



photo by Ryan Carlson

2016 Sterling Black Bear track team

Sterling girls lose speed, re-gain Wilson; boys remain a young team

By MIKE COURSON

The Lady Black Bear will have to transition a little in 2016. Last year's squad was packed with speed. With much of that speed graduating or moving away, Keith Patterson is looking to the hurdles and field events for points this spring.

Jess Roberts and Andi Dowell were top sprinters and hurdlers, respectively, for Sterling last year. They teamed up with Mariela Perez and Aniston Ramsey on the 4x100 team that qualified for state. Only Ramsey returns out of that bunch as Roberts and Dowell have graduated and Perez has changed schools.

Patterson will have a big weapon in his arsenal: senior Sydney Wilson. She has been one of the top high jumpers in all of Kansas each of the past two seasons but has been hampered by injuries. This season, Patterson expects Wilson to return as a top jumper and hurdler.

"She's had knee surgery and recovered from

it," he said. "She played volleyball and basketball and now she's ready to run track."

"I know we're going to take it a little easy with her to make sure she holds up through the season. I'm glad to have Sydney back. I'm looking forward to seeing what she can do this year."

Before going down with an injury early last year, Wilson had the No. 3 time in the 300m hurdles, the No. 5 100m hurdle time in 3A, and the No. 4 high jump.

Patterson has a talented sophomore class on

his roster. Leading that group is Taya Wilson. As a freshman, Wilson climbed to No. 9 in 3A in the triple jump rankings but missed state after a disappointing regional performance. She had the No. 15 300m hurdle time in 3A, and the No. 16 mark in the pole vault. This spring, Patterson thinks she has the opportunity to qualify for state in several events including the hurdles, the jumps, javelin, or pole vault.

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Sterling track 2016

April 5	@Inman
April 12	HOME
April 14-15	@WSU Pre-State
April 19	@Buhler
April 26	@Halstead
May 3	@Moundridge
May 6	@Ellinwood
May 14	CKL@Lyons
May 20	Regional TBA
May 27-28	State @Wich. State



courtesy of SHS

2016 Sterling Black Bear tennis team

Comley returns to lead Sterling tennis team

By MIKE COURSON

Black Bear tennis coach Curtis Thompson usually finds a way to make some noise. Last year, Sterling finished second in the Central Kansas League, third at regionals, then finished the season with an eighth-place run at state. This spring Thompson, in his 31st season of coaching, will have to do it with some new faces.

"With Kenan Comley out for the season, we will rely on new players to the high school tennis team to move into varsity positions including several freshmen who had success playing junior high tennis the past two years," Thompson said.

Junior Kyler Comley returns to the squad as a two-time state qualifier. He was a league runner-up in 2015, finishing fifth in a tough regional, then picking up two easy wins at state before falling to

12th place.

Last year, Thompson had his doubles teams comprised of four seniors. Cameron Fair and Henry Weiner placed sixth at state, and Andrew McPherson and Brian Walker were also contributors.

This year, after Comley at No. 1 singles, rest of the roster is still up in the air. Junior Max Fulbright returns with four years of experience, including

two in junior high. He may team up with junior Edward Weiner in doubles play. Freshman William Weiner may take up the No. 2 spot with Kenan Comley going down with a basketball injury during sub-state play. Brett Riffel and Garrett Sankey are also freshman who could see varsity action in 2016.

The Black Bears open their season April 5 at Ellsworth.

Sterling tennis 2016

April 5	@Ellsworth
April 7	@Hillsboro
April 12	HOME
April 19	@Buhler
April 21	HOME
April 26	@Hesston
April 28	@Lindsborg
May 2	CKL@Pratt
May 7	Regionals TBA
May 13-14	State@Wichita

Sterling golf

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some real competition. The second tournament of the year will be a big test as Sterling will see mostly 4A and 5A schools in McPherson. Last spring, Hendricks and Nick Schissler took the top-two individual spots and the team finished fourth out of 15 teams.

Even with no Collegiate in 3A, the Black Bears will still need a strong show-

ing at regionals. This year, the squad travels north to a Beloit course they're unfamiliar with at the moment. Rose said his kids will play the course before that meet, and he likes his chances there.

"There are some teams I'm really not familiar with so I can't really tell," he said. "I think we'll have a pretty good chance. It's a regional I'm satisfied with."

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