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BENJAMIN LOGAN RAIDERS

Talent, experience return for BL girl runners

BY AARON LABATT
FOR THE EXAMINER

A more ambitious group will take the course this fall when Benjamin Logan's girls cross country team races.

The Raiders were Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division runners-up last season and finished 16th out of 22 teams at the district race. Fortunately, they also return three all-league runners and 12 letterwinners.

"Our goals this season include being in the mix for a CBC championship along with moving up in the district standings," said head coach Mike Coder. "Our focus is on working hard, staying healthy and creating a strong desire for success. We are a young team, but I feel these athletes are ready for the challenge."

A trio of runners will power the Ben Logan girls this fall. Senior Peyton Smith is a former regional qualifier and was CBC second team last season. Junior Molly Siefing was also CBC second team, while sophomore Gwen Smith was CBC special mention.

"Each year we look for our seniors to help guide the program and make their mark," said Coder. "There are many ways to lead, and we hope they step into that role and leave their mark on this team."

"Gwen is the most experienced sophomore. She finished last season as an all-conference runner and has stepped up her training. We



MEMBERS OF THE BEN LOGAN GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM (pictured l to r): FRONT ROW: Gwen Smith, Illiana Vermillion, Peyton Smith, Natalie Chapman, Mallory Chapman, and Elliott Butler; BACK ROW: Lottie Bodin, Lauren Kennedy, Maille Ricketts, Bonnie Brunson, and Lucy Wenger.

look for her to make her mark this season."

The Lady Raiders return a host of other letterwinners. That group consists of senior Natalie Chapman, juniors Bonnie Brunson, Elliott Butler, Lauren Kennedy, Maille Ricketts and Lucy Wenger and sophomores Lottie Bodin, Mallory Chapman and Montana Coleman. Freshman Illiana Vermillion completes the team.

"This team is a work in progress," said Coder. "It should be exciting to watch. We expect to be competitive in our races. We should see much improvement as the season progresses. Each one of these student athletes is top notch in both the classroom and the athletic field."

The balance of time and energy is so important to making progress in both arenas."

The Raiders were runner-up in the CBC Mad River last season, while North Union won the title. Coder sees the division being even more competitive this fall.

"The CBC championships will be no easy task," said Coder. "North Union will be the early season favorite, but never count out Northwestern, Indian Lake or Shawnee. As always, the league will be competitive. We hope to make progress on these goals one day at a time. Fitting the pieces together for the championship races is a seasons long process."

"Our focus is on working hard, staying healthy and creating a strong desire for success."



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Head Coach

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BENJAMIN LOGAN RAIDERS



MEMBERS OF THE BEN LOGAN BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM (pictured l to r); Head Coach Kevin Butler, Greyson Butler, Gabe Elsasser, Tyler Shoopman, Maxwell Troth and Michael Berry.

Raider boys eyeing CBC Mad River crown

BY AARON LABATT
FOR THE EXAMINER

Benjamin Logan's boys cross country team is hungry to capture the Central Buckeye Conference Mad River crown this season. The Raiders were runner-up last season and bring back the talent to achieve that.

"Our goal is to be competitive, improve throughout the season and be in a position to compete for a league title in October," said head coach Kevin Butler.

Headlining the Raiders is senior Tyler Shoopman,

who earned CBC Mad River first-team honors. He finished in the top half of the district race last season. Junior Maxwell Troth is also expected to be a big contributor after earning CBC Mad River second-team honors.

"Tyler Shoopman is a solid number one guy for us and will be competitive in meets," said Butler. "Our 2-5 guys are capable of being good, they're athletic and have experience. If they perform and train to their abilities, we can have a

good season."

Ben Logan has three other letter-winners back in junior Gabe Elssasser and sophomores Michael Berry and Greyson Butler. Freshman Miles Grandbois is the final member of the team.

"Overall, for our team to succeed, it lies in our top guys performing consistently, improving daily and staying healthy," said Butler. "Currently, we have just enough to field a team, so keeping guys injury-free is a huge concern and a key focus for me as

the coach."

Butler still sees Graham as the team to beat in the Mad River division after the Falcons won the league title last season.

"Graham had a good team last season that won the Mad River and I don't think they lost much," said Butler. "Shawnee will be good. They have several guys who are excellent distance runners. If we continue to improve and stay healthy I like our chances to be a realistic contender for a league title."

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Continued from P19

see what his season looks like. Noah Humphrey is an incoming freshman that I am excited about. I think the 5K distance is really going to be a good distance for him."

For Triad's girls, sophomore Aubrey Johnson highlights the team. She was a regional qualifier and earned a top 20 finish at the Ohio Heritage Conference meet. That earned her all-league honorable mention. The only other girl on the team is sophomore Brooklyn Melidor.

"Aubrey Johnson looked strong her freshman year and I

am excited to see with a year under her belt where she will end up," said Smiles.

"We are mainly an inexperienced team in regards to our high school boys," said Smiles. "We will be continuing to work on that as well as grow both our girls and boys programs."

With the Triad boys now fielding enough runners to score as a team, that has brought new goals this season at the league meet.

"We hope to place in the top five or above," said Smiles. "I'm not sure how many runners we as an OHC graduated, but I am always excited to see



which of the strong middle school runners move up. And to see how that offsets the strong runners that have graduated."

BENJAMIN LOGAN RAIDERS

Lady Raiders return experience to the field

BY AARON LABATT
FOR THE EXAMINER

With a large group of returners back for Benjamin Logan's girls soccer team this fall, optimism is high that the program can increase wins and find more success.

The Raiders finished 6-12 overall last season and went 4-7 in the Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division.

"We are returning a lot of ladies who have played a lot of high school soccer," said head coach Kyle Trees. "We have a great balance of athletic youth joining the team."

Spearheading the Lady Raiders will be senior Ella Chamberlain (midfield/goal keeper), who earned CBC first-team honors last season. She led the team with seven goals and six assists.

Junior Kaylee Hays (midfield/defense) was CBC special mention and had three goals, while senior Rissa Bates (goal keeper) is also back after 135 saves last season.

"For us to be successful, we will have to find consistent scoring," said Trees. "That's what separates the good from the great teams. We will be looking to play more offensive this year from years past."

The rest of the Ben Logan girls team consists of seniors Madisyn Trees (forward), Rylan Norvell (defense/midfield) and Lily Sutdebaker (forward), juniors Maddie Daniels (defense), Macy Daniels (defense) and Elliott Butler (forward/midfield).

Underclassmen on the team are sophomores Dove Godsey (forward), Lucy



MEMBERS OF THE BEN LOGAN GIRLS SOCCER TEAM (pictured l to r): FRONT ROW: Paisley Rodenberger, Daylin Varner, Ella Chamberlain, Ella Stoodt, Mayse Daniels, Elliott Butler, Belen Palmer, and Lucy Johns; BACK ROW: Madelyn Daniels, Kaylee Hays, Rylan Norviel, Rissa Bates, Brooklyn Smedley, Dove Godsey, Madisyn Trees, and Lily Studebaker.

Johns (forward/goal keeper), Daylin Varner (midfield/forward), Belen Palmer (forward/defense), Brooklyn Smedley (defense/midfield), Fiona

Sweeney (defense), Ella Stoodt (midfield) and Bryleigh Burnside (forward) and freshman Paisley Rodenberger (midfield/forward).

FOCUSED

Continued from p19

blocker), juniors Haven Cantrell (right side hitter) and Riley Haser (defensive specialist), sophomore Kaitlyn Herron (outside hitter) and freshman Avery Eaton (middle blocker).

Staten sees another competitive season in the OHC, but feels her squad can give a better performance this fall after a productive offseason.

"The OHC is always competitive in volleyball with several well coached and disciplined team," said Staten. "It's a great league to be a part of. I

think the top of the league this year will be some of the usual suspects like Fairbanks and West Liberty in the North Division, and Cedarville in the South Division. After a great summer of workouts and camp, we are not counting our girls out of that conversation either."



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BENJAMIN LOGAN RAIDERS

Raider boys aiming for top spot



MEMBERS OF THE BEN LOGAN BOYS SOCCER TEAM (pictured l to r): FRONT ROW: Luke Vesely, Bode Clapsaddle, Karson McCoy, Isaac Skidmore, Xavier Allen, Ben Solano and Brock Henry; BACK ROW: Wyatt Gordon, Oz McWade, Gaven Jordan, Joe Meeker, Aidan Todd, Cason Bothel, and Landen Simon.

BY AARON LABATT
FOR THE EXAMINER

Benjamin Logan's boys soccer team finished as Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division runners-up last season. Now the Raiders are looking to take that next step and beyond this fall.

"We want to win the Mad River division in the CBC, set school record for goals in a season (55) and advance to the districts in the tournament," said head coach Jamie Hughes.

The Raiders 9-6-5 overall last season and were CBC Mad River division runners-up at 5-3-2. They return the team's top scorer in senior Aidan Todd (midfield), who had 21 goals with six assists, which earned him CBC first-team accolades.

"We can be very offen-

sive and we will be able to score some goals this season," said Hughes of his squad.

Senior Landen Simon (midfield) also returns to spark the squad after earning CBC special mention a year ago.

Other letterwinners back include seniors Cason Bothel (defense) and Joe Meeker (forward) and juniors Gaven Jordan (forward), Brock Henry (midfield) and Max Clapsaddle (defense), who is injured for the season.

Making up the rest of the team are senior Ozwin McWade (defense/midfield), junior Xavier Allen (midfield), sophomores Bode Clapsaddle (midfield), Ben Solano (forward) and Wyatt Gordon (defense) and freshmen Isaac Skidmore

(defense/midfield), Luke Vesely (midfield/forward) and Karson McCoy (midfield).

"We need to work on our defensive positioning and holding possession at times when we need to," said Hughes. "(We also have to stay healthy). If we do that then we will have a very good season."

Indian Lake won the CBC Mad River division title last season and Hughes expects his team will have to go through the Lakers to accomplish their goal.

"On our side of the league, we expect Indian Lake with Avery Piquenot and Carson Clary to have a very good year," said Hughes. "They are both very dynamic players and will lead that team to a successful year."

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BENJAMIN LOGAN RAIDERS

Raider volleyball expecting to grow success

BY AARON LABATT
FOR THE EXAMINER

Benjamin Logan's volleyball program returned to the top of the league last season. Now the Raiders want to build off of that momentum and see how far they can take their season this fall.

"Once regular season is over, our goal is continuing to add to our trophy case by moving up the ladder through sectionals, districts, regionals and even on to state in postseason tournament," said fourth-year head coach Jackie Cline.

The Raiders went 16-8 overall last season and won the Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division title with a 9-1 record. They return most of the players from that squad.

"We are returning most of our starters from last season," said Cline. "We have powerful hitters that have a vast array of tools in their hitting tool box. "We have the tools to come out on top again in the CBC Mad River division. The girls are excited to work hard in practices to prepare to play our competitors in the league."

The Raiders did lose some key contributors in Mia Stahler, who is now playing Division I volleyball at Ohio State and was the CBC Mad River division player of the year. The program also graduated standout Makayla Williamson, who was a CBC first-team selection.

"These underclassmen need to fill some pretty big shoes," said Cline. "With most of the returners spending the offseason honing in their craft with their club volleyball teams, I think we will have a broad base of talents and expertise to make sure we can

"Our goal is continuing to add to our trophy case."



JACKIE CLINE
Head Coach

compete with the best."

