

# Lyons girls regain a little height; look to Pineda, Hollinger for experience

**By MIKE COURSON**  
 Seniors have played a big role for Leanne Hollinger's basketball teams over the past two seasons. Two years ago, the Lady Lions played for a state title. Last year, Lyons finished with a meager 9-14 record. Hollinger will be dealing with the loss of two more key seniors heading into the 2016-17 campaign, but the good news is she has some experience back.

Last year's season preview listed Ruth Pineda and Bailey Hollinger as key returners. Both players are back for another winter of basketball. Pineda will be a four-year varsity player. As a junior last season, Pineda averaged 10.6 points and four rebounds a game to earn an all-league honorable mention in the always tough Central Kansas League.

Bailey Hollinger, now a junior, also earned an honorable mention in the league after posting 7.1 points and four rebounds a night.

Lyons featured a balanced roster last year, so Coach Hollinger does have to deal with the loss of a pair of scorers. Lau-

ra Pineda was a major contributor to the team over the past several seasons. She averaged 10 points and six rebounds a game last year. Ashlee Tingle moved into a scoring role in her final season, averaging 10 points and three boards a night.

"We will again have some height back that we were lacking last year, so we will be able to utilize our inside game more," said Coach Hollinger. "We will have both experience and youth on the floor this year, but we are hoping that the experience will help bring along that youth, and each and every night we will grow and gain as we move forward through the season."

Part of that height will come via freshmen Kristina Head and Daci Stover. Both have varsity experience from the fall seasons already. A couple other newcomers are pushing six-foot and could make an impact.

"Both Bailey and Kristina have been looking really good in practice and I am excited to see what they are going to do for us this season,"



**2016-17 Lady Lion basketball team**, front row from left: Cristina Vazquez, Melissa Williams, Julissa Montanez, Lesly Jaime, Baily Hollinger, Ruth Pineda, Alexis Villanueva, Juliann Snyder, Tayla Link, Cassidy Clarke, Erin Cox, and Diana Espinoza. Back Standing: Carmen Alvarez, Madison Hoskins, Anna Stansbury, Keila Rodriguez, Kristina Head, Ashley Carrera, Kaley Carrera, Cinthya Ortiz, Abril Rodriguez, Karime Vargas, Ashley Fierro, Daci Stover, and Liberty Belote. Not Pictured: Patricia Douglas and Tania Silva. (photo by Vickie Folck)

Hollinger said. "Ruth is doing a nice job of seeing things on the court and getting the ball where it needs to be. Karime Vargas, Ashley Fierro and Tayla Link have been working hard and will be ready to step in and help us out this season."

"I have been very impressed by what I have seen so far in practice. I can't wait to see the girls

in action once the season starts."

The Lady Lions have played a brutal schedule in each of the last two seasons. That is likely to continue again this year in the CKL that should have tough teams from Hesston, Pratt, and Kingman. Lyons will catch a break with perennial power Sterling moving to a different league.

"I am really looking

forward to just seeing the girls on the floor gutting it out each and every night," Hollinger said. "Every night in the CKL

is a tough one, but those are the games that we need to help get us ready for post-season play at the end of the year."

# Lyons wrestling more about quality than quantity

**By MIKE COURSON**  
 Wrestling Coach Mark Schottler never has filled out a complete roster during his long tenure in Lyons, but his Lions have generally been competitive in dual matches. This year might be one of his toughest. Injuries and graduation hit his squad hard, leaving him a little short on numbers.

The Lions have had plenty of success in recent years, and some of that talent does return for Schottler. Lyons sent eight to state in 2015, and five made the trip to Hays last February. Cody Clarke led the way last year with a second-place finish at 182 pounds. Clarke, Kelcey Kroetsch, and Dalton Goans have all graduated, taking 10 years of state experience with them. Kole Clarke also graduated with state experience, and Cordon Rowley had state experience.

"We have one moving to North Dakota," said Schottler. "We'll have kids who have never seen a wrestling match before, but we have a good core of ones with experience. The problem will be the same one we've been plagued with: a lot of good ones are in the same weight class. The upper weights, we don't have too many at all. We're going to be hurting to fill out a roster."



**2016-17 Lyons wrestlers**, front row from left: Irlick Moreno, Denisse Rodriguez, Peyton Young, Wendell Scobee, Brayden Morris and Christopher Goans. Standing Back: Denzale Clark, Bryan Tavares, Luis Contreres, Oscar Jaime, Trevor Weaver, Conner Crawford and Ivan Jaime. Managers Holla Bryant and Kylie Young. (photo by Vickie Folck)

This year's roster will have just two seniors, but both have state experience. Oscar Jaime has wrestled in the last two state tournaments. Just as important, Jaime has come along on the track and in cross country, qualifying for state in both in his last two seasons. He is hoping to stay at 126 pounds.

Denzale Clark qualified for state as a freshman and came up one win shy of a medal at 106 pounds. He missed all of last season with a football injury, but makes the return to the mat this winter.

"He looks good," Schottler said. "People forget he almost placed at state. The problem is we may have to bump him

up a weight or bump him down. We'll see who can handle it."

Likewise, sophomore Chris Goans made an immediate splash last year as a freshman. Wrestling at 113 pounds at state, he ran into the third-place finisher in the first round and nearly worked his way to a medal on the back side. He could move up to 120 pounds or stay at 113 this year.

Sophomore Irlick Moreno also returns with experience, and could fall somewhere between 120 and 132 pounds. Freshman Peyton Young will be the only incoming freshman with experience. He is expected to stay at 106 pounds.

"He'll be fine," Schot-

ler said. "We just need to get him some high school experience. It's a big step from middle school to high school. He'll be fine. He's got enough experience."

Schottler's most promising heavy weight this year missed the start of last year due to a concussion. This year, he suffered a concussion during the football season and will be lucky to see any time on the mats this season.

## Lyons wrestling 2016-17

Dec. 1	@Council Grove DD
Dec. 3	@Osborne Tourn.
Dec. 10	@Hesston Tourn.
Dec. 15	@Nickerson (w/Hesston)
Jan. 7	@Ellsworth Tourn.
Jan. 13-14	@Halstead Tourn.
Jan. 19	HOME DD
Jan. 21	Council Grove Dual Tourn.
Feb. 4	HOME ROUND ROBIN
Feb. 11	CKL @Pratt
Feb. 17-18	Regional
Feb. 24-25	State

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