

BASEBALL PREVIEW

Stories by Jake Nichols, Ken Lay and Bill Howard

FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS

When pulling into the ballpark at Farragut, one does not have to look far to find evidence of the Admirals' success.

State championship signs hang on the fence, the years showcased on baseballs so big they can be seen from Kingston Pike. Closer to the locker room, the Walkway of Champions features bricks with the names of every Farragut coach to deliver a state title.

Yet even in a place where winning is practically interwoven into the fabric of the uniforms, new marks can still be achieved. In 2025, the Ads won a fourth straight state championship in Class 4A.

It was their 14th title in program history, a new TSSAA record, and first under first-year coach Garrett Copeland.

He is no stranger to the program, having served as an assistant under previous coach Matt Buckner for more than a decade.

"It's been special," Copeland said. "These guys take a lot of pride in what they do, and they hold themselves accountable. This is a special place to coach, and I don't take it for granted."

Now, Farragut is pushing for a fifth-straight title but will do so with a new team that holds a different identity than the one before it.

"You can get lost in the



Photo by Liam Rudolph

ROSTER

1	Braxton Tye	Jr	13	Matthew Mitchell	Jr	27	Brendon Kutz	So
2	Cash Schroeder	Jr	16	Blaine Whitehead	Jr	29	Ronan Paul	Jr
3	Caleb Van Lant	Jr	17	Joey Ray	Jr	30	Connor Shanley	So
4	Mason Shelton	Jr	18	Mihailo Kalinovic	Jr	31	Corey Cole	Jr
6	Braiden Meredith	Jr	19	Will Dickens	Sr	32	Patrick Kovacs	Sr
8	Aidan Flagg	Sr	20	Jake Mink	Jr	33	Jake Harris	Sr
9	Zain Kureshi-Smith	Sr	23	Blake Morrow	Jr	34	Micah Fretwell	Jr
10	Bradley Wade	Sr	22	Travis Brummitt Jr.	Sr	38	Cole Creasman	So
11	Brody Watkins	Sr	24	Will Criner	Jr	40	Zeke Sulack	Jr
12	Garrett Coffey	Jr	26	Neyland Williams	Sr			

championships of a program," Copeland acknowledged. "The team may have similar components as one before it, but the overall makeup is different. We don't have the pitching staff we

did last year; (Wofford signee) Cole Draper was a huge part of that success and he's not here anymore. Parts of this team won a state championship, but this team has not done any-

thing yet."

With that approach in mind, Copeland will look for nine seniors to lead the charge.

They do hold plenty of experience after last season's run,

Farragut

2/28	Central (preseason)	Home
3/2	Catholic	Away
3/6	Nolensville	Home
3/10-3/11	Bennett School	Away
3/12	Providence, FL	Away
3/12	Lewisburg, MS	Away
3/16	Bearden	Away
3/18	Bearden	Home
3/19-3/21	Cure Tourney	Home
3/23	Lenoir City	Away
3/25	Lenoir City	Home
3/26-3/28	Hoover PG Event	Away
3/30	HVA	Away
4/1	HVA	Home
4/2	Lakeway Academy	Home
4/6	Rhea Co.	Home
4/7	Rhea Co.	Away
4/10	Dobyns Bennett	Home
4/13	McMinn	Home
4/15	McMinn	Away
4/17	Bowling Green	Away
4/18	Christian Co.	Away
4/20	Oak Ridge	Away
4/22	Oak Ridge	Home
4/23	Pigeon Forge (Throwback Game)	Home
4/25	Baylor	Away
4/29	District Tournament	TBD
5/8	Regional Tournament	TBD
5/13	Sectional Series	TBD
5/19-5/22	State Tournament	
	Murfreesboro, TN	

giving Copeland a clearer picture entering his second year at the helm.

"Last year it was a com-

See FHS BASEBALL on Page 3C

HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY HAWKS

Last season, Hardin Valley Academy's baseball team went 23-12, and just missed advancing to the Regionals, falling in a close game to eventual state champion Farragut in the District Tournament.

Entering this season, second-year coach Aaron Simmons has plenty of question marks about filling positions, especially in the infield. But he refuses to call it a rebuilding year.

"I wouldn't call it rebuilding," said Simmons. "I don't believe in rebuilding; I believe in competition. We have a lot of players coming back, and progressing and going forward. I think we can compete for a championship every year."

The Hawks are likely to see myriad lineups this year, depending on who's pitching. Many players are likely to see multiple positions.

"There's gonna be a big competition for a lot of players. Any given day anybody can be playing any position," Simmons said.

Senior Wyatt Fellers is likely to see playing time at first base. Fellers, a starting pitcher last year, also hits for power, according to Simmons. Sophomores Reece Dove and Cannon Mayes could also man the position.

Senior Jack Sparks, a Tennessee Tech commit who



Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography

ROSTER

13	Kenny Lane	20	Tyler Sowards	17	Bryson Loveland	24	Maddux Davis
10	Cameron Dillon	2	Cason Maddux	7	Grant Thomas	19	Alex Ferguson
28	Camden Huckaby	21	Wyatt Fellers	8	Reece Dove	4	Becks Allen
11	Jax Sparks	25	Nathan Emard	18	Tate Kemp	5	Sasha Webster
3	Jack Pate	1	Ben Wright	15	Cannon Mayes	27	Tristen Sparks

played third last year, is slated to be the Hawks' second baseman this season. According to Simmons, Sparks is in better shape and therefore, more mobile this season.

"He's cut weight and can move better," Simmons said. Junior Sasha Webster, a transfer from Arizona, and senior Jack Pate, could also see time at second. "Both are go-getters,

get after it each day," Simmons said. "One person one day, another the next."

At shortstop, senior Cameron Dillon, a Pellissippi State commit, has played the posi-

Hardin Valley

2/27	Alcoa	Home
3/3	McMinn Central	Home
3/5	Rhea County	Home
3/6	Rhea County	Away
3/9-12	Panama City Tournament	Away
3/16	Oak Ridge	Home
3/18	Oak Ridge	Away
3/19	Lakeway Christian	Away
3/20	Catholic	Away
3/21	Greeneville	Home
3/23	Bearden	Away
3/25	Bearden	Home
3/26	West	Away
3/27	William Blount	Away
3/28	Powell	Away
3/30	Farragut	Home
4/1	Farragut	Away
4/3	Webb School (Bell Buckle)	Away
4/3	Anderson County	Away
4/6	McMinn County	Away
4/8	McMinn Co.	Home
4/9	Chaminade Julianne Catholic (OH)	Home
4/10	Boyle County (KY)	Home
4/13	Lenoir City	Home
4/15	Lenoir City	Away
4/16	Maryville	Home
4/18	Elder (OH)	Away
4/18	Science Hill	Away
4/22	Karns	Home
4/23	Anderson County	Home
4/29	District Tournament	TBA

tion for two years and will again. Sparks and Webster could also fill in at short, depending on who's pitching.

See HAWKS BASEBALL on Page 2C

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BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS

When Dave Prichard arrived at Bearden High School from Cumberland County in 2021, he replaced a well-known name in longtime Bulldogs coach John Rice.

But in the years since his hiring, Prichard has found a way to put his own stamp on the program nestled just off Kingston Pike.

After a 16-17 mark in Year 1 under Prichard, the Bulldogs improved to 25-10 in Prichard's second season before going a combined 45-18 the last two seasons.

The 2024-25 season has been their most successful under Prichard, as Bearden utilized a stacked senior class to reel off a 28-8 record.

But their season ended in a District 4-4A Tournament loss to Farragut, and with new district opponents on the horizon, the work won't get any easier.

"The TSSAA took a really hard district and made it more difficult, which I think excites our guys," Prichard said.

The Bulldogs lost plenty of talent to graduation, including pitcher Isaiah Whited (University of Alabama-Huntsville), pitcher and outfielder Evan Cope (Cleveland State Community College) and pitcher and outfielder Cameron Cooper.

Prichard noted Cooper was a "lockdown centerfielder last year," leaving a gap in the middle of the outfield.

There exists a similar void in the pitching arsenal — not in terms of talent, but in terms of innings pitched.

"We've got a ton of arms," said Prichard, "just not a lot of experienced arms outside a top few. The biggest key to success will be finding guys that can fill in roles and throw strikes. We have the talent to be fine, just have to produce."