Leading the way for Ben Logan's returners is junior Abby Vance (middle hitter), who was CBC special mention last fall with 146 kills, 43 blocks and 43 digs. Other returners are senior Caroline Spriggs (middle hitter) and Annika Chappell (right side hitter) and sophomore Georgia Daniels (outside hitter), who tallied 167 kills, 134 digs and 14 blocks.

Raider sophomore Autumn Cline (setter) also returns after earning CBC second-team honors, but is currently on the injured reserve list.

"Our goal isn't to change how an athlete plays the game, but direct the energy to learn how to score points. The team needs to bond and work together communicating the strengths and weaknesses on the opponent's side."

Other key players will be senior Marlee Butcher (libero), juniors Kylie Harner (setter), Lilly Kerns (outside hitter), Storm LeVan (outside hitter) and freshman Summer Cline (outside hitter).

Rounding out the varsity team are seniors Tanna Jacobs (libero), Winnie Bodin (outside hitter), Zoey Lavender (libero) and sophomore Nevaeh Fogle (outside hitter).

"I am so grateful to the club



MEMBERS OF THE BEN LOGAN VOLLEYBALL TEAM (pictured l to r): **FRONT ROW:** Georgia Daniels, Storm LeVan, Kylie Harner, Lilly Kerns, Nevaeh Fogle; **MIDDLE ROW:** Tanna Jacobs, Annika Chappell, Caroline Spriggs, Zoey Lavender, Marlee Butcher, and Winnie Bodin; **BACK ROW:** Head coach Jackie Cline, Summer Cline, Autumn Cline, Abby Vance, Coach Chad Stahler and Coach Yvonne Herring.

volleyball programs that take these athletes under their wings and help them prepare for battle on the volleyball court," said Cline. "It is so valuable to have the athletes playing a lot of volleyball in the off season."

Repeating as league champions won't be easy and Cline expects to see some of the usual CBC Mad River division teams in that quest.

"We look forward to facing off against Indian Lake and North Union again this year," said Cline. "We also enjoy battling against some of the teams in CBC Kenton Ridge division. Despite not being in our direct conference, the matches are fast paced and fun to watch."

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BENJAMIN LOGAN RAIDERS

Ben Logan girls aiming high on links

BY AARON LABATT
FOR THE EXAMINER

Benjamin Logan's girls golf team has six members coming back and is poised for a breakout season. The team also has a new leader in first-year head coach Tom Braddock, who has coached several other Raider sports teams.

The Raiders went 0-9 last year and were last in the Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division at 0-8. However, they return six letterwinners and are hoping to capitalize on that experience.

"We have a core group of girls returning from last year's team with six of our top seven golfers coming back," said Braddock. "Most of the team members were on the golf course two days a week this summer working on their game. This team may be young, but the girls understand what high

school golf is all about now and they are ready to go out and compete."

Highlighting the girls coming back are juniors Kaylynn Crumm and Catherine Bramlage, who both earned CBC honors last season. Crumm was a second-team selection and Bramlage was named special mention.

"We want to do what a lot of teams forget to do and that is have fun," said Braddock. "We want to use golf as a tool to help our team members develop patience, focus, resilience, social skills and integrity.

"For our goals, we want to win more matches than the last two years and to finish in the top two of the Mad River division," Braddock added. "We also want to have the team or an individual advance past the sectional tournament."

Other letterwinners back are sophomores Leah Braddock, Montana

Coleman, Annika Schmidt and Bea Warren.

Completing the team are juniors Alayna Johnson and Sophia VanVoorhis and sophomore Kaydence Hamlin.

"The girls need to improve their scoring average as a team," said Braddock. "The girls need to keep the ball in play and take advantage of the good shots. If we can avoid three putts, we will have a successful season."

MEMBERS OF THE BENJAMIN LOGAN GIRLS GOLF TEAM (pictured l to r):

FRONT ROW: Alayna Johnson, Sophia VanVoorhis, Catherine Bramlage, Kaylynn Crumm, Kaydence Hamlin, and Bea Warren. BACK ROW: Head Coach Tom Braddock, Annika Schmidt, Leah Braddock, and Coach Jim Bramlage.



Raiders teeing it up with young team this season

BY AARON LABATT
FOR THE EXAMINER

Graduation took its toll on the Benjamin Logan boys golf team. A youthful and inexperienced squad is expected to experience some growing pains this fall.

The Raiders finished with a 1-10 record a year

ago and were last in the Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division at 1-9.

"My goals this year are to set a solid foundation of developing consistency of play and become more competitive as the season goes along," said fourth-year head coach Perry

Carper. "This year brings a challenging and exciting opportunity for us this season.

With five golfers currently, and four being new golfers, I am excited to teach the game and watch our athletes grow throughout the season."

Sophomore Drake Newland is the only returning letterwinner for the Raiders this fall, but Perry has high expectations after an offseason of work.

"Drake Newland, has tremendous potential," said Carper. "I know he has worked hard in the offseason to improve his game. I expect him to be competitive in every match. There is no substitute for experience. The remainder of the team are first year players



MEMBERS OF THE BENJAMIN LOGAN BOYS GOLF TEAM (pictured l to r): FRONT ROW: Colson Knight, Landyn Shields, and Dane Reffner. BACK ROW: Coach Ryan Knight, Drake Newland, Jacob Frederick, and Head Coach Perry Carper.

who will need to learn and grow."

The rest of the team is made up of first-year players. That group includes sophomore Jacob Frederick and freshmen Colson

Knight, Landyn Shields and Dane Reffner.

Northwestern went 10-0 to win the CBC Mad River last season and North Union was runner-up. Carper sees those two

teams being at the top of the league again this fall.

"North Union should be strong this year," said Carper. "Northwestern and Shawnee both consistently perform at a high level."



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INDIAN LAKE LAKERS

Lakers boys golf has veteran leadership



MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN LAKE BOYS GOLF TEAM, Pictured (l to r) ROW 1: Eli Cummins, Jesse Carder, Jaxon Snipes and Crew McPherson; ROW 2: Coach Nick Tucci, Joseph Cummins, Cooper Hall, Kade Richardson, Matthew Culp and Thomas Jones.

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

Indian Lake boys golf team is building with a new leader and plenty of veterans.

Nick Tucci has taken over as the head coach. Last season, the Lakers were 6-4 and finished third in the Mad River division of the Central Buckeye Conference.

There are five letterwinners, which are seniors Joe Cummins, Cooper Hall, and Kade Richardson and juniors Crew McPherson and Jaxon Snipes.

Completing the lineup for Indian Lake are senior Matthew Culp, junior Tommy Jones, sophomore Jesse Carder and freshman Eli Cummins.

"I have seen a lot of potential from our letter winners this offseason."

NICK TUCCI
Head Coach

Tucci said, "I entered this season with three goals in mind. Promote the program, install a solid offseason program, and create a competitive atmosphere. I believe these are the steps that will lead to a successful program."

He pointed to the presence of the experience and leadership of the seniors and juniors as the team's main strong point.

Tucci said the key to improvement will be con-

sistency. "Golf can be a roller-coaster game. We just need to continue to grind and work to find that consistency that we can count on to be competitive."

In order to find success on the links, Tucci said that "our returning letter winners need to play and score like what they are capable of, because I have seen a lot of potential from them this offseason. We also need those new to varsity matches this year to learn and grow from that experience throughout the season."

He named Northwestern as the top competitor in the CBC, saying they have a solid program recognized throughout the state.

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INDIAN LAKE LAKERS

Lakers soccer puts focus on team culture

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

The focus is on the present for the Indian Lake boys soccer team.

Second-year coach Dallas Clary is coming off a 12-5-2 campaign in 2024 with the team winning the Mad River division title.

Avery Pequignot leads the returning letterwinners along with fellow senior Carson Clary, Griffin Schaub, Aidan Stinebaugh, and juniors Cason Lacher and Will Faler.

Schaub is the keeper for the Lakers, with



MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN LAKE BOYS SOCCER TEAM, (pictured (l to r): ROW 1: Titus Kelly, Cason Lacher, Gavin Dawson, Zach Hutton, Corbin Wilson, Carson Clary and Max Solomon; ROW 2: Head Coach Dallas Clary, Carter Oakley, Avery Pequignot, Griffin Schaub, Aidan Stinebaugh, Holden Wallace, Caleb Timms, Will Faler, Gary Hutton, Brandon Hutton and Coach Mike Pequignot.

Pequignot, Clary, Stinebaugh and Faler driving the offense and Lacher part of the defense.

Others on the roster are seniors Gavin Dawson, Titus Kelly, Caleb Timms and Brandon Hutton, juniors Gary Hutton, Max Solomon. Holden Wallace and freshmen Jayce Oakley, Zach Hutton, Carter Oakley, and Corbin Wilson.

"We will continue to build on the team culture and core values," said Clary. "The goal is to develop the 2025 team into the best team they can be. We can't live in 2024's success."

He said the team's core values are family, work, toughness and respect, which the team members have bought into. "All this creates the standard in having a strong team culture which helps build on

field success."

Clary said the team's youth means that they will work to build and develop continuity between the veterans and younger players.

"We keep driving to be in the moment and will focus on going 1-0 every day, whether it is in practice or a game," said Clary. "This team must go out and prove ourselves day in and day out."

Looking around the

Central Buckeye Conference, Clary said the Lakers have respect for team on both sides. "You must bring it in every game played. We must take care of what we can control and go out and prove ourselves in our preparation for the game. Our toughest competition should be ourselves and by pushing ourselves on the practice field should propel us through the season."

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INDIAN LAKE LAKERS



MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN LAKE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, (pictured (l to r): Titus Kelly, Will Faler, Aidan Stinebaugh, Evan Wu, Cason Lacher and Nathan White.

Indian Lake boys cross country is aiming for improvement this season

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

The Indian Lake boys cross country have a solid lineup with a mix of experience.

Justin Metzger begins his eighth season leading the team.

Returning letterwinners are senior Titus Kelly and juniors Cason Lacher and Will Faler. They are joined by senior Aidan Stinebaugh and two fresh-

men, Nathan White and Evan Wu.

The team was fifth the Central Buckeye Conference last season.

"Our goals for the year are to stay healthy and improve throughout the season," said Metzger.

He said that "we should have a tight pack from one to five this year. These boys are very competitive and that is a good trait for cross country

runners."

The keys for Indian Lake's success, he said, "are that we continue to bond as a team and run for each other. If we are able to keep our spread to under a minute then we will be able to surprise some teams."

North Union and Graham are likely to be factors in the chase for the league title, he said.



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Good Luck To All Area Teams!

INDIAN LAKE LAKERS

Lady Lakers cross country mixes veterans, new faces



MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN LAKE GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, (pictured (l to r): Haley Metzger, Laura Metzger, Lara Hagedorn, Alicia Brielmaier, Olivia Albert and Reagan Rash.

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

Indian Lake has plenty coming back for girls cross country, along with some new faces.

Justin Metzger, who also serves as the boys' coach, is coming into year number eight.

The Lady Lakers have returning letter winners in Reagan Rash, Evie Wagner, Alicia Brielmaier, Kayleigh Taylor and Haley Metzger. Rash and Wagner are seniors, and the others are juniors.

Moving up from the junior high program are four freshmen — Laura Metzger, Lara Hagedorn, Olivia Albert and Karlee

"We returned our top 5 from last year and added four freshmen to the team this year. They are a great group of kids who work hard and are supportive of each other."



JUSTIN METZGER
Head Coach

Taylor.

After finishing third in the Central Buckeye Conference last season, the Lakers are seeking to improve as the season progresses and maintain

good health.

