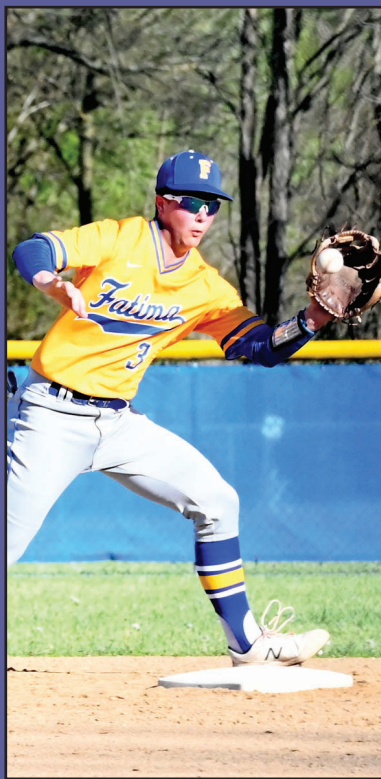




2022 UD Spring Sports Guide

March 23,
2022



Chamois Pages 2B-5B

Linn Pages 6B-13B

Fatima Pages 14B-23B

Perspective: Finally, We Make the Transition to the Spring Season

After weeks of half-hearted but irritating winter weather, we finally appear to be on the sunny side of the street for good. Let's hope so.

I was really getting tired of a Thursday snow/sleet, followed by a couple of days of cleanup and dealing with drivers who forgot it had snowed the previous week.

Winter is such a long season so it's no surprise that we look forward to spring.

Freshly mowed grass, leaves returning to the trees, a breeze running through the tiny hairs on my head, and sunshine radiating all around us make me feel like a bear that just wandered out of his cave.

As the basketball season wound down, we saw some great action as Osage County teams fought familiar foes at district tournaments.

It's always a little sad to see the season end before teams are ready but I admire the fight, grit, and determination our athletes showed.

Chamois battled with the bare number of players most of the season and yet their effort really impressed me.

Linn has a lot to be proud of as the boys came within a point of advancing in the district tournament under first-year coach Braden Ham. In my talks with Braden over the course of the winter season, and seeing his philosophy on the court, I'm sure the program will soon be contending. It's not always about wins and losses, as almost every coach told me this year. It's more about improvements and progress, and the Wildcats have shown plenty of both.

While the Lady Cats fell in the district championship game, this is the second straight year they have vied for a title. Led by Aushara Hostetler, who surpassed 1,000 career points this season, Linn has a lot of talented players whose growth will be evident as we move along.

What a district Fatima saw, with eventual Class 4 boys' champion Fr. Tolton emerging after fierce battles with the Comets and Falcons. I wish the districts could be spread out a little bit so these teams could meet a little farther along in the state tournament.

Alas, Fatima's phenomenal comeback bid fell a little short but man, what a game!

Watching Ryan and Ethan (and snapping a few photos) jump around with excitement was infectious. Lee Verslues diving for the ball and calling timeout was the height of pandemonium and it was glorious. Seeing all of the Comets rallying around one simple goal, to beat the Trailblazers after a slow start, with the crowd screaming words of encouragement is what high school basketball is all about.

On the girls' side, the third time was not a charm for the Lady Comets, who battled Helias twice at home and again in the district semis. The team, under the direction of Matt Baker, took big strides this year, and I am certain we will see the rewards next season.

Fatima also had a successful wrestling season, with several representing the Blue & Gold at the state meet. All of these wrestlers continue to work hard and improve, and I can't wait to see how they do next year.

As we transition to the spring season, I must tell you about my recent experience at Chamois.

You may recall reading about Madeline Gerloff, who on her third try was accepted to the FBI's summer program.

I met her and her mom, Erin, to talk about it so I could write the story. We met at Roomerz and had a bite to eat.

Unfortunately, when I was leaving, I discovered that my front right tire was flat.

There was no hope for it as I had inadvertently and unknowingly hit the curb and the tire was gashed.

It was a Friday night and the street was quiet. Only a few patrons were inside the bar but they came to my aid.

I am not an auto mechanic or even what was once called a "shade-tree mechanic," though I know how to change a tire.

However, I was stymied by the spare-tire design on my Tahoe, which is secured under the rear of the vehicle, held in place by a clamp with a cable you have to release with a tool.

Once before, I had trouble with my previous Tahoe and feared I would have the same difficulty.

After trying to release the spare unsuccessfully, I asked for help. I'm not ashamed of that.

Danny Kirsch, Scott Mertz, Sean Hackmann, and Tom Sieg offered to take a look at it so we moved the party across the street to Jerry's Stop & Go, where my truck looked pitiful in the bare light.

All of us tried to release the tire but it was stuck tight. Tom had experienced this before and said if you don't release it once in a while, the system locks up.

I have not had a flat tire in a long, long time, so it was no surprise that this happened.

As we lay on the ground, cell phone flash lights illuminating the area the best we could, the tire seemed to mock us. We tried everything, including kicking it in frustration to knock it loose.

Suddenly, pagers went off indicating a fire had been reported. Scott left to deal with that and the rest of us continued our effort.

Eventually, Sean used a grinder to saw off part of the clamp and cut the cable. That did the trick but it still took some elbow grease to get the tire out.

I have to say thank you to all of them for their help, especially on a Friday night when they had other things on their mind. I'm sure fighting a stubborn tire was not on the agenda. I truly appreciate your help guys.

As some of you know, the last stretch

has been horrible, with my brother-in-law passing away, and just days later, my youngest brother passing away. Neither death was anywhere remotely expected.

Saturday, March 19, was the birthday both men shared, though they were 10 years apart. My family gathered for a vigil of sorts, to share memories and renew our commitment to one another.

It's always great to get the family together, even during a tough time.

As the spring unfolds, I hope you are able to spend time with your family as well.

In preparing this sports guide, I was glad to see how our teams are shaping up.

Due to a mix-up, we are a week later with this than we should have been but that happens sometimes.

Each year, there's something new to present as players move up, and at times, new coaches come in to lead.

At Linn, Billy Garrett has taken the helm of the track team and he has a great group of assistant coaches, Robyn Baker, Tyler Rush, and Adam Maassen, to help him, all returning from last year. I look forward to watching the kids succeed. I know some are pumped for a return to the state meet, and others are finding their place. It's a good mix that will be fun to watch.

The same goes for Chamois, under the direction of Coach John Leach and Asst. Coach Ethan Hagenhoff, and Fatima, who is led by Marc Bridges, with help from Katie Hilkerbaumer, Kurt Strope, James Vignola, and Levi Maxwell.

Golf will be very interesting this year as Linn has a pair of state-qualifiers

returning to play the links. Fatima, meanwhile, has an entirely new cast. Coaches Ryan Rost and Scott Kilgore have faith their respective players will be competitive, and I believe them.

On the diamond, take a look at the Linn story to learn more about Coach Landre Ousley. He has a lot of ties to the community and is probably the most laid-back coach I've met. Despite that, his players are working hard to return to the Final Four, and are meeting his and Asst. Coach Kyle Nolting's expectations.

At Fatima, Tyler VanGerpen returns for his second year at the helm, and his assistants, Tyler Plassmeyer and TJ Keilholz, are making good progress with the younger players. Steve Schnieders is also helping as an unpaid assistant, and his experience is invaluable.

Expect a great game when Linn and Fatima meet up in the final scheduled regular-season game. You can throw out the records and conference standings because none of that matters. I look forward to this game every year because it's an all-out battle.

Last but not least, Coach Clint Dobry has returned to coach the Lady Comets' soccer team. He had stepped down from that role to focus on the boys' program but when Fatima needed him, he answered the call. He's working with assistant coaches Joyce Brandt and Chuck Schwartz and what I've seen at practice and the jamboree is growth. Clint said that almost every player on the roster has improved from last year. This should be an exciting spring season. Good luck to all teams.

See you at the game. NAJ

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guide is a
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Sports Editor**

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**Wildcats, Comets
and Pirates**

CHS track team is small but not without potential

Chamois track coach John Leach said this year will be tough at the bigger meets but the six boys and two girls on the team have the potential to succeed.

"I believe some of these kids will medal at the smaller meets," he said. "We're going to have a challenge at the bigger meets like the Linn Invitational but all of them are working hard and hope to do well, especially at the end of the year in districts."

Senior Ethan Halbert returns to compete in the sprints. "He's working on getting his track legs back but I'm optimistic he can challenge for a top-four finish at districts," said Leach.

Called the anchor of the team by Leach, junior Waylon Carter continues to improve in the throwing events. "He worked really hard to compete at districts last year and wants to do better this year," said Leach.

