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CRAWFORDSVILLE BOYS BASKETBALL

Athenians ready to compete for championships

Crawfordsville is expecting to win this season.

Gone is Mr. Everything Mason McCarty and his 20.1 points-per-game. But coach David Pierce believes he has the answer to replace the area's leading scorer with his returning players. Also gone are Cohen McClamroch, Nolan Watt, Andrew Hurt and Rowan Gambrel.

The Athenians return one of the most exciting players in the area in Johnovan Smith who averaged 16.2 ppg. The athletic 6-2 junior can hit shots from all over the court and can take it to the hoop with authority.

Returning starter 6-3 Jacob Lee is a big body in the paint and point guard Jason Minnette is capable of producing positive results. Hector Huesca, the 6-4 junior, also will see time as a post player.

Pierce expects 6-2 junior Braeden Schlote and two freshmen, Nathan Tucker and Hunter Tallman, to compete for playing time as top newcomers.

Landon Gerold will help the team but will need to come back from a football injury. The 6-4 senior will provide depth to the squad.

Pierce, who is entering his 17th season at the helm of the Athenians, expects his squad to battle Cascade and Southmont for the Monon Athletic Conference Championship.

The coach said his team's goals include winning the Sugar Creek Classic, Montgomery County Championship and the sectional.

Pierce said his squad has the ingredients to accomplish the goals.

"We had a very productive summer," Pierce said. "With our size and length, we will be able to extend our defense and force other teams to do things they are not used to doing. We can go inside to four post players, we have a bunch of shooters that we can use at our disposal, and Johnovan Smith is one of the best players we have coached at CHS. With no one holding Johnovan back, we expect Johnovan to have a huge year."

CRAWFORDSVILLE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Athenians want to compete

Wins have been difficult to come by the last few seasons for Coach Joe Ferguson's Crawfordsville teams. He would like nothing better than to turn around the Athenian fortunes.

Crawfordsville lost two leaders due to graduation. Molly Pierce and Olivia Hedrick provided some scoring and toughness to the team one year ago. Also graduating were Caroline Melevage and Bea Swick.

Crawfordsville finished last year with a 4-20 record and finished seventh in the Monon Athletic Conference with a 1-7 record.

Ferguson hopes to hand the reins over to Olivia Jett, Laura Viveros and Sydney Elizondo to provide the same leadership qualities.

Top newcomers identified by Ferguson are Lexi Cox, Addi Huber and Haillie Omundson.

The Crawfordsville coach understands what it takes to turn around the program.

"To be successful we need to not turn the ball over, find a way to score and play great defense," Ferguson said.

He believes Southmont and Cascade will battle for the top spot in the Monon Athletic Conference this season.

CRAWFORDSVILLE WRESTLING

Athenians replacing holes with youth

Crawfordsville's wrestling team wants to build upon recent successes from the last two years. Last year the team finished second in the Monon Athletic Conference and had a record of 13-5.

The team had one graduating senior, John Pennington, last season and by all indications the Athenians were gearing up for another good season.

However, two wrestlers, Blayze Robbins and Aiden Hutchinson, transferred to Southmont leaving two more holes for coach Aaron Keller to fill.

The good news is the cupboard is not bare. Returning to the mat are top wrestlers Armando Munoz, Carlos Gutierrez and Noe Torres.

Crawfordsville also has a strong group of newcomers. Zeke Plunkett, Austin Rogers, Robbie Scanlon, Burke Ratcliff and Gustavo Campos will help fill in the holes in the Athenian lineup.

Keller expects his team to improve as the season goes. He looks forward to watching his young wrestlers grow as wrestlers and in their personal lives.

"Our goal as a team is to become the best version of ourselves," Keller said. "I love seeing our young men grow and becoming a respectable person in our community."

Keller points to Southmont as the team to beat in the Monon Athletic Conference.

CRAWFORDSVILLE SWIM & DIVE

Crawfordsville expecting for more success

Crawfordsville boys and girls swim teams had a lot of success last season.