"We returned our top 5 from last year and added four freshmen to the team this year. They are a great group of kids who work hard and are supportive of each other," said Metzger.

An area of focus for Indian Lake will be to have confidence in training and abilities. "It is important that we continue to bond as a team and run for each other. If they are able to do this then I believe we will have a successful season."

Defending champion North Union is among those Metzger expects to provide tests for the Lakers.

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INDIAN LAKE LAKERS

Lakers volleyball drives for consistency

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

Indian Lake is seeking to repeat success with a new leader.

Missy Mefford, who previously served as coach for the Lakers in 2014, is back in charge of the varsity.

Last season, Indian Lake

powered its way to a 21-4 overall record and went 9-1 in the Central Buckeye Conference. They were sectional champions and reached the district final.

There is plenty of talent returning from that squad including 10 letterwinners. Leading that group are sen-



MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN LAKE VOLLEYBALL TEAM, (pictured (l to r): Row 1: manager Eden Kaser, Quinn Imm, Addyson Roby, Annie Rapp, Riley Ross, Brynna Avila, Makenna Hurley, Addison Beck and manager Nora Wickline; ROW 2: Coach Mandy Tidwell, Coach Marissa Davis, Cami Bailey, Alivia Kinney, Courtney Altstaetter, Cambrie Warnecke, Mackenzie Miller, Lilly Wickline, Head Coach Missy Mefford and Coach Megan Kimbler.

iors Annie Rapp, Addison Beck, Makenna Hurley, Riley Ross, Cambrie Warnecke and Lilly Wickline, along with juniors Courtney Alstaetter, Cami Bailey and Addy Roby and sophomore Alivia Kinney.

Juniors Brynna Avila

and Quinn Imm are the other members of the team.

Mefford said that the goals include a league championship and success in the sectional and district tournaments.

"We have a lot of returning letter winners and we

plan on being competitive," said Mefford. She noted that communication will be a key focus as well.

For the Lakers to reach the heights again, "we have a strong group of seniors that we will be leaning on to lead our team. We need to stay consistent and not

lose focus on our goals," said Mefford.

The teams to watch in the CBC include Benjamin Logan, North Union and Northwestern and Shawnee, she said, adding that no one should be overlooked.

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INDIAN LAKE LAKERS

Lakers girls soccer aiming for next rung

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

The Indian Lake girls soccer team has a big pool of experience and looks to make a splash.

The Lady Lakers have a new coach in McKenzie Thorpe. They were 6-11-1 last season and had one win against Central Buckeye Conference foes.

The team does have solid numbers including 10 returning letterwinners. That group features seniors Riley Shaner, Olivia Hurley, Chloe Wade, Augusta Biederman, Mara Bihn, and Harly Kinniger; junior Hailey Prater, and sophomores Brylee Buyer, Karsyn Newkirk, and Diem Martin.

They are joined by senior Kaelynne Jones, juniors Alania Hershberger, Audry Burton; sophomores Kylee Hartford and Bre Wisener, and freshmen Allison



MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN LAKE GIRLS SOCCER TEAM, (pictured (l to r): ROW 1: Harly Kinniger, Chloe Wade, Olivia Hurley, Karsyn Newkirk, Bre Wisener, Hailey Prater, Diem Martin, Lexi Lamb and Kylee Harford; ROW 2: Coach Matt Hurley, Mara Bihn, Allison Overmyer, Riley Shaner, Audry Burton, Kaelynne Jones, Brylee Buyer, Alaina Hershberger, Ally Hoffman, Khloe Perryman, Audree Titus and Head Coach McKenzie Thorpe.

Overmeyer, Audree Titus, Khloe Perryman, Lexi

Lamb, and Ally Hoffman.

The offense is made up of Buyer, Shaner, Wade, Overmeyer, Hershberger, Newkirk, Hurley, Perryman, and Lamb.

Defenders include Martin, Titus, Bihn, Burton, Jones, Biederman, Prater, and Hoffman.

Minding the goal will be Hartford and Wisener.

The players are hardworking and very coachable. They have worked to improve in the areas we have asked them to improve on.



MCKENZIE THORPE
Head Coach

to improve the possession and movement away from the ball.

In order to move up in the CBC ranks, she aims to build a positive team culture and encourage dedication and commitment to the program.

Shawnee and Northwestern were the top teams in the Mad River division last season, with Kenton Ridge, Jonathan Alder and Urbana having double digit wins in the Kenton Trail side.

Kinniger was the leading scorer last season with nine goals and one assist, while Buyer had five goals and four assists, and Hurley had four goals and three assists.

Coach Thorpe said that the goals for the season are better understanding of positioning to control the ball.

She noted that the players are hardworking and coachable. They will work

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INDIAN LAKE LAKERS

Lakers girls golf works to stay competitive

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

Indian Lake's girls golf have a mix of experience and youth in 2025.

Coach Todd Inskeep is in year three. The Lakers were 10-10 last year.

Seniors Alex Kinney and Taylor Klofta and junior Lily Michael return after earning varsity letters last season.

The others making their way around area courses will be sophomore Chloe Borgerding and freshmen Adriana Andrus and Bella

Michael.

Inskeep said the goal for the team is to get better every day. The three letter-winners will seek to help the new players, he said.

The main areas where improvement will be needed is the short game and putting. In order to have a successful season, he said that they want to be competitive in every match.

Graham was cited as the Central Buckeye Conference's main competition.



MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN LAKE GIRLS GOLF TEAM, (pictured (l to r): Coach Todd Inskeep, Adriana Andrus, Isabella Michael, Taylor Klofta, Chloe Borgerding, Alex Kinney and Lily Michael.

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RIVERSIDE PIRATES



MEMBERS OF THE RIVERSIDE BOYS GOLF TEAM, (pictured (l to r): FRONT ROW: Zane Armbruster and Karston Duckro; BACK ROW: Head coach Andy Phelps, Daniel Esh, Hayden McCully, Hayden Sanford, Syler Clark and David Gross.

Riverside boys golf consists of dedicated group

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

With a good mix of experience and youth, Riverside's boys golf team aims to be in the mix.

Veteran coach Andy Phelps is back for year number 17. The team was 1-11 in the Three Rivers Conference and 5-31 last season.

Senior Hayden McCully, and junior Syler Clark and Daniel Esh are the returning lettermen for the Pirates.

Hayden Sanford is the squad's other senior, and is joined by juniors Zane Armbruster and David Gross plus freshman Karston Duckro.

"We are a mix of experience and those new to the game of golf," said Phelps. "Our main goal is to get better from the beginning of the season to the end. We want to compete in matches and maybe surprise a few teams this year with a win,"

The team's main

strength is its dedication, he said. "They want to practice and work on their game all the time. We get off the tee well and our mid-game range is pretty good."

Phelps said that Riverside will focus on the second and third shots. "Matches are won and lost with your short game. We also just need to learn the ins and outs of the game." He noted that several members are new and will focus on the basics.

"The biggest key to a great year is the mental game," said Phelps. "The boys can't get frustrated and angry on the course. Every one has bad shots; it's what you do on the next shot that is the most important. We have to stay mentally focused,"

Bethel, Miami East, Lehman Catholic, Troy Christian and Milton-Union all have strong points, Phelps said, with Bethel likely the team to beat.

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RIVERSIDE PIRATES

Lady Pirates aim to rise in Three Rivers Conference

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

Riverside's volleyball program has a new captain and hopes to explore new waters.

The Pirates have Ashley Borchers as the team's coach. The team struggled last year, going 2-23 and were seventh in the Three Rivers Conference.

There are four returning letterwinners – Miah Carman, Emilee Robinson, Zoey Ransbottom and Keira Manahan.

Ransbottom is the team's lone senior. The other three are juniors.

Along with those players, others on the varsity are junior Makayla Hurley and Kara Klingler, sophomores Chloe Purtee, Molly Carman, Kenzie Stotler, and Valerie Knight and

freshman Eva Dodds.

"We have a hard working group and I would like that to shine through in our games," said Borchers. "These girls are very coachable. They have a strong team bond and work well together."

The main areas of focus for the Pirates will be to improve the serve / receive game and speeding up the tempo of the offense,

Borchers said the team's chemistry and communication are the biggest keys for success. "We are also working to make sure our fundamental skills are close to mastery so we can build off of them."

Covington and Miami East are the strong programs in the TRC, Borchers said.



MEMBERS OF THE RIVERSIDE VOLLEYBALL TEAM, (pictured (l to r): FRONT ROW: Molly Carman, Kara Klingler, Zoey Ransbottom, Emilee Robinson and Miah Carman; BACK ROW : Coach Ashley Borchers, Kenzie Stotler, Eva Dodds, Keira Manahan, Valerie Knight, Makayla Hurley, Chloe Purtee and Coach Morgan Robison.

Pirates cross country builds in second year

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

The Riverside cross country program continues to build itself up.

This year, there are four runners – two with experience and two who are new.

Also new is Coach Michelle Suman, who has taken over as the coach.

Returning from last year are senior Maggie Beaty and junior Aidan Fout. Joining them on the 3.1 mile courses will be freshmen Brendan Latimer and Kristen Thompson.

Suman said the goal is to

improve the times throughout the season.

"Aidan Fout and Maggie Beaty are returning members from last season and are great leaders," she said. "All four athletes are motivating each other during practice and meets."

She said the runners are working to set consistent pace during races. They are also working to build up the program in numbers.

"We want to keep building on improving each time they go out and run," said Suman. "We are a small team but a mighty team that are creating a foundation that we

can grow and bring on other members. We are planning on working during the off-season on conditioning."

The Pirates will compete as individuals since five members are needed for a team score.



MEMBERS OF THE RIVERSIDE CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, (pictured (l to r): Aidan Fout, Margaret Beaty, Coach Michelle Suman, Kristen Thompson, and Brenden Latimer.



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RIVERSIDE PIRATES

Pirates girls golf in hunt for league crown



BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

The Riverside girls golf team is small, but plans to be one that will draw recognition.

Rod Yoder is in his fourth season as the team's coach. They were 40-40 overall last season and finished second in the Three Rivers Conference with an

MEMBERS OF THE RIVERSIDE GIRLS GOLF TEAM, (pictured (l to r): Head Coach Rod Yoder, Grace Owen, Whitney Leatherman, Reagan McDaniel, Lei Hurley, Adalynn Calaway, Assistant Coach: Amy McDaniel.

We have veteran leadership and everyone is working hard to improve.



ROD YODER
Head Coach

11-4 record.

Senior Reagan McDaniel leads the pack along with fellow letterwinners, junior Lei Hurley and sophomore Adlynn Calaway. Rounding out the lineup are junior Whitney

Leatherman and sophomore Grace Owen.

Yoder said that the team's goals are to compete for the league championship and improve in each match.

He said that McDaniel provides veteran leadership and all of the players are working hard to improve their game.

Areas of focus will include the short game along with chipping and putting.

In the rest of the Three Rivers Conference, he sees Bethel and Milton-Union as the strongest competition.

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TRIAD CARDINALS

Triad boys return solid core of golfers

BY AARON LABATT
FOR THE EXAMINER

Despite graduating a handful of players from last season, Triad's boys golf team has plenty of talent to build on and a few individuals that could achieve personal goals.

The Cardinals finished 4-13 overall last season and 4-12 in the Ohio Heritage Conference.

Junior Cohen Millice anchors the team after earning OHC honorable mention and finished 15th overall in the league with 122.5 points.

Other letterwinners back are seniors Andy Knott and Garrett Bollock, while others in

the top five for the Cardinals are seniors Jayden Blackburn and Landon Hall.

