

Warrenton baseball looking at three-peat in GAC North

By Scott Butler
CORRESPONDENT

Since the 2012-2013 school year, when the Gateway Athletic Conference went to three divisions, no high school in the GAC North has won conference in three straight seasons. The Warrenton baseball team has that opportunity in front of them this year.

However, Head Coach Eric Burle is worried that losing last year's season to COVID-19 could prove costly this year as well.

"The loss of last season makes it tough on a number of levels," Burle said. "You lose a season of play for a number of guys that may not play a lot of games with a summer team and the offseason becomes a bit out of whack and may impact opportunities you would typically have to get normal reps in."

Burle now has been positioned with a team that has low numbers throughout the program, many of which have not played at the varsity level.

"Losing last season is potentially putting a younger guy, or players

without a lot of varsity experience, in a huge role this season."

Returning to the varsity season from their sophomore year will be infielder Hunter Sherman and utility man Will Nordstrom. Every other player on the varsity roster this year will have no varsity experience.

"A lot of things will have to fall in to place to get a chance at a third conference championship in a row," Burle said. "We don't return much, if any, varsity experience on the mound so it may take a few weeks to figure out the guys that can fill the strike zone and give our defense a chance to make some plays."

Sherman, a Jefferson College signee, returns for his senior year after posting a .241 batting average his sophomore season. He will also look to eat some innings in the closer's role this coming season. As a sophomore, he led the team in appearances on the mound, throwing 22 innings and collecting a save as well.

Nordstrom will look for a strong senior year, both at the plate and on the

mound. He will look to build on his .372 on-base percentage he posted in his sophomore season.

"Will Nordstrom and Hunter Sherman come with the most varsity experience," Burle said. "Will is capable of playing a number of positions while we look for Hunter to bring some leadership to a possibly young infield."

The rest of the varsity fills out with four other seniors, one junior, two sophomores and five freshmen. Sherman and Nordstrom's fellow classmates are Colton Dyche (C), Gable Fowler (P/2B), Tyler Gehrs (P/OF), and Paul Clancy (P). The lone junior is Dylan Beck (P/IF/OF), while the two sophomores are Kannon Hibbs (P/IF) and Bailey Meyer (P/1B/OF).

The five freshmen are Troy Anderson (P/IF/OF), Caleb Clark (P/IF), Joe Goldsmith (OF/IF), Tyler Oliver (P/1B), and Ben Peth (P/OF/IF).

After a 7-1 conference season in 2018 and a 6-2 conference record season in 2019, the Warriors have a chance to make GAC North history by be-



WARRENTON BASEBALL — Members of the Warrenton baseball team are, front row from left, Gavin Wright, Ben Peth, Hunter Sherman, Colton Dyche, Gable Fowler, Caleb Clark and Troy Anderson. Back row, from left, are Bailey Meyer, Will Nordstrom, Dylan Beck, Tyler Oliver, Joe Goldsmith, Kannon Hibbs and Paul Clancy. Tim Schmidt photo.

coming the first team to win three straight conference titles.

As much as any coach wants to win a conference title, Burle's mindset is about playing good baseball, no matter the outcome.

"If we are playing our best baseball in May that is our ultimate goal," Burle said. "If we can compete in conference

and put ourselves in position to do good things there that would be a plus."

The Warriors opened up their season Saturday against Fort Zumwalt East in the annual St. Charles West Tournament. After a back and forth battle all game, the Warriors fell 12-11.

"This may be cliché but the team has to focus on

the process; with the possibility of being a young team it can be tough to ignore the outcomes," Burle said. "Win or lose, the mindset has to be on the process of taking something away from games and practices; the next play mentality and controlling the things you can control will be huge with this group."

Trio of top performers are back for Warrenton girls soccer

By Jeff Stahlhut
CORRESPONDENT

It's no exact science to know just how much a team might be ready to improve from one season to another, and the ability to know where a team stands after missing the entire previous season makes that task even more difficult.

Such is the case with the Warrenton girls soccer team, as head coach Amy Wargowsky will look to a group of returners that were only freshmen and sophomores the last time they played competitively for the program.

"Unfortunately there are no statistics from last season because COVID canceled it," said Wargowsky. "The previous year, our record was 9-13 and we are always looking to im-

prove."

Among those who will be heavily relied on are seniors Maddie Lombardo, junior Bella Roberts and junior Emma Lange, who Wargowsky referred to as her top performers.

