



PRIDDY PIRATES: The boys at Priddy High School competing in spring sports this year include, front row from left: Britt Major, Zackery Ward, Javier Del Bosque, Jarek Stout and Luke Breum; and back row from left: Chance Hodges, Isaac Goehmann, Keagan Wood, Cooper Bradley, Joey Hall, Hunter Gutierrez and Marcos Gutierrez.

Priddy's defending district track champs are rebuilding

By Mike Lee
Eagle Contributor

The Priddy boys' track and field team may be hard pressed to defend its District 17-1A team championship this spring, but the Pirates will still field a competitive team.

Priddy lost 2019 seniors Chandler Hurst, a former state runner-up in the

800, along with consistent scorers Carlos Andrade and Trinton Herron from last year's team that scored 168 points to win the district championship.

"We're young," veteran Priddy boys' coach Curtis Hurst said. "We'll be strong in the distance events like always. We should be able to put

together a decent 1600-meter relay team. We should be able to finish in the top three teams at district."

The distance returnees include sophomore Jarek Stout, who last year finished second at district in the 800 meters and 1600 meters to Chandler Hurst. Junior Joey Hall won district in the 3200 and finished third in the

1600 last year at district. At regional last year, Stout finished fifth in the 1600 and seventh in the 800 while Hall ran sixth in the 3200.

Stout and Hall led the Pirates' cross country team to a fifth-place finish at the Class 1A UIL state meet in November.

Junior Chance Hodges, who fin-

ished third at district in the 3200 last year, was a regional qualifier in that event. He'll also run in the 1600. Priddy's veteran distance runners will be joined by freshman Javier Del Bosque, who is expected to run the 800 and 1600.

Senior Isaac Goehmann and freshman Zackery Ward are scheduled to enter the pole vault, 110 hurdles and 300 hurdles.

Del Bosque and Ward also were part of the cross country team that finished fifth at state last fall. "They both ran well in cross country," Coach Hurst said. "I expect them to step up and score points for us in their track events."

Stout, Hall, Del Bosque and Ward are the leading candidates for the Pirates' 1600 relay.

Hunter Gutierrez won district in the discus last year, and the sophomore also competes in the relays and sprints. Sophomore Marcos Gutierrez also will participate in the discus and sprints as well as the shot put.

Junior Keagan Wood is penciled in for the 800 and 400. Freshman Luke Breum will run the distance races. Hunter and Marcos Gutierrez, along with Wood, figure to fill out the 400 and 800 relay foursomes.

"We didn't make the playoffs in basketball this year, and while that was disappointing, it will give us a couple of extra track meets this spring," Coach Hurst said. "If you go two or three rounds in the basketball playoffs -- and then don't have a meet during spring break -- you'll only have two or three meets before district."

The District 17-1A meet is scheduled for April 1 at Goldthwaite, with Priddy joining Lometa, Cherokee, Evant, Gustine, Jonesboro and Cranfills Gap. The Pirates' area meet is scheduled for April 14 at Blanket, and the Region III-1A meet is set for April 24-25 at Whitney.

Evans leads Priddy girls

Senior Linda Evans leads the Lady Pirates' returnees after winning district in the pole vault and finishing as the district runner-up in the 800 and 1600 last year. Evans has qualified for regional multiple times during her high school track career, including last year in the 800, 1600 and pole vault.

Sophomore Rianne Hurst, who likely will compete in five events, finished sixth at regional last year in the high jump. Her other individual events include the triple jump, 100 hurdles and 300 hurdles. At last year's district meet, she won the 100 hurdles, finished second in triple jump and third in the high jump.

The top newcomer figures to be freshman Sydney



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