The team will be anchored by 12 seniors with plenty of juniors as well, though

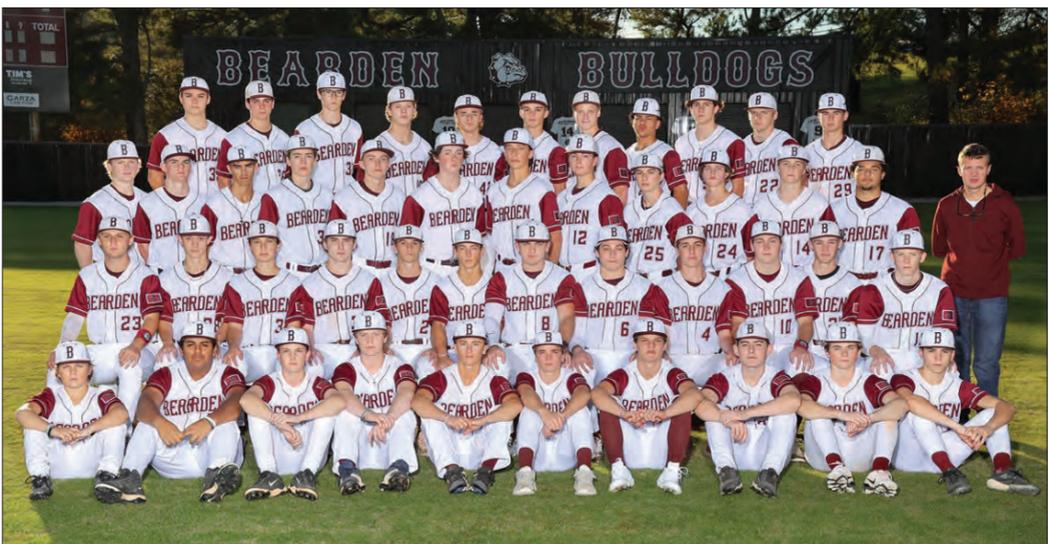


Photo courtesy of Tammy Kregger

Bearden

2/14	Lakeway	.....	Away
2/21	ETBCA Playday	.....	TBD
2/24/25	Maryville	.....	Away
3/3	Karns	.....	Home
3/5	Lenoir City	.....	Home
3/6	Lenoir City	.....	Home
3/9-3/14	Playing For A Cure Tournament		
3/16	Farragut	.....	Home
3/18	Farragut	.....	Away
3/20	West	.....	Away
3/23	Hardin Valley	.....	Home
3/25	Hardin Valley	.....	Away
3/26	Hoover Tournament		
3/27	Golden (Field 2)	.....	Away
3/27	Wetumpka (Field 2)	.....	Away
3/28	Christian County (Field 4)	.....	Away
3/30	McMinn County	.....	Home
4/1	McMinn County	.....	Home
4/2	CAK	.....	Away
4/4	Science Hill	.....	Away
4/6	Oak Ridge	.....	Home
4/8	Oak Ridge	.....	Away
4/9-4/10	ETBCA Tournament		
4/11	Heritage	.....	Home
4/11	Greeneville	.....	Home
4/14	Knox Catholic	.....	Home
4/16	Central	.....	Home
4/17	Jefferson County	.....	Home
4/20	Rhea County	.....	Home
4/21	Rhea County	.....	Away
4/23	Baylor (@ Farragut)	.....	Away
4/24	Halls	.....	Home
4/29-5	District Tournament	.....	TBA

ROSTER

2	Charlie Loftin	Sr	18	Wyatt Cross	Jr	34	Parker Anderson	So
3	Ethan Frederick	Jr	19	Devin Ware	Fr	35	Brody Prichard	So
4	Bobby Powell	Sr	20	Carlos De La Rosa	Fr	36	Ryan Gauthier	Fr
5	Oliver Cornwell	Jr	21	Fenn Piper	Sr	37	Kannon Sipe	Fr
6	Jack Fennell	Sr	22	Hayden Kelley	Jr	38	Will Taylor	Sr
7	Michael Lubiani	So	23	Grayson Wright	Sr	39	Zeplin Stomm	So
8	Hunter Harris	Sr	24	Owen Dale	Fr	40	Lennon Cruze	Fr
9	Eli Pickard	So	25	Jace Ritzman	Jr	41	Ludson Towe	Fr
10	Matt Schroeffel	Sr	26	Noah Reichert	Jr	42	Layne Copeland	Jr
11	Boone Piper	Jr	27	Easton Hurley	So	43	Austin Racz	Fr
12	Logan Beale	Jr	28	Ian Mcleod	Sr	44	Grant Harmon	Fr
13	Cole Wilhoite	Sr	29	Carter McCallum	Jr	45	Cooper Fencik	Fr
14	Trip Spreng	Jr	30	Declan Mccalles	So	46	Tyler Cline	Sr
15	Max Adams	So	31	Ashton Hall	So	47	E'brain Ospino D'semeco	So
16	Landon Suggs	Jr	32	Walter Pankau	Sr			
17	Isaiah Allen	Jr	33	Colton Perkins	So			

Prichard noted that a few sophomores could get called up, too.

Senior Matt Schroeffel returns as one of Bearden's top weapons, having earned District Player of the Year last season as a first and third baseman.

As a junior, Schroeffel hit .396 with 12 doubles, four home runs, 36 RBIs, 25 runs scored and 12 walks; he also went 4-0 on the mound with a 1.63 ERA, as opponents hit just .176 off him.

"He'll be a big piece of what

we're trying to do," Prichard said.

The same goes for Grayson Wright, a Pellissippi State commitment who earned All-District honors for Bearden in each of the last three seasons.

Shortstop Gavin Bergeron also has his eyes set on the next level with a commitment to Bossier Parish Community College while 2025 All-District selection Charlie Loftin will provide power via a unique sidearm slot when he is not playing in the infield.

Loftin's shift marks one

of multiple changes for the Bulldogs, as Prichard noted how their difference in depth could make an impact this season.

"I don't know that we're as flexible as we were last year in terms of moving pieces around, so we need to stay healthy," he said. "We lost a couple arms that were really solid for us, so that puts it on some younger guys that will see their time."

"So now, they will just have to make sure the moment isn't too big for them, so to speak."

More than statistics or the wins he has racked up so far, Prichard noted the camaraderie within the team — an aspect that should prove especially crucial with plenty of new faces taking bigger roles in 2026.

"I think if you ask people around, it's just the fact that our guys love to play with each other," he said. "We're going to compete, do things the right way, and play hard — not just for coaches but each other, too."

Hawks baseball

From page 1C

"Middle infield is gonna be a rotation any given day," Simmons said.

Simmons's by-committee infield extends to third base as well. No varsity experience on the team at that position exists.

Sparks might find himself there, along with sophomore Maddux Davis and freshman Landon Lewis.

Simmons said 10 of the team's 12 losses last year were by one run, largely because of infield errors. He's confident that won't be the case this season.

"We're gonna have a good mix of young and old, that's what makes it fun," Simmons said. "Defensively on the infield I think we're gonna be much better this year."

Likely manning the outfield for Simmons this season will be senior Tyler Sowards, a Pellissippi St. commit, Dillon, and juniors Bryson Loveland, Grant Thomas, and Alex Ferguson, a transfer from Knoxville Catholic. The group has little experience.

"Depending on who's throwing that day will depend on who's where," Simmons said. "It's gonna be very competitive."

Senior Kenny Lane, a Chattanooga

State commit, will play catcher for the Hawks this year. Lane has experience at the position. "He's a competitor, knows the game," Simmons said of Lane.

If the pitching staff has an ace, it will be Sparks. Other pitchers, all of whom could start or relieve, will include Lane, Thomas, Mayes, Fellers, senior Camden Huckaby, senior Nathan Emard and freshman Tristan Sparks, Jack's brother.

"Our upside is gonna be the pitching staff," Simmons said. "They've grown and they've established the strike zone a lot better."

When Simmons was asked what most concerned him about his squad, "experience at the plate" was his reply. "Once we start playing that experience as individual players, that will help us as a team," he said.

Last year, the Hawks hit a very solid .356 as a team. "We had a really good offense," Simmons said. "We gotta maintain that aspect."

Simmons believes the team's culture is improved from last year. "Having the effort and attitude to succeed, that's the mindset we try (to instill)," he said. "Going into the season everybody's excited. The camaraderie of the team has been great."

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CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS

When opposing teams walk into the baseball complex at Christian Academy of Knoxville, they become acutely aware of the program's success.

Blue and white state championship banners hang from one dugout, while CAK alum Spencer Strider wears his Atlanta Braves uniform on a poster several feet away.

Below Strider's strong right arm, nestled among the bushes, is the ballpark's newest addition: a gold 1,000th win plaque dedicated to Tommy Pharr, who is entering his 17th year at CAK with more than four decades of coaching experience under his belt.

"It was good to get that over with," Pharr quipped of the milestone during a recent pre-season practice. "I've been a head coach for a long time and have coached at some successful schools with a lot of good players. It will be fun just moving on with these guys, getting better and seeing what the year holds for us."

This year, the Warriors hope to utilize that preparation to make another run to the state tournament after a sectional appearance in 2025.

