

Wright City continues pursuit of district title

By John Rohlff
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wright City baseball team is ready to make another run at a district title.

The Wildcats return a strong nucleus from last season's team that won a pair of games in the district tournament before falling to St. Charles West on a walkoff home run in the district championship game. Wright City's seven returning seniors have been to the district championship game their only two seasons of high school baseball.

"They've been there twice. Just haven't done that yet," Wright City baseball coach Ryan Raterman said. "After being there twice, hopefully the jitters are gone and we can. I'd like to think we can get back there again and give ourselves a chance again."

Wright City is led by all-state players Hayden Waters and Duan McRoberts. A senior, Waters returns as the Wildcats' top pitcher. He also started in the outfield when he was not on the mound and hit in the middle of Wright City's lineup. A sophomore, McRoberts hit in the leadoff spot for the Wildcats for the majority of last season. He started in the outfield for Wright City.

The Wildcats return a bevy of regular starters from last year's squad. Additionally, Jake Orf is expected to take over a starting role for the Wildcats after seeing increased playing time late last season as a freshman. Orf hit the game-tying double with two outs in the seventh inning in last year's district championship game.

With the loss of a couple big bats from last year's team, Raterman anticipates the Wildcats will use their speed even more this season. They are faster as a team this season.

"It's no secret that we play a unique style," Raterman said. "And people are going to know that but I don't think that's going to matter because of our team speed. It's even more of an emphasis now so we're going to be even better at it than prior years I would say."

Like many spring sports teams, the Wildcats had to deal with difficult weather conditions early in the season. As of last Thursday, the Wildcats only had four outdoor practices due to weather conditions. This included one practice the Wildcats were only able to play catch outdoors. They did not get much field time as a result prior to last week's Jamboree and season opening games. Raterman did say he thought the Wildcats were ahead in their X's and O's, specifically with how they want to run their offense and their bunt coverages.

Raterman thinks the Wildcats have a good chance to have a successful season and finish the season over the .500 mark. Their expectation is to get back to the district championship game and give themselves a chance to win the district title.

"Pitching and defense has been a focus of ours," Raterman said. "Our guys probably wish that they hit more but I think that getting over the hump, it's in every sport. Defense wins championships. And so does pitching. We've got to pitch it and play defense."



Members of the Wright City baseball team are, front row, from left: Braxton Loeffler, Blaine Niemann, Trey Brakensiek, Devin Foust, Hayden Waters, Nick Moore, Jake Mitts. Second row, left to right: Zach Rodriguez, Jack Goughenour, Bryce Williams.

Third row, left to right: Lukas Lee, Easton Rohr, Micah Boeckman, Caden Crump, Duan McRoberts, Jake Orf, Drew Elsenrath.

Back row, left to right: Logan Rose, Christian Schutte, Ha-keem Dowdy. John Rohlff photo.

Wright City split a pair of games at the Jamboree. They beat Orchard Farm 17-1 and fell to Sullivan 5-2 despite playing a lineup mixed of varsity and junior varsity players. They dropped a pair of games to St. Francis Borgia to start the regular season.

Wildcats look to build on track success

By John Rohlff
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wright City track and field teams return a host of key contributors and a strong number of newcomers as they look to build on last season's success.

The Wright City track and field teams return multiple conference champions and state medalist Elizabeth Riggs from last year's squad. Wright City's roster size increased to 54 this year. They had around 42 athletes on the roster last season.

"We're a little bit bigger, which is good," Wright City track and field coach Fred Ross said. "The majority of the kids have been working really hard. We lost a couple kids like you do the first couple weeks of practice. But usually, after you make it through the first two weeks of conditioning, they figure out they're going to stick it out."

Wright City brings back conference champions on both the boys and girls teams this season. Riggs placed second in the 300-meter hurdle competition at the Class 3 state track meet last season. She also won the event at the Eastern Missouri Conference meet. Riggs teamed up with Hailey Henson, Lindsay Pettus and Lydia Clubb to win 4x400-meter relay at the Eastern Missouri Conference meet. Pettus and Clubb return to the team this season.

