

# Hoisington boys fielding entirely new squad in 2017-18

By MIKE GILMORE

After a 9-12 overall and 5-5 Central Kansas League finish last season, the Hoisington Cardinal boys basketball team is looking to start fresh in 2017-18.

"We come into this season with an entirely new varsity level team from a year ago," notes Kyle Haxton, who is entering his 10th season as head coach of the Cards. "We have two or three players that return with some valuable varsity experience, but this will certainly be a rebuilding year."

The rebuilding process began over the summer with three teams playing in Barton County's summer league program as well as a number of MAYB tournaments, with time invested in the weight room, Haxton said.

"My hope is that we will be very competitive this season," Haxton said. "Our group of freshmen came into high school

only losing a game or two throughout middle school and they have played hundreds of games since fourth grade. This will only make our program stronger.

"I'm excited about our group's ability to shoot from the perimeter and put the ball on the floor. Our teams in the past have always played with great effort; this group will be no different."

No starters return; however, six players return varsity experience. Junior Braxton Donovan, a 5-10 guard, returns 2.6 points per game, with 1.3 rebound and 1.2 assists. Junior Xavier Robinson, a 5-11 junior, returns 1.0 ppg., 1.3 rpg and a steal per game.

Also returning are seniors Eric Barrett, a 6-0 forward; and Isaac Prosser, a 6-2 guard/forward. Junior Derek Boxberger, a 5-11 guard, and Avery Brewer, a 5-8 sophomore guard, round out



2017-18 Hoisington Cardinal basketball team

the returnees.

The Cardinals' roster for the upcoming season includes:

Seniors – Nathan Nickerson, Prosser, Barrett and Tommy Potter;  
 Juniors – Robinson, Trey

Beyers, Christopher Fuentes, Donovan, Boxberger, Jacob Lane and Jason Chen;  
 Sophomores – Brewer, Dalen Hutchcraft, Daunte Chambers, Jacob Specht, David Balli, Chandler Blackwell, Kameron

Schneweis and Chris Boese;  
 Freshmen – Drew Nicholson, Mason Haxton, Ryan Woydziak, Dylan Richards, Aiden Redetzke, Braden Moony, Cade Mason, Chase Robinson, Cole Steinert and Holt Hanzlick.

# Hoisington wrestling numbers swell in anticipation of another state title run

By MIKE GILMORE

Whoever coined the phrase "it's lonely at the top," obviously wasn't considering the Kansas state wrestling tournament – especially at the Class 3-2-1A level.

For the past five years, contenders have attempted to wrest the state crown from five-time champion Norton and this year is no different – already, the class's KWCA coaches have placed the Bluejays

at the top of the preseason wrestling poll.

Last year, the Hoisington Cardinals came as close as anyone to the task. With eight state qualifiers in the brackets, Hoisington placed four wrestlers in the semifinals to post a 59-58 lead over the Bluejays in the team tally on day one of the tournament.

Norton went on to post 126 points for its fifth straight title on that Saturday, while the Cardinals finished second at 113; Marysville, meanwhile, finished 15.5 points behind the Cardinals in third.

Out of the eight, Hoisington finished with two state champions and six state placers – bidding for a photo finish every step of the way.

In looking ahead to the 2017-18 season, veteran Hoisington coach Daniel Schmidt clucked his tongue a little at his fellow mat mentors, as the preseason poll came out ahead of the first matches of the year. The Cards, who were picked to finish third last year, came in third behind Scott City and ahead of Hoxie as the teams expected to challenge the Bluejays this season.

"We have some outstanding wrestlers back



2017-18 Hoisington Cardinal wrestling team

on the team and that's probably why many of the coaches across the state in Class 3-2-1A are not buying into the Cardinals as being a team on the rebuild," Schmidt mused. "We did finish the season undefeated in duals last year and second at state. But if we are going to match that type of performance in the 2017-18 season, then a complete rebuilding of the team will have to happen at a very accelerated rate."

Gone from this year's lineup are Jonathan Ball, a Fort Hays State University signee who capped a

stellar Cardinal career as a senior with 33 pins in a perfect 42-0 season and a state championship at 145 pounds. Gone is Landen Urban, who finished third at state in his final Cardinal season with 35 pins in a 39-2 record at 285. Gone is fifth-place state finisher Justin Bradley, who earned 15 pins toward a 33-6 record.

And gone is state qualifier Dylan Carrier at 120 pounds, who as a fourth-place finisher at regionals, received a tough draw at state to end the season at 13-20.

"We're looking at

replacing about the entire starting lineup, with the exception of five athletes," Schmidt noted.

High hopes, however, are placed on those five.

Senior Christopher Ball, who won his second state title as a junior with a major decision over ranked Wellsville wrestler Reece Williams, is back at the top of the preseason poll at 152, bringing 39-2 record with 24 pins from last season.

Four-year varsity wrestler Dustin Edmonson,

see Cardinals, page 16

## Cardinal wrestling 2017-18

Dec. 2	@Pratt Tourn.
Dec. 8	@Ellis
Dec. 15	HOME
Jan. 4	HOME
Jan. 6	@Ellsworth Tourn.
Jan. 11	HOME
Jan. 19-20	Bob Kuhn @Hays
Jan. 26	HOME
Feb. 8	CKL @Lindsborg
Feb. 16-17	Regionals TBA
Feb. 23-24	State @FHSU

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