To do that, CAK will need to find a way to replace the production of nine departed seniors, including Division II-A Mr. Baseball finalist Tyler Bennett. Now at Tennessee Tech, Bennett led the Warriors at the plate with a .421 average



CAK

2/21	Etbca Playday	Home
2/26	Sweetwater	Home
3/2	Elizabethton	TBA
3/5	Baylor	Home
3/6	Sevier Co.	Home
3/9-12	Gulf Shores Tour	Away
3/9	Mt Juliet	Away
	Bayshore Chr	Away
3/10	Desoto Central Ms.	Away
	Fairhope Al	Away
3/11	Baldwyn	Away
3/16-20	Play For A Cure	TBA
3/16	Greenback	Home
3/17	Leesburg, Fl	Home
3/18	William Blount	Away
3/19	Dobyns Bennett	Away
3/20	Sevier Co.	Away
3/23	Grace	Away
3/24	Grace	Home
3/26-28	Clinch River	
3/26	Maryville	Away
3/27	Pikeville, Ky	Away
3/28	Sevier Co.	Home
3/30	Tka	Home
3/31	Tka	Away
4/2	Bearden	Home
4/3	Boyd Buchanan	Away
4/4	Soddy Daisy	Away
4/6	Concord	Home
4/7	Concord	Away
4/9-11	Etbca	
4/9	Heritage	Away
4/10	Mt Juliet	Home
4/11	Boyle Co, Ky	Home
4/13	Providence	Away
4/14	Providence	Home
4/18	Silverdale	Home
4/20	Lakeway	Home
4/21	Lakeway	Away
4/23	Coalfield	Away
4/27	Region Tournament	

ROSTER

19	Micah Bennett	Sr	26	Raliegh Miller	Fr	35	JT Slack	So
20	James Sharpe	So	29	Baylor Dickenson	Fr	39	Aiden French	Fr
21	Bryce Wilson	Fr	30	Jackson Conner	Fr	40	Hudson Whitehead	Fr
23	Trece Holbert	Jr	31	Hank Taylor	Fr	43	AJ Hall	8
24	Seaton Moffett	So	32	Ian Wright	So	44	Walton Parker	Fr
25	Cannon Hilde	Fr	34	Wyatt Jones	So	45	Chase Bennett	Fr

and on the mound with 1.92 ERA.

For 2026, CAK will turn to four seniors who will lead a young roster that is comprised of 22 freshmen and sophomores out of 32 players in total.

With that much youth, the leadership of those four seniors becomes even more vital.

"It's huge," Pharr said, "and our older guys are really good with our younger guys."

Brody Waller and Joey Sulish headline the senior class, each hitting over .400 last year.

Waller led the program with 38 hits and as many RBI in 2025 while Sulish finished just behind Waller and Bennett with 36 hits last season. He also scored 28 runs and finished second on the team in fielding percentage with .971, just behind another key piece in junior Will Kingery (.988).

Sulish will also be key on the mound this season, having gone 6-2 last season with 72 strikeouts and a 2.34 ERA. The same goes for Waller after he

went 6-1 last year, striking out 55 with a 2.62 ERA.

"Those guys are both really good players and leaders, too," Pharr said.

Fellow senior Alex Trimble will occupy second or third base when he is not pitching, while Micah Bennett will look to expound on a junior year in which he made six plate appearances with three runs scored.

See CAK BASEBALL on Page 4C

FHS baseball

From page 1C

pletely new team, so this year we have a little more idea of who our starters are," he said. "Hopefully we'll have more stability in the lineup, but they still have to show up and play. Last year doesn't mean anything for this year, so they still have to show up and produce." The Ads will look to do just

that against a couple new district opponents in Oak Ridge, McMinn County and Rhea County.

"I'm not as familiar with McMinn County or Rhea County, but it's a tough district, no question," Copeland said. "Knowing what I know about some of those teams, it's a schedule that will help prepare us for the postseason."

As far as positions are con-

cerned, Neyland Williams will occupy left field with Zane Kureshi-Smith in center and Lipscomb signee Aidan Flagg in right.

Sophomore Cole Creasman will take up the third-base spot this season, while Braxton Tye moves from second to shortstop. Replacing Tye at second will be Stetson commit Mason Shelton, and Caleb Van Lant will take up first base. Eastern

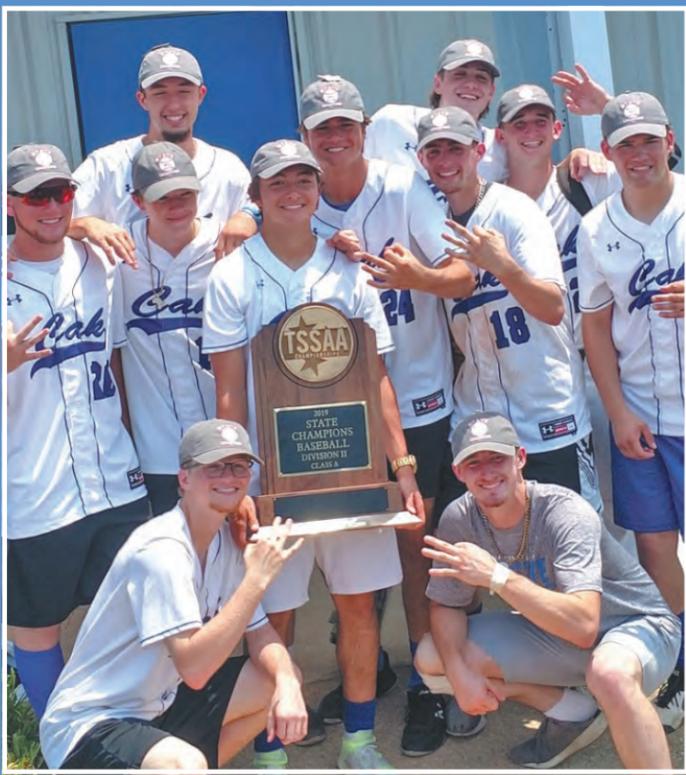
Michigan signee Jake Harris returns behind the plate, and Pellissippi State signee Travis Brummitt will serve as designated hitter while also leading a junior-heavy pitching staff that features Eastern (PA) signee Will Dickens as another top arm.

"We have five to seven arms that can really make a difference, so for us as coaches, we're excited to see what those

guys can do," Copeland said.

Overall, he noted that those seniors will look to continue that same success at a program with reminders everywhere they look.

"It's been a cultural success for many years, so they understand and they work hard to not be the group that stops the train, so to speak," Copeland said.



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CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS

When Concord Christian School's baseball team takes the field this spring, one theme will easily supplant any others: youth.

Of the Lions' 24 players, 17 are sophomores or younger. Some boys who will see action aren't even yet in high school.

"We're a really young team," said first-year coach Colton Sweet. "Only two seniors. There will be growing pains."

According to Sweet, who was an assistant at Grace Christian Academy for three years, then the same at CCS before taking over, the Lions' district won't make things easier.

"Last year: four of the six in our district were in the final 12 of the State Tournament," Sweet said. "We play in the best district (Division II, Class A, District 1, East Region) in the state."

Sweet is likely to see a variety of lineups this year, as positions and players are still being aligned. Many boys will play multiple positions.

"I'd say right now I don't have starters," he said. "We're gonna rotate in as many young players as possible."

Freshman Luke Johnson will likely see time at first base. "Excited to see him play," said Sweet. Sophomore Oakley Helton, nephew of UTK great Todd Helton, could also play the position, as well as third base or the outfield. Helton played last year.

Sophomore Braden Craig is scheduled to play shortstop,



ROSTER

1 Braxton McDonald	So	9 Jax Madaychick	Fr	24 Gage Downing	Jr
2 Lincoln Defendorf	Fr	10 Bryson Farmer	Fr	25 Parker Tunnell	Fr
3 Michael Dowell	So	11 Caleb Stuart	Jr	27 Levi Hoover	8th
4 Micah Dewald	Sr	13 Jonah Dewald	So	36 Will Hickey	8th
5 Luke Johnson	Fr	16 Lucas Huckabee	Fr	40 Wyatt Wallace	8th
6 Braden Craig	So	18 Jax Johnson	Fr	50 Jackson Stooksberry	Sr
7 Karson Jameson	Jr	22 Becket Davis	Fr	99 Oakley Helton	So
8 Issac Hoover	Jr	23 Jayden Turner	8th		

returning to the position from last year.

Last season Michael Dowell, then a freshman, and Caleb Stuart, then a sophomore, split time at catcher. Each returns this year to man the position again.

Senior Micah Dewald, All-District last year at second base, returns to the position this year.

Junior Gage Downing and

freshman Jackson Madaychick could see time at third, along with Johnson and Helton.

In the outfield, Sweet's rotation will be a combination of youth and experience. It will likely include freshmen Bryson Farmer and Parker Tunnell. "Good bat, gonna get a lot of reps," Sweet said of Tunnell.

Senior Jackson Stooksberry,

who played the position last year, and Wyatt Wallace, an eighth-grader, will also probably see time in the outfield. Wallace will likely play in the outfield as well.

"If you wanna play early you can play as an eighth-grader; I do not care," Sweet said. "This is a place you wanna come play against really good competition ... this is an awesome place to come play really early

Concord

3/2	Oliver Springs	.....	Away
3/3	Oliver Springs	.....	HOME
3/5	Knoxville Catholic	.....	Away
3/6	Sequoyah High School	.....	Away
3/9	Baldwyn (MS)	Orange Beach, AL	
3/10	Green Hill (TN)	Orange Beach, AL	
3/10	Summit (TN)	Orange Beach, AL	
3/11	Orange Beach (AL)		
	Orange Beach, AL		
3/17	Leesburg, FL	.....	CAK
3/19	Clinton High School	.....	Away
3/20	Eagleton College & Career Academy	.....	Away
3/21	Webb School of Knoxville	.....	HOME
3/23	The King's Academy	.....	Away
3/24	The King's Academy	.....	HOME
3/26	Greenback	.....	Away
3/30	Lakeway Christian	.....	Away
3/31	Lakeway Christian	.....	HOME
4/2	Maryville Christian	.....	Away
4/3	Maryville Christian	.....	HOME
4/4	Washburn High School	.....	HOME
4/6	CAK	.....	Away
4/7	CAK	.....	HOME
4/9	Knoxville Catholic	.....	HOME
4/10	Webb School of Knoxville	.....	Away
4/13	Grace Christian Academy	.....	Away
4/14	Grace Christian Academy	.....	HOME
4/16	Harriman High School	.....	Away
4/17	Harriman High School	.....	HOME
4/20	Providence Academy	.....	Away
4/21	Tellico Plains (Senior Night)	.....	HOME

in your high-school career." Sweet's 2026 youth movement hits its zenith with his pitching rotation of six likely hurlers, only one is a sophomore. Four are freshmen; one is in eighth grade.

