

Warsaw Golf Continues To Build On Past Program Success

'Cats golf coach Dennis Larson knew that it'd be a process but his persistence and dedication to the program will eventually yield results.

Only 2 golfers return to Larson's squad this year in senior Corbin Thirstrup and sophomore Carson Bonner. Bonner finished 16th in the conference last season, just 2 spots away from qualifying for All-Conference honors, and Thirstrup tied for 20th.

After just a couple of weeks of practice, Larson can see improvement in each of his golfers.

"We just have to focus on limiting the amount of strokes it takes to get from tee to green, and then, obviously, limit the number of putts on the green," Larson said.

Newcomers this year include: Carter Howell,

Hannah Woodridge, Charlotte Allspaugh, Jazz Swisher and Emily Goertsches.

"We really have to keep an eye on everyone," Larson added. "We improved so much last year and I think everyone will continue that improvement."

"The best thing about these kids is that they don't get down on themselves in they have a bad round," Larson commented. "Every time, they go back out the next day and they know what they need to work on."

After having a couple golfers come up just short last year, Larson is hopeful that at least those two can take the next step.

"There were some pretty good golfers at other schools," he said. "Now that those kids have graduated, I'm excited to see our kids



CARSON BONNER



CORBIN THIRSTRUP

move up."

"I think that after finally getting a full season under their belts last year, they know what to expect and will be able to achieve their goals," Larson said. "We definitely have kids that will compete."



'Cats Track Will Be Young, Competitive

Wildcats coach Cody Morgan is entering his 15th season as the Warsaw track coach and has a team that, though inexperienced, he believes will be competitive in every meet they enter.

"We'll be competitive this year, but the good thing is that we are young and will have these kids for 4 years to develop them," Morgan said.

Key returners to the track this year include: Grant Chapman (300m Hurdles, 4x400m, 4x800m), Cameron SeEVERS (4x400m, 4x800m, Javelin), George Montez (400m, 800m, 1600m, 4x400m, 4x800m), Hudson KARR (4x400m, 4x800m), Logan Schockmann (1600m, 3200m), Alyssa Alcantara (800m, 1600m, 3200m), Angela Konopasek (300m Hurdles, 4x100m, High Jump, Javelin) and Hunter Collins (100m, 200m, 4x100m).

Newcomers to the team this season who will be looking to make their mark on the program include: Jillian Guiot (100m Hurdles, 4x100m, Javelin), Ellie Murrell (Shotput), TydaviON Williams-Pritchett (who was the Ozark Highlands Conference Track Athlete of the Year in middle school in 2021), Fisher Love (100m,



200m, 4x100m, Long Jump, Triple Jump) and Natalie Banfield (100m, 200m, 4x100m, Javelin).

Morgan believes that, for the boys, the strength of his team may lie in the 400m, 800m, 300m Hurdles, Long Jump, Triple Jump and Javelin.

For the girls, Morgan is eyeing success in the 100m

Hurdles, 300m Hurdles, 1600m, 3200m, Javelin and Shotput.

Morgan went on to say, "We don't have a lot of athletes out, but we have some good ones."

Warsaw will host the first meet on their new track on April 7.

Ladycats Will Rely On Senior Core And New Pitcher For Fifth Straight District Title



The Ladycats return just 2 players who had averages above .300 last season, but they will work on their offense and turn to a senior class laden with leadership capabilities in hopes of making another state run this season after failing to make it past the MSHSAA Quarterfinals for the past three consecutive seasons.

"We have really great senior leadership," Ladycats first year head coach Megan Daleske said. "Taylor Howe and Karlie Jones are 3-year varsity starters and Madison Coskey was a starting infielder for us last year. Jillian Guiot was a missing piece we needed to add some speed to our outfield and lineup."

Howe returns for her senior season after honing in 1st team All-Conference, All-District, All-Region and All-State recognition a season ago. She has since signed to play at the University of Evansville in the fall of 2022.

"Taylor is an exceptional athlete and leader," Daleske said. "We are very excited to have her returning and

setting an example for a young Ladycats team. Her hard-nosed attitude is contagious and sets the tone for practice daily."

Jones is coming back for her senior year after also gaining several post-season honors last year.

"Karlie is another leader for our infield," Daleske commented. "She knows the game and will be a major contributor for us on both sides of the ball this year."

The other two seniors will be asked to take on their fair share as well.

"Madison played third base for us last year and is always working to get better for us," Daleske commented. "And Jilly brings a lot of speed to the outfield and a powerful bat."