The boys finished with a 12-2 record. The team added Montgomery County, Monon Athletic Conference and Sectional championships. The girls' record was 11-2. They were Montgomery County and Sectional champions and finished second in the MAC.

Both teams had significant graduations last spring. The boys saw the departure of Jayden Callejas, Shawn Ewoldt, Braxton Lewellen and Dan Surface. The girls team graduated Marie Hesler, Katherine Novak and Maesa Horton.

Longtime coach Kevin Hedrick has plenty of returning talent making the Athenians early favorites to repeat their 2025 championships.

The boys welcome back Henry Hoar, Marshall Templeman and Tryston Sauer.

Templeman is a junior and sat out last season after transferring from North Montgomery where he had a banner freshman season. Templeman found success this summer with the Sugar Creek Swim Club. He competed at the 2026 TYR Futures Championship in Greensboro, North Carolina and had excellent results swimming in the 50 free, 100 free and 200 breaststroke.

Returning for the girls are Melanie Dowd, Mila Blackwell, Amelia Wilkinson and Mabel Hoar.

Newcomers expected to contribute to the boys team are William Hershberger and Emanuel Sanchez Mora.

Top girl newcomers are Vivian Hoar, Zoey Zacarias and Marley Dewey.

Hedrick has the same goals for his team every season. He wants to develop leadership within his squads and make sure the swimmers work hard. He also emphasizes sportsmanship.

Hedrick feels the talent on each team is able to secure the championship that so many Athenian teams have earned in past years.

FC BOYS BASKETBALL

Mustangs resetting for season

Fountain Central is in a learning mode this season as they have a new coach for the second year in a row. The Mustangs' new coach is Landon Newnum who was an assistant coach with Fountain Central last year.

The Mustangs completed last season with an 11-12 record and finished sixth in the Wabash River Conference with a 3-4 record.

Noah Dodson graduated last year. The center averaged six point and six rebounds per game.

Senior Eli Foxworthy is the top returnee this season. The guard averaged 20 points per game. The bad news is that Foxworthy is still nursing an injury that forced him to miss the entire football season. He could be available in January.

Gavin McCollum, who averaged four points and four rebounds last year, will return as will Ayden Batchelor with his 10 points-per-game. Senior Paul Adams is injured with hopes of returning later this season.

Top newcomers to the Mustang varsity are 6-2 freshman Drew Foxworthy, 5-10 senior Ace Hoffa, 6-2 junior Noah Simmons, 6-0 junior Carson Kirkpatrick and 6-5 senior Bryson Ross.

Newnum said the team's goals include winning the Bi-County, an Illinois Christmas Tourney and making a run in the WRC. The team wants to compete for a sectional title and improve on last year's record.

Newnum believes Parke Heritage will be a top WRC team.

"I am looking forward to my first year being a head varsity coach," Newnum said. "I have a good group of guys with only four having ever played varsity minutes. Two of those four will be injured for part of the season. Other players will have a lot of new roles to fill, and we will need players to step up."

FC GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mustangs looking for more success

Fountain Central has everyone back from last year's 23-3 team. Expectations are high as the Mustangs prepare for another sectional championship with a drive to advance beyond the regional in March. Their storied season last year was ended by North Miami in the regional.

The first goal is to win the Wabash River Conference outright. Last season there was a three-way tie for the championship. Other goals include winning the Bi-County and sectional and advancing beyond the regional.

Fountain Central expectations are fueled by the fact there are six players who saw a lot of action last winter.

Returning are seniors Henly Good, Bella Bacon, Aubrey Ashwill and Candace White. Kendyl Nolan is a returning junior and Citrus Wesely returns as a sophomore.

Karr believes his top newcomers are sophomores Mikayla Carnahan, Kynleigh Elkins and Lilly Gregory. Junior Cassandra Wildman also returns.

Karr summed up the team goals in three words — "Regional and beyond."

The WRC top teams are Parke Heritage and Seeger, Karr believes.

FCHS BOYS WRESTLING

Grapplers ready for new season

After a rough season last year, Fountain Central's boys wrestling team has put in the work to earn better results this year.

