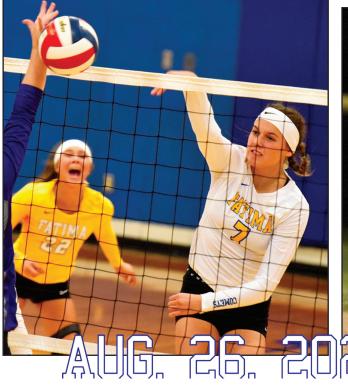
2020 UD FALL SPORTS GUIDE











Chamois Pages 3B-5B

Linn Pages 6B-12B

Fatima Pages 13B-23B

Perspective: How I Spent My Summer

Welcome back. How did you spend your summer?

If you're like me and most of the rest of the world, you spent it hanging out at home with your family amid continued concerns about the COVID-19 virus.

We were all inundated with facts and figures, from the growing number of positive test results to the number of victims who passed away.

Locally, the number of positive cases continues to rise, but we are fortunate that our healthcare professionals have been hard at work keeping the public informed.

Before COVID-19 hit and shut everything down (more on that shortly), we were able to finish the basketball season, but it was a challenge for me.

During the district tournament at Eldon, there was an incident which at the time led me to believe my camera was nothing but an expensive paperweight.

I know I closed the camera bag, but the zipper did not catch completely. When I entered the restroom, the bag flew open, spilling the contents violently upon the hard floor.

A few Osage County guys witnessed the tragedy and helped me put the bag together again, but the damage was done.

I didn't realize it at the time. It wasn't until I tried to photograph the Chamois game that the focus seemed to be locked, which confused me at first.

Of course when I looked at the lens and body of the camera, the extent of the damage became clear.

All I can say is that the heavy lens attached to the camera was in part the reason for the damage, but while the lens survived, I figured the camera was dead. However, my friend was able to put it

back together and it works well now.

I am extremely disappointed that my state chess kids were not able to compete this year. The 13 club members met twice a week for the entire school year in preparation for the biggest chess tournament of the year, and the coronavirus shut it down.

That was just the start, with other events being canceled as the world began trying to contain the spread of the virus.

While the chess club could not meet in person, we kept in contact the best we could, and many players continued to play on their own.

Finally we were able to get together for a congratulations dinner for our outgoing seniors, Richard Scales and Caleb Horan. We were able to provide them both with a small scholarship. Moving forward with the return to school, we will not be able at this time to have chess club at the school, but other plans have been made in the event there is enough interest, considering the move to a four-day week.

With the cancellation of the spring season, sports went by the wayside for a while, and that was tough on everyone. One of the comments I received most once sports did start up was that it must be nice to have something to cover.

That was nearly true. It was nice to cover something *other* than COVID-19, though even that was present in sports because that became the way of life. I suspect it will be that way for a long time.

Because I cover a lot of news, my job duties were more focused on the impact of the virus on local businesses, the nature of schooling with remote learning, and how graduations were to be held.

I thought it was really cool that the schools organized graduation parades, which gave the community an opportunity to see their students in an outdoor setting. I particularly enjoyed State Tech's outdoor graduation, and it would be great to see both continue, even when the virus is contained.

It has been a difficult summer.

Fortunately we don't have a lot of accidents that claim young lives, but when they happen, it's a reminder that life can end quickly.

My personal interaction with Caden Haslag was limited, but I had a lot of respect for the young man. He was quiet but determined, and when we did speak, he looked me in the eye and eloquently answered my questions. Watching him run was great because he had a lot of grit. In my conversations with those who knew him better than me, I've learned a lot about his character, which made me admire him even more.

This fall, members of the Comets cross country team are wearing wristbands in his memory, and I applaud Coach Marc Bridges for his efforts, both in helping team members grieve, and reminding us how important Caden was to everyone.

There are several coaching changes this year.

Chamois volleyball will be coached by Samantha Mitchem, who helped with the team last year. Joining her again are Katie Kuschel and Leshia Kempker. The volleyball story is on Page 3B.

At Linn, there were also a couple changes, with Ryan Rost assuming the helm of the softball team. Ryan worked with long-time coach Renee Heidger, who retired last year. He and Asst. Coach Mike Nolting have been working hard to get the girls ready for another playoff run. See more on Page 6B.

Robyn Baker took over the cross country program after serving as an assistant under Suann Bower. She is excited to see how well these young runners will do, and hopes to return to the state meet. More about her and the team is on Page 7B.

Many years ago, Linn had a fall baseball program, but it was suspended due to budget cuts. Now, the school has brought it back, and with it, a new head coach. Briar Hancock, who also will coach the boys in the spring, is new to the district but has a connection. He was coached in high school by former Linn coach Michael Fible, who now serves as the high school principal. Read more about the baseball team on Page 8B.

Fatima's programs are going strong with a couple of changes in coaching.

Tracy Quinn, a club coach for 25 years, accepted the role of head coach for the Lady Comets, and is taking a great approach with the girls. He acknowledges the hard work of coaches that helped these young ladies develop their skills along the way, and Quinn's goal is to ensure they reach their potential. Read more about the volleyball team and Coach Quinn on Page 15B.

The soccer team also had a change to the head coaching position. Clint Dobry has been involved with the soccer programs for four years as the head coach of the girls program, which went to the Final Four two years in a row. Last year, he joined the boys team as the assistant coach, and now moves into the main role. His goals are the same, and with Asst. Coach Josh Kunkelman returning, the Comets are in a good position to make a run come district time. See the full story on Page 16B.

Things will look a lot different as the fall season progresses with precautions in place to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

I want to give a shout-out to those in the medical field, along with those in emergency management. I have covered several meetings with members of the medical field, along with school administrators, and I know how different the education landscape will look.

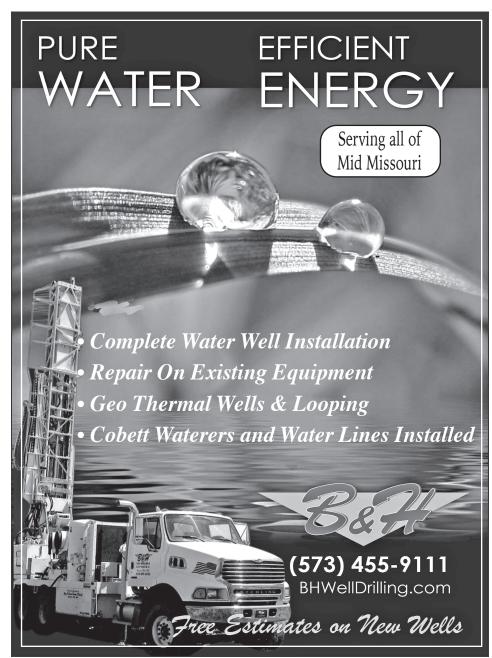
Guidelines have been suggested by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA), and each school is taking steps to prevent the spread.

My hope is that schools will not be forced to shut down, but that's always a possibility, and if that happens, it's unclear what MSHSAA will do with the fall sports season. I hope the season is played its entirety.

Do your part: wash your hands, keep hand sanitizer nearby, cover up when you sneeze, keep your distance from others, and if you have symptoms, tell your doctor.

A little common sense will go a long way.

See you at the game. NAJ



This sports guide is a publication of the Unterrified Democrat

Your HOME for LOCAL sports in every season.

Neal A. Johnson, Sports Editor

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Unterrified Democrat WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020 PAGE 3B



ARIEL OWENS returns as an outside hitter for the Lady Pirates.



Keilholz, Wuelling to anchor Chamois VB team

Chamois volleyball will be led by head coach Samantha Mitchem, as Katie Kuschel and Leshia Kempker will serve as assistant coaches.

This year's team at Chamois will be anchored by two seniors, Katie Keilholz and MaKenna Wuelling, as the Lady Pirates graduated one last year, and three players have moved away.

"We are a little thin on experience, with the junior high season in the spring cut short due to COVID-19, but we are excited to have 12 girls on the team," said Kuschel. "We definitely have some leadership from our upperclassmen, and the freshman group is very athletic and eager to learn. I think the mix will be good as we get the season under way."

Keilholz is a middle hitter and is one of the strongest players on the team. "She's a good hitter and passer, and is a great example to her teammates," said Kuschel.

Wuelling is another all-around strong player and will be the setter. "She's a natural leader for the team, and she gives it everything she has all the time. MaKenna, Katie and junior Ariel Owens have a drive and determination that makes us competitive."

Owens will likely serve as an outside hitter this year. "She is very vocal and positive, and very good at helping the freshmen. She's almost like another coach on the floor, directing and helping the other girls when needed."

Sophomores Brittany Chapman and Alex McKague return with some

experience, though McKague suffered a shoulder injury and will join the team when she's medically cleared. "Brittany has shown big improvements already this year, and when Alex gets back, she'll jump right in and be a big part of the team," said Kuschel.

Joining the high school team are freshmen Madeline Gerloff, Eevie Halbert, Elsey Wuelling, Devin Slusser, Madison Bracken, Cheyenne Abrams and Brittany Patridge.

"As a whole, this group is very athletic," said Kuschel. "It's just a matter of getting the fundamentals down, and they'll do that with more reps on the court as we go along."

There will be no JV season, but Kuschel said while the team is young, the girls are doing a better job of working together as a unit, and she believes that too will improve as the season progresses.

"I'm also excited to see how well these young players develop during their high school career," said Kuschel.

Overall, Kuschel said the team will be competitive against teams of similar size. "We should be able to finish with a good record against those teams," said Kuschel. "The bigger challenge will come against teams that are bigger than us."

Of the Show-Me Conference schools that play volleyball, all are in a higher class than Chamois.

Kuschel added that the bigger schools, while challenging, will provide good experience that will be useful at districts.

Let's Go Pirates, Mighty-Mighty Pirates! **GOOD LUCK FOR A GREAT SEASON!**



Full Chamois girls team looks to be competitive

Chamois seniors Katie Keilholz and MaKenna Wuelling return to run cross country and Coach John Leach expects them to continue in a leadership role this year.

"Katie is in the process of coming back even stronger than last year so she can give herself a chance to be an All-State athlete in November," said Leach, noting that Keilholz has accepted the finish at Gans Creek in last year's championship.

Keilholz last year was poised for an All-State finish, likely in the top 10, when with 20 to 30 meters to go, she ran out energy, and fell. With runners streaming around her, Keilholz regained her feet for a moment and tried to move forward but fell again.

"I just kept trying to get up," Keilholz said later. "I heard someone yelling at me to crawl, so I tried that, but I had absolutely no energy left."

After the race, Keilholz said she felt a little better, and later, after eating, she felt close to normal, but it took a few days to fully recover.

"It could have been a lot worse," she said last year. "I feel like I did the best I could. I have another year to get back and finish my career strong."

After early practices, Keilholz is in great shape and looks for another return to

he championship meet

"We're going back to that course in late September so she can prepare for the state meet," said Leach. "Right now she is leading in practice, and looks eager to get out and run at the first meet."

Wuelling also returns, having her best time at last year's state meet. "We look for her to maintain what she did last year, and improve her time," said Leach. "She's one of the leaders of the team, and is a consistent runner."

She improved her times during last season and did a great job to get to state, finishing the championship race in 24:32.4 to earn 104th place.

