

WINTER SPORTS

20 25

A supplement of the
Journal Review





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BOYS BASKETBALL

Athenians hopeful for rebound season

Jared McMurry
Journal Review

Crawfordsville boys basketball will look similar to last season. Graduating just one starter in Alec Saidian, the Athenians return a group of upper-classmen with experience and hungry to win.

The Athenians, who won just six games in 2024-25, will be led by seniors Cohen McClamroch, Mason McCarty, Nolan Watt, Andrew Hurt and Rowan Gambrel. Saidian was the leading scorer at 12 points per game on a Crawfordsville team that averaged just 45 points per game, but in addition to McCarty's 11 points per game, the Athenians return young scorers.

Sophomore Johnovan Smith returns after averaging nine points, four rebounds, and five assists per game as a freshman. Junior Jacob Lee will anchor the interior for the Athenians. He averaged 7.4 points and four rebounds per game last season.

"After last season, we have everyone returning while graduating one senior," longtime Crawfordsville coach David Pierce said. "We had a great

summer — creating depth, and we have multiple guys that are playing with confidence.

Entering the new Monon Athletic Conference, the Athenians are looking for their first winning season since 2021-22, while last season's six-win total was the lowest for Crawfordsville since they won six in 2014-15.

"Winning only six games last season might have been the best thing for this group," Pierce said. "They are hungry and playing with a chip on their shoulders. They have a lot to prove."

Crawfordsville opens the season at home against Seeger on Nov. 24.

Roster

Cohen McClamroch, 12
Mason McCarty, 12
Johnovan Smith, 10
Jason Minnette, 11
Ryder Cummings, 11
Nolan Watt, 12
Jaxon Wireman, 11
Landon Gerold, 11
Andrew Hurt, 12
Rowan Gambrel, 12
Jacob Lee, 11
Hector Huesca, 10
Coach: David Pierce
Assistants: Danny Pierce, Robb Williamson, Tony Bean

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Seniors hope to lead Athenians to success

Jared McMurry
Journal Review

Crawfordsville girls basketball is hoping to build on a four win season with the return of five seniors this season.

The four wins in 2024-25 followed a winless season, and third-year coach Joe Ferguson is excited about the returning depth for his Athenians.

"This is a big year for us," he said. "We return a lot of players from last year's team, and almost all of our starters. Some of these girls have now started or played significant minutes since they were sophomores, so they have a better understanding of how I want them to play and I know their strengths and weaknesses as a coach."

Seniors Molly Pierce, Olivia Hedrick, Aubrey Lowe, Caroline Melevage and Bea Swick all return with ample varsity experience. Junior Olivia Jett is back after moving into a varsity role halfway through last season and Ferguson expects junior Sydney Elizondo to also make the jump to varsity this season.

Pierce led the Athenians last season with 6.4 points per game, four rebounds and more than a steal per contest. Hedrick also averaged three points per game

and better than six rebounds a night.

"We just want to be more competitive throughout the season," Ferguson said. "I've told the girls that they only have two rules this year. Play hard and have fun. If we can do those two things on a consistent basis then I think we will be a good team at the end of the season."

In 2024-25 the Athenians averaged just 30 points per game and had a defensive average of 48. Ferguson says a big emphasis is increasing their points per game from the last two seasons.

"We are constantly working on our offensive skills in practice," he said. "The past two seasons we have really struggled to compete with teams because we weren't able to score with them."

Roster

Olivia Jett, 11
Molly Pierce, 12
Olivia Hedrick, 12
Aubrey Lowe, 12
Caroline Melevage, 12
Sydney Elizondo, 11
Bea Swick, 12
Addison Huber, 10
Dayanara Fernandez, 11
Laura Viveros, 11
Coach: Joe Ferguson
Assistants: Amanda Elizondo, Jack Taylor, Rollie Norton

SWIM & DIVE

Swimmers enter new conference with same expectations

Jared McMurry
Journal Review

The Crawfordsville swim and dive teams will look to defend their sectional titles and start a new conference winning streak in the Monon Athletic

Conference in the upcoming season.

On the girls side, the Athenians graduated a strong class in 2025, but return a core four that includes seniors Katherine Novak, Marie Hesler and Maesa Horton and junior Melanie Dowd. Hesler won an individual sectional title last

season in the 500 freestyle, while all four swimmers helped the Athenians in a clean sweep of the sectional relays.

