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# GAME TIME

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW 2024 | A Lake Sun Special Section



STORIES AND PHOTOS WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY SAM KOMBRINK, SPORTS EDITOR

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# CAMDENTON BOYS TENNIS



## Lakers Looking To Go Out With A Bang

Led by seven seniors, the Camdenton boys tennis team aims to improve under the guidance of head coach Kirk Richey.

The Lakers enter the 2024 season ready to improve on its 2-11 record from last year.

Returning to lead the Lakers' 16-man roster in 2024 are: seniors Jonah Debert, Carter Smith, Levi Dunahee, Ryder Pitts, Robert Lewis and Mason Eichler; juniors Chris Lopez and Johnny Semau; sophomores Jackson Berg and Noah Highwood.

Freshmen newcomers to the squad are: Colton Ingold, Levi Breuer, Carson Stoufer, Fischer Richey and Alex Hendon.

Debert is ready to embrace the role of team captain and help lead the Lakers to improvement in 2024.

"We're looking solid so far and I think this incoming freshmen class will help us win more matches this year," he said. "We have a doubles tournament that I'm looking forward to and we have been really focusing on doubles a lot everyday at practice and we feel like we will be able to go out and win some tournaments this year."

Both Debert and Hendon said that they will most likely be doubles partners this season and noted what they are working to improve on.

"I am working on my serve," Hendon said.

"I am honestly just working on being at the right place at the right time," Debert said. "After I hit the ball, I tend to watch it and not tackle my shots a whole lot and I'm working on that."

Hendon added that he wants to see the Lakers finish strong in the last year in the Ozark Conference.

"This is our last year in the conference, so we got to go out with a bang," he said.



### 2024 schedule

## CAMDENTON BOYS TENNIS

3/21	Father Tolton Regional Catholic (Columbia, MO)	Away 4:30 pm
4/2	Lebanon (Lebanon, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
4/4-5	Camdenton/Lebanon Team Tournament (Camdenton, MO)	Home
4/8	Waynesville (Waynesville, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
4/9	Osage Home	4:00 pm
4/11	Parkview	Home 4:00 pm
4/12	Warrensburg Tournament	Away
4/15	Glendale	Home 4:00 pm
4/19	Waynesville Invitational (Waynesville, MO)	Neutral
4/22	West Plains (West Plains, MO)	Away
4/23	Rolla	Home 4:00 pm
4/25	Hillcrest	Home 4:00 pm
4/26	Rock Bridge (Columbia, MO)	Away 4:30 pm
4/29	Jefferson City	Home 2:00 pm
4/30	Conference	Away
5/6-10	Team District (TBD, MO)	Away
5/11	Individual District (TBD, MO)	Away

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# CAMDENTON BOYS GOLF



## Lakers Focused On Rebuilding

The Camdenton boys golf team replenishes its roster with eight first-time golfers after losing senior Gunnar Schuster, who was a three-time State qualifier.

Last season, Schuster led Camdenton with postseason All-State honors and medaled with a seventh-place finish at the State Tournament.

“We’re still in the midst of a rebuilding, but we got plenty of boys that are interested in the game and there is a lot of them that are looking really great,” said Lakers coach Joe Presson. “There is a core of juniors and seniors that I’ve coached to some capacity of three years that have grown a whole lot together and I think can do something special if they keep trying to improve their game.”

According to Presson, the expectations are not set as high entering this season with eight newcomers, who are also first-time varsity golfers.

“We will either try and get the team to qualify for State altogether or maybe we can get one of these guys,” he said. “And these boys have been really working hard over the off-season to improve their game and I can’t wait to see how they gradually elevate as the season goes on.”

Returning to lead the Lakers are seniors Ethan Kessler and Fischer Lapine, and junior Tyler Foster.

Presson noted that it was still too early to tell who would fill out the five-man core for Camdenton.

“We haven’t had any team compiled scores yet, so it’s too early to see how the team is going to score,” he said.

### 2024 schedule

## CAMDENTON BOYS GOLF

3/18	Rolla	Home 4:00 pm
3/21	Eldon Quad with Camdenton, Helias, & Southern Boone (Eldon, MO)	Neutral
4/1	Columbia Classic (Columbia, MO)	Away
4/4	MSU Relays (Springfield, MO)	Away
4/8	S-C Classic (Sedalia, MO)	Neutral
4/10	Laker Invitational at Lake Valley (Camdenton, MO)	Home
4/15	Helias Invitational (Jefferson City, MO)	Neutral
4/19	Barstow	Neutral 4:00 pm
4/23	Crocker Tournament	Away
4/29	TBD Conference Tournament (springfield TBD, MO)	Away
5/1	Rolla (Rolla, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
5/3	Cinco de mayo- battle- lake of the woods (Columbia, MO)	Away

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Kessler said that he has his eyes set on making the State Tournament after joining the squad as a sophomore.

“We’re all looking good and we’re all trying,” he said. “Over the summer, some of us kept working with each other and holding each other accountable because we want to win and we have been putting in a lot of effort. We obviously all want to go to State, but it’s going to take a lot of work.”

Kessler reflects on what it was like learning as a sophomore and how it feels to now be considered a team leader.

“Some have kind of played before and I just remember that being me,” he said. “High school is really the first time where you are on a team and I told a lot of them it’s going to be fun and a tough adventure at the beginning, but they will eventually get the hang of it.”

Golf is something that Kessler said he looks forward to learning more about and that he intends to play golf for the rest of his life like his grandfather who has taught him lessons.

“He just teaches me everything and I’ve just fallen in love with the game,” he said. “And golf is a mind game that teaches patience and focus that I can take anywhere into the workplace. I can play the sport for another 60 years of my life like my grandpa, who still plays at 70 years old and he still beats me.”

He added that some of the first-time golfers have been quick learners in the first few weeks of practice.

“They started out not knowing how to hold the club, to now hitting the ball in the air and onto the range which is a huge improvement for some of them,” Presson said. “It feels great to have kids interested in the sport and I’m grateful for that, but they still have a long ways to go. At the end of the day, competition golf is not