Carter had his best throw in the discus (25.38m) for 10th place at the district meet at South Callaway last spring.

This season, Carter has emerged as a leader. "He does what needs to be done, no questions asked, and he's very helpful with the younger throwers," said Leach.

Another junior, Russell Frank, is a newcomer to the team focused on throws.

"He's starting to figure out the techniques involved with throwing and I think he could surprise some people at the end of the year," said Leach.



PHOTO BY DONNA THOENEN

CALEB KEILHOLZ had a great junior high career and now sets his sights on doing well in high school.

Chamois Track Class 1 District 2

- * Bunceton * Chamois * Clopton * Community * Glasgow
- * Higbee * Jamestown * New Franklin * Newburg * Pilot Grove
- * Prairie Home * Richland * Silex * St. Elizabeth
- * Stoutland * Sturgeon * Tuscumbia * Wellsville-Middletown
- ** District host to be determined



CHAMOIS SENIOR Ethan Halbert returns to compete in the sprints and hurdles this spring. PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

See **CHS Track**
Page 5B

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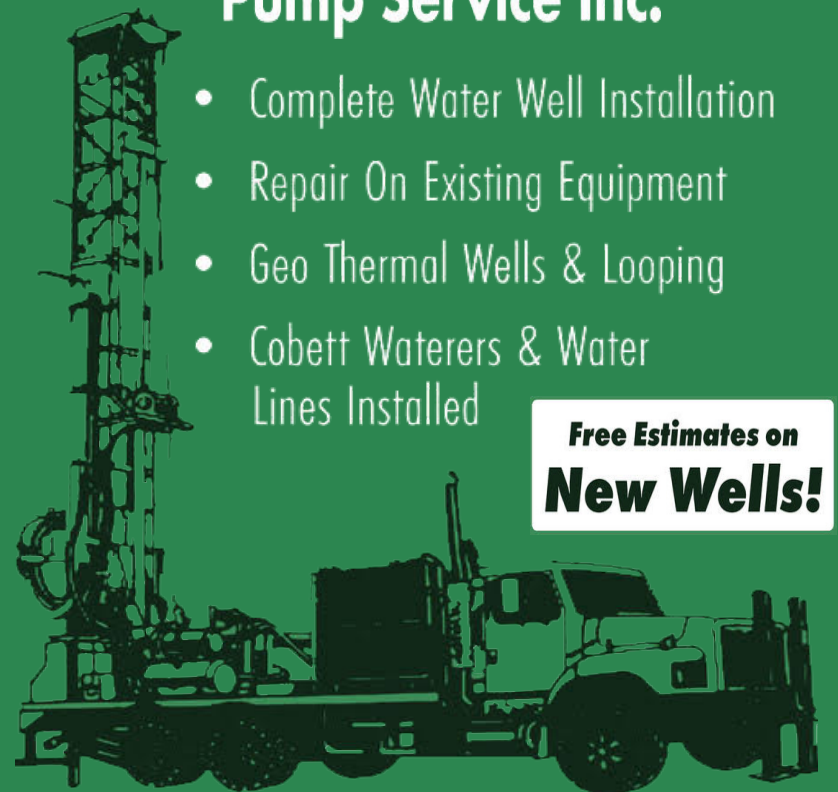
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PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

JAXONWUELLING will once again compete in the jumps and sprints for the Pirates and Coach John Leach believes his cross country experience last fall will work well in track.

CJH track stacked, Leach expects a great season

This year, Chamois JH track eighth-grade athletes have a lot of good experience from last season that Coach John Leach believes gives them an opportunity to do well.

"I challenged them to take what they learned last year and apply it, and to shine in every event," said Leach of the eighth-grade group. "They have a real chance to do that, and I'm excited to see just how well they can do."

Jaxon Wuelling returns to run sprints and mid-range events. "He's grown so much and he's a lot stronger than last year," said Leach. "His cross country experience will translate well to the track and I expect a great year from him."

Jaxon won the individual conference title in cross country last fall.

Jack Schollmeyer is healthy and running well. "He had some injuries that hampered him last year but he's ready to go," said Leach. "He's bigger and stronger and he's going to surprise some people. I think he has a chance to bring home medals."

Schollmeyer will compete in sprints and jumps.

Also running sprints this year will be Caden Wuelling, who plans to compete in the long jump as well. "He has grown since last year and has shown better results," said Leach. "He had a solid cross country season and he's building on it."

Evert Mehmert has shown a lot of maturity, Leach said. "He's got some good experience under his belt and I believe he'll

continue to grow. He'll finish near the top this year because his technique is much better."

Mehmert will run sprints and compete in the long jump.

Max McKague is planning to run sprints as well as battle in the discus and triple jump. "His attitude is great and he really wants the record in the disc," said Leach. "His work ethic is solid, and his technique is getting better."

Savannah Sieg is the lone eighth-grade Lady Pirate. "She's still learning but I believe she could do well by the end of the year," said Leach as Sieg will compete in the shot and discus.

Seventh-graders are Emma Mehmert (sprints), Carly Brandt. (Sprints/LJ), and Oliver Carter (shot/disc).

"Emma is raw and learning how to run properly," said Leach. "She'll gain a lot of experience this year that'll help her next season. She's a great kid and works hard."

Brandt is improving all the time. "I'm looking forward to her making a push," said Leach. "She's a gifted athlete with a lot of potential."

Carter is working hard in the throws. "He's quiet but keeps up with the others," said Leach. "He's building a foundation and will be someone to reckon with in the future."

Leach is joined again by Asst. Coach Ethan Hagenhoff. "He does a great job with the throwers and I'm glad to have his help," he said.

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PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

DEVIN SLUSSER returns to the track this year for Chamois.

CHS Track From Page 3B

Sophomore Ian Hines is also new to the track team and will be a thrower. "I'm glad he decided to come out for the team," said Leach. "He's trying hard to learn everything and could be a dark horse by the time we get to districts."

Two freshmen round out the boys' team and they could be well-positioned for a post-district run.

Caleb Keilholz is an all-around solid

athlete and in track, he will throw shot put but also compete in mid and long-range running events.

"The two-mile may be his ticket," said Leach. "He had a great cross country season and basketball kept him in good shape. I believe he has a real opportunity to go far in the postseason. He'll run hard and will challenge in every event he enters."

Last year, Keilholz won the 1600m run as an eighth-grader at the Show-Me Conference meet.

Bill Kirsch will be a utility athlete, competing in a variety of events, including

throws and sprints. "I think he will improve all year in whatever he enters and has a good chance to get to sectionals," said Leach.

a great attitude and her work in the sprints will help her in the jumps."

On the girls' side, sophomores Devin Slusser and Eevie Halbert will represent Chamois.

Slusser plans to run sprints and compete in the long and triple jumps. "She will do better than last year," said Leach. "Devin has

Halbert, meanwhile, will run the 100m and 200m sprints, along with both hurdle events. "She's a hard-nosed girl who fights hard in everything she does," said Leach. "She's been working on technique and I'm seeing the improvement. She's matured and is ready for a great season."

Chamois HS Track Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
3/22	Russellville High School (Russellville, MO)	Away	4:00 pm
3/24	Linn High School (Linn, MO)	Away	3:30 pm
3/25	New Bloomfield HS Relays (New Bloomfield, MO)	Neutral	
3/25	New Bloomfield Relays (New Bloomfield, MO)	Away	2:00 pm
3/31	Linn High School (Linn, MO)	Away	1:00 pm
4/2	Russellville Invitational (Russellville, MO)	Neutral	
4/5	Fatima High School (Westphalia, MO)	Away	3:00 pm
4/7	Eugene High School (Eugene, MO)	Away	3:00 pm
4/12	South Callaway HS Invitational (Mokane, MO)	Neutral	
4/18	Linn High School (Linn, MO)	Away	3:30 pm
4/26	Hermann Invitational (Hermann, MO)	Neutral	
4/28	Show Me Conference Meet (Linn, MO)	Away	1:30 pm
5/7	Districts (Mokane, MO)	Away	9:00 am

Chamois JH Track Schedule

Date	Sport	Opponent	Level	H/A	Location	Time(s)
03/21/22	Jr. High Track	Linn	7th/8th	A	Linn	3:30 pm
03/29/22	Jr. High Track	Fatima Jr. High Relays	7th/8th	A	Westphalia	2:30 pm
04/11/22	Jr. High Track	South Callaway MS	7th/8th	A	Mokane	4:00 pm
04/13/22	Jr. High Track	Owensville Middle School	7th/8th	A	Owensville	3:30 pm
04/18/22	Jr. High Track	Linn R-II High School	JH	A	Osage Co. R-I High School	3:30 pm
04/21/22	Jr. High Track	Linn R-II High School	7th/8th	A	Osage Co. R-I High School	3:30 pm
04/29/22	Jr. High Track	Jr. High Conference Meet	7th/8th	A	Russellville	1:30 pm
05/03/22	Jr. High Track	New Haven High School	7th/8th	A	Osage Co. R-I High School	4:00 pm

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CODY LEIVIAN brings a big bat back to the Linn lineup this year, and has stepped up as a leader for the Wildcats. **PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON**

Ousley has high expectations for Linn baseball team

Linn baseball coach Landre Ousley is a laid-back kind of guy, with a smile and encouraging words for his players but he has high expectations of them.

