

Lyons XC 2018

Sept. 1	@Hays-TMP
Sept. 6	@Hesston
Sept. 13	@Stafford
Sept. 20	@Larned
Sept. 22	@Rim Rock
Sept. 25	HOME
Oct. 4	@Sterling
Oct. 11	CKL @Smoky Valley
Oct. 20	Regional
Oct. 27	State @Rim Rock

Lyons tennis 2018

Aug. 23	HOME
Aug. 28	@Ellsworth
Aug. 30	@Larned
Sept. 8	@Pratt
Sept. 17	HOME
Sept. 22	@Chaparral
Sept. 27	@Cent. Plains in GB
Sept. 29	CKL @Hesston
Oct. 5-6	Regionals
Oct. 12-13	State

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE RICE COUNTY TEAMSTHIS Fall

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Diaz ready to make varsity running debut in Lyons

By MIKE COURSON
It was just a few years ago that Samantha Trejo debuted on the high school varsity scene and tore up the cross country course for four years as a Lady Lion. Now it's Eric Diaz's turn. After putting together unbeaten seventh and eighth-grade seasons at Lyons Middle School, Diaz sets his sights on high school competition in 2018.

Lyons has had state representation in recent years. Marc Reyes ran 68th at the state meet last October,

and Oscar Jaime placed 12th at state as a senior in 2016. Late last season, Diaz cruised to the win in Sterling by 55 seconds in 11:25 on the 2-mile course. Only time will tell how long Diaz can remain unbeaten at the next level against better competition and on a longer course.

Second-year head coach Zack Vogel expects big things from Luis Barroteran and wants to see all his runners gain valuable experience this fall.

"I expect the team to grow a lot this season," he said. "We are a really young team, so there will be a lot of learning going on. These young runners will learn how to train and race hard as the season progresses."

Sept. 20 opens a big 2-week stretch for the Lions. The team runs in Larned that day, then heads to Rim Rock just two days later. The big home meet follows on Sept. 25, and the team stays in Rice County at the Sterling Invite on Oct. 4.

Lions poised to end 20-game losing streak

By MIKE COURSON
The Lyons High School football team is ready to put to bed back-to-back winless seasons. With a solid group up front, coach James Johnston is confident a win will come.

"We expect this to be a turnaround season," he said. "We expect to be a lot more competitive and win more games."

There will be lots of changes in 2018. Terek Smith, a two-year starter at quarterback, is gone to

graduation. Also missing are Jonathan Gomez, Manuel Moreno, Wlisses Landeros, and Brian Pina.

But the Lions do return a nice mix of six returning offensive starters and five defensive starters. Leading that charge will be senior wideout Chris Goans, an All-CKL honorable mention at that position a year ago. Goans will double as a defensive back.

Junior Ishmael Reyes returns in the backfield,

and Nick Duntz saw limited time under center in 2017.

The success of those players could depend on the success of five or six others.: senior Peyton Schwerdtfeger (6-4, 280) and juniors Eddie Burrola (5-10, 170), Wade Foster (5-8, 210), and Alejandro Pena (5-8, 215) return to the offensive line. Dakota Procopio and Brandon McClure join the group.

"This is the strength of the football team," Johnston said. "They could potentially be the best offensive line we have had at Lyons the last eight or nine years."

Defensively, Foster and Pena will bolster things from the linebacker

spot. Schwerdtfeger will anchor the defensive line with Procopio and McClure. Pena will stay busy as the kicker.

"The addition of Dakota and Brandon has really made our offensive and defensive lines stronger," Johnston said.

Firmly rooted in Class 3A in recent years, Lyons is one of many schools in that classification moving to Class 2A in the format. That will mean a completely new district schedule. This year's district includes Cimarron, Southwestern Heights, Lakin, and Sterling. Ellinwood, also in the district, is playing 11-man football for the first time in several years.

Lyons football 2018

Aug. 31	HAVEN
Sept. 7	HILLSBORO
Sept. 14	@Halstead
Sept. 21	@Sterling
Sept. 28	@Ellinwood
Oct. 5	SW HEIGHTS (HC)
Oct. 12	@Cimarron
Oct. 19	LAKIN
Oct. 25	Playoffs TBA

Good luck, Lyons athletes!

Garcia returns for senior season with Running Mustangs

By MIKE GILMORE
Macksville senior Itzel Garcia returns as the top runner back from state

competition in 2017.

Garcia placed 45th at the Class 2A Cross Country Championship in Wamego, setting a personal record with a time of 22 minutes, 32 seconds. Macksville Coach Mike Hullman notes that Garcia has been one of the top three girls' runners in each of her previous three seasons.

The Lady Mustangs have two seniors, five juniors and a sophomore returning to the 5K course, with three incoming freshmen.

Senior Christine Garza is back after missing last season. "We are going to be pushing her very hard throughout the season because she has the ability to be a very good runner for us," Hullman noted.

Juniors stepping up include Lydia Mendez (24:45 PR) who Hullman noted turned in great results toward the end of last season. Other juniors include Caren Holguin, Kaylee Hottovy, Kiley Blevins and Elena Kuckelman. "They all are runners that have potential, but have not yet developed confidence," Hullman said.

Sophomore Anna Suiter will be looked to to fill some of the top spots, especially at second position due to the graduation of Serena Blasko who is running for Pratt Community College this season.

Incoming freshmen are Karen Hall, Abigail Ibarra and Krystal Marquez. "Each one of them has a lot of potential that we hope to develop before the season ends. They will help add depth to our team when it comes time to keep team scoring."

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From all of us at Lyons Medical Center, Sterling Medical Center and Rice County District Hospital.

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