The freshmen in the rotation

See CCS BASEBALL on Page 5C

CAK baseball

From page 3C

In the junior class, two out of the six players are injured, though Pharr noted outfielder Alex Cox "will have a great chance to play a lot and is a really good athlete."

Kingery returns as the War-

riors' starting catcher, as he also batted .255 last year with 18 RBI, per MaxPreps.

Trece Holbert will be another pitcher-catcher option, as he also batted .333 last year in five plate appearances while Ethan Wynkoop will be in the mix on the mound and at third base.

Sophomore Seaton Moffitt will be in the middle infield after leading the football team at quarterback, and Wyatt Jones will look to capitalize on his sophomore campaign after a standout freshman year.

Per MaxPreps, Jones finished second on the team last season in batting average (.438)

and on-base percentage (.588), and he totaled two home runs with five stolen bases and 30 runs scored.

His experience, especially as a freshman, will aid a CAK team that is young but appears plenty capable this year.

"Every year, I think our goal is to get the most out of

our club that we can and go as far as our talent will take us," Pharr said. "Hopefully you always want to end up in the final game, and sometimes that's not in the cards. But we are as capable as anyone, just have to stay healthy and keep it together."

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KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IRISH

As Caleb Moore prepares for his 11th season as Knoxville Catholic High School's baseball coach, his expectations are simple.

"Our biggest expectation is just to compete every day," Moore said. "We'll take that and if wins happen from that, that's great; if not, we'll just keep working."

"I just want to help these players get better. My job is to make these guys better baseball players"

The Irish, who compete in one of the toughest and deepest regions, Division II-East, in the Volunteer State, so Moore knows Catholic must show up ready to compete in every game.

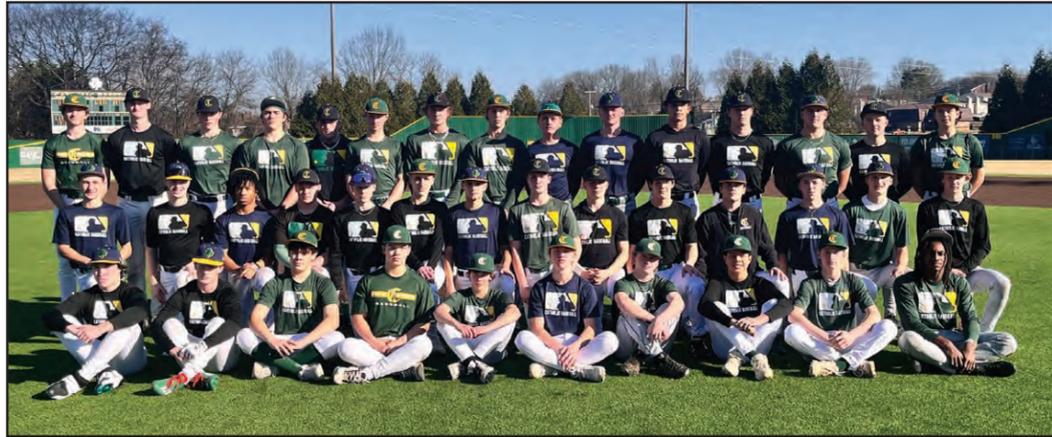
"We'll play in some tough games and our region is extremely tough," Moore said. "It has a lot of great teams and those team have a lot of Power Four talent and Power Four pitchers."

The region schedule will present some challenges for the Irish. That, however, is nothing new, and in his previous decade at the helm. Moore has guided KCHS to multiple state tournaments and a state championship in 2023.

Moore, knowing what the region schedule holds for his squad, has composed a schedule where his team will face some stiff competition and KCHS will play one of its toughest games to open the 2026 schedule.

Catholic will open the new season when it hosts four-time defending Class 4A State Champion Farragut on Monday, March 2, at Gaylor Field. First pitch for the contest between the Admirals and the Irish is slated for 5:30 p.m.

The game has become a traditional season opener for the two teams, and that's no accident as the game features



ROSTER

0	Eli Dryjanski	14	Arthur Namey	29	Pierce Welch
1	DJ Lowery	15	Logan Tompkins	30	Anderson Perry
2	Declan Brickner	16	Davis Pitman	33	Brett Powell
3	Cole Scraggs	17	Charlie Chady	34	Connor McGowan
4	Joel Pierce	18	Connor Mohr	36	Gabe Ronca
5	Maddox Navarro	19	Rylan Jessee	37	Ethan Miller
6	Caiden Layman	20	Jaedin Zimmerle	40	TJ Renker
7	Sadler Sims	21	Edward Brabham	44	Brogan Elliott
8	Carter Muth	22	Max Shipe	49	Oliver Dealejandro
9	Mason Edmonds	23	Emilio Maurer	50	Alan Ramos
10	Luke Brown	24	Mason Haun	51	Coleman Sharp
11	Quentin Cooper	25	Charlie Mattmann	77	Conor Hussey
12	Cooper Ackermann	27	Lex Lucier	99	Connor York
13	Jamie Bentley	28	Sebastian Fernandez		

two of the state's most tradition-rich programs. Catholic notched an 8-3 victory in the season opener between the two schools last year.

"We started this a few years ago and it's a great game with two good teams," Moore said. "It's great for the teams. It's great for the two schools and it's great for the community."

"(Farragut coach) Garrett (Copeland) does a great job over there."

In 2025, Copeland took the reins for the Admirals and guided them to a fourth consecutive state title as he replaced hall-of-fame coach Matt Buck-

ner, so Catholic will quickly discover where it stands.

The Irish's schedule also features early non-league tilts against Concord Christian School (March 5), Eagleton College and Career Academy (March 6), District 4-4A power Hardin Valley Academy (March 20) and Oak Ridge (March 19), which has made it to the Spring Fling in Murfreesboro in both 2024 and 2025, reaching the Class 4A state semifinals last season.

Catholic features five key returners from last year's squad that went 21-15-1 and reached the state quarterfinals, where

it dropped a 9-1 decision to Briarcrest Christian School.

Top returners for the Irish include D.J. Lowery (junior, infielder); Connor York (senior, infielder/pitcher); Cole Scraggs (junior, outfielder); Logan Tompkins (junior, pitcher); Edward Brabham (sophomore, outfielder) and senior pitcher Lex Lucier, a senior pitcher, who was injured last season.

That savvy group of veterans will be joined by key newcomers Rylan Jessee (a junior outfielder who transferred from The Baylor School in Chattanooga); T.J. Renker (a junior infielder who trans-

Catholic	
3/2	Farragut.....Home
3/5	Concord Christian.....Home
3/6	Eagleton.....Away
3/9	Braden Creek.....Away
3/10	Inspiration Academy.....Away
3/11	Bolles HS.....Away
3/12	Davidson Academy.....Away
3/12	IMG.....Away
3/17	Chatt. Christian (DH).....Home
3/18	Red Bank.....Away
3/19	Oak Ridge.....Home
3/20	Hardin Valley.....Home
3/21	Greeneville.....Away
3/23	McCallie (DH).....Away
3/26	Knox Central.....Away
3/27	Galesburg (IL).....Home
3/28	Providence Academy.....Home
4/1	Strasburg Franklin (OH).....Home
4/6	Webb.....Home
4/7	Webb.....Home
4/9	Concord Christian.....Away
4/10	Lakeway Christian.....Away
4/11	Kingsport D-B.....Home
4/14	Bearden.....Away
4/15	Elizabethton.....Away
4/18	Grace Christian.....Away
4/21	Baylor (DH).....Away
4/22	Maryville.....Away
4/23	Sevier County.....Home
4/24	Greeneville.....Away
4/27	Morristown.....West
4/29-5/1	Region Tournament.....TBD
5/6-5/21	State Tournament.....TBD

ferred from Farragut); Carter Muth (senior, pitcher); Gabe Ronca (freshman, infielder/pitcher) and Quintin Cooper (freshman, infielder/pitcher).

As Catholic prepares to open the season, it is in a unique situation.

Moore notes that his team features depth but may also be plagued by inexperience.

"We have good depth, including good young depth, and that gives us options," he said. "But an area of concern is our youth and inexperience."

"I really like this group. They work hard."

WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE SPARTANS

If Jordan Wormsley ever needs a reminder of his lineage, he merely needs to walk across the outfield at Webb School of Knoxville.

