

Lessard takes reins of young LHS spring net squad

By Mike Gilmore
After 10 seasons of fall tennis, Larned tennis coach Mark Lessard will be starting fresh in 2016.
Well, not exactly fresh. The Indians' girls' tennis guru spent three seasons as assistant to boys' coach Joe Snyder, who retired in 2015. It wasn't that big of a leap to the boys' top spot.
"It's not that big of a jump," said Lessard, whose coaching style is as big on using a racket as explaining how to use it. With four players out of 11 returning varsity court time, Lessard will be spending a good deal of time explaining in the early season.
"I've given the talk a number of times," said Lessard. "This is a tennis racket, this is how you hold it, this is a forehand grip, this is a backhand... it's basic tennis and that's where you always start."
In the fall, the girls' season starts with the hour-long road trip to the Dodge City junior varsity meet, with Lessard giving last-minute pointers as he drives. The girls have learned the drill; the first few weeks, it's mix-and-



2016 Larned Indian tennis team

match on the court, with Lessard at one end hitting volleys and serves and leading conditioning drills.
Once the wind dies down for a decent early-spring practice, the boys will be getting the same delivery.
"We are trying out an intra-squad round-robin tournament to see where everyone falls," Lessard said. "From that, I'll make the decision on who will compete in singles and doubles on varsity and junior varsity. I believe we will be very solid in singles and doubles at the varsity level."
Having the extra numbers means an opportunity to enter some junior varsity meets, and that means more experience later on for a varsity challenge.
Juniors David Thompson and DJ Mead and Cadin Lymon and Trevor Coulson return, respectively, as No. 1 and No. 2 doubles from last season.
The Indians open on the road at Hutchinson on Tuesday April 5.
After another road trip to Cimarron, they have their home debut on Tuesday, April 12. The Central Kansas League meet is May 2 in Pratt, followed by Class 3A regional May 7.
LHS tennis roster
Juniors – DJ Mead, David Thompson, Cadin Limon, Max Easley, Kobe Kraisinger, Brandon Perez, Alex De-France.
Sophomores – Trevor Coulson, Nick Orth, Nils Hoffman.
Freshman – Dalton Penka.

Macksville

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regionals. It will also depend upon our willingness to work hard each day in practice," said veteran MHS track coach Jennifer Gillespie. "We have lost our senior leaders Henry and Lisa Penner, who showed our younger kids how to be dedicated to the sport. Hopefully, some new leaders will step up and be a positive influence on the squad the way these two were."
This year, there's a large field for the leaders to rise from, Gillespie said.
"We are blessed with 43 athletes this year and should be able to fill every event when our squad competes together," Gillespie noted. "We have some upperclassmen who are coming out for the first time and I am excited to see our newcomers compete as well."
The first couple weeks the squads will be split by varsity and junior varsity meets; the varsity opened at Nickerson March 31. The next week, juniors will travel to Ellinwood for JV competition April 5, while the varsity head to Meade April 8. The squads will merge at Kiowa-South Barber, split for competition at St. John and then are back together for their final three road meets before Central Prairie League at Ness City on May 12 and regionals and state.
Macksville rosters
BOYS
Seniors – Nathaniel Miller, Lane Sebes, Leonardo Holguin, Austin McCauley.
Juniors – Bryce Casper, Jarod Kuckelman, Taylor Rodriguez, Hector Negrete.
Sophomores – Nate Brandybery, Brandon Ibarra, Jacob Rein, Willie Penner, Alex Freeman, Trevor Freeman, Clay Dobyns, Creed Parr.
Freshmen – Jacob Suiter, Trey Britton, Rene Guevara, Darien Miller, Andrew Cross, Parker Rodriguez, Karson Waters, Kaleb Lickess.
GIRLS
Seniors – Maggie Penner, Gilda Lopez.
Juniors – Taylor Gillespie, Sophie Filbert, Susie Penner, MikealAnn Loiland, Emma Stimatze, Kayla Claussen.
Sophomores – Serena Blaske, Denise Galan, Lyset Ibarra.
Freshmen – Jacquelin Galan, Lexi Wright, Itzel Garcia, BrayLynn Anshutz, Emely Corral-Nevarez, Scylia Blass, Jennifer Ortiz, Christine Garza.

Larned tennis 2016

April 2	@Hutchinson
April 8	@Cimarron
April 12	HOME
April 21	@Sterling
April 26	HOME
April 28	@Pratt
May 2	CKL @Pratt
May 7	Regionals TBA
May 13-14	State@Wichita

Larned golf 2016

April 4	@Hutchinson
April 7	@Hoisington
April 12	@Kingman
April 19	HOME, 1 p.m.
April 25	@Cimarron
May 2	@Hays
May 10	CPL@Kingman
May 16	Regional TBA
May 24	State@Salina

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