Rounding out the girls team are freshmen Madeline Gerloff, Eevie Halbert, Devin Slusser and Elsey Wuelling.

"Madeline is coming off a conference title last year as an eight-grader, and I'm looking for big things from her at the varsity level," said Leach. "I really feel she has the capability to be just behind Katie come district time. She has a lot of raw talent, and we're helping her further develop as a cross country runner." Halbert is very athletic and is working

Halbert is very athletic and is working to improve her time. "She's working her form and stride, and I'm thrilled with her effort so far this year," said Leach. "I believe she can be a dark horse for us out there, and if she truly believes she can run as fast as I think she can, she'll be an All-District runner."

See Chamois XC Page 5B



MAKENNA WUELLING is working for a return to the state meet.

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Chamois XC From Page 4B

Slusser is working to improve her stamina. "She has a lot of potential, but she has to believe that she can run with the other girls," said Leach.

E. Wuelling is another runner that could be a surprise near the end of the season. "I am convinced she can be All-District," said Leach. "She's got the athleticism and form; it's just a matter of her pushing herself to reach the goals we have set for her."

Leach said he is happy to have a girls team for the first time. "They have a real shot at finishing in the top two at districts to send the entire team to state," he said. "A lot of this is mental, and we just have to stay focused on our objectives, and improve our times with every meet."

On the boys side, juniors Caine Schaben, Hunter Nolte and Mason Lamb return with experience, while sophomore Shannon Cowans, who earned a state championship berth last year, is pushing hard to get back to Gans Creek in November.

Schaben also brings a lot of athletic ability to the team, and like his teammates, he is pushing to improve himself in practice. "I think he'll record some faster times, and I'm optimistic about what he can do this year."

Last year, Schaben earned 35th place

in 23:19 at the district meet.

"Hunter is a young man who joined the team last year," said Coach Leach. "He does whatever we need, and I think this year he will improve his times. He cares about how he does at meets, which will fuel his performances this season."

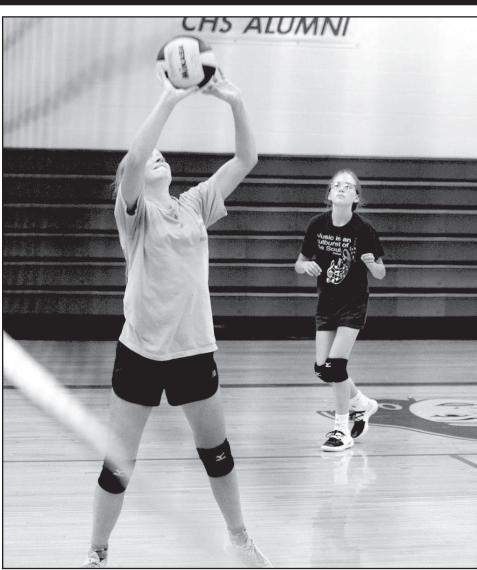
Lamb has a lot of natural ability and is very athletic, coming off a year in which he finished 40th in 25:00 at the district meet. "He just has to go out and run," said Leach. "He can achieve his goals and do very well for us if he applies himself and believes he can do it. We're working on that."

Cowans earned a trip to state with a 15th-place finish at districts last year. "I think he ran relatively well at the state meet, considering the great runners in that class," said Leach. "Shannon will pick up where he left off, and with another year of growth, he should be faster than he was last year, and has a great shot at getting back to state."

Cowans earned All-District with a 15th-place time of 19:17, and at state, he ran a time of 19:49.0 for 119th place.

There will be no team score this year for the boys team, but Leach said he is confident all of these young men have a chance to do well this season.

"They have the natural tools, and they're working hard every day in practice," said Leach. "As long as they keep pushing themselves, this should be a fun season."



MADELINE GERLOFF sets the ball as Elsey Wuelling waits to attack during a recent practice.



Chamois Cross Country

| 1 | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------------------------|-------|-----|------------------------------|
| Date | Sport | Opponent | Level | H/A | Location |
| 09/05/20 | Cross Country | New Haven High School | 7-12 | А | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 09/09/20 | Cross Country | Vienna High School | 7-12 | A | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 09/12/20 | Cross Country | Linn R-II High School | 7-12 | A | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 09/24/20 | Cross Country | Belle High School | 7-12 | A | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 09/26/20 | Cross Country | Columbia | V | А | Columbia |
| 09/30/20 | Cross Country | Conference CC | 7-12 | A | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 10/03/20 | Cross Country | Calvary Lutheran High School | 7-12 | А | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 10/06/20 | Cross Country | Hermann High School | 7-12 | A | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 10/13/20 | Cross Country | Owensville High School | 7-12 | А | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 10/19/20 | Cross Country | Vienna High School | VG/VB | A | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 10/31/20 | Cross Country | Districts | VG/VB | A | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 11/07/2011/07/20 | Cross Country | State | VG/VB | А | Osage Co. R-I High |

Chamois Volleyball

| Date | Sport | Opponent | Level | H/A | Location |
|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 08/28/20 | Girls Volleyball | Belle High School | V | Н | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 09/01/20 | Girls Volleyball | Fatima High School | V | Н | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 09/10/20 | Girls Volleyball | Russellville High School | V | Α | Russellville High Scho |
| 09/22/20 | Girls Volleyball | North Callaway | V | Н | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 09/24/20 | Girls Volleyball | Missouri School For The Deaf | V | А | Missouri School For The Deaf |
| 09/28/20 | Girls Volleyball | Calvary Lutheran High School | V | А | Calvary Lutheran High School |
| 10/01/20 | Girls Volleyball | Russellville High School | V | н | |
| 10/05/20 | Girls Volleyball | Eugene High School | V | Н | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 10/09/20 | Girls Volleyball | Bunceton/ Prairie Home | V | А | Bunceton R-IV High School |
| 10/12/20 | Girls Volleyball | North Callaway | V | Α | North Callaway |
| 10/19/20 | Girls Volleyball | Bunceton/ Prairie Home | V | Н | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 10/20/20 | Girls Volleyball | Missouri School For The Deaf | V | Н | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 10/22/20 | Girls Volleyball | Linn R-II High School | V | Н | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 10/26/2010/28/20 | Girls Volleyball | Districts | Varsity | А | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 10/31/20 | Girls Volleyball | Sectionals | Varsity | н | Osage Co. R-I High School |
| 11/06/20 | Girls Volleyball | State Championships | Varsity | Н | Osage Co. R-I High School |

Good Luck Pirates! NAJ

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Rost ready for challenge as Linn softball head coach

Linn softball has 16 players out for the fall season under head coach Ryan Rost and assistant coach Mike Nolting, both of whom are in their first year in their respective roles with the Lady Wildcats.

"Coach (Renee) Heidger taught me a lot in the last two years," said Rost. "I learned how she ran things, but there are big shoes to fill with her retiring. I had a chance to use her game plans while incorporating my own. I've told the girls this will be a learning opportunity for them and myself as the head coach. I"m excited to see how well we can do."

Nolting, meanwhile, has coached other programs at Linn, but this is his first year with softball. "I'm eager to be part of the decision-making process after watching as a father for four years," he said.

Rost said he and Coach Nolting have high expectations and goals for the girls this year.

"We have a lot of faith in the girls we've put into spots that were open due to graduation," said Rost. "We're going to take each game as it comes, but we would like to compete for a district championship, and with the team we have right now, we have a great chance to repeat as district champions."

The Lady Wildcats saw last season end at 17-11 with a 6-1 loss to Father Tolton in the sectional round. Linn won the 2019 Class 2, District 8 title with a 10-0 win over New Haven, which came after a 9-3 victory against Cuba in the semis.

Six seniors return this year, including Destiny Riley, Abby Klebba, Elyse Klouzek, Jessica Keilholz, Lindsey Brandt, and Riley Senevey, all of whom are returning from last year, and all of these players have been part of the program since their freshman year.

their freshman year. "We have a very experienced group of seniors," said Rost. "I think it's going to make a big difference. The girls showed a lot of promise and leadership over the summer, and our younger kids are coming along nicely."

A returning All-District outfielder, Riley will move to catcher from second base. "She'll have a tough job, but she's shown great strides in filling the position," said Rost. "She works very hard."

She will split time between infield and outfield. "She's a great utility player, and always does whatever we need her to do," said Rost. "Her defense is solid, and she's a good leader with the younger kids. Riley has a good bat and is a great baserunner." Senevey last year went 19-79 (.241)

Senevey last year went 19-79 (.241) with a double, five RBI and 19 runs scored. Klebba is also moving to a new spot, replacing Rachel Keilholz, who graduated

> **See Linn Softball** Page 11B



MACY BRANSON, above right, stretches for an out in last year's district game against New Haven. Above, Aushara Hostetler secures an out in left field in last season's sectional game against Father Tolton.



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Baker eager to lead Wildcats to state XC meet

Linn cross country coach Robyn Baker, who was an assistant with the Wildcats as well as a youth cross country team for three years, now assumes the role of head coach.

Tim retired, and Suann decided to step down and spend more time with family," said Baker. "They have been very supportive and have offered great advice.

Baker added that the athletes are reacting well to her in the role of head coach.

"Traditions have been very big for our program, but I think you sometimes need to develop traditions unique to your team," she said. "We added a farm run this year, which was very well received. I want what's best for the kids, and my job is to push them to their full potential.

Baker takes over for Suann Bower, who led the team for three years after Tim Bower assumed the principal's position and stepped awav

"I feel I have really big shoes to fill because Tim and Suann did a really good job," said Baker. "It's even more challeng-ing with the COVID situation. Everything is different and could change at any time, but I'm happy we have a season, and we'll do whatever it takes to make sure the kids have a great year.'

Linn has 20 athletes out for the cross country season, split evenly between the

boys and girls. "I'm excited to have 10 girls out this year on the varsity team," said Baker. "They will all contribute to the team, and I'm eager to see how they do individually, and as a team. This is the largest girls team I can remember here at Linn.

Juniors Myra Baker and Ellie Monnette return to the squad.

"Myra has put in a lot of miles this summer and is motivated to be successful," said Coach Baker. "Her goal is to make it to state in November. She's come so close in the last two years, and I know she wants to get there. She and Ellie are turning into leaders on this team.'

Myra Baker came very close to earning a berth at the state meet, finishing 18th in 22:25

Baker said as head coach, she wondered how the runners would step up into leadership roles and is pleased to see they're doing exactly what needs to be done.

"Ellie has also put in a ton of miles, and she wants to improve as much as anyone," said Baker. "She finds things that she wants to do better, and she goes after them. She is a great part of this team.

Monnette's time of 25:27 was good for 44th place at last year's district meet

Sophomores Annaliese Bowser, who finished in 28:32 for 53rd place at last year's district meet, Marissa Gehlert, Olivia Helmig, and Erika Platt bring a lot back to the team from a learning season as freshmen

"They can all be wonderful runners," said Baker. "They're still developing as distance runners, and I have a lot of confidence that they will be successful.

Bowser is competing in both cross coun-try and softball. "I think she enjoys both of them, and I'm glad she is taking the time to do both," said Baker. "She is always smiling, and has worked hard in the off-season to get better.'

Gehlert started cross country last year and did not compete in junior high. "She's a beautiful runner," said Baker. "She just needs a little push to improve her times

Helmig has goals and is highly motivat-ed, putting in a lot of miles over the summer. "She can be a big asset to this team, and I foresee her doing well for the Lady Wildcats," said Baker.

