"The three goals that we had last year to improve upon we are still keeping as goals for this season — limit turnovers, better shooting percentages and breaking the press. So we have designed the season and our practices to focus on those three areas," said Trainer.

Trainer said that the team makes up in speed what it lacks in size, and the Cardinals are looking to be very aggressive on defense.

In the Ohio Heritage Conference, Trainer said that Fairbanks and West Liberty-Salem in the north, and Madison Plains and Southeastern for the South Division should be the top teams.

## Cardinals boys basketball seeks to improve record



### 2024-25 TRIAD BOYS BASKETBALL

FRONT row (L to R): Colton Thomas, Gavyn Heitman, Landon Tomlin, Cohen Millice, Andrew Nott, Makye Gaston; BACK row: Caleb Thomas, Brayden Hoffman, Holden LeVan, Karson Meeker, Adler Perry, Braelyn Feasel, and Evan Dorn.

Triad is aiming to fly higher.

The Cardinals, led by Adam Moore, are coming off a 5-18 season in 2023-24. They were fourth in the Ohio Heritage Conference North division, going 4-12 in league action.

This year's team has five letterwinners back on the court. They are seniors Brayden Hoffman, Caleb Thomas, Holden LeVan, Braelyn Feasel and Adler Perry.

Hoffman averaged 4.5 points per game and 3.4 rebounds. Feasel averaged 1.7 points and 1.6

rebounds, and Perry had averages of 2.2 points and 1.4 rebounds for the Cardinals.

Other seniors are Evan Dorn and Karson Meeker. Junior players are Andrew Nott, Makye Gaston, Gavyn Heitman, and Jayden Thomas. Filling out the roster are sophomores Cohen Millice, Colton Thomas, and Landon Tomlin.

"We are bigger and stronger," said Moore, "and should be able to rebound the basketball better than in years past."

Moore said the team

needs to learn to handle pressure, take care of the ball, and be more efficient on the offensive end.

Goals for the year, he said, "are to consistently compete for four quarters, respond to adversity and play together."

Moore said that the Cardinals will aim to get better each day and play the best basketball at the end of the season.

In the OHC North, Moore expects a lot of tough competition. "We expect Fairbanks and West Liberty-Salem to be the most well rounded teams."



# TRIAD CARDINALS



## 2024-25 TRIAD BOYS WRESTLING

FRONT row (L to R): Noah Campbell, Michael Gregg, Wyatt Smith, Blayk Thomas; BACK row: Kyle Welborn, Jordan Simmons, Garret Bollack, Cayden Everhart, Awesom Mitchell, Logan Harper, Steven Caracanas, Derek Sharp.

## Triad to put out a strong group of middleweights on the mat this season

The Cardinals will have enough to fill about half of the 14 weight classes this season.

Derek Sharp returns for his third season as coach.

Triad has five returning letter winners — senior Awesom Mitchell, juniors Micheal Gregg and Garret Bollack, and sophomores Wyatt Smith and Blayk Thomas.

Rounding out the roster are senior Cayden Everhart, junior Steven Caracanas and sophomore Noah Campbell.

Gregg is listed at 120 pounds. Moving up the scale, it will be Smith at 138, Bollack at 144, Thomas at 150, Everhart

at 157, Campbell and Caracanas at 165 and Mitchell at 175 pounds.

“We have a room full of leaders,” said Sharp. “Each member on the team holds themselves and their teammates to a high expectation of excel-

lence.”

In order to have a good season, Sharp said, they will need “accountability amongst the athletes to prepare one another throughout the season. Also, controlling the variables we can control, such

as our attitude and effort for the entirety of the season.”

He added that he expects the wrestlers to strive for improvement as athletes and individuals.

Sharp listed goals as winning the Ohio Heritage Conference title and qualifying wrestlers for the state tournament.

“Every member in our lineup has the ability and potential to be in the finals at the league tournament,” Sharp said.

## 2024-25 TRIAD GIRLS WRESTLING

STANDING (l to r): Lindsay Walborn, Coach Madison Sharp, Rachel Haser.



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# TRIAD CARDINALS

## Triad bowling programs continue growth



### 2024-25 TRIAD GIRLS BOWLING

FRONT Row (L to R): Sophomore Christina Isaacs, Sophomore Adyson Feasel, Sophomore Railynn Robinson; BACK Row: Coach Kurtis Donnersbach, Senior Madison Wells, Freshman Isabella Russell. NOT PICTURED - Sophomore Natalie Burton.

Triad has expanded its winter sports roster this year with the addition of a girls bowling team

Kurtis Donnersbach will serve as the team's coach. The roster includes senior Madison Wells, sophomores Railynn Robinson and Christina Isaacs, and freshmen Isabella Russell and Addison Feasel.

Donnersbach said that the goals are for the girls to work hard and improve every day.

"We are looking for

progress each match, and I think the girls have come together as a team quickly," said Donnersbach. "That will help a lot through the bowling season. We have quite a few of the girls that stay after practice to get extra bowling in, so the desire to be here and want to improve is there too."

Donnersbach said that since the team is new, "the big thing being emphasized is getting meaningful reps in and growing as a team. If we continue to do

things the right way, we will get good results."

He said that the Lady Cardinals will focus on "making sure we do the little things right. That means taking care of our work in the classroom and being present and attentive at practices. When we consistently focus on those things, progress will happen."

In the Ohio Heritage Conference, Donnersbach said Mechanicsburg has a competitive team year after year.



### 2024-25 TRIAD BOYS BOWLING

FRONT Row (L to R): Junior Cayden Organ, Junior Erron Donohoe, Junior Mason Malone; BACK Row: Coach Ryan Bebout, Senior Noah Meadows, Sophomore William Benton.

#### BOYS

The boys bowlers program enters its second season, with Ryan Bebout returning as the head coach.

Good news for the Cardinals is that all five of the varsity members bring experience from last season.

They are senior Noah Meadows, juniors Cayden Organ, Erron Donohoe and Mason Malone and sophomore William Benton. There are also five

members on the junior varsity, as the program continues to grow.

"We're still fairly new in the OHC bowling world. We're pretty excited about it," said Bebout.

The team went 1-13 last season, and Bebout said that one of the team's goals is to improve the win total.