"The girls season will test the will of the upperclassmen to see if they can lead their team in a manner that will allow success in the pool," longtime

Crawfordsville coach Kevin Hedrick said.

Hedrick also expects newcomer Quinn Olofson to add some immediate depth.

On the boys side, the Athenians

SEE CHS SWIM/4

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WRESTLING

Plenty of new faces for the Athenians

Jared McMurry

Journal Review

There will be several new faces in the Crawfordsville wrestling lineup this season. The Athenians graduated six seniors from a team that won the county title, was second in the Sagamore Conference and second at the sectional in 2025.

Seasoned Crawfordsville coach Aaron Keller is excited about the returning varsity guys and young grapplers that expect to crack into the lineup.

"We are looking forward to seeing some new faces in the lineup," Keller said. "I expect there to be some challenges that come up throughout the season and I am looking forward to growing with this group to become better as a program."

Sophomores Carlos Gutierrez, Aiden Hutchison and Noe Torres and juniors Armando Munoz, Blayze Robbins and John Pennington return for the Athenians

this season. Hutchison and Robbins were each sectional runner-ups a season ago.

Keller expects freshmen Jaxen Trent, Adrian Munoz, and Murphy Cokel, sophomores Victor Sanchez, Jarron Torres and Jayden Wray, and juniors Justin Gonzalez and George Mixtega to add depth for Crawfordsville.

"I expect this group to grow as a team and become better men than when they arrived," Keller said. "I know they will be pushed throughout the season and it's my hope that they can realize their potential and surpass what they think they are capable of doing."

On the girls' side, the Athenians will return six varsity wrestlers from the inaugural season of IHSAA girls wrestling. Crawfordsville returns seniors Michelle Montes, Bri Carretero Morales, and Roxanna

Shannon, juniors Jazmen Russell and Brittany Crew, and sophomore Tia Jennings.

"Last year was an eye-opening experience for everyone because it was the first year of IHSAA girls wrestling, but I still think it was a great year for us," Crawfords-

ville coach Brayden Montgomery said. "It's

a new year and I think the girls are ready to work hard and get after it this season."

Last season Montes and Morales were regional qualifiers, and Russell started the season 7-1 before suffering a season-ending injury.

Montgomery looks for freshmen Olivia Abney, Katelyn Teeple, Laken Suitors, and Lilah Hungerford to make an immediate impact.

"They will all see varsity time this year, so they will have to be ready to go and contribute right away," he said. "We have a great



group and a tough schedule, which should make for an exciting year."

Girls Roster

Michelle Montes, 12
Bri Carretero Morales, 12
Jazman Russell, 11
Roxanna Shahan, 12
Brittany Crew, 11
Tia Jennings, 10
Olivia Abney, 9
Katelyn Teeple, 9
Laken Suitors, 9
Lilah Hungerford, 9

Boys Roster

John Pennington, 12
Justin Gonzalez, 11
George Mixtega, 11
Armando G. Munoz, 11
Aiden Norris, 11
Rolando Riano, 11
Blayze Robbins, 11
Alan Campos, 10
Carlos Gutierrez, 10
Phoenix Hill, 10
Jarron Torres, 10
Aiden Hutchison, 10
Noe Torres, 10
Jayden Wray, 10
Kolton Jones, 10
Victor Sanchez, 10
Ben Addler, 9
Austin Campbell, 9
Murphy Cokel, 9
Gage Cubel, 9
Jasean McMullen, 9
Adrian Muoz, 9
Jaxen Trent, 9

CHS SWIM

FROM PAGE 4

return a deep core of swimmers that have high expectations for the season.

Daniel Surface, Jayden Callejas, Braxton Lewellen, Shawn Ewoldt, Adrian Medina, Korbin Sanders and Tryston Sauer all return for a Crawfordsville team that narrowly won the sectional last season and was third in

the final Sagamore Conference race. Ewoldt was the lone sectional winner last season in the 100 breast-stroke.

"The guys have the ability to make this a season to remember due to their incredible talent and athleticism," Hedrick said.

Grant Schroeter is a newcomer that is expected to add depth for the Athe-

nians.