“We’re looking to build a legacy,” he said. “I’m big on having fun but we need to take care of business too. I expect these guys to work hard every day in practice and give it their all every day. I’m not focused on winning a district title. My philosophy is that if we take care of things every day, and make improvements, the rest will take care of itself.”

District assignments were released last week, with Linn joining Belle, Bourbon, Hermann, and Steelville.

Ousley most recently served as head coach of the Eugene baseball team, which was a power in the Show-Me Conference the last couple of years. He hopes to see that kind of success for the Wildcats, which earned second place in Class 3 last year, the best performance for a Linn baseball team. The Cats finished the year 16-10.

“Last year, Eugene beat Linn three times and rolled through the conference but Linn went to the Final Four and we didn’t,” said Ousley. “You just never know how things are going to play out, so you have to be ready every day to do your best. It’s about getting hot at the right time.”

Before assuming the head role at Eugene, Ousley was the assistant coach for a year, and he was an assistant coach at

Vienna for four years after earning his degree from Lincoln University.

A native of Vienna, from which he graduated in 2015, Ousley said he’s happy with the transition into the Linn program.

“Of course, there are growing pains but that’s to be expected,” he said. “They’re getting used to my style and expectation, and I’m learning about them and their abilities. I think we’re moving in the right direction.”

Ousley joins Asst. Coach Kyle Nolting, who has been a consistent part of the program for a long time both as a player and a coach. “He’s hard-working and dedicated to getting the most out of these players,” said Ousley. “I am glad to be working with him.”

Linn has three seniors on the varsity squad who will be expected to lead.

Keagan Heywood (P/IF) was a big part of the 2021 campaign, hitting .274 with three doubles, a home run, and 15 RBI.

“Keagan is vocal at times and we’ll need him to be that kind of leader on the field,” said Ousley. “If we’re going to do anything special this year, he will have to be a driving part of it. I expect him to be the guy we look to on the mound in big games, and his hitting looks good.”

On the mound last spring, Heywood was the workhorse, recording 49.2 innings in which he went 4-4 with an ERA of 3.664, allowing 21 earned runs on 37 hits with 32 walks and 52 strikeouts.

Aidan Kline will mostly work at shortstop but will likely see time on the mound. “He can get us going so I believe he’ll be in the top one or two spots of the order,” said Ousley. “He’s got the potential to be an impact player both at the plate and in the field.”

In 2021, Kline drove in 13 and counted five doubles, hitting .310 on the year.

Cody Leivian (IB/P) rounds out the senior leadership. “He’ll be an anchor on defense and may move around as needed,” said Ousley. “He’s got a big bat, and I look for him to have a great season. Cody does everything I ask of him, and he’s been very helpful with the younger players.”

Leivian last year went 26-86 (.407) with 10 doubles, two HRs, and 24 RBI.

Juniors Eli Baker (C) and Trevor Murray (OF) will be tapped to step up and help lead the Wildcats.

“Eli has big shoes to fill,” said Ousley. “But if we want to be a special team, he’ll have to be a big part of it. He’s working hard to stabilize the catcher’s position, and I’m confident he’ll be a leader on the field.”

As for Murray, his flexibility is a big

Linn Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Levels	Time
3/19	Eugene	Neutral	V	
3/22	Calvary Lutheran	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
3/24	Montgomery County (Montgomery City, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
3/28	New Haven (New Haven, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
3/29	South Callaway (Mokane, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
3/31	Blair Oaks (Blair Oaks, MO)	Away	V	5:00 PM
4/1	Southern Boone (Ashland, MO)	Away	V, JV	
4/5	New Bloomfield	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/8-9	Iberia Tournament (Iberia, MO)	Neutral	V	
4/12	Hermann	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/14	Russellville (Russellville, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/22-23	Linn Tournament (Linn, MO)	Home	V	
4/25	Tuscumbia	Home	V	5:00 PM
4/26	St. Elizabeth	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/29	Fatima	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
5/3	Father Tolton Regional Catholic	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
5/6	Owensville	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
5/7	Hermann	Neutral	V	12:00 PM
5/7	Wright City (Wright City, MO)	Away	V	2:00 PM
5/9	Eugene (Eugene, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
5/10	Belle (Belle, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM

**See Linn Baseball
Page 13B**

Linn Baseball Class 3 District 8

- * Belle
- * Bourbon
- * Hermann
- * Linn
- * Steelville
- ** District host to be determined



BRITT WINSLOW earned a berth in the state meet as a freshman last year and hopes to make it back this spring. **PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON**

Linn has three returning golfers, two with state experience

At the end of last year, Linn had three golfers make it to state, and two of them are returning to the course this spring.

"My freshmen got to experience the state tournament and atmosphere full swing for the first time," said Coach Ryan Rost. "It was a great learning experience for them and I am so excited for what the future holds for these two. The future looks bright for Linn golf."

That assessment came after Jett Maassen earned 47th for his 102-90-192, and Britt Winslow shot a 94-104-198 for 55th place in Class 2 at Silo Ridge Golf

and Country Club in Bolivar.

"They're even better now," said Rost. "It was a huge feat for them to make it to state last year and I expect them to be back there again. Neither of them felt like the season ended the way they wanted, but they didn't get down about it."

Instead, they hit the course over the summer and worked to improve. "The number of rounds they've played is

**See Linn Golf
Page 8B**



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Good Luck Osage County sports teams for a great year!



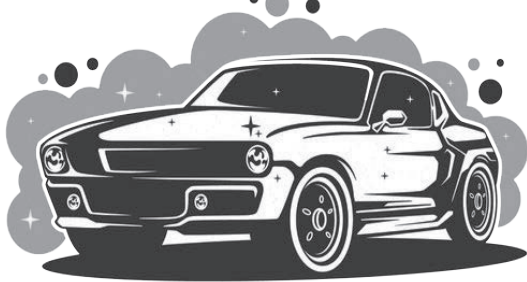
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**Good luck on this year's
sports season**

Linn Golf
From Page 7B

incredible and I'm confident they can reach their goals this season," Rost said.

They will be joined by four seniors.

Emma Kucsik is in her second year with the team. "She continues to improve and she's starting to become more consistent," said Rost. "She's turning in lower scores and is more confident in her clubs. I'm excited to see where she can take her game."

Josh McKim and Austin Wolfe are cut from the same cloth. "They continue to get better," said Rost. "They've taken big strides, and they attack the ball with more confidence. All the practice they've put in will pay off."

Connor McDaniel has transferred from Helias. "He brings three years of JV experience from Helias, and we're glad to have him," said Rost. "He's a great leader and teammate. Connor works well with the younger kids and keeps them motivated."

Juniors are Rhett Robinson and Cole Holtschneider.

"Rhett was a part of our successful team last year," said Rost of the third-year golfer. "He was disappointed at the end of the season and used that as motivation to get better. He's taken the time to fine-tune his game, and he's working hard toward the goals he's set."

Rounding out the team are freshmen Lara Pinkerton, Devin Brandt, and Sarah Steinbeck.

"They're all first-year players with little or no experience," said Rost. "I'm excited to work with them. They've picked up the game pretty well and have shown

great improvements in their swings."

Overall, Rost said a couple of varsity spots are up for grabs, and he expects competition to be fierce as the Wildcats vie for them. "If we keep growing and gaining experience, we will have an opportunity to compete for wins, and a chance to get back to state," Rost noted. "I'm curious to see how much we've grown since last May."

Linn will open next Monday at home against Cuba, Dixon, and Fatima at the Osage Country Club.

