

Lyons baseball squad looks to get back to winning ways in 2017

**By MIKE COURSON**  
The Lyons baseball team is not used to losing. After back-to-back 18-win seasons and a pair of trips to state, the 2015 squad posted a disappointing 11-10 record. But Lyons still won more games than it lost. Last spring, the Lyons continued to backtrack, winning just four games. Coach Larry Kirkhart, back for a seventh season, wants to get that changed.

“After a disappointing season last year, it’s time for the senior class to make a name for itself,” he said. “We expect to be competitive and surprise some teams.”

With five starters back in the lineup, Lyons has the ability to do it. Missing in action will be Jordan Douglas,



The 2017 Lyons baseball team is, standing, from left: Brayden Moore, Tyler Pilcher, Luis Contreras, Manuel Moreno, Ethan Saenz, Braden Morris, Jonathan Gomez, Hugo Fuentes, Bryan Pina, Brandon Ortiz, Will Pray, Wendell Scobee, Chris Goans, Gunner Kintigh, Dakota Procopio, Carlos Valerio, Brandon McClure, and Ishmael Reyes. Kneeling: Justin Oberle, Kebren Julian, Brandon Enfield, Tristan Heath, Nathan Robl, Riley Kirkhart, and Tyler Edwards. (photo by Vickie Folck)

a second-team All-CKL pitcher last spring. With new pitch-count regulations, that absence could be bigger than usual. “Pitching regulations will affect everybody so

it will be a challenge to strategize the rotation game to game,” Kirkhart said. Fortunately, Kirkhart has a wealth of arms as all six of his returning

varsity players have the ability to throw. Junior Brayden Moore and senior Tristan Heath will get their share of innings. Heath can also play in the infield or out-

field as a utility man. Senior Tyler Edwards returns to first base as a second-team all-league selection last year. He will be among the pitchers, and he returns as a

hitting leader with a .389 average last year. Senior Riley Kirkhart is in the same boat after batting .389 last season. He returns as a second-team all-league shortstop with pitching abilities. Senior Justin Oberle returns as another utility man who can also pitch. He batted .275 last season. Senior Nathan Robl will do most of the catching the season but can pitch as needed. Lyons jumped right into its tough schedule at Hoisington may not be much easier. A tough CKL schedule closes with two league powers from last season in Pratt on May 5 and Larned on May 9.

The new faces of Lyons golf



The 2017 Lyons golf team is, from left: John Smith, Edy Burrola, Peyton Schwertfeger, Johnny Villanueva, and Irlick Moreno. John Cannon takes over as coach of the squad. (photo by Vickie Folck)

Lyons baseball 2017

March 28	INDEPENDENT
March 31	@Hoisington
April 11	NICKERSON
April 18	@Halstead
April 21	KINGMAN
April 25	HILLSBORO
April 28	@Haven
May 2	SMOKY VALLEY
May 5	@Pratt
May 9	@Larned
May 15-19	Regional
May 25-26	State

Lyons golf 2017

April 3	@Nickerson
April 11	@Kingman
April 18	@Larned
May 2	@Halstead
May 8	@Pratt
May 9	CKL @Nickerson
May 15	Regional TBA
May 22	State

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