



photo by Carrie Feist, HHS

Rebuild begins for Hoisington baseball

By MIKE COURSON
 The Cardinal baseball team nearly pulled the big upset to open regional play last year. The team that won just six games fell 4-2 to a Concordia team that took a 14-3 record to state. Long-time Hoisington coach Tim Schremmer will have to go his tool box in 2018 with just three starters back.

The Cardinals lose several key pieces from last year's squad that strung together a 6-13 record. Collin Schloc-termeier threw a gem in that regional loss to Concordia. He earned second-team all-CKL honors last year. Hunter Hanzlick earned second-team honors at first base, and catcher Jeremy Breit also earned second-team all-league honors. Kyle Lang was an all-league honorable mention. All have graduated.

Alex Schremmer, who played key roles at the top of the lineup and defensively at shortstop, transferred to Great

Bend for his sophomore season.

Juniors Myles Menges and Braxton Donovan lead the trio of returners. Sophomore Jerred Bieberle is also back. Seniors Isaac Prosser, Nate Nickerson, and Phillip Donecker join the squad. Other juniors include Trey Byers, Jason Chen, Brandon McClure, Derek Boxberger, and Chris Fuentes.

With a small roster

of returners, Schremmer said the goal is to compete in as many games as possible and learn. He's looking forward to "teaching young boys the game of baseball and hopefully something about life."

The Cardinals opened the 2018 campaign with road games at Lyons and Kingman. Hoisington opens its home schedule against Hillsboro on April 6.

Hoisington baseball 2018

March 37	@LYONS
April 3	@Kingman
April 6	HILLSBORO
April 16	@Smoky Valley
April 20	NICKERSON
April 24	@Larned
April 27	HALSTEAD
May 1	@Hesston
May 4	HAVEN
May 8	@Pratt
May 14-18	Regional
May 24-25	State

Hoisington golf coach Cooper reaches back nine in 2018

By MIKE GILMORE
 After 38 years of coaching, Hoisington veteran golf linksmaster Bruce Cooper is going out at the top of his game.

Cooper, who was presented with the 2017 National Federation of State High School Associations Coach of the Year for girls' golf at the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Championships in Hays in early March, had resigned in December from teaching and coaching in the Hoisington School District.

There's still one season to go, however, and looking over the boys' spring golf roster for 2018, there were a lot of underclassmen. Two seniors, a junior and the rest sophomores and freshmen in a roster of 13.

"Yeah. What can I say," Cooper said, sighing. "It's going to be hard to leave. I've been reflecting on it in my head the last few months, wondering if it's the right thing. Yes, it is. 'It's time.'"

A sea of Cardinal red stayed through the Friday afternoon award ceremony to watch KSHSAA Assistant Executive Director David Cherry present Cooper with his plaque. The audience also contained a large contingent of Cooper's family members.

"The state told me that I could put anybody on the pass list that I wanted," Cooper noted. "So I listed about 25 of my family members. About 15 showed up, which was awesome. Afterwards, I took my family all out to eat and it made a really great memory. I felt that with the award, that was



Hoisington golf coach Bruce Cooper accepted the National Coach of the Year award at the state wrestling tournament in February. (photo by Everett Royer)

two golfers who are going to be competitive," Cooper said.

At both ends of the spectrum.
 Hoisington senior Gavin Reidl worked his way to the Cardinals' top finisher last season, shooting a 95 in Hoisington's seventh-place finish at regionals in Russell. Cooper's goal for Reidl in his senior season is to place high enough at their Ellsworth regional to qualify for state at Seneca's Spring Creek course. "One of

my goals going in is to get Reidl to shoot under 40 (in nine holes)," Cooper said. "Then to place at Ellsworth and then go on to state."

Cooper also has high hopes for freshman Drew Nicholson. The newcomer is the spitting image of his father, Mike Nicholson, who Cooper coached in the 1980s.

"Drew Nicholson is an absolute twin to his dad," Cooper said. "He's solid. Same swing, same approach, everything. For this season, Drew's goal will be to shoot better than his dad's senior year average. We want him under 40 by postseason."

After that, the four-some is open to challengers.

One newcomer is also a senior, Cooper noted. "Reidl talked Sean Urban into coming out," Cooper said. "He's wanted to play golf the last three or four years, but I lost out to the track coaches. He's an athlete, a competitor and he's seasoned at multiple sports at a high level. He'll do OK, once he has some of the golfing background that the others do."

Jakob Breit is the lone junior; Logan Hammeke, Jacob Haynie, Braeden Hopkins, Kadin Nichols, Paul Rziha, Bryce Shelor and Orrin Tesch are sophomores. Hayden Gardner and Ryan Woydziak are the other two freshmen.

"It's going to be some work, finding more players to make meets, but I enjoy the crud out of it — or I wouldn't have been doing it this long," Cooper said.

After two junior varsity meets to open the season, the varsity takes to the links at the Nickerson Invitational on April 2.

gratification for doing the right thing for the past 38 years."

Four decades of results may blur a bit for some coaches, but not for Cooper, who is a stickler for statistics. His standouts are posted in old-school, glass-fronted records cases in his HHS science room. State and regional finishes, meet medalists, averages — Coop has it all.

He's been thinking of giving them to his able assistant coach Kolten Cook, who will be taking over Cooper's coaching role in the fall.

"I'll take them down and give them to him," Cooper said. "They're big and heavy and they're pretty full. I'll have a ceremony and take pictures," he said, laughing.

Looking for a four-some in the spring — Cooper's goals for the last spring season include building up a good four-some, noting that he's about halfway there.

"Right now, I've got

Hoisington golf 2018

April 2	@Nickerson
April 5	HOME
April 17	@Medicine Lodge
April 19	@Kingman
April 26	@Russell
May 3	@Ellsworth
May 14	Regional TBA
May 21	State

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Motorcycle Museum/Waterpark.....	Salina
Bowling/Games/Ice Cream.....	Hoisington

Good Luck Cardinals!

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