Another main focus will be getting over the 2,000-pin total benchmark in matches.

"Once we get over that,

it will instill a lot of confidence in the kids," Bebout said.

He noted the Cardinals will work to improve all aspects, including converting spares. "As long as they are improving, I'm happy," he said.

Bebout said they will look to keep their confidence and not get discouraged if they lose matches.

Bebout added that qualifying for the district tournament at the end of the season would be quite an achievement.



# WEST LIBERTY SALEM **TIGERS**



## 2024-25 TIGERS GIRLS BASKETBALL

FRONT Row (l to r): Belle Sarver, Isla Leichty, Addie Wallen, Maddie McGill, Ava Jonson, Ava Astorino, Grace Jones, Ellery Wygal; BACK Row: Coach Stan King, Coach Danielle Turner, Arianna Weaver, Lucy Cole, Ava Poppe, head coach Dennis McIntosh, Coach Aaron Hollar.

## *WL-S girls basketball team will be learning on-the-go this winter*

Coach Dennis McIntosh is back as the team's head coach. Last season, the Lady Tigers finished 21-5 overall and were 14-2 in the Ohio Heritage Conference.

They were second in the North division behind Mechanicsburg.

Letter winners returning from last season are senior guard Ava Johnson, senior post Maddie McGill and junior guard Ava Astorino.

Last season, Astorino had a team-high 11.3 points per game.

The rest of the squad consists of junior Ava Poppe, sophomore Belle Sarver, and freshmen Lucy Cole, Addi Wallen and Arianna Weaver.

"We are very young," said McIntosh. "We will focus on working to get better every day and learning to play together. We want to be playing our best basketball in

February."

He pointed to rebounding and quickness as the team's strong points. The keys for success are playing great defense, rebounding and staying healthy.

"We are hoping to get to know each other's strengths and become more consistent offensively," McIntosh said.

He feels the North division will be very balanced this season.

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# WEST LIBERTY-SALEM **TIGERS**



## 2024-25 TIGERS BOYS BASKETBALL:

FRONT Row (l to r): Jackson Barth, Braxton Loudon, Troy Christison, Brevin Louden, Garrett Wallen, Sutton Wilcoxon, Elin Leichty, Greyson Leichty; BACK Row: Coach Steve Barth, Coach Mike Louden, Coach Dillon Calliccoat, Sam Strapp, Isaiah Reames, Caleb Hershberger, Taran Logwood, Carson Poppe, Coach Sean King, head coach Darrin Leichty.

## Tigers on solid foundation with boys hoops squad

The Tigers went 14-2 in the Ohio Heritage Conference's North division, sharing the title with Fairbanks. Their overall record was 17-6.

Back for a 12th season at WL-S is Darrin Leichty.

The squad has five returning lettermen, with three seniors and two juniors.

The seniors are forwards Taran Logwood and Isaiah Reames and guard Caleb Hershberger. Juniors are

guard Brevin Louden and Carson Poppe.

Rounding out the varsity roster are juniors Garrett Wallen and Sam Strapp, both forwards, and sophomore guards Sutton Wilcoxon and Troy Christison.

Logwood led the team last year with 16.6 points and 8.7 rebounds per game. Louden had 10.9 points and 4.2 assists per game.

Leichty said that the

goals "are to to play our best each time out on the court, compete on every possession, win the conference, and develop new goals for the postseason."

"Our team should be a quick and scrappy team, which will allow us to cause turnovers," Leichty said. "Rebounding will also be something that has been a strength over the

Continued on P25

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# WEST LIBERTY SALEM **TIGERS**

## Tigers wrestling program growing stronger every day

West Liberty-Salem has 15 boys for this year's wrestling lineup, with the majority of them as returning letterwinners.

Coach Andy Hartshorn enters year number five as the leader of the pack.

Senior Gideon Cole leads the returning letterwinners, being joined by junior Lucas Merriman and sophomores

Madden Kilgore, Lance Saylor, Tyler Langhardt, Silas Krabill, Eli Sertell and Maverick Reames.

Freshmen members are Robert Park, Timothy Krabill, Sam Bradford, Wyatt Shoemaker, Zayden Schaffer, Parker Harrington and Derek Wall.

"I think our numbers are the first big strength of this

year's team," said Hartshorn. "My first year, we had four kids. This will be my fifth year, and we have close to 20 boys and girls."

He also noted the added experience. "While they are still mostly sophomores, they still have exposure to a

Continued on P24



### 2024-25 TIGER BOYS WRESTLING

FRONT row (L to R): Derek Wall, Lucas Merriman, Madden Kilgore, Lance Saylor, Wyatt Shoemaker, Zayden Shafer; BACK row: Coach Andy Hartshorn, Timothy Krabill, Tyler Langhardt, Maverick Reames, Sam Bradford, Eli Sertell, Robert Park, Silas Krabill, Coach Ben Griffith



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### 2024-25 TIGER GIRLS WRESTLING

STANDING (L to R): Coach Ben Griffith, Brianna Blair, Shelby Vincent, Jenna Cline, Chloe Griffith, Coach Andy Hartshorn



# WEST LIBERTY SALEM **TIGERS**



## 2024-25 WEST LIBERTY-SALEM SWIM

FRONT (L to R): Aylivia Miller, Laney Craig, Lydia Schmidt; BACK: Kam Hissong.

## West Liberty-Salem's swimmers will focus on individual goals

The Tigers have four competitors for the swimming and diving season. They are Laney Craig, Lydia Schmidt and Aylivia Miller for the girls, and Kamden Hissong as the lone male competitor.

Craig is a senior, Hissong and Schmidt are juniors and Miller is a freshman.

Lou Kramer is back for the eighth season as the coach.

"Each athlete is a returning swimmers and continues to improve each year," said Kramer.

"The team is short on numbers. Because of this, the focus will be on individual improvement," he added. "To swim fast in February, you have to put in the work in November."

## WL-S WRESTLING

very challenging varsity schedule."

Hartshorn will also look to the newcomers to contribute. "Our freshman class is going to a strong element of our team as the year progresses. They will certainly take their lumps. But they have exceptional character, and they are hard workers."