Coach Jaron Oalkey had several wrestlers gain experience last year. Many of the Mustangs were forced to wrestle up in weight classes but now that experience can help this team tremendously.

Top returning wrestlers are Dakoda Willoughby, Asher Davins, Alan Melchor, Caylum Wills, Colby Golia, Bryn Simmons and Manny Rogers.

Joining the team are four promising freshmen who had a successful middle school season and a good off season.

The freshmen are Grady Allen, Parker Maltsberger, Preston Coackley and Teagan Banks.

The four young grapplers will improve the Mustang depth and get wrestlers into the most optimum weight class.

Oakley said the team's number one goal is to win the Wabash River Conference and then the team can use that success to springboard into the IHSAA sectional. To accomplish the goal, Oakley believes his team needs at least five WRC champions or more.

"I believe we have the chance to be one of the top teams in the conference," Oakley said. "Seeger has been the team to beat the last couple of years so we will have to fight to attain our goals."

Oakley said his team is ready to get the season started. He said the optimism is high throughout the roster.

"I believe this will be an exciting year for the Fountain Central boys wrestling team," Oakley said. "We have a lot of kids with a lot of experience and mat time. We had quite a few kids do a lot of off season wrestling to prepare them for this upcoming season. We start our season Saturday at a very competitive Delphi tournament. This will be a good eye opener for our freshman class. The team is ready to compete."

FCHS GIRLS WRESTLING

Mustangs expect more success

The growth of girls wrestling the last few years is paying off at Fountain Central. The team placed second in both the Wabash River Conference and in the sectional with a dual meet record of 10-1.

This year's team will be anchored by seniors Amira Welles and Ruby Deel along with sophomores Riley Deel, who made a run at state last year, and Katelyn DePugh.

Coach Lucas Deel is excited about freshmen Kenzie Alexander, Ana Maltsberger and Ady Donaldson.

The team also has some new faces wrestling for the first time. All are looking to fill the shoes of Lydia Perkins and Jayden Larkin, who graduated last year.

Deel likes the tenacity of the team as the sport continues to gain popularity.

"The girls teams have been incredibly fun to watch and coach," Deel said. "I am amazed at some of the schools who seem to be feeding the hunger for girls to compete at a high level. A lot of the smaller, rural schools seem to be putting together teams of tough



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Journal Review

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

FCHS GIRLS WRESTLING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

young ladies who want to compete and that is what we have."

Deel said his team wants to improve in all facets this season and that means earning some championship banners.

"We want to turn last year's second place finishes at the WRC and sectional into championships," Deel said. "Filling more weight classes was a big goal for this season. We've had lots of girls achieve some individual successes, but team success has eluded us so far in our program's short history. We have been working hard to bring new girls into the program who are coachable and tough to fill some more weight classes, because that will enable us to win bigger tournaments as a team."

The girls who helped start this program want to build it into something bigger and add championship banners to help entice new girls to the program.

"To anyone who hasn't seen a girls event yet, I would recommend checking one out in your area," Deel said. "Our girls are fierce on the mat, and also some of the kindest, smartest, most caring young ladies you'll meet when they come off the mat. Girls wrestling is real, it's exciting, and it is just getting bigger each year."

Deel expects some tough competition in the WRC from Seeger and Riverton Parke.

FC SWIM & DIVE

Mustangs settle into new pool, new season

Fountain Central's swim and dive teams are most excited about one thing — the newly renovated pool. After not having a home pool due to needed renovations, the Mustangs are back home.

"The last couple of years have been a challenge traveling to multiple other schools to practice, late hours that resulted in low numbers," Mustang Coach Bonnie Nix said.

Nix voiced her gratitude for the swimmers that stuck with her.

"Last year we ended up third in the Wabash River Conference, which was a feat in itself considering we had extra obstacles," Nix said. "This year we are back in our home pool and are rebuilding our program."

Gone from last year's team are Mia Nix, Gage Harrison, Allie Dotson and Peyton Hocking.

