



2017 Hoisington Lady Cardinal volleyball team

Four seniors back for Lady Cardinals

By MIKE COURSON

The Hoisington volleyball team just missed the .500 mark last season, but with a handful of starters back on the floor for 2017, coach Kayci Boxberger heads into the season with some optimism.

"The girls have been working hard this summer so I'm hoping it transfers over from the break we had in between weights and preseason and the two weeks until we have our league tournament," she said.

Boxberger has back four seniors, a junior, and a sophomore, all with varsity experience. She's also expecting a couple sophomores and freshmen to make an impact this fall. More than half the players played club volleyball over the winter, some even into June and July.

Senior Joanna Lockwood returns to the middle as a big hitter. She helped her club team reach the national tournament in the offseason. "She's was still a little baby giraffe last year," Boxberger said. "She's gotten a whole lot more coordinated over the summer so I'm hoping for big things out of her."

Senior Brooke Bacher returns as the libero and also has her eyes on a college roster in the future. "Any hole we have on the floor, we send her that direction to clean it up," said Boxberger.

Senior Kelsi Nuss returns to play at the net and in the back, and senior Alaina Schneider is expected to be one of the captains this season after coming back from a serious leg injury.

Sophomore Bailey Sanders saw varsity action as a freshman last year and returns as an all-around player, and freshman Savannah Schneider is also expected to play varsity. Both Sanders and Schneider come in undersized with big verticals that



Joanna Lockwood is one of four seniors back for the Lady Cardinal volleyball team this fall.

(photo by Mike Courson)

make them useful at the net and in the back row. Riley Brungardt will be the lone junior on the squad.

What the Lady Cardinals lack in size this year, Boxberger is hoping they can make up in other aspects of the game. "I'm hoping our speed picks up," she said. "I'm hoping to get our passing more consistent to the same spot so we can get quicker balls up. We have, all the way around, great serving. We can hit spots that we need to hit so I'm really hoping that benefits us against our taller competition."

Hoisington opened its season at the Central Kansas League preseason tournament on Aug. 26. The Lady Cardinals posted an 0-5 record.

"It's still a pretty tough league," Boxberger said prior to the tournament. "It's nice to see where the other teams are at early in the season. It's a bummer as that's our first time to see another team. It'd be nice to be able to get some games in before that happens. It's nice to see what we're going to be up against as far as league standings."

Hoisington volleyball 2017

Aug. 26	CKL @Haven
Sept. 5	@Lyons
Sept. 7	@Ellinwood
Sept. 12	@Kingman
Sept. 19	HOME TRI
Sept. 23	HOME TOURN.
Sept. 26	HOME
Oct. 3	@Hesston
Oct. 5	@Ellsworth Tri.
Oct. 10	@Lyons
Oct. 17	@Great Bend
Oct. 21	Sub-state
Oct. 27-28	State



2017 Lady Cardinal tennis: Bailee Bachar, Emma Mooney, Reiley Fuentes, and Samantha Colson. Middle row: Kourtney Lacey, Lily Thouvenell, Katrina Hempken, Katelyn Knapp, Nina Imgraben, and Audrie Harms. Front Row: Kassidy Harms, Aurora Ingram, Katherine Warnken, and Isabelle Gonzales. Not pictured: Jacquelyn Gonzales.

(photo courtesy of Coach Cowan)

Lady Cardinal tennis team to have new look for 2017 season

By MIKE COURSON

Lady Cardinal tennis coach Karisa Cowan had a career year as a coach in 2017. Her doubles team of Emma Harmon and Tyann Schremmer finished sixth at state, and the points picked up in doubles was good enough for eighth as a team. The bad news is, with the injury of Katherine Warnken this year, Cowan has no players back from last year's team.

"We have no returning varsity players, however I have team members that are ready to fill those spots," Cowan said. "They have spent all summer developing the skills they will need to really rock this year. I am looking forward to using the close relationships in my team to build some strong doubles teams."

Harmon and Schremmer went 4-2 at state, winning two matches on the front side before falling to the eventual third-place finishers.

"Not only did they work well together, they played well and executed their skills," said Cowan. "All of their hard work definitely paid off. The finished their season with an

overall 31-13 record. That is one awesome record."

Warnken missed the state tournament by a single win last year. Her absence will open the door for other players in 2017, including senior Aurora Ingram, who lost a play-in match at the regional tournament last year. Kassidy Harms will be the other senior on the squad. Juniors include Emma Mooney, Katelyn Knapp, Bailee Bachar, Jacquelyn Gonzales, and Nina Imgraben. Several freshmen complete the roster.

"We will have a strong majority of underclassmen playing," Cowan said. "I see great hope for

the future. Losing five seniors was rough, but our team will get where I would like to see them."

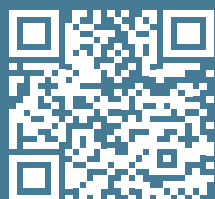
Cowan said all those new players means fewer bad habits getting into the start of the season. She can mold them how she needs them to play.

The Lady Cards will see Central Plains a few times this season. The Lady Oilers are going through a rebuild of their own, and Cowan always looks forward to those matchups.

"Coach Gary Bittner is one awesome coach," she said. "It doesn't matter who he has each year, he should come up with a team to compete."

Hoisington tennis 2017

Aug. 31	@Larned
Sept. 5	HOME
Sept. 9	@Great Bend
Sept. 14	@Ellsworth
Sept. 19	@Central Plains
Sept. 23	@Wakeeney
Sept. 26	@Ellsworth
Sept. 30	CKL @Lindsborg
Oct. 6-7	Regionals
Oct. 13-14	State



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