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Raiders Baseball Looks to Grow And Compete This Season

Lynae Schenck
Sports Writer

The Lake Park-Audubon Raiders baseball team will see a new face as head coach this season. This is Justin Hoskins' first official year as head coach. He started last year technically but they never had a single in-person practice or any games. Assisting him this season for the Raiders are Quean Smith and Ryan Arhus.

Most of the players are coming up from the junior teams of the past with the off-season last year.

"We have a young group of players this season and the goal this year is to play competitive baseball and have fun," says Hoskins.

Even with the year being off last season, there are some notable players for this season. Junior Wyatt Musolf is an upperclassman role model to all the younger guys on the team. Sophomore Satchel McDonald is also a guy that comes to Haskin's mind.

"Satchel is a hard worker and he is respectful to everyone and I can tell he is going to be a great addition to the team," notes Haskins.

Freshman Sean Felker is also mentioned as a team leader. He is considered a hard worker through and through and very talented baseball player. Hoskins explains he is a leader in work ethics and knows the game of baseball so well. It is easy for him to be a leader on the field.

The Raiders will take each game as it comes. They see every next team as the team to beat and take it one game at a time. This year will be a challenge, with a young team playing a varsity schedule they will be facing some tough competition.

One of the Haskins' favorite things about his team this season is that they care about baseball. They want to learn and play the game.

"We are a young team with a lot of young guys," concludes Haskins. "We are going to use this year to learn and grow as a team."

The roster for the Raiders is as follows:

Zack Cole 12, IF/CF/P
Dillon Goeneweg 12 OF
Wyatt Musolf 11 P/IF
Carston Hamre 11 IF
Satchel McDonald 10 2B/P
Jackson North 10 LF
Marc Pederson 10 OF
Matt Rabideaux 10 IF/P
Sean Felker 9 SS/P
Tyson Nerdahl 9 C/P/IF
Jacob Nelson 9 3B/P
Colby Poegel 9 1B
Logan Askin 9 1B
Ian Crabtree 9 OF
Rylan Swenson 9 OF
Christian Hanson 11 - Equipment Manager

The Lake Park-Audubon Raiders baseball team members are, left to right, front row: Matt Rabideaux, Ian Crabtree, Wyatt Musolf, Satchel McDonald, Seth Felker; middle row: Carston Hamre, Rylan Swenson, Jackson North, Jacob Nelson, Tyson Nerdahl, Zack Cole; back row: Coach Quean Smith, Christian Hanson, Thomas Hoffman, Colby Poegel, Marc Pederson, Logan Askin and Coach Justin Hoskins.

Raiders Ready To Hit The Diamond And Play Ball

Lynae Schenck
Sports Writer

The Lake Park-Audubon Raiders softball team will have Mark How as their head coach for his second year. However, technically it is his first year since there was unfortunately no season in 2020 due to COVID. Assisting Mark is Erika Pake.

How noted the value Pake brings to the program. She comes in with high school playing experience and has coached 14U.

This is his first time coaching high school girls softball. He was able to work with the girls last year off the field on a couple of projects and they were great to work with. His personal wish is to see each and every one of these girls succeed in whatever they choose to do in life; and hopefully in some small way as their coach, he can contribute to that.

Coach How has played this game his entire life. In reflecting, he feels he has played in nearly 2,500 to 3,000 games from T-ball to today and is still playing.

The Raiders lost two seniors from their team to graduation. They have a good group of juniors that are looking to take the reins.

There are several players coming back and Mark sees some of them in certain spots. Chloe is now the team's only senior and will play wherever the team needs her.

Brynn Stahlberger is the starting pitcher this season. As a junior she has experience and is constantly working on becoming a better player. Maddie Thompson is the starting catcher and is also a junior. She is a great leader in practice and out on the diamond, as is her sister Kelsey Thompson, who plays second base. Other returning juniors are Kiara Gullard and Tressa Retz.

Belle Kahle is a junior who has been out of the game for a few years but decided to come back to help out.

The team has some sophomores who will be a great value to the team. The coach will be looking at the younger girls, as there is some talent coming up and several girls are eager to the learn the game better and become stronger players.

Team captains this season are Brynn, Maddie and Kelsey. The captains are looked to as leaders on the team, although all of the team does a good job of working together. The upper class girls work really well with the younger girls. They see the value in everyone growing together as a team. The captains all have an extreme love for the game. They live to play softball and put in the work required to play well.

"Our goal is to become better every day as a team, and obviously we want to win games," says How. "We have a lot of work to do and the girls are putting in that work."

Coach How isn't sure what the team outlook is for the year but they will find out with a few games under their belt. The team does want to be competitive and have fun!

The team's asset this season should be strong pitching and catching. The infield will be solid and they are going to see what they can do with the bats.

As far as the Pine-to-Prairie conference goes, Coach How thinks the girls would like to beat the NCE/UH Titans. They are two closely knit communities and the Titans have a solid program with much success. At LP-A, they are looking for their identity and place in the conference. They will see what they can accomplish.

One of the bright spots of this year is that the team actually gets to play. His wish is that all teams realize that this opportunity should not be taken for granted.

"I think high school softball teams in general are going to cherish the ability to play this year," says How.

One of Coach How's favorite things about this season is the way all the players work together.

"Hopefully, I can use some of my experience to help these girls grow as softball," concludes How. "On the flip side, they may teach me as much as I teach them."

The Lake Park-Audubon Raiders softball team members are, left to right, front row: Chloe How, Madison Thompson, Lydia How, Kelsey Thompson and Kadynce Retz; back row: Coach Erika Pake, Tressa Retz, Myah Rosing, Brynn Stalberger, Kiara Gullard and Coach Mark How.

The roster for the Raiders is as follows:

1	Kelsey Thompson	2B	11	6	Tressa Retz	3B	11
3	Maddie Thompson	C	11	10	Thea Mattson	SS	10
				11	Kiara Gullard	1B	11
				13	Lydia How	LF	13
				15	Brynn Stalberger	P	11
				18	Laney Mattson	CF	9
				20	Chloe How	RF	12
					Myah Rosing		

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