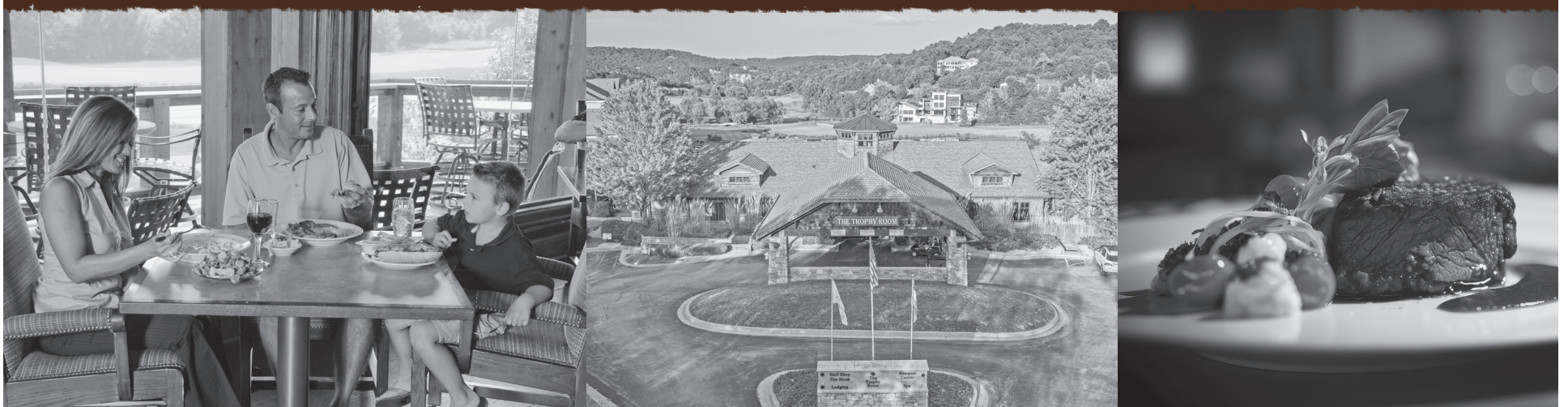


what I focus my coaching on. This is a life-long sport and I really want these kids to learn valuable skills and learn to be reflective and honest with themselves.”

He added that he feels gratification from helping this squad learn the game and preaches putting in the time to improve.

“Right now we are just trying to fine-tune swings,” Presson said. “Some of these kids have never played golf before and don’t really understand the game. Some don’t understand their swing and right now the best way for them to learn is by doing. But I try and pop in and we do individual lessons and swing tweaks and give them feedback on what they need to spend hours working on.”

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# CAMDENTON BASEBALL



## Lakers Ready To Seize Opportunities Despite Injuries

The Camdenton baseball team suffered a big loss before the season as ace pitcher Kade Durnin will miss his senior season due to a right elbow injury, but the Lake boys are ready to silence the doubters.

Durnin suffered an ulnar collateral ligament (UCL) elbow injury at the beginning of March after signing with Texas Christian University in the fall. As a junior, Durnin was an All-State honoree at designated hitter/utility, the reigning Class 5 Player of the Year with Class 5 first team honors and Ozark Conference MVP.

“It’s not a big secret that we have a few injuries to some players that expected to play this season, but I think we have a team with a lot of urgency,” said Lakers coach Bryce Durnin. “A lot of guys want the opportunity and it’s there due to injuries. We’re going to be young and a little bit inexperienced on the infield, but I’m excit-



### 2024 schedule

## CAMDENTON BASEBALL

3/12	Dixon Jamboree (Dixon, MO)	Away
3/15	Eldon (Eldon, MO)	Away 4:30 pm
3/16	Blair Oaks	Neutral 10:00 am
3/16	St. Elizabeth	Neutral 12:00 pm
3/19	Willard (Willard, MO)	Away 4:30 pm
3/23	Carl Junction	Neutral 12:00 pm
3/23	McDonald County (Anderson, MO)	Away 2:00 pm
3/28	Parkview	Home 4:30 pm
4/2	Lebanon	Home 4:30 pm
4/3	Waynesville	Home 4:30 pm
4/5-6	Laker Wood Bat Tournament (Camdenton, MO)	Home
4/9	West Plains (West Plains, MO)	Away 4:30 pm
4/11	Bolivar (Bolivar, MO)	Away 4:30 pm
4/13	Bowling Green	Neutral 12:00 pm
4/13	Capital City (Jefferson City, MO)	Away 2:00 pm
4/16	Glendale (Springfield, MO)	Away 4:30 pm
4/18	Central (Springfield)	Home 4:30 pm
4/19-20	Lebanon/Camdenton Wood Bat Tournament	Home
4/24	Boonville	Home 4:30 pm
4/25	Kickapoo (Springfield, MO)	Away 4:30 pm
4/27	Camdenton/Excelsior Springs/Smith-Cotton (Sedalia, MO)	Away
	» 4/27 » Excelsior Springs Neutral	
	» 4/27 » Smith-Cotton Neutral	
4/29	Marshfield (Marshfield, MO)	Away 4:30 pm
4/30	Hillcrest	Home 4:30 pm
5/2	Rolla (Rolla, MO)	Away 4:30 pm
5/4	Battle	Neutral 10:00 am
5/4	St. Elizabeth	Home 10:00 am
5/6	Father Tolton Regional Catholic (Columbia, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
5/8	Branson	Home 4:30 pm
5/9	Dixon	Home 4:30 pm

ed about the opportunity that these kids are going to have to prove themselves.”

Camdenton ended last season with a 29-5 record and lost 7-5 to Glendale in the second round of the Class 5, District 6 Tournament. The Lakers replace three seniors from last season, All-State honoree Kam Durnin (Wichita State), Tobyn Dudley (Mission University) and Cole Hilton (Olive Harvey community College).

The Lakers return 14 upperclassmen (7 seniors, 6 juniors) and 10 sophomores, while bringing in 12 freshmen.

Leading Camdenton as senior captains in 2024 are: pitcher Spencer Mellencamp, centerfielder and leadoff hitter Jackson Basham and right fielder/pitcher Zane Fry.

Mellencamp returns with All-State honors and is expected to take over as ace of the pitching staff. Last season, Mellencamp pitched 50.2 innings and boasted a 0.414 ERA to lead the team with a 7-1 record. Mellencamp also had a .306 batting average and serves as a utility in both the infield and outfield.

“He is now expected to be the ace and will play wherever he is needed,” Durnin said. “I think going into the season we were going to stick him in the outfield, but he’s needed in the infield just as much.”

Basham returns as the leadoff hitter and batted .411 last year with the second most hits on the team with 46. He also pitched 28.2 innings with a 4.884 ERA

“Jackson sets the table for us,” Durnin said. “I think he is one of the more athletic kids in the area and he will play centerfield. He’s a clipper out there and can pitch and do about everything.”

Fry is returning from injury and will serve a bigger role this season on the mound and in the outfield. Last season Fry pitched 7.2 innings with a 1-0 record, one save and a 2.739 ERA.

“He played in about 25 games for us and is rehabbing from an injury,” Durnin said. “He will play the corner outfield positions and pitch a little bit. Once he becomes healthy he will be hitting in the middle of our lineup.”

Fry said that he’s feeling more and more healthy and looks forward to leading the Lakers.

“I think we’re looking pretty solid coming off a great season last year,” he said. “Obviously we have some injuries, but we can get past them and it’s going to be a good season ahead of us.”

He added that he’s looking forward to pitching and that his most comfortable pitch is his changeup.

"I'm really looking forward to pitching this season," Fry said. "We're kind of short-handed pitching wise due to injuries, so I'll be looking to get some innings in.

Other returners are: seniors Payten Hinton, Nicklas McNerney and Gavin Marlowe; juniors Willard Demott, Levi Layman, Jack Wildman, Karson Durnin, Kole Lane, Carter Coon and Brody Downey; sophomores Brayden Burns, Quinten Knipp, Brady Linch, Asher Stanley, Kyle Kirby, Teigan Elwyn, Carter Butts, Hunter Raye, Paxton Yowell and Tanner Scott.