The team's goals include peaking at the end of the season, winning a conference championship and advancing to the district and state tournaments. Last year, they took third place at the conference tournament.

"I think we still ultimate-

ly need to find some student leadership on our team. We have a lot of guys and girls who possess strong leadership skills. But we still haven't seen one step up in a big way and actually lead the team."

He sees that as a big key to the team's success. "It is not enough for coaches to hold them accountable," said Hartshorn. "They need to see one of their peers stepping up and leading the charge in the same way and be willing to hold the team accountable."

Also, he said, "we need to

see buy in from our wrestlers. Any system, if thought out properly, can be successful in competition. But if your team doesn't completely trust it and buy into it, it will be applied the right way."

In the rest of the OHC, he said that Mechanicsburg and Greeneview are both well-coached.

For the girls team, there are four members this year. They are junior Chloe Griffith, sophomores Shelby Vincent and Jenna Cline and freshman Brianna Blair. Griffith and Cline have experience from last year.

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## TIGERS

### WL-S BOYS BASKETBALL

From Page 22

past several years, and I see this as a huge advantage again this year.”

With the extended playoff run by the football team, Leichty noted that

team chemistry is still developing.

He said that the team is willing to work together. “I think we will have a team that can share the basketball and feed the guys who have the hot hand from night to night.”

Mechanicsburg, Northeastern and Fairbanks are the teams he pointed to as those that will provide tough league competition. “Hopefully, we will be battling it out for a league title at the end of the season.”



#### CHEERING ON THE TIGERS

FRONT Row (l to r): Anna Cole, Shyanne McClintick, Araina Irving, and Ava Chamberlain; BACK row: Eliza Halterman, Geneva Estep, Savannah McClintick, Ellery Wygal, Addyson Mattox, Emery Longaberger.



Carson Poppe of West Liberty-Salem dribbles during a boys basketball game against Southeastern last season. (EXAMINER FILE PHOTO)



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# BELLEFONTAINE

## CHIEFTAINS



### 2024-25 BELLEFONTAINE BOYS BASKETBALL:

FRONT Row (l to r): Jamison Clement, Jair Mundy, Avery Stahl, Jacob Salyer, Zylar Huffman, Patrick Stolly, Grayson Lotts. BACK Row (l to r): Coach Josh Jones, Reign St. Clair, Blake Loomis, A.J. Conaway, C.J. Butler, Spencer Stolly, Coach Sean Egler, Coach Henry Stolly.

## Chieftains look for success on court

Bellefontaine's boys basketball team is aiming for more success this season.

The Chiefs went 8-15 overall last season, and were 2-8 in the Central Buckeye Conference. They were fifth in the Kenton Trail division.

Bellefontaine averaged 48 points per game and allowed 54.3 in all contests. In league play, it was similar, as they scored an average of 48.3 and allowed 55.9.

The seniors include Braylon Newcomb (5-foot-9), and Jacob Salyer (6-2) at

guard, and Avery Stahl (6-2) at forward.

Last season, Salyer averaged 10 points per game, along with 5.6 rebounds and 1.5 assists.

The juniors are guards Patrick Stolly (6-1), Zylar Huffman (5-11), Grayson Lotts (6-1), along with for-

wards Jair Mundy (6-3) and Jamison Clement (6-0).

Last season, Stolly had 4.6 points and 2.1 rebounds per game, while Lotts averaged 3 points. Mundy contributed 9.6 points and 5.7 rebounds per contest.

Moving up from junior

varsity are sophomores Sutton Daring (5-9), Spencer Stolly (5-10), A.J. Conaway (6-3), C.J. Butler (5-11) and Blake Loomis (6-0).

Henry Stolly returns as the coach for the Chieftains.

After a season-opening

loss to Marysville, Bellefontaine is set to host Urbana, Benjamin Logan and Tecumseh, then go on the road for games with West Liberty-Salem and Russia. They close out December as part of the field for a holiday tournament at Piqua.



# BELLEFONTAINE

## CHIEFTAINS



### 2024-25 BELLEFONTAINE BOYS SWIMMING

FRONT Row (l to r): Blaine Mitchell, Ryan Alexander, Elias Abrego, Jaylen Henry; MIDDLE Row: Will Myers, Cody Hudson, Beckham Harman; BACK Row: Graham Trittschuh, Grady Feasel, Oliver Grandstaff.

## Bellefontaine boys swimmers aim to repeat as CBC champs

The Bellefontaine High School boys swim team is out to defend its Central Buckeye Conference championship as the 2024 season gets underway.

Leading the boys' squad is senior Elias Abrego, a two-event CBC champion and district qualifier. He is joined by returning letter winners Ryan Alexander, Jaylen Henry, and Cody Hudson, who bring experience and leadership to the team. Other key contributors include junior Beckham Harman, sophomores Will Myers and Oliver Grandstaff, and freshmen Grady Feasel and

Graham Trittschuh, who are eager to make an impact.

With head coach Sharon Lewis in her 15th year at the helm, the team is focusing on strategic event placements and personal improvement to maximize their potential despite a smaller roster this year.

"Our senior leaders are hard workers who encourage and guide their teammates, which is a big strength for us," said Coach Lewis. "A successful season is one in which our swimmers grow as athletes and individuals."

The boys are targeting another CBC championship while striving to increase the number of district qualifiers and achieve breakthroughs at the state level. They anticipate strong competition from London and Benjamin Logan as they navigate another competitive conference season.

"A successful season is one in which our swimmers grow as athletes and individuals. To get there, we have to show up with a positive attitude, encourage one another, and take on new challenges," Lewis said.



Elias Abrego competes for Bellefontaine Saturday, Dec. 7, in a boys swimming meet. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

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# BELLEFONTAINE

## CHIEFTAINS

### '1% mindset' motivating BHS girls wrestlers

The Bellefontaine High School girls' wrestling team is set to continue its growth and development in the program's third year under head coach Brady Hiatt.

With a roster that includes several emerging grapplers, the Chieftains aim to build on the foundation of hard work and improvement established in previous seasons.

"Our goal is simple: get

1% better each day and maximize each wrestler's ability," said Hiatt, who brings nearly three decades of coaching experience to the team.

This season's team features two returning letter winners alongside a promising group of new wrestlers.

