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# Rothsay Tigers Boys Track Team Optimistic For Season

**Kelsey Buchholz**  
Sports Writer



Playing on the talisman of "Lucky 7," the strong returning core to the Rothsay Tigers' Track and Field athletes should make for some interesting meets this spring.

The Tiger Boys return seven strong athletes from last year who were all are involved in multiple events during the track and field meets last season. That magnificent seven will serve as the core of the Tiger Track program running into their 2018 campaign.

Returning this year are seniors Levi Foss and Cody Duran; juniors Nick Kusnierek, Jacob Christ, and Thomas Webster; sophomore Noah Fiedler; and freshman Gavin Larson.

Also returning this year is head coach Trevor Hone, who is back for his seventh year guiding the Rothsay runners through the season. Nick Heck will serve as assistant coach.

Cody Duran has been a renaissance man in the past, participating in running, throwing, and jumping contests within the meets. He looks to do that again this year. Fellow senior Levi Foss has joined Duran as a leader among the Tiger jumpers. But the depth in that field is strong for Rothsay. Also jumping are Webster, Kusnierek and Fiedler.

As an freshman last season, Fiedler made a strong impression on Hone, who said, "Fiedler has the potential to be our new up and coming jumper."

And Fiedler proved himself last year. He and the rest of the Tiger jumpers continually found themselves near the top of the rankings at each meet. He will need to continue that trend to make up for the graduation of Jacob Balken (hurdles, jumps) last year.

Fiedler also used his long legs to his advantage performing well in hurdles and sprints. Joining Fiedler on the track are Christ, Webster and Larson. However, those three will be primarily concentrating on sprints this season. Filling in for the long distances will be Anthony Perez, who has shown strong potential and talent early on.

The biggest change to the Rothsay Track and Field team comes from the throwing pits. The Tigers lost three key throwers to graduation last year. But Larson will have something to say about that. As an eighth grader last year, he started coming on strong at the end of the season, especially in shot put. Larson will have to fill some big shoes this season, but with another year under his belt, he'll try to throw his weight around.

The Tigers face some challenges this year, including taking on new roles and facing some tough teams. Perham and Ottertail Central continue their dominance in the section and will provide some stiff competition for Rothsay throughout



The members of the Rothsay Tigers boys track team are, left to right, first row - Hunter Marquardt; second row - Jackson Cuhel, Gage Johansen, Matthew Danielson, Logan Blumer; third row - Thomas Webster, Anthony Perez, Noah Fiedler, Nicholas Kusnierek and Nick Wiezorek. Not pictured is Gavin Larson.

the season.

Bringing back these veterans and pairing with excited newcomers, Rothsay should experience growth

from last year, which should translate to success this year.

Hoping that the Lucky 7 works

for them this year with Hone in his seventh year, and seven key returners, the student athletes are excited to get the season underway.

The combination of strong, veteran returners as well as the young, eager newcomers points toward optimism for the Tiger faithful.

# Tigers Girls Track Team Optimistic And Motivated

**Kelsey Buchholz**  
Sports Writer



Simon Sinek, motivational speaker and author, said, "A small team, committed to a cause bigger than themselves, can achieve absolutely anything."

And that is why people should take notice of the Rothsay Tiger Girls Track and Field team. They may be small but they have the drive, passion, and ability to make a statement, even among strong competition.

Under the direction of seventh-year head coach Trevor Hone, the Tigers are ready to make their own success this year. Assisting him in that goal is Nick Heck.

Leading the way for the Rothsay Lady Tigers is senior sprinter Tori Fiedler, a two-time section qualifier: 2016 in the 200 meter and 2017 in the 400 meter.

Hone noted, "Tori is a fast runner and always has a positive can-do attitude." Fiedler rounds out her events with relays and long jump.

Seciley Sytsma is the second veteran senior on the team. She mirrors many of Fiedler's events including long jump, relays, and the 100 and 200 meters.

While some may think the direct competition in a team this small would be a drawback, the Tigers embrace the opportunity. It gives strong, honest feedback for both of the girls and gives them benchmarks to reach, challenges for each other, and goals to surpass.

Juniors Emily Christ and Rachel Brenden are two critical veterans for Rothsay this year. Brenden spends most of her time at the jumping pits. Brenden especially saw success in the triple jump towards the end of the season.

Christ also found herself in the top ranks on some of her jumps but has decided to split her time between all three disciplines: running, jumping, and throwing. Christ has

been a key leg in the relays, taken on the speedsters in the sprint, and thrown with the big guns in the shot put. Based on previous years and early indicators, Christ is poised to do well in multiple events this year.

Jayna Gronewold will once again be using her speed to an advantage, being a key runner in the Lady Tigers' sprint lineup. And Hannah Fisher will be throwing for Rothsay this season.

Team success at the meets will be tough this year due to the low number of athletes, but individually the Rothsay runners, throwers and jumpers can still place. They will be challenged by strong athletes from area schools, including section strongholds Perham and Ottertail Central.

One of the advantages of having a smaller squad is the ability to have quality one-on-one time with each athlete. That extra time with the coaches will reap many benefits, especially as the season continues. Then the girls will be able to take that growth into the upcoming years of track and field.

These young ladies, albeit young, have a great work ethic, are motivated and optimistic, and have the talent to do well. Even though this year may be tough as a team, individually there is the potential for much growth out of each individual student athlete. Hone noted, "Numbers are small this year but those we have are dedicated and hardworking. There are no upper limits on any of them."



Members of the Rothsay Lady Tigers track team are left to right - Jaden Weber, Tori Fiedler, Jayna Gronewold and Rachel Brenden. Not pictured Hannah Fisher, Jordyn Martinez and Sydney Bauman.



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