Linn Golf Class 1 District 1

- * Alton * Barat Academy * Bloomfield * Cabool
- * Calvary Lutheran * Crocker * Crystal City * Dora
- * Eugene * Gainesville * Laquey * New Bloomfield
- * Newburg * Russellville * Saxony Lutheran
- * Senath-Hornersville * St. Vincent * Thaye
- * The Fulton School at St. Albans * Viburnum
- ** District host to be determined

Linn Golf Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
3/28	Linn Quad (Linn, MO)	Home	
» 3/28	» Cuba	Home	
» 3/28	» Dixon	Home	
» 3/28	» Fatima	Home	
3/30	Russellville Invitational	Away	
4/6	Versailles Invitational	Away	
4/11	New Bloomfield Quad	Away	
4/14	Osage Tri (Osage Beach, MO)	Neutral	
4/14	Southern Boone Invitational	Away	
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Lady Wildcats track led by several athletes with experience

Linn returns to the track with 12 girls this spring, including several that have solid experience.

"We have a solid group of girls out this year that should be able to make contributions in a variety of areas on the track," said Coach Billy Garrett.

Returning is a majority of Linn's state-qualifying 4x800 team, including individual 800m state qualifier Myra Baker. "That should set us up to be strong in the mid-distance events this season," said Garrett. "She was one spot away from placing at state last year and looks to improve on that this year before running at William Woods next season."

Elle Monnette, another senior returning from the relay, continues to work hard and should contribute in mid-distance and distance events this year, Garrett added.

At state in 2021, Baker was looking to run a 2:28 in the 800m event to be in the top eight and ran her personal best crossing the line in 2:26.95. She got out fast and led the pack at the first 100 meters. Baker had a 1:10 first lap and was holding her own in third place. The pack started crowding

together at the 600m mark and then it was an all-out sprint from then on. Baker just came up short in the last 10 meters to earn ninth place.

Joining the seniors in mid-distance events are juniors Erika Platt and Rylie Jaegers, and sophomore Ramsie Tschappler. "Erika should continue her solid mid-distance performances from last year and also help out in the throws," Garrett noted. "Ramsie, a sectional qualifier from last

season, should continue to grow in the mid-distance and distance events."

Jaegers transferred to Linn from Helias and Garrett said she should be strong in the 800m and 400m.

In the sprints, juniors Marly Houston, Olivia Helmig, and Marissa Gehlert will carry the workload. They will also contribute in the field with Houston in jumps, and Helmig and Gehlert in the pole vault.

Junior Annaliese Bowser returns to the throws and should lead a young crew that includes freshmen Vidella Loughridge, Natasha Jewell, and Courtney Wood.

"Annaliese has been working hard to improve her craft and our freshmen should show great growth this season," said Garrett.

Returning assistant coaches are Robyn Baker, Tyler Rush, and Adam Maassen.

State-qualifier Dodson returns to compete in PV

Linn junior Zach Dodson returns to compete in the pole vault, an event in which he qualified for state last year.

"Along with pole vault, Zach should be a solid contributor at mid-distance races and the high jump," said Coach Billy Garrett.

Last year, Dodson had a personal-best mark of 3.38m (11-1) for a share of 14th place in the pole vault.

Joining him in mid-distance races will be senior Gibson Tschappler, junior John Schmidt, and freshman Bobby Winkelman. "Gibson should be a top contributor at distance events as well as dropping down to mid-distance," said Garrett. "John has been working hard and should show improvement at the mid-distance events. Bobby is splitting time between baseball and track, but

should be solid to complete relays on the boys' side."

Also splitting time is senior Aidan Kline, who is playing baseball as well this spring. "Aidan looks to contribute to the squad in the throws and some jumps," said Garrett, who noted that Cole Franken and Andrew Ely will also battle in the jumps this year. "Both look to improve their speed and better their marks as the season progresses."

In the sprints, junior Jason Powers and sophomore Angel Mendez look to contribute as both have shown strengths in practice, Garrett added.

Returning assistant coaches are Robyn Baker, Tyler Rush, and Adam Maassen.



PHOTO BY WILL JOHNSON

LINN SENIOR Ellie Monnette will compete in sprints and distance events.

Linn HS/JH Track Schedule

DAY	DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION	LEVEL
Monday	3/21/2022	3:30	Linn Quad	Linn	JH
Tuesday	3/22/22	3:00	Russellville Quad	Russellville	HS
Thursday	3/24/22	3:30	Linn Quad	Linn	HS
Tuesday	3/29/2022	3:00	Fatima Inviational	Fatima	JH
Thursday	3/31/2022	1:00	Linn invitational	Linn	HS
Saturday	4/2/2022	10:00	Russellville Invitational	Russellville	HS
Tuesday	4/5/2022	3:00	Eugene Inviational	Eugene	JH
Thursday	4/7/2022	3:00	Eugene Relays	Eugene	HS
Monday	4/11/2022	4:00	South Callaway MS Mini-Medal Meet	South Callaway	MS
Tuesday	4/12/2022	4:00	South Callaway HS Mini-Medal Meet	South Callaway	HS
Thursday	4/14/2022	3:00	Eldon Relays	Eldon	HS
Monday	4/18/2022	3:00	Maries/Osage Challenge	Linn	JH/HS
Thursday	4/21/2022	3:00	Linn Invitational	Linn	JH
Tuesday	4/26/2022	4:00	Hermann Inviational	Hermann	HS
Thursday	4/28/2022	3:00	HS Conference Meet	Linn	HS
Friday	4/29/2022	TBD	MS Conference Meet	Russellville	HS
Saturday	5/7/2022	TBA	Districts	TBA	HS
Saturday	5/14/2022	TBA	Sectionals	TBA	HS
Fri-Sat	5/21-5/22	TBA	State	TBA	HS

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Several expected to contribute to Linn JH track boys' team

Linn JH track coach Billy Garrett in his first year at the helm said he believes several boys on the team look to contribute in several areas this spring.

In the sprints, eighth-graders Carson Kliethermes and Cameron Hoelscher, and seventh-grader Kahne Brandt will show some strengths in open events and combine

with other athletes for relays.

Eighth-grader Reid Baker and seventh-grader Carson Kempker will carry the mid and distance event workload. "They're putting in hard work at practice to do so," said Garrett.

In the throws, eighth-graders Jason Greer, Craig Laughlin, and Tony Platt will compete for the Wildcats. "Craig and Tony look to improve from last year, while Jason should be a solid addition to the throwing crew," said Garrett. "The boys are excited to get their season going."

Seventh-grader Hunter Bish joins the team in the sprints and jumps.

On the girls' side, with junior high

volleyball still in action, the team is small but hopes to add a few more athletes in a couple of weeks.

Garrett said that Jorja Kempker will be a strong competitor in mid-distance races and the jumps, while Kenzy Hackman will compete in the throws, jumps, and sprints this spring. "Both of these girls have been working hard on the track and are eager to learn and grow this season," Garrett added.

Seventh-graders Medina Kaylee, Tyler Murray, Madison Rotter, and Zoe Werdenhausen join the team and are still determining their roles and events.



PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

CRAIG LAUGHLIN will compete in the throws again this year.

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ERIKA PLATT will run relay events for the Lady Wildcats.

PHOTO BY WILL JOHNSON

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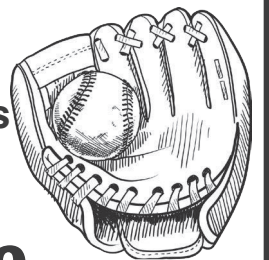
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PHOTOS BY WILL JOHNSON

ANNALIESE BOWSER returns with good experience that she is sharing with the younger throwers. Jason Powers, above right, plans to compete in the jumps and sprints. Below is Marly Houston, who will run sprints and hurdles.



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Linn Baseball
From Page 6B

asset. "He'll almost be a utility player in the outfield," said Ousley. "He can play anywhere and as a hitter in the bottom of the order, he'll be tasked with moving guys over and driving in runs. He can get the job done, I'm sure."

Neither had varsity stats last spring but in the fall season, Baker hit .182 with a double and six RBI, and Murray turned in a hit and two walks with two runs scored.

Sophomore Seth Wolfe will spend time on the mound and play in left field, moving from one position to the other depending on the day's pitching rotation. He'll get a lot of innings and hit in the middle of the order. "Seth will have to step up and take the leap to the next level," said Ousley. "He's got a great work ethic and puts in the effort. He's not afraid to get dirty."

On the mound last spring, Wolfe didn't see a ton of varsity action but held his own on JV.

Fellow sophomore Curtis Deeken will be seen mostly at third base but will also spend time on the rubber. "He's just a good kid," said Ousley. "He's a hard worker and he helps the freshmen a lot. I want these guys to help each other, and he does it very well. We'll rely on Curtis to play different roles as the season unfolds, and I have faith that he can do it."

Last spring, Wolfe finished with three hits and scored seven runs while driving in five.