There, behind the left-field fence, sits the Clark Wormsley Hitting and Pitching Complex.

Completed in 2024, the 8,400-square-foot facility is named in honor of Jordan Wormsley's father, the former Webb coach, teacher and Dean of Students.

The elder Wormsley assisted the Spartans in their first state championship run in 1985. Two years later, he became head coach until his retirement after the 2011 season, and he was inducted into the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2017.

During his tenure, Webb won 445 games, seven region titles and made six state appearances with a state championship in 2010.

In 2011, his son took over after completing a four-year career with the Vanderbilt Commodores under Tim Corbin.

"Being a part of this program, it's something I've known my whole life," Jordan Wormsley said. "So it's nice to have the opportunity to be back here and lead these guys."

In Wormsley's 15th year as head coach, the Spartans will be looking to bounce back after a 10-23-1 campaign in 2025. They also went 2-12-1 in Division II-AA East to finish fifth in their region.

Five of those region losses came to Catholic, as Webb beat its Cedar Bluff rival just once last year in a 3-1 win on April 29.

The Spartans lost Asher

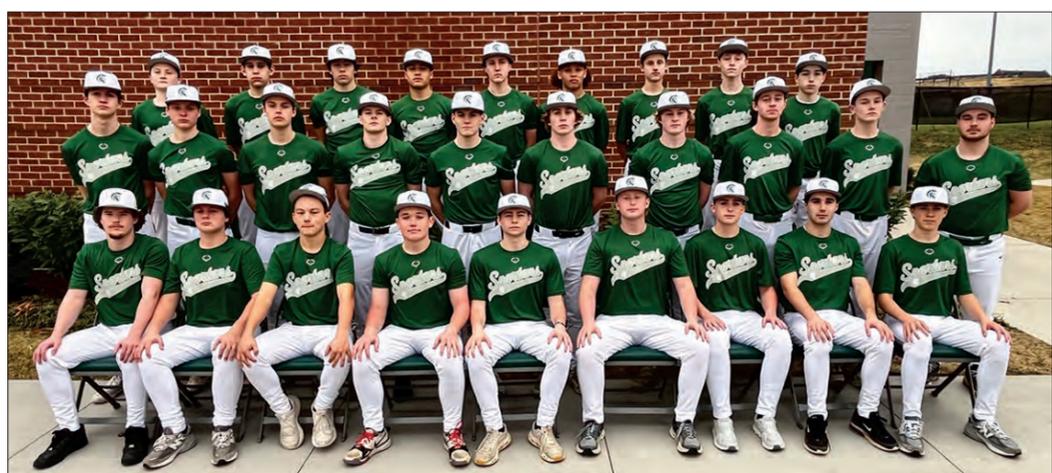


Photo submitted by Webb School of Knoxville

ROSTER

Harrison Atkins	So.	Henry Jay	Jr.	Hunter Rayson	Sr.
Davis Berry	Fr.	Laith Kassira	Fr.	Evan Rivera	Fr.
Charles Carr	Fr.	Parks Lederer	So.	Beckett Rivers	So.
Colten Collier	Sr.	Ben Lupo	So.	Brayden Rivers	Jr.
Weston Donnelly	Jr.	Graeme Luton	Fr.	Quinn Saunders	So.
Jackson Dye	So.	Wilson Luton	Sr.	Henry Saville	So.
Brandon Gill	Fr.	Cooper Lyvers	Fr.	Wyatt Skinner	So.
Grayson Gregory	Sr.	Hamilton Martin	Sr.	McAfee Sprouse	Fr.
Cullen Heck	So.	Chase McDowall	Fr.	Turner Stevens	Jr.
Antwan Hill	8th	Brady Morgan	Sr.	Ethan Walls	Sr.
Kaden James	Fr.	Tyler Morgan	So.	Hudson Woods	Jr.
		Paul Pruet	Jr.		

Harness, Emmett Melton and Jackson White to graduation last season, but they will rely on several experienced players for the 2026 campaign.

Per MaxPreps, this year's roster features 10 seniors to pave the way. Notably, returner Will Luton was one of Webb's two All-Region picks last year with Harness being the other.

In 25 games last season, Luton averaged .403 at the plate

with 15 RBI and 17 runs scored. He also pitched 13.2 innings, giving up 16 hits and three runs — all earned — with a 2.04 ERA.

Also per MaxPreps, other Spartan seniors include Colten Collier, Josh Daiagi, Grayson Gregory, Hamilton Martin, Blake Shelor, Brady Morgan, Ethan Walls, Hunter Rayson and Liam Justice, while juniors are as follows: Paul Pruet, Weston Donnelly, Hudson

Woods, Turner Stevens and Brayden Rivers.

Recently, Rivers was part of an All-State Upperclass workout put on by Prep Baseball Report at Liberty Creek High School near Nashville.

Players went through a pro-style workout with TrackMan, Blast Motion, and VALD Performance tech, per the report, while pitchers threw in a bullpen setting and were able to get data and metrics on a

Webb	
2/19	Union County.....Home
2/20	Alcoa.....Home
2/24	The King's Academy.....Home
3/3	Sequoyah.....Home
3/4	Alcoa.....Away
3/6	Sweetwater.....Home
3/14	Cookeville.....Home
3/19	Pigeon Forge.....Away
3/21	Concord Christian.....Away
3/24	Baylor.....Home
3/24	BGA.....Away
3/24	Baylor.....Home
3/26	Sequoyah.....Away
3/28	FCHS.....Away
3/28	FCHS.....Away
4/1	Union County.....Away
4/2	The King's Academy.....Away
4/4	The King's Academy.....Home
4/6	Knox Catholic.....Away
4/7	Knox Catholic.....Home
4/9	Sweetwater.....Away
4/10	Concord Christian.....Home
4/16	Central Magnet.....Away
4/17	Tellico Plains.....Away
4/21	McCallie.....Home
4/21	McCallie.....Home
4/24	Anderson Co.....Home
4/25	Lakeway Christian.....Home

TrackMan unit.

Rivers tied for fourth in the 60-yard dash at 6.75 seconds, and he was in a three-way tie for third for max run speed at 20.3 miles per hour.

That speed will certainly help the Spartans' outfield, as Wormsley will hope to see plenty of playmaking this spring.

"To coach these teams, to have been a player in this program, it means something to me," he summarized. "I want to see these guys be successful and have every opportunity to play well and succeed, but to be good leaders and men too."

CCS baseball

From page 4C

are Farmer, Lucas Huckaby, Jax Johnson, and Beckett Davis. Craig is the sophomore; Jayden Turner, the only lefty in the group, is the eighth-grader.

"(All six) could start or re-

lieve," Sweet said.

"We're really young," Sweet reiterated. "They've all played together since sixth, seventh, eighth grade. It's gonna be a fun group to see grow over the next two and a half months."

Sweet believes a better defense will be a team strength this year. "Much improved

from last year," he said.

Scoring runs could be a concern, Sweet said. "Facing quality arms ... how do we score runs against really good pitching? (That's) always a problem in our district when you face 85-plus (mph) every Monday and Tuesday."

Sweet emphasized that at

CCS, play on the field is not the only priority for the kids.

"These kids work really hard, and one of the things we try to instill in them is to be a selfless individual," he said. "Being a private Christian school, we wanna win, yes, but we wanna represent God and Jesus in the best way we can."

"One of the challenges is to say 'hey, you're one group, there are no pods with this team,' and just getting them to buy into each other and wanting to see each other succeed."

The Lions open the season on March 2 at Oliver Springs High School.

farragutpress presents Spring Sports

SOFTBALL PREVIEW

Stories by Jake Nichols, Ken Lay and Bill Howard

FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS

One look around the Farragut softball building reveals the team's rise under head coach Nick Green.

State championship trophies line the walls — products of the team's back-to-back titles in 2021 and 2022 — and Tennessee signee Elsa Morrison's 2022-23 Gatorade Player of the Year banner is visible nearby.

While FHS proved unable to add any more decor from its most recent state tournament appearance, the middle school program did win a state title of its own last October.

"All of those things have had an impact on the success of this program," Green said.

He enters his eighth year leading the Lady Admirals, having been impressed by the high school program's most recent trip to Murfreesboro.

"I don't want to say I was pleasantly surprised, but I thought last year would be a transition year for us," Green said. "We wound up playing really well at the end of the year but didn't have the results we would have liked at the state tournament."

"So at this point you almost have to set your sights a little higher. Getting there is important, but when you get there, you have to be better than everybody else. And I think



Photo by Carlos Reveiz, crfoto.com

ROSTER

14	Bridget Kovacs	So	10	Rylee Raby	Jr	22	Addie Brown	Fr
3	Alexa Shrader	So	32	Eleena Ralston	Jr	9	Camden Houston	Fr
5	Taylor Albright	Jr	21	Sydney Branson	So	20	Katherine Hutchens	Fr
23	Hudson Bradford	Jr	28	Jade Buckner	So	25	Camryn Knapper	Fr
7	Callie Brown	Jr	2	Wesley Green	So	6	Sara Matic	Fr
18	Dajah Means	Jr	4	Logan Jameson	So	15	Raleigh Mizer	Fr
24	Hallie Grace Johnson	Jr	12	Camryn Shrader	So	17	Layla Norman	Fr
			8	Taylor Wolfram	So			

we have another really good chance this year."