All-State honoree and utility Karson Durnin will miss a majority of his junior season after suffering an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury in a football game against Lebanon. He said that he has been recently released to start a throwing program with the hope of playing soon.

"I'm just trying to get my arm back in condition for the Summer," he said. "I'm not really sure if I'll see the field, but on May 1 I go back to the doctor and he will tell me if I'll be ready to help the boys for a postseason run and I'm hoping it happens."

Kade Durnin also gave an update on his recovery and is keeping a positive mindset helping his dad coach.

"I'm doing good and recovery is going great and I'm excited to see the game from a new perspective," he said.

He added that he's looking forward to watching his Laker teammates put together a special season.

"I'm really excited for the guys and this season is all about new opportunities," Durnin said. "It's not about what you lost, it's about the opportunities you gain."

Yowell will also miss the season due to suffering knee injuries during basketball season.

Durnin said that there have been a few freshmen that have made an impression in the first few weeks of practice.

"You're going to see five freshmen on the field this season," Durnin said. "I always feel like the freshmen and sophomores are really hungry and sometimes those juniors and seniors can get complacent and just expect it's their turn. So, I like the urgency and energy that this freshmen class brings to the team."



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# CAMDENTON GIRLS SOCCER



## Lady Lakers Look To Bounce Back In 2024



### 2024 schedule

## CAMDENTON GIRLS SOCCER

3/11.....	Camdenton/Dixon/Rolla/Waynesville Jamboree (Camdenton, MO).....	Home
3/15.....	Capital City (Jefferson City, MO).....	Away 7:00 pm
3/19.....	Rolla (Rolla, MO).....	Away 6:30 pm
3/22.....	Jefferson City.....	Home 6:30 pm
3/25.....	West Plains (West Plains, MO).....	Away 6:30 pm
3/26.....	Smith-Cotton.....	Home 6:30 pm
3/28.....	Waynesville.....	Home 6:45 pm
4/2.....	Hickman (Columbia, MO).....	Away 6:45 pm
4/3.....	Richland.....	Home 5:00 pm
4/9.....	Lebanon.....	Home 6:30 pm
4/12-13.....	Branson Invitational (Branson, MO).....	Neutral
	» 4/12 » Logan-Rogersville.....	Neutral
4/16.....	Parkview.....	Home 6:30 pm
4/19-20.....	Battle Shootout (Columbia, MO).....	Away
4/22.....	Springfield Catholic (Springfield, MO).....	Away 6:00 pm
4/23.....	Central (Springfield).....	Home 6:45 pm
4/26-27.....	Central MO Invitational (Camdenton, MO).....	Home
	» 4/26 » Kirksville.....	Neutral
	» 4/27 » Carl Junction.....	Neutral
	» 4/27 » West Plains.....	Neutral
4/30.....	Kickapoo (Springfield, MO).....	Away 6:30 pm
5/2.....	Hillcrest.....	Home 6:30 pm
5/3.....	Glendale (Springfield, MO).....	Away 6:30 pm
5/7.....	Bolivar (Bolivar, MO).....	Away 6:30 pm
5/9.....	Marshfield.....	Home 6:15 pm

After being plagued by injuries last season, the Camdenton girls soccer team aims to bounce back, returning five seniors, one junior and one sophomore to the pitch in 2024.

“We expect to be very competitive this year,” said Lady Lakers coach Tyler Sevon, who is entering his fourth season and is eight wins away from 200 for his career. “We bring back most of our roster from last season and we look to continue to be a force offensively and grow defensively all year.”

Camdenton aims to improve on its 12-13 record from last season, where they fell 4-0 to Rolla in the first round of the Class 3, District 5 Tournament.

“Last season saw a huge jump in our offensive production,” Sevon said. “We ended the year playing really well but had some big time injuries that limited our success.”

Leading the Lady Lakers as senior captains are: striker Zoe Lockhart, center-midfielder Addy Clay and center-midfielder Makenna Brauer.

Other returners are: senior defender Abby Rapier, senior midfielder Lilli Sutterer; junior midfielder Kyla Kirby, junior goalkeeper Ariana Delgado and sophomore defender Jakata Haynes.

Newcomers to the squad are: junior center-back Kiley Bentley; freshman right-wing Sophie Radlund, freshman goal-keeper Bella Faes, freshman striker Lily Roberts, freshman left-back Brooklyn Meents and freshman center-midfielder Kylie Labelle.

Captains, Lockhart and Clay are eager to cap off their Camdenton soccer careers with a winning season before they take their talents to William Woods University, where they will continue being teammates since they were in Middle School.

Lockhart led Camdenton last season with 24 goals, while adding five assists. Clay was third on the team with 11 goals and 12 assists.

“I think the team is looking good,” Lockhart said. “We probably need to make some more connections just because we’re not all used to our positions yet.”

Sevon added that he’s been impressed throughout the first two weeks of practice.

“I have been really pleased,” he said. “The girls have done a good job of staying motivated and focused.”



# CAMDENTON TRACK & FIELD



## Lakers Eye State Championship

The expectations remain high for the Camdenton track and field program as it returns 17 letter winners hungry to win a State Championship.

“The coaching staff is excited to coach another season,” said coach Nick Bruck, who enters his 19th season. “We look forward to great spring weather and the returning talent to take on the Class 5 competition.”

The Camdenton boys and girls track and field teams are eyeing a State title as a team in 2024. The Lady Lakers won a State title in 2017, while the Lakers haven’t won a State title since 1973.

Five school records were set last season by departed seniors: Angel Dickerson (100m 10.44, long jump 24-6.25), Georgi Carolus (800m 2:19.18, 1600m 5:20.83) and Ellie Webb (3200m 11:53.68).

Last season, Camdenton qualified seven athletes for eight events at the Class 5 State Track and Field Championships in Jefferson City. The boys squad finished in third place in Class 5 to win Camdenton’s third State Championship trophy in the last six seasons.

Returning letter winners to the boys squad are: seniors Kyle Eidson, Garrett Hilton, Mitchell Sexe, Josiah Ketchum and Chase Mason; juniors Owen Borbe and Gunnar Rhoades; sophomores Paul Muff and Ty Wiethop. Returning letter winners for the girls are: seniors Lexi Dickerson, Carly Kupfer and Dot Krulatz; juniors Mia



McGuire, Olivia Welch, Cassidy Hannigan and Madison Daniels; sophomore Coral Brown.

“As always the returning athletes will step up to fill the shoes of such a talented group of graduated seniors,” Bruck said.

The Lakers will be anchored by a few returning senior State medalists from the 4x100m relay team in Sexe, Ketchum and Eidson. Seniors, Hilton, Karson George and Jeshua Balderas return as throwers, along with Mason at pole vault.

Returning to lead the Lady Lakers are previous State qualifiers — Dickerson (discus), juniors Bella Breuer (high jump), McGuire and Welch (4x400 relay). The Lady Lakers also return Sectional Qualifier Cassidy Hannigan (4x400 relay).

Eidson noted that he’s looking forward to bettering his numbers from last season. “It’s a little weird that it’s my last year, but we’re just going to come out here and get the job done,” he said. “Most of our 4x100m relay guys are returning and I’m hopefully going to make a good run in the javelin. I also have unfinished business in the high jump.”