Roster

Mila Blackwell
Jayden Callejas
Melanie Dowd
Konner Ellsbury
Shawn Ewoldt
Konner Hartlep
Annabella Hernandez
Osiris Herrera
Eleanor Hesler
Marie Hesler
Henry Hoar
Maesa Horton
Sebasitan Kochert Cosby

Braxton Lewellen
Samya Mason
Adrian Medina
Sarah Melevage
Jackson Miles
Katherine Novak
Sadie Olofson
Ariah Richards
Korbin Sanders
Tryston Sauer
Alayna Schroeter
Grant Schroeter
Daniel Surface
Jack Sweet
Marshall Templeman
Amelia Wilkinson

SWIM & DIVE

Excitement builds for pool reopening

Austin Lawton

Journal Review

VEEDERSBURG — There is a lot to look forward to for the Fountain Central boys and girls swim teams.

Firstly, a return to their home pool is on the cards for the school. After traveling to various area schools to practice, the Mustangs will be able to see their home pool complete later this season.

"Since we are still traveling to practice, our usual ability to practice whenever needed or would like, is not as convenient and has cost us some swimmers, but the swimmers we still have are still overcoming that obstacle with grace and determination while we wait for the completion of the update of our home pool," Coach Bonnie Nix said. "We would like to extend a big thank you to Attica High School and Brian Duncan for allowing us to practice at their school. It is very much appreciated. We are looking forward to achieving some goals, making lasting memories and being back in our home pool this season."

With a home pool in the near future, improvement and growth is also on the table for both swimming and diving teams. Nix's teams have outlined goals for themselves as the Mustangs look to improve on a third place in the Wabash River Conference.

"Our swimmers and divers have set many goals for themselves such as beating their times from last year and hopefully placing for bi-county, WRC and sectionals," Nix said.

Fountain Central returns junior diver William Armstrong. Armstrong

SEE FC SWIM/7

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Mustang hoops look for a fresh start

Austin Lawton
Journal Review

VEEDERSBURG — After a 5-18 record in 2024-25, the Fountain Central High School boys basketball team is looking for a fresh start in the upcoming season, starting with new coach Lou LeFevre.

LeFevre brings coaching experience from Indiana, Georgia and Connecticut, winning four state championships during his coaching career, along with over 600 wins. LeFevre is also a member of the East Haven Connecticut High School Hall of Fame, be-

ing inducted in 2021.

One of LeFevre's main goals of the season is player development getting the best out of his squad. LeFevre is new to the area, and wants to see his players be competitive against every single team on the schedule.

"My focus is solely to get our players to develop great habits of play that will make us a competitive team against everyone," LeFevre said. "As the season progresses and the games approach, I will learn as much about each upcoming opponent as possible. I believe that there are

about a dozen different tenets of play in basketball that enable a team to become a strong team, and I will try to get my team to get improved at every one of those aspects of play."

The Mustangs return four key players: last year's leading scorer Junior Eli Foxworthy, Junior Ayden Batchelor, last year's leader in rebounds senior Noah Dodson and sophomore Gavin McCollum.

LeFevre notes how McCollum has developed after not seeing a lot of playing time last year.

"He did not play much

varsity last season," LeFevre said. "He has worked extremely hard to make himself a solid varsity point guard."

In terms of setting goals, LeFevre will want his team to focus on a system, rather than setting season-related goals.

"I don't believe in setting goals," LeFevre said. "I believe teams and athletes should focus on systems of performance instead. If the players can adopt a system of great practice training and strong game preparation, they will steadily improve and be a tough team to beat. If that happens,

then the season is a success."

Last year, the Mustangs finished seventh in the Wabash River Conference and will look to improve when they kick-off the season at home, hosting the North Montgomery Chargers at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Roster

Ayden Batchelor, 11
Gavin McCollum, 10
Eli Foxworthy, 11
Kayden Myers, 10
Bryson Ross, 11
Noah Dodson, 12
Carson Kirkpatrick, 10
Laine Hester, 12
Nolan Acton, 12
Paul Adams, 11
Coach: Lou LeFevre
Assistant: Jeff Horlacher

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mustangs rely on speed, depth for success

Austin Lawton
Journal Review

VEEDERSBURG — Already off to a strong start, with a 5-1 record, on the 2025-26 season, the Fountain Central Mustang girls basketball team looks to have another strong season to follow up 20 wins in 2024-25.

Last season, the Mustangs finished with a 20-5 record, going all the way to the Sectional 53 final, losing to Lafayette Central Catholic, 53-30. Despite the success in

2024-25, coach Sam Karr will look to continue to win "the right way."