With no seniors on the girls track team, Ross is counting on Riggs and other juniors to fill leadership roles.

"We expect her to be our leading girl," Ross said. "We don't have any senior girls. So we expect her to



Members of the Wright City boys track team are, front row, from left: Jacob Ritter, Demetrice LeNoir, Noah Lamb, Jeremiah Davis, David Riggs, Keagan Loeffler.

Second Row, from left: Noah Boeckman, Roy Rice, Anthony Baugher, Joe Rice, Blake Hogan, Andrew Hunn.

Third Row, from left: Caleb Hall, Kaden Cross, Quincy Rice, Patrick McGowan, Henry Pohl, Rigaberto Lopez Luna.

Fourth Row, from left: Isaiah Yoder, Conner Logan, Luke Ostmann, Dasan Markum, Chris Kornfeld, Xavier Stufflebean.

Fifth Row, from left: Mason Wendt, Devin Myers, Carleon Jones.

Not pictured: Joey Gendron, Kayden Allison, Leon Schradler, Karsten Uhl and Jeremy Corey. John Rohlff photo.

kind of be the leader."

Ross also anticipates Pettus and Teagan Riley stepping up as leaders for the Lady Wildcats this season.



Members of the Wright City girls track team are, front row, from left: Rosa Parda Monrava, Sadie Sehnert, Gretchen Stockmann, Emma Staats, Lindsay Pettus, Nicole Lotspeich, Sam Finch.

Middle row, from left: Miley Sosa, Lydia Clubb, Bailey Love, Lauryn Stephens, Jahnyia Palmer, Lizzie Riggs, Kaedyn Johnson.

Back row, from left: Sara Sehnert, Lauren Ritter, Jolee Lockhart, Ella Greenwell, Kali Jensen.

Not Pictured: Teagan Riley. John Rohlff photo.

Jeremiah Davis headlines a list of strong returning runners for the Wildcat boys track and field squad.

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Wallace touts Wright City's depth, leadership

By John Rohlff
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wright City girls soccer program is seeing a boom in numbers in Jacob Wallace's first year at the helm of the program.

The Lady Wildcats have 37 players in the soccer program, the most in the program's short history. Wallace said while they return experienced players, about half of the players on the roster have not played true competitive organized soccer before. He stressed they have a couple players that have played competitive soccer for a long time.

"It makes it a challenge to kind of differentiate in practice because we have a mixture that you are building up the skill level of those ones who are just learning how to play but also challenging the ones that have played competitively for a long time," Wallace said.

Wallace said the strong numbers will help the Lady Wildcats be able to utilize substitutes when needed.

Wright City returns three senior starters from last year's 10-win team. Cassandra Reash returns after starting last season as Wright City's goalie. Alex Sutter and Abigail Unterreiner also return for the Lady Wildcats. Sophomores Paige Kirn and Paige Rees also return after starting at midfield as freshmen.

"We have a couple sophomores who have really just taken on some leadership roles and run with them," Wallace said. "And they've been incredible leaders. It's really exciting to see both leadership from the senior level with the upperclassmen but also that leadership for the younger kids."

Wallace anticipates the Lady Wildcats will implement a balanced attack. He wants Wright City to press when it is smart to do so but also be intelligent about possessing the ball. They want to get the best looks they can on the offensive end without opening up opportunities for opponents on the defensive end.

One of Wallace's main goals for Wright City this sea-

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Members of the Wright City girls soccer team are Joselyn Avalosluna, Sophia Badalamenti, Lillian Brown, Mckinzie Davis, Ramona Diego, Emma-Dixie Dietrich, Charleigh Ferrell, Carmelina Francisco Diego, Ryleigh Hart, Kailin Hawn, Anahi Hernandez, Kenley Kirk, Paige Kirn, Andrea Lopez Luna, Alina Lopez, Autumn Lumma, Kaitlyn Mikus, Maria Ortiz Ramirez, Cassandra Reash, Paige Rees, Callee Reimers, Rylee Schaefer, Hayden Scorfina, Lexcee Scurlock, Alexandra Sutter, Katelyn Thompson, Rosalya Thompson, Abigail Unterreiner, Reagan Vehige and Samantha Yates. John Rohlff photo.

