

Shorthanded tennis team is rebuilding this year

By Steven Slack

With just five boys currently registered, Edgerton boys tennis is struggling to field a full team.

Head coach Eric Nuenthel believes he has another “four or five” boys intending to play but they have not yet registered.

“We’re fighting to get a boys team,” Nuenthel, who also coaches the girls tennis team, told the Edgerton Reporter. “I don’t know why that is...It seems like boys sports are having trouble getting boys to go out to play across the board.”

Of those five registered players, two are sophomores and two are freshman. None of the new team members have played tennis before.

“You just tell them to do the best they can,” Nuenthel said of inexperienced players. “We keep working on them, and then next year they’re more experienced and can do it better, and it just works that way.”

Investing time in players as underclassmen can often reap benefits later in their high school careers, Nuenthel said. Nuenthel is hoping that’s the case with Jacob Anderson.

Anderson is a returning senior who was a sectional qualifier as a freshman. “He’ll help with the practicing and the teaching of the kids,” Nuenthel said. “He’s very good at doing that.”

Even with that experience, Anderson could struggle, as he’s being slotted into the No.1 spot currently—a position he’s never before been in.

“Jacob is going to have a tough row to hoe,” Nuenthel observed. “He’ll be our No.1 singles which is always the toughest plight there is.”

On top of that, Nuenthel isn’t sure if Anderson has picked up a racket since 2019, thanks to the pandemic-prompted cancelation of the 2020 season.

“As far as I know, it’s going on two years since he’s played,” Nuenthel said. “I’m assuming he’s coming out very rusty. I don’t know if he’s been playing indoors this winter or not.”

The Tide will have their work cut out for them this season against teams like Edgewood, East Troy and McFarland, the three top finishers at the East Troy sectional in 2019. Each of those squads return previous lettermen.

The team’s inexperienced players will need to mature quickly to be competitive. The first day of practice is May 3.

“Our first match is a quadrangular at East Troy on May 7,” Nuenthel lamented. “We have four days of practice, then the kids get thrown to the wolves. It’s just that kind of year.”

Nuenthel has had plenty of players entirely new to tennis on his varsity team in the past, so he’s confident they can still get something out of the season.

“We make it fun. We try to teach them what to do, and we see how fast they can pick it up,” Nuenthel stated. “Tennis is one of those sports where you can’t just grab a racket and hit it. It takes a while to learn how to do it.”



Senior Jacob Anderson
Photo courtesy of Edgerton High School

Can girls carry winter success onto the diamond?

By Steven Slack

Edgerton varsity softball will return on just three returning lettermen as they attempt to improve on 2019’s 4-17 season.

Senior Carly Rebman returns to the outfield as does junior Hannah Zeimet. Junior Kate Gunderson spent most of her 2019 season at third base for the Tide.

The trio would be joined by senior Lauren Radtke if not for a season-ending knee injury suffered before getting onto the field for a single sport her senior season.

Unclear at this time is the Tide’s pitching situation. In 2019, Gabby deMoya-Cotter showed great promise on the mound but graduated last season and is now swimming for the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Edgerton’s 2019 season left them placed 8 of 10 in the Rock Valley Conference. Jefferson took home the conference title with a sterling 17-1 record. Behind them were East Troy and Whitewater, both at 14-4.

Jefferson is likely to be at the top of the RVC once more as they return three first or second team all-conference honorees from the 2019 campaign.

East Troy is also likely to be formidable, returning three players from the two all-conference teams. Whitewater, like Edgerton, returns no one from either of the all-conference teams.

The three returning lettermen for Edgerton may not have any all-conference accolades to their names, but they have spent much

of this year competing at a high level in other sports.

In the recently wrapped volleyball season, Rebman, Gunderson and Zeimet were integral parts of a team that captured a regional title and was only one game short of a trip to the state tournament. In basketball, the girls had a 17 win season and earned a No.1 seed in the postseason.

Edgerton is chocked full of multi-sport athletes, and more than one coach has theorized that “success begets success.” The Tide will hope that holds true on the softball diamond this season.



Junior Kate Gunderson (right) chases down a foul ball for an out. The Tide will need to find new pitching this season to replace Gabby deMoya-Cotter (13).

Photo by Steven Slack

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