"The program is continuing to build a culture of winning the right way," Kerr said. "Where student athletes are learning the game, learning how to be great teammates, and holding each other accountable every day in practice and preparation. If these things are present in a program, success, whether in wins and losses or contributing to the success of the stu-

dent athlete, will occur."

So far in the young season, Fountain Central has wins against West Lafayette, Clinton Prairie, Frankfort, Clinton Central and Faith Christian. The only loss for the Mustangs came away to Rossville on Nov. 15.

This year, Fountain Central has no seniors on the team, but Kerr has faith in her squad to improve despite senior leadership that can prove beneficial to a team.

"Having no seniors, it is going to be hard to

improve on a 20-win season and a number one defensive ranking in the state," Kerr said. "If it is possible, this team from freshmen to juniors could do it. It is going to take a lot of work to accomplish what we think we can accomplish. Team speed and depth should help this year. Time will tell."

An upgraded schedule for the Mustangs includes a sectional final rematch against Lafayette Central Catholic and a match up against last

year's Wabash River Conference winners, Parke Heritage. The focus, however is the post-season tournament.

"Our schedule has been upgraded for one purpose only: To get ready for tournament play," Kerr said. "Teams on our schedule include West Lafayette, Clinton Central, Faith Christian, Rossville, Lafayette Central Catholic, Terre Haute South, Seeger, North Vermillion, Southmont, Western Boone and

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FC SWIM

FROM PAGE 5

finished 12th at the IHSAA State Finals last season as well as racked up sectional, bi-county and conference championship titles. Armstrong is also the reigning Journal Review Boys Swimmer/Diver of the Year. Gage Harrison was the only other Mustang to receive WRC honors last season.

The boys' team will open the season Nov. 25, traveling to North Montgomery. The girls will start the season Nov. 18, traveling to Attica for a meet consisting of Attica, Fountain Central, North Vermillion, Parke Heritage and Covington, at 6 p.m.

Girls Roster

Mia Nix, 12
Allie Dotson, 12
Peyton Hocking, 12
Lilly Peterson, 11
Esme Muniz, 11
Hayley Kler, 10
Madison King, 9

Boys Roster

Gage Harrison, 12
Eli Sowder, 11
William Armstrong, 11
Brody Larkin, 11
Dallin Johnson, 11
Lucas Kirkpatrick, 10
Colton Wigley, 9
Andrew Froedge, 9
Coach: Bonnie Nix

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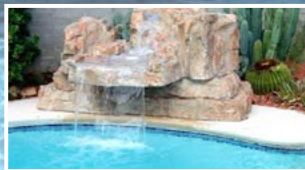
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Mustang grapplers seek improvement on the mat

Austin Lawton
Journal Review

VEEDERSBURG — The 2025-26 season for the boys and girls wrestling teams at Fountain Central High School will be a year of growth and improvement.

For the girl's wrestling team, improvement in the classroom and on the mat is the main focus for coach Lucas Deel.

"On the mat, expectations for this year are clearer than they were last year," Deel said. "Last year we didn't even realize we were going to have a girls season until it started. We had a team full of beginner-level wrestlers last year, and just looked to learn and grow. This year, things are a little different. We have some girls who have wrestled now. We are starting out with some experience, and we are looking to really compete with other schools.

"We are building on what we learned last year and looking to improve from there. In general, our expectations are pretty clear. Be a good student. Be someone your teachers want to come support. Be a role model

for all the young ladies who look up to you. Be tough, and fight within the rules. Learn from losses and enjoy the wins. Treat each other like family. If we do these things, our season will be a success. These girls understand that they are still doing something new, and they are changing people's minds about what girls wrestling is, and showing how brutally tough a genuinely good group of young ladies can be."

The Mustang girl's wrestling team's 2025-26 season is already underway, most recently beating South Vermillion on Nov. 11, 48-12.

On the boy's side, coach Jaren Oakley has high hopes for his freshman class and for the team to win the Wabash River Conference.

"The expectation for the boy wrestling team this year will be WRC champions overall with at least three to five individual champions," he said. "A possible three sectional champions and a couple semi state qualifiers and again a state qualifier.

"Our freshman class is a huge improvement to the team this

season. They all average at least 4-5 years of experience under their belts so they are seasoned wrestlers."

The Mustangs kick off their season Nov. 22 at the Mike Atwood Memorial Invitational in Delphi.