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Warriors return contributors, eye GAC North title

By John Rohlff
SPORTS EDITOR

With a strong nucleus returning, the Warrenton Warriors are setting their sights on a conference title. Warrenton returns a strong number of contributors from last year's squad that finished the season with 14 wins. They went 6-2 in GAC North play and were one game short of a conference title.

"In the nine years we've been in the GAC North, we've been first or second in conference in six of those years," Warrenton head coach Eric Burle said. "We were an inning away from winning conference last year. Really, that's the expectation is to be able to compete for a conference title."

Warrenton's strength will be in their infield, with four of five starting infielders returning from last year's team. Senior Kannon Hibbs returns for his fourth season and will man the hot corner for the Warriors. The third baseman led Warrenton in hitting last season. Caleb Clark, Austin Haas and Tyler Oliver are also returning starting infielders from last year's team. Ben Peth and Sam Wortham also started games in the outfield last season.

"Offensively, I think we had a really good year last year," Burle said. "We have a number of big bats coming back. A number of guys that have had a number of

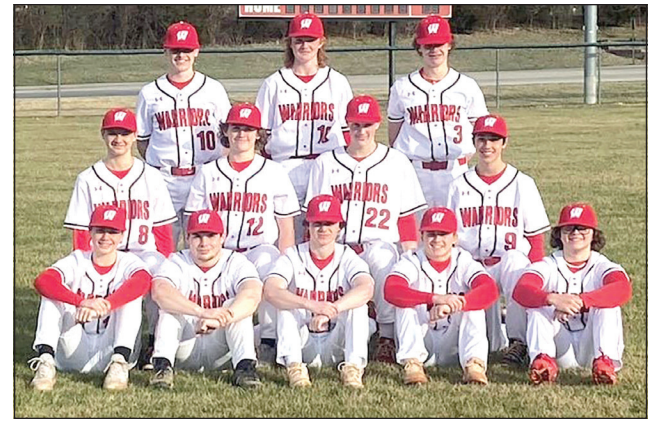
years of experience on varsity. So hopefully they can continue to maintain and build on what they've done the last couple of years."

The Warriors will have multiple varsity starting spots to fill from last season's team, including spots in the outfield. Junior Joe Goldsmith is still on the roster but is out for the season after suffering a knee injury in the fall. Goldsmith was the Warriors' starting center fielder last season. Burle characterized Goldsmith as the best outfielder in the GAC North last season. He anticipates there will be a learning curve for Warrenton's outfielders.

Peth headlines the list of pitchers returning to the team this season. He threw a team-high 46 innings last season and led the Warriors with five wins and a 2.86 ERA. Olver and Wortham each logged over 20 innings.

"There's a lot of question marks there. There's a lot of guys that we know that can pitch but a lot of guys don't have a lot of varsity experience," Burle said. "There's at least three guys that saw a significant amount of innings last year. There's a lot of youth there so hopefully they can get some experience throughout the year and kind of figure out what their role is."

Burle stressed the Warriors know what their returning starters can bring to the table. They are counting on the newcomers to fill in the gaps left from players who graduated last year or did not return to the team



Members of the Warrenton baseball team are, front row, from left: Keegan Mellegaard, Sam Wortham, Caleb Clark, Austin Haas, Halen Locastro.

Middle row, from left: Bryce Phillips, Kannon Hibbs, Tyler Oliver, Colin Disilvister.

Back row, from left: Mason Thompson, Blake Gerland, Ben Peth. Submitted photo.

this season.

Warrenton dropped a pair of road games Monday to open the season. They lost to Ft. Zumwalt East 9-5 and St. Dominic 6-3.

Warriors feature state qualifiers, host of newcomers

By John Rohlff
SPORTS EDITOR

The Warrenton track and field team returns a group of sectional qualifiers, including two state qualifiers.

Warrenton senior Madelyn Marschel and junior Wyatt Claiborne lead the group of returners to the Warrenton track and field team. Marschel and Claiborne will look to qualify for state after qualifying for the state cross country meet earlier this season. Senior Colton Brosenne advanced to the sectional tournament last season as a junior and will be looking to qualify for state this season.