The Lady Admirals will have to navigate a new district, which will include familiar teams such as Bearden and Hardin Valley and newer programs in Oak Ridge, Lenoir City, McMinn County and

Rhea County.

In its 2026 push, FHS will utilize plenty of depth with sophomores and juniors who gained valuable innings last season.

The Lady Ads will be without one of the program's top players in Morrison, who is

poised to start behind the plate this spring for the Lady Vols.

"No one person can replace her production," Green said of Morrison. "But as a whole, we can all chip in and be even better than we were last year."

This year's senior torch will be carried by 2026 seniors

Farragut

2/24	Jamboree	.....	Home
2/26	Karns	.....	Home
2/28	Anderson Co.	.....	Away
3/3	Oak Ridge	.....	Away
3/5	Lenoir City	.....	Home
3/12-3/14	Commando Classic		
	Tournament	.....	Away
3/17	Bearden	.....	Home
3/18	Heritage	.....	Home
3/20-3/21	Wildcat		
	Classic Tournament	.....	Away
3/24	Hardin Valley	.....	Home
3/26	Oak Ridge	.....	Home
3/27	Cocke Co.	.....	Away
3/30	Lenoir City	.....	Away
3/31	Bearden	.....	Away
4/1	Maryville	.....	Away
4/6	McMinn Co.	.....	Away
4/7	Rhea Co.	.....	Away
4/8	Alcoa	.....	Away
4/9	McMinn Co.	.....	Home
4/13	Hardin Valley	.....	Away
4/14	William Blount	.....	Home
4/16	Rhea Co.	.....	Home
4/17	Soddy Daisy	.....	Away
4/17	Heritage	.....	Away
4/20	Anderson Co.	.....	Home
4/21	Karns Karns HS	.....	Away
4/23-4/25	Region 2		
	Challenge Home	.....	Away
4/28	Gibbs	.....	Home

Bridget Kovacs and Alexa Shrader.

Kovacs will occupy first base, though Green noted that

See LADY ADMIRALS, Page 10C

BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS

Alicia Boris is no stranger to the Bearden softball field. As a senior in 2005, she led the Lady Bulldogs to a 17-0 district record, a district title and a 36-2 mark overall.

In short, Boris helped guide the Lady Bulldogs to the best season in school history. Along the way, she became an Offensive Player of the Year and a High School Academic All-American.

After that, Boris went on to a standout collegiate career at North Florida Community College and UT Southern, where she became an All-Conference selection and earned Player of the Year honors while leading the team in home runs in 2009.

She spent time as a high school and college assistant coach, working at Tusculum and BHS.

Now, after stepping away for several years to focus on her family, Boris is returning to the Bearden softball diamond to lead the team as its newest head coach.

"I stayed as an assistant for a few years, but I had kids of my own and they were little, so I stepped away for a bit," she said.



ROSTER

Kaylynn Wood	Bailey Hauge	Nella Dyer
Ada Daniels	Audrey Gayle	Megan Lawson
Banjo Dunn	Catherine Smith	Alexandra Smith
Jenna Gonzales	Zaryiah Flack	Rose Call
Tegan Castor	Sophia Stegner	Makhia Nickerson
Nayeli Howell	Abby Pierce	

Aside from her work as an assistant coach, Boris has also served as a science teacher at her alma mater since 2015,

making her quite familiar with the roster she will be taking over.

"This extends the passion

I have for the sport, and it's a vehicle for life whether girls play it in high school or continue it on through college,"

Bearden

2/24	KIL Jamboree Farragut	.....	Away
2/26	Knox West	.....	Home
3/2	Anderson Co	.....	Home
3/3	Lenoir City	.....	Away
3/5	McMinn Co	.....	Home
3/6	Jeff Co	.....	Home
3/10	Harriman HS	.....	Home
3/17	Farragut	.....	Away
3/19	Oak Ridge	.....	Away
3/20	Knox Carter	.....	Home
3/24	Rhea Co	.....	Home
3/26	Lenoir City	.....	Home
3/30	McMinn CO	.....	Away
3/31	Farragut	.....	Home
4/2	HVA	.....	Away
4/3-4/4	Var Tournament Ootlewah		Away
4/6	Oliver Springs	.....	Away
4/9	Oak Ridge	.....	Home
4/10	Anderson Co	.....	Away
4/13	Rhea CO	.....	Away
4/14	Jeff Co	.....	Away
4/16	HVA	.....	Home
4/21	Knox West	.....	Away
4/22	Knoxville Catholic	.....	Away
4/23	Oliver Springs	.....	Home

Boris said. Boris noted she played catcher and third base in high school and college, so she has brought in assistant coaches to help with other roles across

See LADY BULLDOGS, Page 7C




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HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY HAWKS

Last year, Hardin Valley Academy's softball team won a mere six games. And the team dealt with a number of other difficulties as well.

Second-year head coach Chris Snyder is confident, however, the team is ready to move ahead this season and put last year's challenges behind them.

Part of Snyder's hope comes from an incoming group of promising freshmen that Snyder believes will contribute right away.

"We have a big freshman class coming up," he said. "That's one of the highlights we have is those girls have been a part of this program since fifth grade. That's moving the program forward for sure."

Two Lady Hawks, according to Snyder, will be especially instrumental to HVA's success this year. Both pitch, and each will play first base when the other is on the mound.

One of the two is Avery Grann. According to Snyder, the sophomore, who missed most of last year with an injury, is a rare talent, both on the mound and at the plate.

"A lot of our success this year will weigh a lot on Avery Grann," Snyder said. "When she's in the circle she has the



Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography

ROSTER

26	Peyton Cantrell	Fr	20	Maycee Martin	Fr	15	Avery Snyder	Jr
4	Larua Bores	Fr	14	Avery Gran	So	13	Erika Champion	Jr
0	Norah Butler	Fr	11	Layla Maddux	So	17	Layla Kilber	Jr
9	Mathis Retinger	Fr	8	Kinady Marshall	So	1	Valorie Newberry	Jr
33	Brooklyn Bogen	Fr	17	Laila Lineberry	So	16	Kami Taylor	Sr
12	Abigail Wood	Fr	5	Haleigh Tudor	So	3	Kayla Sosebee	Sr
47	Adalynn Dresser	Fr	2	Zoie Driver	Jr	10	Hayden Gibbs	Sr
			24	Josie Smith	Jr			

potential to dominate a game." When Grann is on the mound, senior Kayla Sosebee will be at first. Sosebee played the position last year. "Both (Sosebee and Grann) have grown so much in the pro-

gram," Snyder said. "They complement each other very very well (as pitchers)," said pitching coach Annie Cole. "Both have speed and good movement, and they're leaders on the field."

As is common in the pre-season, much of Snyder's lineup is still a work in progress. Two possible second basemen are junior Erica Champion and freshman Mathis Retinger. "Both are potential

Hardin Valley

2/28	South Doyle	.....	Away
3/3	Clinton	.....	Away
3/4	Heritage	.....	Home
3/5	Rhea Co	.....	Home
3/7	Triple Play Tournament		
3/17	Oak Ridge	.....	Home
3/18	South Doyle	.....	Home
3/19	Lenoir City	.....	Home
3/24	Farragut	.....	Away
3/25	Powell	.....	Home
3/27	Karns	.....	Home
3/30	Rhea Co	.....	Away
3/31	McMinn Co	.....	Home
4/2	Bearden	.....	Home
4/3	Ooltewah Invit. Tournament		
4/4	Ooltewah Invit. Tournament		
4/7	Oak Ridge	.....	Away
4/8	Lenoir City	.....	Away
4/13	Farragut	.....	Home
4/16	Bearden	.....	Away
4/17	William Blount	.....	Away
4/20	West High	.....	Home
4/21	McMinn Co	.....	Away
4/23	BSN Tournament		
4/24	BSN Tournament		
4/25	BSN Tournament		
4/27	Heritage	.....	Away
4/28	Maryville	.....	Home
4/29-5/9	District Tournament		

ballers," Snyder said. "Both could start." At shortstop, freshman Peyton Cantrell is likely to see time. The Florida transfer has

See LADY HAWKS on Page 8C

Lady Bulldogs

From page 6C
the diamond at BHS. "Here, I'm kind of filling in gaps because the coaches that I've brought in have their specialties," she said. Together, Boris and her assistants will look to reinvigorate a Bearden team that made its sole state tournament appearance in 2015. More recently, the team has struggled, reaching a 4-16 re-

cord with a 1-9 finish in district play last year, per Max-Preps.com. "From what I saw of the games I did go to, they had the talent but it was like they couldn't finish," Boris said. To overcome that, Boris noted that she has put the team through plenty of drills that are mentally and physically taxing. "We have really hounded the mental endurance part of it because that seemed to be an issue. We've done a lot of physi-

cal and mental training and drills with that because effort and mentality trump natural talent." As far as the roster is concerned, the Lady Bulldogs are losing last year's seniors — Kendall Hubbs, Elizabeth Newman, Abby Thompson, Kendyl May and Jaycie Overton — to graduation. Last year, Thompson and Overton earned All-District Honorable Mention for the Lady Bulldogs

The team also had four All-District standouts in Raya Inge, Audrey Gayle, Megan Lawson and Jenna Gonzales. Inge transferred to Alcoa in the offseason, but Gayle, Lawson and Gonzales will look to lead a Bearden team that features seven seniors in 2026. Lawson will be back at shortstop, while Gayle can play either part of the battery and serves as an infielder with Catherine Smith as an option at first base.