Girls Roster

Araya Brown, 11
Riley Deel, 9
Ruby Deel, 11
Katelyn DePugh, 9
Jayden Larkin, 12
Lydia Perkins, 12
Savannah Richardson, 11
Abigail Reese Walters, 9
Amira Welles, 11
Coach: Lucas Deel

Boys Roster

106 Ryder ford
113 Bryn Simmons
126 Novi Rogers
126 Alan Melchor
132 Alan Blankenship
138 Xavier Richardson
144 Dakota Willoughby
157 Blayne Lloyd
157 William holt
157 Josia Straw
165 Asher Davis
175 Caylum Wills
190 Manny Rodgers
190 Wyatt Bowling
285 Colby Golia
285 Keyton Beard
Coach: Jaren Oakley

The Lady Mustangs hosted the 1-2 Crawfordsville Athenians on Nov. 18.

Roster

Cadence White, 11
Citrus Wesley, 9
Kendyl Nolan, 10
Lilly Gregory, 9
Makayla Carnahan, 9

Henley Good, 11
Kynleigh Elkins, 9
Katelynn Holt, 10
Ella Grubbs, 9
Aubrey Ashwill, 11
Bella Bacon, 11
Cassandra Wildman, 10
Jailynn Wolverton, 9
Caydence Ray, 9
Coach: Sammy Karr
Assistants: Mary Frazee, Jerzi Hershberger

FC GIRLS

FROM PAGE 7
Parke Heritage among others. All capable of contributing to our 'loss' column. We have our hands full with this schedule but feel like we will benefit in February from playing through this."

Chargers look for improvement

Bob Cox
Journal Review

LINDEN — North Montgomery is looking for improvement this season.

First-year coach Trizton Carson believes his boys and girls teams have similar goals for success. A part of the journey includes growing as a team and getting to know each other.

"I feel like this team has the ability to feed off one another so finding our groove as a team will be key," he said.

For the boys, Carson is excited to see what Kady Cohee has in store.

For the girls, he is eager to see Sophia Shea and Makenna Hutson compete.

Carson also wants to see what Wyatt Harshbarger, a former Indiana State Wrestling Association age group champion, can bring to the team. The sophomore has stayed healthy after sustaining a football injury last year that kept him from wrestling.

"We also gained two move-ins, Alyssa Mantesta and Gavin Mantesta," he said.

Since being named head coach, Carson has been recruiting in the school hallways. Two students agreed to wrestle for the first time. Senior Crew Cole, who

is known for baseball, and sophomore Lincoln Heide, a former basketball player, are on the roster and should help with the team's depth.

Carson believes forming the Monon Athletic Conference is a good move.

"We are excited to see what the new conference has in store for us," Carson said. "It is a new opportunity for other schools to get some due recognition."



Boys Roster

Chase Welshimer, 12
Crew Cole, 12
Kyle Ratliff, 12
William Church, 12
Tyler Thompson, 11
Landon Somerville, 11
Kady Cohee, 11
Gavin Mantesta, 11
Donavan Johnson, 11
Achyllees Blackford, 10
Eli Nunan, 10
Lincoln Heide, 10
Wyatt Harshbarger, 10
Adam Cazee, 9
Aleo Santiago, 9
Conner White, 9
Dominik Walker, 9
Emrick Phillips, 9
Jayden Clawson, 9
Landon Ireland, 9
Rhiley Staples, 9
Elijah McGuire, 9

Girls Roster

Sophia Shea, 12
Makenna Hutson, 12
Alyssa Mantesta, 12
Paige Yarger, 11
Shyla Walker, 11
Lucia Southwood, 10
Skylar Hall, 10
Kaitlyn Kunz, 10
Joselyn Hernandez, 10

Chargers ready to prove themselves on the court

Bob Cox

Journal Review

LINDEN — North Montgomery players are ready to face a season without graduated Kelby Harwood who led the Sagamore Athletic Conference in rebounding and scoring last season. The new edition of the Chargers believe they will compete in and win games.

The Chargers return two senior starters in Colten Arnold and Jack Warren. Coach Chad Arnold, in his seventh season at the helm at the school, expects both players to supply needed leadership.

Arnold also is expecting two returning players to contribute in a big way. Both players, Tayln Sheldon and Isaac Thornton, were not able to complete

BOYS BASKETBALL

the season. Sheldon suffered a season-ending injury and Thornton for personal reasons.

Both players will be needed this season, Arnold said.