Despite returning multiple state qualifiers, Warrenton is an inexperienced team this season.

"For the most part, we're trying to figure out where the guys fit in and girls fit in and what they're best at," Warrenton track and field coach Mark Thomas said. "With the weather, it's not been real cooperative."

Thomas said the numbers on the boys track and field team is the best Warrenton has had in several years. The girls' roster size is similar to years past.

Thomas said the coaching staff's main goal is to see everyone improve throughout the year. With an inexperienced group this season, it would be naive for the



Members of the Warrenton girls track team are: Alana Adams, Chandler Blondin, Sydney Brown, Stormie Conway, Kiera Daniel, Margaret Davis, Zoe Duncan, Morgan Guerin, Briana Grooms, Adrianna Hollaway, Loren Howard, Kaisley Huster, Elizabeth James, Launa Jeffers, Zoe Klaus, Ambree Lord, Madelyn Marschel, Morgan Marschel, Isabelle Morris, Samantha Neupert, Kylie Overkamp, Audrey Payne, Evangeline Rhama, Chanidapa Sangsumpun, Bethany Scheibe, Mykenzy Sebastian, Taryn Sharp, Avery Shaw, Paige Sommer, Shelby Sommer, Kendall Taylor, Makayla Witthaus.

John Rohlff photo.



Members of the Warrenton boys track and field team are: Garrison Allen, Jacob Beckemeyer, Charlie Blondin, Zachariah Bristol, Colton Brosenne, Gage Brosenne, Santiago Cano, Wyatt Claiborne, Noah Cline, Dylan Coleman, Christopher Craven, Peyton Dawson, Masen DeLongis, Deacon Forrest, Deadrick Forrest, Jamarion Fulton, Austin Gentry, Nolan Grooms, Bryan Guerrero, Jesse Hackmann, Damien Jackson, Kevin Jaseckas, Brandon Johnson, Phillip Kackley, Connor Larkin, Zachary Latham, Kyle Lauck, Noah Lohrmann, Anthony Lombardo, Matthew Longacre, Elias McPike, Jack Morris, Logan Nichols, Elijah Peth, Bohdan Quinn, Adrian Stevens, Kadin Stroer, Jonathan Sweitzer, Isaac Wagner, Bryant Watkins, Teegan Williams, Alexander Wilson. John Rohlff photo.

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Lady Warriors return several key contributors

By John Rohlff
SPORTS EDITOR

Warrenton head soccer coach Amy Wargowsky hopes a strong number of returning players and improved fitness will lead to more success on the soccer pitch this season.

Warrenton returns 11 players to the varsity squad that featured multiple underclassmen in starting roles last season.

"It's a benefit because they have experience," Wargowsky said. "They know how to work together. And we have a few freshmen that are going to help out. I'm looking forward to the season."

The Lady Warriors return their top-two goal scorers from last season. Sophomore Morgan Marschel scored 10 goals in her freshman season. Junior Camryn Petersmeyer netted nine goals for the Lady Warriors. Warrenton also returns junior goalie Emily Beumel, who was the Lady Warriors' starting goalie last season.

With a number of returning players and newcomers, Wargowsky sees Warrenton's offense as a strength for the team this season.

"I think we have more options on offense than we've had in the past with more ability, more speed and more shots," Wargowsky said.

One of Warrenton's main focuses early in the season has been on their fitness. Wargowsky noted if they are in better shape, they are less likely to deal with injuries again this year. She is hopeful they can stave off injuries this season. She thinks a strong fitness level and the players trusting each other is key for the Lady

Warriors this season.

"Last year, I think a lot of times we would just get dead and so then we would get caught on our heels," Wargowsky said. "I think that'll be part of it. That and trusting their teammates."

Wargowsky said as of last week, she had an idea of who were starting 11 players will be and also who will be utilized as substitutes for the starters. However,

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Warrior, Wildcat golf teams focused on growth

By John Rohlff
SPORTS EDITOR

The Warrenton Warriors will bring varying degrees of experience to the golf course this season.