Junior Faith Tharaldson and sophomores Jaylen McCullick, Olivia Strange and Autum Walton also had valuable varsity innings last season.

On the mound, freshman Brylee Brewster will take over pitching duties.

"Brylee plays competitive softball in the summer for



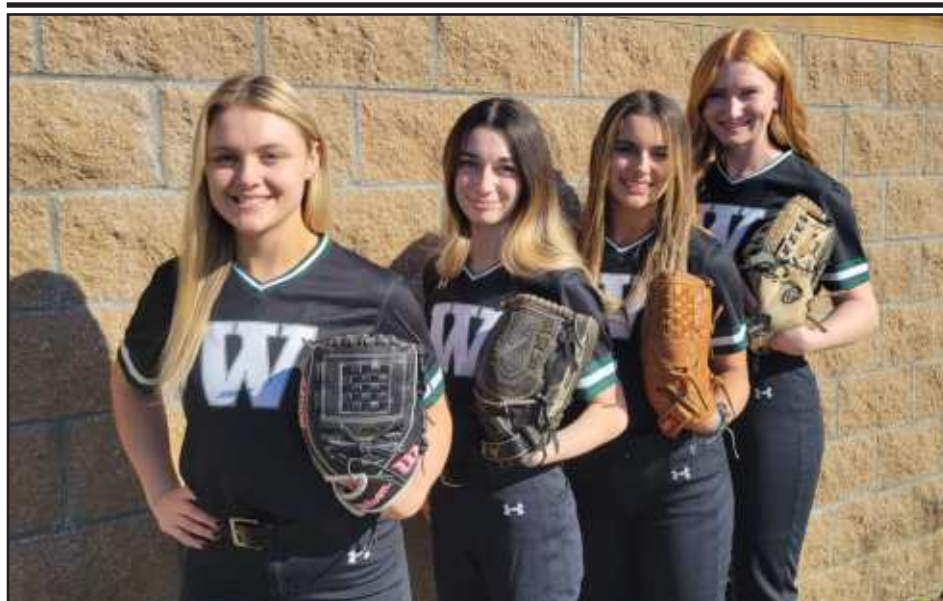
BRYLEE BREWSTER

KC Peppers-Wallace and will be playing with the 18 and under team. She is ranked in the top 100, nationally, in her graduating class and we're really looking forward to seeing her in the circle."

"Howe will play a vital role in mentoring our young pitcher to the high school game," Daleske went on to say.

The Ladycats goals are set high and they expect to be extremely competitive in any game they play this year.

Daleske concluded by saying, "Although we are young, we have talent all over the field."



TAYLOR HOWE, MADISON COSKEY, JILLIAN GUIOT & KARLIE JONES

Wildcats Look To Key Returners, Young Staff To Make Trip Back To Post-Season

Warsaw finished their 2021 campaign at 15-10, were co-champions of the Ozark Highlands Conference, district champions and beat an undefeated Adrian team in Sectionals before falling to eventual state champion St. Pius X in the MSHSAA Quarterfinals. This year, they bring back a slew of players and will also rely on a talented freshman group

to hopefully mimic that success.

"Our strength is our athleticism and depth," Wildcats coach Johnny Eierman said. "Most every guy on our team plays multiple sports."

Seniors Brady Slavens, James Kellner and Gaven Cunningham will all be looking to finish their high school careers on a winning note.

"Brady is a returning All-Conference and All-District player. He'll be shortstop for us and will be in the middle of our lineup," Eierman said.

"James played every position on the field for us last year except pitcher and catcher. He'll also give us a reliable bat in the middle of our lineup and he's looking to have a big senior season."

"Gaven is a senior outfielder for us and he batted over .300 for us in 2021," Eierman said. "We look for another big year from him."

Juniors Tayten Boyer, Gage Whitaker and Alec Frost will all look to up their game as underclassmen this year.

Also fighting for their way into Eierman's lineup are Devon Boul, Colton Harding, Dakota Steinhoff and Bryan Coffey.

Junior Nick Bagley will return behind the dish and is a very good defensive backstop. He'll also be counted on to bring some young hurlers along.

Four freshman; Garrett Ferguson, Josh Bunch, Jayce Depriest and Kendall Bagley will likely see most of the mound duties for the Wildcats. Though just freshman, this group possesses all of the tools of dominance on any given night. Each will also find their way into the lineup at other positions as well.

"We're looking to build on last year and see where this spring takes us," Eierman said hopefully.



BRADY SLAVENS, GAVEN CUNNINGHAM & JAMES KELLNER