Dickerson said that she will focus on daily improvement as she works to return to State.

“My personal goal is to do my best everyday, but I want to make it back to State,” she said. “I made it my sophomore year and I’m trying to get back and maybe place this time.”

### 2024 schedule

## CAMDENTON TRACK AND FIELD

3/15	Waynesville (Waynesville, MO)	Away
3/19	Varsity Laker Warm up (Camdenton, MO)	Home 4:00 pm
3/22	Lebanon Invitational (Lebanon, MO)	Neutral
3/28	BRANSON (BRANSON, MO)	Away
4/1	Osage Warpath (With JV Division) (Osage Beach, MO)	Neutral
4/4	Girls night out at JFK (Springfield, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
4/5	Boys Club at JFK (Springfield, MO)	Away 8:00 am
4/11	HUNTER- MCNABB LAKER RELAYS (Camdenton, MO)	Home 4:00 pm
4/16	Ozark Relays (TBA, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
4/19	Waynesville Invitational (Waynesville, MO)	Neutral
4/22	SBU Relays (Bolivar, MO)	Away
4/26	Rolla Classic (Rolla, MO)	Neutral
5/1	Ozark Conference (Springfield, MO)	Away
5/11	District (TBA, MO)	Away
5/18	Sectional (TBA, MO)	Away
5/24	State (Jefferson City, MO)	Away

# OSAGE BASEBALL

## Indians Enter The 2024 Season With A Positive Mindset



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After winning three of its final five games last season, the School of the Osage baseball team is eager to hit the field, returning 18 players to its 28-man roster with 10 upperclassmen.

"We're looking very positive," said Indians coach David Flaspohler, who enters his 15th season at Osage. "This has been a group that comes in everyday and has shown the proper attitude and work ethic to just want to get better and it doesn't get any better than that as a coach."

The Indians will look to improve their 7-17 record from last season, where they lost 9-0 to the rival Mustangs from Eldon in the Class 4, District 9 Tournament.

Returning to lead Osage as senior captains are shortstop/pitcher Tyler Shull, third baseman Dalan Johnston, first baseman John Kimrey and left fielder Gavin Black.

"Those four saw quite a bit of time last year," Flaspohler said. "With Tyler Shull at shortstop, look for him to also be a presence on the mound. We have quite a few returning players with those four seniors, six juniors, seven sophomores and 11 freshmen. So, returning starters out of those are a few here and there, but we're looking for fresh faces. We're looking for a new look and a new vibe."

Flaspohler noted that the Indians are looking to improve everywhere on the field in 2024, especially replacing two spots in the starting rotation left by senior pitchers, Trey Johnson and Dalton Wall.

"Depending on how we start the season, it could be a pitch by committee everyday," he said. "We may utilize 11 to 12 pitchers this year and throw three to four arms at you leaving us fresh for the next game, or the next two games I hope."

Rounding out the Osage pitching staff along with Shull will be junior Tucker Willoughby, sophomore Christopher Nicolson, along with freshmen Chance Ottens and Landon Klee.

"I think junior Tucker Willoughby is going to step for us on the mound and eat some innings up," Flaspohler said. "The rest are really going to be some fresh faces. Sophomore Christopher Nicolson I think is going to find his spot on the mound and settle into it really well. He may end up being the number one guy that we go to and knowing him and his work ethic, it could very easily be the case. Freshmen Chance Ottens and Landon Klee will probably play an integral role this year and hopefully they both respond well. Right now they are accepting the challenge and hopefully that carries on into the course of the season."

Black and Willoughby return to the team with postseason honors by making the Academic All-State baseball team in 2023.

Shull enters his senior season after earning All-District First Team honors and All-Conference Honorable Mention as a junior and just recently signed his letter of intent to play college baseball at Central Methodist University. Through the first few weeks of practice, the captain can already see improvements.

"We'll open some eyes this year," he said. "We have really improved on our communication. That was something last year that we didn't excel at and we could have won some of those games if we had communicated and so far, we've communicated a lot better."

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Other senior captains, Kimrey, Johnston and Black shared how a different mindset entering this season can carry them to a winning season.

“This team has a lot of promise,” Kimrey said. “There are a lot of young guys, but the younger guys are showing a lot of potential with a strong work ethic that they’re bringing to practice and I think we’re going over .500 this season.”

Johnston added that an optimistic mindset makes for a better atmosphere at practice.

“We’re starting this season with less negativity and a lot more positivity,” he said. “It feels like we have a better family now.”

Black is eager to hit the field after playing his final basketball season and he’s been impressed with the chemistry being built.

“It’s my first day back coming from basketball season and seeing everybody already in a flow and everything seems to be running as smooth as it was at the end of last year,” he said. “The team is looking promising, with a lot of underclassmen leadership too. So, it’s nice to see sophomores and even freshmen step up and take leadership roles and that allows everything to flow more smoothly.”

Kimrey added that he has a personal goal set out before it’s all said and done.

“I want to end my senior year sweeping Eldon,” he said. “We beat them in football, basketball and now I want to beat them in baseball.”

All the captains added they are looking to get revenge on Iberia in the home opener on March 18, after losing 7-0 last season.

2024 schedule

OSAGE BASEBALL

3/18	Iberia Home	5:00 pm
3/19	Hallsville (Hallsville, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
3/21	Eugene (Eugene, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
3/22	Waynesville	Home 5:00 pm
3/25	Crocker	Home 5:00 pm
3/26	Versailles (Versailles, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
3/28	Climax Springs (Climax Springs, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/1	Russellville	Home 5:00 pm
4/2	Boonville	Home 5:00 pm
4/4	Jamestown (Jamestown, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/6	Eldon	Home 12:00 pm
4/8	Richland (Richland, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/9	Blair Oaks	Home 5:00 pm
4/16	Southern Boone	Home 5:00 pm
4/18	Macks Creek	Home 5:00 pm
4/19-20	Versailles/California Turf War (Versailles, MO)	Neutral
4/23	California (California, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/26-27	Russellville Tournament (Russellville, MO)	Neutral
4/29	Laquey (Laquey, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
5/2	Buffalo (Buffalo, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
5/6	Dixon (Dixon, MO)	Away 5:00 pm