The roster includes Andreina Plaza, freshman (100); Maci Flesher, junior (125); Lilly Clary, freshman

(130); Arianna Rangel, freshman (135); Carlee Compton, freshman (140); Rylee Yelton, sophomore (145); and Alivia May, freshman (155).

With five freshmen and one sophomore, the Chieftains are focusing on building skills and confidence as they gain experience on the mat.

"The strength of this team is its youth," said Hiatt. "We're looking for



#### 2024-25 BELLEFONTAINE GIRLS WRESTLING:

FRONT Row (l to r): Rylee Yelton, Maci Flesher, Andreina Plaza, Alivia May; BACK Row: Coach Mikael Neeley, Coach Chelsea Horsley, Lilly Clary, Carlee Compton, Arianna Rangel, Coach Brady Hiatt.

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improvement in every position because nobody is a master of this sport. The key for us is to compete hard with a great attitude and maximum effort."

This season represents an opportunity for Bellefontaine to continue growing its presence in the sport.

The team's young roster, coupled with Hiatt's coaching experience, provides an ideal environment for development and long-term success.

The Chieftains' wrestlers are eager to make their mark, competing with determination and focus in every match. With their "1% better every day" mindset, Bellefontaine's girls are laying the groundwork for a bright future.



# BELLEFONTAINE

## CHIEFTAINS



### 2024-25 BELLEFONTAINE BOYS WRESTLING:

FRONT Row (l to r): James Foster, Nicholas Orozco, Hayden Alinson, Brenden Murray, Trey Deyo, Brooks Kinchen, Andrew Larin, Eli Deal, Braidyn Coulson, Caleb Lillard, Zaid Legon; BACK Row: assistant coach Hunter Pool, Ricky Smiley, Noah Torsell, Zavier May, Conor Evans, assistant coach Kyle Spence, Jared Young, Draven Drake, Nicholas Bear, Drake Hoon, Jeffrey Smith, head coach Aaron LaBatt. NOT PICTURED: assistant coach John Maurice, Maddox Keith, Thane Admire, Carter Janes, and Cameron Hensley.

## Experience and youth a good mix for BHS boys wrestlers

The Bellefontaine High School boys' wrestling team is looking to build on a mix of experienced competitors and a large group of young talent as they take on the 2024 season. Led by head coach Mike LaBatt, now in his ninth season, the Chieftains are aiming to surpass last year's finish in the competitive Central Buckeye Conference.

The team returns several standout wrestlers, including senior Jared Young, a two-time district qualifier who came within one match of placing at districts each year. LaBatt

expressed confidence in Young's potential, noting, "Jared seems more motivated and hungry this year. If he can put together a consistent season, I think we can get him on the podium and maybe even to the state tournament."

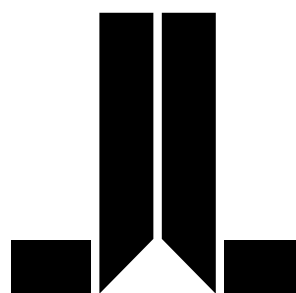
Joining Young among the returning letter winners are district qualifiers Maddox Keith and Jeffery Smith, along with Nicholas Bear and Ricky Smiley, who are poised for strong seasons. The lighter weight classes, bolstered by this core group, are expected to be a key

strength for Bellefontaine this year.

While the Chieftains' roster features plenty of potential, it also includes a significant number of first-year wrestlers. "We're young and have a lot of new wrestlers," LaBatt said. "The key for us is to continue to improve throughout the season. With that said, we're going to take some lumps this season. It will be important to keep a positive mindset and focus on moving forward."

**Continued on P38**

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# BELLEFONTAINE

## CHIEFTAINS



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### Who will be on your team in retirement?

#### 2024-25 BELLEFONTAINE GIRLS SWIMMING:

FRONT Row (L to R): Lilly Hudson, Claire McDaniel, Claire Grandstaff, Kaidi Freeman, Michelle Roberts, Kate Myers, Elaina Ullom, Maddie Ullom; BACK Row: Clara Core, Ella Fultz, Gillian Steele, Emma Merrin, Kaeleigh Flora, Brooklyne Kuntz, Emma Nieto, Jillian Ullom.

## BHS girls swimmers look to stay near the top of the CBC

The Bellefontaine High School girls swim team is gearing up for a competitive 2024 season, with hopes of building on last year's runner-up finish in the Central Buckeye Conference.

Head coach Sharon Lewis, now in her 15th year, leads a talented group blending experienced leaders with promising new talent.

Senior Kathryn Myers, a district qualifier in the 500 freestyle, is joined by a deep roster of senior leaders, including Elaina Ullom, Claire McDaniel, Claire Grandstaff, Michelle Roberts, and Lilly Hudson.

Junior letter winners Kaeleigh Flora, Gillian Steele, and Emma Merrin, along with sophomore standouts Ella Fultz and Jillian Ullom, add valuable experience to the team.

Freshman Brooklyne Kuntz, who comes in with a strong YMCA swimming background, is expected to make an immediate impact.

"We have a lot of experience on our team, and even many of our new swimmers are not new to the sport," said Lewis. "Our senior leaders set the tone for the rest of the team, both in and out of the pool."

The team is focused on increasing the number of district qualifiers and working towards advancing swimmers to the state level. With strong competitors like Jonathan Alder in the conference, Bellefontaine is ready to meet the challenge and continue their success.

Lewis emphasized the team's focus on growth both in and out of the pool, noting, "A successful season is one in which our swimmers grow as athletes and individuals. To get there, we have to show up with a positive attitude, encourage one another, and take on new challenges."



# BELLEFONTAINE

## CHIEFTAINS



### 2024-25 BELLEFONTAINE GIRLS BASKETBALL:

FRONT Kneeling (L to R): Claire Brown, Quinlan Zedeker, Sophia Jacobs. BACK Standing: Head coach Meghan Ashcraft, Emma Whitaker, Laila Butler, Rylie Reames, Gabbe Hoon, Tiffany Boop, Hailee Lamb, Shawna Burnell, Coach Michelle Zedeker, Coach Randy Varner.

