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Baseball Season Underway For NCE-UH Titans



Although this year's edition of the NCE-UH Titans has been practicing for two weeks and is ready to get their season started, Mother Nature may have other thoughts on when we will see our first high school baseball game this spring! The Titan's varsity will again be coached by Mark Hemberger. He will be joined on the staff by first-year assistant/JV coach Dustin Flaten and returning junior high coach Kain Schow.

The Titans lost three players to graduation from last year's team. But those seniors, Simon Nelson, Griffin Maesse and Skyler Moen, will be difficult to replace. Junior Tate Maesse is also questionable for this spring and is hoping his recovery from knee surgery will allow him to join the team sometime late in the year. The new crop of Titans will have a lot of holes to fill on offense and defense in the upcoming 2018 season.

The Titans have three returning starters who will anchor the team this year. Isaac Habedank, Sunny Resnick and Dawson Fox are all expected to play big roles on this year's squad. Habedank will be playing first base, doing a little catching and hitting in the top half of the order this year. Fox will be asked to pitch a lot of innings, play the middle infield positions and be a leader on offense. Resnick will be drawing on his experience to solidify the top of the Titan's batting order and although he will focus on catching, he may be called on to fill in at just about any spot on the field defensively.

This year's team also includes several part-time starters from last year's team that will be expected to



The NCE/UH Titans baseball team members are, left to right, front row-Parker Lien, Prestin Douville, Chase Green, Andrew Amberg, Milo Winter, Zane Mickelson; middle row-Dawson Fox, Tate Hoseth, Marcus Gunnufson, Tanner Douville, Logan Miller, Peyton Meon; back row-Head Coach Mark Hemberger, Sunny Resnick, Treyton Klemetson, Isaac Habedank, Riley Resnick and Coach Dustin Flaten.

play significantly bigger roles this spring. Riley Resnick, Tate Hoseth, Prestin Douville and Marcus Gunnufson will all be competing for a chance to make the starting roster and make a big impact on how successful this year's team will be. They will also be asked to step up and contribute to throwing duties on the mound in order to beef up the pitching rotation.

The Titans will really need the sophomore class to shine this year as well. With the small number of Titan upperclassmen it will be up to them

to fill some key roles on offense and defense on the varsity and JV level. Parker Lien, Treyton Klemetson, Chase Green, Logan Miller, Tanner Douville and Zane Mickelson could be key contributors to this year's squad. With the limited number of spots available at the varsity level, it will be up to each individual player to put out the effort in practice and game situations to see who will best be able to contribute.

Other members of the team that could help fill out the varsity roster

and who coaches hope will make a big impact on the JV squad include Milo Winter, Andrew Amberg, Noah Durand, Peyton Moen, Ethan Blakeway, Brady Boe, Gavin Jacobson, and Brody Lien. As usual, the JV will play as many innings as they can get in after the varsity games are concluded. They will also be playing in two tournaments this spring. One in Ada on April 28 and another in Fertile on May 19.

The junior high team, made up of 13 7th and 8th graders, has been learning the ropes, working hard

and is looking forward to getting the season started!

The junior high team will be playing its home games on the newly refurbished softball/baseball field in Ulen this year. With the smaller number of JH players, some of their games this year will be played with 7th-9th grade players. We will also be hosting a JH tournament on May 12, which allows them to test their skills against other area teams that are not in the same conference.

The NCE-UH communities helped make several improvement

to the Ulen baseball field this off-season with the installation of a grass infield, a rebuilt clay pitching mound and irrigation in both the infield and outfield. There will be a special event to show off the field and to thank all those who contributed to the project in the near future.

The Titan parents will be selling hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages, candy and all kinds of snacks at all Titans home games, so come on out to the ballpark to cheer on the Titans and enjoy the food and weather all season long!

Titans Looking To Be Contenders In Conference



The NCE/UH softball season is underway as practice started on Monday, March 12. Coaches this year are once again Steve Radniecki, Shelly Brevik and Jodi Flaten.

The Titans are young, but have five starters returning from last year's Section 8A runners-up squad. Senior team captains Alexa Mortenson and Mariah Stueness are the only seniors on this year's team. Juniors are also few, with Allison Amberg and Anna Knutson the only ones on the team.

Sophomores Ryah Opsahl, Amber Eken and Alivia Mortenson all started on last year's team. Corie Peterick entered the lineup as the Titans' top sub during tournament time last year and will be another sophomore starter for the Titans this year. Other sophomores that are expected to fight for and fill out the remainder of the lineup are Anikka Bakke, Morgan Begg, Skylar Brevik and Madelyn Fain.

Freshmen include Madison Thornton, Jessica Wold, Gillian Keezer, Maggie Tjon, Madelyn Sorensen, Anna Carlson, Karli Jirava and Megan Korinta. Most



The NCE/UHTitans softball team members are, left to right, front row-Jessica Wold, Skylar Brevik, Ryah Opsahl, Morgan Begg, Anikka Bakke, Alivia Mortenson, Allison Amberg; middle row-Karli Jirava, Madelynn Fain, Madelyn Sorensen, Gillian Keezer, Madison Thornton, Amber Eken, Megan Korinta, Mariah Stueness; back row-Coach Steve Radniecki, Maggie Tjon, Corie Peterick, Alexa Mortenson, Anna Carlson, Anna Knutson and Coach Shelly Brevik.

of the freshmen will play on Coach Brevik's JV squad, but it is very possible a couple of them could earn some varsity playing time as the season goes along.

The junior high numbers are down a little this year, but they are a talented group and the

coaches feel they should have a good year as well. Eighth-graders include Adie Klemetson, Kaylianna Dahl, Malea Bates and Gabby Askelson. Seventh-graders on the team are Trista Krueger, Sophia Lien, Malynn Havercamp and Katelyn Brenna. Radniecki feels this team

should be solid by tournament time and should contend for the Pine to Prairie Conference, Sub-section 8A South and Section 8A titles. Alexa Mortenson and Ryah Opsahl are two of the top pitchers in Section 8A, and the team has a nice mix of speed and power to provide some offense for those

two.

Defensively, developing a couple of outfielders will be a top priority for NCE/UH, but fortunately there is no shortage of quality candidates.

The favorites in the section

are the usual suspects in BGMR, Red Lake Falls, Sacred Heart and the Titans. Mahnomen/Waubun dropped down from Class AA to Class A this year and is now in Section 8A as well. Dave Varriano's teams are always solid, and they will look to contend as well.