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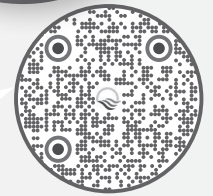
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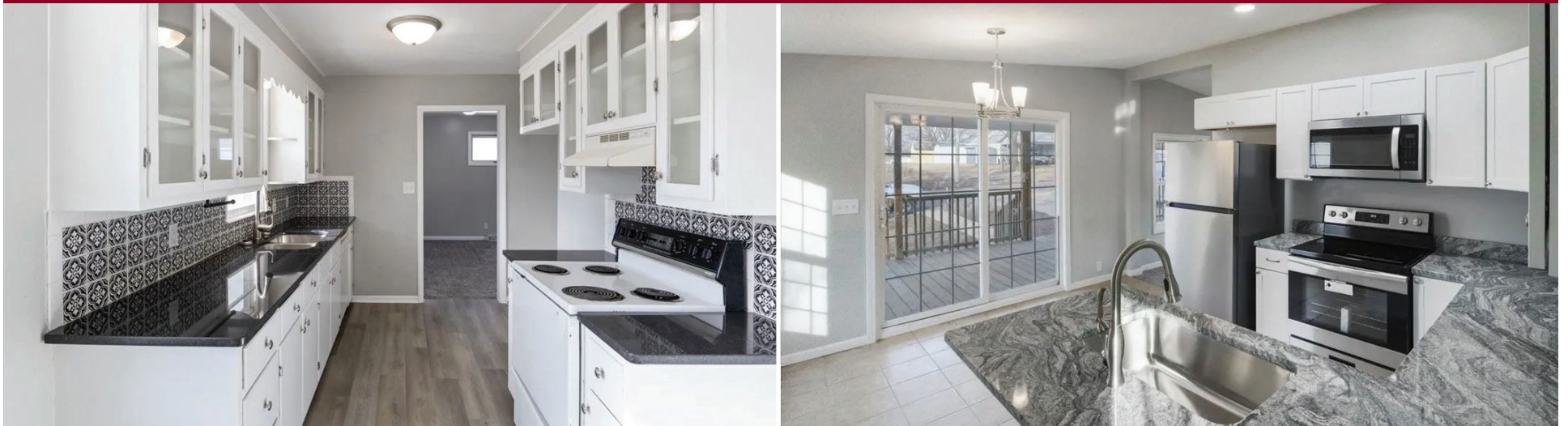
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# OSAGE BOYS GOLF

## Indians Ready To Make Their Mark



*School of the Osage*  
Home of the Indians



The School of the Osage boys golf team aims to have better success in 2024 with a 13-man roster and eight upperclassmen under the guidance of head coach Travis Squire.

“Last year our osage golfers came up short in Conference and District competitions, as we failed to advance anyone to medal or progress to State,” Squire said. “We will be looking to better our results this year.”

learning the game.

“I grew up here on the golf course and it definitely helps. It kind of gives me that home-court advantage over other golfers,” he said. “I just love coming out here to hang out with my friends and it’s just really nice and peaceful out here.”

Other than hoping for a season of good weather, Neubauer shared how nice it would be to medal for State after missing the cut by a narrow margin three years in a row.

“Of course I want to make State and just have a few decent rounds and hopefully shoot a few rounds in the under this year,” he said. “So far, this year we have started off pretty slow, but we’re turning it around and we’re just ready for a good season.”

Squire added that the Indians will be working on consistency off the tee and in short game.

“It is hard to say what we need to work on as it is a very individualistic type of game,” he said. “But avoiding those big numbers in a round and playing consistent par and bogey golf is our goal.”

Returning this season for the Indians are seniors Clayton Elliott, Caden Neubauer, Blake Sakelaris and Jackson Wyrick, along with junior Jeremiah Haile.

According to Squire, Elliott and Neubauer will look to lead the Indians as they enter their fourth season of varsity golf.

“These two boys have played varsity golf all four years and should both be looking to make this last year count,” he said. “Along with these two, seniors Blake Sakelaris and Jackson Wyrick are sure to see varsity time this season.”

Newcomers to the team are seniors Parker Officer and Tyler Bellmer; junior Paul Kimrey; sophomore Xavier Williams; freshmen Jarin Grant, Kingston Bommarito, Jackson Long and Lane Stokes.

“Freshmen Jarin Grant and Kingston Bommarito will be joining our team this year,” Squire said. “Both of these young men have golf experience and will be looking to make their mark.”

Elliott and Neubauer shared how they are ready to help lead the Indians to a Tri-County Conference title, Class 3, District 3 title and medal to qualify for the State Tournament for the first time in their four years at Osage.

“This year we have a lot of new people, but I’m feeling good about it,” Elliott said. “With it being my senior year, I want to go out with a bang.”

Elliott added that he’s been working on improving his consistency with all of his shots while practicing at Osage National Golf Course, where he has grown up

### 2024 schedule

## OSAGE BOYS GOLF

3/18	Osage Quad (Osage Beach, MO)	Home 4:00 pm
3/21	Boonville (Boonville, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
3/25	Union Tourney (Osage Beach, MO)	Home
3/26	Osage Tri (Osage Beach, MO)	Home 4:00 pm
4/1	Osage Tourney (Osage Beach, MO)	Home
4/4	Boonville Tourney (Osage Beach, MO)	Home
4/11	Osage Quad (Osage Beach, MO)	Home 4:00 pm
4/15	Waynesville Invitational (Waynesville, MO)	Neutral
4/22	Eldon (Eldon, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
4/23	Tri-County Conference Tournament @ Tanglewood (Hallsville, MO)	Neutral
4/25	California Tri (California, MO)	Neutral
4/30	Southern Boone Quad: Southern Boone/Osage/Capital City/Eugene (Ashland, MO)	Neutral

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# OSAGE BOYS TENNIS

## Indians Aim For Fourth District Title In A Row



*School of the Osage*  
*Home of the Indians*

The School of the Osage boys tennis team eyes its eighth District title as it returns a majority of its roster after losing just two seniors.

The Indians have won three Class 1, District 8 titles in a row (2021, 2022, 2023) and aim to stay focused on improvement in 2024, loaded with seven seniors on its 20-man roster.

“Last season we were team District Champions. Damon Lemke was individual District Champion and we moved a doubles team to the State Championships held in Springfield,” said second year head coach Graham Baucom. “Our team goal is to win a District Championship again and take as many players to the State Championships as possible.”

Returning to lead the Indians are seniors Damon Lemke, Asher Adkins, Trevor Barry, Trent Lierhiemer, Steven Buckner and Jackson Gamm; juniors Caden Breneman, Fox Cost, Allan O’Neill, Michael Stripanitz, Caleb Wedel and Parker Wolf; sophomores Brady Clark, Maddox DeGraffenreid, Clay Leavens, Caden O’Shea, Hudson Stombaugh and Blake Harrison.

Senior Hayden Westbrook has made his way over from the wrestling team and is the lone newcomer to the squad this season.

Seniors Lemke and Adkins said they will more than likely be doubles partners and are both eager to lead the Indians as team captains.

“We are looking really good this year,” Adkins said. “We have a lot of seniors, so we have a good chance of going to Sectionals again and then actually going to win that.”



### 2024 schedule

## OSAGE BOYS TENNIS

3/18	Boonville (Boonville, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
3/21	Marshall (Marshall, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
3/22	Helias Catholic (Jefferson City, MO)	Away 4:30 pm
3/26	Mexico	Home 4:00 pm
3/28	Marshall Tournament (Marshall, MO)	Away
4/1	Rolla	Home 4:00 pm
4/4-5	Lebanon Boys Varsity Tournament (Lebanon, MO)	Neutral
4/8	Father Tolton Regional Catholic	Home 4:00 pm
4/9	Camdenton (Camdenton, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
4/11	Smith-Cotton (Sedalia, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
4/12	Moberly	Home 4:00 pm
4/16	Salem (Salem, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
4/18	Fulton	Home 4:00 pm
4/23	Lebanon (Lebanon, MO)	Away 4:00 pm
4/25	Waynesville	Home 4:00 pm

Lemke added that it’s now or never for these seniors to pick up a win at State. “This is our year,” he said. “We got seven seniors and we’re hoping to all win at Sectionals and move on in the State Tournament, which we haven’t done in a long time. For an individual goal of mine, I would like to also make State in singles or doubles.”