Nix considers her seniors her top athletes. Boy swimmer Eli Sowder and diver/swimmer William Armstrong will lead the boys. Lilly Peterson returns and Elise Webb is back in the pool after sitting out last season.

Armstrong is three time WRC Diving and Sectional Champion. Last year he placed fifth in the state in diving.

Armstrong has committed to dive at Indiana University Indianapolis next year.

"We are excited to watch his journey continue this coming season as he completes his senior year," Nix said. "We are extremely proud of him and all of his hard work he has put in all of these years."

One top newcomer is Aubrey Ann Rodgers.

Nix said the team's goals include placing high in the sectional, conference and in the Bi-County meet. She hopes to see the swimmers meet their individual goals, grow as a team and enjoy their season.

NMHS BOYS BASKETBALL

Chargers expecting improvement

North Montgomery Coach Chad Arnold believes his team can turn a corner and get back to winning consistently. A mixture of experienced returners and newcomers are showing there is potential in the Charger camp.

North Montgomery was 7-18 last season and finished seventh in the conference.

The Chargers lost guards Colten Arnold, Kale Mitchell and Jack Warren. Mitchell and Warren always guarded the best players of the opponents and Arnold, who struggled though injuries, brought offense to the squad.

North Montgomery brings back an experienced front court. Athletic 6-3 Issac Thornton, 6-2 Talyn Sheldon and 6-5 Colin Zachary will be key to the team's success. Coach Arnold can rely on the trio for leadership on the floor as well as knowing what their coach wants, especially on the defensive end of the court.

Newcomers moving up from a successful junior varsity team are juniors 6-2 Kellen Ireland and 6-1 Drew Dark.

Coach Arnold said top newcomers are freshmen 5-9 Asa Thomas, 6-2 Bryson Lough and 5-10 Will Dark. Freshman McCutcheon transfer 6-5 Austin Walker also is in the mix along with 6-0 freshman EJ Irizarry.

A good mixture of experience is also represented on the junior varsity roster. Sophomores 5-7 Cooper Stephens, 5-10 Kohen Bonebrake and 6-5 Andrew Fedor are knocking on the door for varsity playing time.

Coach Arnold said the goal is to get better every day and be the hardest playing team in the state. Any season goals will be taken care of if his players can accomplish the above.

The Charger coach, who is entering his eighth year at the school, said a Monon Athletic Conference favorite is not clear at this time.

"It's hard to pick a favorite right now," Arnold said. "Several teams that finished near the top last season lost key players. A few teams that finished in the bottom half have added some new pieces and could contend for the conference title this year. I think the race is pretty wide open."

NMHS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Chargers replacing key pieces

North Montgomery graduated two key players last season, Macee Norman and Ella McManomy. Replacing those players will force the Chargers to play a different style this year.

"We lost two, good senior leaders in Macee Norman and Ella McManomy," head coach Ryan Nuppnau said. "Ella was our energizer bunny who would do whatever she could to help the team. Macee was our steady force down low who dominated the boards — leading the conference in rebounding and someone we could count on to put the ball through the hoop."

This year's team does not have a true post player but rather is guard heavy. Nuppnau understands the strategy must change.

Top returnees include senior guards Caelyn Carpenter, Mady Holt and Lilly Graham.



NMHS BOYS WRESTLING 2025



CHS & NM BOYS BASKETBALL 2025



SOUTH DEAN MCGAUGHEY 2025



KADYN COHEE 2026

NMHS GIRLS BASKETBALL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Other returning player who saw some varsity time last season are seniors Bailey Nichols and Sophie Crum and sophomores Jane Campbell and Kendall Barnett.

Freshman Olivia Nuppnau leads a good freshman class. Nuppnau got her first varsity start in last week's win over Attica and she recorded a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The Charger roster includes several freshmen and unlike last season, has enough players to play a full junior varsity schedule.

"We won't be the biggest team on the court so we need to rely on our guard play — both on the defensive and offensive end," the Charger coach said. "We will need to be able to spread the court out and knock down outside shots while also knocking down pull up shots."