"We're a fairly new group of golfers mixed in with a great one and couple solid twos after that," said head coach Travis Reinhart. "When we play well, we can compete and when we compete, we tend to pull out some victories that many didn't see coming.

"That's part of a growing program and that's what we're trying to do here. To grow and develop, and bring in a new culture and mindset that will help the future teams."

Making up the rest of the

boys team are sophomores Colton Mullin, Carson Jackson and Hayden Sheppard and freshman Syllas Holbrook.

The Cardinals finished fifth in the final OHC North division standings last season. Reinhart sees another tough year of competition in the league.

"The OHC is tough with several good golfers from a wide range of schools," said Reinhart. "Some schools have solid ones and others have a solid three. I think the top teams will be Mechanicsburg, Fairbanks, Greeneview and West Liberty-Salem."



MEMBERS OF THE TRIAD BOYS GOLF TEAM (pictured l to r): FRONT ROW: Carson Jackson, Colton Mullin, and Cohen Millice. BACK ROW: Assistant coach Billy Narramore, Jayden Blackburn, Andrew Nott, Landon Hall, and Garret Bollack. Not shown is head coach Travis Reinhart.

Trio of golfers lead Cardinal girls on links

BY AARON LABATT
FOR THE EXAMINER

After a solid showing at the sectional tournament, Triad's girls golf team graduated four seniors and are left with a small, but hungry group. The Cardinals also have a new leader in first-year head coach Jessica Black.

"My number one expectation for my girls is to keep academics a top priority," said Black. "From there, I look for positive attitudes, teamwork and just for them to learn to have respect for the game, and grow from the challenges they face throughout the season."

Triad finished fifth in the Ohio Heritage Conference final standings out of nine teams. From that squad, the Cardinals graduated two first-team OHC players in Ashtyn Millice and Chloe Honchell.

However, the Cardinals do return two letterwinners in juniors Amira Gonzales and Adyson Feasel. Fellow junior Carma Cauley completes the three-person team.

"Given we only have a three-person team, I truly cannot rank one over the other," said Black. "They all



MEMBERS OF THE TRIAD GIRLS GOLF TEAM (pictured l to r): Amira Gonzales, Carma Cauley, Adyson Feasel and head coach Jessica Black.

equally work hard and are dedicated to improving their game. I look forward to building this team and watching what they can do the rest of this season and next."

While Black is still getting to know her team, she has already picked up plenty of positives to build on.

"Being this is my first-year coaching, I am still putting

the pieces together and learning each player's strengths and weaknesses," said Black. "There is one thing I've really noticed with my girls and that is their bond and willingness to help each other out. It is truly admiring. They push each other through the good and bad plays, always supporting each other."

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TRIAD CARDINALS



MEMBERS OF THE TRIAD VOLLEYBALL TEAM (pictured l to r): FRONT ROW: Jaylee Cook, Sara Pratt, Adisyn Welty, Riley Haser, Kimber Instine, Elley Dorn, Jenna Jones, Haven Cantrell BACK ROW: Assistant Coach Justin Staten, Reagyn Welty, Kaitlyn Herron, Haley Sterling, Avery Eaton, Aubrie Johnson, and Head Coach Kim Staten.

Staten focused on building foundation for Triad volleyball

**BY AARON LABATT
FOR THE EXAMINER**

Triad's volleyball team battled last year, but turned in a 2-20 overall performance and a 1-15 record in the Ohio Heritage Conference North division. With a handful of solid players back, head coach Kim Staten is hopeful her group can start to build.

"Our goal is rebuilding the Triad volleyball program by focusing more on the process of executing on a high level more than the outcome," said Staten.

"We have a lot of veterans with experience at the varsity level and we have some underclassman that could make a difference for us if we focus on our process."

Leading the way for the Cardinals is senior setter Jenna Jones, who earned OHC second-team honors last fall. She tallied 56 kills, 222 assists and 156 digs. Sophomore Reagyn Welty (outside hitter) led the team in kills with 116 to go with 78 digs, while senior Sara Pratt (setter/defensive specialist) recorded 157 assists and 128 digs.

"We are excited to watch seniors like Sara Pratt and Jenna Jones lead this team," said Staten. "We have some underclassmen that have stepped up over the summer like Elley Dorn and Reagyn Welty. Not to mention a host of seniors that will anchor this team. We have had several girls dedicated to improving over this summer."

Set to start along with Jones, Welty and Pratt are seniors Adisyn Welty (right side hitter) and Haley Sterling (middle hitter) and juniors Kimber Instine (outside hitter) and Elley Dorn (defensive specialist).

"Adjusting to the higher standards we have for our program (will be something we need to work on)," said Staten. "The girls are learning how to push through hard moments and are also learning that they can do hard things. The challenge for us will be to implement that during the season against our opponents in the OHC."

Rounding out the team are senior Jaylee Cook (middle

See FOCUSED on P4

Triad runners growing, improving this fall

**BY AARON LABATT
FOR THE EXAMINER**

Last season, Triad's cross country program did not field a scoring team, but did have one girl and one boy qualify to the regional meet. The Cardinals return both of those runners and now have a boys team big enough to score at meets. That has produced plenty of optimism for the program this fall.

"Last season we had two individual runners advance to regionals and they both have aspirations of regionals and beyond this year," said head coach Niki Smiles. "We also have a high school boys team this year. Although they are pretty green, I hope for us to have a good placing in the Ohio Heritage Conference."

Junior Henry Beaverson anchors Triad's boys after qualifying to the Division III regional meet where he finished 29th out of 96 runners. He also earned second-team all-Ohio Heritage Conference. Junior Hayden Williams is the



MEMBERS OF THE TRIAD CROSS COUNTRY TEAM (pictured l to r): FRONT ROW: Aubrey Johnson, Henry Beaverson, Brooklynn Melidor, Rory Strickland. BACK ROW: Daniel Ishida-Garwood, Hayden Sheppard, Connor Copley, Noah Humphrey.

team's only other letterwinner back.

The rest of the boys team consists of junior Connor Copley, sophomore Hayden Sheppard and freshmen

Noah Humphrey, Daniel Ishida-Garwood and Rory Strickland.

"Henry Beaverson looks stronger and more serious than ever before," said Smiles.

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WLSALEM TIGERS



“Keys for the squad’s success are doing the little things supporting each other and communicating.”



AARON LAUCK
Head Coach

MEMBERS OF THE WEST LIBERTY-SALEM GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, (pictured (l to r):
FRONT ROW: Charlee Albers, Ivy Matthews, Gwen McCullough, Malia Miller, Emma Smith and Mia Dooley;
BACK ROW: Coach Aaron Lauck, Isla Leichthy, Mariska Smith, Elia Matthews, Rachel Stanford, Annabelle Booze, Hattie Jacobs and Addi Wallen.

Big Orange girls retain plenty of experience

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

There’s plenty of positives for the Big Orange girls cross country squad.

Coach Aaron Lauck is in his second year as head coach and 27th overall.

The team was 126-20 last season and won the conference and district titles. They finished third at regionals and were fourth in the Division III state meet.

All the members of that team are back including seven letterwinners. The letter winners are seniors Ivy Matthews, Gwen McCullough, Malia Miller and Emma Smith, junior Mariska Smith, sophomore Isla Leichthy and Addy Wallen.

Junior Hattie Jacobs, sophomore Rachel Stanford, and freshmen

Charlee Albers, Annabelle Booze, Mia Dooley and Elia Matthews.

McCullough and Wallen were first team OHC selections, with Mariska Smith and Leichthy on the second team.

Goals listed by Lauck include commitment to the team and training plan, support for each other, maintaining physical and mental health, and improvement throughout the season, plus postseason success.

“We return everyone from our 2024 state team and we also have solid group of underclassmen that I feel will improve greatly over the season,” Lauck said,

He added that to help his runners improve, “I am working on communicating new training techniques to

the girls so they can better understand the season process. They will all continually work at communicating and managing quality training with being well-rounded student athletes.”

Keys for the squad’s success are doing the little things in regards to injury prevention and strength drills, supporting each other as teammates, effectively communicating and managing busy schedules and committing to the training and racing plans, according to Coach Lauck.

He said that the conference will be very competitive. “Cedarville, Greenon, Fairbanks, and Mechanicsburg all have talented runners and quality coaches. Any of these teams have the firepower to be in contention,” he noted.

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MEMBERS OF THE WEST LIBERTY-SALEM VOLLEYBALL TEAM, (pictured (l to r): FRONT ROW: Reese Winters, Sophia Landon, Reagan Winters, Lilly Heminger and Kiersten Stoll; BACK ROW: Coach Mikalia McIntosh, Lyndee Harrison, Naomi Cole, Ava Poppe, Addison Hutton, Coach Erin Stafford and head coach Annie Kauffman.

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Tigers offer much versatility

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

There's plenty of experience on hand for West Liberty-Salem volleyball.

Coach Annie Kauffman returns for her 10th year leading the varsity. In 2024, West Liberty-Salem was 13-11 overall and 11-5 in the Ohio Heritage Conference. They were third in the North Division.

Letterwinners back for this season include senior setter Lyndee Harrison

along with outside hitters Naomi Cole and Ava Poppe and juniors Reagan Winters at defensive specialist and libero; middle hitter Lilly Heminger; setter and DS Sophia Landon, and outside hitter Kiersten Stoll.

They are joined on the court by senior Addison Hutton and freshmen Reese Winters and Kenna Wright.

"Our team's strengths include versatility and experience. Many of the athletes can contribute to multiple roles, and our returning

players bring valuable leadership and game knowledge," said Kauffman.

She said that the goals are to focus on taking care of the ball in serve receive and finishing at the net, staying competitive in every match. "We're also working to build unity, strengthen our mindset, stay disciplined, and compete with intensity. We want to grow as a team both on and off the court by supporting each other and staying focused through every chal-

lenge."

They will look to improve on serve and receive, increase tempo and maintain consistency.

Kauffman said that "success this season will depend on strong communication, staying disciplined in our play, playing with consistent intensity, and responding to challenges with a focused mindset."

The Tigers' main competition in the OHC will be Fairbanks and Madison Plains.

WVLSALEM TIGERS

Lady Tigers counting on all members to contribute

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

There's plenty of leadership and everyone will matter for the West Liberty-Salem girls soccer team.

Mandy Lauck comes back for her second season, after going 6-9-1 overall and 4-3-1 in the Ohio Heritage Conference.

Returning letterwinners include sophomore Arianna Weaver and junior Jenna Cline who were all-district honorable mention, along with seniors Tori Douthwaite, Emery Longaberger, Gwen McCullough and Abbie Thoman, junior Skylar Ropp and sophomore Delaney Anane-Sefah.

Offensive players are Cline, Weaver, McCullough, Ropp, with Longaberger and Douthwaite switching back and forth and Anane-Sefah, Thoman as defenders.

Others on the squad are seniors Shaye McGill, Kaylee Powell, and goalie Kaylee Blair, juniors Emma Vigar and Cali Benavides, sophomore Ellery Wygal, and freshman Ashlyn Yeater, Emily King, Alaina Caldwell, and Ella Jacobs.

"With small numbers keeping everyone healthy and in good physical fitness will be important. We would like to continue to be competitive and be in the top half of our conference and overall in our record," Lauck said."

She said that there is good leadership with Weaver, Cline,

Wygal (returning from an injury) and Benavides. "They will make big contributions on the field, on top of a solid group of freshmen. These girls are resilient and will battle even when tired," Lauck said.