"I think Isaac Thornton has a chance to be a really good player for us both offensively and defensively," Arnold said. "I am also very high on Tayln Sheldon. Tayln broke his elbow last year in the championship game of the Sugar Creek Classic. He was just starting to understand how hard he had to work to get on the floor. He has carried that over this season and is putting in extra time on his shooting after practice."

In Arnold's seven seasons the Char-

gers have become known for playing good defense. Arnold said his team must continue to make it hard for opponents to score and rebound to have success.

"We have to be a great defensive team," Arnold said. "I think we have good size and we should be a good rebounding team."

Arnold believes joining the new Monon Athletic Conference is good for his Chargers. He sees the conference being more competitive against all the MAC teams.

"I'm excited to compete against new teams," Arnold said. "I believe joining this conference will give us a greater opportunity to be competitive."

The Chargers, who finished last season 8-15, will open the season Tues-

day at Fountain Central. The junior varsity game will tip off at 6 p.m.

Roster

Jackson Grundy, 12
Dane Elliott, 12
Jack Warren, 12
Colton Arnold, 12
Kale Mitchell, 12
Colin Zachary, 11
Isaac Thornton, 11
Tayln Sheldon, 11
Drew Dark, 10
Carter Thompson, 10
Kellen Ireland, 10
Kash Murphy, 10
Hayden Anderson, 10
Nathan Purcell-Sanchez, 10
Owen DeSmet, 10
Kohen Bonebrake, 9
Elliott Allen, 9
Cooper Stephens, 9
Gabe Francisco, 9
Andrew Fedor, 9
Coach: Chad Arnold

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SWIM & DIVE

Chargers swimmers ready to make big splash

Bob Cox

Journal Review

LINDEN — North Montgomery's boys and girls teams are ready to make bigger splashes this season. With several returning swimmers and a new conference, the Chargers are gearing up for another successful campaign.

The Charger girls have returning letter winners Kylie Sankey, Dusty Robinson, Katelyn Woolwine, Annabelle Verduin, Kate Merica and Ava Kilgour who were consistent scorers last season.

Head coach Erin Yeager believes the girls have the potential to do well this season, but the swimmers need to do the work to prove themselves.

"We need to be ready to swim fast at the big meets like in the county, confer-

ence and sectional," Yeager said. "We need to focus on technique and mental toughness."

Two newcomers to the team are Danielle Martin and Erika Newkirk. Newkirk did not swim the last two seasons but Yeager was pleased to have her come back to the team.

Yeager believes the new Monon Athletic Conference will be competitive and looks forward to seeing how the girls compete.

"The Monon will be a competitive conference for the girls and we should do well and enjoy some success throughout the season," Yeager said. "I have swam all of the 'new' teams in the past and I'm looking forward to competing against them at the conference

SEE **NORTH SWIM/11**

Chargers rely on new leadership

NORTH SWIM

FROM PAGE 10

meet and seeing how we stack up.”

The Charger boys have returning letter winners, Sam Woolwine, Sam Rogers, Logan Smith and Cole Yeager.

The boys’ roster is smaller than in recent seasons, making Yeager’s job of managing meets a challenge. The team has seven members.

“For us to be successful, we have to manage our numbers to maximize points with the guys,” Yeager said. “We will focus on the big meets and work to swim fast. We will continue to work on technique.”

Yeager expects newcomers Colton Ratcliff Deford and Piersyn Joyce will help with team depth.

Yeager sees the keys to a good season for the boys mirrors the same as the girls. She said the boys will key on being at their best at sectional time. Constant improvement all season long will be essential for the big meets at the end of the season.

The Charger girls team will open the season Tuesday at Greencastle in a three-way meet against the host Tiger Cubs and Danville.

The boys first action will be Thursday at home against Fountain Central in a boy-girl meet.

Bob Cox

Journal Review

LINDEN — North Montgomery is coming off one of its most successful seasons in recent history. Last year’s team finished with a 16-10 record with graduated Piper Ramey leading the way. The new edition is ready to improve upon where they left off.

Seniors Macee Norman and Ella McManomy will be relied upon to provide leadership. Juniors Lilly Graham, Caelyn Carpenter and Mady Holt will provide experience.

Twelve-year Charger Coach Ryan Nuppnau is looking at two specific players to help provide depth to his squad.

“Bailey Nichols and Sophie Welshimer both played back and forth between JV and varsity last year,” Nuppnau said. “We are expecting both to contribute more this year.”

