

# Four returners give Chase girls opportunity to build on last year's successes

By MIKE COURSON

Last year's Lady Kat basketball squad put together six wins to match its win total of the previous two seasons. This year, with four returners back in action, the team will have higher ambitions.

"Our team will lack size, but we will play with a lot of heart," said Chase coach Brent Clark, back for a seventh season on the sideline at CHS. "We should be able to pressure the ball more this year with more depth."

The Lady Kats will be down a pair of seniors from a year ago. Taytem Patton was a four-year player in Chase and led the team at 11.7 points and 3.3 assists a game last year. Also missing is Kyla Calhoun, who played in 20 games last year and averaged 2.8 ppg.

Clark's core group of players will lack in size. Leading that group is junior Jasmine Weatherman. At 5-4, she averaged 10.7 points a game last year and led the team with 9.4 rebounds a night.

Senior Mackenzie Oberle will be a four-year player in the program. At 4-11, she plays bigger than her size and averaged five points, three rebounds, two steals, and three assists a night last winter.

Sophomore Taylor Lattimer (5-3) made an immediate as a freshman last year averaging 6.1 points and 4.3 rebounds a game. Junior Rachel Janda (5-6) returns with the most size. She averaged two points and

four rebounds a game last season.

Clark looks to have a healthy bench in 2017-18. Five-foot-eight senior Audrey Clark played in 19 games last year, averaging just under two points a night. Five-foot-four junior Maggie Schneider returns with varsity experience, and 5-6 sophomore Jasmine Savage has shown plenty of athleticism on the track. Clark also has newcomer Lindsey Winkelman.

With a lack of size, Clark said outside shooting and defense will be a key to success for this year's squad.

"Keys to our success this year will be our ability to pressure the ball," Clark said. "Our defense will determine how successful we are."

The Lady Kats open the season at home against Thunder Ridge on Dec. 1. The girls should see a milder version of the schedule than

the boys with just opponents ranked in pre-season polls. Sylvan-Lucas enters the season ranked No. 8 in Class 1A, Div. I, and Beloit-St. John's is ranked No. 7 in Div. II. The Lady Kats will travel for both of those games in early February.



2017-18 Chase Lady Kat basketball team, kneeling, from left: Breann Pray, Maggie Schneider, Taylor Lattimer, and Lindsey Winkelman. Back row: Coach Brent Clark, Mgr. Melissa Williams, Jasmine Weatherman, Mackenzie Oberle, Audrey Clark, Rachel Janda, Jasmin Savage, Manager Adison Miller, and Asst. Coach Ashley Rodgers.

(photo courtesy of Chase High School)

# Moore returns to lead Chase boys in 2017-18

By MIKE COURSON

After a quick 3-0 start to the season a year ago, the Kats tailed off to a disappointing 8-13 finish. With two starters back this winter, Coach Mitch Light is looking to improve upon that mark.

The Kats did take some lumps from graduation. Justin Oberle was a four-year varsity player for Chase who led the Kats with 14 points a night last year. Also missing due to gradua-

tion will be Conner Hill and Kylar Millar, who contributed about 10 points a night.

Light will have back Brayden Moore. The 6-3 senior was second on the team last year at 11.4 points a night, and his five rebounds a night led the team. Moore earned third-team all Northern Plains League honors a year ago.

Also back in action is junior Lance Hinderliter, who picked up valuable varsity experi-



2017-18 Chase Kat basketball team, front row from left: Jr Contreras, Edy Martinez, Anthony Herrera, Freddy Lambert, Sergio Lambert, Will Pray, Hunter Cavender, Johnathon Kloxin, Dixon Steadman, and Jaxon Christiansen. Back row: Coach Mitch Light, Tyler Joyner, Brayden Moore, Jason Joyner, Randy Pray, Lance Hinderliter, Dalton Rose, Dusty Nelson, Tylon Ybarra, Dylan Miller, Mgr. Logen White.

(photo courtesy of Chase High School)

ence as the quarterback of the football team this fall. Last year on the hardwood, Hinderliter scored about four points a game and was second on the team with nearly five rebounds a night.

"I'm looking for Brayden and Lance to be key leaders on our team," Light said. "Both have the skills to help us score more this year."

Senior Dalton Rose saw some varsity minutes last year and returns for the 2017-18 campaign. Will Pray, Randy Pray, Dylan Miller, Tylon Ibarra, Jason Joyner, and Hunter Cavender will fill out the varsity roster.

Light expects this year's squad to excel on defense, and that should make the Kats a chance each night out this winter.

"Our strength will

be our defense," he said. "With new varsity players Randy Pray and Jason Joyner, we will be competitive with every team we play. The key will be can we score enough points to win those ball games."

The Kats will again face a tough schedule this winter. At the end of January, Chase will host back-to-back games against ranked teams from Pike Valley and Central Christian. The Cougars enter the season ranked No. 1 in Class 1A, Div. II, and Pike Valley is ranked No. 7 in the bigger 1A classification. Toward the end of the regular season, the Kats will travel to play St. John's, ranked No. 4 in Div. II, and an Osborne squad ranked No. 6 in the Div. I preseason polls.

## Chase basketball 2017-18

|            |                      |
|------------|----------------------|
| Dec. 1     | THUNDER RIDGE        |
| Dec. 4-9   | @Fairfield Tourn.    |
| Dec. 12    | TESCOTT              |
| Dec. 15    | @Lakeside            |
| Dec. 19    | LINCOLN              |
| Jan. 5     | @Rock Hills          |
| Jan. 9     | WILSON               |
| Jan. 12-19 | @NPL Tourn.          |
| Jan. 23    | @Natoma              |
| Jan. 26    | PIKE VALLEY (HC)     |
| Jan. 30    | CENT. CHRISTIAN      |
| Feb. 2     | S. CLOUD (Sr. Night) |
| Feb. 6     | @Sylvan-Lucas        |
| Feb. 9     | @St. John's-Tipton   |
| Feb. 16    | @Osborne             |
| Feb. 23    | BURRTON              |
| March 1-3  | Sub-state TBA        |
| March 7-10 | State                |

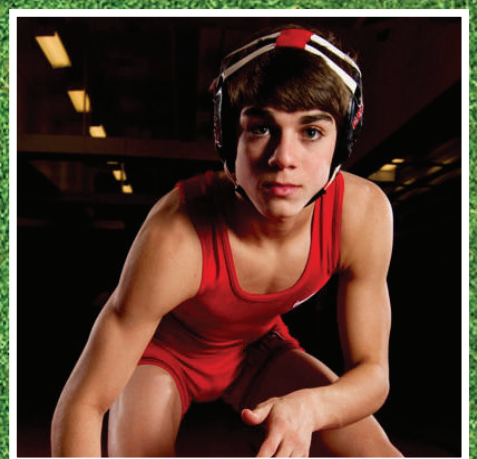
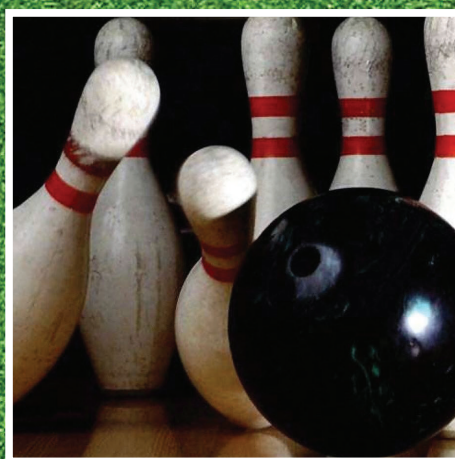
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