With a roster on the smaller side, Lauck said that the key to success will be maintaining good health.

Around the OHC, "we expect to see good showings from Fairbanks, Greenon and



MEMBERS OF THE WEST LIBERTY-SALEM GIRLS SOCCER TEAM, (pictured (l to r): FRONT ROW: Emma Vigar, Abbie Thoman, Emery Longaberger, Gwenyth McCullough, Kaylee Blair, Shaye McGill, Tori Douthwaite, Kaylee Powell, and Skylar Ropp; BACK ROW: Alaina Caldwell, Ella Jacobs, Emily King, Ashlyn Yeater, Head coach Mandy Lauck, Arianna Weaver, Ellery Wygal, Delaney Anane-Sefah, Jenna Cline, and Coach Reece Albaugh.

Greenview again. We are going to battle to put ourselves in a position to be disruptive while making a run for OHC title," Lauck stated.

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WLSAEM TIGERS

West Liberty-Salem has deep pool of talent



MEMBERS OF THE WEST LIBERTY-SALEM BOYS SOCCER TEAM, (pictured (l to r): **FRONT ROW:** Peyton Ziegler, David Roberts, Braden Hershberger, Jerome Cordrey, Rylan Leichty, Tyler Hershberger, Jaden Caldwell and Eli Jones; **MIDDLE ROW:** Wyatt Longaberger, Patrick Brooks, Lance Saylor, Everett Brooks, Lance Campbell, Conner Leichty, Landon Zanfirov, Gunnar Lehman, Logan Zanfirov and Bo Miller; **BACK ROW:** Asst Coach Ben Yeater, Josiah Thoman, Robert Park, Jake Lauck, Kamden Yang, Caleb Ling, Tucker Searles, Elijah Christison, Miles Christison, Noah Sarver, Carter Pratt and Head Coach Tim Wolfe.

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BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

There are plenty of options for the West Liberty-Salem boys soccer team.

The Tigers have strong experience and 29 total players.

Veteran coach Tim Wolfe returns for his 28th season, and his 29th overall. The Tigers were 11-3-3 overall last season and 3-1-2 in the OHC.

Leading the way are seniors Lance Campbell, Wyatt Longaberger, Jake Lauck, Caleb Ling, Elijah Christison and Brock Burgel, and juniors Connor Leichty, Braden Hershberger, Tucker Searles, Patrick Brooks, Miles Christison, Noah Sarver, and Lance Saylor, most of whom are returning letterwinners.

Offensive players include Burgel, Campbell, Elijah Christison, Longaberger, Brooks, Leichty, and Sarver. Lauck, Ling, Miles

Christison, Hershberger, and Saylor are defenders and Searles will start in the net.

They are joined by sophomores Jaden Caldwell, Jerome Cordrey, Gunnar Lehman, Robert Park, Dave Roberts, Josiah Thoman, and Logan Zanfirov.

Rounding things out are freshmen Everett Brooks, Tyler Hershberger, Eli Jones, Rylan Leichty, Bo Miller, Carter Pratt, Kamden Yang, Landon Zanfirov, and Peyton Ziegler.

"I am encouraged by this year's team. There are many returning players with varsity experience who contributed to last season's win total," said Wolfe.

He added that "I expect to contend for the league title and be very competitive in all our games. I also hope that all the players improve their knowledge of the game, improve their individual footskills, and increase their enjoyment of the game too.

A final goal is to develop position depth on the varsity team and position knowledge on the junior varsity team.

With nearly 30 players on the roster, Wolfe said that they are able to have healthy competition at practice and a full junior varsity team. "That gives invaluable game experience to all our younger players, something not always possible with only a varsity squad," he said.

The Tigers are hoping the senior class will help the team to keep their composure. "Keeping focused on the task at hand matters in an 80-minute game. Our control of the ball is solid, and our possession game is improving. Many of the players understand their position assignments and carry them out well," he said.

For areas of improvement, he said, "What really separates the good from the great teams is consistency in

all phases of the game. We must continue to hone our first touch and communication so that we keep the ball longer and provide as much information to each other as often as possible. These two components are vital to being a successful soccer team against the best competition."

He added that "we must also teach the game well to our younger players who come to the high school program needing repetition of fundamentals. Finally, ensuring that all players know where to be at every moment during the match is an area to improve too. How quickly we can solidify these areas will determine our overall success."

Wolfe said the top competition is the same as in years past with Fairbanks, Greeneview and Greenon.

WLSAEM TIGERS

Big Orange sets sights on continuing their prowess



"With so much experience returning it really has helped the entire team this summer."



MIKE LOUDEN
Head Coach

MEMBERS OF THE WEST LIBERTY-SALEM BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, (pictured (l to r): FRONT ROW: Landon McKenzie, Dylan King, Brevin Louden, Caleb Larson, Levi Miller, Garrett Wallen, and Eric Hoover; BACK ROW: Coach Mike Loudon, Isaiah Barth, Brayon Gullett, Gauge Lee, Asher Cole, Zeke Longshore, Owen Hardwick, Jackson Henry, Zeke Sidders, Daniel Erne and

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

The Big Orange has reloaded for another charge.

Coach Mike Loudon is marking two decades with the West Liberty-Salem boys cross country program and has quite the stable, with five seniors and two juniors, plus a large group of younger runners.

Returning lettermen are seniors Dylan King, Caleb Larson, Brevin Louden, and Garrett Wallen, junior Zach Carter, and sophomores Asher Cole, Brayon Gullett, Zeke Longshore and Owen Hardwick.

Senior Levi Miller and junior Zeke Sidders are joined by sophomores Daniel Erne, Jackson Henry, Gauge Lee, along with freshmen Isaiah Barth, Eric Hoover and Landon McKenzie.

The team had the third-best winning percentage in program history last year, going 164-4. They won the Ohio Heritage Conference for the fourth straight year, repeated as district and regional champs and brought home the fourth Division II state championship.

This year, they are going for the 24th state appearance and

make it eight straight. The school record is seven (1973-79 and 2018-24).

"More importantly than winning is to maintain and continue the culture that the Big Orange has set over the years," said Loudon. "The goal is to always be consistent, be accountable, be tough, and compete for those that have ran before and run for the program currently.

Expectations are always high and for good reason, we strive to be one of the top programs in the state each year, and this year will be no different as we return some of the top runners in the state of Ohio."

Five of the top seven runners are back, with a combined 11 appearances — three for King, two for Larson, Wallen and Louden, and one by Cole and Gullett.

Larson was the OHC runner of the year, and set the school record with a time of 15:41.35. He was 13th at the state meet.

"With so much experience returning it really has helped the entire team this summer with accountability and consistency," said Loudon. "Our seniors have led us throughout the summer and become a better cohesive team."

He added that "we've also had several younger guys displaying leadership qualities this summer."

He noted that "After having amazing depth the past two or three seasons, this year we don't quite have that same depth on paper, though we do have a few young men making some noise to become varsity guys. With that said, we have several guys that could make big jumps this year, but will have to work extremely hard, be more consistent, and become more uncomfortable if they want to get to that next stage in their progression."

Louden said keys to success are for runners to be more consistent and make choices that will benefit the team. "Secondly, making ourselves more uncomfortable and pushing boundaries will allow each runner to become a better runner and teammate." He added that tracking strength and nutrition will ensure good health.

He sees Cedarville as among the top competition in the OHC, with Oakwood, Versailles, CHCA in the region, and Woodridge and Fairfield Union at the state level.

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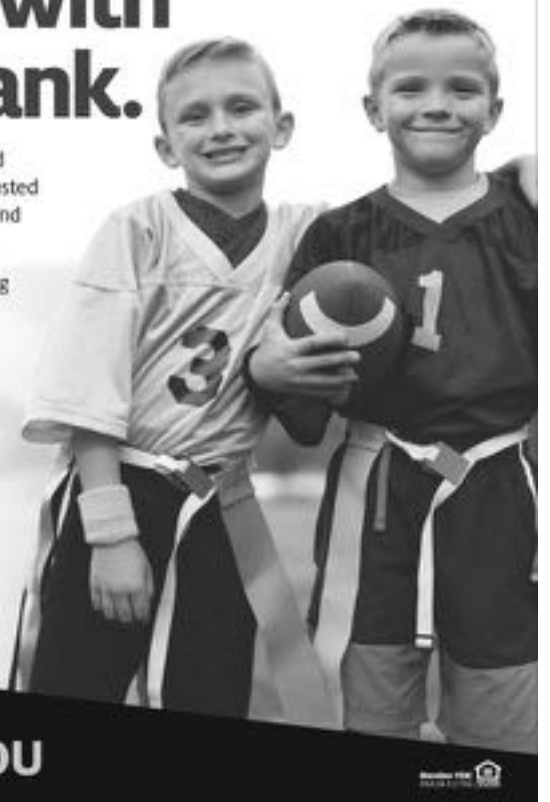
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WL-SALEM TIGERS

Lady Tigers girls golf seek to help each other succeed



MEMBERS OF THE WEST LIBERTY-SALEM GIRLS GOLF TEAM (pictured (l to r): KNEELING: Geneva Estep, Marisa Smith, Grace Jones, Ashlyn Pope, Jules Lovelace and Ashlyn Taylor STANDING: Coach John Stoner, Hayden Knotts, Olivia Reichardt, Addie Hutton, Nevaeh Gravely, Justice Moore, Taylor Cook and Breece Gullett

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

West Liberty-Salem's girls golf squad hopes to take the next step.

Coach John Stoner is back for his second year. Last season, the Lady Tigers were 9-2 and qualified for the district tournament. They were 6-3 in conference matches.

The team has seniors Olivia Reichardt, Geneva Estep, Taylor Cook, Breece Gullett, Marisa Smith and Addison Hutton and juniors Ashlyn Pope, Grace Jones, Natalie Fish and Chloe Carter.

"This year's team has experience and dedication to the sport."

JOHN STONER
Head Coach



They are joined by sophomores Ashlyn Taylor, Justice Moore, and Nevaeh Gravely and freshmen Jules Lovelace and Hayden Knotts.

The returning letterwinners are Reichardt, Estep,

Cook, Gullett and Pope.

"This year's team has experience and dedication to the sport. Overall, there is a solid work ethic and a positive, competitive attitude among all the team members. And they are really coachable," said Stoner.

He said that most challenging part is the short game, from 150 yards to the pin. "We need to focus on second and third shots, then chipping and putting to make ourselves the best we can be," he said.

The Tigers are looking to

compete for the league title and again qualify for districts. "If we develop enough, individuals or maybe even the team could make an appearance on the state level is not out of the question," said Stone.

The keys are working together, and building each other up, and working as a team, he noted.

Stoner expects Southeastern, Fairbanks and Northeastern to be the top competitors with Mechanicsburg potentially in the mix as well.

Tigers boys golf builds for consistent success

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

West Liberty-Salem's boys golf has a solid foundation.

Head coach Sean Stormes is back for a seventh time. The team was 7-9 last season and fourth in the Ohio Heritage Conference.

The returning letterwinners are seniors Brock Burgel, Brady Kauffman, juniors Braydon Thompson, Sutton Wilcoxon and sophomore Blaine Hughes.

Also part of the action for WL-S are seniors Taryn Bradley and Devon Jones; junior Troy Christison; sophomores Cohen Evans, Carter Henderson and freshmen Logan Behlmer, Kody Dalton, Caden Hodge, Gabe Myers, and Owen Thornburg.

