



2017 Chase Kat football: Back Row from left: Mgr. Logen White, Asst. Coach John Lambert, Brayden Moore, Randy Pray, Lance Hinderliter, Jason Joyner, Tyler Joiner, Drew Taverner, Dalton Rose, Dylan Miller, Mgr. Dixon Steadman, Dustin Nelson, and Head Coach Travis Tesone. Kneeling: Anthony Herrera, Austin Wyatt, Hunter Cavender, Freddy Lambert, Tylon Ybarra, Asst. Coach Benaiah Tesone, Sergio Lambert, Johnathon Kloxin, and William Pray. (photo courtesy of Jacob Macek/CHS)



2017 Chase Lady Kat volleyball: Back Row from left: Marissa Long, Jasmine Weatherman, Adison Miller, Tori Dooling, Shae Brown, Kirsten Wood, Rachel Janda, Jordan Hathcock, and Audrey Clark. Front Row: Taylor Lattimer, Mackenzie Oberle, Maggie Schneider, Lindsey Winkelman, Skylar Harrington, Cadance Devine, and Melissa Williams. Not pictured: Jayden Harrington and Jasmin Savage. (photo by Mike Courson)

Tesone takes over Chase football program

By MIKE COURSON

With a pair of perfect regular-seasons in 2014 and 2015, and a handful of district titles since 2012, the Chase football team has been an 8-man power in recent years.

Big changes - including new uniforms - are coming for 2017. Gone is head coach John Wellman, and gone are four-year starters Justin Oberle, Conner Hill, and Kebrun Julian.

But don't count out the Kats just yet. New coach Travis Tesone is ready for the challenge and has a new group of players ready to make an impact.

"We hope to turn some heads every week," Tesone said. "Everybody knows we have graduated some great players the last three years. I believe this year we have excellent team chemistry, positive and persevering attitudes, and buy-in. This should be a goal of any team."

"We might be playing that underdog role, but that's right where I like to be. In my first season as a head coach I hope to build off of a solid foundation that was laid the past three seasons under Coach Wellman."

"I really hope to inspire these kids to become great husbands, fathers, workers or employers someday. To seek greatness in whatever they do. And in the meantime,

we're going to play some great football."

Tesone played wideout at Cherry Creek High and played wing back at Trinity International University under Andy Lambert in Chicago. In all, he has 11 years of coaching experience, including four years as an assistant at Sterling College and four years of head coaching experience at Raymond Junior High.

"As a coach, I am hoping to see these kids compete in every situation," he said. "I am anxious to see how they will respond to challenges they will face on and off the field. Our kids, like all kids, face adversity everyday. I hope through the venue of football to train up leaders they learn to face adversity and overcome it."

Julian and Oberle accounted for some 1,700 yards and 28 touchdowns on the ground for last year's team that finished at 6-5 after going 1-1 in the playoffs.

Senior Randy Pray, junior Lance Hinderliter and freshman Tylon Ybarra are the listed quarterbacks for 2017. Tesone has a host of threats out of the backfield, including seniors Austin Wyatt and Jordan Mortimore, junior Johnathon Kloxin, sophomore Dylan Miller and Sergio Lambert, and freshman Freddy Lambert.

Senior Brayden Moore saw a few snaps at quar-

terback last year but at 6-2, 235 pounds, will use that size as a tight end this fall. Sophomores William Pray and Hunter Cavender will see time at wide receiver.

Up front, Tesone has a handful of seniors on the two lines. Leading that charge are seniors Dalton Rose (5-10, 200), James Taverner (6-0, 216), and Dustin Nelson (5-10, 240). Junior Jason Joyner will be the biggest of the bunch at 6-2, 250 pounds, and freshman Anthony Herrera brings in some nice size at 5-9, 238 pounds.

Down the schedule, another trip to the playoffs is not out of the question. South Barber is considered a top-10 team in Div. II, but the rest of the district looks to be wide open. Pretty Prairie went 6-3 last season but returns just three starters on both sides of the ball. Bucklin has won just four games in two years but has most of its team back from a year ago.