The Chargers finished last season 9-15 and fifth with a Monon Athletic Conference record of 3-4.

Southmont and Cascade were chosen by Nuppnau to be the two top teams in the MAC.

NMHS BOYS WRESTLING

Charger wrestling making gains

One year ago, coach Triztan Carson took over the reins of a Charger wrestling program in need of a rebuild. For most of the season the Chargers were unable to field a complete team. With several weight class forfeits, the Chargers found themselves behind even before the first match.

This year, that situation should be better. Carson has a full squad and several of those athletes put in a lot of off-season preparation. The team is determined to improve upon last year's seventh place finish in the Monon Athletic Conference and 6-14 overall record.

The team had only one senior last year but he was a good one. Graduate Chase Welshimer was a qualifier for the regional.

"Chase was a big help to us last year," Carson said. "But we have guys who can step into his shoes even though he will be missed."

The team returns Kadyn Cohee, Jayden Clawson and Wyatt Harshbarger. All three wrestlers are serious contenders to have success.

A large freshman class has potential, Carson added. Colton Nowling, Connor Rosen and Easton Fried could have success as youngsters.

The team also added senior transfer Caden Eller to the mix.

"Team goals for this season are to have a dual record above .500, place top 4 in the conference tournament, and have a minimum of three wrestlers make it to the semi-state tournament," Carson said.

The Charger coach sees Southmont as the favorite in the MAC but thinks the competition will be good.

"I believe the front runner on paper is Southmont, but I know there are a couple of teams that are chomping at the bit to give them a run for their money," Carson said.

NMHS SWIM & DIVE

North Montgomery ready to re-build

Last year North Montgomery girls swim and dive team set records for team success. The Chargers were Monon Athletic Conference champions and finished the regular season with a 16-1 record.

The Chargers' success will miss key ingredients from last year. Dusty Robinson, Kylie Sankey and Annabelle Verduin have moved on and coach Erin Yeager is looking forward to continuing success.

The girls have experience returning. Kate Merica, Ava Kilgour, Danielle Martin, Anna Cain and Riley Robinson were important to last year's team. Their experience should payoff this season. Freshman Kinley Deener will add to the team's depth.

The boys, short on numbers, finished 3-14 last year with a seventh place finish in the MAC. However, the top performers from last season are all coming back. Sam Woolwine, Logan Smith and Sam Rogers along with newcomer Nathan Kamikan will be the keys to success for the boys' team.

Yeager said the goals for the season remain the same. Qualifying for state is priority on her teams. She wants her returning boy divers, Woolwine and Rogers, to make it to the state meet.

"We lost several key girls' swimmers last season but I'm excited to see how the next generation will step up to fill their shoes," Yeager said. "I have a young boys' team and it isn't very large, but I am hopeful we can grab a few more wins than last season. I am excited to see how both the boys and the girls will grow this season and reach for their goals."

NMHS GIRLS WRESTLING

Chargers look to improve

North Montgomery has added a full-time girls wrestling coach to help build a program that has produced past state champions. Former Charger state wrestling qualifier Bryce Adams has taken over the responsibility of guiding the program.

Last year the Chargers were trying to recover from losing some top wrestlers and the team finished 2-9 in dual meets. There was no Monon Athletic Conference wrestling meet for the girls teams last year.

Losses from last season's squad include Sophia Shea, Makenna Hutson and Alyssa Mantesta. Another loss is Skylar Hall, who experienced a season ending injury. Hall would have been one of the area's top wrestlers.

The top returning wrestler is Paige Yarger who had a successful season last year.

Top newcomers are Remley Redden, Annabelle Rose and Elisama Santana-Roldan.