"For this season I hope to build on the success of the program that last year's seniors built. If we can start the season off where we left off after last season, we will be in very good shape and competitive," said Stormes.

He added that multiple starters return from last sea-



MEMBERS OF THE WEST LIBERTY-SALEM BOYS GOLF TEAM, (pictured (l to r): KNEELING: Logan Behlmer, Cohen Evans, Kody Dalton, Brady Kauffman, Caden Hodge and Gabe Myers: STANDING: Owen Thornburg, Brock Burgel, Devon Jones, Braydon Thompson, Blaine Hughes, Troy Christison, Sutton Wilcoxon and Coach Sean Stormes.

son with valuable experience, plus a talented group of younger players. "Those two things coupled together will create a solid foundation to build on," he said.

"We need to improve our consistency as a team on the course. When we play to our potential, we can compete with anyone."

He cited the keys as consistency and discipline. "We have the talent to beat anyone. If we can play disciplined and consistently, we will be a dangerous team."

Defending OHC champion Mechanicsburg, along with Fairbanks will be the teams to beat for the Tigers.

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SELLEFONTAINE CHIEFTAINS

Chieftains girls cross country ready to break out of the pack

BY BEN GILLIG
FOR THE EXAMINER

After finishing 8th in the Central Buckeye Conference last year, the Bellefontaine girls cross country team is aiming higher in 2025.

With a strong returning core and a talented group of newcomers, Coach Stacey Wilson believes her team is poised for a breakout.

"We want to continue to build on last year's success.

"Being successful always comes back to being consistent with 3 things, sleep, fueling and health. Those three things lead to consistent training and racing."



STACEY WILSON
Head Coach

The girls have big goals, and a successful postseason along with a regional team berth are high on their list," Wilson said.

The Chieftains return one of the top runners in the state with junior Grace Brown. Brown, a two-time state qualifier, placed 6th at

the OHSAA Cross Country meet as a sophomore. She also captured the CBC and district titles, while finishing runner up at Regionals. She currently holds the school record of 18:24.

Joining Brown are junior Hannah Wilson and sophomore Cecce Reier, who add experience and "rock solid leadership" as varsity runners. Senior Kayleigh Flora, a standout for the Chieftains track team in the 800m, will compete for

both the volleyball and cross country squads this fall. A talented freshman class who earned the Middle School CBC Championship includes Blakely Vollrath, Cameo Greene, Leila Hammond and Sophia Marker

Wilson noted that "To be successful as a team we need to tighten up the 2-5 spots behind Grace."

"Being successful always comes back to being consistent with 3 things, sleep, fueling and health. Those three things lead to consistent training and racing."

With a proven front-runner, increased depth, and a hungry, hard-working roster, the Lady Chieftains have the pieces in place for a strong 2025 campaign.



MEMBERS OF THE BELLEFONTAINE GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY (pictured l to r): FRONT ROW: Cecelia Reier, Hannah Wilson, Cameo Greene and Sophia Marker; BACK ROW: Leila Hammon, Blakely Vollrath, Grace Brown, Kaeleigh Flora and Coach Stacey Wilson.

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SELLEFONTAINE CHIEFTAINS



MEMBERS OF THE BELLEFONTAINE BOYS SOCCER TEAM (pictured l to r): FRONT ROW: Aydon Walton, Grady Graham, Anderson Konz, Liam Scott, Nikhil Abyankar, Alejandro Garcia, Jack Wilson, Thomas Cabbell-Allmon, Landon Cook and Paul Lewis; BACK ROW: Head Coach Steve Henry, Sean Morgan, Mason Phillips, Wyatt Latimer, Lincoln Banta, Cody Hudson, Noah Torsell, Ian Willis, Caden Yoder, Ethan Turner, Max Fissel, Don Smith and Coach Jackson.

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Bellefontaine boys soccer under new leadership this season

BY BEN GILLIG
FOR THE EXAMINER

The Bellefontaine Chieftains boys' soccer team is turning the page in 2025 under the leadership of new head coach Steve Henry. After a challenging 2024 season that ended with a 2-15-1 overall record and 1-8-1 mark in Central Buckeye Conference play, the Chieftains are focused on building a foundation that will last beyond this year's results.

"This year we would like to build a culture that we are all proud to be a part of—one that will last for a long time after we have left the program," Henry said.

The roster may be young, but there's valuable experience returning. Leading the way is sophomore Anderson Konz, a special mention All-CBC performer who netted 5 goals and 2 assists as a freshman. He'll be joined up front by senior Cody Hudson (2 goals) and junior Ethan Turner (3 goals, 1 assist), two veterans who bring leadership and a competitive edge.

The Chieftains also return a trio of sophomores who logged heavy minutes last fall: Grady Graham (3 goals, 1 assist), Landon Cook, and Lincoln Banta. Their continued growth will be vital against CBC powers

like Jonathan Alder, a team Henry calls "solid" from top to bottom.

In goal, junior Noah Torsell anchors the defense after leading the team with 139 saves in 2024. Torsell is pulling double duty this fall, also competing as a kicker for the Chieftains football team.

While technical and tactical improvement is on the checklist, Henry believes success will hinge on his players' commitment to hard work.

"Having a group of guys that are willing to put in the work is critical, and so far they have met that challenge," Henry said.

SELLEFONTAINE CHIEFTAINS

Lady Chieftains features powerful combinations



MEMBERS OF THE BELLEFONTAINE VOLLEYBALL TEAM (pictured l to r); FRONT ROW: Madi Zedeker, Kelsie Snapp, Kaeleigh Flora and Zoey Conner; MIDDLE ROW: Coach Cronkelton, Jillian Ullom and Ava Opy; BACK ROW: Coach Mitchell, Arianna Rangel, Alayna Boyd, Presley Vigansky, Ava Layman and Head Coach Tara Phelps.

BY BEN GILLIG
FOR THE EXAMINER

After a strong 17-7 finish last fall, the Bellefontaine High School volleyball team is gearing up for another competitive season in the Central Buckeye Conference under the leadership of head coach Tara Phelps, now in her second year back at the helm and 18th overall season coaching.

The Chieftains finished fourth in the CBC's Kenton Trail division last year, going 5-5 in league play.

With a mix of experienced veterans and promising underclassmen, Bellefontaine is looking to climb the standings in one of the region's most respected volleyball leagues.

"Our league is incredibly competitive," said Phelps. "Kenton Ridge, London, and Jonathan Alder are always tough, and Urbana continues to improve every year. We're excited to see how we measure up."

Leading the charge is senior outside hitter Kelsie Snapp, a four-year varsity letter winner and First Team All-CBC selection.

Snapp recorded 335 kills and 45 service aces last season, and also placed fourth in the OHSAA state finals in discus last spring.

"She's a fierce competitor and a great leader," said Phelps. "Her drive sets the tone for our team."

Feeding Snapp and orchestrating the offense is senior setter Madilynn Zedeker, who holds the program's single-season and career assist records. Zedeker tallied 811 assists in 2024, averaging nearly 10 per set, and earned Second Team All-CBC honors.

"We're putting in the work to make this season

"We want this season to be one we look back on and say... That was worth it."



TARA PHELPS

Head Coach

worth it," Zedeker said.

Returning contributors Ava Layman (Jr., OH/RS) and Presley Vigansky (So., MB/S) are expected to take on expanded roles, while junior Jillian Ullom will

anchor the defense as a libero/defensive specialist. Seniors Kaeleigh Flora and Zoey Conner, along with sophomores Ava Opy and Arianna Rangel Guillen, round out a deep and ver-

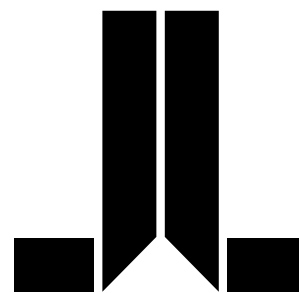
satile roster.

Despite graduating four senior starters, Phelps is confident in her team's ability to adapt and grow.

"We're focused on getting better every day," she said. "We talk a lot about controlling what we can and leaving everything on the court. Success isn't just about wins — it's about making the season meaningful and memorable."

"We want this season to be one we look back on and say, 'That was worth it,'" Phelps said.

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SELLEFONTAINE CHIEFTAINS



MEMBERS OF THE BELLEFONTAINE GIRLS SOCCER TEAM (pictured l to r): FRONT ROW: Sloan Stolly, Sophia Jacobs, Joy Fogan, Annelyn Clem, Layla Davis and Vanessa Friedrich: BACK ROW: Head Coach Aaron Shumaker, Chloe Stolly, Emma Whitaker, Callie Shumaker, Addison Wical, Isabel Beck, Alivia May and Coach Shumaker.

Bellefontaine girls soccer retains strong veteran core

BY BEN GILLIG
FOR THE EXAMINER

The Bellefontaine Chieftains girls' soccer team is aiming to climb the Central Buckeye Conference standings this fall under head coach Aaron Shumaker. The Chieftains went 3-7-1 in the league and 4-12-1 overall last season, but return a strong core across the field.

The attack will again be led by senior Callie Shumaker, who was sixth in the CBC in scoring last year with 18 goals and 7 assists. A first team all-league pick, she will be the

focal point of the Chieftain offense. Senior Ava Watson also returns after contributing 3 goals and 4 assists. Sophomore Sloan Stolly, senior Chloe Stolly, sophomore Vanessa Friedrich, junior Sophia Jacobs, sophomore Joy Fogan, and freshman Leyla Davis give Bellefontaine depth and versatility in the midfield. Senior Maci Flesher adds experience at both mid-field and forward.

Bellefontaine features a veteran back line, anchored by seniors Isabel Beck, Addison Wical, and Richiona Burnell, along

with sophomore Alivia May and freshman Annie Clem.

Junior Emma Whitaker returns in net after earning second team all-league honors last fall. She tallied 135 saves and a .760 save percentage, proving to be one of the CBC's most reliable keepers. Senior Richiona Burnell also provides goalkeeping depth.

With a proven scorer in Shumaker, a reliable keeper in Whitaker, and a strong senior class leading the way, the Chieftains are poised to be more competitive in 2025.

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Who will be on your team in retirement?

SELLEFONTAINE CHIEFTAINS



Chiefs golf making progress

The Bellefontaine boys golf team is ready to turn the page under fourth-year head coach Isaac Chiles, the district DARE officer who has made steady progress in building the program. After a tough 0-10 CBC campaign and 1-11 overall record last fall, the

Chieftains return with experience, new faces, and a determination to climb the standings.

Senior Collen Brugler leads the way after earning second-team All-CBC honors as a junior. Coach Chiles said, "Collen is very consistent in his game, particularly striking the ball. Our hope is that he can make the leap to first team all CBC this fall."

Bellefontaine also brings back letterwinners Kyle Boop (junior) and Noah Smith (sophomore). Senior Cody Hudson provides a new spark to the

roster, while sophomore Parker Swearingen looks to build on valuable JV experience. Freshmen Christian Sterling, Landon Severt and Matthew Dearwester add depth and give the program a glimpse of the future.

For Chiles, the goals remain clear: expand the numbers, sharpen skills, and gain the kind of experience that turns a rebuilding year into a launching pad. With a proven leader in Brugler and a hungry supporting cast, the Chieftains believe better days are ahead.

MEMBERS OF THE BELLEFONTAINE BOYS GOLF TEAM, (pictured (l to r): **FRONT ROW:** Noah Smith, Christian Sterling, Landon Seret, Paulsen Swearingin Coy. **BACK ROW:** Mason Pickering, Cody Hudson, Collen Brugler, Kyle Boop, and Head Coach Isaac Chiles.



