

Lady Cardinals search of another trip to state

By Mike Courson

Expectations go little higher than making the state tournament. Last year, the Hoisington/Central Plains softball team did just that, taking a 13-9 record to Topeka and falling to top-seeded Girard in the first round. Losing just one senior from that squad, fourth-year coach Gary Boxberger wants more from his 2016 squad.

"I want to go back to state and get into the second round by winning the first game," he said. "With the seniors we have back and all the experience, that's one of our goals."

The Lady Cardinals will have plenty of experience in the circle. Senior Karisa Schremmer has been a force for several years. Last season, her record fell off to 7-9 overall but she still averaged better than a strikeout an inning with 93 punchouts in 92 innings of work. She allowed 158 hits and walked just eight batters all year.

Junior Delaney Smith finished last year with a 6-1 record in the circle. She threw 46 innings, striking out 35, walking 15, and allowing 58 hits.

"With the experience they have, I'm pretty sure they're going to be pretty



2016 Hoisington Lady Cardinal softball team

solid in the circle."

Offensively, Hoisington, like many squads, will have a top-heavy roster. Schremmer is expected to lead things off after batting .406 last season with four doubles, a triple, and a home run. Senior Kaycee Steiner led the team last year with a .421 average. She also offers a little power in the No. 2 hole with nine doubles and three triples last season.

Then come the power bats. Senior catcher Marisa Jonas hit four home runs and batted .397 last year. She also had seven doubles and two triples. Senior Kendi Maxwell at first base led the team with 19 RBIs last season. She returns with a .338 average in the cleanup spot after banging

out six doubles and three triples last season.

Elsewhere in the lineup, senior Reagan Phelan batted .373 last year and brings plenty of speed to the No. 5 spot. Junior Emma Harmon batted .257, and senior Shae Bitter batted .306.

Boxberger expects his team to excel defensively. Most positions will be fielded by multi-year starters. Phelan anchors the outfield in center, with Harmon in right and senior Passion Martinez in left. Steiner was an all-league pick at a loaded shortstop position last spring, and Bitter also returns to the left side of the infield. Senior Kaylyn Oberle joins her Central Plains teammate Maxwell on the right side of the infield.

Juniors Tyann Schremmer and Chelsey Bieberle will also be looking for some playing time in the outfield. Bieberle batted .212 last season.

The Central Kanas League has been notoriously tough across the board, softball included. Last season, Hoisington finished sixth in the CKL. This year, Boxberger is pushing for a top-four finish but expects big tests from Sterling, Haven, Hillsboro, and Kingman.

Boxberger's new assistant coach this season is Ashley Schulz.

Thanks to Carrie Feist at HHS for the team photos!

Hoisington softball 2016

March 29	HAVEN
April 1	@Halstead
April 5	HILLSBORO
April 8	@Pratt
April 12	@Larned
April 15	NICKERSON
April 19	HESSTON
April 26	STERLING
April 29	@Kingman
May 10	SMOKY VALLEY
May 16-17	Regional
May 26-27	State

Hoisington tennis 2016

March 31	HOME
April 2	@Great Bend
April 5	@Ellsworth
April 8	HOME
April 14	@Ellsworth
April 21	HOME
April 28	@Great Bend
May 2	CKL
May 7	Regionals TBA
May 13-14	State@Wichita

Hoisington golf 2016

April 7	HOME
April 18	@Claffin
April 21	@Ellinwood
April 28	@Russell
May 2	@Salina (SES)
May 5	@Ellsworth
May 12	@Kinsley
May 16	Regional TBA
May 24	State@Salina

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