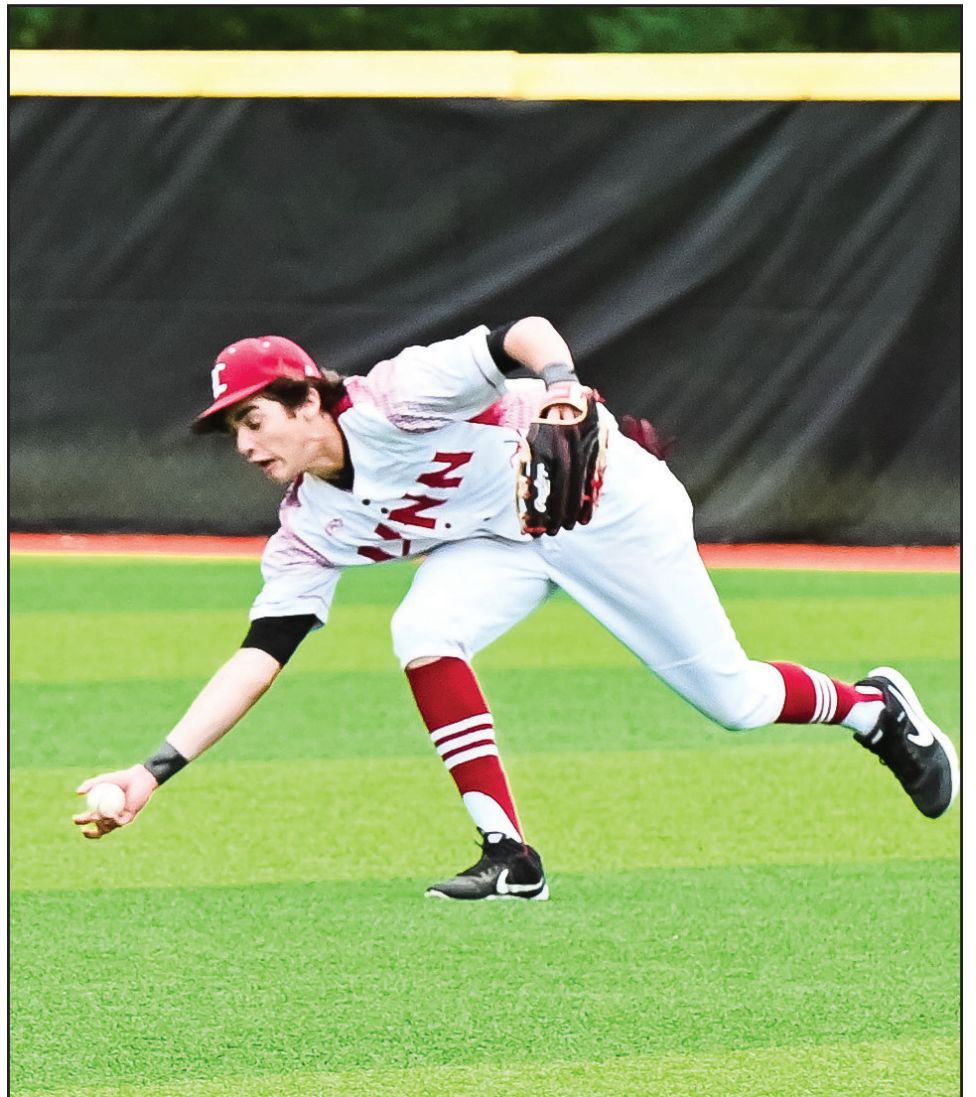
Freshman Tryten Reynolds will play at second base. "He's young but Tryten has stepped up quite a bit, and he's making improvements as we go along. He'll be able to put the ball in play and defensively, I see him handling the routine plays that make the team successful."

Rounding out the varsity squad is Austin Dudenhoeffer, who will pitch and play in center field. With his offensive ability, Ousley said Dudenhoeffer will either lead off or bat second. "He's a great hitter and I expect him to be a spark for us, getting on base and doing damage," said Ousley said. "On the mound, he'll see a lot of innings, and we'll need him to be consistent every time out."

With nine varsity players and nine on JV, Ousley said he's happy with the mix as the younger players develop.

"We have a lot of inexperienced players but that means there's a lot of room for growth, and they're willing to put in the time and effort," said Ousley. "I know we'll improve, and they'll reap the benefits of that hard work."

Players are Delaney Schmidt (C/IF), Tanner Hackmann (IF/OF), Anthony King (IF), Arlyn Martin (C/IF), Logan Martin (OF), Tyler Wolfe (OF), Bobby Winkelman (IF/OF), Trevor Brandt (OF), and Arturo Mendez (OF).



LINN SENIOR Aidan Kline will move from the outfield to play at shortstop and see some time on the mound this spring. **PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON**

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Dobry returns to coach Lady Comets soccer this spring

Fatima coach Clint Dobry planned to step away from girls' soccer and focus on the boys' season in the fall but this year, when the Lady Comets were in need, he answered the call and has returned to coach them.

"This isn't what I was expecting but I'm excited to see how well we do this year," said Dobry, who is joined in the coaching ranks by Chuck Schwartz and Joyce Brandt. "Overall, we're greatly improved from last season, with fresh legs and talent that wasn't there before. Almost every player has shown improvement, which is just awesome. It's been a dramatic change."

Fatima was hampered by injuries and the team ended the season with an 8-0 loss to Knob Noster in the opening round of districts. That was after the 2020 season was canceled due to COVID.

"I couldn't be more proud of these girls for sticking with it all year," Dobry said at the end of last season. "When we lost Erika (Pope) to injury, our scoring options were limited but it was great to see the other girls step up. No one on this team gave up, even though deep down they knew we were going to have a rough time of it. They did the best they could and I will always admire them for that."

Coming into this year, Dobry said players are more balanced, with good chemistry. "They're doing everything more together, if that makes sense," said Dobry. "Our balance should be good for a positive result this year."

Dobry believes the Lady Comets will be competitive from the start and be in most games they play. "We have a tough

schedule but that will just make us stronger," he added. "I really believe that we'll be in a position to contend for a district title."

Toward that end, he said the team's goal is simply to control the game more than last year, which will require better passing and solid communication. "We don't have a big drop between our starters and bench players," he said. "When stronger players come out of the game for a rest, their replacements will step in and keep it going."

Fatima's lone senior is midfielder Emily Brandt, who is one of the team's captains.

"She won a starting role last year and did very well," said Dobry.

Schwartz added, "She passes the ball well and is one of our best possession players. She gives maximum effort from beginning to end."

Junior goalkeeper/forward Maci Kloepfel is the team's other captain and enters the year after a great surge last year. "She was our most versatile player," said Dobry. "She has incredible hustle and is super athletic. Maci is just a very gritty player that will do very well this year."

Juniors on the team this year are Megan Borgmeyer (MF), Zoe Rehagen (MF), Mary Schwartz (MF), Cami Wieberg (D), and Kendall Gerling (GK).

Coach Schwartz noted that Borgmeyer has a strong leg and a desire to get better. "She was a leader last year and will continue to lead this season," he added.

Rehagen is very talkative but needs to believe in herself, Schwartz said. "She has a lot of potential," he noted. "She needs to



PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

COACH CLINT Dobry, right, returns to coach the Lady Comets' soccer team this year and is joined by assistants Joyce Brandt and Chuck Schwartz.

play at 100 percent when she's on the field for us to be successful."

Mary Schwartz earned a starting role last year and will continue to be a force for the Lady Comets. "She's not afraid to bang with bigger, taller girls," said Coach Dobry. "Mary has good foot skills and rarely comes off the field. She puts everything into the game. She won a starting role as a

defender and she had a tough assignment but performed very well all year."

Wieberg, meanwhile, plays with a mission and works hard on defense, all with a smile. "She's a positive person and

See Fatima Soccer
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VanGerpen believes Comets baseball will be very competitive

Second-year Fatima baseball coach Tyler VanGerpen said that with five players returning with varsity experience, this season will be hard to predict in terms of overall success but he believes the Comets will be very competitive.

"It's not easy to lose eight seniors who really made my first year pretty comfortable," said VanGerpen. "Right now, there's a lot of trial and error but the kids know that, and they have embraced it. Our pitching depth is good but that means we'll be moving players around to cover open spots. A lot of them haven't played in those new positions much so there's a learning curve."

Overall, VanGerpen said the year will culminate in one of two ways. "This will either be a developmental year or we'll be contenders," he said. "It's too early to tell but I know these guys are working their butts off. Can the offense match what our pitchers are capable of doing? I believe it will, and our goal is to be gelling as a team in mid-April as we make our move toward the district tournament."