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SELLEFONTAINE CHIEFS



MEMBERS OF THE BELLEFONTAINE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, (pictured (l to r): FRONT ROW: Tristyn Wilson, Nicolas Herrera Diaz, Brayten Swisher, Andrew Myers, Landon Gerwels. BACK ROW: Head coach Ben Davis, Jacob Moreland, Jacob Christen, Brenden Murray, Hayden Maus, Oliver Grandstaff, Will Myers, Coach Galen Miller.

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Vets to lead way for BHS boys cross country

BY BEN GILLIG
FOR THE EXAMINER

Head coach Ben Davis is entering his 40th season at the helm of the Bellefontaine cross country program, with longtime assistant Galen Miller once again by his side. Davis, who has seen just about everything in four decades, says this group stands out for its work ethic.

"This is the hardest working group, as a collec-

tive whole, in my 40 years," Davis said. "We've got tremendous upperclassmen leadership, and the kids are making good social and academic choices."

The Chiefs return a talented lineup that is battle-tested after a strong 2024 campaign. Bellefontaine placed second in the CBC, and went on to finish as district runner-up and regional qualifier. The goal now is to take the next step—contend for a district title and push for a state berth.

Leading the charge is senior Hayden Maus, the reigning CBC Runner of the Year and first-team All-CBC pick. He's joined

"We've got tremendous upperclassmen leadership, and the kids are making good social and academic choices."



BEN DAVIS
Head Coach

at the top by junior Jake Moreland, another first-team All-CBC performer, and juniors Oliver Grandstaff and Will Myers, who both earned second-team All-CBC honors. Also returning are letterwinners junior Brenden Murray (Jr) and Landon Gerwels (Soph). Behind

them, the Chiefs will look to senior Jake Christen, junior Tristyn Wilson, and freshmen Brayton Swisher, Nick Herrera-Diaz, and Andrew Myers, who comes in with momentum after a highly successful middle school career.

The Chiefs bring back

six letter winners in total—Maus, Moreland, Grandstaff, Myers, Murray, and Gerwels—which gives the program confidence heading into the fall. Davis knows the path to success will come down to staying healthy and closing the gap between the team's third

and fourth runners before the regional meet. "That'll be the key if we want to make state," he noted.

With Maus setting the pace, an experienced pack behind him, and Davis steering the program for a 40th year, Bellefontaine looks ready to make some noise once again this fall.

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SELLEFONTAINE CHIEFTAINS

Chiefs girls golf is tight-knit group

BY BEN GILLIG
FOR THE EXAMINER

The Bellefontaine girls golf team returns a strong core of experienced players and promising group of freshmen, as they aim to once again contend in the Kenton Trail Division this fall.

Senior letter winners Elliott Lang, Gillian Steele, and Thessaly Reminder lead the way alongside juniors Ella Fultz and Olivia Dearwester. Freshmen Allison Myers, Paxton Stewart, and Zoe Jervis add depth to the lineup and give the Chieftains more flexibility moving forward.

The Chieftains finished third in the league a year ago, and head coach Kris Myers hopes to see them maintain that position or climb higher. "Our goals for this season are to see steady improvement up and down our lineup,"

Myers said. "We have three freshmen joining an experienced group. Finishing in the top half of the league again would be a successful season."

A tight-knit, supportive team culture is one of Bellefontaine's biggest strengths. "This is a really cohesive group that gets along well," Myers noted. "That allows the girls to focus and find success on the course." Replacing the leadership of a graduated four-year letter winner will be one of the main challenges, and the Chieftains are looking for someone to step into that role both on and off the course. Limiting mistakes will also be key. "If we can limit the number of bad holes, we will have success," Myers explained.

Jonathan Alder, Kenton Ridge, and Bellefontaine are expected to be the top contenders in the Kenton Trail Division, but with a blend of experience and new talent, the Chieftains are determined to be right in the mix.



MEMBERS OF THE BELLEFONTAINE GIRLS GOLF TEAM, (pictured (l to r): FRONT ROW: Zoe Jervis, Allison Myers, Paxton Stewart. BACK ROW: Coach Kris Myers, Olivia Dearwester, Gillian Steele, Elliott Lang, Thessaly Reminder, Ella Fultz.

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SELLEFONTAINE CHIEFTAINS

Chiefs tennis focuses on progress



MEMBERS OF THE BELLEFONTAINE GIRLS TENNIS TEAM (pictured l to r): FRONT ROW: Mia Brown, Rylee Crabtre, Harley Neer, Olivia Wayne Pinkerton, Vanshika Shah and Oriana Vasquez; BACK ROW: Coach Ball, Charlie Hughes, Kaelynn Saxton, Ava Dolan, Adison Postle, Maria Casanas, Layla Hoyt and Coach Howell.

BY BEN GILLIG
FOR THE EXAMINER

The Bellefontaine Chieftains girls tennis team is ready to turn the page on a tough 2024 season, returning four starters and a renewed sense of optimism.

Last year's squad finished 0-17 overall and 0-12 in Central Buckeye Conference play, placing seventh in the league. But head coach James Howell sees this fall as an opportunity to reset expectations and focus on progress.

"The goal for this year is to realize that we are the only ones who can define what success looks like," Howell

said. "As an inexperienced team, we need to take every practice and match for what it is — another opportunity to learn and improve. Mistakes are great learning opportunities, and therefore opportunities to succeed."

The Chieftains will be led at first singles by senior Ava Dolan, whose 2024 season was cut short by injury.

Junior Olivia Warye moves from doubles to second Singles, while sophomore Harley Neer rounds out the singles lineup.

Bellefontaine's doubles pairings feature promising young talent. Freshmen Mia Brown and Rylee Crabtree team up at first doubles,

while seniors Adison Postle and Maria Casana anchor the second pairing.

Howell says the team's greatest strength is its positive mindset and eagerness to learn. Improvement, he notes, will come with "time on task" and consistent repetition on the court.

"Have fun, stay positive and celebrate all successes large and small," Howell emphasized.

In the CBC race, Howell expects perennial power Northwestern to once again be at the top, with London and Kenton Ridge also in the hunt.



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CALVARY CHRISTIAN SPARTANS



MEMBERS OF THE 2025 CALVARY CHRISTIAN VOLLEYBALL TEAM

*NOTE: As of press time we had not obtained the names from the school.

Spartans aim to make mark in new conference, home

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

The Calvary Christian volleyball team has a new home.

The school has joined the Metro Buckeye Conference. They were 6-12 playing as an independent last season,

Kelsey Carter is in her second season as the varsity coach. She has also taken over as the school's athletic director.

The team has five returning letterwinners with Ava Cole, Claire Heater, Grace Zell, Clara McGill and Bella Titus. Cole and Heater are seniors, Titus is a junior and McGill and Zell are sophomores.

They are joined by juniors Emily Church, Elizabeth Hermiller, Mya Davis, and Abigail Church, and freshmen Sophia Titus and Liddy Heater.

Carter said the team's goal

"is to grow not only as volleyball players but as individuals – developing our skills, supporting one another, and playing with purpose. We strive to honor God in everything we do, both on and off the court."

The team's biggest advantage, in Carter's view, is the ability to adapt. "We are comfortable with adjustments happening quickly and often, and our versatility allows us to

experiment with new lineups and positions. Our strong work ethic helps us continue building depth – both in skill and game knowledge – which makes us a more dynamic and resilient team."

For areas of improvement, she said the team will focus on sharpening skills and creating consistency in all aspects of the game. "By staying disciplined and committed to growth, we

aim to elevate our overall performance," said Carter.

Besides the games on the court, "we're committed to pursuing a bigger purpose, competing with excellence and glorifying God through our effort, attitude and teamwork," she said.

The team is looking to be competitive in the MBC, making a strong first impression and setting the tone for the program.

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CALVARY CHRISTIAN SPARTANS

Spartans boys soccer increases depth, focuses on character

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

The Calvary Christian boys soccer team is hoping to make a mark in a new setting.

The team has joined the Metro Buckeye Conference and has Daniel Wilt in his first season as the head coach.

Last season, the Spartans had a record of 11-4-2 and is hoping to match or exceed that total this year.

The roster is sizeable

with 25 players in all.

They include seniors Cohen McDonald, Elijah LeCrone, Evan Schmidt, Fletch Lambert, Lincoln Roell, Nehemiah Dillon, Tanner Hurley, and Trent Comer; juniors Brett Gildow, Ransom Lambert, and Zack Hart; sophomores Aiden Keller, Alton Tighe, Brody Prall, Cale Buchenroth, Caleb Gantz, Elijah Navarro, Gavin Householder, Kole Gantz, Sam Mihoci, Seth Palmer, and Xavier Church; and

freshmen Adler Andre, Oliver Jarvis, and Braden Hart.

“Our goal is to grow as a team and as men of character,” said Wilt. “Developing discipline, humility and servant leadership, both on and off the field.”

He said that the keys for success are staying committed, encouraging each other and playing with purpose. “If we honor God with our effort, attitude, and actions, that will create a successful season.”



MEMBERS OF THE CALVARY CHRISTIAN BOYS SOCCER TEAM

*NOTE: As of press time we had not obtained the names from the school.

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CALVARY CHRISTIAN SPARTANS

Calvary cross country program leaning on talents



MEMBERS OF THE CALVARY CHRISTIAN CROSS COUNTRY TEAM
**NOTE: As of press time we had not obtained the names from the school.*

BY MIKE FRANK
 EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

The Calvary Christian cross country teams are growing in numbers and experience.

Coach Dan Bragg is leading the team for the fifth season. He has 20 years of leadership over his career.

The boys team has seniors John Gaertner, Gideon Soma and Kaden Simpson, junior Elias Peterson, sophomores Benaiah Soma and Adly Knox, and freshman Ayden Knox. That gives them enough to earn team scores in competitions.

There are also three girls

with senior Abriley Knox, sophomore Aylssa Wylie and freshman Avery McCarty.

Bragg said the goals are to do well in the Metro Buckeye Conference, run well at districts and try to qualify for regionals.

“These guys are working hard and very encouraging to each other. The team will really take off as they push each other to greater improvement,” said Bragg.

He said that the program is working to develop a culture that is fun. “Part of the fun is to do well and be proud of our accomplishments. We see this as totally integrated with our

walk with the Lord and the things the Bible teaches us to do and be. Our improvement and growth are a reflection of the things God is teaching us.”

Bragg noted that it is easy to measure improvement in running, but “our goal is to get the most out of our talent and be responsible to use the gifts and talents we have been blessed to have. For some, the expectation is greater because one may have more talent.”

He cited Emmanuel Christian, Legacy Christian and Yellow Springs as the programs that will serve as the main competition for the Spartans.



MEMBERS OF THE 2025 CALVARY CHRISTIAN GOLF TEAM
**NOTE: As of press time we had not obtained the names from the school.*

Spartans golfers aim to improve

BY MIKE FRANK
 EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

The Calvary Christian golf team is looking to move up the ranks.

Coach Aaron Lightle is in his second year. Last season, the Spartans were 2-12.

The team has three returning letterwinners in seniors Jace Harpst and Colton Smith as well as junior Brant Zell.

The rest of the lineup con-

sists of senior Dean Ropp, junior Marley Young, sophomores Graham Trittschuh and Levi Hanson and freshmen Landon Jackson, Grayson Barnes and Jeff Harpst.

Lightle said that the goals for the season including having a winning record or close to it, shooting under 170 for nine holes and 350 for 18, and competing in the Metro Buckeye Conference.