Platt, meanwhile, is quiet and reserved, but she is a consistent runner. "She's always working hard, and you can count on her," Baker noted. "I think she will continue to improve as the season progresses.

Ramsie Tschappler.

said

seniors this year, with three juniors, Bryer Baker, Gibson Tschappler, and Austin Wolfe, stepping into leadership roles. "Bryer and Gibson are steady workhorses, and quiet, but they're starting to come out of their shells," said Coach Baker. "I hope this is a breakout year for them because

they both have come along way." Wolfe, meanwhile, ran in junior high and took a break until this year. "He's been a great addition, and keeps everyone motivated," said Baker. "He's working hard, trying to find his distance legs again.

Sophomores are Rowan Eichholz, Samuel Frank, Jason Powers, Rhett Robinson, and John Schmidt.

"All of them are returning, and I have h expectations for them," said Baker. high expectations for them,⁵ "They feed off each other in practice and push each other to be faster, along with other team members. They all have a competitive edge they like to show."

Frank is new to Linn High School and is also out for cross country for the first time. Freshmen are Hank Klouzek and Trysten Slusser.

"Hank is coming from St. George and has put in a lot of miles," said Baker. "I'm excited to see him push the older kids this year. Trysten is new to cross country, and we'll help him improve as the season progresses.

Overall, Baker said she's pleased with the way the team is shaping up

"We have a lot of potential on the boys' team," said Baker. "I'm going to rely a lot on the juniors this year, but all of them have the ability to make their mark."

Hannah Wilbers joins the team as the assistant coach.

"I'm excited to have Hannah with me," said Baker. "She really likes the kids, and she and I are working well together.'

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ELLIE MONNETTE and Rhett Robinson returns to the Linn Wildcats lineup.

Linn Cross Country

| DAY | DATE | <u>TIME</u> | OPPONENT | LOCATION | <u>LEVEL</u> |
|-----------|------------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Tuesday | 8/31/2020 | 5:00 | Watermelon Run | Linn | JH/HS |
| Saturday | 9/5/2020 | 8:30 | New Haven Invitational | New Haven | JH/HS |
| Saturday | 9/12/2020 | 9:00 | Linn Invitational | Linn | JH/HS |
| Saturday | 9/19/2020 | 9:00 | South Callaway Inviational | Mokane | JH/HS |
| Thursday | 9/24/2020 | 4:00 | Belle Invitational | Belle | JH/HS |
| Saturday | 9/26/2020 | 9:00 | Gans Creek Classic | Columbia | HS |
| Wednesday | 9/30/2020 | 4:00 | Show-Me Conference | Fatima | JH/HS |
| Saturday | 10/10/2020 | 9:00 | Russellville Invitational | Russellville | JH/HS |
| Monday | 10/19/2020 | 4:00 | Vienna Invitational | Vienna | HS |
| Saturday | 10/24/2020 | 9:00 | Fatima Inviational | Fatima | HS |
| Saturday | 10/31/2020 | 9:00 | Disricts | TBA | HS |
| Saturday | 11/7/2020 | 9:00 | State Championship | Gans Creek | HS |





Three freshmen round out the team: Aileen Blackburn, Reagan Klouzek, and "These young ladies are very strong run-

Support Every STEP of the

ners, and will bring a lot to the team,' Baker. "They are as committed as everyone else to making this a successful season." The Linn Wildcats boys team has no

Linn to play fall baseball under Coach Hancock

Linn's fall baseball team is set to begin the short season under the direction of new head coach Briar Hancock, who grew up in Paris, Mo., and played football, baseball, and basketball.

"I loved playing baseball, but in college," said Hancock, who was coached in high school by Linn High School Principal Michael Fible. "I looked up to him quite a bit."

Hancock went on to play football at Quincy University in Illinois, with the help of scholarships.

"There were more opportunities to play football since the college offered scholarship money to play, which was big for me and my family," said Hancock.

Right before graduation from college, Hancock was speaking with his fiancee, Abbie Wheelan, about teaching or going into a graduate program, along with possibly coaching.

"I've always been dead set on coaching baseball and making a personal impact on the players," said Hancock. "I want to help them both with academics and sports at the next level. It's a big deal to me."

When looking for a teaching job, Fible told him about his transition to his role as principal, and within a couple of weeks, he was hired by Linn R-2. Wheelan was also hired by the school and teaches elementary special education.

In high school, Hancock's Paris baseball team won the conference championship and finished second in districts in both his junior and senior years. "I understand the pressure of playing for a championship, and I hope to prepare these guys for that opportunity this year," said Hancock.

Linn has a strong tradition of playing strong baseball, even against larger opponents, and of course, Fatima.

"I don't personally know the other teams yet, so traditionally, perhaps being an underdog, may be in the minds of the kids, but it doesn't matter," said Hancock. "We're going to give a great effort with a lot of focus. If we fall short, it won't be for a lack of trying."

Offensively, the Wildcats will be solid. "I believe we can go toe-to-toe with anyone, especially in the fall," said Hancock. "Even the younger kids are more advanced than I expected. Having younger kids with skills is great because we can work with them, and help them grow into their roles. I know these kids will bring 100% to the field every time."

After missing the 2020 spring season due to COVID-19, the Wildcats were anxious to get back on the diamond and played a summer league in preparation for the upcoming season.

This fall, Linn has 18 players on the roster, with both a varsity and JV schedule. Caden Robinson will be the team's

leadoff hitter, coming off a 2019 season in which he hit .319, going 22-69 with a triple and three doubles while driving in 10 and scoring 22 runs.

"He showed in the summer that he understands game situations, and he has a

CADEN ROBINSON gets all of this pitch in a recent practice at Linn city field.

high on-base percentage," said Hancock. "He'll also be a big role with communication at second base."He's basically a second catcher for us, and will be key in identifying situations and calling the right defense."

Austin McKim returns as the team's catcher. "He was solid all summer behind the plate, and he has great communication skills as well," said Hancock. "He's very knowledgeable and will really help the coaching staff on the field."

Offensively, McKim found the gaps during the summer and hit his first career home run. "That was pretty special to see," said H. "He has some power but he'll also find a way to get on base."

During the 2019 season, McKim went 24-73 (.329), with a double, 11 RBI and seven runs scored.

Andy Hueste is another player that has sound fundamentals at shortstop, but he's also skilled in other positions. "He hardly ever makes mistakes, and I think he'll be a great fit for a lot of colleges," said Hancock.

> See Linn Fall Baseball Page 10B



Linn VB building on 2019 second-place district finish

Linn's volleyball program includes 23 players for the upcoming fall season under returning head coach Michelle Kelley, who is entering her third year. "We started practice with the

reminder that we made it to the district championship game last season," said Kelley. "It's something we're going to build on and having experienced athletes will be good for us. We should be able to take our successes in practice and utilize them in live matches as the year progresses.

Kelley said playing for a championship at last year's Class 2, District 8 tournament was a thrill for a couple of reasons.

"This is the first time in the program's history that we've been in the championship game, so that was very exciting," she said after the 2019 match. "It was also personally satisfying because I started my volleyball career as a player at Belle, and to play for a title there on that floor was special.

In that final match, it was an Osage County showdown as Linn took on Fatima, which Kelley knew would be

tough. "Fatima has a very strong volleyball program, and I knew we'd have to play our best," she said. "I'm happy that we competed with them."

The first set ended with an 8-25 loss but Linn made some adjustments and played better in the second set, but eventually lost 14-25 to end the year at 10-20-1.

"Of course I don't like losing, but the girls were very excited to play in a big match like this," said Kelley. "This is something the team can build on for next year.'

In the semifinals, Linn defeated Steelville 25-12, 25-20 and to open the district tournament, the Lady Wildcats knocked off Bourbon, 25-15, 25-17.

Now, this season is upon the horizon, and consistency is key for Kelley, who believes it starts at the top. "We've reached several goals in the last couple years, with the ultimate goal of making Linn volleyball as strong as possible,' she said.

Returning varsity setter Amber Hueste will be one of the team's leaders at the setter position. "I'll look to her for her experience as a year-round player,' said Kelley.

Claire Baker returns as a varsity hitter. "She'll bring a lot to the middle as a hitter and also be a top blocker this year," said Kelley.

The third returning varsity player is Grace Brandt. "She's a good all-around utility player, and I can pop her in anywhere to fulfill whatever role is needed," said Kelley.

Senior Elizabeth Brandt has been a starting JV setter the last couple years, and Kelley said she will look to her to step up in that role this year on varsity.

Chloe Rhoden, a senior utility player, will be strong at the service line as well. "She is a strong player with experience, and that's what we need," said Kelley. Aubri Atwell and Dorian Hill round out the senior class. "Both have been

working hard in practice and will vie for playing time at the varsity level as the





new office in Linn! 201 East Main St. • Linn, MO 573-635-4168 www.callgratz.com season unfolds," said Kelley.

Juniors include Macci Blauvelt, Karlee Cox, Emma Schaefer, Elizabeth Heckman, Hannah Hall, and Kaylie Spencer. "I've worked with these girls since they were freshmen, and all of them want a spot on the varsity squad," said Kelley. "They want it bad, which makes for good competition among players, and ultimately, I hope it makes us stronger as a team.'

Sophomores returning to the Lady

ildcats are Marly Houston, Natali Morre, and Kylie Wolfe.

"They are solid returning players and will see time primarily at the JV level," said Kelley. "They have experience from the frosh team last year, and they'll bring that with them to this year." Linn has seven freshmen, with two

> See Linn VB Page 12B

| | | LINN | volleyball | | |
|----------|------------|------|---|------------------|--------------|
| DAY | DATE | TIME | OPPONENT | LOCATION | LEVEL |
| Monday | 8/24/2020 | 4:00 | Jamboree | Cuba | V |
| Tuesday | 9/1/2020 | 5:00 | California | California | Frosh/JV/V |
| Thursday | 9/3/20 | 5:00 | Owensville | Owensville | Frosh/JV/V |
| Tuesday | 9/8/2020 | 5:00 | Fatima | Linn | Frosh/JV/V |
| Thursday | 9/10/2020 | 5:00 | St. Clair | Linn | JV/V |
| Saturday | 9/12/2020 | TBA | Hickman Tourney | Columbia | V |
| Tuesday | 9/15/2020 | 5:00 | Dixon | Dixon | JV/V |
| Thursday | 9/17/2020 | 5:00 | Centralia | Linn | Frosh/JV/V |
| Friday | 9/18/2020 | 4:00 | Linn JV Tournament (Calvary Lutheran, Eugene, Capital City, Belle) | Linn | JV |
| Monday | 9/21/2020 | 5:00 | Blair Oaks | Linn | Frosh/JV/V |
| Tuesday | 9/22/2020 | 5:00 | Belle | Linn | Frosh/JV/V |
| Friday | 9/25/2020 | 5:00 | Calvary Lutheran | Calvary Lutheran | JV/V |
| Saturday | 9/26/2020 | TBA | Russellville JV Tourney | Russellville | JV |
| Thursday | 10/1/2020 | 5:00 | Southern Boone | Ashland | Frosh/JV/V |
| Monday | 10/5/2020 | 5:00 | St. James | Linn | JV/V |
| Saturday | 10/10/2020 | TBA | Belle Tournament | Belle | V |
| Monday | 10/12/2020 | 4:30 | New Haven | New Haven | Frosh/JV/V |
| Tuesday | 10/13/2020 | 5:00 | Cuba | Linn | JV/V |
| Friday | 10/17/2020 | 5:00 | Eugene | Linn | JV/V |
| Saturday | 10/18/2020 | TBA | Versialles Tournament | Versialles | V |
| Tuesday | 10/20/20 | 5:00 | Russellville | Russellville | Frosh/JV/V |
| Thursday | 10/22/20 | 5:00 | Chamois | Chamois | JV/V |

11-

Good Luck **Osage County Sports Teams**

We hope you have a great season, and we are proud of your success!

