

2016 Larned Lady Indian tennis team Numbers down, expectations up for LHS netters
BY MIKE GLLMore
Veteran Larned High
School girls' tennis
coach Mark Lessard has
a ritual. With the usual
number of newcomers
to each squad in the fall,
he delivers "the speech"
where he holds up a
racket, shows how to
hold it and how to swing
it, and so on.
Some of the veteran
players may roll their
eyes, but then, they've
heard "the speech" be-
fore.
Another part of the
new season is the hour-
long trek to Dodge City,
where players get their
first taste of competition
at the season-opening
Dodge City junior varsity
tournament. Usually, Les-
sard is giving last-minute
instructions to to group
as he is driving. Not a
minute wasted, as it were.
This year, Lesssard
gave "the speech" early
this week, and outside
commitments means
he will be missing the
trip to Dodge. Assistant
coach Nick Junker will
be taking the group. Also,
there's not as many new-
bies to give the speech to.
"Our numbers are
down from past years,"
Lessard noted. "We lost
some to graduation, of
course; others have busy
ar
class or work schedules and we have a small
freshman girl recuiting freshms.
class.
That doesn't mean that the expectations for 2016 aren't up to sard's standard. "We're going to have
a solid team," he said. "The girls are working hard and I believe we will do well this season.' Daughter Amanda Lessard returns as a senior after tours in singles; juniors Abby
Kelty and Ali Leiker Kelty and Ali Leiker
just missed a state berth just missed a state berth
at last year's Cimarron regional. In the battle for sixth place, they were edged as sophomores by Victoria's Megan Karst and Emily Schippers. Sophomores Kristin
Anderson, Macy Hass

Larned tennis 2016

| Sept. 1 | HOME |
| :--- | :--- |
| Sept. 6 | @Great Bend |
| Sept. 10 | @Pratt |
| Sept. 13 | @Ellinwood |
| Sept. 15 | HOME |
| Sept. 20 | @Russell |
| Sept. 27 | @Ellsworth |
| Oct.1 | CKL@Smoky Valley |
| Oct. 7-8 | Regionals |
| Oct. 14-15 | State |

and Katelyn Sanger are all expected to see varRounding out the roster are sophomores Jillian Edgin, Cheyenne Lile and freshmen Corrie Up-
son and Ruthie Webster son and Ruthie Webster. As usual, Lessard wil
be mixing and matching through the early season to determine the best lineup for postseason. The Central Kansas League is expected to be tough, as always and Lessard won know what regional he
will be going to until after will be going to until after
school "count day" on Sept. 20.
After opening in DC on Aug. 25, the Lady Indians will be back at home Sept. 1. They also have a home meet Sept. 15. CKL is Oct. 1 at
Smoky Valley.

2016

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## Numbers up for Larned boys'

 cross country team

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