



2016 Hoisington Cardinal tennis team



2016 Hoisington Cardinal golf team



2016 Larned Indian track team



2016 Hoisington Cardinal baseball team

Many talented teams and athletes make for an exciting spring season

**By MIKE COURSON**  
Part of my job is to fluff up some of the area teams. Unfortunately, not everyone can win all the time and some teams will lose more than others. Fortunately, a lot of teams this spring needed no fluff.  
Sterling has been stuck behind Collegiate at the Class 3A State

Tournament in each of the past three seasons. The 3A tournament will be fun to watch as Larned moves down to 3A, and Lyons also has a returning state qualifier. Most notably, though, watch out for those Black Bears both as a team and individually.  
Honestly, I make it to more softball games

than baseball games but I'm hoping to hit some more baseball this spring. Larned proved to be a team to beat last year and by all accounts, they will be even tougher in 2016.  
The Central Kansas League offers a great roster of softball teams. Several teams return significant portions of their rosters, including Haven,

Hoisington, and Sterling, each with eight starters back. That should make for a great league race and hopefully several of those teams go on to play at state.  
On the tennis courts, watch out for the Oilers. Layne Bieberle is gone but Michael Ryan is back. Coach Gary Bittner is about as modest as they come about his teams, so if he says his squad will be fun to watch, watch out!  
Finally, as per usual, the spring will bring out a host of track athletes. Hoisington and Macks-ville always have great pole vaulters. Ellinwood has its distance runners. The cover this spring obviously features some of our top distance runners in the area and it will be fun to see them compete, often against one another, throughout the spring.  
Last spring ended a bit on a sour note with cold and wet weather that made for regional and state track conditions, and cancelled third-place games at some baseball and softball tournaments.  
So as much as we're cheering on the local athletes, let us also cheer on sun and spring weather. But that rain is free to fall on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday each week.  
Good luck area athletes and coaches!

**Our Team is Ready to Go!**



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