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Linn Fall Baseball Page 8B

"Offensively, he puts the ball in play and always finds a way to get on base."

Hueste's 2019 campaign ended with a BA of .303 (23-76) with a triple and four doubles, eight RBI, and 18 runs scored.

Hueste will also be a good relief pitcher, while McKim may pitch in certain situations. Hueste went 3-2 in eight games, pitching in 16.1 innings during the 2019 season, allowing 14 earned runs on 12 hits, with seven walks and 16 strikeouts.

Matthew Nenninger is starting to come up through the ranks and will be a utility player, some infield, and any position in the outfield. "His hitting mechanics are a lot better, and hopefully, we'll get him in the lineup early in the season," said Hancock. "He's not just listening to what I'm saying; he takes that and puts it into practice, and helps make sure the younger players understand it."

Caleb Brandt will pitch and play third base. "He has a rocket for an arm and will be solid for us defensively," said Hancock. "The entire infield is solid. Caleb will be our big hitter, probably in the four or five spot. He's starting to come around to a leadership role."

Last year's seniors played in the summer ball, and the upcoming seniors looking to emulate their leadership on the field.

Over the summer, Brandt pitched a majority of the games. "He showed me he can keep his composure and a positive attitude," said Hancock. "He's sound on the mound and will keep the ball in the zone, and will rely on his defense."

Senior Hayden Phillips is a hustler, and mechanically, he's sound. "He can play in a variety of positions, which will really help us," said Hancock. "He's going to give his best effort. Defensively, I think he'll make a big impact no matter where I put him."

Three juniors are expected to make an impression at the varsity level.

Keagan Heywood will play mostly in right field. "I think he's got all the qualities needed to be a varsity player," said Hancock. "He and Logan Leibreicht are very similar and both will be fighting for a starting spot this fall."

Leibreicht will also play in the outfield, and both will get an opportunity to pitch in some game situations.



MATT NENNINGER stretches to scoop a throw at first in a recent practice. Below is Andy Hueste, who sends the ball to right center field.



Linn Fall Baseball

| DAY | DATE | <u>TIME</u> | OPPONENT | LOCATION | LEVEL |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Fuesday | 8/25/2020 | 6:00 | Jamboree | Belle | V |
| Monday | 8/31/2020 | 5:00 | St. Elizabeth | Linn | JV/V |
| laturday | 9/5/2020 | TBA | Vienna/Jamestown | Vienna | V (DH) |
| Thursday | 9/3/2020 | 5:00 | Belle | Belle | JV/V |
| Fuesday | 9/8/2020 | 5:00 | Sturgeon | Linn | JV/V |
| Thursday | 9/10/2020 | 4:30 | Bourbon | Bourbon | JV/V |
| Friday | 9/11/2020 | 5:00 | Eugene | Linn | JV/V |
| Thursday | 9/17/20 | 5:00 | Dixon | Linn | JV/V |
| Fuesday | 9/22/2020 | 4:30 | Calvary Lutheran | Calvary Lutheran | JV/V |
| Fri-Sat | 9/25/20-9/26/20 | TBA | Vienna Fall Classic | Vienna | V |
| Fuesday | 10/6/2020 | 5:00 | Iberia | Iberia | JV/V |

Sophomores Cody Leivian and Brendan Ely also hope to make an impact.

"Cody has potential to start at first base," said Hancock. "There are just a few things he needs to work on, just because he's young. I think he can play a big role both offensively and defensively."

Ely can come into the outfield and be effective. "He's starting to understand the game a little more," said Hancock. "He played JV mostly over the summer, but he's shown some sparks that give him the potential to play varsity."

Sophomores Eli Baker and Landon Bennett have also seen a lot of time during summer play. "They've played different positions for me, and I know these guys can be good role players," said Hancock. "The mental aspect of the game needs to be strengthened, but they have the athletic ability to come in and add a valuable element to our varsity squad."

Freshmen are Lucas Collins (IF/C), Curtis Deeken (IF), Seth Wolfe (OF), Tanner Hackmann (OF), Arlyn Martin (Utility), and Anthony King (IF).

"From what I've seen, these guys are hardworking and meshing well as a group," said Hancock. "The older players are using their leadership to help me teach, and I think these young men will improve as they get more playing time. I think it's a great foundation for the program in the coming years."

Hancock said he values performance, and underclassmen have the opportunity to earn time on the varsity squad as the season unfolds.



Linn Softball From Page 6B

last year. "She's done a good job at third, and she has a good arm," said Rost. "Her big weapon is her bat, and when she hits the ball, it's scary. I think she'll contribute both offensively and defensively this year."

Klebba is hoping to improve on her average from last year, when she hit a home run, a triple and a double while driving in nine runs and scoring three.

Klouzek has shown improvements every year, appearing in five varsity games last season. "She's in a great position to compete for an outfield position and a place in the lineup," said Rost. "Elyse is always upbeat and provides a positive example for everyone on the team."

Keilholz is a returning All-District/All-Conference pitcher and has a great bat. "She's played softball her whole life and knows the game," said Rost. "She's also good with the younger kids, which helps us. I believe she'll have an elite year on the mound if we get some good defense to go with it."

Keilholz was second on the team last year with a .357 BA, going 30-84 with a HR, three triples and six doubles. On the rubber, Keilholz was a workhorse, with a 16-8 record as she allowed 66 earned runs on 151 hits (3.216 ERA) while walking 39 and striking out 124.

Brandt has acquired accolades in all three years leading up to this, with All-District and All-Region honors at shortstop. "She's made great strides in developing vocal leadership," said Rost. "Lindsay is a great shortstop and probably our top hitter right now. She will give us a lot of scoring opportunities."

Brandt was the team's top hitter in 2019, going 36-96 with three home runs, four triples, and six doubles while driving in 14 and scoring 34 runs. She drew a teamhigh 11 walks.

Rost said all six of these seniors will serve as the foundation for the team's success. "It's going to be on their shoulders, both in performance and to help lead the team," Rost added.

Linn has two juniors in Macy Branson and Abby Sweezer.

"Macy has continued to improve every year, and is a returning letterman," said Rost. "She will really help us out defensively at first base and her bat is better, so she will help us offensively. You need a good first baseman to be successful and so far, she has stepped up into that role."



LINN SHORTSTOP Lindsey Brandt will be a big part of the Lady Wildcats' defense and she returns as the team's top hitter in 2019, going 36-96 with three home runs, four triples, and six doubles while driving in 14 and scoring 34 runs.

| | | Linr | Softball | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|---|---------------|-------|
| <u>DAY</u> | DATE | <u>TIME</u> | OPPONENT | LOCATION | LEVEL |
| Tuesday | 8/25/2020 | 4:00 | Jamboree | Linn | V |
| Friday-Saturday | 8/28/20-8/29/20 | TBA | Sullivan Tournament | Sullivan | V |
| Monday | 8/31/20 | 5:00 | Vienna | Vienna | JV/V |
| Tuesday | 9/1/2020 | 5:00 | Capital City | Linn | JV/V |
| Thurday | 9/3/2020 | 5:00 | Owensville | Linn | JV/V |
| Tuesday | 9/8/2020 | 5:00 | Cuba | Linn | JV/V |
| Thurday | 9/10/2020 | 5:00 | Belle | Belle | JV/V |
| Friday | 9/11/2020 | 5:00 | Eugene | Eugene | JV/V |
| Monday | 9/14/2020 | 5:00 | Southern Boone | Linn | JV/V |
| Tuesday | 9/15/2020 | 5:00 | New Bloomfield | Linn | JV/V |
| Friday | 9/18/2020 | 5:00 | Tuscumbia | Tuscumbia | JV/V |
| Monday | 9/21/2020 | 5:00 | St. Elizabeth | Linn | JV/V |
| Tuesday | 9/22/2020 | 5:00 | South Callaway | Mokane | JV/V |
| Friday | 9/25/2020 | 5:00 | Fatima | Linn | JV/V |
| Monday | 9/28/2020 | 5:00 | Eldon | Linn | JV/V |
| Tuesday | 9/29/2020 | 5:00 | Russellville | Linn | JV/V |
| Friday-Saturday | 10/2/20-10/3/20 | TBA | Linn Tournament (Linn, Belle, Calvary Lutheran, Capital City, Salem, Westminster Christian Academy) | Linn | V |
| Tuesday | 10/6/20 | 5:00 | Father Tolton | Father Tolton | JV/V |
| Friday-Saturday | 10/9/20-10/10/20 | TBA | Rolla Softball Tournament | Rolla | V |
| Monday | 10/12/2020 | 5:00 | New Haven | New Haven | JV/V |
| Wed-Sat | 10/14-12/17 | TBA | Districts | TBA | V |
| Wednesday | 10/21/20 | TBA | Sectionals | TBA | V |
| Saturday | 10/24/2020 | TBA | Quaterfinals | TBA | V |
| Fri-Sat | 10/30-10/31 | TBA | State Championship | TBA | V |

Branson last year hit 11 singles in 48 at-bats, with 11 RBI and four runs scored.

Sweezer is in her third year and has made strides after playing for the first time as a freshman.

"She's a great teammate and works hard," said Rost.

Two returning sophomore starters are Autumn Baker and Aushara Hostetler. "Both are elite outfielders and they can track down a ball that many girls don't want to run on," said Rost. "They're very fast, which helps not only defensively, but on the bases, since they can both hit or put the ball in play, and give us chances to score more runs this year."

Baker hit .217 last year with a triple and two doubles while driving in nine and scoring 14. Hostetler went 24-77 (.312) in 2019 with six doubles, 13 RBI and 12 runs scored. From the circle, Hostetler pitched in six games, going 1-4. She allowed 30 earned runs on 49 hits, with 11 strikeouts and 31 walks. Her efforts led to an All-District nod as a utility player.

Rounding out the sophomore class are Annaliese Bowser (IF), Delaney Schmidt (IF/C), Lilly Meyer (OF), Alli Klebba (IF). "All of these girls played last year and really improved," said Rost. "They're set up to compete for playing time. We're giving everyone a chance to play if they put in the work."

Rounding out the team are freshmen Katlyn Starke and Lily Strope, both of whom will see time in the outfield.



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Good Luck Osage County sports teams for a great year!