Warrenton head coach Aaron Jinkerson anticipates the Warriors' varsity squad will consist of two returning varsity players and three varsity newcomers. The Warriors will be led by Maison Rader and Owen Thompson. Both Rader and Thompson have multiple years of varsity experience. Rader earned GAC North honorable mention last season.

"I know the returning players from last year are looking for all-conference honors," Jinkerson said.

In his first year competing on the Warrior golf team, junior Troy Anderson will compete on the varsity roster for the Warriors. Anderson joins the golf team after playing for the Warrenton baseball team the past two years. Jinkerson said the Warriors will be inexperienced at the four and five spots to round out the varsity roster. Jinkerson stressed multiple golfers will compete for the final two spots in the varsity lineup this season.

"Those four and five spots will be fluid," Jinkerson said. "They're going to be some interchangeable places I feel. Ability-wise, they're all pretty fair. Go with the hot hand I guess would be a good way to look at it."

Jinkerson said the Warriors' focus early in the season is getting out and playing golf to get their bad shots out of the way. He said they do a lot of short game practice early in the year and are trying to get their roster set for their first match, which is slated for next week.

He stressed he is looking forward to seeing how the Warrior golfers perform in matches and tournaments. "Seeing them compete in a match or tournament will also solidify some spots in my head," Jinkerson said. "You gain some experience from being at practice as well. But I like to see them compete just to see how they react in that situation. It is totally different from practice for sure."

Overall, Jinkerson wants the Warriors to be competitive in every match or tournament and to potentially compete for a GAC North title. He is also focused on seeing growth from the Warrenton golfers.

"Even though we have two experienced guys coming back for varsity, we are pretty inexperienced at the varsity level," Jinkerson said. "Just getting those varsity guys more comfortable competing on that level is what also I'll be excited to see."

Warrenton will compete at the Bogey Hills Invite Monday in St. Charles.



Members of the Wright City boys golf team are, front row, from left: Ayden Boland, Aiden O'Donnell, Steve Cox, Ali De La Torre-Delgado, Kye Schnarre, Grant Stockmann, Aiden Taylor.

Back row, from left: Head Coach Zack Gorman, Dustyn Bailey, Will Bohannon, Matt Freund, Austin Kirn, Rico Uribe, Ayden Dile. John Rohlff photo.

Wildcats boast strong numbers

The Wright City golf squad features several returning contributors and a strong roster size in Zack Gorman's first season at the helm of the program.

After serving as an assistant soccer coach the past few years, Gorman is in his first year at the helm of the boys golf program. The Wildcats return Dustyn Bailey, Steve Cox, Aiden O'Donnell and Kye Schnarre this season. The four golfers all competed at the district meet last season. The Wildcats also feature a good number



Members of the Warrenton golf team are, from left: Troy Anderson, Ethan King, Jackson Tobias, Maison Rader, Luke Rausch Colton Brosenne, Owen Thompson. Not pictured: Ethan Leavitt. John Rohlff photo.

See GOLF Page 5B

Liberty Christian returns to baseball diamond

By John Rohlff
SPORTS EDITOR

After a one-year hiatus, Liberty Christian is back on the baseball diamond.

The Eagles were able to fill their baseball roster to field a baseball team one year after the Eagles did not have enough players to field a team. There is excitement that the Eagles are able to field a team among the whole team, but especially among the three seniors who get to finish their high school athletic careers on the baseball diamond.

"We have three seniors on the team. And they're excited," Liberty Christian baseball coach Bill Coovert said. "They didn't think they'd be able to play baseball

their senior year. Now, here they are. There's a lot of excitement from the seniors for sure."

This year's squad has 13 players on the roster. The roster includes three seniors and a strong number of underclassmen. Coovert thinks this year will be a rebuilding year since the school not even able to field a team last season. He said they were making great progress in the first week of practice.

"We've seen great improvements already this year," Coovert said. "What started out as are we going to have enough is now turned into this team's coming together. Every practice, there's improvement."