"Maddie had 49 goals for us in her first two seasons, Bella scored 22 goals for us as a freshman, and Emma is one of our defensive leaders."

It is this group that the Warriors will look to as leaders, as they will be asked to help usher in several newcomers to the team.

"I expect to see great things starting in the back with Emma and going through the middle to our newcomers, freshmen Camryn Petersmeyer and sophomore Coryn Higby up to our two forwards, Maddie and Bella," War-

gowsky said. "Emma has great vision of the field and Maddie and Bella know where to be and what runs to make so that Camryn and Coryn can mount the attack. Our defense also has sophomore Megyn Young helping to anchor the back line."

Despite quite a few question marks, Wargowsky expects her team to go out and compete every night.

"We expect to be better every game and be able to say we gave our best," she said.

The Warriors were scheduled to open the season last weekend in the Warrenton Tournament, followed by a contest on Tuesday, March 23, at home against Hannibal. The team is next scheduled to travel to Mexico for a 5:30 p.m. start on Thursday, March 25.



WARRENTON GIRLS SOCCER — Members of the Warrenton girls soccer team are, front row from left, Camryn Petersmeyer, Kylie Overkamp, Coryn Higby, Matti Halter, Danielle Perry, Ashlynn Reeves and Bayley Pelker. Back row, from left, are Emma Lange, Grace Wenzel, Megyn Young, Evie Rhama, Olivia Morgan, Emily Beumel, Madilynn Lombardo and Bella Roberts. Tim Schmidt photo.

Brosenne returns to lead Warriors

By Jeff Stahlhut
CORRESPONDENT

As the Warrenton golf team prepares to tee off, head coach Aaron Jinkerson has a mix of returning golfers along with some newcomers that he expects to lead the team this year.

Among those set to have a big year are senior Shane Brosenne, who Jinkerson believes is ready to take the next step.

"Shane has worked really hard since his freshman year to make his senior year a memorable one," Jinkerson said. "His ability on the golf course will take him as far as he wants. He has his sights set on qualifying for the state golf tournament after experiencing the tournament as a fan his sophomore year."

Also coming back this season is junior Gabe Frederick, who is also expected to be a key contributor to the team.

"Gabe will be my No. 2 player on varsity and has also dedicated himself to improve his golf game," said Jinkerson. "Not having a season last year didn't stop Gabe from improving his golf skills."

Senior Andrew Cox, who is a newcomer to the team this year, is set to be a key man on the team.

"Andrew is very coachable and wants to be a positive member of the team," said Jinkerson. "He will most likely be my No. 3 on varsity."

Also coming out for the team and competing for spots on the varsity squad are freshman Owen

Thompson, junior Josiah Hodgson, and senior Cameron Hart. Overall, the Warriors are looking to have a season during which everyone improves and learns to compete.

"Big picture, my expectations for this year are to improve every golfer on course experience and knowledge of the game," said Jinkerson. "Our team is very inexperienced from the standpoint of playing in a match and I really would like them to get comfortable in a competition-type setting."

There are some golfers with an opportunity to make themselves known as the season progresses.

"Individually, I expect Shane Brosenne to compete for GAC North player of the year honors and ful-



WARRENTON GOLF — Members of the Warrenton golf team are, front row from left, Ivan Vincent, Owen Thompson, Josiah Hodgson, Peyton Nelson, Luke Rausch, Ethan King and Parker Sherman. Back row, from left, are Deacon Forrest, Gabe Frederick, Shane Brosenne, Andrew Cox, Grant Buechner, Cameron Hart and Maison Rader. Adam Rollins photo.

fill his goal of qualifying for the state golf tournament," said Jinkerson. "Also, Gabe Frederick can gain valuable experience as our varsity No. 2 to prepare

him for his senior year next year. Gabe has the potential to earn all conference honors as well."

The Warriors were scheduled to open the sea-

son at home on Wednesday, March 24, against Zumwalt East, and will compete in the Bogey Hills Invitational on Monday, March 29.

The MISSOURI BANK

104 N HWY 47
WARRENTON
636-456-3441

MEMBER FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

**Sports are difficult...
Banking with TMB is easy!**

WARRENTON | WENTZVILLE | FORISTELL | HERMANN
SEDALIA | SMITHTON | COLUMBIA N | COLUMBIA S

WWW.THEMISSOURIBANK.COM

The Missouri Bank supports all local sports teams!

