



The Lyons golf team is, front row from left: seniors Koley Kroetsch, Kelcey Kroetsch and Cody Clarke. Back row: Nick Duntz, Gage Reid, Peyton Schwertfeger, Brennan Cox, and Irlick Moreno. Not pictured: Bryan Tavares. (photo by Vickie Folck)

## Three seniors return for Lyons golf

**By MIKE COURSON**  
A returning state qualifier and two other returning varsity players make for some high expectations for the Lyons golf team this spring. Lyons will be without Spencer Head, the team's No. 2 golfer who graduated last May.

Senior Kelcey Kroetsch leads the trio of senior returners as a state qualifier. He shot a 103 to finish 91st at last year's Class 3A state meet at Hesston but that experience will help in 2016. "We expect Kelcey to qualify again for state and improve his scoring average significantly," said Lyons Coach Kevin Logan.

Seniors Cody and Koley Kroetsch also return with varsity experience with improved expectations

over last season. "I hope to see Cody shooting in the low 90s on a regular basis and even break 90 on occasion," Logan said. "I would like to see Koley shoot in the low-to-mid 90s consistently."

Beyond the three returners, a group of young players will be looking to

get some experience and fill some roster spots. "We have several freshmen who have never played competitively and it will be interesting to see how they compete," Logan said. "Several of them have some natural ability and it will be fun to see how they progress through the year."

### Lyons golf 2016

April 4	@Nickerson
April 12	@Kingman
April 18	@Sterling
April 19	@Larned
April 21	@Ellinwood
May 3	@Halstead
May 10	CKL@Pratt
May 16	Regional TBA
May 23	State@Hesston

## Little River track showcases youth

**By MIKE COURSON**  
Paul Dold has a way of finding success on the football field and track. This spring, his 18 years of coaching will come in handy with a youthful squad of mostly freshmen.

"The 2016 version of Little River track will be very young with more than half of our athletes being freshmen," Dold said. "We have a lot of

potential and I know the athletes are looking forward to the track season."

Gone are state qualifiers Zach Galyon and Erin Hudson. Galyon qualified for state in all three sprint events last spring and had top-four area times in the 200m and 400m dashes. Hudson qualified in the triple jump after posting the No. 4 triple jump in the Rocket coverage area. Her best leap of 33-4.5

ranked No. 14 in Class 2A during the regular season.

Dold's returners are mostly on the girls' side via senior Kristin Ekholm and junior Katie Hazen. Ekholm is expected to take over for Hudson in the triple jump. Hazen will be looking to cut time in the sprints. She ran 13th in the 100m prelims at the 2A regional in Herington last fall.

## Macksville makes move to 2A

**By MIKE GILMORE**  
The Macksville Mustang track and field teams will be moving up on several levels, but some things will remain the same.

Macksville's distance corps will be missing perennial state qualifiers Henry Penner for the boys and Lisa Penner for the girls, but the girls' multi-lappers will be strong led by juniors Taylor Gillespie, Emma Stimatze and Sophie Filbert, with seniors Maggie Penner and Gilda Lopez also returning as state qualifiers from last year.

Last year in the Class 1A boys distance races, Henry Penner nearly completed a trifecta – as well as besting Stafford competition Derek McClure – in winning the 3,200 (9:29.33) and the 1,600 (4:27.66). He finished second to McClure in the 800 (2:00.45) for a large share of the Mustang boys' team points.

Kuckelman and Negrete move up as distance hopefuls, while junior

Bryce Casper qualified for both the 110 and 300 hurdles at state last year. Kuckelman and Negrete also return from the 4x800 relay quartet that finished seventh at state in 2015.

Later in the season, however, the Mustangs will be contending with a

different competition as they move up to the Class 2A ranks.

"Moving up to Class 2A will be a challenge and our ability to qualify people for state will hinge a great deal on how KSHSAA splits our

see Macksville  
page 13

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