Tesone and the Kats are just looking forward to getting the season started. The winning will come if the players put in the work.

"It will be very difficult to follow in the footsteps of Coach Wellman," Tesone said. "He has had some great athletes in the program. We will work diligently in the weight room and are creating a culture of hard work and excellence."

"One goal is to see our players continue their education and complete it; to 'stay faithful and finish well.' (John Wooden quote) But our main goal won't be answered for another 20 years until these boys become men and we see how great they will be as husbands, fathers, workers or employers."

Large group out for Chase volleyball team

By MIKE COURSON

The Lady Kat volleyball team won just seven matches a year ago. New coach Celena Feil was walking into a program full of returners - three starters and two more with varsity experience - but already that situation has changed as junior Jasmine Weatherman is likely to miss the season with a medical issue.

"Things have changed in the last 24 hours," Feil said on Aug. 29. "I still feel good about what I have, we are just going to have adjust how we were going to do things. She was my No. 1 server and best passer on the back row. She will be missed on the court."

Also missing in action will be four graduates, including varsity mainstay Taytem Patton, who lead the team in kills last year. Katelyn Potter was second on the team in hitting, and Andrea played in 32 of the team's 38 sets last fall.

Returning starters for 2017 include senior Mackenzie Oberle, junior Kirsten Wood, and sophomore Taylor Lattimer. Junior Maggie Schneider played in all but one varsity set last year.

Oberle returns as a hitter and a four-year varsity player, even if she's not your prototype player at the net. She finished

third on last year's squad with 30 kills.

"If it weren't for the fact that she did it last year, people would probably question my use of Mackenzie, who is 4-foot-11, as a hitter," Feil said. "She has a solid, consistent hit."

The service game will be big for Chase this year. Oberle finished second on the team last year with 21 aces. Wood was not far behind with 14 aces. Senior Audrey Clark is help filling the void left by graduating and injury.

"Audrey has stepped up to be a force on the front row and has an ace serve," said Feil.

Wood returns as the team setter after dishing out 143 assists last year.

Feil has a large piece of last year's back row returning. Oberle tied with Patton for the team lead with 85 digs. Wood and Lattimer split 60 digs, and Schneider had 17 digs.

Also competing for varsity time this year are seniors Marisa Long and Adison Miller, and junior Rachel Janda.

"With 18 very competitive girls, they are all working very hard to earn their court time," Feil said.

Chase opened the season at home against Natoma, Wilson, and perennial powerhouse Central Plains on Thursday.

Lots of newness in this fall sports preview



By MIKE COURSON

Welcome to your new and improved Fall Sports Preview! Last year, our newspapers won two of the top-three Kansas Press Association awards for special sections for papers our size. Sounds like room for improvement!

In all seriousness, our section for the anniversary of the Hoisington tornado won first place, and one of our three sports previews won third place. Being a sports guy, I take tremendous pride in these sections and strive each

time to make this one better than the last. Thank you to all the advertisers and coaches who make this thing a possibility.

There is a lot of new heading into this sports season - lots of new coaches and athletes, and a new graphic designer. Just as practices were starting about two weeks ago, Central Plains volleyball coach Lisa Crites and the girls were kind enough to let me come take pictures for the cover. Hugo Gonzalez, who

will be doing some graphic design work for us, took my photos and made the cover of this section. It's very exciting to have someone of Hugo's ability on board, and I hope this is the first of many great covers.

Into the business of sports, just a quick introduction to some of the new faces I'll see this school year: Once upon a time, I ran a free sports website. That led to an

see New stuff, page 17

Chase football 2017

Sept. 1	@Beloit-St. John
Sept. 8	WILSON
Sept. 15	@Rock Hills
Sept. 22	SYLVAN-LUCAS
Sept. 29	STAFFORD
Oct. 6	SOUTH BARBER
Oct. 13	@Bucklin
Oct. 20	PRETTY PRAIRIE
Oct. 26	@Ashland

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to all the Fall Sports Teams!

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