

2017 Lyons cross country runners, back row from left: Coach Dan Reazin, Elijah Gaines, Julianne Snyder, Marc Reyes, Janeeth Martinez, and Carlos Reyes. Front row: Blake Seidel, Maggie Hays, Camile Mead, Daniel Villanueva, and Coach Zack Vogel. (photo courtesy of Amanda Dawson/LHS)

Vogel takes over Lyons XC squad

By MIKE COURSON Some big changes are coming to the Lyons cross country teams this fall. Former assistant coach Zack Vogel takes over the reins from longtime coach Larry Dumler, and former standouts Samantha Trejo and Oscar Jaime are gone to graduation.

Losing two key seniors will hurt us some, but I'm excited to see how the

Sept. 2

Sept. 7

Sept. 14

Sept. 21

Sept. 26

Oct. 5

Oct. 12

Oct. 21

Oct. 28

young runners will step up and fill those roles," Vogel

Vogel spent the last two years as an assistant under Dumler, and he has two years of head coaching experience at Columbus High School.

Vogel loses a lot in Trejo, a four-time state qualifier who ran seventh at the Sterling regional before medaling at state with a

17th-place finish. Trejo will be running at Hesston College this fall.

Back for the Lady Lions is senior Julianne Snyder. Snyder placed 51st in that tough 3A regional that included the state champion. Snyder did earn a spot at the state track meet in the 400m dash later in the spring.

Last year's regional meet in Sterling featured the top-two teams in Class 3A. That made qualification as an individual difficult but Jaime made it through to state where he medaled with a 12th-place finish.

On the outside looking in at state last year was Marc Reyes, who missed qualification by a single spot - or about 11 seconds. Eight of the top-20 finishers at state last fall have graduated, leaving the door wide open for runners like Reyes in 2017.

Vogel should have a healthy group of middle school runners as well. The boys won a league title last vear, and eighth-grader Eric Diaz never lost a race last year in the seventh grade ranks.

"I expect the team to grow a lot this season," said Vogel. "We are a really young team, so there will be a lot of learning going on. These young runners will learn how to train and race hard as the season progresses."

The Lions will have a pair of Rice County meets with a home meet on Sept. 26 and a meet in Sterling on Oct. 5.

2017 Lady Lion tennis team, back row seniors, from left: Kelsey Jenkins and Gia Bryant. Front row: Holla Bryant, Tania Silva, Devany Gamez, and Kristina Head. (photo courtesy of Amanda Dawson/LHS) Three varsity players back for Lady Lions

By Mike Courson Andrea Carlson's Lady Lion tennis team ended its season at regional competition last year, but there is hope of sending a player or two to state this year with three varsity players back. Leading that charge is sophomore Kristina Head, who returns as a dual-sport athlete playing volleyball and No. 1 singles and

doubles. "I think we have a really good shot this year," Carlson said of Head's chances of making it to state. "She's improved a lot over the summer. She went to several camps this summer and she's just really improved on her shots in general and her serve has gotten a little better and a little more consistent. We're just working on thinking about our shots during the game, and she's really improved on that,

too." McKayla Vincent and Ashlyn Troyer played singles for the team at last year's regional, and Head played in the doubles bracket. With both of those players graduating, Head will have more opportunities as a singles player.

Seniors Kelsey Jenkins

and Gia Bryant played a returning junior varsity competitive first-round match at the regional meet last year, winning the first set and nearly winning the second to advance. Carlson expects bigger things out of those players as well. "They're improving, Jenkins will move back and forth between singles and doubles, and Bryant

Lyons tennis 2017

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Regionals

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will stay a doubles player. "They've really improved," said Carlson. "Kelsey worked during the summer. She and Kristina played a little big together and came to a camp together. They've really been improving on their shots. Gia has improved on moving around the court and

just being aggressive." Carlson also has three

Aug. 24

Aug. 29

Aug. 31

Sept. 9

Sept. 18

Sept. 25

Sept. 28

Sept. 30

Oct. 6-7

Oct. 13-14

players in Holla Bryant, Devany Gamez, and Tania Silva. While they will continue to play junior varsity this year, they could also see some varsity time.

too," Carlson said. "I feel like everybody did something over the summer so they're really starting to get into their groove already. That will really help us get the season started."

The Lady Lions had just three varsity players at home last Thursday and finished third out of five teams competing. Head went 4-0 at No. 1 singles, and Jenkins and Gia Bryant went 2-2 at No. 1 doubles for third.

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