Wright City baseball looking to repeat as EMO champs

By Scott Butler
CORRESPONDENT

When talking about the baseball program around the campus at Wright City High School, the expectations were set pretty high going into the 2020 season. However, nobody saw an international pandemic coming.

"The loss of last year's season hurts not only our program but all programs across the nation," Head Coach Ryan Raterman said. "In my opinion, the biggest loss the kids had from last season is the development aspect of becoming better future husbands, fathers, and community members."

However, looking at the baseball side of things, Raterman believed the 2020 team had a legitimate chance of doing something special.

"In 2019 we won conference, in 2020 we were

looking forward to defending the title and I believe we had the team to do so," Raterman said. "Now, in 2021, our mindset has not changed we know we have a target on our back."

The Wildcats bring back four players that played significant roles in the 2019 squad that won the EMO conference. Senior Sam Utterreiner and juniors Ian Wolff, Kyle Johnson and Logan Kellner will bring the leadership qualities needed in order to repeat as champs.

"We will look to them for their game day experience," Raterman said. "But we are excited for new names and faces to make their mark this season."

Johnson will look to continue to lead the team at the plate after a solid .347 average as a freshman in 2019. Wolff also posted a .318 average.

Kellner will look to lead the pitching staff af-



WRIGHT CITY BASEBALL — Members of the Wright City baseball team are, front row from left, Braxton Loeffler, Zachary Rodriguez, Hayden Kendall, Draiden Edwards, Devin Foust, Blaine Niemann, Bryce Williams, Jack Goughenour, Nicholas Moore, Christopher Russell and Justin Jones. Back row, from left, are Zach Shields, Andrew Grove, Hayden Waters, Ian Wolff, Evan Gambill, Chase Brakensiek, Kyle Johnson, Sam Unterreiner, Trey Brakensiek, Logan Kellner, Mason Kunkel, Jake Smith and Jake Mitts.
Bill Barrett photo.

ter his stellar freshman campaign from 2019, going 3-0 with a 2.33 ERA. Utterreiner will look to compile some innings on the hill as well.

Winning another conference championship is a goal for the Wildcat

program, but that is not how Raterman views the success of this team.

"A successful season for us this year would include a winning season, staying safe and healthy, developing our athletes into better human beings

and baseball players and 10-plus hours of community service as a team," Raterman said. "It's going to take a village to be a successful program."

The Wildcats opened their season playing against three top 10

large schools in Missouri. After falling on Friday to Francis Howell, Wright City played in a doubleheader on Saturday, losing to Rockwood Summit and tying, due to the time limit, with Wentzville Liberty.

Wright City girls soccer to lean on Kendall's scoring prowess

By Jeff Stahlhut
CORRESPONDENT

In 2019, the Wright City Wildcats girls soccer team reached the district finals before seeing the season come to an end.

With no 2020 season due to COVID-19, head coach Devin Raney knows that his team will rely heavily on several players without a lot of varsity experience in 2021 if they plan to improve on what they previously accomplished.

"Hannah Kendall is now a junior, and she is a top goal scorer," he said. "She scored 19 goals in her first season and we hope she continues to improve. She's a striker through and through, a natural goal scorer. We will put her up front and let her run."

Another key player for the Wildcats will be se-

nior Alexis Bales, who missed the 2019 season after tearing her ACL in the first game of the year.

"She's a utility player — a great player who is able to score — but can also control the field from a defensive position," said Raney. "She's one of the more skilled players on the team this year."

Junior Ellie Rodriguez will be another member of the team playing in multiple spots.

"She's a center-mid right now, but we can move her up and down," said Raney. "She is one that never gets tired. She's a wrecking ball and was instrumental on a lot of Hannah's goals two years ago."

Senior captain A'merie Henke, also a center-mid, is among the group that Raney will look to as a leader on a team that will

also feature freshman Lynnsey Grunzinger, who Raney expects to help control the ball and pace of play as she will likely see time up and down the lineup.

Another senior, Evelyn Bruno, will step in to help quarterback the defense in her first year on the team after being a part of cross country in years past.

"She's going to be controlling the backfield," said Raney. "She will be at the stopper sweeper position."

Overall, the Wildcats are well-set to have a strong season.

