

Indian football team rebuilding in 2016 after graduation losses

By MIKE GILMORE
Even when Larned High School football coach A.B. Stokes doesn't say much, his demeanor speaks volumes. The wheels are always turning. In the 2016 preseason, his mental tachometer is probably hitting the red zone.
In his fifth year as LHS head coach with an overall 18-19 record,

some of Coach Stokes' thoughts are still hear-kening back to the fall of 2015. Those graduating seniors, which Stokes continually referred to as "his boys," set out to do great things on the gridiron.
Talent, coachability and drive levels of players were off the charts. Some things, though, just didn't fall the Indians' way.

The Indians finished 4-5 on the season, with a 3-3 showing in the Central Kansas League and a 1-2 finish in Class 3A district play that even heading in, the Indians thought they could win.
Last year's season ender in Pratt is a prime example.
After a scoreless first quarter, Larned senior quarterback Evan Skel-ton finally broke free for a 6-yard score just over three minutes into the sec-ond stanza. David Valadez added the crucial PAT, and the Indians took the 7-0 lead into the halftime conference.

Pratt's Devon Koehler answered with a 9-yard scoring run at the third-quarter midpoint; Noah Meyer added the PAT and the score remained dead-locked at 7-all through the remainder of regula-tion.
In Pratt's try in OT, the Larned defense held tight for three downs. Larned was cited for a head-to-head contact penalty that brought the ball to the 2-yard line. Quarterback Travis Thies ran it in and Meyer added the PAT.
In Larned's turn, the Indians started from the 25 due to a leverage pen-alty. Skelton made up the first 10 yards and senior



Stokes at preseason camp

running back Landon Erway advanced to the 10. Skelton then found senior receiver Isiah Perez in the corner of the end zone.
The question to go for the win, Coach Stokes said later, was left up to his seniors. They wanted the win and Stokes re-lented. On the conversion, Skelton broke the plane for 2 that gave the Indians the 15-14 decision.
All this, mind you, was done in the rain.
Pratt goes from the last on the list to the Indians' season opener on Sept. 2. While the Indians gradu-ated 11 seniors from just about every skill position, most of the Pratt crew will be headed to the longtime rivalry game at Earl Rob-erts field.
"We will have return-ing experience on the defensive side of the ball," Stokes noted.
Offensively, though, the 2016 Indians will have to replace Skelton at QB; Erway at RB; Tanner Galliard and Perez at WR; Marcus Allen and Lukus Anderson on the offensive line.
The good thing is there are more seniors: Kolby Keith, WR/DB; Nate Wil-liams, RB/LB; De'Shawn Clark, OL/DL (Clark weighs in at 320); Dalton Bright, WR/DB; Jonathon Herter, TE/LB; Brandon

Meanwhile, Stokes is keeping his thoughts mostly to himself. Of course, he is sharing them with his coaching staff: Tad Remy, LBs/Ols; Mike Hensley, special teams, WRs/DLs; Rustyn Kerbs, RBs/DBs; Alex Nuss, QBs/LBs and Tre Addi-son, Ols/DLs.
The rest of us will just have to glean what we can from the traditional Black and Orange scrimmage.

Larned football 2016

Sept. 2	PRATT
Sept. 9	@Smoky Valley
Sept. 16	@Hesston
Sept. 23	HALSTEAD
Sept. 30	NICKERSON
Oct. 7	@Phillipsburg
Oct. 14	@Lyons
Oct. 21	HOISINGTON
Oct. 27	@Ellsworth

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Wilson takes command of LHS volleyball

By MIKE GILMORE
Amy Wilson is stepping cautiously into the Lady Indians' volleyball schedule in 2016.
For Larned, which finished 2-9 in a tough Central Kansas League, the preseason tournament that will be played Aug. 27 at Pratt is a pretty tough test. So is the Lady Indians' postseason schedule, which ended in the semifinals at Kismet in their Class 3A regional, losing narrowly to Cimar-on 25-22, 25-19 and end the season at 10-26.
Graduation took five starters as well as hit-ters and the height at the net. Five starters return, including seniors Ally Al-drich; Erin Smith; Kelsey Parr and Madison Erway.
"Our first goal would be finishing in the top two



Lady Indian seniors

in pool play in the CKL tournament and earning a spot in the bracket play," Wilson said. "Challenges include losing our starting middles from last season and having a roster that lacks height.
"Defense is going to be a key for us, because of

a shorter lineup."
The Lady Indians have two home matches in a row on Sept. 6 and Sept. 8, with home matches at the Larned Middle School gym on Sept. 22; Oct. 4 and Oct. 18.

Larned volleyball 2016

Aug. 27	CKL @Pratt
Aug. 30	@Hays
Sept. 6	HOME
Sept. 8	HOME TRI
Sept. 13	@Halstead
Sept. 17	@Russell Tour.
Sept. 20	@Hesston
Sept. 22	HOME TRI
Sept. 27	@Hillsboro
Oct. 1	@Kingman Tourn.
Oct. 4	HOME
Oct. 11	@Nickerson
Oct. 18	HOME
Oct. 22	Sub-state
Oct. 28-29	State

Wishing All Area Athletes Success This Season!

L to R: David Sanger, MD; Christian Whittington, MD; M. Crystal Hill, MD
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