Fatima's returners have played the other Show-Me Conference teams so there's nothing really surprising in store. "They've seen us and know how we do things," VanGerpen said. "The second time around, pitchers will have to adjust more than they did last year, and we'll have to be active, putting the ball in play and making good decisions when we have base-runners. Overall, I'm excited about the season and to see what these guys can do."

Last year, Fatima finished 17-9 and lost in the Class 4, District 8 championship game to Blair Oaks in eight innings. The Falcons went on to finish second in Class 4 and will again be a tough opponent for the Comets, who will see Blair Oaks in the Class 4, District 8 tournament, along with Fulton, Mexico, and Southern Boone.

Varsity players include seniors Evan Kliethermes and Jonathan Dickneite, both of whom will only pitch, and Chase Plassmeyer (OF/C), Nate "Kevin" Lehmen (IB/P), Carson Schulte (OF/P), Warren Wilde (OF), and Joe Hoerschgen (OF).

VanGerpen is excited to see Kliethermes return to the mound. "He was a workhorse last year and I expect the same this spring," he said. "Evan has a lot of big-game experience and he's continuing what we built in 2021. He'll have to make a lot more adjustments since he's seen the conference batters already but I'm confident he can do that."

Last year, Kliethermes threw 45 innings in 10 games, earning a 5-2 record on the way. He allowed 23 earned runs on 46 hits, with 12 walks and 24 strikeouts, ending the season with an ERA of 3.578.

Dickneite will spend most of his time on the mound, coming off a year in which he threw 20.1 innings in seven games, during which he allowed 14 earned runs on 18 hits, with 12 walks and 12 strikeouts, ending with an ERA of 4.820.

"He'll be a steady part of our rotation," said VanGerpen. "Jonathan will see a lot of work as long as he's effective on the mound, and I think he will be."

Dickneite may see limited time in the outfield as well if the situation calls for it.

Plassmeyer was a solid hitter last year, going 13-44 with three doubles and a pair of triples to drive in eight and score 17, finishing with a BA of .295.

He's the only returning outfielder, moving from left to center this spring. "Chase will have a huge workload this year," said VanGerpen. "He'll have to

communicate with the other outfielders and take a leadership role while also being our backup catcher."

Lehmen played first base last year and will see time there again, along with innings on the mound. "Nate is throwing much better and more consistently," said VanGerpen. "He's a little delayed in practices because of the basketball team's success but he'll be fine. I look for him to come into games as a reliever a few times a week, and he may not get as many at-bats early in the year. We're going to focus on his pitching unless we have to move him around."

Last year, Lehmen mostly played JV but VanGerpen believes he's ready to move into a more substantive role.

Carson Schulte will roam the outfield. "We don't have a lot of depth out there, so we need Carson to step up and make plays," said VanGerpen. "We may also need him to pitch an inning or two a couple of times a week, so he'll have to be ready all the time for whatever we need. He may not start all the time, but he'll get time on the field throughout the season."

Wilde is entering the varsity level for the first time. "He has a lot to learn and he has to trust himself," said VanGerpen. "He'll begin to realize he can play at this level with confidence. He's been working very hard and I expect him to see the rewards of that effort."



PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

EVAN KLIETHERMES was Fatima's workhorse last year and will resume that role this season.

See Fatima Baseball
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PHOTOS BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

CALEIGH HUOT led the Lady Comets in scoring last season and is primed to pick up where she left off this spring. Above right, Emma Kleffner returns with a lot of experience to lead the throwing events.

Lady Comets loaded with sectional, state qualifiers

Fatima has several returners on this year's girls' track team, including junior state-qualifier Corinn Karst, who will again compete in the high jump and sprints, and junior Caleigh Huot, who qualified for sectionals in the 100m and 200m sprints as well as relays. She was last year's team in points.

Joining her in relays are sectional qualifiers — senior Alexandra Kliethermes, (sprints, relays), junior Rachel Woehr (relays, 400m), juniors Emma Bower and Sarah Groene (distance), and junior Samantha Bax (high jump) — and returners sophomore Lauren Berhorst (distance), who is coming off an All-State cross country season, and seniors Emma Kleffner and Victoria Nivens (throws), who bring a lot of experience and talent to the field.

"Overall I feel we are a very well-rounded team that should be able to score points across the board, we have some very good sprinters, distance runners, throwers, and jumpers," said Coach Marc Bridges. "Our large team should allow us to compete

well without overusing any individuals."

Other seniors are Elsie Bax and Sydney Falter (sprints, jumps), Erin Bock (pole vault), and Eliana Steinman (throws).

In the junior class, Bax will also run sprints and Vanessa Block will compete in the hurdle events.

Sophomores include Lucy Crede (triple jump, sprints), Miranda Gabelsberger and Kate Kampeter (throws), Breanna Rademan and Addyson Wilbers (distance), and Cheyenne Hicks and Ella Scheulen (sprints, jumps).

Freshmen are Jaiden Wieberg and Payton Wieberg (sprints, jumps), Claire Baumhoer, Mya Sankey, and Isabella Starke (throws), Vivian Bax (jumps, sprints), Megan Gabelsberger (sprints, throws), Lily Gregory (sprints, jumps), Leni Hemmel (pole vault, sprints), and Regan Bock (distance).

This year the Lady Comets have 32 athletes. Assistant coaches are Katie Hilkerbaumer, Kurt Strobe, James Vignola, and Levi Maxwell.

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Fatima's boys' track team has several returners

This year's Fatima boys track team has 29 members, including 10 seniors, four juniors, nine sophomores, and six freshmen.

Returning this season are sectional qualifiers sophomore Easton Haslag (sprints, javelin, mid-distance), sophomore Tyler Klooppel, junior Michael Klooppel, senior Gavin Satterfield, and senior Scott Sankey in the 4x800, and senior Isaac Falter and junior Curtis Falter, who will score well throughout the season in the throwing events, Coach Marc Bridges noted.

"Overall, we have a much-improved boys team over the last several seasons and I look forward to their progress," Bridges added.

Haslag and Sankey will also compete in sprints and mid-distance events, while M. Klooppel and Tyler Klooppel will battle in mid-distance and the pole vault, and Satterfield will also run mid-distance.

Other senior throwers are Collin Bridges, Jaden Broker, Jacob Buhr, Jackson Riegel, and Coy Starke, while Hunter Herzing will compete in the jumps, and Austin Kliethermes will battle in the sprints.

Juniors Jonathan Schulte and Chase Kremer will represent Fatima in sprints and jumps, while sophomores are Cody Berhorst, Cody Kampeter, and Harrison Stratman (distance), Ty Herzing (jumps), Teddy Holland (sprints, relays), and Eric Stegeman and Christian Stephens (sprints, jumps, relays), and freshman are Philip Welschmeyer and Trevor Herzing (throws), Jace Eisterhold (hurdles, jumps), Wyatt Gabelsberger (distance), Brady Hager (sprints, relays), and Tyler Koenigsfeld (sprints, jumps, relays).

"I am excited by several of our new runners this season, especially our new sprinters including, Tyler Koenigsfeld, Teddy Holland, Brady Hager, Jonathan Schulte," said Bridges. "All of these

sprinters show promise and will add a dimension to our boys' team that has been missing for the last few seasons."

Assistant coaches are Katie Hilkerbaumer, Kurt Strope, James Vignola, and Levi Maxwell.

PHOTOS BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

EASTON HASLAG, left, fires the javelin in last year's district meet and qualified for sectionals in that event, along with sprints and mid-distance. He will again be among Fatima's throwers. Gavin Satterfield, above, will run in relays and distance events.

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Fatima has completely new golfers, Kilgore optimistic

This year's Fatima golf team has no returners so Coach Scott Kilgore said competition among the 10 athletes will determine varsity status, and he expects it to fluctuate as the year progresses.

"They all have about the same skill level," said Kilgore. "They'll work every week to earn a spot on varsity and I can only take five to matches, so it will be interesting."

As of now, based on practices, Kilgore said his varsity five are senior Drew Ocheskey, and juniors Nate Brandt, Ty Fortson, Cooper Kleffner, and Dawson Rademan.

"All of these guys enjoy the game, which is a big element of golf," said Kilgore. "They are hitting pretty well but we could use some work on our short game, so the guys are spending time dialing in their chipping and putting."

Rounding out the team are sophomores Owen Scheulen and Simon Stuecken, and

freshmen Josh Plassmeyer, Austin Schenewerk, and Jonathan Block.

"A couple of these guys are on the bubble and could push for a varsity spot soon," said Kilgore. "They're all working hard, trying to find consistency. That's the key."

Moving forward, Kilgore said the goal is to place well in matches and end the year on a high note, preferably in a position to contend for a district title.