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Nuppnau said his team’s success will start on the defensive end.

“We are a smaller team and will need to do the little things on defense to counter our height,” he said.

Nuppnau said his offense is capable but still learning how to replace Ramey.

“Offensively, we need each girl to step up and score,” Nuppnau said. “We have a big void to fill with Piper graduating. Macee Norman has stepped up the last few games, but we need more. Everyone who steps on the court can score.”

Like most coaches in the new Monon Athletic Conference, Nuppnau is looking forward to playing different teams.

“We are excited about the new conference,” Nuppnau said. “All the teams will be competitive and thus

make the conference more competitive each year.”

North Montgomery started the season with a 3-1 record with wins over MAC foe Frankfort, Attica and Frontier. The Chargers are scheduled to face Crawfordsville on Friday in the Sugar Creek Classic to be played at Western Boone. Tipoff is 6 p.m.

Roster

Jane Campbell, 9
Kendall Barnett, 9
Makenzi Snellenbarger, 9
Addison Johnson, 9
Chloe Arnold, 9
Scarlette Hamm, 9
Jayla Birge, 10
Lauren Kelp, 10
Madysen Holt, 11
Bailey Nichols, 11
Sophie Crum, 11
Lilly Graham, 11
Caelyn Carpenter, 11
Ella McManomy, 12
Macee Norman, 12
Coach: Ryan Nuppnau

SOUTHMONT MOUNTIES

Southmont wrestling has high hopes this season

Jeff Nelson

Journal Review

When Southmont wrestling coach Jamie Weliever says “this guy is pretty good,” or “this team is pretty good,” you can put it in stone.

When he thinks his Mounties can be “pretty good” you make plans to go watch.

There are no seniors on this year’s team, but there is a roster full of youngsters that he thinks can make this team “pretty good.”

“We are returning some experienced wrestlers, but are very young,” he

WRESTLING

noted. “No seniors at this point, but I’m still hoping some guys come out after football. Even though we are very young this is a very talented bunch of guys and are looking for some great success along with season-long improvement as they all gain experience on the mat. One big question I have is leadership. Without seniors, are these other guys going to be able to step up and lead? Good leadership or the lack of it I believe will be the biggest factor for this team’s success.”

There are some younger guys with

a lot of success who might step into those leadership roles.

Like Lukas Scott at 106. He was a semi state qualifier as a freshman.

Or Camden Laney, who also was a semi state qualifier as a sophomore at 144.

Or Kooper Charles, who was a regional qualifier at 190 and comes off a great football season.

Or Cooper Scott at 138, who was also a regional qualifier.

There are also several grapplers who return with starting experience.

Sophomore Arlon Musick started at 120, but will face some real competi-

tion for that weight class from “talented” junior Matthew Emerson, “talented” transfer junior Jack Ward.

Carlos Jimenez is a returning “talented” starter at 157 and a sophomore.

At 165 & 175 there will also be tough competition, starting with returning starters in junior Paxton Gentry and sophomore Graisen Million. They will be joined at those weights by “talented” freshman Kasen Bushong and “good” freshmen Kolten Farmer-Forbes, Derek Hale and Kai Lewen.

There is another transfer at 215 & Hwt in “talented” junior Diego Castillo.

SEE SOUTH WRESTLING/12

Reloading, not rebuilding | Mounties set the bar high

Jeff Nelson

Journal Review

NEW MARKET — Only one starter returns from a Southmont squad that went 15-8 last season, but there are hoopsters with experience that sit on Coach Dan Chadd's bench.

Back in the first chair for the Mounties, Chadd has the starter, a couple returning players, a couple guys coming back to the team and guys up from a good junior varsity team.

"Austin Foley is the lone returning starter from last season, where we graduated a heavy senior class," Chadd said. "However, Heath Tolliver, Dean McGaughey and Caden Miller played a lot of minutes. We look for these guys to bring some experience in games that others might not have just yet."

"We are pleased to have Gunnar Shirk and Cale Chadd, both seniors, return back to the hardwood after missing last season," Chadd added.

"Both of these guys, along with Tolliver, (Solomon) Mason, Miller, and (Bronson) Clark will bring their football success and toughness to practice each and every day."

Foley will be counted on, especially early in the season.

