

# Three Black Bears return to defend 3-2-1A tennis title

By MIKE COURSON

For the first time in 18 years at Sterling, tennis coach Curtis Thompson enters a season as the reigning state champion. Last spring, the Black Bears dominated the field at the Class 3-2-1A State Championships to win the title. Thompson will have three of his players back from that team.

The Black Bears did take a few knocks to graduation. Kyler Comley, a fifth-place medalist in 2017 and four-year state qualifier, is gone, as are Max Fulbright and Edward Weiner, who qualified for two state tournaments and picked up crucial points last year.

Junior William Weiner is this spring's top returner. Weiner's first two varsity seasons have already

netted him state medals with a third-place finish last year and a sixth-place finish in 2016. Weiner will also be defending a league title in 2018.

Another league champion from 2017 is senior Kenan Comley. Comley could be a wild card for Thompson as a singles player, or he could remain a doubles player. Last spring, Comley teamed up with Brett Riffel to win a league championship and place ninth at state. The junior Riffel also returns.

Comley will be the lone senior on this year's squad. The rest of the roster includes more returners in juniors Cooper Galyon, Bryce Wilson, Jeremy Thorpe, and Andy Norez, and sophomores Tucker Robson, Joshua Curtis, and Jordan Mul-

lins.

Newcomers to the 2018 squad include juniors Garrett Sankey, Logan Weigel, and Ryan Birzer, and freshmen Jacob Bates, Ryan Brewington, and Colton Sant.

There will be some shake-ups when it comes to state later this spring. Sacred Heart's Stratton Brown, the two-time defending state champion and a two-time runner up before that, has moved on to play at Creighton University. On the doubles' side, three of the top-four teams have all graduated.



The 2018 Sterling tennis team is, back row from left: Andy Norez, Ryan Birzer, Tucker Robson, Logan Weigel, Garrett Sankey, and Jeremy Thorpe. Middle row: Kenan Comley, Bryce Wilson, William Weiner, Cooper Galyon, and Joshua Curtis. Front row: Jacob Bates, Colton Sant, Ryan Brewington, and Jordan Mullins. (courtesy photo)

## Sterling tennis 2018

April 3	@Ellsworth
April 5	@Hillsboro
April 10	HOME
April 17	@Buhler
April 19	HOME
April 24	@Hesston
April 26	@Smoky Valley
April 30	CPL @Wichita
May 4	Regional TBA
May 11-12	State @Wichita

## JACAM

Jacam is proud to support our local athletes.

We wish you a successful season!

People + Products ⇌ Performance  
[www.jacam.com](http://www.jacam.com)

## CHOOSE THE TEAM THAT COMES THROUGH IN THE CLUTCH



We provide coverage and services that provide peace of mind to help you enjoy all of life's victories.

Caleb Schultz Agency  
[fb.com/CalebSchultzAgency](http://fb.com/CalebSchultzAgency)  
[amfam.com](http://amfam.com)



Insure carefully, dream fearlessly.

American Family Mutual Insurance Company,  
 American Family Insurance Company  
 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 ©2015 008944 - Rev. 04/15

# Play Hard and Stay Focused on Your Goals



# ILS

INNOVATIVE LIVESTOCK SERVICES, INC



GREAT BEND FEEDING, INC.



Professional Cattle Feeders since 1962



GK Environmental Services LLC



ILS FARM PARTNERSHIP



Windmill Feeders



AG SYSTEMS, INC.



PERFORMANCE THROUGH INNOVATION

# A Proud Supporter of Golden Belt Athletics

• Larned • Great Bend • Hoisington • Macksville • Otis-Bison • Ellinwood  
 • Lyons • Claflin • St. John • Chase