

Bluebirds Look Forward To Encouraging Year On Golf Courses



The Bluebird Golf Team had an exciting 2020-2021 golf season. The Bluebirds will miss key senior leadership from last year but will have two State MSHSAA qualifying golfers return. Matthew Bright and Tyler Howard return for their sophomore season having All-Conference, All-District, and State Tournament experience. Matthew placed 35th and Tyler placed 40th in the 2021 State Tournament.

The Bluebirds finished 4th in the district as a team and hope to improve that mark

in districts this year. Two other highlights from last year was finishing 1st in the Kaysinger Conference Tournament at Mules National in Warrensburg and 1st in the Bulldog Invitational at Rolling Hills CC in Versailles. Matthew Bright was the co-conference medalist with an 81 at the Kaysinger Conference Tournament. They also claimed the coveted Benton County Cup.

Coach Harding will count on Tomas Cano and Daniel Vosmith to provide

that senior leadership for returning players to replace the five seniors that graduated from last year's squad. Returning players Tomas Cano, Daniel Vosmith, Isaac Vosmith, and Wyatt Hesse will all compete to fill the varsity positions vacated from last year. Newcomers Judd Harms, Spencer Godwin and Gage Oelrichs will compete for varsity spots as well.

The Bluebirds had a good off season and should be ready to get after it in the 2021-2022 golf season.

Cole Camp Baseball Begins New Regime Under Younger Rusk

Brendan Rusk takes over for his father, Todd Rusk who retired, as the head coach of the Cole Camp Bluebirds baseball team. He had been the assistant the last five years. He knows the game and should bring a lot of experience and structure to a 10-11 team of a year ago.

They return a core group of players from the junior and sophomore class. A few freshmen could make an impact.

They plan on being aggressive at the plate and on the bases with his good team speed. Maybe a glimpse of Whitey Ball as Reid Harrison and Ethan Shear can fly.

With the hard throwing Austin Bunch gone, the pitching staff will be led by Sophomore Gentry Dieckman, who is a master of a variety of off speed pitches.

We wish them our best.



ZACH THOMAS, WYATT BRYAN, ANDREW HAHN & PATRICK OLSEN



GENTRY DIECKMAN



GRADY STRATHMAN

Rusk Takes Over As Lady Bluebirds Softball Coach

Darian Rusk is the new Cole Camp softball coach. She is married to Brendon Rusk, the new baseball coach. The BCE did a story on him over the summer. She also was the assistant girls basketball coach this past season. Below is her story and her views on the upcoming softball season.

JL-Tell us a little about yourself.

Coach Rusk-I received my Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Central Missouri and am currently working towards my Master's in Secondary Education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. This is my 2nd year teaching and my first in Cole Camp. I'm thankful to be back "home" and am looking forward to a great year."

JL-How many years have you been coaching?

Coach Rusk-This will be my first year as a head coach. I served as a volunteer assistant for two years in 2017/2018.

JL-What was your season record last year?

Coach Rusk-The team returns with an 11-8 record from last year.

JL-What goals do you have going in?

Coach Rusk-Ultimately, the goal is always to be competitive--especially in Conference/District play. We will see a large group of quality teams with the hope of making ourselves better for those moments.

JL-Do you have new players that will get playing time?

Coach Rusk-We have a very strong returning Junior class, as well as some Freshman and Sophomores that could see significant time.

JL-Will you change things over last season?

Coach Rusk-Right now, we have several in contention for starting roles--having too many athletes is a nice problem to have. My philosophy is to put the day's best nine on the field and give us an opportunity to be successful.

JL-Is there any one player you expect to have a breakout year?

Coach Rusk-I don't know that I could isolate any one particular player, but I can say that several of them put in significant work during the off-season and I'm looking forward to seeing that pay off for them.

JL-Is your schedule the same?

Coach Rusk-The core of the schedule is the same. We were able to add Dixon, as well as continuing with the Sante Fe Classic.

We wish her and Cole Camp the best as always.



MATTHEW BRIGHT



TOMAS CANO ISAAC VOSMITH



TYLER HOWARD

Hopes Held High For Cole Camp Track & Field



Tom Ward is the head Track Coach at Cole Camp. He has been coaching various sports for 20 years. Below is our preview interview on the upcoming season.

1. What was your season record last year?

Coach Ward-Won Conference Championship on Boys side, finished 4th on the girls side. We finished in the top half of every meet.

2. What goals do you have going in?

Coach Ward-We have changed some of our training methods to try and create speed.

3. Is there any one player you expect to have a breakout year?

Coach Ward-I hope to have a bunch have a breakout year. Ethan Corpening went to state in Triple Jump, Reid Harrison in sprints, Colton Banks in sprints and triple jump, Karley Thayer went to state in hurdles, Toby

Benn in Discus, Michael Wissman in Shot Put, Owen Ives in Javelin, Christina Gifford in pole vault and sprints, Mateo Cano in pole vault, Ben Steenburgen in hurdles, Desiree Heimsoth in Shot Put, Vivian Eddingfield in Shot Put. We are fortunate to have many athletes capable of competing in many different events.

4. Is your schedule the same?

Coach Ward-We have a few different meets this year we will be competing in than last year as some we just weren't able to work with our schedule. We will be traveling to Butler this year, as well as making our way to Warsaw. Other familiar meets we will be attending will be Versailles, CMU Relays, Husker Invite, Wellington Napoleon invite, Eldon Relays, and Osage. We also will be holding our second home meet this year in late April.



LACEY BRANDT



EMILY BURKE



HAIDYN MASSINGILL



KARLEY THAYER

Schnakenberg Returns For Year Four With Girls Soccer Program

Trish Schnakenberg is in her fourth year coaching Cole Camp's girls soccer with the co-op with Stover. She also coached 4 years as an assistant coach for both boys and girls soccer at Fair Grove. We asked her about her team, her goals, her players and the coming season.

1. What goals do you have going in?

Coach Schnakenberg-Our main goal this year is to have a winning record. Last year was a young year for us, so we are hoping to show enough growth to have over

a .500 record.

2. What do you expect out of some players this season?

Coach Schnakenberg-We have a couple of new players that will definitely get some playing time this year; Desiree Heimsoth is a senior, who is looking to play keeper in some varsity games. We also have Chloe Thacker who will play some midfield as well as defense for us this year. Emma Corpening is a sophomore who will be competing for some varsity minutes, since she is a brand new player but has great effort.

We have a pretty solid team this year with many kids returning, so we don't plan on changing too much. We may work on playing a 4-3-3 line up compared to a 4-4-2 line up that we have done in the past.

4. Any key players?

Coach Schnakenberg-We have a few players who should have a great season; Cassidy Carl and Ashlyn Degraffenried are both midfielders who will be major contributors to our team goals this year. Our defensive team of Madyson and Hailey Brown will help

create shutouts and allow our goalies to keep their cool.

5. Is your schedule the same?

Coach Schnakenberg-Our schedule is very similar to last year, except we have added a couple more teams from our conference for the first time (Smithton and Sacred Heart). We should have a few more full JV games as well to give our JV the opportunity to grow their skills and their confidence."

We wish them our very best as the season progresses.



SENIORS will be looked at to contribute for the Cole Camp/Stover girls soccer team this season. They include: Kara Van Vieck (Stover) and Desiree Heimsoth and Madyson Brown (Cole Camp).