## Bellefontaine girls basketball poised for strong season with experienced senior core

With an experienced core of upperclassmen returning from a deep tournament run last season, the Bellefontaine High School girls basketball team is poised to make a strong push in the Central Buckeye Conference Kenton Trail division.

Under the leadership of fourth-year head coach Meghan Ashcraft, the Chieftains aim to build on

their 13-12 record and third-place league finish from a year ago.

Coach Ashcraft's squad is headlined by five returning letter winners, all seniors, who bring a wealth of basketball knowledge and experience to the court. The starting lineup features Quinlan Zedeker, Tiffany Boop, Rylie Reames, Laila Butler and Gabbe Hoon.

Their gritty defensive play and teamwork have been staples of the program's recent success.

Behind the seniors, the team boasts a mix of talent across all grades. Juniors include Richiona Burnell, Clair Brown and Ava Dolan. Sophomores Hailee Lamb, Emma Whitaker and Sophia Jacobs add depth.

The promising fresh-

man class includes Joy Fogan, Vanessa Friedrich, Sloan Stolly and Ximena Marquez-Diaz.

After a heartbreaking triple-overtime loss to Thurgood Marshall in last year's district semifinals, the Chieftains are motivated to go even deeper into the postseason this year.

Their goals include claiming a conference championship and

improving their offensive output, an area Ashcraft has identified as key for success.

"We have to be more creative and get to the bucket," Ashcraft said. "We need to score more points."

"Always playing as a team, finding those ways to score more points. We play gritty defense, always have and that will need to continue."

The road won't be easy, as every conference game presents a challenge.

London, in particular, is expected to be tough competition, but Ashcraft believes her team is ready for the battles ahead.

With their blend of senior leadership, depth, and defensive tenacity, the Lady Chieftains are well-positioned to make their mark this season.



# BELLEFONTAINE

## CHIEFTAINS

### BHS girls bowlers look to build on top-10 finish at state tournament

The Bellefontaine High School girls bowling team is ready to strike success again as they head into the 2024 season under the steady guidance of head coach Jane Kline, who is entering her 23rd year at the helm. Following an incredible 17-0 record last season and their second consecutive eighth-place finish at the state tournament, the Chieftains aim to build on that momentum with a mix of seasoned veterans and promising newcomers.

The team returns five letter winners who form the backbone of the roster: Chloe Heminger (Jr.), Gracie Hood (Jr.), Nevaeh LaFollette (Sr.), Avery Mullins (Sr.), and Haylee Yelton (Sr.). These experienced bowlers bring consistency and leadership

to a squad that also includes a talented group of underclassmen eager to make their mark.

The full roster includes Rylee Anderson (Fr.), Rhiana Bear (Sr.), Kinzie Bernard (Jr.), Amillia Grumbling (Fr.), Isabelle Gunnett (Jr.), Shelby Hoffman (Sr.), Kyrarah Moon (Jr.), MaKenna Moon (Fr.), and Addison Prosser (Fr.).

“Our goals this year are to win the CBC Kenton Trail Division again, return to the state tournament, and improve on our eighth-place finish,” said Kline. “We’re also focused on improving our spare shooting, performing better in baker games under pressure, and learning how to adjust to different lane conditions.”

With a core of experienced players, the Chieftains’



#### 2024-25 BELLEFONTAINE GIRLS BOWLING:

FRONT (left to right): Amillia Grumbling, Isabelle Gunnett, Kinzie Bernard, Rhiana Bear, Addison Prosser, Kyrarah Moon  
BACK (left to right): Assistant coach Jeremy Ryan, Rylee Anderson, Chloe Heminger, Gracie Hood, Haylee Yelton, Avery Mullins, Nevaeh LaFollette, and head coach Jane Kline. Not pictured is Shelby Hoffman.

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strength lies in their ability to perform under pressure and support one another. “We have five solid returners who provide a strong foundation,” said Kline. “Our success will also depend on being good teammates, encouraging each other, and building great team spirit.”

The competition in the Central Buckeye Conference will be stiff, with Urbana and

Graham expected to challenge for the top spot. However, Bellefontaine is well-equipped to defend its title and continue its dominance in the Kenton Trail Division.

As the season begins, Coach Kline and her team are committed to improving each day and making another deep run at the state level.

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# CALVARY CHRISTIAN

## SPARTANS



### 2024-25 CALVARY CHRISTIAN BOYS BASKETBALL

FRONT Kneeling (L to R): Coach Rob Rogan and Coach Wade Wylie; BACK Standing: Christian Rogan, John Gaertner, Daniel Young, Braylon Dunson, Zeeke Wylie, Evan Schmidt, Philip Davie, Fletcher Lambert, Ian Schmidt, John Gaertner, Jace Harpst.

## Calvary Christian boys basketball team in a year of transition

The boys basketball team went 17-6 last season. Coach Rob Rogan is back for a third season at the helm.

Returning letter winners for Calvary are seniors Philip Davie, Zeeke Wylie,

Luke Gaertner, Daniel Young and Christian Rogan, along with junior Evan Schmidt.

Others on the roster are senior Ian Schmidt, along with juniors John Gaertner, Braylon Dunson, Jace

Harpst and William Lambert.

Rogan said that the Spartans are not members of a league this season and have a goal of a winning season.

“We bring back a team

with experience at the varsity level.” Rogan said. He noted that the keys to success will be consistency and scoring ability.

He added that time will tell as far as areas that need improvement.

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# CALVARY CHRISTIAN

## SPARTANS



### 2024-25 CALVARY CHRISTIAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

STANDING (L to R): Lila Wilson, Ellen Young, Brooklyn Reid, Laileigh Beatty, Leah Hawley, Meagan Palmer, Clara McGill, Nora Thornton, Kaylie Carter, Reagan Roell, Allena Miller, KayLee Hurley, Kari Gantz, Iva Wilson, Alyssa Wylie, Coach Kyle Gantz, Jen Wylie.

## Lady Spartans under new leadership

Kyle Gantz has taken over as the coach for the Calvary Christian girls basketball team.

Last season, the team was 16-5 overall and 9-1 in the Ohio Valley Christian Conference.

The team has eight returning letter winners. They include seniors Kari Gantz, Kaylee Hurley and Nora Thornton; juniors Laileigh Beatty, Kaylie Carter, Allen Miller and Megan Palmer, and sophomore Iva Wilson.

