

Titans Hungry And Ready To Play Baseball This Season



The Titans baseball team members are, left to right, front row-Steven Sannes, Tanner Swanson, Asher Flaten, Max Thordal, Mathew Salinas, Tyson Amundson, Jace Bowers; middle row-Ayden Woltjer, Caleb Klemetson, Bryce Braseth, Hayden Haspel, Landon Bettels, Bennett Tschida, Mason Syversen, Sam Woltjer; back row-Coach Jesse Rostad, Trygg, Bakke, Vance Booth, Jace Braseth, Parker Anderson, Eli Lampton, Mason Yarbrough, Axel Kjono, Canaan Baer, Asst Coach Duston Flaten, and Manager Will Jirik.

By Lynae Schenck

The Norman County East/Ulen-Hitterdal Titans baseball team will be led by Jesse Rostad for the third year in a row. Assisting him this season are Dustin Flaten and Tyler Hausauer. The student managers are Kacie Syversen and Payson Theis.

Last season, the Titans finished 7-12. Three players are lost from last year's team: Ian Jacobson, Ansley Braseth, and Pryston Bowers. There are many seniors who should step up for the team and fill those roles.

Returning for the Titans are Will Jirik, Mason Yarbrough, Trygg Bakke, Eli Lampton, Jace Braseth, Caleb Klemetson, Mason Syversen, Asher Flaten, Tyson Amundson, and Bennet Tschida.

Will Jirik was a Pine To Prairie letter winner last year. He was the best pitcher and catcher on the team last season. Unfortunately, he injured his knee during the basketball season, so he is unable to participate this season, but he will help out.

The leaders and team captains this season are Will Jirik, Jace Braseth, and Trygg Bakke. A team asset is strong senior leadership and other talent coming up through the ranks.

The team should have pitching and defense. The hitting will need to continue to improve to build off of last season.

Coach Rostad sees the PTP conference as a wide-open one this year with a lot of competitive teams.

"We are excited for this season, we have a great mix of seniors and underclassmen that are hungry to improve and get better at the game of baseball," concludes Coach Rostad.

The Titans baseball roster is as follows:

0	Stevan Sannes	IF/P	9	Parker Anderson	OF	12
1	Bryce Braseth	OF	12	10 Axel Kjono	OF	12
2	Jace Braseth	P/IF	12	11 Mason Yarbrough	IF/P	12
3	Hayden Haspel	P/C/IF	10	12 Jace Bowers	IF/OF	9
4	Asher Flaten	IF/P	9	13 Ayden Woltjer	OF	12
5	Mason Syversen	P/OF	11	14 Tanner Swanson	OF	12
6	Landon Bettels	IF/C/P	10	15 Tyson Amundson	OF	11
7	Caleb Klemetson	IF/P	11	16 Bennet Tschida	OF	11
8	Max Thordal	IF/P	9	18 Matthew Salinas	P/OF	9
				19 Cannan Baer	P/IF/OF	9
				20 Sam Woltjer	OF	10
				26 Vance Booth	OF	10
				28 Trygg Bakke	IF/OF	11
				29 Eli Lampton	IF	12

Titans Softball Handing Over Reigns To Kayla Wentz

By Lynae Schenck

The Norman County East/Ulen-Hitterdal Titans softball team has a new coach, Kayla Wentz, at the helm this year. She has been the summer softball coach for the last two years. She is taking the place of veteran coach Steve Radniecki. Assisting her are Assistant Head Coach Shelly Brevik, Junior High Coach Kari Seeger, and JH Coach Mark Hemberger.

Lost from last year's teams are Emersyn Engen, Alissa Anderson, Claire Brambrink, Makenzi Juarez, Kinzee Schenk, and Emmajeane Pfeifer. The team went 10-11 last year. Last year's seniors were an excellent group of athletes, and filling spots can be difficult. Luckily, Coach Wentz sees that they have more great athletes to fill those spots. They have some juniors, sophomores, and freshmen who will be excellent additions to their team.

Returning for the Titans are seniors Olivia Theis, Bella Madson, Izzy Ruud, and Gretchen Bain. Also, junior Avery Jensen is returning.

Gretchen and Olivia are team captains this season and are leading the team. They are obvious leaders, and that is why they were voted in by their teammates for that role.

"They both bring years of softball experience, positive attitudes, and gameplay knowledge," notes Coach Wentz.

Gretchen has proven herself to be an incredible leader by always helping her teammates improve their mechanics and skills. Olivia is an excellent mentor, especially for the pitching staff.

"I am lucky enough to have a larger group of pitchers and Olivia has been a great help in teaching,



The Titans softball team members are, left to right, front row-Emily Tadych, Kinzley Svobodny, Allison Braaten, Miah Dunham; middle row-Amelia Sandoval, Madelyn Walstrom, Kynlee Wilson, Izzy Jacobson, Avery Jensen, Olivia Theis; back row-Coach: Kayla Bain, Izzy Ruud, Bella Madson, Gretchen Bain, Nora Bain, Asst Coach: Shellie Brevik, and Manager Katelyn Duray.

guiding, and giving her opinions on how to improve the pitching programs," notes Coach Wentz.

The team's goal is always to go to the state tournament. In addition to that, they want to do better than last year's record, have fun playing, and work hard to improve their skills. Additionally, they want to be challenged, not to strike out when

looking at the ball.

The team's asset this season is their willingness to change and make adjustments. There has been a different type of practice plan, and that has been something to get used to. The girls have stepped up and been willing to do anything the coaches have asked of them, regardless of whether they understood it right

away.

The change in leadership will present some challenges. Steve Radniecki started the softball program 20 years ago and has been the one and only head coach ever since. Until now.

"It has been a big change to have a legend coaching you to a brand new head coach," says Coach Wentz.

"It's a learning year for all of us, but we are working hard."

In the Pine To Prairie conference, Coach Wentz sees BMGR and

East Polk as tough contenders with excellent teams and smart game IQ. The team will learn just by playing and watching those teams.

"This is a great group of girls, and I have all the confidence in the world that they can make it to state tournaments," concludes Coach Wentz. "We have to work like everyone else, but they are putting the work in. This is a great group of kids who love softball and want to play. It's going to be a year to remember." The roster for the Titans softball team is as follows:

The roster for the Titans softball team is as follows:

1	Nora Bain	DP	10
2	Amelia Sandoval	SS	10
6	Izabella Jacobson	Utility	9
8	Kinzley Svobodny	P	11
9	Emily Tadych	OF	9
13	Gretchen Bain	3B	12
16	Bella Madson	C/SS	12
17	Avery Jensen	CF/C	11
20	Olivia Theis	P/2B	12
21	Allison Braaten	LF	10
25	Miah Dunham	RF	12
34	Isabella Ruud	1B/P	12
35	Madelyn Walstrom	2B/1B	11



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