"We lost a lot of senior starters two years ago, but I think we are hopeful with who we have that we can produce a lot of offense," said Raney. "Our goal is to make the state tournament and that's very possible with the group we have. From what I have seen, that's well within the possibility. That's where we set our mark — to go as deep into the Class 2 state tournament as we can."



WRIGHT CITY GIRLS SOCCER — Members of the Wright City girls soccer team are, front row from left, Alexis Donnelly, Kailin Hawn, Hannah Kendall, Areona Hogan, Amerie Henke, Lynnsey Grunzinger, McKenzie Davis and Ellie Rodriguez. Back row, from left, are Marina Hernandez, Alex Sutton, Liliana Serrano, Alexis Bales, Cassie Reash, Lauren Brookman, Evelyn Bruno, Abby Unterreiner, Kenley Kirk, Stephanie Nunez-Cruz and Zoe Hill.
Bill Barrett photo.

SCHRAER Player of the Week



JASMIN SIMPSON
Wright City • Sophomore



Basketball

Schraer Heating & Air Conditioning
504 W. Booneslick • Warrenton, MO 63383
636.456.5041
service@usmo.com info@schraerheating.com
Find us on Facebook at schraerheatingandac




Turn to the experts
573-564-3020

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR LOCAL SPORTS TEAMS!

- 30 Years in Business
- Trained Professional Technicians
- Specializing in Residential Replacements
- We Service All Makes & Models

1230 AGUILAR DRIVE, MONTGOMERY CITY



Keep an Eye on What's
Happening Locally!

warren county
record MOBILE



Best Wishes to All of Our Local Sports Teams!

Contact Us Today To Reserve Your Storage Space!
(636) 251-4111
katie@truesdalestorage.com
www.truesdalestorage.com
200 Pinckney St. Truesdale, MO 63380



Trusted Choice

INSURANCE - BONDS



Proud Supporter of Our Local Athletes and Their Quest for Success

Montgomery City
(573) 564-2237

Warrenton
(636) 456-8633

Insuring Missouri Since 1935

www.scottagencyins.com

Good Luck to All the Spring Sports Teams!



Collision & Custom

Scott & Meredith Hart
Office **636-377-1665**
Cell **636-359-5665**
1302 E. Veterans Memorial Pkwy.
Truesdale, MO 63380
hartcollisionandcustom@gmail.com
@HartCollisionandCustom



WRIGHT CITY BOYS TRACK — Members of the Wright City boys track team are, front row from left, Dustin Hart, Anthony Williams, Lance Glascock, Mitchell Schubert, Henry Pohl, David Riggs, Etienne Muller-Williams and Jacob Ritter. Back row, from left, are Jackson Mazella, Florian Muller-Williams, Martino Wray, Demelrize Lenoir, Joseph DeAnog, Noah Lamb, Dylan Hickman, Devin Myers, Dominic LeNoir and Damien Barfield.

Bill Barrett photo.



WRIGHT CITY GIRLS TRACK — Members of the Wright City girls track team are, front row from left, Tristyn Moore, Nicole Lotspeich, Clara Gouge, Teagen Riley, Ashley Miller, and Marissa Pohl. Back row, from left, are Zoe Riggs, Kobie Griffitt, Lizzie Riggs, Kaedyn Johnson, Taliyah Felton, Tabitha Hoering and MacKenzie Franklin.

Bill Barrett photo.

Young Wright City track team led by five varsity returners

By Jeff Stahlhut
CORRESPONDENT

Heading into the 2020 season, the Wright City track team was set to have a very strong year, but that was all washed away when COVID-19 canceled the entire season.

Now, in 2021, coach Fred Ross and the Wildcats will look forward and seek success with the five members of the varsity team that were around two years ago.

"We had 16 seniors on last year's team and were very ex-

cited about our chances in breaking four to five records and scoring very well in most of our meets," said Ross. "Unfortunately for that senior class the season was canceled."

Now for 2021, those five returning varsity athletes will be looked upon to lead the way. Included in that group are sprinter and high jumper Dalton Wiser (senior), Florian Muller-Williams, who will run the 800, 1,600, and 3,200 (senior), and senior thrower Dominic LeNoir. Junior Jackson Mazella will run the 400,

800, and 1,600, and junior Daniel McGowen will run the 3,200.

"Dalton Wiser and Florian Muller-Williams have been our leaders to start this season off," said Ross. "They have been teaching and helping our other track team members to learn our daily activities and practice techniques."