Coovert said the Eagles' focus early on in practice was finding a solid group of pitchers and working on hitting. Based on what he saw in the first couple weeks



Members of the Liberty Christian baseball team are, front row, from left: Clinton Queen, Braden Dames, Celton Kimmel, TJ Coovert, Mitchell Scheer.

Back row, from left: Zach Dames, Levi Coovert, Brody Kuehn, Willy Mueller, Jed Moss, Jack Duvel.

John Rohlff photo.

See DIAMOND Page 5B

LCA primed for success on pitch

By John Rohlff
SPORTS EDITOR

Liberty Christian brings a mix of experience and new faces as they look to find success on the soccer pitch this season.

The Lady Eagles bring back four seniors to the roster this season. The rest of the roster is composed of underclassmen. The Lady Eagles have 18 players on the roster this season, which is an ideal number for first-year coach Ken Dildine.

"I love this number," Dildine said. "Having this

number really opens me up a lot because I really key on my midfielders doing a lot of running. Now my midfielders, if they start getting tired, they can even drop back to either defensive mode or up forward. Or I can get them out for a couple minutes and get them back out there."

Early on this school year, the Lady Eagles players made a strong impression on Dildine. He characterized the Lady Eagles as a well-organized, talented group of individuals. He stressed they think more about each other than themselves, which has a positive impact on the team.

Dildine sees the Lady Eagles' defense as one of the team's strengths this season. They plan to be defensive oriented but also concentrate heavily on offense using an overlapping defense.

"My plan is to have my defense playing as much offense. If they get caught, they can run down the field, make that transition," Dildine said. "And they play defense until I can get them changed back. It's going to be a fun process to teach them that whole philosophy."

Under Dildine's leadership, the Lady Eagles will focus on ball control. He wants their focus to be on controlling the ball and forcing the opponent to chase them. They have worked hard early in the season on

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Members of the Warrenton girls soccer team are, front row, from left: Isabelle Morris, Ashlynn Reeves, Gigi DeVivo, Kylie Overkamp, Morgan Marschel, Princess Cullom. Second row, from left: Camryn Petersmeyer, Breeyn Young, Allison Duncan, Coryn Higby, Lana Le, Meredith Donovan. Third row, from left: Autumn Bledsoe, Megyn Young, Emily Beumel, Haley Rausch, Zoe Klaus. Back row, from left: Manager Chloe Boden, Kiersten Cullom, Varsity Coach Amy Wargowsky, Assistant Coach Jake Brown, Assistant Coach Courtney Nenninger, Manager Mady Kelly.

Not Pictured: Emma Duncan John Rohlf photo.

RETURN

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

she stressed the starting spots for the majority of the positions are fluid.

"There's very few people we said you definitely have a starting position. The rest of you are fighting to see who is going to start," Wargowsky said.

Warrenton opened the season last week at the Warrenton Tournament. They went 1-2 in the tournament. They beat Fulton 8-0 in the final game of the tournament. They lost 3-1 to the St. Louis Patriots and 8-0 to Washington.

Warrenton was scheduled to host Hannibal Tuesday. They are slated to play at Mexico at 6 p.m. Thursday.

WARRIORS

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

Warriors to think they will compete for team titles at some of the meets in which they compete, Thomas said.

"For those guys and girls that are returning that have been to a district meet and a sectional meet and a state meet, they know what they need to do," Thomas said. "They're just working for themselves at this point and if we can get a couple people to match them in a relay and bring them along, then that's just better for them."

Thomas said the Warriors' strength is in distance running. They have a couple solid distance runners on both the boys and girls teams. Thomas anticipates Brosenne will remain strong in the triple jump event. Thomas said the other events are wide open for the Warriors. He noted they lost a number of main contributors to last year's relay teams.

"It's pretty wide open everywhere else," Thomas said. "So if you're a freshman or a sophomore or a junior or a senior that's new to us, if you want to come out and work and fight for a spot, there's plenty of spots available for you."

DEPTH

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2B

son is to be competitive and stay competitive in each game they play.

"Whether that be playing a team tough that we historically haven't played tough before," Wallace said. "Or performing well against the opponents that we have

historically played well against. I think for us, it's going to be about setting a standard for our play and then making sure we always meet that standard. And see where the wins and losses fall after that."