Boris noted that no positions are set in stone, as the Lady Bulldogs could see plenty of rotation — meaning the need for versatility across the roster. But she is excited to see what comes, especially given her history at a place that means so much. "As a teacher, you are there to help them learn," Boris offered in summary. "So as a coach, this just extends that. Giving back to the school that raised me is an honor."

Go Hawks!

Best wishes for a great season!

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DOUBLE DOGS

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CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS

At just 26 years old, Leah Sohm has the kind of softball résumé that coaches twice her age might envy.

A former standout at Carson-Newman and Gibbs High, Sohm was an All-American shortstop, a three-time First Team All-Conference player, and was named Miss Tennessee Softball Player of the Year.

In her first head-coaching role at Sevier County, she was honored as District Coach of the Year in both softball (2024) and volleyball (2023).

Now, she has brought that pedigree to Christian Academy of Knoxville, where she will lead the Warriors into the 2026 campaign.

"I was very blessed in this game. Just loved it," she said. "And that outweighed a lot of things for me. Accolades are great and all, but at the end of the day, my ultimate goal on the field was to do my best for my teammates and reflect Christ in all I did."

That approach has fueled her first few months with the CAK program, as the Warriors are coming off a 26-10 record last season.

They experienced quite an offseason, as former coach Charles Matthews departed after last season's state tournament appearance to start a new program at Daytona Beach (Fla.) Christian University.

CAK made that run with a roster that, according to Max-Preps, listed 13 players with six seniors.

But now, Sohm has a roster of 12 in total — three of whom



are eighth-graders who will see varsity innings.

"Honestly, I think that might be the smallest team in the state of Tennessee right now," Sohm said with a chuckle. "Preparation and rehab will be huge, especially right now."

Given the youth on this team, Sohm knows there will be hurdles, but she was quick to note the importance of a strong foundation, which will lay the groundwork for her era of CAK softball.

"I believe the process is more important than the product, because the process of coming out here and putting in work — no one can take that away, regardless of what the season throws at us," she

ROSTER			
00	Jordyn Halleman	14	Ellie Faith Ross
2	Amelia Williams	17	Maci Schertz
3	Sophie Carroll	22	Katherine Riley
7	Lulu Tarbox	23	Emily Bogoski
9	Khloe Watkins	26	Shayler Becker
13	Kaylee Reece	33	Anna Hoke

said. "There's only so much in this game you can control, and if we can control the controllables, nobody can take away their work ethic."

On its roster, CAK has five outfielders listed: Amelia Williams, Kaylee Reece, Ellie Faith Ross, Maci Schertz and Katherine Riley.

Ross and Schertz are two of the three eighth-graders, as is

Khloe Watkins, who will play second base and shortstop.

Ross will occupy left field, while Williams and Reece will be in center and right field, respectively.

The team's lone senior, Sophie Carroll, will play catcher and can also occupy third. Jordan Halleman and Shayler Becker are both listed as utility options, though Halleman

CAK

2/21	Jefferson Co. Play	
	Day - 3 Games	.....Away
3/3	William Blount	.....Away
3/5	TKA	.....Away
3/7	Heritage / Maryville	
	Round Robin	.....Away
3/12	Providence	.....Home
3/13	West Ridge	.....Home
3/16	West High	.....Away
3/19	Concord Christian	.....Home
3/20	Heritage/ Karns	.....Away
3/25	William Blount	.....Home
3/26	Grace Christian	.....Home
3/30	Tug Valley WV	.....Away
3/31	Lakeway	.....Home
4/2	Concord Christian	.....Away
4/6	TKA	.....Away
4/7	FBA	.....Away
4/10-4/11	Gibbs Invitational -	
	4 Games	.....Away
4/13	Midway	.....Home
4/14	Grace Christian	.....Away
4/15	West High	.....Away
4/17	Lakeway	.....Away
4/21	Lenoir City/ Senior Night	.....Home
4/23	Providence/ Early Release	.....Away
4/27	FBA	.....Home

can pitch as well.

Anna Hoke will also be an outfield option, and Lulu Tarbox will be at first base with Emily Bogoski available to play shortstop or pitch. Bogoski returns to the squad after an All-State campaign as a freshman, batting .547 with 11 home runs.

This year, Bogoski will look to lead a versatile team with six of 12 players available for any position depending on the area of need.

"To me, I love that," she added.

See **LADY WARRIORS**, Page 10C

CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS

Sometimes coaches worry about some of their players not getting enough playing time. Concord Christian School's Chad Johnson likely won't have that problem this year.

When Johnson's softball team takes the field, his squad will have only 11 girls, many with limited experience at that. However, the first-year head coach very much likes his team's approach to the game.

"Hard working girls, he said. "Very hard-working but a lot of inexperience. They're very coachable and very willing to learn. They're fun to be around, they ask questions."

Some of the Lady Lions players have hardly played the game. "We are young," Johnson said. "We have four seniors, one eighth-grader, and several players who have played only a couple years. We have three ninth-graders. Several are new to the game, but they're getting better every day."

Two of Johnson's starters - ninth-grader Anna Chaveriat, and senior Caris Baggett — will comprise the pitching staff. Whoever isn't pitching will play first base.

"Good ballplayer, getting

Caris Baggett	Sr.
Jianna Carr	Fr.
Anna Chaveriat	Fr.
Madelyn (Maddie) Greene	Sr.

better; learning to pitch this year," Johnson said of Chaveriat. "Last year we lost our senior pitcher; shes gonna pitch a lot of innings for us. Caris just recently learned to pitch. She took lessons."

Johnson will have a senior — Maddie Greene — at second base. Greene, however, is new to the game.

"First-year player," Johnson said. "Just decided she wanted to play. "Hard worker, learning something new every time she's out."

At shortstop, the Lady Lions will have sophomore Hayden Lewis this season. Lewis has experience, having played a variety of positions last year. "Learning a new position," Johnson said. "She's working hard to learn shortstop."

Freshman McKenna Greene — sister of Maddie — will man third base for Johnson. She played as an eighth-grader last year. This year will be her third playing softball. "Learning new things," Johnson said.

ROSTER

McKenna Greene	Fr.	Eleanor (Nell) Pattison	Sr.
Kensley Jennings	Jr.	Justice Phillips	Fr.
Hayden Lewis	So.	Elizabeth Reed	So.
Chloe Nestor	Sr.		

"Gonna be put in a starting role."

Junior Kensley Jennings will be the Lady Lions' catcher. She played shortstop last year.

"She was a very good shortstop," Johnson said. "She's moving to catcher to fill a need, making a sacrifice. She's a good enough athlete to learn to catch. She's a hard worker; great attitude ... team leader."

Senior Chloe Nestor will return to left field this season. "She got a lot better last year," said Johnson. "Expecting big things this year, based on her improvement from last year."

Elizabeth Reed returns to the outfield as well, in centerfield where she was All-District in 2025.

"She's 1000% ball player," Johnson said of the sophomore. "Hustles, great attitude; team leader; one of those girls who's always always asking what she can do to help. Reed started as an eighth-grader."

A number of players could see time in right field for John-

son. Senior Nell Pattison ("improved a lot her junior year; having a really good spring so far") is one. Freshman second-year player Justice Phillips, and eighth-grader Allie Hobbs ("new to the game; she's learning, great attitude") is another.

Johnson is confident in Chaveriat and Baggett on the mound, but wouldn't mind another arm or two. "Its not like you need four or five, but it'd be nice to have a couple more," he said. "If they can give us innings and get outs, we'll be alright."

Johnson faces another potential hurdle with this year's squad: believing in themselves. The team last year won not a single game. He was asked if he thought his girls thought they could win.

"I think they do," he said. "I think some of the younger girls are still maybe having some doubts because they're gonna be playing against some girls who have played travel ball their whole lives"

Lady Hawks

From page 7C

"got a handful of talent," according to Snyder, and played travel ball for many years. Junior Zoie Driver ("one of the best kids attitude-wise") could also man the position.

Whoever isn't at short will probably be at third, according to Snyder. "That's who I'm looking at now," he said. "It's up in the air til we figure it out."

Freshman Nora Butler is the top candidate at catcher, replacing a four-year starter. "I have a lot of confidence in Nora, just on her knowledge and the way she plays the position," Snyder said.

Junior Josie Smith is slated to return to left field. She also played right field in 2025. "Soaks up everything she touches," Snyder said. "Tries to give 100% every time she steps on the field."

Senior Hayden Gibbs will most likely be the Lady Hawks' centerfielder. It will be her first year in the program.

"Great kid, ton of talent," Snyder said. "Eager to learn, has the talent to do it."

A pair of girls will vie for playing time in right field. Senior four-year

player Kami Taylor "wants it really bad; I'll probably give her a chance," Snyder said. Sophomore Layla Lineberry ("has size and power, has potential") could see time there as well.