Meanwhile, some younger members of the team are looking to be difference makers right out of the gate.

"We have a few newcomers that we feel can have an im-

mediate impact for our team this year," Ross said. "Junior Zoe Riggs, who finished 17th in the state in cross country this year should do very well in the distance events. Sophomores Joseph DeAnda will run the 400, and 800, while Taliyah Felton will do sprints and hurdles. David Riggs will compete in the 400, 800, and pole vault. Freshman Elizabeth Riggs will run relays, the 200, 400, and 800, Tristyn Moore will do sprints, Kaedyn Johnson will run distance, and Mason Newcomb and Devin Meyers will do

jumps and sprints."

Ross believes that as the season progresses, the Wildcats will continue to show improvement.

"We are a really young team with very little experience. We expect our athletes to work hard and improve throughout the year," he said. "As a team, we really focus on bettering our PR's (personal records) at each meet we compete in. Hopefully by the end of the year we have some individuals who can compete for some conference, district, and state medals."



WARRENTON BOYS TRACK — Members of the Warrenton boys track team are, front row from left, Nick Mertens, Bryce Reeves, Michael Teroy, Wyatt Claiborne, Zach Bristol and Ian Vacek. Back row, from left, are Will Reel, Kolby Meine, Gavin Starks, Gus Klaustermeier, Thomas Hale, Phillip Kackley, Gage Thomas, Kevin Jaseckas and Braedyn Weeke.

Tim Schmidt photo.



WARRENTON GIRLS TRACK — Members of the Warrenton girls track team are, front row from left, Dana Pruitt, Maddie Marschel, Elizabeth James, Mitzi Hernandez, Bailey Schneider and Rachel McChristy. Back row, from left, are Margaret Davis, Alex Obenauer, Emma Lewis, Grace Bostic, Audrey Shaw, Dacey Woodruff, Loren Howard and Ghini DeHart.

Tim Schmidt photo.

Warrenton track team undergoes makeover, ready to compete

By Jeff Stahlhut
CORRESPONDENT

After losing two years' worth of athletes — one due to natural attrition and the other due to losing an entire season to COVID-19 — the Warrenton track team still has a strong roster of returning competitors who are looking to make a mark in the 2021 season.

Steve McDowell, boys head coach, recognizes that there is a lot of talent on his team.

"We will be a young, but talented team this year," he said. "We have 18 boys competing for track. We lost a lot of seniors from last year, even though they didn't have the opportunity to compete."

Among those returning from two seasons ago are senior Nick

Mertens (110 and 330 meter hurdles), senior Jacob Parker (100 and long jump), junior Kolby Meine (triple jump and javelin), junior Joseph Evans (400 and javelin), senior Gus Klaustermeier (1,600 and 3,200), and senior Braedyn Weeke (shot put/discus).

New to the team this season will be freshman Wyatt Claiborne (distance), freshman Phillip Kackley (distance), and sophomore Zach Bristol (sprints).

The best way to know what to expect, according to the coach, is to just get out there and start competing.

"Being able to get back on the track and compete is huge," said McDowell. "The early meets will help gauge us for the rest of the season."

For the Warrenton girls team, Head Coach Steve Wurtzel faces the same obstacles as do most coaches — uncertainty.

"It's quite a turnover to be honest," said Wurtzel. "We used to have a lot of depth, and this year there's a lot of new changes. Track can sometimes get lost in the shuffle being in the spring. Kids find a lot of opportunities to get involved, but we have some returners."

Included in that group are seniors Grace Bostic, Cassidy Haller, Emma Lewis, and Audrey Shaw. Wurtzel is anxious to see what that group can contribute after missing all of last season, as well as senior Dacey Woodruff, who is running track for the first time, and Ghini DeHart, who ran in middle

school but not yet at the high school level.

"I'm excited for Audrey to come back pain free after knee surgery," said Wurtzel. "Cassidy should be a good javelin thrower for us. She also had an ACL injury last year. And Emma and Grace both had outstanding freshman years."