"We look for Austin to impact the game on both ends this year with his length. It's fair to say that he'll be a big

BOYS BASKETBALL

part of whatever success we have," Chadd said. "Another impactful player will be McGaughey. He's a great athlete that can score at all three levels and was our best defender last year. Miller will be another guy to watch this year as he showed signs of being special last year as a freshman.

"Tolliver is a big that punishes guys on the inside, but stretches the floor well enough to hit three's if the defense allows it. Chadd will bring his quickness and be a great defender and run the floor well for us. Shirk, much like in football, will do a little bit of everything for us, but mostly the dirty work. He's a big strong athlete that can play multiple roles for us."

The season gets Dec. 5 with a trip to North Montgomery. The home opener is not until Dec. 13 against Greencastle.

Roster

Austin Foley, 12
Heath Tolliver, 12
Gunnar Shirk, 12
Cale Chadd, 12
Dean McGaughey, 11
Landon Grimes, 11
Solomon Mason, 11
Lino Aguiar, 11
Bronson Clark, 11
Caden Miller, 10



Jeff Nelson

Journal Review

NEW MARKET — It is a season of high expectations for the Southmont girls basketball team.

Even though there are no seniors on the squad, it is an experienced team that returns from last year's 12-12 team and got to the sectional championship game.

Five juniors and three sophomores make up the early-season roster for Coach Dan Burkman.

"We have a lot of weapons — we have high expectations," Burkman said. "We've had this team together a couple of years. They are starting to gel, and they understand our system better and better. Our chemistry is also good — we are coming together."

The Mounties won their first three games of the season, avenging losses to the same three teams that beat them at the start of last season.

"Our defense is pretty good and the kids worked a lot on their skills in the offseason, so our offense is coming around," Burkman said. "We will press and go fast until someone stops us. We've had several girls get into double-figure scoring already."

The scoring leader early is Ella Berry. "She is just a great all-around athlete and will be a challenge for any team," Burkman noted.

Junior Layla Gomez will be difficult to deal with in the middle.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Claire Kessler is one of the most improved from last year. "She is so strong and physical, and she is a rebounding machine," he said.

Junior Molly Williams is really stepping up her game, "and has been shooting really well from deep."

Makenzie Wood is another greatly improved player, Burkman said of the junior. "She did a lot of offseason work."

Kaylee Turner is a sophomore who saw action in 23 games last season and will be counted on highly this season. "She is left-handed, which is an advantage," Burkman said. "She is super-quick and she also really understands the game."

Emily Link has grown into her role as point guard, Burkman said. "She is our floor leader who gives it her all. I can depend on her to tell me what she thinks and even disagree if she thinks differently. I value that."

Camryn Priebe rounds out the eight varsity players. "She's quick, very fast and aggressive," Burkman said. "She is learning the offense and could become a good three-point shooter."

"We have lofty goals," the coach said. "We want to win the county title, the Sugar Creek Classic title, the first Monon Conference title and then a sectional title, maybe more."

The season is certainly off to a good start towards those goals.

SOUTH WRESTLING

FROM PAGE 11

He will be joined in that competition by freshmen Chance Brock, Caiden Halstead and Andrew Patterson

A last transfer is junior Bryce Glaze at 126.

There are also other freshmen who will add depth and challenge starters.

Hunter Chieppo is a "talented" freshman at 113, Elijah Baddillo is in the mix at 120, Gavin Mason is "very high talented" at 132, Samuel Haslam will be in the 138 group and "very talented" Tyson Kelsey wrestles at 150.

When asked about the new Monon Conference, coach said it is only part of the big picture. "As far as the new confer-

ence, it doesn't really matter," Weliever said. "With wrestling being a sport without a class system we have to compete with everybody in the state. We try to balance our schedule to wrestle talented local teams as well as travel to Calumet, Tri-Central and Culver Military to see several large schools who have good wrestling programs. Everything we do

is to try and prepare for the state tournament at the end of the year which includes all 313 high schools in the state with wrestling programs. The entire season is practice for the sectional."

Coach Weliever also noted his staff.

"Our coaching staff is one of the best, if not the best I've ever had," he said. "Assistant coach-

es are Nathan Hodges, Laine Frazee, Rachel Welliever, Juan Grino, and volunteer coaches are Jason Kelsey, Jud Van-Cleave, Scott Dove, Zion Essex and Jeffery Pine. All of our coaches are former Southmont wrestlers except Laine, who is a state placer from Fountain Central High School."

The Mounties get into the season on Dec. 2.---