Freshmen additions to the roster are Leah Hawley, Clara McGill, Brooklyn Reid, Reagan Roell and Alyssa Wylie.

“As a school and basketball team, we are excited to be in our new gymnasium this year,” said Gantz.

“Our new gym will allow us to prepare better for the bigger floors that we will be playing on. We would love to win some games at home this year.”

“Our players have the same expectations of them,

regardless of age or position,” said Gantz about the team’s goals. “We boil that down to attitude and effort. Our goal as a coaching staff is to win ballgames; however, we want to build these young women’s lives and not just make them better players, but make them better women.”

Since the team will be playing as an independent this season, “we have filled our schedule with many local public school teams,” said Gantz. “Playing public

school teams will dramatically increase the level of competition that we will face with each game. We want to be competitive in all games, and represent the Lord and the school well.”

Gantz said that the three seniors will help provide leadership. “We have a team that really gets along well,” he said. “They want to get better and they work hard. We have a big freshman group of girls and I’m looking forward to this year

and the years ahead. This group of girls will do some really good things.”

Looking at the lineup, he said that Hurley will be at point guard, and Kari Gantz is a good outside shooter. Thornton will occupy the post position, and Gantz said she is not afraid of contact.

He expects more contribution from the juniors after seeing limited varsity time in the past, and sophomore Wilson to contribute on defense.

“The biggest area of improvement will have to be to increase our physicality,” said Gantz.

“We need to be aggressive and attack the basket on offense. We have a bunch of players that did not take a primary scoring role the past few years, and that will need to change in order for us to be successful. We need to limit our turnovers and take advantage of missed shots and rebound the basketball.”

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# RIDGEMONT GOLDEN GOPHERS

## Ridgemont boys seek Northwest Central Conference title



### 2024-25 GOPHERS BOYS BASKETBALL

FRONT Row (L to R): Kolton Manns, Xavier Stuck, Colton Bailey, Shane Shelt, Landon Eaton, Patrick Stacklin; MIDDLE Row: manager Brantley Rudasill, Kody Kiser, Dawson Manns, Colton Manns, Maverick Dawson, assistant coach Chris Weyant, manager Trace Overly; BACK Row: Harrison Reppart, Mihajlo Stosovic, assistant coach Grant Reppart, assistant coach Tye Sherman and head coach Tyler Tillman.

#### FROM THE KENTON TIMES

Tyler Tillman was part of the last Ridgemont boys basketball team to win the Northwest Central Conference in the 2011-12 season, and he believes this year's senior-laden squad has the chance to do the same.

Tillman, a 2013 Ridgemont graduate, is in his second year at the helm. The Gophers had a successful 15-8 season last winter with a 6-3 mark in NWCC play in a three-way tie for second-place, along with Cory-Rawson and Waynesfield-Goshen. Ridgemont brings back eight seniors and there is no shortage of talent and leadership with this group.

"Everything goes through McGuffey," Tillman said. "We have to get through USV first. They are the defending champs, and rightfully so. Waynesfield-Goshen with Levi Glick will be a contender, he's a really good ball player and a couple other guys back. I could

see Ridgedale being a dark horse."

Upper Scioto Valley remains the team to beat, having run the table each of the past two years in the NWCC. Ridgemont pushed them to the brink last year with a 46-44 loss to the Rams in late December.

Clayton Patterson was the lone senior on last year's team. The Gophers will miss the energy he brought on both ends and his athleticism.

Tillman pointed out that his guys are holding each other accountable and that he doesn't have to re-teach drills again.

"The boys are picking up on a lot of what we did last year. Things are starting to click. It's just nice to have that veteran squad. We had a bunch of guys that wanted to be leaders, but they didn't know how. Guys are using their voices this year, coaching people up. It's one thing when you hear it from a coach all the time, but when you hear it from your teammates it might

click a little quicker," Tillman said.

He said the Gophers will continue to run their fast-paced, free-flowing positionless five-out offense. Ideally, Tillman wants them to score in seven seconds or less every possession.

Connor Manns, a senior, will be the orchestrator of their offense again as the point guard. He has made major strides defensively.

"He can distribute. He's been getting downhill and scoring. He's taking pride in the defensive side of basketball. He'll bring the ball up the floor most of the time," Tillman said.

Kolton Manns, a senior, plays the off-guard role. He averaged 13 points per game last year and the Gophers will count on him to contribute even more this season.

"He plays downhill. He can create his own shot. We will definitely lean on him for his scoring ability," Tillman said.

Colton Bailey, a senior for-

ward/center, has the ultimate green light to fire from deep with his shooting prowess. He chipped in 14.5 points and seven rebounds per game last year.

"We always tell him he has the green light. He can shoot the ball very well for his size. He pulls a lot of big guys away from the hoop with us running a lot of 5-out stuff. He's not a traditional big. He averaged seven boards a game. With Bailey it's consistency. We can't get down on ourselves when we make mistakes," Tillman said.

Xavier Stuck, a senior forward, is a well-rounded player with a solid jumpshot. He is a jack-of-all-trades and served as a captain last year.

"He averaged 12.5 points per game last year. That's three guys in double digits. Xavier is a stat stuffer. He does everything for us. We really lean on him; he's a leader for us. He really knows the game of basketball. I think his dad was the coach at one-time or something, maybe. He's grown up around the game. He has a high IQ. He's a great kid to coach and be around," Tillman said.

Harrison Reppart, a junior, rounds out the starting lineup for the Gophers. He chipped in eight points and four assists per game. His touch around the rim is his greatest asset. His playmaking ability is constantly improving.

"He got more comfortable and things started to slow down for him at the end of the year. He plays AAU. He loves the game. He had a pretty good assist-turnover ratio. He's getting downhill in scrimmages. He's making things happen in the paint. Taking guys on backcuts. Just the way he can see the floor. His vision is probably the best on the team, for sure," Tillman said.

Ridgemont has a foreign exchange student from Serbia in Mihajlo Stosovic.

"We call him Mike. He has a love for the game. He seems like he's been playing forever. He's got a good IQ, good

defensive instincts. He's long, about 6-foot-4. He's got a good first step. When he gets to his right hand he's hard to stop. He'll be our sixth man. We won't have much of a drop-off when we get to our bench," Tillman said.