Calvary Christian is in the MBC for the first year after being an independent.

The senior presence and the presence of younger players is the team’s strength, Lightle said.

He noted they need to work on game knowledge and management.

The main competition will be Emmanuel Christian and Middletown Christian.

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Girls soccer takes the pitch for inaugural campaign



MEMBERS OF THE CALVARY CHRISTIAN GIRLS SOCCER TEAM
 *NOTE: As of press time we had not obtained the names of the players from the school.

BY MIKE FRANK
 EXAMINER SPORTS EDITOR

Calvary Christian is expanding its athletic program with the addition of a girls soccer program for this season.

The team will be coached by Adam Palmer, who had served as a junior varsity coach.

“The ultimate goal for this first year is to set the standard of where we want to be in five years and methodically lay the foundation to get there,” said Palmer.

“Fundamentals, identifying team leaders, encouraging buy-in at the

earliest levels in our program and finally, setting the right player tone is key,”

He said that a high number of the team’s players have previous soccer experience. “We have solid experienced leadership on the team,” he noted.

Palmer said that the team includes a number of younger players. “We look forward to what lies ahead as these young players develop their soccer skills and get time together as a team.”

The team is led by seniors Nora Kopus and Megan Palmer, and jun-

iors Kacey Andre, Maddison Freeland, and Makarios Kariuki,

The others are sophomores Lydia Davie, Annagail Lambert, Blythe Lowe, and Reagan Roell; and freshmen Arianna Augustus, Emily Cronkleton, Emersyn Daley, Sarah King, Nicole LaDriere, Eden LeCrone, Caroline Moore, and Allie Schmidt.

The team will be members of the Metro Buckeye Conference and Palmer sees defending champ Legacy Christian as the main test. They are also in the Western Ohio Soccer League, with Anna expected to be among the foes.



MEMBERS OF THE RIDGEMONT CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, (pictured (l to r): Jakob Wallace, Coach Angela Haake, Luke Stacklin

Gophers add cross country program

BY SEAN BLEVINS
 KENTON TIMES

RIDGEMONT — Cross country has made its way to Ridgemont.

The Gophers have just two runners and will be coached by Angela Haake in the program’s first year of existence.

“Our athletic director last year [Mike James] came to me with the idea of it because we had some strong distance runners in track,” Haake said. “The idea was to get them to run cross country in the fall so we can have a better track season. We figured we would give it a shot and see what happens.”

Jakob Wallace is a junior and he is enjoying the experience of being part of the

inaugural cross country team. He is part of several relay units (the 4x800 and the 4x400) along with doing the 800 and the 1600.

“I’m going to try to drop down to 18,” Wallace said. “That’s my goal, but I’ll be happy with a sub-20 because this is our first year having cross country.”

Luke Stacklin, a junior, is doing cross country with the goal of losing weight to increase stamina for football.

“I need to work on my cardiovascular system,” Stacklin said. “I run two or three miles a day.”

In cross country, you need five runners to place as a team. Haake said they hope to have enough next year to be able to place in meets.

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RIDGEMONT GOLDEN GOPHERS

Gophers volleyball build strong connections

BY SEAN BLEVINS
KENTON TIMES

MOUNT VICTORY — Serving and setting will be major strengths of the Ridgemont volleyball team this fall.

The Gophers were 8-16 overall and 3-6 in Northwest Central Conference play a year ago. With an athletic group of six seniors, they are determined to turn it around. They have built strong connections with the three juniors and the two sophomores.

“We did a lot of good things and we graduated three seniors,” Ridgemont head coach Darcy Ruppright said. “11 girls are dressing right now on the varsity roster. We still have four open spots. The younger ones are working hard.”

Cylee Streets, a senior, is an outside hitter and will play on the left side.

“She’s got a pretty strong arm. She can spot serve. She can jump serve. She can control the ball,” Ruppright said.

Braylynn Caldwell, a senior, is a back-row player for the Gophers.

“She’s a phenomenal

back-row player. She gets to balls that not a lot of people can get to. She has a good read on the court. She’s also got a really strong hitting arm,” Ruppright said.

Laney Elsasser, a senior, will play at setter this fall. She has good footwork and is a solid all-around player.

“She’s been running our setting for us. She does a nice job there. She has a nice hitting arm. She also spot serves and can really control that. She’s been working hard with our hitters to adjust with the heights,” Ruppright said.

Olivia Newland, a senior, will play in the middle this season. She has a wicked serve.

“She has a unique serve that can throw people off. It’s fun to watch people try to react to that,” Ruppright said.

Ruth Eckstein, a senior, is a setter. She is also a strong hitter from the corners.

Kate Stahler, a senior, has been playing as a middle hitter in scrimmages.

“She is a phenomenal jumper. She has nice hands. She gets her hands on almost every ball,” Ruppright said.



MEMBERS OF THE RIDGEMONT VOLLEYBALL TEAM, (pictured (l to r): FRONT ROW: Aubrie Overly, Braylynn Caldwell and Prezley Furer; MIDDLE ROW: Laney Elsasser, Riley Hites, Cylee Streets, Olivia Ward and Kate Stahler; BACK ROW: Coach Darcy Ruppright, Ruth Eckstein, Brooklyn Large, Olivia Newland and Coach Leslie James.

Junior Olivia Ward has a high vertical and is a strong-armed jump server. She will help out on the left side.

“She has a really awesome jump serve, we just need to work on consistency,” Ruppright said.

Junior Prezley Furer has been a setter for the Gophers at the junior varsity level and will provide relief when senior setters Ruth Eckstein and Laney Elsasser need a break.

Sophomore Aubrie Overly will be a defensive specialist for the Gophers.

“She has a really good pass. She can quick and she can read the ball. She will fill in for Amiah Jones really well,” Ruppright said.

Sophomore Riley Hites provides some quality blocking, Ruppright said.

Junior Brooklyn Large will see a little bit of junior varsity time.

“She’s tall. She has really long arms. She’s been working on her hits and cutting her hips inside. She’s putting a lot of time in. She deserves to be up here,” Ruppright said.

As for the NWCC race, Ruppright believes it is wide-open and that Ridgemont should compete. She said Elgin is returning a lot from their squad that won the league title last year. Hardin Northern and Waynesfield-Goshen are expected to be near the top.

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RIDGEMONT GOLDEN GOPHERS



MEMBERS OF THE RIDGEMONT BOYS GOLF TEAM, (pictured (l to r): FRONT ROW: Andrew Houser, Charles Wingfield, Connor Zapata and Issac Hanson; BACK ROW: Coach Collin Wallace, Devan Ramsey, Harrison Reppart, Dawson Manns and Josh Stacklin.

Ridgemont boys golf remains strong at top

BY SEAN BLEVINS
KENTON TIMES

MOUNT VICTORY — The Ridgemont boys golf team went undefeated in match play and won the Northwest Central Conference for the first time in school history last year.

The Gophers have already gotten off to a strong start behind their amazing big three of Dawson Manns, Devan Ramsey and Harrison Reppart. They lost Will Browning to graduation, but their top three remains as strong as ever.

"It was a really good season," Ridgemont boys head coach Collin Wallace said. "We ended the season undefeated in match play and won the league for the first time in school history."

The Gophers were 16th as a team in the Division III district boys golf tournament last year at Stone Ridge Golf Club in Bowling Green.

Manns, a junior, has picked up some college offers and has earned medalist honors in several tournaments already this fall. He shot a 77 in Galion recently. If he continues to improve and shoot in the mid-to-high 70s, he could make it to state.

"He's doing really well this

year. He's got some Division III college offers so he's trying to get more of those. So far he's been medalist or runner-up in every tournament we've played in. Him and Devan have been back-and-forth," Wallace said.

Ramsey, a senior, was the medalist in a recent match in Galion with a 76. He goes toe-to-toe with Manns every match for the top honors. He also has a chance to make it to state if he shoots in the high 70s.

"One will win and the next match the other will win," Wallace said.

Reppart, a senior, is their No. 3 golfer and only a few strokes behind Manns and Ramsey in most matches.

"He's keeping up there. He's only a few strokes behind, but he's pushing them non-stop and giving them something to go after," Wallace said.

Charles Wingfield, a junior, is a returner and has made strides.

"He's improved. He's dropping off strokes as the season goes on," Wallace said.

Josh Stacklin and Andrew Houser were managers for the team last year. Now, they are valuable pieces of the team as freshmen.

"They got to spend all last year with us as managers.

They've been doing really well. We've used some of Josh's scores in some varsity matches. We've used some of Charles' scores and some of Andrew's scores. They've each contributed and we're only a couple weeks in," Wallace said.

The Gophers have a chance to go pretty far as a team. Wallace is focused on improving the depth of the squad.

"We want to get the 4-6 caught up to the 1-3. It takes a lot of time" Wallace said.

He is in his fourth year as the head coach of the program and they have gone to new heights every year. They are in a great position to continue that upward trajectory with the special top three they have this year.

"It's going to be hard losing that top three. Devan was a four-year. Dawson was a three-year that I wish was a four-year. Same with Harrison. I remember Devan on the first day of practice, the first day ever meeting him. Looking at him now, it's a massive change," Wallace said.

The district tournament will likely be at Stone Ridge Golf Club in Bowling Green again and the sectional tournament at Valley View Golf Course in Galion.



MEMBERS OF THE RIDGEMONT GIRLS GOLF TEAM, (pictured (l to r): FRONT ROW: Addison Holland, Manager Maddy Russell and Kelsey Ramsey; BACK ROW: Manager Willow Kiper, Kate Russell, Anna Ramsey, Lydia Houser and Coach Mackenzie Wallace.

Ridgemont girls golf team on the rise

BY SEAN BLEVINS
KENTON TIMES

MOUNT VICTORY — The Ridgemont girls golf team is on the come up as they enter their second year of existence.

In previous years, the girls just played with the boys. Now, they have their own team and were good enough to win a couple matches and the Hardin County Invite last fall.

"It was pretty good being that it was our first year having a full schedule," Ridgemont girls golf head coach Mackenzie Wallace said. "We won a few matches and improved a bunch. At the end of the season, we won the Hardin County Invite so that was cool to be able to show their growth. Anna Ramsey won the whole tournament. They're hoping to repeat that this year."

Anna Ramsey is their lone senior. She won the Hardin

County Invite last year in her first year playing golf.

"That was pretty cool because last year was her first year playing golf. She definitely grew and improved a lot. She put in a lot of effort to get better. She seems to be a pretty good leader to the team. They are all so uplifting to each other and so supportive of each other," Wallace said.

Kelsey Ramsey, a sophomore, is the brother of Devan Ramsey and cousins with Anna Ramsey.

"She has really stepped up to the plate. She has that competitive edge constantly trying to beat her brother or Anna. Just a super great personality and she's so consistent," Wallace said.

Addison Holland has made a huge leap from her sophomore year to her junior year, her coach said.

Lydia Houser, a junior, is a

perfectionist and the hard work she put in over the offseason is paying off.

"Our last match, her and Anna were co-medalists so that was cool. She really put in the work this offseason," Wallace said.

Kate Russell, a freshman, is in her first year of golfing.

"It's always interesting seeing when people first start playing golf because it's not easy by any means. It's such a mental game. She's done really well handling that mental load. She's getting better and better each match," Wallace said.

The second-year Ridgemont coach said their main goal is to win the Hardin County Invite again.

"Our top four girls are fairly consistent. They trade off one match after the other, you never know who will shoot the best score," Wallace said.



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