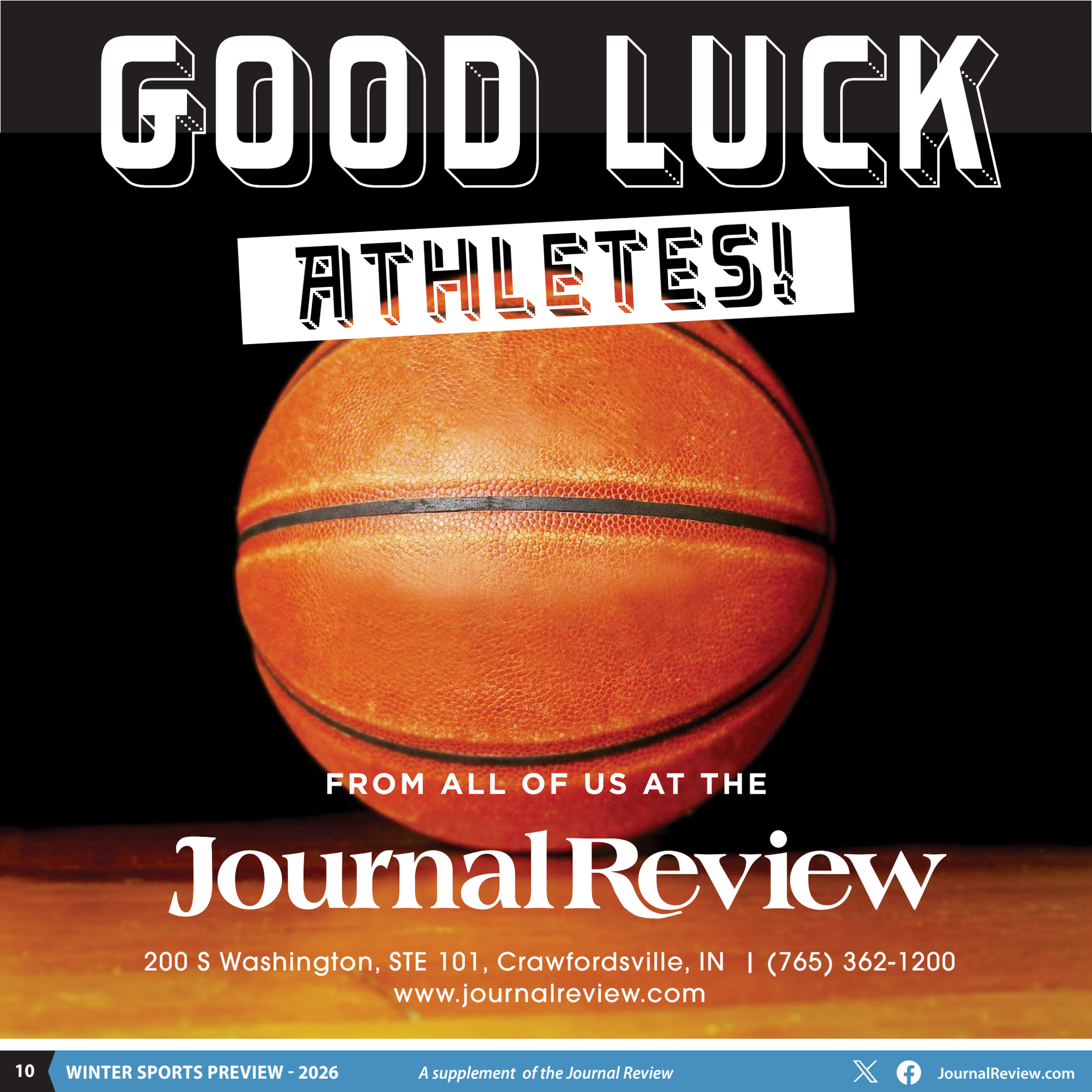
Adams said his wrestlers must learn from every practice and match to improve.

"We must take things one match at a time," he said. "We have five wrestlers and an extremely young team. It is going to be hard to win duals and win in some of our bigger tournaments, but I want to see focus on getting better one percent every day."

Adams believes Greencastle will have the top Monon Athletic Conference team his season.

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SOUTH GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mounties prepare for big season

Coach Dan Burkman knows his team has the ingredients for another successful season. Last year the Mounties finished 17-4. The team lost in the sectional to highly regarded Parke Heritage.