They say that competition breeds excellence, and that’s what Baucom has seen so far at practice.

“What has impressed me about this team is the competitiveness they have shown the first few days of practice,” he said. “We can improve on handling adversity and pushing through tough matches.”

# OSAGE GIRLS SOCCER

## Lady Indians Eye District Title



*School of the Osage*  
Home of the Indians

The School of the Osage girls soccer team is looking to make a deeper postseason run as it replaces just two seniors and returns six Lady Indians under the guidance of second-year head coach Shelly Long.

"I am looking for us to hit the ground running, picking up where we left off last year," Long said. "We only lost two seniors in 2023, Alyssa Newberry and Haili Rugloski. While they will be tough to replace, we still have the bulk of our starting varsity squad returning. The girls are pumped and ready for a great season."

Last season, Osage had a record of 11-9 and fell 2-0 to Logan-Rogersville in the second round of the Class 2, District 5 Tournament.

Returning to lead the varsity squad as senior captains are attacking midfielder Grace Larson, left-back Aubrie Gonnella and wing Lexie Porter.

Other returning Lady Indians are junior forward Taylor Carroll, junior attacking midfielder Addison Fowler, junior defensive midfielder Sophia Cline, sophomore defensive midfielder Josie Colonius and sophomore attacking midfielder Isabelle Milligan.

"We will be moving a few players to our varsity roster this year," Long said. "Sophia Cline saw some varsity time last year, but will more than likely step into Haili Rugloski's shoes this year in the defensive midfielder position alongside returning starter, Josie Colonius."

Freshman Ainsley Beeler has impressed Long at practice and is expected to make an impact as a varsity newcomer.

"We are also excited about incoming freshman Ainsley Beeler," she said. "She has had some club experience in the past and is a force out on the field during practice."

Larson returns as the leading scorer with All-State Second Team honors, along with



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All-District First Team and All-Region First Team honors. Last season Larson led Osage with 21 goals, while also leading the team with 25 assists. Larson signed in the fall to play soccer at Lincoln University.

Porter also earned postseason honors last season by earning All-District Second Team honors.

Captains Larson, Gonnella and Porter are ready to cap off their high school soccer careers with a District title and make it to the Class 2 State Tournament.

“I think we are looking pretty good so far,” Porter said. “We have good numbers and everyone is getting along well. Our skills seem to be pretty good too, so I can’t wait to see where we go.”

Gonnella noted what she has been working on improving in the off-season.

“I’ve been practicing my touches and passing,” she said. “But, I really just hope to go out my senior year scoring five goals and a trip to State.”

Larson noted how impressive the incoming freshmen class has been so far and how they will help this team finish the job.

“We got a couple of good freshmen coming in that will definitely be a strong class alongside everyone else who rocks with us,” she said. “Last season we started out strong and ended pretty strong, but we definitely could have done better at Districts. This year we will be looking to come out on top.”

Long added how impressed she has been with her varsity squad in the first few weeks of practice.

“I am extremely impressed with the progress that many of the girls have made in the offseason,” she said. “I have had a lot of girls playing club ball and also that played indoor together this winter.”

According to Long, the Lady Indians still have room for improvement before they open the season at home against Laquey on Monday, March 18.

“Communication has always been a struggle,” she said. “We spent a lot of time on that last year and will continue to do so again this year. Being able to communicate effectively is a must for any team out there, so we want to make sure we use it to our advantage.”

2024 schedule

OSAGE GIRLS SOCCER

3/12	Jamboree (Jefferson City, MO)	Neutral
3/18	Laquey	Home 5:00 pm
3/21	Capital City (Jefferson City, MO)	Away 7:00 pm
3/25	Jefferson City (Jefferson City, MO)	Away 7:00 pm
3/26	Fatima (Westphalia, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/1	Bolivar (Bolivar, MO)	Away 7:00 pm
4/2	California	Home 7:00 pm
4/4	Blair Oaks (Jefferson City, MO)	Away 7:00 pm
4/8	New Covenant Academy (Springfield, MO)	Away 6:30 pm
4/9	Helias Catholic	Home 7:00 pm
4/11	Stover (Stover, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/12	Father Tolton Regional Catholic	Home 7:00 pm
4/16	Battle	Home 7:00 pm
4/19	Crocker	Home 5:00 pm
4/22	Fulton (Fulton, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/25	Eugene (Eugene, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
5/2	Rolla	Home 7:00 pm
5/4	Lady Indian Osage Shootout (Osage Beach, MO)	Home
	» 5/4 » Affton	Neutral
	» 5/4 » Hickman	Neutral 8:00 am
5/6	Southern Boone (Ashland, MO)	Away 7:00 pm
5/9	Boonville	Home 5:00 pm

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# OSAGE TRACK & FIELD



School of the Osage  
Home of the Indians

## Indians Expect To Repeat Success

The School of the Osage track and field program looks to continue its success with 72 talented athletes ready to compete.

For the boys, they hope to repeat as Tri-County Conference and Class 3, District 7 Champions under the guidance of second-year head coach Jacob Evans.

“The expectations are high,” Evans said. “We expect to do well and our team is training hard. Preparation is one of the biggest keys to success and I know that these guys have been putting in work, some of them for over four years. Last season was successful and a lot of fun. We had some guys pushing for some school records. Twelve individuals placed Top-5 at the Tri-County meet and all four of our relay teams (4x100, 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800) placed Top-3. We had nine individuals place Top-3 in seven different field events.”

The Indians return five State qualifiers — juniors Landon Childs, Adian Williams, Noah Northrip and Andrew Groos, and sophomore Drake Williams. Evans added that senior Jaysen Groll and sophomores Nick Joiner and Grant Wilson will look to make an impact as well.

“These guys are year-round athletes for us,” Evans said. “These are the guys that are on campus as much as the coaches are. These guys are our hardest workers and I appreciate their presence more than they realize.”

Childs led the Indians to a fourth-place finish at State in the pole vault (13-8.17) and hopes to break the school record.

“The school record is (14-7.0), so I’m shooting for (14-8.0),” he said. “So far we’re looking pretty good. I’m excited, I’m with some fast guys that have been doing it a couple of years and I think we will have a pretty good season.”

Childs added that he will also take part in the 110m hurdles, 300m hurdles, 4x100m relay and 4x200m relay.

According to Evans, the boys squad has been working hard on improving, while also embracing the process of learning something new.

“We have been working hard to replace some key field event pieces from last year’s puzzle, as well as an increased emphasis on the ¼ mile,” he said. “What has impressed me so far at practice is the willingness to compete and try new things. We have had several athletes working additional events this year. It is nice to see our athletes are not afraid to fail or struggle.”



The Lady Indians are also looking to have repeat success under head coach Miriam Hill. Last season the 4x800 relay team finished in third place at the Class 3 State Tournament (10.01.39).

