

# Rein, Stimatze leading Macksville thinclads on next run to Wichita

**By Mike Gilmore**  
**TILLER SPORTS**

MACKSVILLE – Going the distance for Macksville veteran track and field coach Jennifer Gillespie has multiple meanings. For the Mustangs, with a slew of distance runners over the past several years, it can mean finishing strong after multiple trips around the oval.

But it can also mean going from that first March junior varsity meet all the way to Cessna Stadium in May.

Last year in his state debut, sophomore Jacob Rein scored 15 of the Mustang boys’ 17 team points in the Class 2A portion of the KSHSAA State Track and Field Meet at Cessna. He placed third in the 400-meter dash in 51.23 seconds, setting a school record. He placed sixth in the 200

at 23.38 and was third in the triple jump at 42 feet, 1.5 inches. This was after coming out of the Class 2A Ellinwood regional with a gold medal in the 200 at 23.57, which was the best time in 2A heading into the state meet; he also won the 400 in 52.27. His triple jump effort of 4205.25 was good for regional silver and a second-best 2A regional mark; his long jump effort of 19-11 was eight inches short of a state berth.

Meanwhile, junior Bryce Casper took seventh place at state in the 110m high hurdles, in 16.21, after a third-place regional time of 16.49.

Last year, the Mustang bus ferried seven thinclads to Wichita, also including the girls’ 4x800 quartet of Emma Stimatze, Sophie Filbert, Itzel Garcia and Jennifer Ortiz, who finished 10th in a time of 10:38.65 after running fourth at regionals. Separately, Stimatze also placed 13th in the long jump, with a leap of 14-8.5 and Taylor Gillespie was 13th in the state girls’ vault at 7-6, after clearing the same height for a silver medal at regionals. At Ellinwood, Gillespie placed second to St. John’s Bailey Burns (8-0), who cleared 8-6 for 10th at state.

“We still are talking distance,” said Gillespie. “We’ll have Emma anchor the distance people for us. We have all the girls coming back for the 4x800. Taylor has got her sights set on clearing 10-6 in the vault this year. Jacob is back in all four events. We have a good set of underclassmen and we’re still figuring out events, but we are planning on being competitive.”

The Mustangs open the season today in Nickerson.



Emma Stimatze runs against Ellinwood’s Sarah Hammeke at the St. John meet last spring.  
*(photo by Mike Courson)*

# Renken looking to overcome youth on Little River baseball squad

**By Mike Courson**

Expectations are always high for the Little River baseball team. Last year was disappointing not only with a 7-8 losing record, but the Redskins were unable to play six games due to rain. Coach Terry Renken, back for a ninth season, has six players back, but will be looking for some guys to step up.

“We’re a very young and inexperienced team,” he said. “Fourteen players are out and they will all contribute in some form. I see this team getting better each week. The schedule will be very tough.”

Renken will have back much of his infield. Senior Levon Swenson played catcher and pitcher last year, junior Peyton Harvey returns to short, junior Bryce Spears played first base, and Levi Swenson and Brady Stephenson are utility men. Junior Jordan Moffett returns as an outfielder and pitcher.

Renken expects good things out of a pair of sophomore newcomers in infielder Jace Garrison and outfielder and pitcher Hunter Thomas.

Like so many other teams around the state this year, Renken is dealing with losses and the new pitch count rule.

Those changes will keep him busy for the spring.

“I expect this team to improve each day in practice,” Renken said. “The schedule is very tough. Ellis, Moundridge, Bennington, Remington, and Ell-Saline are all very good teams. I think Inman, Lincoln, Canton-Galva, and Ellinwood are similar to us in that they are very young.

“The new pitching rule will make it interesting this year. We will have to develop more arms.



Jacob Rein

Little River baseball 2017	
March 31	BENNINGTON
April 4	@Ellis
April 7	CANTON-GALVA
April 11	MINNEAPOLIS
April 13	REMINGTON
April 18	@Inman
April 21	@Ellinwood
May 2	@Moundridge
May 5	ELL-SALINE
May 9	@Ellsworth
May 15-19	Regional
May 25-26	State

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