Other key contributors this season will include sophomore thrower Maggie Davis, freshman thrower Rachel McChristy, sophomore thrower Alexis Obenauer, junior javelin thrower and pole vaulter Dana Pruitt, sophomore distance runner Maddie Marschel, sophomore distance runner Loren Howard sophomore, sophomore thrower Zoe Klaus, freshman sprinter Bailey Schneider, freshman Eliza-

beth James, freshman distance runner Brianna Grooms, and freshman sprinter Mitzi Hernandez. Two foreign exchange students, sophomore sprinter Veronica Besser and junior sprinter and jumper Antonia Bickel, also are on the team.

"The most important thing for us is to set a standard and try to find out where you are and try to get better than that," Wurtzel said. "You want to set personal records, make improvements, and work hard in practice. You will see progress because of that hard work."

The Warriors were scheduled to open the season on Tuesday, March 23, at Montgomery County and will next compete at Wright City on Thursday, April 1, starting at 3:30 p.m.

GOOD LUCK ON A WINNING SEASON!

THE SPOT BARBERSHOP
JUST FOR GUYS

Call or Book On-Line:
636-377-1837

705 E. Veterans Memorial Parkway
Warrenton, MO 63383

Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/thespotbarbershop636

thespotbarbershop.com

NORTHWIND SELF-STORAGE

Northwind Self-Storage wishes our local high schools a fun & winning sports season!

28300 North Wind Drive- Office/Site #1
16341 N Outer Rd. Site #2 • Wright City, MO 63390

636-279-0771
northwindstorage@yahoo.com
www.northwindselfstorage.com

**USED CARS
UTV SALES
AUTO REPAIR**

**636
377-4343**

McROBERTS MOTORS

**LOVES OUR LOCAL SPORTS TEAMS!
WISHING YOU THE BEST OF LUCK THIS SEASON!**

Liberty Christian baseball eager to retake the diamond

By Derrick Forsythe
CORRESPONDENT

This spring will be devoted to the development of a young cast of players, according to Liberty Christian Baseball Coach Bill Ball. With just two seniors on board, the Eagles will look to quickly integrate promising underclassmen to fill the roster.

"It's definitely a rebuilding year for us," said Ball. "We've always been really competitive. We're down this year, because we've lost some strong guys. We've got a lot of young guys coming up who've been waiting in the wings."

The Eagles are also coming off a 2020 season that never came to fruition, after being abruptly cancelled due to COVID-19. This campaign will be particularly memorable for seniors Brayden Wilmsmeyer and Josh Dames.

"We're going to rely heavily on those guys," said Ball.

Dames has spent much of his career as catcher but will be expected to contribute on the mound this spring.

"He's a right-hander that throws pretty hard and can rely on his fast ball and mix in a change up. He locates the ball well and is a strong competitor."

Dames will hit fourth in the batting lineup.

"He has hit clean up for us the last three years and absolutely tears the cover off the ball," said Ball.

Wilmsmeyer will play centerfield and bat in the seventh spot.

"He's got a strong arm and is a really fast kid," noted Ball.

Adding depth to the pitching staff will be junior Caleb Schneider and senior Jeremiah Fox. Schneider, who will rotate at shortstop, will use his speed as the lead-off batter.

Rounding out the batting order will be freshman Jack Duval in the second spot, followed by Fox, sophomore Zack

Dames fifth, sophomore Mike Colbert, Wilmsmeyer, junior James Shemin and seventh-grader Willie Mueller.

"We're going to be pretty strong one through six," said Ball. "We're going to rely heavily on guys coming up who have had some big hits for us in the past. They're working hard and learning. It's going to be interesting to see how we come together."

Colbert will be moving into the catcher role vacated by Dames.

Zack Dames will play second base, while Duval will serve as third baseman.

The outfield will be secured by Shemin in left field and Mueller in right field.

"It's going to be a pretty young group in the corners," said Ball.

Liberty Christian is hopeful to get in between 22 and 28 games, but faces the challenge of sharing a home field with Warrenton High School and working around a



LIBERTY CHRISTIAN BASEBALL — Members of the Liberty Christian baseball team are pictured, front row from left, Caleb Schneider, Zack Dames, Michael Colbert, Willie Mueller, Landon McCarthy and Julius Aman. Back row, from left, Jeremiah Fox, Josh Dames, James Shemin, Brayden Wilmsmeyer and Liam McCarthy. Not pictured is Jack Duval.

Derrick Forsythe photo.

rainy season.

"Our preseason expectation is that we know we're going to develop some kids into the regular season," said Ball. "Our focus is not so much on the record as it

is developing and being competitive as we can be when go to the state tournament."