“During the 2023 season the athletes continued to have a good showing throughout the season,” Hill said. “The year ended with a State Champion, Madison Kessler in the Pole Vault, and the 4x8 team of Katherine Wolf, Bayley Johnson, Mackey Kessler and Andie Job placed third.

Returning to the 4x800 relay team are juniors Anderson Job and Macey Kessler. Junior Elizabeth Yoder will also look to eclipse her fourth-place finish at districts in the discus throw (77-5.92).

Kessler will look to follow her older sister Madison as the Class 3 Champion in pole vault (10- 9.13). She earned a second-place finish in the pole vault (9-7.35) at the Class 3, District 7 Tournament and is eager to help lead the Lady Indians to postseason success again.

“Honestly, just getting back to State this year is a big goal of mine,” she said. “It’s been a big part of ending the season the past couple years, so I’m excited for that.” Through the first few weeks of practice, Kessler noted how the team is looking so far.

“It’s the start of the season, but honestly we’re looking pretty good,” she said. “There is still room for improvement, but we’re definitely building since we started within the last week.”

Hill added that the Lady Indians expect to return to State, they just can’t beat themselves.

“We would like to see a Conference Championship and another strong showing at the State meet,” she said. “We can improve mentally by recognizing the realities that the preparations of the workouts they will do, will allow them to be successful and set new PR’s in each of their events.”

### 2024 schedule

## OSAGE TRACK AND FIELD

3/22.....	Osage Varsity Open Meet (Osage Beach, MO) .....	Home 4:15 pm
3/28.....	Buffalo (Buffalo, MO) .....	Away 4:15 pm
4/1 .....	Osage Warpath (With JV Division) (Osage Beach, MO)....	Home 2:00 pm
4/5.....	Hillcrest (Springfield, MO) .....	Away 1:00 pm
4/11.....	HUNTER- MCNABB LAKER RELAYS (Camdenton, MO).....	Neutral
4/16.....	Osage Varsity Invitational (Osage Beach, MO).....	Home 4:15 pm
4/23.....	Tri County Conference Tournament (Ashland, MO) ..	Neutral

# MACKS CREEK BASEBALL



**MACKS CREEK  
PIRATES**

## Treat Ready To Right The Ship For Pirates Baseball



Activities Director Jeff Treat enters his first season as head coach of the Macks Creek baseball team as it returns everyone from last season to its 17-man roster.

The Macks Creek baseball program fell short of delivering those wins last season with a record of (2-16). Now, the Pirates are led by three seniors who are ready to bring Macks Creek its first winning season since 2019.

“We return everyone from last season and we actually added a lot of freshmen and had some sophomores that decided to join the team,” said Pirates coach Jeff Treat. “This is probably the most Macks Creek has had out for baseball in the last few years. Also, it’s very exciting to see these baseball players be so motivated to get better this year and it has been a joy to be around them.”

After having no seniors on the roster in 2023, Macks Creek will lean on the experience of three seniors, Dakota Willis, Kyler Gabriel and Joshua Botta.

“Dakota Willis hit around .400 last year and was our ace of the team,” Treat said. “Then Joshua is our best outfielder for us in centerfield and we will be pitching a lot for us as well. And Kyler Gabriel will be one of our returning pitchers and did pretty good for us last year. He’s also a solid shortstop and outfielder.”

Willis takes over as senior captain and has seen this team take a positive step forward.

“Honestly, last year was not good,” he said. “And this year is looking much better because we got a lot of younger players that can fill positions that we weren’t able to fill as much last season.”

He said that it’s all about having the right frame of mind as the Pirates continue their journey to more wins.

“I think we need to have a mindset that we are not going to go 2-16 this year,” he said. “We need to believe that we are going to win a District Championship and I feel like right now we really don’t have that. As a team we all need to have the mentality that we can go farther than we think we can.”

Other returners are juniors Paxton Breshears, Sean Green, Nick Hicks, Chase Christian, Memo Norman and Vaughn Vasquez, and sophomores Trevor Smith, Ty Glawson and Wyatt Brooks.

“Paxton Breshears is another guy for us that was hitting around the .400 mark,” Treat said. “Then you got other key returners like Chase Christian and Sean Green. Sean is our returning catcher and his play behind the plate takes a lot of pressure off the team, and especially for me because I know he can play it and it’s the hardest position on the field.”

### 2024 schedule

## MACKS CREEK BASEBALL

3/18	Hermitage	Home 5:00 pm
3/19	Tuscumbia	Home 5:00 pm
3/21	Wheatland	Home 5:00 pm
3/22	Hermitage (Hermitage, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
3/25	Fair Play	Home 5:00 pm
3/26	Stover (Stover, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
3/28	Humansville (Humansville, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/2	Hermitage	Home 5:00 pm
4/8-13	Wheatland Baseball Tournament (Wheatland, MO)	Neutral
4/9	Hermitage	Home 5:00 pm
4/15	Stoutland	Home 5:00 pm
4/18	Osage (Osage Beach, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/19	Climax Springs	Home 5:00 pm
4/23	Richland (Richland, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/25	Crocker	Home 5:00 pm
4/26	Halfway (Halfway, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/29	Climax Springs (Climax Springs, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
4/30	Iberia (Iberia, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
5/2	Weaubleau (Weaubleau, MO)	Away 5:00 pm
5/6	Laquey	Home 5:00 pm
5/7	Dadeville	Home 5:00 pm
5/7	Walnut Grove	Home 5:00 pm



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# MACKS CREEK TRACK & FIELD



**MACKS CREEK  
PIRATES**

## Phillips Looks To Lead The Pirates Back To State

The Macks Creek track and field program kicks off its first season under the guidance of head coach Josh Phillips as the Pirates return two seniors to its four man squad.

"I have volunteered and helped our coaches at meets since 2015 and became an official assistant last school year," said Pirates coach Josh Phillips. "This year I am excited to serve as the head coach for the Pirates High School team."

Last season, Macks Creek had a squad of two boys and four girls. Senior Caleb Phillips led the boys squad with All-State and All-District honors for his sixth-place performance in the 1600m at the Class 1 State Tournament (4:35.81). Senior Jose Cortez earned All-Conference second team honors and earned All-District honors as well.

Juniors Addison Ratliff and Brooklyn Duggan highlighted the girls squad last season by earning All-Conference first team honors. The Lady Pirates also took third place at the Polk County League Conference Meet and had its 4x400m relay team (Duggan, Ratliff, Neveah Darrell and Jade Stasiack) earn All-District honors.

Phillips is the lone returner this season and will serve as team captain for the Pirates. Senior Jessica Weyhersmueller is the lone newcomer to the girls squad.



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“Jessica Weyhersmueller is a senior German foreign exchange student who is no stranger to running as she is an avid footballer (soccer player),” coach Phillips said. “In practice, she has demonstrated she is accomplished at sprinting and middle distance.”

Newcomers to the boys squad in 2024 are two freshmen Preston Stevens and Kevin Bowman.

“Freshmen Kevin Bowman and Preston Stevens ran in middle school and are not afraid to work hard and are expected to be competitive in sprinting and middle-distance,” coach Phillips said. “Both young men have been working hard in the weight room during the off-season. We are looking forward to setting their baseline times and believe they will make tremendous gains through the season.”