"We're going to shoot for that but with 10 brand-new golfers, it's hard to predict what will happen," he said. "We'll take it one day at a time and do the best we can."

Several players spent time during the summer playing golf so Kilgore is confident they are committed to improving. "There's always a benefit to playing a lot of golf when you plan to compete in high school," he said. "I'm looking forward to the season."



Fatima Golf Class 2 District 2

- * Belle * Bowling Green * Centralia * Clark County
- * Duchesne * Fatima * Hermann * Highland
- * Lutheran St. Charles * Missouri Military Academy
- * Monroe City * Montgomery County * North Callaway
- * Palmyra * South Callaway * South Shelby

** District host to be determined

NATE BRANDT finished the basketball season and turned his efforts toward golf for the first time, as have the other golfers out this spring. **PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON**



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PHOTOS BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

COACH CLINT Dobry talks to his players ahead of a recent practice. At right is Emily Brandt, who will again play in the midfield.

Fatima Soccer
From Page 14B

that keeps everyone going,” said Dobry.

Rounding out the junior class is Gerling, who never complains and is eager to do whatever it takes to help the team. “She will play anywhere we ask and that versatility is a benefit,” said Coach Schwartz.

Sophomores are Hannah Heisler (F), Chloe Adamson (MF/GK), Ava Laughlin (MF), Avery Brandt (F), Kaitlyn Plassmeyer (MF), Lydia Rehagen (D), Megan Kliethermes (MF), and Jeana Abbott (D).

Heisler hit a groove offensively near the end of last season as she moved to forward and finished as the team’s top scorer. “She’ll do very well this year,” said Dobry. “She had been injured too but she’s healthy now.”

Coach Schwartz added, “Hannah is an intelligent player and very competitive. She not only wants to be on the field, but she’s also a leader out there.”

Adamson is trying her hand in the goalie box this year while working in the field as well. “She has some nice moves in the box,” said Schwartz. “She’s a quick study and plays hard on defense. She’s not afraid to be physical with opponents.”

Laughlin is in her first year of soccer but is showing improvement. “She has soccer experience from her youth and she has great footwork,” said Dobry. “I expect her to be a starter by the end of the year. Her attitude is great but she’s a little quiet. She’s a nice addition to the team.”

Brandt works hard and is a leader. “The girls look to her for answers,” said Schwartz. “She will be a solid player this year.”

Dobry admitted he should have had Brandt on the field more last year. “She scored a goal off the bench, and I was slow to see her progress, but she’s a solid player who will be a big part of our team,” said Dobry.

KP is a firecracker, Dobry noted. “Her presence on the field will be instrumental to everything we do,” he said. “Her athletic talent and situational awareness are impressive, and we’ll lean on her all year.”

Schwartz added that when KP is on the field, her high energy fires up the others. “When she’s on the field, she wants to score and is willing to learn and get better,” he said.

Fatima’s defense is shored up by Rehagen, who never wants to leave the

action. “She found a place on defense and has excelled,” said Schwartz.

Last year, Rehagen was an offensive player who enjoyed tough, physical play.

Kliethermes and Abbott are first-year players but both hope to make an impact.

“Megan gives maximum effort and is willing to push and shove if need be,” said Schwartz. “Jeana works hard and wants to improve. She’s willing to listen, and she won’t shy away from contact.”

That leaves two freshmen on the Fatima squad.

Kristen Robertson is coming off a solid basketball season and will play on the offensive end of the field. “She is picking

up soccer very quickly,” said Dobry. “With her athletic ability and skill, she’s ready to get after it, and she’ll be a threat as the season progresses.”

The other is Isabella Schaben, a defender who is learning the ropes. “She’s pretty raw but I’m impressed with her willingness to do whatever needs to be done to get better, and she does it with a great attitude,” said Dobry. “She’ll probably be our most improved player this year.”

District assignments were released last week. Fatima will compete in Class 1, District 3 with Brentwood, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, and Valley Park.



Fatima Girls Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
3/18	Owensville (Owensville, MO)	Away	5:30 pm
3/22	Mexico HS (Mexico, MO)	Away	5:00 pm
3/24	Belle (Belle, MO)	Away	5:00 pm
3/25	Crocker (Crocker, MO)	Away	5:00 pm
3/29	Osage	Home	5:00 pm
3/31	Smithton (Smithton, MO)	Away	5:00 pm
4/4	St. Clair	Home	5:00 pm
4/5	Dixon (Dixon, MO)	Away	5:00 pm
4/7	Sullivan (Sullivan, MO)	Away	5:00 pm
4/11	St. James	Home	5:00 pm
4/12	Southern Boone (Ashland, MO)	Away	5:00 pm
4/14	Boonville (Boonville, MO)	Away	5:00 pm
4/18	Fulton	Home	5:00 pm
4/22-23	Fr. Tolton Tournament (Columbia, MO)	Away	
4/25-29	Owensville Tournament (Owensville, MO)	Away	
5/2	Stover	Home	5:00 pm
5/3	Moberly	Home	5:00 pm
5/10	Winfield (Winfield, MO)	Away	5:00 pm



PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

RACHEL WOHR will run sprints.

Fatima Track Class 3 District 5

- * Ava
- * Blair Oaks
- * Cuba
- * Fatima
- * Houston
- * Liberty (Mountain View)
- * Mountain Grove
- * Owensville
- * Salem
- * St. Clair
- * St. James
- * Willow Springs

** District host to be determined

Fatima HS Track Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Levels	Time
3/22	St. James (St James, MO)	Away	V	3:30 PM
3/25	Blair Oaks (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	V	
3/31	Linn (Linn, MO)	Away	V	
4/5	Rick Buersmeyer Invitational (Fatima) (Westphalia, MO)	Home	V	3:00 pm
4/12	South Callaway HS Invitational (Mokane, MO)	Neutral	V	
4/14	Owensville (Owensville, MO)	Away	V	
4/19	Osage Invite (Osage Beach, MO)	Away	V	4:00 pm
4/21	South Callaway JV Invitational (Mokane, MO)	Neutral	JV	
4/26	Hermann Invitational (Hermann, MO)	Away	V	4:00 pm
4/28	Linn (Linn, MO)	Away	V	3:15 PM
5/4	Smith-Cotton (Sedalia, MO)	Away	V	

Fatima JH Track Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Levels	Time
3/21	Linn (Linn, MO)	Away	8th, 7th	
3/24	Blair Oaks (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	8th, 7th	
3/29	Fatima JH Blue & Gold Relays (Westphalia, MO)	Home	JH	3:00 pm
4/11	South Callaway (Mokane, MO)	Away	8th, 7th	
4/11	South Callaway MS Invitational (Mokane, MO)	Neutral	JH	
4/18	Russellville (Russellville, MO)	Away	8th, 7th	
4/21	Linn (Linn, MO)	Away	8th, 7th	
4/29	Russellville (Russellville, MO)	Away	8th, 7th	3:15 PM

FJH track fields 3 returners

This season the Fatima JH track team enters the season with eight boys and four girls, including returners Kaedyn Rehagen, Heidi Struempf, and Ava Buhr.

"All three are looking forward to improving upon their successes from last season," said Coach Kurt Strope. "The rest of the group is new to Fatima JH track and are still trying to find their stride and see what they are capable of, and what they are good at. In the first couple of weeks, we have been working a little of everything to see where individuals fit best and trying to build our conditioning in the process."

Other eighth-graders on the boys' team include Couper Bryant and Cameron Woehr, and seventh-graders Mason Bock, Zack Eisterhold, Michael Gabelsberger, Brody Hoelscher, and Paden Luebbert.

Rounding out the girls' team is eighth-grader Sydney Scheppers, and seventh-grader Carly Nilges.

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Here's to a Great Spring Season!



PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

TY FORTSON watches his ball fly during a recent practice.