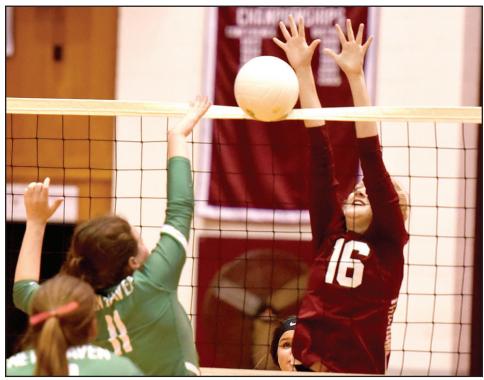


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OSAGE COUNTY SINCE 1866 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020 PAGE 12B



CLAIRE BAKER returns as a big blocker for the Lady Wildcats.

Linn VB From Page 9B

having played at St. George, including Saylie Schaefer and Shelbie Robinson, and Katrina Mueller, Natalie Ramsey, Reece Griffith, Kendyl Peters, and Faith Hines, all of whom played in last year's inaugural spring junior high volleyball season at Linn.

season at Linn. "This is the first time that all incoming freshmen have volleyball experience, which promotes our program goals and helps me as a coach," said Kelley. "This allows me to work on perfecting skills as opposed to teaching fundamentals."

Kelley is joined by new Assistant Coach Rylee Glenn.

"As a college athlete, she understands the dedication it takes to succeed," said Kelley. "That's a great asset because she can help with a variety of things, from conditioning to scrimmages."



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Unterrified Democrat OSAGE COUNTY SINCE 1866 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

Comets cross country teams want another title

Fatima's girls cross country team is looking to earn its eighth straight championship. Last year's accomplishment set a new Missouri State High School Activities Association record following the run at Gans Creek in Columbia.

"Winning state the last seven years has created a lot of lofty expectations for this group," said Coach Marc Bridges. "It's too early to say exactly what our goals or expectations are for the season, but after their hard work and improvement over the summer, I wouldn't count them out. The girls seem to have very good team chemistry and I know two things for sure. First, this group of girls won't settle for less than their best, and second, they will do everything they can to support and encourage each other."

Nine girls are running this fall, including two seniors, Rachel Temmen, and Leah Groene.

"Rachel will lead the team as captain," said Bridges. "She has put in a lot of work and was a varsity member of the 2018 state champion team. Leah ran as a freshman and then took a break from cross country to pursue other interests, and is now back on the squad for her senior year. She is a hard worker and its great to get her back on the course.

Sophomores Emma Bower, Sarah Groene, and Corrin Karst were all varsity members of last year's state championship team and return with that experience.

"Emma, Sarah, and Corrin have put in good miles this summer and look to be a step ahead of where they were last season," said Bridges. "Sophomore Megan Borgmeyer and freshmen, Lauren Berhorst, Gracie Deeken, and Cheyenne Hicks are new to the cross country team. They are quickly finding their place on the team and I've been impressed with their work ethic and dedication. Most of our newcomers are no strangers to cross country as they each have some experience. The girls have worked very hard this summer and have shown steady progress."

The boys' team also returns with high expectations, having won its second straight state title last year, and earning top-four hardware for the ninth year in a row

This year the boys' team has 16 members, including seniors Jake Boyce, Dean Hagenhoff, Lucas Laux, Dawson Woehr, and almost half of the runners, seven freshmen, are new faces.

"We will have a lot of experience and leadership on the team as we are led by four seniors," said Bridges. "These seniors know what it takes to be successful as members of two state champion teams and as state runner-ups.'

Fatima's top seniors, Woehr and Laux

See Fatima XC Page 18B



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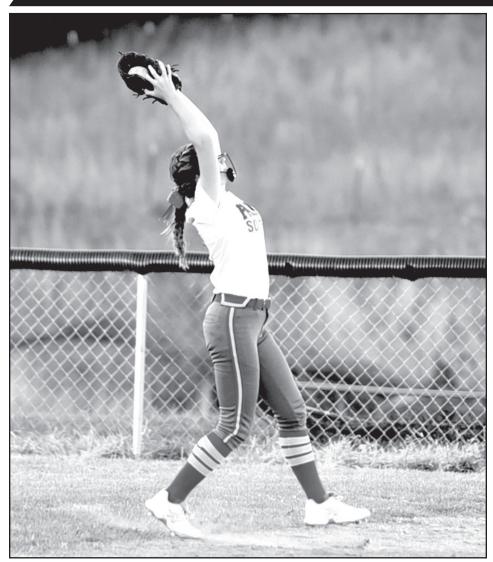
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Owner: Ieanna Monroe-Lansford 1214 E Lee Street, Suite A, Linn, MO 65051 OSAGE COUNTY **SINCE 1866**

Unterrified Democrat



ALLYSON HAVENS earned a starting role at second base last year and is vying for another year in that position.

Senior-laden Lady Comets softball team brings lots of experience to the diamond

year's softball squad to graduation, with seven seniors on the 2020 team ready to lead the way this fall.

Dana Scheppers returns for her 16th year as head coach and is joined this season by assistant coaches Amy Kemna, who will lead the JV team, Jeff Adamson, and Makayla Buscher.

Scheppers said there is a lot of experience on this team, including last year's district championship and sectional loss to Warsaw.

"They've been working hard, and I've seen a lot of improvement over the offseason and during summer play," said Scheppers. "They're looking better than when we left off last year. I'm excited to see what this group of girls can do as a whole."

This will be one of the most difficult years in terms of varsity and JV positions, and who earns starting spots at varsity. "That's a good thing because they make each other work harder to get those spots," said Scheppers. "We have a very solid group, and I believe we'll be right there competing again for a district championship. These girls got a taste of the sectional round, and they want to go farther this year.'

Seniors include Lauren Brandt,

Fatima lost only one player from last Allyson Havens, Karli Struemph, Londyn Stuckenschneider, Molly Kloeppel, Taylor Bexten, and Claire Kampeter.

Lauren Brandt was last year's starting center fielder. "She continues to read the ball well, and has a lot of speed," said Scheppers. "I expect her to be our leader out there again this year."

Last year, Brandt led the team at the plate with a BA of .344, with 31 hits in 90 at-bats, with nine doubles and a triple to earn Offensive Player of the Year honors. She drove in 18 and scored 18 runs. "I expect she will be one of our top hitters again this year," said Scheppers.

Allyson Havens started at second last year and is vying for a return to that position. "She has some girls behind her pushing so she's doing her best to earn it," said Scheppers.

Offensively, Havens was among the top hitters a year ago, and Scheppers believes she'll be there again this fall. Havens hit .337 last year with two doubles, a triple and a home run in a 31-92 performance that resulted in being named to the All-Conference team.

Karli Struemph was last year's starting

See Fatima Softball Page 19B



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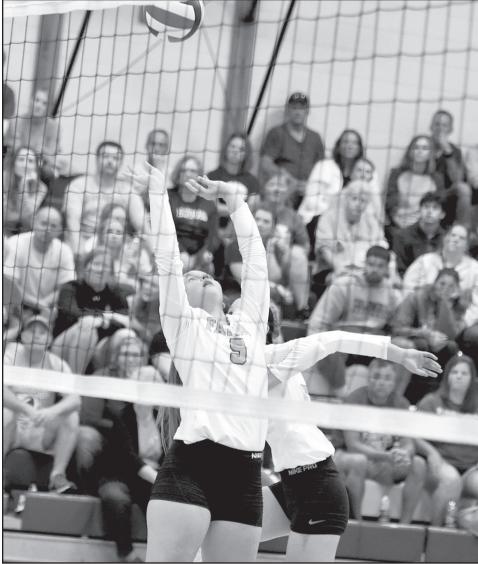
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ALLISON SAMSON will once again serve as the team's setter.

Quinn assumes helm of Fatima volleyball team

Fatima volleyball coach Tracy Quinn brings 25 years of club coaching to the court this year, and he hopes to continue the tradition of competitive play.

"I'm not here to change much," said Quinn. "I want to learn how things work and get a lot more positivity into the program. I know there have been a lot of coaches along the way who worked with these girls, both in club ball and here at Fatima, and they have done a great job of helping these girls improve. I'm just picking it up from here.'

Coming off a year in which the Lady Comets made it to the quarterfinals, Quinn said he wants to continue pushing for an even deeper run in the state playoffs.

"I told the girls our goal is to win state," said Quinn. "If you set the bar any lower, you're cheating yourself. We know we have some strong teams to get through on the way, and we're going to give it the best try we can. If you set the goal at winning districts, that's just not enough. There needs to be a higher level of achievement."

Quinn, 62, is still an active player and understands how teams can lose focus. You can go in with the expectation you will beat a team, and sometimes you can overlook them," he added. "I don't like to play gimme games because it doesn't benefit the kids. You're going to have a few of them.

His philosophy is that every team has the potential to be the strongest team on the schedule. "You have to play them with that

With a storied history of success, coming in as a new coach was a challenge, but he has been well received.

"I didn't have a dream of being a high school coach, but I love coaching, and when I was asked to take the position, I was interested," said Quinn, who was recommended for the position by former volleyball coach Michelle Fischer.

Quinn got his start in coaching with a boys team. "There was a group of boys that wanted to play and their moms put together a team," he said. "That was a different experience, but it helped me get started in coaching.'

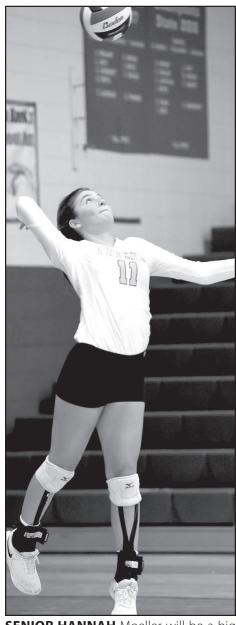
Years of club coaching - girls teams after the initial stint with the boys' team has been very rewarding.

"I don't care as much about winning as much as I do about improving every time out, and the little things along the way that make players feel successful," said Quinn. "It's very nice to see players reach goals they've set. Seeing the smile on their face makes all the hard work worthwhile.'

Now, in his new position, Quinn said he's looking forward to seeing that continue.

"These girls are very receptive to our ideas and what we want to accomplish," he added. "This is a really good group of kids. The tough part is keeping the momentum

> See Fatima VB Page 20B



SENIOR HANNAH Moeller will be a big hitter again for the Lady Comets.



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Dobry looking forward to great boys' soccer season

Fatima coach Clint Dobry is no stranger to the soccer team, having coached the girls for four years, and worked as the assistant boys coach under Matt Eisterhold the last two years.

Now, as he takes the helm of the boys team this fall, Dobry said he's looking forward to watching them progress.

"I know most of these kids, and since I've worked with them as the assistant coach, they know me pretty well," said Dobry. "They've responded well to what I'm trying to do. It's been a very smooth transition."

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Fatima was able to practice but did not start the girls spring season, so Dobry is ready to see the fall season start.

"These kids have had a rough year, and I can't wait for them to get going," said Dobry. "I'm not as interested in winning, but these guys are competitive, so I know they have goals. It's more important that they go out and hustle, and play hard on every play."

play hard on every play." Last season, the Comets ended the year at 13-10 following a first-round district loss to Osage.

This year's varsity squad has a primary goal of scoring more goals. "Our defensive has always been very sound, and I expect that to continue," Dobry noted. "We've talked though about creating more opportunities to put the ball in the net, and we have a lot of experienced

players returning to help us control the ball."

Eight seniors suit up again for the Blue & Gold, many with previous varsity experience.

Co-captains are midfielder Nathan Troesser and keeper Joseph Schwartz.