Wright City competed in the Jamboree earlier this month. They are scheduled to open the season with a home game against Mexico High School at 4:30 p.m. Monday.

BUILD

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2B

Davis finished first at the conference meet in three events. Ross is counting on Davis to be a leader for the Wildcats on the track this season.

"The boys are probably led by Jeremiah," Ross said. "Conference champion in the 100 and 200 (meter dash). We look for him to be the leader on the field and off the field as well."

Individually, Davis won the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash at the EMO conference meet last season. He also placed first in a group relay. Davis, Devin Myers, Demetrice Lenoir and Jacob Smith placed first at the conference meet in the 4x200-meter relay.

GOLF

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B

of golfers who are new to the team, including golfers that never played golf before.

"We've got kids of all different levels," Gorman said. "Some of them, it's more about getting their feet wet and getting out and playing in a match to see what it's like. Whereas, some are going out to compete. And I think that's really the difference between varsity and junior varsity."

Gorman's goal for the Wright City varsity golfers is for their top four golfers at each meet to shoot a total score under 500. They shot over 500 at every 18 hole meet last season.

"That's kind of my goal is to do better than last

Myers and LeNoir are returning members of the 4x200-meter relay team that placed first at conference and district competitions.

Ross thinks having three returning runners on relays for both the boys and girls teams will be beneficial.

"We're going to have to put in one person to maybe step in," Ross said. "We're looking for that fourth person to fill in those relays. So you've got three legs which really helps the continuity of running those type of things."

With a good number of new athletes, Ross anticipates using the first two meets to figure out which events to place different athletes going forward. The athletes new to track and field were thrown into multiple events early in practice to determine their strongest events.

year," Gorman said. "I have those guys coming back so I don't think it'll be difficult. You've got one kid going from a freshman to a sophomore is a big age difference maturity wise and how you play a game. So hopefully that helps."

Early in practice, Gorman's focus for the Wright city golfers was to make good contact with the ball. They also spent time working around the greens. Gorman believes high school golfers lose a lot of strokes around the green.

"You have to really play that mental aspect for sure and just keep them level headed in a match where you can get a lot of strokes really quick," Gorman said. "So mentally, they need to be ready to play."

Wright City is scheduled to compete March 29 in Louisiana.

DIAMOND

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B

of practice, Coovert thinks the Eagles will have four or five pitchers to form a solid rotation. A majority of the Eagles' practice time has been focused on hitting.

"You can't win a game if you don't put some runs on the board," Coovert said. "For us, we've really been focusing a lot on our hitting and making good contact. Spending a lot of time with their form. Hitting is key for me. If you score runs, you can make up for some errors in the field."

With the makeup of the roster, Coovert anticipates the Eagles will play a lot of small ball. They have a couple players capable of hitting the ball long but do not have that skill set up and down their lineup.

"We have a couple of folks that are capable of hitting the ball long but we don't necessarily have that up and down the lineup," Coovert said. "So the strategy for us is staggering those individuals that we know are going to get on base and have the folks coming up behind that's going to clean that up."

The Eagles are slated to open the season at Crosspoint Christian Monday.

PITCH

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different techniques to keep the ball at their feet instead of attempting to make long passes. This will force opponents to run more than Liberty Christian if executed properly.

"Like any season, win or lose, as long as I know the

girls have come out and given me 110% and they leave it on the field, we won't take anything with us off that field," Dildine said. "It's always been a goal of mine. Once that game is over, we'll reassess after 24 hours and go from there."

Liberty Christian is slated to begin their regular season slate with a road game at Crosspoint Christian Monday.



Members of the Liberty Christian girls soccer team are, front row, from left: Raelee Bruno, Joy Kassebaum, Elsie Kimmel, Trina Scheltens, Emma Woodson. Middle row, from left: Madison Scheer, Hannah Steward, Andreanna Scheltens, Allie Brazier, Lucy Steward. Back row, from left: Anna Meyer, Alli Meyer, Kylee Ball, Lydia Chemin, Jubilee McGowan, Lauren Moss.

John Rohlf photo.

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