Fatima Golf Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Levels	Time
3/21	Father Tolton Regional Catholic (Columbia, MO)	Away	V	
3/23	Helias Catholic (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	JV	4:00 PM
» 3/28	» Linn	Home	V	
» 3/28	» Cuba	Home	V	
» 3/28	» Dixon	Home	V	
3/28	Linn Quad (Linn, MO)	Away	V	4:00 pm
3/30	Russellville	Neutral	V	
4/4	Osage Tourney (Osage Beach, MO)	Neutral	V	
4/5	California (California, MO)	Away	V	
4/6	Southern Boone	Neutral	V	4:00 PM
4/7	Eugene (Eugene, MO)	Away	V, JV	4:00 PM
4/13	Southern Boone (Ashland, MO)	Away	V	9:00 AM
4/20	Show Me Conference (Eugene, MO)	Away	V	
4/25	Jefferson City	Neutral	V	

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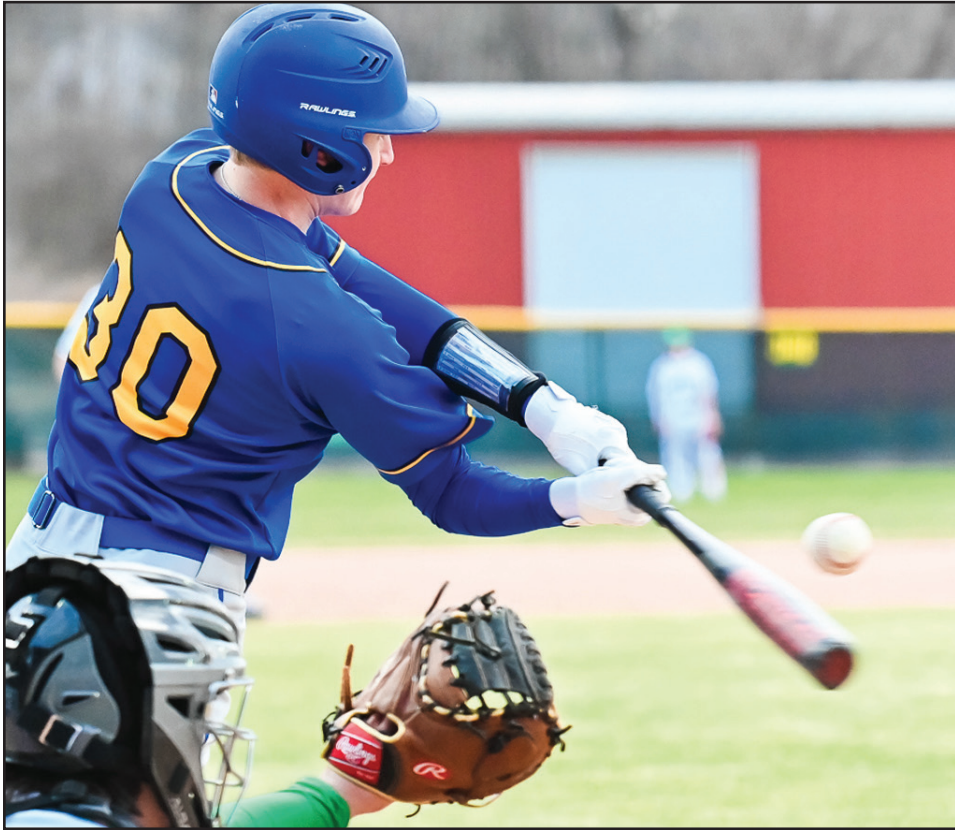
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PHOTOS BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

GLENN BERHORST, above, takes a swing in last week's Jefferson City Jamboree. At right, Jacob Schulte, Coach Tyler VanGerpen and Blake Gentges talk things over before the scrimmage against Blair Oaks. Below, Matt "Munchie" Robertson posts a double.



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Fatima Baseball
From Page 15B

Hoerschgen rounds out the senior class and while he's new to the varsity team, VanGerpen said he has already shown improvement. "We converted him to the outfield last year and he did well," the coach said. "He has a lot of things to learn but he's making good adjustments in practice."

Several juniors will see a lot of varsity time.

Blake Gentges is the only returning All-Conference player and will once again cover shortstop, along with some pitching. "Blake will be an effective pitcher for us," said VanGerpen. "He's solid and makes things happen whatever he's doing. Blake makes pitchers pitch and has great at-bats. He's a very competitive player and a leader on this team. I think he'll have a great year."

In 2021, Gentges went 28-77, with five doubles and a triple to drive in 10 runs while scoring 19, finishing .364 on the year.

On the mound, his time was limited, with eight innings over four games, with a 1-0 record and one save. He struck out five and allowed no earned runs on five hits.

Junior Max Buscher had the second-most number of innings last year, throwing 35.2 over 12 games, with a 3-2 record and one save as he gave up 10 earned runs on 23 hits, with six walks and an impressive 47 strikeouts. He had a team-best ERA of 1.963.

"Max has improved both in his pitching and hitting," said VanGerpen. "On the mound, I expect he'll continue to throw strikes and make batters put the ball in play. Offensively, he's a good contact hitter. Overall, he'll need to take on the responsibility of being a vocal leader."

Buscher hit .182 last year, with two doubles and nine RBI.

Junior Jacob Schulte got into the mix late last year, helping the team push for the district championship game. "Jacob had surgery in the off-season and is healthy and ready to go," said VanGerpen. "I look for him to start at first base but also to be a spark in the middle of the lineup. He was a DH last year and over the summer, picked up a lot of club experience with older

players that will be a great benefit to our team. He'll have a bigger role this year."

In the late part of the season last year, Schulte picked up three hits with an RBI and a run scored.

Another junior, Jack Robertson, is new to varsity and will serve as a utility player. "He's a very gifted athlete, very smart, and we'll use him somewhere on the infield for sure, depending on what we need," said VanGerpen. "He's a reliable player and understands the game no matter where he plays. Jack is a quick learner, and I am excited to see how he develops."

Sophomore Easton Stuckenschneider will play behind the plate. "He has a big hole to fill this year back there but he's very good and getting better," said VanGerpen, adding that Stuckenschneider is a natural catcher. "We need to fine-tune some things and I'm sure he'll be fine. He needs to trust his ability so he can play at the varsity pace. He's quiet but he will have to take on a leadership role with the older guys for us to

be successful. He'll be solid as we get to the end of the year."

VanGerpen said that JV and C players will be a good mix this year and will get a lot of time on the field. "This is a great year to be a freshman," he said. "They'll get a lot of reps at both levels, depending on how many C games we get in. This could be a great year for growth among the younger players."

Coaching JV is Tyler Plassmeyer, and the C coach is TJ Keilholz, with assistance from volunteer coach Steve Schnieders.

"These guys put in a lot of time and I'm glad they're with me," said VanGerpen. "We have good chemistry and everyone is on the same page. I'm looking forward to a great year with them."

JV and C players include junior Greyson Juergensmeyer (IF), sophomores Nolan Jaegers (OF), Graham Boeckmann (OF), Chase Willis (P/IF), Wyatt Reinkemeyer (IF), Conner Bax (P/IF), and David Stephan (P/IF), and freshmen are

Trevor Schulte (C/IF), Brody Troesser (P/IF), Logan Kliethermes (P/IF), Matt "Munchie" Robertson (P/OF), Cody Schwartze (OF), Landon Bassett (C), Brody Kleffner (P/IF), Sam Struemp (Utility), Isaac Luebbert (P/IF), Glenn Berhorst (P/IF), Brayden Bexten (P/IF), and Max Stuecken (P/IF).

Fatima Baseball Class 4 District 8

- * Blair Oaks * Fatima
- * Fulton * Mexico
- * Southern Boone

** District host to be determined

Fatima Varsity Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Levels	Time
3/19	Capital City High	Neutral	V	12:00 PM
3/19	Boonville (Boonville, MO)	Away	V	2:00 PM
3/21	Helias Catholic (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
3/22	Jefferson City	Home	Fr	5:00 PM
3/24	Fulton	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
3/25	Fulton (Fulton, MO)	Away	Fr	
» 3/26	» Logan-Rogersville	Neutral	V	
» 3/26	» Springfield Catholic	Neutral	V	
3/26	Springfield Catholic/Logan Rogersville/Fatima/Blair Oaks Double Headers (Springfield, MO)	Away	V	11:00 am
3/28	Southern Boone	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
3/28	Capital City High (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	Fr	5:00 PM
3/29	New Bloomfield (New Bloomfield, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/1	Eugene	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/4	St. Elizabeth (St. Elizabeth, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/4	Rock Bridge (Columbia, MO)	Away	Fr	5:00 PM
4/5	Battle (Columbia, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/7	Russellville	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/12	Hickman	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/14	Hallsville	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/14	Blair Oaks (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	So, Fr	5:00 PM
4/18	Capital City High (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	V, JV	
4/21	Blair Oaks (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/22-23	First State Community Bank Paul Dudley Memorial Wood Bat Tournament (Lebanon, MO)	Neutral	V	
4/22-23	Blair Oaks Freshmen Tournament (Wardsville, MO)	Away	Fr	
4/26	South Callaway (Mokane, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
4/28	Tuscumbia (Tuscumbia, MO)	Away	V	5:00 PM
4/28	Southern Boone	Home	Fr	5:00 PM
4/29	Linn (Linn, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM



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