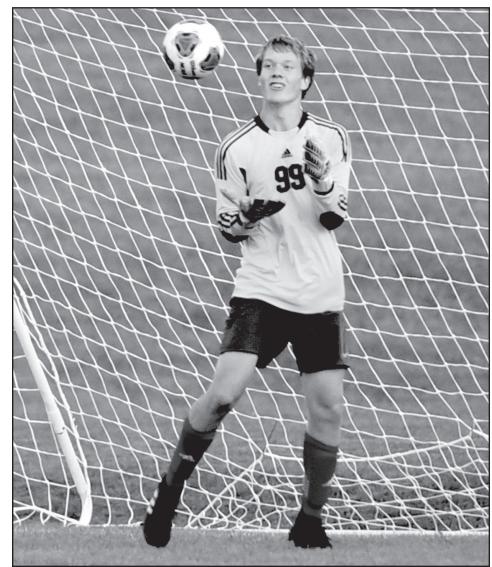
"Nathan is a quiet leader and very effective," said Dobry. "He knows the game very well, and has the ability to carry this team on his shoulders from time to time. Watch for him to help us control the middle of the field and transition to offense."

Schwartz was a wall for the Comets in goal last year and is even stronger this fall. "He's a hard worker and fearless in the net," said Dobry of the three-year varsity starter. "His quick feet are a huge asset and he's willing to get down and dirty on every shot."

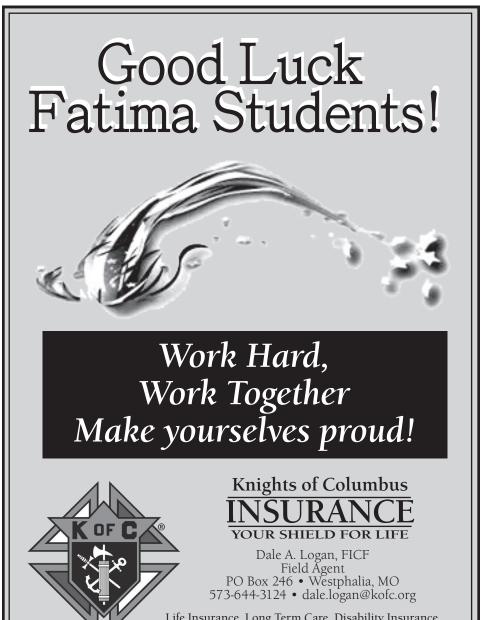
Defender Joey Muenks is two-year starter who doesn't say much, but is a leader on the field. "He's a strong athlete with a solid work ethic, and probably the strongest kicker on the team," said Dobry.

Ethan Flores, another two-year starter, is a dominant defender. "He's very smart and just a fast, super athlete," said Dobry. "Ethan can change the momentum in a hurry."

> See Fatima Soccer Page 21B



SENIOR JOSEPH Schwartz is one of the team's co-captains this fall.



Life Insurance, Long Term Care, Disability Insurance, Estate Preservation, Annuities and IRAs.



Fatima JV, C teams expect to be competitive this year

Fatima will have a very competitive junior varsity team taking the court this year with experience and defensive talent as the Lady Comets' strongest attribute.

"We will be relying heavily on the leadership from the juniors on the squad," said Coach Curtis Brandt of Jenna Bax, Abby Kempker, Karlee Ocheskey, Marissa Haller and Ava Bock. "I will be expecting them to build strong cohesion amongst team mates while also mentoring and guiding our younger players on and off the court.'

Sophomores Addisyn Peters, Olivia Kleffner, Eliza Nilges and Taylor Hoelscher offers great skill and athleticism along with very positive attitudes to the JV team.

Bax and Kleffner will be the team's primary outside hitters and they also play very strong as back-row defenders, which will provide them with quite a bit of playing time on the court, Brandt noted.

Kempker and Nilges will share the role of setter but also offer strong right side block and attacking capabilities at the net.

Peters and Haller will fill the middle blocker position for the team but also provide a strong attack, with both players having unique attack styles that will keep teams off balance.

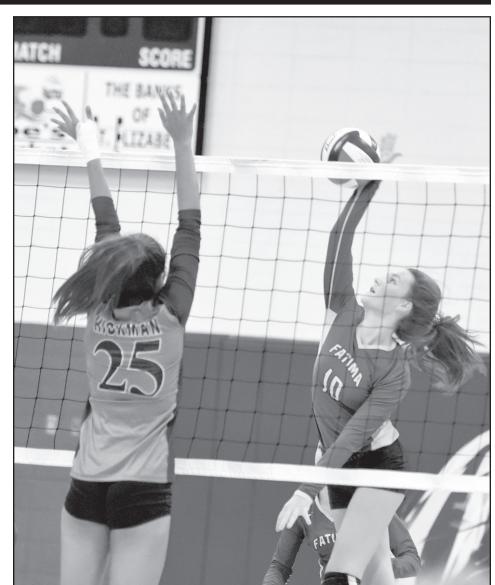
"Last but definitely not least, we will

round out our team with defensive specialists Bock, Ocheskey and Hoelscher," said Brandt. "These players are very critical to the team's success by being the first to contact the ball and allow our offense to go to work, but also covering the court on defense and keeping the ball alive at all costs. Their positions are usually pretty selfless and don't get the glory that a front row player receives but defense is what will win games and with their strong effort and passing ability, the JV team will experience great success as the season progresses.

Brandt said he is looking forward to a great season. "I couldn't ask for a better group of young players willing to learn and grow in this sport," he added.

This year's C team consists of Brynn Cremer (right side), Lucy Crede (M/OH), Jacey Hoskins (OH), Carly Mengwasser (S/ OH), Breanna Rademan (S/H), Lydia Rehagen (MH), and Nevin Wilde (libero).

This is a very versatile group of girls, and with only seven players, several will be asked to play all the way around and in several different positions," said Coach Haley Luebbering. "I am excited to see how these girls adapt to being moved around in different rotations



SOPHOMORE OLIVIA Kleffner returns to the JV team this year.



Best of Luck to Fatima Comets, Linn Wildcats and Chamois Pirates in your upcoming sports seasons!

You make us proud!



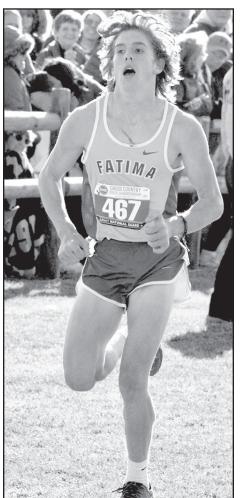
Fatima Volleyball

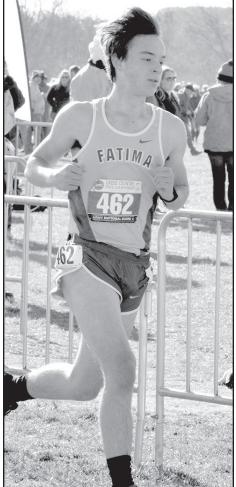
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|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------|
| DATE | OPPONENT | LEVEL | HOME/AWAY | TIME(S) |
| 08/27/20 | Blue and Gold Scrimmage | 9th/JV/Varsity | Home | 6:00 pm |
| 08/28/20 | Hickman High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Away | 5:30 pm |
| 09/01/20 | Chamois High School | JV | Away | 6:00 pm |
| 09/08/20 | Linn High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/10/20 | Hermann High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 09/12/20 | Hickman Volleyball Tournament | Varsity | Away | 8:00 am |
| 09/12/20 | Helias Freshman Tournament | 9th Grade | Away | 8:30 am |
| 09/14/20 | Southern Boone High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/15/20 | Eugene High School | JV/Varsity | Away | 5:30 pm |
| 09/17/20 | Owensville High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 09/19/20 | Capital City JV Tournament | Jr. Varsity | Away | 8:30 am |
| 09/21/20 | Rock Bridge High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/22/20 | Boonville High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:30 pm |
| 09/24/20 | Jefferson City High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 09/26/20 | Union Freshman Tournament | 9th Grade | Away | 8:30 am |
| 09/28/20 | Capital City High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 6:00 pm |
| 10/01/20 | Blair Oaks High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 10/03/20 | Rolla Varsity Tournament | Varsity | Away | ТВА |
| 10/03/20 | Waynesville JV Tournament | Jr. Varsity | Away | 8:30 am |
| 10/05/20 | 9th tri meet Versailles / B.O. | | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/06/20 | School of the Osage | 9th/JV/Varsity | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/08/20 | Battle High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/10/20 | Lebanon Volleyball Tournament | Varsity/JV | Away | 8:30 am |
| 10/13/20 | California High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 10/15/20 | Russellville High School | JV / 9th | Away | 5:30 pm |
| 10/17/20 | Waynesville Freshman Tournament | 9th Grade | Away | 9:00 am |
| 10/19/20 | New Haven High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Away | 4:30 pm |
| 10/20/20 | Helias High School | 9th/JV/Varsity | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/26/2010/27/20 | Districts | Varsity | Away | ТВА |

Be safe during the COVID-19 crisis



CORINN KARST nears the finish line at last year's state cross country meet.





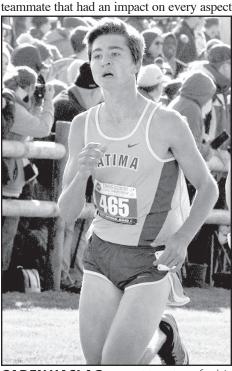
SENIORS LUXAS Laux and Jake Boyce are among the team's leaders this year as the Comets look for another state championship.

Good Luck this Fall from UD Sports. NAJ

Fatima XC From Page 13B

finished in the top 10 at state the past two seasons and are currently listed in the top 10 of Class 3 for this fall.

Sadly, the Comets are running this year without Caden Haslag. "Obviously we are still reeling from the recent loss of Caden," said Bridges. "He has been the kind of



CADEN HASLAG was set to return for his senior year but a tragic accident changed all that. Coach Bridges gave teammates a wristband in his memory to make sure they keep him with the team in spirit.

of the team and season for the past three years and his physical presence will be missed. I'm sure Caden will be our daily thoughts as we prepare, and compete this season. We will be wearing wristbands honoring Caden during races this year to make sure we keep him with us in spirit."

Juniors are Collin Bridges, Eli Froning, Thomas Libbert, Scott Sankey, and Gavin Satterfield.

"Our juniors are also going to play a big role in shaping our team this year as well, said Bridges. "Gavin has made great strides this offseason and is looking to have a big impact on our varsity this year as one of our top seven runners."

Libbert, a varsity member of the 2018 state championship team, will contribute to Fatima's varsity efforts this fall.

Freshmen runners are Cody Berhorst, Isaac Gentges, Easton Haslag, Ty Herzing, Cody Kampeter, and Tyler Kloeppel.

'The freshmen class has shown

tremendous effort and dedication this summer with the best underclassmen attendance at summer runs we've ever had," said Bridges. "It's been great to watch these young runners develop over the summer and they could rival some of our best classes of runners as they continue.'

Haslag, who right now seems positioned for a varsity appointment, is leading the freshman group

"We should have a strong varsity and an equally strong JV team this year, giving us the depth required to attempt another state championship run," Bridges noted. "I think it's safe to say that our expectations on the boys' side are very high this season and we will make an effort to defend our state title as a member of Class 3 for the first time.