The Mounties ran the table and won the Monon Athletic Conference with a 7-0 record and won the Sugar Creek Classic.

Optimism is high because the Mounties return all players from last year's squad.

Leading the way is junior Ella Barry. The shooting guard averaged 19 points per outing last season. She shoots the ball at a high level and is capable of hitting 3-pointers. She also shot 72% from the free throw line and led the team in steals at 3.4 per game.

Senior post player Layla Gomez is expected to control the paint. The 6-0 senior averaged 11 points and eight rebounds per game last year.

Other top returnees include seniors Claire Kessler, Emily Link, Molly Williams and Kinzie Wood. Junior Kaylee Turner and senior transfer Claire Peacock will add depth to the roster.

Sophomore Hailey Douglas is expected to provide backcourt depth.

Burkman said his team goals include winning the Sugar Creek Classic, Montgomery County Championship, the MAC championship and the sectional.

The Mountie coach believes his team's biggest obstacle to winning the conference again is Cascade.

Editor's Note: Representatives from the Southmont's swim and dive teams did not respond to the Journal Review's request for information.

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SOUTHMONT BOYS BASKETBALL

Mounties welcomes new coach

New head coach Vince Brooks is excited to be at Southmont. Brooks comes from North Putnam where he guided the Cougars for seven seasons.

The veteran coach is grateful for Southmont and has been working with his team since the summer.

"I'm incredibly grateful to our administration, players and families for the warm welcome into the Mountie family," Brooks said. "We had a great summer and we are excited about the opportunity ahead this season."

Southmont graduated three key seniors from last year's 9-14 team which finished fifth in the Monon Athletic Conference with a 3-4 league record.

Post player Austin Foley, who averaged 11.7 points per game and grabbed seven rebounds a game, graduated as did Heath Tolliver, who averaged six points per game and six rebounds per game. Gunnar Shirk also graduated. Shirk was a key substitute off the bench.

Brooks welcomes back plenty of firepower. Senior Dean McGaughey returns along with his 14.9 points per game as does 6-3 Caden Miller who averaged 11.5 points per contest.

Other players returning include Soloman Mason, Landen Grimes and Jaxson Wireman.

Brooks said there are a number of newcomers to the team that will be competing for varsity playing time.

Brooks said goals for his team are to do the things that will build a program that is consistent and wins championships.

"Our goal is to continue building a program that competes at a high level," Brooks said. "We want to be a team that plays with great effort, toughness, and discipline, and one that gets better every day. We want to put ourselves in a position to compete for championships, but our focus is on the daily work and preparation required to get there."

After coaching in a nearby school, Brooks has a good idea of the teams on the Mountie schedule. He feels his squad can finish at the top of the MAC but there are other good teams who will battle for a championship.

"Western Boone and Cascade are poised to be strong contenders in our conference," Brooks said.

SOUTHMONT BOYS WRESTLING

Mounties expect to continue success

Southmont is geared up for another big season after posting a 19-2 record with a Monon Athletic Conference championship in 2025.

There were no seniors last year.

Junior Lukas Scott and sophomore Gavin Mason wrestled at state last year. Camden Laney and Bryce Glaze each were just one match away from wrestling at state.

Jack Ward and Diego Catillo return after qualifying for semi-state.

Other key returnees are Tyson Kelsey, Carlos Jimenez, Paxton Gentry, Arlon Musick, Cooper Scott, Samuel Haslam, Chance Brock, Hunter Chieppo and Matthew Emerson.

The Mounties also added two Crawfordsville transfers. Semi-state qualifier Blayze Robbins and Aiden Hutchison have traded their blue and gold singlets for red and gray singlets.

Two freshmen, Josiah Lawrence and Easton Kelsey, could see varsity action.

Long-time coach Jamie Welliever said team goals will be set each week as the season progresses.



FC GIRLS SWIMMING PETERSON 2025



NMHS CARPENTER ATT LADUKE 2025



OLIVIA JETT 2025



NMHS SHEA FC LARKIN 2025



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