Landon Eaton, a senior forward/center, gives the Gophers an interior presence.

"He's really starting to accept his role. He can rebound. He gets defelections. He can guard people on the perimeter. He's got a good first step. He will score with slip screens and other actions," Tillman said.

Kody Kiser, a sophomore, will be the backup point guard behind Connor Manns.

"He sees the floor well. He had a really good summer. He gets up on you defensively, which is what we are all about this year. We are trying to turn the page defensively. We've got the scorers. Kody is a good, young guy with a lot of energy," Tillman said.

Dawson Manns, a junior guard, is a sharpshooter that starred on the junior varsity squad last winter.

"Another green light shooter for us. If he's open and he's got room, he's going to let it fly. He had a really good offseason. He's got good touch, soft hands. He had a game against Riverdale last year where he hit seven threes. I see us seeing a lot of zone this year. We've got seven guys over 6-foot-2 on the roster," Tillman said.

Junior guard Mason Howard is still healing from a knee injury sustained during football season, but could return in December.

"Mason might not score a lot, but he distributes the basketball and looks for ways to get his teammates involved," Tillman said.

Seniors centers Shane Selt and Patrick Stacklin will come off the bench and receive more playing time throughout the year as they progress. Stacklin hasn't played since middle school.

With their renewed focus on defense, the Gophers have high hopes for this group. Taking down USV is a gargantuan task, but they are ready to rise to the occasion.



### CHEERS FOR THE GOPHERS

Bringing the spirit and energy to Ridgemont boys basketball games this winter will be (from left, front) Albrey Bailey, Charlotte Ward; (middle row) Kamryn Kiser, Jalen Dyer, Kolbie Stanfield; (back row) Kaytlin Billenstein, Olivia Newland and Braylyn Caldwell.



# RIDGEMONT GOLDEN GOPHERS

## New Ridgemont girls basketball head coach Dan Heilman fostering growth mindset

FROM THE KENTON TIMES

With the right mindset, anything is possible.

The Ridgemont girls basketball team had zero wins two seasons ago. They were 4-18 last season and 3-5 in Northwest Central Conference play. They have a new head coach in Dan Heilman, who was an assistant coach on the eighth grade girls team last winter. He is in the process of helping everyone foster a growth mindset.

"We're working on mindset," Heilman said. "They're getting it. They have their abilities; it's just getting them to believe in themselves."

Heilman noted that it is a rebuilding year, but that the NWCC is up for grabs this year with defending champions Lima Perry not having enough girls to field a team.

Elgin and Waynesfield-Goshen tied for second at 6-2 and figure to be among the best in the league this winter with much of their talent returning. Ridgedale and Cory-Rawson were 5-3. Upper Scioto Valley was 3-5. Hardin Northern finished 1-7 and North Baltimore went 0-8.

"We've got a good program going now, all grades involved down to Kindergarten. We're going back to the building blocks. Myself and my staff are kind of nestled in for a few years here long-term. My daughter [Connie] is my assistant coach and hopefully she'll be taking over after I depart," Heilman said.

The Gophers have just eight players, three of them being freshmen. Two starters from last year's squad did not return in Anna Ramsey and Prezley Furer. Ramsey was their leading scorer with 10.5 points per game.

Kylie Shreve, a senior shooting guard, was second on the team with 7.3 points per game last season. She is a solid shooter and is adept at getting to the free throw line. She had a team-best 3.7 steals per game.

"She's a great little guard. She's hitting a lot of her outside shots. At these scrimmages she's helping run the offense. On defense, she's all over the ball," Heilman said.

Laney Elsasser, a junior, often brings the ball up the floor. She is a good passer and a good rebounder. She even knocked down a buzzer-beating 3-pointer last season to down North Baltimore 46-45 on Feb. 1. She averaged 4.2 points, 5.0 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 2.0 steals per game.

"She runs the point. She does what we ask. She does great," Heilman said.

Ruth Eckstein, a junior forward, has shown the ability to knock down mid-range shots and block shots on defense. She contributed 2.9 points, 7.6 rebounds, 1.5 steals and 1.0 assists per game last season. Heilman said she's blended very well into their motion offense.

Lauren Wingfield, a senior, is back on the hardwood after a one-year hiatus.

"She hasn't played in awhile, but she's knocking

the rust off. I tell you what, there's a ball player in there. There really is," Heilman said.

Olivia Newland, a junior, is their other upperclassmen newcomer.

"She hasn't played in awhile either. She's getting back to form," Heilman said.

Each of the three freshmen possess a different skillset, and Heilman said they are ready for the speed of the high school game.

Aubrie Overly is a guard that will help run the offense when Elsasser needs a break. Sometimes they may be out there at the same time.

Heilman said Brilynn Rudasill is "solid on the boards. She played with us last year at the eighth grade level."

Riley Hites is versatile enough to play all five positions, Heilman said.

Ridgemont's offense will be motion-based with lots of screens and off-ball movement. They will be playing man-to-man defense most of the time this winter, but won't hesitate to pull out their zone defense when the situation calls for it.

"I learned my lesson being a first-year coach at the very first scrimmage. We ran a zone and we got tore up. Everybody else played man. We went back to work the following practice and switched to man," Heilman said.

The team's goal is to win at least 10 games, and Heilman believes that is not out of the realm of possibility if they continue to get better every single day.



### 2024-25 GOPHERS GIRLS BASKETBALL

FRONT Row (l to r): Brilynn Rudasill, Lauren Winfield, Kylie Shreve, Riley Hites; BACK Row: Brynlee Overly, Connie Heilman, Laney Elsasser, head coach Dan Heilman, Ruth Eckstein, Olivia Newland, Aubrie Overly, Hannah Woodard and Chloe Jones.



# RIDGEMONT GOLDEN GOPHERS



## 2024-25 GOPHERS GIRLS INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

FRONT Row (L to R): Jordan Chronister, Kamryn Kiser; MIDDLE Row: Zoey Miller, Olivia Newland, Becca Shelt; BACK Row: Head coach Nick Cox, Elle Livia Manns, Brilynn Rudasill and assistant coach Darcy Ruppright.