"I'm counting on our younger kids getting a first-hand look at the determination, dedication, and grit required to be a good runner just by being around our older kids and seeing how they work," said Bridges.

| F | atima Cros | ss Co | untry | / |
|----------|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| DATE | OPPONENT | LEVEL | HOME/AWAY | TIME(S) |
| 09/05/20 | Jeff City | Varsity/JV | Away | 9:00 am |
| 09/12/20 | Linn High School | HS / JH | Away | 9:00 am |
| 09/19/20 | Fulton Invitational | Var/JV/JH | Away | 9:00 am |
| 09/24/20 | Belle High School | 7th/8th (G&B) | Away | 4:00 pm |
| 09/26/20 | Gans Creek Classic - Columbia | Varsity/JV | Away | 8:00 am |
| 09/29/20 | Show Me Conference - Fatima | Var/JV/JH | Home | 4:00 pm |
| 10/03/20 | Camdenton High School | Vars/JV | Away | 9:30 am |
| 10/13/20 | Owensville High School | HS / JH | Away | 4:00 pm |
| 10/24/20 | Fatima Invitational | Varsity/JV | Home | 9:00 am |
| 10/31/20 | Districts | Varsity | Away | ТВА |
| 11/07/20 | MSHSAA Championships | Varsity | Away | ТВА |





Fatima Softball Page 14B

shortstop, a role she took on for the first time. "She did a good job there, and I think she'll continue to make that position hers, but she has competition for the spot," said Scheppers. "She also has a good bat, so she'll be a threat this year."

Struemph's .326 was third-best on the team in 2019 as she went 31-95 with eight doubles, a team-high 20 RBI, and 16 runs scored.

Londyn Stuckenschneider, last year's starting first baseman, was solid in the position. "She continues to work hard to improve there, and at the plate, she was very good," said Scheppers. "I expect the same thing this year."

Stuckenschneider hit .315 last year (28-89) with nine doubles, a triple and a home run, 12 RBI and 18 runs scored. She earned All-Region, All-District and All-Conference honors.

Molly Kloeppel finished last year at third base. "She was very solid there, and I foresee her starting there this year," said Scheppers. "Molly can hit, but we need more consistency, and she's working hard in practice to get that."

Kloeppel finished last year with a .305 batting average, going 18-59 with a pair of doubles, nine RBI and 10 runs scored.

"Taylor looks pretty good in left field," said Scheppers. "She started there last year, and is doing a lot of good things to stay there as we get going." Last year, Bexten went 13-63 (.206)

Last year, Bexten went 13-63 (.206) with eight RBI and six runs scored. She is a good contact hitter and only struck out four times last year.

Kampeter was injured last year and didn't see much playing time, but this year she's back and healthy, and Scheppers said she's fighting for a spot in right field.

she's fighting for a spot in right field. This group of seniors has a lot of varsity time, with several three-year starters. "I hope all that experience will pay off," said Scheppers.

The junior class also has a lot of experience, with Chayce Gier, Chesney Luebbering, Morgan Luebbering, Anna Eichholz, and Laney Bassett playing a lot of varsity innings last year.

Gier returns as the team's top pitcher. "She threw a lot of innings over the summer which I think will help be even stronger than last year," said Scheppers. "Offensively, she's a threat every time she steps into the box."

Gier went 18-74 (.243) with a pair of doubles and a home run, 13 RBI, and one run scored. On the rubber, she went 16-9 and threw 167 innings. She allowed 29 runs on 131 hits (1.26 ERA) with 18 walks and 148 strikeouts, and earned MVP honors, along with All-Region, All-District and All-Conference.

"She's one of the top pitchers in the area, and her numbers speak for themselves," said Scheppers.

C. Luebbering returns to be a wall behind the plate after earning Defensive Player of the Year, All-Region, and All-District honors.

"She's one of the toughest kids around, and is always working hard to be the best catcher she can be," said Scheppers. "Offensively, she is a big threat." C. Luebbering hit .311 with 23 hits in 74 at-bats, with four doubles and two home runs. Defensively she was solid last year.

"Her throw-downs were better during the summer than last year, and she's very consistent," said Scheppers. "She has a lot of drive and hustle, which will help keep this team moving in the right direction."

M. Luebbering played a little at third last year and may see time there and at first base this year. Offensively, she has some skills, and Scheppers wants to get her bat in the lineup. "She is coming off recent knee surgery, and she's working hard to get back in top shape," Scheppers noted.

M. Luebbering hit .260 last year (13-50) with a double, three RBI and seven runs scored.

Eichholz saw some time in right field last year and Scheppers said she is looking for consistency at the plate. "She started hot last season, and we're hoping she'll find a groove," said Scheppers. "The right field spot will probably go to whoever can hit consistently."

Eichholz drove in seven runs and scored nine with eight hits to her credit last year.

Bassett was a courtesy runner and did very well on the bases, scoring 17 runs. "She's competing this year for a spot at second base," said Scheppers. "She was effective on the bases, with a lot of steals and runs scored."

Sophomores Ellie Brune and Allison Schwartze are expected to make an impact at the varsity level.

Brune is vying for the starting position in right field, with some time out there last year, and by the end of the season, was the team's designated hitter. "Ellie has a nice bat, and I hope she can add to the mix in some capacity," said Scheppers.

Brune went 6-20 (.300) with three RBI and five runs scored and was MVP of last year's JV team.

"Defensively, Ellie reads the ball well and she's quick. More experience out there will help her further develop into the role." Brune also pitched in four games last year, going 2-1 in 18 innings. She allowed

four earned runs on 18 hits, with four walks and two strikeouts. Schwartze, meanwhile, is one of the

most improved players returning. "She got a lot of work in over the summer at shortstop and looks pretty solid," said Scheppers. "She needs a little more consistency but she'll get that with time in the position. Offensively, Allison can hit, and we hope to work her into the lineup when possible."

Rounding out the sophomores are Lydia Brunnert, Caleigh Huot, Olivia Reichel, and Rachel Woehr, and freshmen are Chloe Adamson, Taylor Baumhoer, Kadence Berhorst, Avery Brandt, Hannah Heisler, Faith Jaegers, Hope Jaegers, Ella Massman, Kaitlyn Plassmeyer, Alli Robertson, Addyson Wilbers, and Emerson Williams.

"This is probably the most talented group coming in, and they have a lot of potential," said Scheppers. "The girls need the continue developing their skills and knowledge of the game, which will come with games at the JV level. My goal is always to get them ready for the next level, and to continue building the program for years to come."





FATIMA JUNIORS Londyn Stuckenschneider, above, and Laney Bassett are tough base runners and are competing for spots on the infield this year.



Fatima Softball

| DATE | OPPONENT | LEVEL | HOME/AWAY | TIME(S) |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| 08/21/20 | Jamboree @ JC | Varsity | Away | ТВА |
| 08/29/20 | Blair Oaks JV Tournament | JV | Away | ТВА |
| 08/31/20 | Helias High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/01/20 | Southern Boone High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 09/03/20 | School of the Osage | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/04/20 | Capital City High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 09/08/20 | Jefferson City High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 09/10/20 | Battle High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:30 pm |
| 09/11/20 | Camdenton High School | JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 09/14/20 | Fr. Tolton Catholic High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/15/20 | Tuscumbia High School | Varsity | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 09/17/20 | Battle High School | JV | Away | 5:30 pm |
| 09/18/2009/19/20 | J.C. Invitational | Varsity | Away | ТВА |
| 09/22/20 | New Bloomfield High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/24/20 | Centralia High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/25/20 | Linn High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/28/20 | Owensville High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 4:30 pm |
| 10/01/20 | Blair Oaks High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 10/02/2010/03/20 | Springfield Invitational | Varsity | Away | ТВА |
| 10/05/20 | Eugene High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/08/20 | Russellville High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/09/20 | South Callaway High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/12/20 | St. Elizabeth High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 10/13/20 | Hallsville High School | JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/14/2010/17/20 | Districts | Varsity | ТВА | ТВА |

Fatima VB From Page 15B

going. You try to balance practice with fresh ideas, but part of the game is doing things over and over so your body gets used to it. You want to keep them involved and interested in the game. That's the hardest part of coaching, and these girls have responded well."

Fatima has three returning varsity senior players, and Quinn looks for them to help the younger players, and guide them to the level the team needs to be successful.

A year after earning All-Conference honors, Claire Nilges returns as a middle hitter. "She's a phenomenal kid and moves the ball around very well," said Quinn. "Claire has a lot of club experience in addition to her playing time at Fatima, and she's taken every tidbit of advice she's received from various coaches and puts them into practice. People look up to her, and I expect her to be a leader on this team. She has good court sense and doesn't get a lot of time passing, but she moves constantly, and can pass the ball very well."

Hannah Moeller is a returning outside hitter after earning All-Conference honors last fall. "It's so much fun to watch her hit the ball, and she will play all the way around," said Quinn. "She has very good defensive skills and plays well at the net. She brings a lot of life to the team, and I expect her to have a great year."

Allison Samson is the team's setter and last year earned MVP and Inspiration awards, and was named All-District and All-Conference. "She's one of the most amazing kids I've had a chance to coach, and she was on my club team well before I accepted this position," said Quinn. "She's the heart of this team, and she's very vocal. You don't have to teach her how to do those things. If you could bottle her good attitude, you'd made a fortune."

Quinn added that players like this are a great example of how the game should be played. "Allison is very skilled, and that goes well with everything else Allison brings to the court," he said. "She's a wellrounded player."

Two other seniors were on the varsity squad, but their playing time was limited, "My goal is to get them some playing time at the varsity level and help them improve," said Quinn.

Abby Gentges was the team's libero during summer play, and Quinn said that will likely be her position this year. "She started pretty rough but has come along very well," he said. "She hustles greatly, and is still learning the finer points of the position in the back row, but I'm very pleased with her progress, and I look for her to continue that."

Quinn said Gentges also is a strong server and good passer.

Haley Brandt suffered an injury but has returned and is making good progress. "She has a big heart and really wants to improve," said Quinn. "I expect her to be a big part of the team."

big part of the team." Senior Reagan Verhoff played part of her sophomore year but did not play last year. "I'm not sure what role she'll play this year, but she's working on her skills," said Quinn. "She's doing her best to get some playing time and I respect that a lot. Reagan is trying very hard to build her fundamentals."

There are four juniors on the varsity team: Leah Markway (setter), Elsie Bax (OH), Annabelle Massman (OH), and Anna Crede (MH).

"Leah is a quiet player, but she's like Allison," said Quinn. "She gets very excited about playing but hardly lets that emotion out. She's an amazing kid and has come a long way in learning this position. She's a ball of fire, and she'll dive for everything near her. Leah reads the ball very well and will not hesitate to sacrifice herself to keep the ball in the air."

Markway was named MVP of last year's JV team, and earned the Hustle Award.

Bax, who earned Offensive Player of the Year on last season's JV team, is a very strong, explosive player. "She hits the ball well, and is working on her consistency," said Quinn. "Maturity will bring her along nicely, and she hits the ball very hard. Her play is very dynamic on the back row as well."

Massman is a very good-natured teammate and likes to bring humor to the court, but when she's working on something, Quinn said she's focused. "She will listen to what we suggest and will follow through with action," he added. "She takes every suggestion to heart, and will probably be one of the first players to go out and take steps to improve herself."