After a successful senior cross-country season, Phillips is eager to lead the track and field program.

“We’re very small, but I think despite the small numbers we will have a promising team,” Phillips said. “The people that we have are willing to put in work and I’m really excited about what we will be able to do.”

Phillips currently holds the school record in the 800m (2:02.81) and is also on track to break the school record in the 1600m (4:31) and this season he said that he’s shifting his focus.

“This season I am making a big change,” he said. “I am not going to focus on the 3200m and I’m really going to push the 800m and the 1600m. Last season I kind of rediscovered the 800m and I was just able to have a lot more fun in that event. But, I am really less distance-focused this season and more middle-distance focused.”

He added that this 2024 squad is young and that opens doors of possibility for the future of the program.

“I think that we will see a lot of growth because we are so young,” Phillips said. “But, I think with the two freshmen that we have joining the team will be interesting to see where they excel.”

Phillips noted that he intends to put running aside after his senior year and pursue a career in aviation.

Coach Phillips noted what has impressed him throughout the first few weeks of practice.

“Of the four high school students who are participating this year, I have been impressed with their hard work and effort,” he said. “Three are new to the sport and have embraced conditioning and demonstrated they are not afraid to push through discomfort and pain. Everyone has a positive attitude and it is going to be a fun season.”

Coach Phillips noted that the expectation for the team is to have his son Caleb return to the medal stand at State.

“We fully expect Caleb to return to the medal stand at State,” he said. “Caleb is



a hard worker and has multiple All-State medals in Cross Country and Track.”

Coach Phillips added his hopes of making track and field attractive to other kids as they hope to expand the roster in the future.

“The team’s biggest struggle continues to be attracting more athletes,” he said.

He added that the track and field program struggles to attain as many athletes as the baseball team.

“Due to insufficient numbers of girls interested in softball this spring, we were optimistic more would pursue track, but this just wasn’t the case,” coach Phillips said.

Because of the individual nature of sports like track and field, where low numbers don’t inhibit the ability of athletes to compete, he said that Macks Creek will continue to offer such opportunities to its students.

“We hope more students will embrace the opportunity, because it is such a fun sport and the more athletes who sign up allows us to score as a team and put together relays which are also a lot of fun,” coach Phillips said.

**2024 schedule**

**MACKS CREEK TRACK AND FIELD**

- 3/19 ..... Varsity Laker Warm up (Camdenton, MO) ..... Neutral
- 3/22..... Osage Varsity Open Meet (Osage Beach, MO) ..... Neutral
- 4/4..... Warsaw Invitational (Warsaw, MO) ..... Neutral
- 4/11..... HUNTER- MCNABB LAKER RELAYS (Camdenton, MO) Neutral



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# CLIMAX SPRINGS BASEBALL

## Cougars Remain Hungry For A Winning Season



The search for a winning season continues for the Climax Springs baseball team that replaces four seniors to its 16-man roster by retuning seven upperclassmen and five sophomores.

"We return several contributors from last year's team," said Cougars coach Joshua Griffith, who enters his third season at Climax Springs. "We have high expectations this season and are looking to increase our win total. We have to be more consistent to get where we want to be as a team."

The Cougars will look to improve on their 4-16 record from last season, matching their win total from 2022 (4-11).

"Before that, it had been several years since Climax Springs had multiple wins in a season," Griffith said. "We had four seniors who led us in most categories, led by graduate Joshua Griffith. Joshua hit over .400 and was our team leader."

Returning to lead Climax Springs as team captains are senior centerfielder/pitcher/utility Kaiden Phillips and junior pitcher/utility Jake Griffith.

Other returners are senior catcher/third baseman Logan Leonard; juniors Kaleb Leonard, Koltan Copeland, Michael Simmons and Malachi Stockton; sophomores William Boles, Jess Patton, Parker Townsend, Frederick Tiffany and Kaden Fleetwood.



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Newcomers to the team in 2024 are freshmen Tanner Williams, Tryrus Butterfield, Sam Skinner and Max Lenfers.

Griffith led the Cougars last season with a .364 batting average, 20 hits and 16 stolen bases. Griffith also led Climax Springs on the mound with 45 strikeouts, two wins and an 7.084 ERA.

“We got a lot to work on, but we’ll get there,” he said. “We will try and have a better season than last year, but right now we’re making too many errors in the field.”

Griffith noted that he’s been impressed with junior Logan Leonard, who has experience at catcher, but will make the move to third base.

“He’s improved a lot from last year and has filled a role where a freshman had struggled,” he said. “So, he’s kind of filled that gap.”

He said that he’s been pitching since he was a kid and shared his favorite pitch to throw.

“Baseball is my favorite sport,” Griffith said. “I’ve been pitching since I was 11 years old and my favorite pitch is the curveball.”

He added that he will be focusing on improving his hitting before the season starts at Weaubleau on Friday, March 15.

Phillips wants to see the team improve everywhere as he looks to help deliver a winning season for the Cougars before he graduates in the spring.

“We got a lot of winning to do,” he said. “Everyday we just got to keep progressing in both the infield and outfield. Our hitting hasn’t been bad, but our catching needs to be improved and our pitching definitely needs to improve because you can’t win any games without catching or pitching.”

He added that he’s been impressed with the incoming freshmen.

“We had some freshmen come out this year and they have really stepped up,” Phillips said. “We got two good pitchers and one catcher joining the team and they bring some improvement.”

Both Phillips and Griffith said that they share a personal goal of beating Macks Creek.

2024 schedule

CLIMAX SPRINGS BASEBALL

3/15	..... Weaubleau (Weaubleau, MO)	..... Away 5:00 pm
3/19	..... Hermitage (Hermitage, MO)	..... Away 5:00 pm
3/21	..... Stover (Stover, MO)	..... Away 5:00 pm
3/22	..... Halfway (Halfway, MO)	..... Away 5:00 pm
3/26	..... Wheatland	..... Home 5:00 pm
3/28	..... Osage	..... Home 5:00 pm
4/1	..... Laquey	..... Home 5:00 pm
4/2	..... Humansville	..... Home 5:00 pm
4/4	..... Crocker	..... Home 5:00 pm
4/8-13	..... Wheatland Baseball Tournament (Wheatland, MO)	..... Neutral
4/16	..... Hermitage	..... Home 5:00 pm
4/19	..... Macks Creek (Macks Creek, MO)	..... Away 5:00 pm
4/22	..... Richland (Richland, MO)	..... Away 5:00 pm
4/24	..... Tuscumbia (Tuscumbia, MO)	..... Away 5:00 pm
4/25	..... Stoutland (Stoutland, MO)	..... Away 5:00 pm
4/29	..... Macks Creek	..... Home 5:00 pm
5/1	..... Wheatland (Wheatland, MO)	..... Away 5:00 pm
5/3	..... Smithton (Smithton, MO)	..... Away 5:00 pm
5/6	..... Stover	..... Home 5:00 pm
5/7	..... Fair Play (Fair Play, MO)	..... Away 5:00 pm

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