

## Larned girls' netters 2018 season already underway

By MIKE GILMORE

Larned girls' tennis coach Mark Lessard usually has some mixing and matching and a lot of ruminating to do at the start of the season, as he is putting together the lineup for the Lady Indians' annual junior varsity opener each August.

The varsity lineup is a little easier, dealing with players who return experience to the courts. This season, however, he was still missing a top senior singles player when practice began on Aug. 13. The varsity opened the season at home with an invitational meet on Aug. 30.

Larned senior Kristin Anderson had a good reason for missing the opening week of practice. She was finishing up National Guard basic training in South Carolina, and wasn't released until late last week. Her first appearance with

the team was in LHS's inaugural Friday Lights scrimmage night, featuring all fall sports on Earl Roberts Field.

Anderson is one of three seniors returning regional tennis experience to the Lady Indians this fall. Seniors Macy Haas and Katelyn Sanger claimed a 22-7 doubles record in 2017, finishing the season 1-1 at regionals last October.

Corrie Upson and Ruthie Webster are the two juniors on the squad. Audrey Manry is the lone sophomore and three freshmen – Kathryn Holt, Jordanne Wagner and Ava Mull pick up a racket for the first time this fall.

**2017 recap** – After a string of regular season meet wins, the Lady Indians claimed 70 points and four top-four finishes the first week of October at the Central Kansas League meet. Anderson

finished fourth after beating Nickerson's Kat Hursh in two sets; Lile also placed fourth.

The doubles claimed two silver medals. Graduating seniors Abby Kelty and Ali Leiker advanced to the championship match, where they lost to league champ Heston in two sets; Haas and Sanger breezed through their first two matches to fall to team second place finisher Smoky Valley in two sets.

On the return trip to Lindsborg, however, the LHS girls ended their season at a tough Class 4A bracket hosted by Smoky Valley.

Anderson lost her opening regional match to Buhler's Peyton Demyer, 6-2, 7-5, while Lile was defeated by Kaylin Beswick, Abilene, 6-1, 6-0.

In doubles, Haas-Sanger won their first match but lost their second, while Kelty-Leiker went 1-1.



**ANDERSON VOLLEY** – Larned High School's Kristin Anderson returns a volley during a regular-season match in 2017. She returns to the squad for her senior season after graduating from National Guard training in South Carolina over the summer.

(Tiller file photo)

## LHS girls' golfers focused on trimming scores in 2018

By MIKE GILMORE

In his second year as head of the Larned High School golf program, coach Dan Collins is focusing on improvement.

Last season, the Lady Indians, led by senior Sierra Smith, finished 100 strokes back of regional champion Andale in their Class 4A tour of Smoky Hill Country Club in Hays. Smith did finish 17th medalist with a 117.

The rest of the squad

– Cathleen Cowell, Halle Barker and Faith Thompson – shot in the high 60s to 70s in their first varsity regional tournament.

Barker, Cowell and Thompson return in 2018, joined by Darby Eakin and Anna Flory.

The Lady Indians' first meet was Aug. 28 in Cimarron; they travel to Medicine Lodge on Sept. 4. Their only home meet of the season is the Larned Invitational on Sept. 13.

### Larned golf 2018

Aug. 28	@Cimarron
Sept. 4	@Medicine Lodge
Sept. 10	@Pratt
Sept. 13	HOME
Sept. 17	@Russell
Sept. 24	@Hoisington
Sept. 29	@Lakin
Oct. 2	@Cheney
Oct. 8	Regional TBA
Oct. 15	State

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