

Wealth of talent returns to Hoisington track teams

By Mike Courson

Cardinal track coach Dan Schmidt said his wrestling team could contend for a state title. The Hoisington wrestlers went on to finish second at state. Schmidt hits the spring with a similar level of optimism for his track team.

"We have some outstanding talent coming back from last year's team," Schmidt said. "If all goes well, the team should make a legitimate run to the top-five in their class 3A state meet."

Leading the way is senior Jonathan Ball. Coming off his first state wrestling championship, he will be seeking a first pole vault championship after three years of medaling at state, including a pair of second-place finishes. Ball had the No. 2 vault in 3A last year at 14-7 and finished second at state at 14-0. Last year's champ and third-place finishers have graduated, leaving the door wide open for Ball.

The 110m hurdle field will likely remain tough. Ball finished second at state last year, but only two of the top-eight finishers have graduated. Ball cut nearly a second off his best time of the regular season to finish fourth in the 300m hurdles at state in 40.91. Three of the top-five finishers have graduated. Ball was also a key member on the 4x100 team that ran at state.

Junior Christopher Ball also returns as a state medalist in the pole vault. He tied his best height of the year to place fourth at 13-6. Ball just missed the 110m hurdle finals and also ran on a pair of relays at state. He is expected to return to both hurdle events, the pole vault, and the 4x400 relay.

Senior Brenner Donovan is coming off an all-league basketball season. He peaked at 20-7 in the long jump and hit 19-8.75 at state for a ninth-place finish. Donovan will run in the 400m dash this spring, and was part of two state relay teams last spring.

Senior Landen Urban has already put together an impressive senior campaign, winning various football honors across the state in the fall and placing third at state wrestling in February. Urban placed 13th in the shot at state last year. Six of the top-nine finishers in that group have graduated. Urban will also throw the discus and javelin.



Hoisington senior Jonathan Ball (center) competes in the 110m hurdle finals at state last May. Cimarron senior Nick Ast, the reigning state champion, and Norton junior Jace Ruder, the fourth-place finisher, also return to keep the event loaded in 2017. (photo by Mike Courson)

Senior Cameron Davis returns with a wealth of athleticism. He ran in the 4x1 and 4x4 relays at state and will also compete in the long jump this spring.

Junior Jake Curtis finished strong in the javelin. He hit 153-8 at state to finish 12th. Curtis will also compete in the pole vault. Junior Sean Urban ran on both state relay teams last year and will run in the 400m dash this spring.

Finally, freshman Dayne Yott makes his debut on the Cardinal track team. Yott ran in the state cross country meet this fall and will lead Hoisington in the distance events. He will also participate in the high jump and relays.

Lady Cards increase in numbers

Schmidt has to deal with the loss of three key seniors from last year in Melissa Stout, Rylie Koester, and Emily Hammond.

"All three went to multiple state track meets during their careers," Schmidt said. "This year's team brings some more numbers to the squad along with some excellent talent. Time will tell how the team uses that talent as the squad is more than double in size from last season."

Schmidt expects multiple state qualifiers out of the group. Junior Jocelynn Pedigo just missed qualification in two throwing events.

Pedigo saved her best discus throw of 112-2 for state where she placed sixth. Two of the top-four throwers have graduated. Pedigo was ranked No. 9 in 3A in the shot last year but just missed qualification.

Senior Vikki Donetz will compete in the pole vault, long jump, javelin, and relays. "She's a multisport athlete and an excellent basketball player," Schmidt said. "She's a very versatile athlete and could make it to state in any of the events she is in at regionals."

Sophomore Maleigha Schmidt was ranked No. 7 in the pole vault at 10-0 last spring. She made it to state in that event but was unable to get a mark. That 10-0 mark would have been good enough for a top-five finish, and three of the top-four pole vaulters have graduated. Schmidt will also compete in the triple jump, javelin, and relays.

Schmidt expects junior Kelsi Nuss to be another contender for state qualification at regionals. She will run in the relays and 300m hurdles. Junior Jaci Schremmer just missed going to state in the triple jump last year. She returns to that event and the relays this year.

Sophomore Jessi Kindscher returns for her second season. She just missed qualification in the 800m run last year and returns to the distance events, relays, and pole vault this spring.

Hoisington track 2017

March 30	@Hays
April 6	@Russell
April 11	@Great Bend
April 18	@Scott City
April 25	HOME
May 2	@Lyons
May 5	@Russell
May 11	CKL@Hillsboro
May 19	Regional TBA
May 26-27	State @Wich. State

Cardinal baseball team offers balance of experience and youth

By Mike Courson

Every high school coach has to deal with expected losses to graduation. Hoisington baseball coach Tim Schremmer will have to deal with an unexpected loss to senior Hunter Hanzlick, but is still optimistic about his Cardinal team heading into the 2017 season.

"We never know for sure how we will be but we do have some good players returning and some good young players to step in this year," Schremmer said. "It will be interesting to see how we develop and improve. Pitching is always key, and losing a power arm like Hunter due to a football injury will, without a doubt, make things more difficult. But we do have some good young arms. Time will tell how we come along, but I feel we could be a very dangerous team to deal with by postseason time."

Schremmer will have four others seniors on his squad in Ethan Hubbard, Jeremy Breit, Collin Schloch-termeier, and Kyle Lang. All of those seniors, with the exception of Hubbard, can pitch this season.

Kaleb Blazek is the only junior on this year's squad, and he may also pick up some innings on the mound.

Schremmer will have a wealth of underclassmen to build on in the future. Sophomores include Chris Fuentes, Derek Boxberger, Myles Menges, Braxton Donovan, and Trey Byers. Freshmen include Avery Brewer, Alex Schremmer, and Jerred Bieberle.

Hoisington jumped into the season against some usually tough competition against TMP on March 28. The Cardinals play host to a Lyons team with improved expectations on March 31. The Cardinals make their way through the Central Kansas League portion of the schedule, closing against perennially-tough Pratt on May 9. The Greenbacks were the No. 2 seed at state a year ago.

Hoisington baseball 2017

March 28	TMP
March 31	LYONS
April 4	@Kingman
April 7	@Hillsboro
April 18	SMOKY VALLEY
April 21	@Nickerson
April 25	LARNED
April 28	@Halstead
May 5	@Haven
May 9	PRATT
May 15-19	Regional
May 25-26	State

Hoisington golf 2017

April 3	@Nickerson
April 6	HOME
April 17	@Clafin
April 18	@Medicine Lodge
April 27	@Russell
May 9	@Ellsworth
May 11	@Kinsley
May 15	Regional TBA
May 22	State

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