## 2024-25 GOPHERS BOYS INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

FRONT Row (L to R): Mason Swavel, Cole Henry, Kane Ramsey; MIDDLE Row: Kenny Feasel, Bryce Mendenhall, Liam Dickinson, Jakob Wallace; BACK Row: Head coach Nick Cox, Carter Ruppright, Luke Stacklin, Kaine Ruppright and assistant coach Darcy Ruppright.

# Gophers indoor track building on success

FROM THE KENTON TIMES

The Ridgemont indoor track teams saw their success carry over to the outdoor season, and they are doing everything to ensure that happens again.

"We had a very successful outdoor season and I attribute that to what we did in the indoor season," Ridgemont head coach Nick Cox said.

The Gophers have a handful of dual-sport winter athletes, with a number of them being basketball players as well.

Patrick Stacklin, now a senior, was their lone

indoor state qualifier last season in the high jump. He finished tied for 17th at 5-10. He is poised to make it back and reach the podium this time.

Carter Ruppright, a senior, will be called upon to provide leadership and be one of their top throwers.

Younger brother Kaine Ruppright, a sophomore, is even better than Carter at the throwing events.

"I think if he throws to where I think he could, then he could make it to state at SPIRE," Cox said.

Senior Kolton Manns will split his time between

the hardwood and the track this winter. He will run the 200 and the 400, and Cox said he might even do the 800.

Senior Kenny Feasel is a solid 800/1600 runner for the Gophers. Senior Landon Eaton stars in the post on the basketball team and will do some sprints, throws and relays.

Junior Mason Swavel is a sprinter. Sophomore Bryce Mendenhall is a middle-distance runner and a key part of their relays. Sophomore Maverick Dawson hoops and will do some sprints.

Luke Stacklin, a sophomore, will do weight throw and shot put. He is not as advanced as his older brother Patrick yet, but he has the potential.

Ridgemont has four freshmen boys: Liam Dickinson, Kane Ramsey, Cole Henry and Cadyn Hamilton.

Dickinson will help out with relays and the 800. Ramsey will sprint and long jump. Henry is a thrower and could participate in short sprints. Hamilton plays basketball and does well at short sprints.

Ridgemont has seven

girls on the roster, three of them being upperclassmen.

Elle Livia Manns, a junior, is proficient at high jump, long jump and leads the relays.

"She could make it to state in high jump. I know she's done a lot of off-season work, so if she stays at it she could," Cox said.

Olivia Newland, a junior, is always willing to try out new events and has a very busy winter schedule as she joined the basketball team.

Junior Zoey Miller is back as a thrower. Sophomores Kamy Kiser, Jordan Chronister and

Becca Shelt will all do sprints and relays.

Freshman Brilynn Rudasill is a solid basketball player and the strength to be a good thrower.

Quinn Billenstein, a freshman, will compete in the 100, the 200 and relays.

Ridgemont will open its season on Dec. 14 at Muskingum University. They will go to Ohio Northern University on Jan. 4 and Bowling Green State University on Jan. 11.

The Gophers will go to Tiffin University on Feb. 9 and Otterbein University on Feb. 16.



# BHS BOYS WRESTLING

The CBC remains a challenging conference, with Graham continuing its dominance, Ben Logan boasting depth across the roster, and Indian Lake and Jonathan Alder returning experienced squads.

Despite the competition, Bellefontaine aims to develop its young team while advancing more wrestlers through the postseason.

"If we can stay sharp on technique and approach,

and avoid complacency, we'll be able to weather the early challenges," LaBatt said. "This season is about finishing better than we started and laying the groundwork for success."

With a combination of seasoned leaders and promising newcomers, the Chieftains are eager to make their mark on the mat this year.

The Bellefontaine High School boys' wrestling team

is gearing up for a season of growth and determination, blending the experience of veteran wrestlers with the energy of a young roster. Under the leadership of head coach Mike LaBatt, now in his ninth season, the Chieftains aim to surpass last year's finish in the Central Buckeye Conference (CBC) and make strides in postseason competition.

This year's roster features a strong core of

returning letter winners and an influx of new talent. Leading the way for the Chieftains is senior Jared Young, a two-time district qualifier who has come within one match of placing at districts. "Jared seems more motivated and hungry this year," LaBatt said. "If he can put together a consistent season, I think we can get him on the podium and maybe even to the state tournament."

Other key returners include seniors Xavier May (165/157), Jeffery Smith (106/113), and Conor Evans (285), along with juniors Maddox Keith (120/126), Draven Drake (132), Nicholas Bear (144), Ricky Smiley (138/144), Noah Torsell (175/190), Julius Butler (215), and Drake Hoon (165/175). Sophomore Maddox Keith, a district qualifier last season, and Jeffery Smith, who qualified as a freshman, are expected to lead the lighter weight classes.

The team also boasts several promising underclassmen. Sophomores Brenden Murray (120/126), Nicholas Orozco (126/132), Carter Janes (120/126), and Isaiah Roberts (126/132) are developing wrestlers who add depth to the roster. Freshmen Brayden Coulson (120/126), Brooks Kinchen (120/126), Andrew Larison (132/138), Thane Admire (132/138), Eli Deal (126/132), James Foster

(138/144), Trey Deyo (144/150), and Caleb Lillard (144/150) round out the roster with enthusiasm and potential.

LaBatt sees the team's lighter weight classes as a particular strength, with returning district qualifiers and former qualifiers pushing each other to improve during practices. "We have a handful of guys who will make everyone around them better," he said. However, with the majority of the team being young and less experienced, LaBatt emphasized the importance of focusing on technique and efficiency. "If we can do a small number of things very well, we'll weather the early challenges of the season."

Bellefontaine faces tough competition in the CBC, with Graham expected to dominate once again, Ben Logan returning a deep roster, and Indian Lake and Jonathan Alder fielding strong squads.



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### 2024-25 CHIEFTAIN CHEERLEADERS

FRONT (L to R): Alexis  
Yoder and Hailey Cooper;  
MIDDLE: Lola Kuba, Chloe  
Stolly, Jaylin Foulk; BACK:  
Lyrehc Bensman, Zaleney  
Storm.



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