



courtesy photo

2018 Ellinwood Eagle track teams

Eagle baseball ready for second season

By MIKE COURSON

Coming off a league championship on the track last year and a second-place finish at state cross country last fall, the Lady Eagles again hit the 2018 spring season with high expectations.

"Our girls have a strong group," said EHS coach Andrew Cherry. "Our returning girls have experienced a league title and are hungry to go get another one. The returners and the new girls coming in will all be very busy at each meet because we don't have a lot of them but they will be able to score and give us a chance to compete in every meet that we attend."

Cherry will be without a couple of four-year kids in Joanna Strecker and Maddie Hayes. Strecker won two league titles last year and was a pe-

renial qualifier for state. She placed eighth in the 800m run at state. Hayes was a third-place league finisher in the javelin and a state qualifier in the 300m hurdles. She had the No. 3 javelin throw in 2A during the regular season.

Junior Maddy Ward leads the returners as the reigning Central Prairie League champion in the discus and shot put. Ward's best discus throw of 113-0 last year was sixth-best in all of Class 2A during the regular season. Five of the top-7 discus throwers from last year have graduated, including Hill City's Alyssa Miller, a three-time 2A champ in the event.

Sophomore LaTaja Gray returns to

see EHS Track, page 15



The 2018 Ellinwood Eagle baseball team is, front row from left: Tyler Knop, David Hammeke, Todd Hamby, Adam Mannie, and Daulton Gowdy. Middle row: Gage Hosman, Eli Hernandez, Kodie McFarren, Keaton Erb, Jacob Herrman, Luke Wondra, and Lane Klepper. Back row: Cameron Stevenson, Brad Shumate, Ryan Niles, Blake Kubick, Kyler Doll, Woodson Corbett, and Cole Kubick.

(photo by Mike Courson)

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Growing pains were expected from the Ellinwood baseball team last year. The Eagles, after all, had not fielded a team in 55 years. The 2017 Ellinwood squad posted a meager 1-20 record. This year, with some experience under their belts and

seven starters back, expectations will be a little higher for the Eagles.

"We should be much improved from last year," said EHS coach Doug Bender. "Our initial goal is to go 10-10. That's what they've shown in practice is that they're capable of im-

proving. Some of them have bought in. I have to give credit to Mike Niles and Monte Doll for what they did with the summer Babe Ruth program. (The kids) came back with a baseball attitude."

Ellinwood lost just two seniors to graduation, but three key pieces from a year ago are no longer at EHS.

"We lost some really good guys," Bender said. "Our two seniors last year were Gage Miller and Eric Jones. They started every game except when Miller was hurt."

"Losing those three has pushed Ryan Niles and Kodie McFarren into catching for us. Keaton Erb is the upstart freshman who wants the job."

In all, the Ellinwood roster features 19 players, including seven returning starters, 11 with varsity experience, and eight "very hungry" freshmen.

Captains on this

see Eagles, page 15

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