Massman played on the C team last year and Quinn said he saw a lot of potential in her so he brought her up to varsity. Massman will be a utility hitter, and Quinn hopes to put her on the court when the situation calls for it.

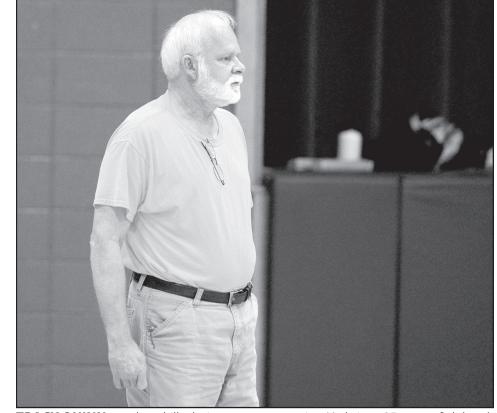
Crede played JV last year, earning the Spirit Award, and will make an impact this year. "She is another one who listens and absorbs everything you tell her," said Quinn. "Anna goes with the flow, and that's really important on a team to have players that bounce back from bad plays. I believe she'll make a lot of progress as the year unfolds."

Sophomore Samantha Bax will be a middle hitter. "Sam is strong," Quinn said. "I watched her play on JV and Curtis (Coach Brandt) and I thought she deserved a shot at varsity. Her club experience will be big for us. She moves around the court very well and is a good blocker. Sam fits in with the team very well and is eager to learn the system. What she brings to the table is a very good start, and I think with a little bit of tweaking here and there, she'll be up there with everyone else."

with everyone else." Quinn added that during summer play, Bax quickly applied tips picked up during tournaments and will continue that learning in the regular season.

As the season nears, Quinn said he is pleased with the opportunity.

"I'm just a guy who loves volleyball and wants to share the knowledge I have with my players," said Quinn. "The game of volleyball requires you to do certain things to be successful, but ultimately, you have to make the game your own and play it the way that works for you. I'm glad to be coaching at the high school level now."



TRACY QUINN watches drills during a recent practice. He brings 25 years of club volleyball experience to the Lady Comets.





Fatima Soccer From Page 16B

Zakery Tune will play forward, and is new to the varsity squad. "Zak has great feet and can move quickly," said Dobry. "He'll be one of the more dominant players on the field."

Midfielder Dalton Gentges is a vocal leader who knows the game well. "He has awesome vision of the field, and reacts quickly," said Dobry. "His work ethic will make him a very good part of the varsity squad."

Last year, Gentges earned All-District and the team's Versatility Award at the varsity level.

Gus Amptman, another midfielder, has a lot of positive energy that spreads to his teammates. "He'll be a solid player off the bench for us this year," said Dobry. "His skills have greatly improved from last year."

Ben Schroeder is a first-year varsity player with good play at the JV level last fall. "He works hard and wants to contribute to the team," Dobry said. Juniors include Garrett Borgmeyer

Juniors include Garrett Borgmeyer (MF), Jackson Riegel (GK) and Issac Falter (D).

"Garrett will join us as a first-year varsity player," said Dobry. "He finally grew into his body, and he's in great shape. He'll be a good positional player this year."

Riegel, meanwhile, will serve as the team's backup keeper. "We are looking to get him time in the net behind Joseph," said Dobry. "His skills continue to improve, and he'll be effective when he's in there."

Falter is also new to the varsity team. "He's very strong and has a great positive

attitude," said Dobry. "His teammates love him."

Sophomores are Patrick Holterman (D), forwards Blake Gentges, Ray Laughlin, Ryan Kesel and Chase Kremer (F), and midfielder Michael Kloeppel.

Holterman last year earned the JV team's Hustle Award. "He brings solid defensive skills to the position, and he's a great worker," said Dobry, noting Holterman would be a starter as the year progresses.

Gentges, who last year earned varsitylevel Rookie of the Year and Hustle awards, was also named to the All-District team. He is one of the most talented players on the field. "Blake is also a great leader," Dobry added. "Blake has unlimited potential and his positive attitude is huge for this team."

Laughlin, last year's JV Versatility Award winner, will be a solid addition to the varsity team. "He has a very bright future and will be a solid player off the bench," said Dobry.

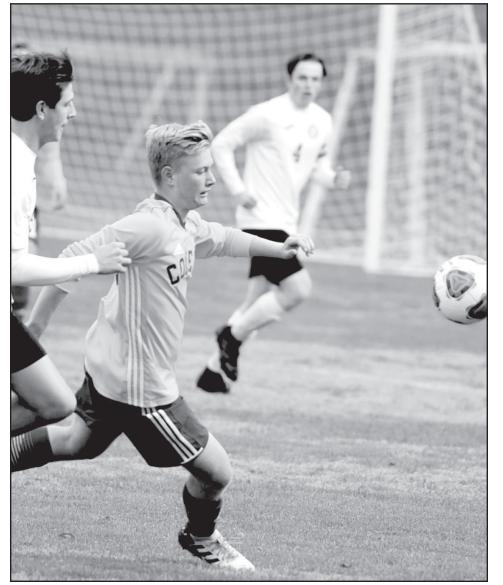
Kesel has a large frame and long stride. "He is one of the fastest kids on the team, and will be one of our primary scoring threats all year," said Dobry.

Kremer, who earned the JV Leadership Award last year, is another newcomer to the varsity team. "He's adjusting, and will be a good positional player," said Dobry.

Kloeppel ran cross country last year but joins the varsity squad this fall. "He's very fast, and obviously in great shape," said Dobry. "I'm excited to see how does as he learns soccer fundamentals."

Members of the JV team, under the direction of returning coach Josh Kunkelman, includes junior Drew Ocheskey, sophomores Andrew Brandt, Curtis Falter, Mitchell Falter, Logan Jackson, Jacob Rolwes, Jackson Schenewerk, Jonathan Schulte and Victor Struemph, and freshmen Jacob Bax, Graham Boeckmann, Toby Bruce, Chase Buddemeyer, Teddy Holland, Cody Koenigsfeld, Porter Schaben, Owen Scheulen, and Christen Stephens.

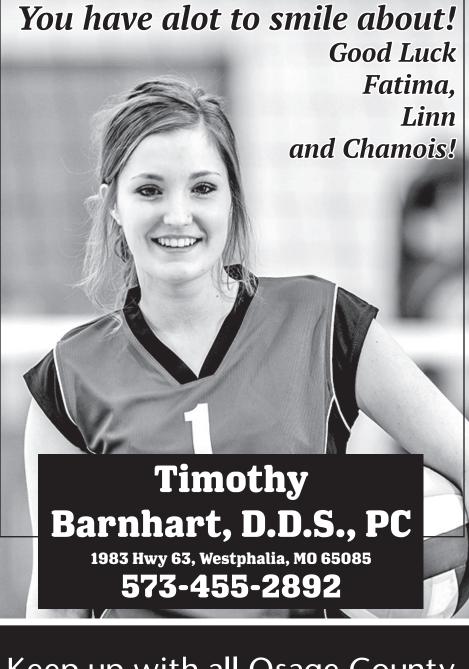
"Josh has done a great job with these guys, and he works closely with the keepers," said Dobry. "The boys are very energetic, and we have more players on the roster than we did last year, which is a good news for the future of the program. They're showing a lot of promise already, and their skills are developing every day. It's also great to see them functioning as a group, and that will get even better the more they play together."



MIDFIELDER DALTON Gentges has good vision and is a vocal leader on the team.



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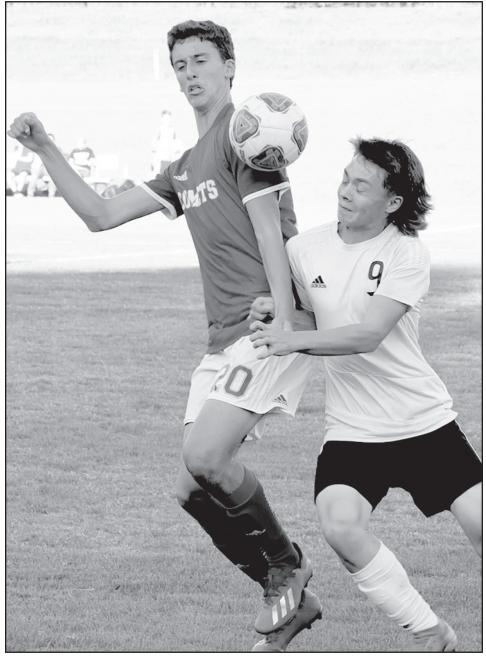
Unterrified Democrat WEDNESDAY,



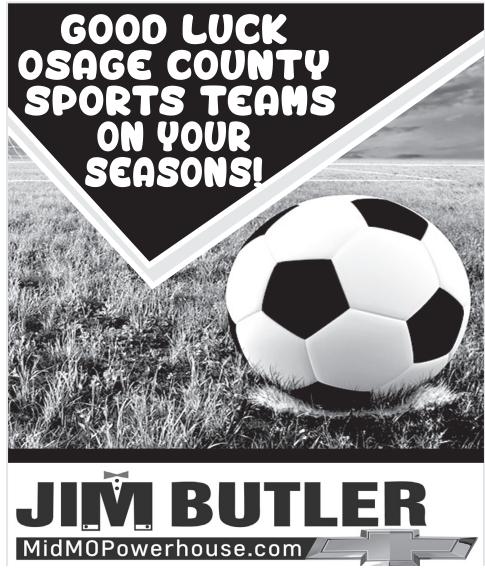
GUS AMPTMAN brings a very positive attitude to the Comets.

Fatima Soccer

| DATE | OPPONENT | LEVEL | HOME/AWAY | TIME(S |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 08/22/20 | Fr. Tolton Jamboree | Varsity | Away | 10:00 am |
| 08/31/20 | Stover High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 09/01/20 | Fulton High School | Varsity | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/03/20 | Camdenton High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 09/08/20 | Capital City High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/10/20 | Dixon High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/14/20 | Crocker (Senior Night) | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 09/18/2009/19/20 | Boonville Invitational | Varsity | Away | TBA |
| 09/21/20 | MMA | Varsity/JV | Away | 4:30 pm |
| 09/24/20 | Boonville High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/28/20 | Mexico High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 09/29/20 | School of the Osage | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 10/02/2010/03/20 | Laker Shootout | Varsity | Away | TBA |
| 10/08/20 | Southern Boone High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/12/20 | Laquey High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 10/15/20 | Battle High School | Varsity/JV | Away | 5:00 pm |
| 10/16/20 | Union High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/22/20 | Helias High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/27/20 | Sacred Heart High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/29/20 | St. Clair High School | Varsity/JV | Home | 5:00 pm |
| 10/31/2011/04/20 | Districts | Varsity | Away | TBA |



RYAN KESEL will be one of team's up-and-coming forwards for the Comets.



Unterrified Democrat WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020 PAGE 23B



FATIMA SOCCER players listen to instruction from Coach Clint Dobry at a recent practice. Below, Coach Dana Scheppers talks to her softball players.





FATIMA CROSS country runners cross the Pentecostal Bridge at Westphalia less than a month before it collapsed under the weight of a semi-tractor truck.



LYDIA BRUNNERT makes a diving effort to catch the ball during a recent practice.



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