Ball is anticipating Christian Fellowship, Maryville Christian, Plaza Heights and Westwood

to present the toughest challenges on the schedule.

"We feel confident we can improve and will go into state with the expectation of winning it all," said Ball.

LCA soccer starts year four

By Derrick Forsythe
CORRESPONDENT

It's been four years since the inception of the girls soccer program at Liberty Christian. Yet the Eagles are preparing to play just their third season, reeling from the loss of four seniors that graduated without a farewell campaign.

On the verge of its first matchup last spring, Liberty Christian found its entire season disrupted by COVID-19 and the cancelling of school.

"We really missed out on what could have been a very entertaining season," said Coach Nathan Essary. "Last year we had 22 girls show up for tryouts, and this year we struggled to field 16. We just don't have the depth on the bench, age or experience

that we did last year."

This year the program does not have a single senior, leaving many unknowns across a variety of positions.

"We're in a very unique spot, because we lost four experienced players last year and didn't get a chance to truly see what this group of girls could do," said Essary.

The Eagles return strength at goalie with junior Gracie Foran guarding the nets.

"She's been playing that role for us since eighth grade and is really a force for us," said Essary. "She wants to play Division 1, and I think she's talented enough."

Junior Adison Roden returns as starting sweeper.

"She's our main defender who runs the en-

tire backfield for us," said Essary.

Sophomore Kylee Ball is also coming back as a starter in the midfield position.

Additionally, sophomore Joy Kassebaum will start at defender.

Other starters include sophomores Alyssa Schneider and Shay Vestal at midfielder, along with junior defender Claudia Sarber.

"Our main strengths are going to lie in our defense and midfield," said Essary. "I think we're going to really be able to push the ball up into the other end of the field and force opposing defenses to work."

Liberty Christian has to travel extensively for its contest, given that many of the schools in the Metro Athletic Conference do



LIBERTY CHRISTIAN SOCCER — Members of the Liberty Christian soccer team are, front row from left, Abbi Hoff, Lauren Moss, Rebecca Aman, Joy Kassebaum, Alyssa Schneider, Raelee Bruno and Anna Meyer. Back row, from left, Head Coach Nathan Essary, Maddy Janes, Kylee Ball, Jean Johnson, Gracie Foran, Lydia Shemin, Jubilee Nowlan and Assistant Coach Zach Banze. Not pictured are Adison Roden, Shay Vestal, Allie Brazier and Claudia Sarber.

Derrick Forsythe photo.

not have soccer programs. The Eagles schedule ranges from matchups in Poplar Bluff to Kansas City, as they also compete against

MHSAA schools.

"We would like to get them in some college showcases as well," added Essary. "If we can fin-

ish 70 percent or above, I'll be happy. I feel like there's a chance we can finish first or second in the state tournament."

Dunning is lone returning senior for Wright City

By Jeff Stahlhut
CORRESPONDENT

While the 2020 season was a washout across the board, some teams were impacted in bigger ways than others. And while teams across the area find that they are in some cases looking to athletes who may have been in seventh grade the last time they played, being able to predict what 2021 might look like can be a daunting task.

Such is the case for the Wright City boys golf team,

as head coach Bill Schaffer doesn't have a lot to go on with just one returning senior.

"With not having a season at all last year, there really isn't a lot to tell," he said. "The only returning member is Matt Dunning, a senior who was a sectional qualifier two years ago."

So it is Dunning who will be the focus — at least initially — for the Wildcats.

"He will be the core of the team and has already shown a lot in his leadership of a team of mostly freshmen," Schaffer

said. "At the moment, we have five players, one of whom is quarantined until after spring break."

When coaches are faced with such uncertainty, they often look to find the bright side of things — which is exactly what Schaffer is doing with a team full of greenhorns.

"We have a really good group of kids with a good attitude," he said. "They are all listening, just very inexperienced. With all of the rain early on, we missed a good deal of practice."



WRIGHT CITY GOLF — Members of the Wright City golf team are, from left, Mikey Bridges, Joseph Harris, Matthew Dunning and Aiden O'Donnell.

Bill Barrett photo.

The NEWS SOURCE

Warren County depends on!

- NEWS • SPORTS • OBITUARIES
- EMPLOYMENT • E-EDITION • CLASSIFIEDS
- PHOTO GALLERIES AND MORE

warrencountyrecord.com