

Lady Cardinals return six; hope to improve on 15-16 season

By NOAH SCHEIDER
Last year, the Lady Cardinal volleyball team got a first glimpse of the Central Kansas League at the preseason tournament at the Hoisington Activity Center. This year, Hoisington heads to Pratt to open the season in the league tournament.

The Lady Cardinals will be looking to improve after finishing with a 15-16 record. Hoisington returns six varsity players from last season, including two starters. Coach Kayci Boxberger, who has been with the team for three years, expects her team to develop this season.

"I would really enjoy us growing together as a team," she said. "We have a small team compared to years past and are split down the middle; with other classes compared to freshman (seven seniors/juniors/sophomores, six freshmen). I would just like to see us all come together as one team and build each other up."

The Cardinals will return some experience from last season, including seniors

McKenzie Moore and Emma Haynie; juniors Joanna Lockwood and Brooke Bachar; and Sophomore Riley Brungardt.

Boxberger will also be looking for some new players to step into varsity roles. "We graduated three seniors that started for us in years prior, so we are looking forward to rebuilding and seeing what this season

has in store for a new Cardinal team," said Boxberger. Boxberger is anxious to see what those new players can do for the team.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what the younger girls bring to the table and what our older girls have to show them" she said. "With being so split, it'll be interesting to see how they match up on the court."

Hoisington volleyball 2016

Aug. 27	CKL @Pratt
Sept. 6	@Larned
Sept. 8	@Larned
Sept. 13	HOME
Sept. 17	@Russell Tourn.
Sept. 20	HOME
Sept. 24	HOME TOURN.
Sept. 27	@Smoky Valley
Oct. 4	@Hesston
Oct. 6	HOME
Oct. 11	HOME
Oct. 13	@Ellsworth
Oct. 22	Sub-state
Oct. 28-29	State@Emporia



photo by Noah Schneider

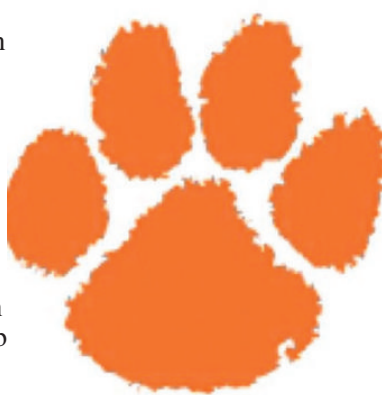
2016 Hoisington Lady Cardinal volleyball team Cougar grididders charging up for 2016 season

By MIKE GILMORE
Call the 2016 season "the Charge of the Light(foot) Brigade."

The Otis-Bison Cougars head into their Sept. 2 opener against St. John coming off an 8-2 overall, 4-1 Central Prairie League season in 2015 that saw veteran coach Travis Starr's club in the Eight-Man Division II playoffs after a two-year layoff.

In 2015, the Cougars sailed into the district meat of their season scoring 50-plus points against opponents in their first eight wins. In their next two losses, it took that much to beat them; Brady Dinkel led the Victoria Knights to a 68-22 win that was followed up by Wallace County's 65-20 win in the first round of the playoffs.

A large part of the Cougars' production fell to running back Brad Lightfoot, who is preparing to crash through a 3,000-yard career mark in his senior year. As a junior, the 5-8, 155-pounder rolled up 1,156 yards on 134 carries for an 8.6-yard average; he scored 22 of the Cougars' 52 rushing touchdowns. Heading into 2016, 3,000 yards is well within reach - after three years, he's posted 2,628 yards on 301 totes, with 10 games of more than 100 yards. Lest we forget, Lightfoot is in the Kansas record book for



scoring 10 TDs against Kinsley in a record-setting 104-70 win in Otis back in 2014.

With 12 returning lettermen, a coach in Starr's shoes would feel confident about the upcoming season. However, the roster that includes seven seniors only runs to 17 players. Going all out means avoiding the training table, big-time.

"With 12 returning lettermen coming back, we feel our experience and leadership is a strength," Starr said. "However, with only 17 out, our depth will be a

concern at several positions. Our schedule is going to be extremely difficult, so getting better each week and playing at our best in district play is a must."

The Cougars' multiple offense does include a passing game: Senior quarterback Kade Urban (6-0, 195) in addition to 84 carries for 494 yards and 15 TDs rushing in 2015, also passed for 20 completions in 45 attempts for 445 yards and three scores.

Rounding out the starting offense on the line is Bryce Maneth, a 5-10, 255 senior; junior Landon Hoopingarner and sophomore Luke Higgason.

The Cougars return four on defense, in Urban at linebacker; Lightfoot at defensive back and Hoopingarner and Higgason on the defensive line.

The Cougars' roster also includes three sophomores and three freshmen.

Otis-Bison football 2016

Sept. 2	ST. JOHN
Sept. 9	@Ellinwood
Sept. 16	CENTRAL PLAINS
Sept. 23	@Victoria
Sept. 30	@Wallace County
Oct. 7	GREELEY COUNTY
Oct. 14	@Dighton
Oct. 21	TRIPLAINS
Oct. 27	@Hodgeman Co.



2016 Hoisington Lady Cardinal tennis team

Lady cardinals primed to fill shoes of five departed seniors

By NOAH SCHEIDER
The new-look Lady Cardinal tennis team will open its new season at Ellsworth on Aug. 25. It will look to repeat success from a 2015 campaign in which Besa Bwalya placed third or higher at every meet, earning an impressive 30-3 record. She won her regional after entering with a 27-2 record. Bwalya rolled through the competition at state before eventually losing in the finals to Wichita Independent phenom Anna Reidmiller, who won a second-straight Class 3-2-1A crown.

The doubles team of Melissa Stout and Emily Hammond also qualified for state. They met some tough competition in the first two rounds and ended their season with a 19-14 record.

The loss of those players means some new players will see varsity time in 2016. Head Coach Karisa Cowen thinks the Cardinals will find success in last year's junior varsity team.

"I am really excited to see what our new team can do this year," she said. "We lost five seniors, but I believe the new varsity team will really step in to fill their

shoes this year. They are very hard workers and are very motivated."

Leading the new group is the only returner from varsity play last season, Emma Harmon. "Emma is our key returner from last year," Cowen said. "I am counting on her to be a team leader and guide the girls to a great year."

Cowen expects the new group to compete, saying, "I am looking forward to my team of new varsity players gaining strength in their fundamentals and developing as a team."

The new team will feature seniors MyKayla Burgess, Rian Mooney, and Tyann Schremmer, as well as Harmon. The roster also includes juniors Aurora Ingram and Kathrine Wamkine, and sophomore Emma Mooney, who could be contenders to step up and play in some big matches down the stretch.

Cowen's Lady Cardinals will again see plenty of good competition, including Central Plains and Hesston.

"We always face fierce competition," she said, "but nothing we can't compete with."

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