Last season, HVA's then head coach suddenly resigned before the season started, and Snyder was thrust into the top position. Not all the players adjusted smoothly. The Lady Hawks were also hit hard by injuries.

Snyder is confident those obstacles are in the rearview mirror.

"Last year was a tough year," he said. "We're more prepared this year ... knowing what I've got I feel really confident. I'm more excited this year than last."

Like any coach, Snyder hopes vehemently his team will avoid the injury curse. Losing Grann for almost all last season was crippling. "A few freshmen could possibly pitch; we're trying to develop them," said Cole.

"Right now we have a really good corps of girls who are willing to learn and grow, and know what this program is about," said Snyder.

"I think we have a good balance and all of our girls are ready to step up," said Cole.

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KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IRISH

In time spent around a baseball or softball diamond, one would be hard-pressed to find a more experienced coach than Hannah Seaver-Logan.

The daughter of late pitching coach Joey Seaver, Seaver-Logan began her career as a 19-year-old assistant at Central High School after her own career was cut short by injury. Three coaching stops, 13 years and two kids later, the 2012 Knoxville Catholic graduate is in her third year leading the Irish softball program.

She brings knowledge gleaned from her father and another important presence, former Catholic coach Sarah Fekete Bailey.

Bailey now coaches at Alcoa, but at Tennessee, she was a four-year starter from 2003-06 and helped lead the Lady Vols to their first two appearances at the Women's College World Series in 2005 and 2006.

"She played for Team USA and was a two-time All-American, so she really set the expectation for me in what it means to be a quality student-athlete and do the little things right," Seaver-Logan said. "I had a great example set for me, and I try to pass that along."

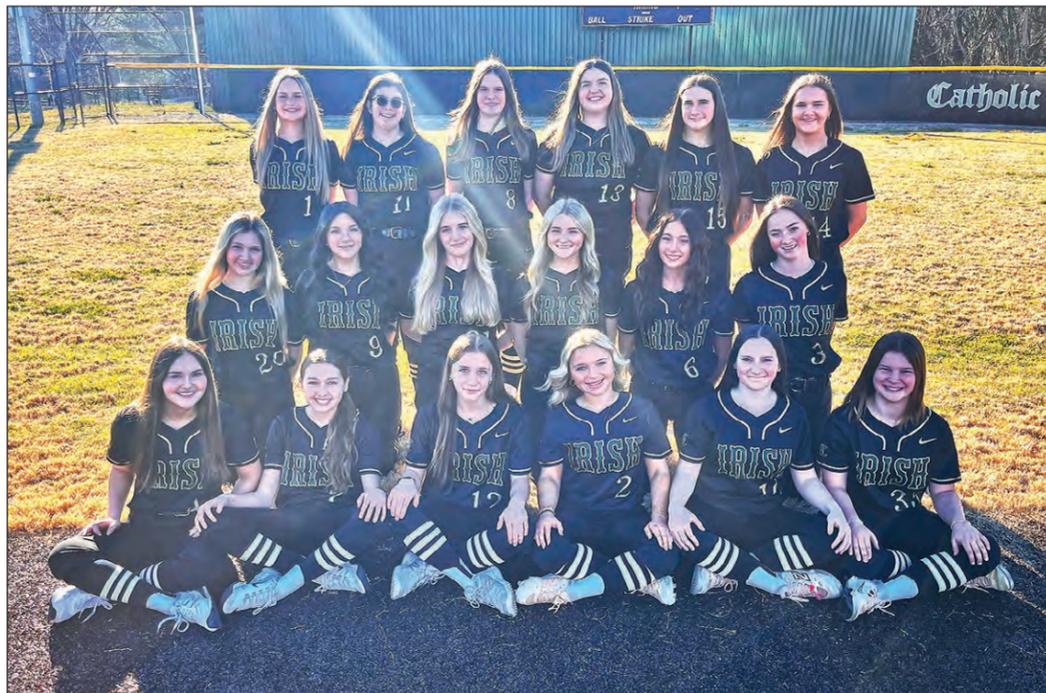
At Catholic, Seaver-Logan has done that while rebuilding the Irish roster.

"Three years ago, they didn't have hardly enough to field a team," Seaver-Logan said. "My first year, they had enough to consistently schedule games."

This year? "We've got numbers on our side," she said. "With 18 girls, that gives you a chance to do more things in practice and have a JV team if you want to."

The Irish are coming off a 16-12 season, though they return plenty of weapons across the diamond.

Senior pitcher Caitlin



Brooks will lead KCHS in the circle, as she nears her 500th career strikeout that should come in the first few games this season.

"She's fantastic," Seaver-Logan said, "and has started the last four years for us."

Brooks' battery mate will be sophomore catcher Ryleigh McEnerly, as "she and Caitlin have a great relationship and work well together," Seaver-Logan said.

Catie Schaad will take up one of the corners at third base, while Anna Debusk will be at shortstop.

"She's someone that is consistently on base," Seaver-Logan said of Debusk. "She offers a lot of leadership in terms of her work ethic and her consistency at the plate and on defense."

In left field will be Claudia Schaad, who also stole 23 bases last year, per MaxPreps, while All-State returner Hadley Troutt will be looking for another strong season in center-field as a junior.

ROSTER

Anna Iverson
HR O'Reilly
Caitlin Brooks
Autumn Shaffer
Anna Debusk
Izzy Holleman
Hadley Troutt

Kaitlynn Johnson
Jaylen Drazkowski
Gracie Eunice
Claudia Schaad
Catie Schaad
Ryleigh McEnerly
Ady Debusk

Last season, Troutt totaled an on-base percentage of .512 with a .500 batting average and a perfect fielding percentage. She was recognized as a PrepXtra standout and honored with an All-State nod in Division II-AA.

Isabelle Holleman will be an option for several positions, as Seaver-Logan noted that "I can put her anywhere."

"And she had five home runs last year too," Seaver-Logan added.

Beyond the statistics, though, the Catholic alum and coach noted that her program is built on three core principles: salvation, school

and softball.

"First and foremost, we want to represent the Lord and be ambassadors for Christ and everything that we do," she said. "Ultimately the goal is to get ourselves and everyone we interact with to heaven. Second, we aim to be as good in the classroom as we are on the field. We take the student part of student athlete very seriously, and we had a combined team GPA of 3.7 last year. Lastly, everything that we do, we aim to compete at our highest level and be the best versions of ourselves. Softball is our vehicle to help us reach our full potential as

young ladies."

Seaver-Logan certainly saw that impact in her own life, having grown up on fields across Tennessee.

Now, her two sons will experience the same thing as she leads KCHS on the diamond.

"Growing up, there were two things I wanted to do — be a softball coach and be a mom," she said. "The fact that I am able to do both and work at a school that allows me to do both is really special, because both jobs are so important. And it doesn't happen without support from this school and my husband, especially."

Knoxville Catholic High School

2/25	Heritage	.....Home
2/26	Lakeway	.....Home
2/28	Heritage Play Day	.....Away
3/2	FBA	.....Home
3/3	Knox West	.....Home
3/5	Jefferson County	.....Home
3/16	Alcoa	.....Home
3/17	Kingston	.....Home
3/20	Grace	.....Home
3/23	Concord Christian	.....Home
3/24	GPS	.....Away
3/25	Union County	.....Home
3/27	William Blount	.....Away
3/30	Webb	.....Away
3/31	Jefferson County	.....Away
4/1	Knox West	.....Away
4/7	Chatt Christian	.....Home
4/9	FBA	.....Away
4/10	GPS	.....Home
4/14	Baylor	.....Home
4/20	Notre Dame	.....Away
4/22	Bearden	.....Home
4/23	Notre Dame	.....Home
4/24	Farragut Tournament	
4/27	Knox CentralHome
4/28	BaylorAway
5/1	WebbHome
5/4	Chatt ChristianAway



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WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE SPARTANS

On a recent, rainy afternoon, Jamie Hall fired pitches from behind an L-screen inside the Webb indoor facility. All the while, she shouted encouragement toward the batters who barreled softballs back toward her.

It was a familiar scene in a new setting, as Hall was hired as Webb School of Knoxville's new softball coach in December 2025.

She brings plenty of experience, having starred at Syracuse after a prep career that resulted in an induction into the Iowa Girls High School Softball Hall of Fame.

Hall is no stranger to coaching either, having worked at Christian Academy of Knoxville as their fifth-grade coach during the 2024 season. Also, she has coached plenty of travel softball as the founder and program director of TN Queens softball, which features 10U and 12U teams. And even beyond her softball work, Hall is the co-founder and chief marketing officer for Arsenal Strength, an exercise equipment manufacturer that is headquartered in Knoxville.

Now, Hall will look to combine all of those skills to lead a Webb team that struggled to an 0-11 record last year, according to MaxPreps.

"I'm super excited to be on board here," Hall said as her



players continued batting practice. "The vision aligns directly with where I come from and what I bring to the table, and the excitement level is high for the girls, too."

As far as that background is concerned, Hall noted that each aspect helped her become the person she is today.

"Everything I've accomplished in my life, I've accomplished because of athletics — particularly softball," Hall said. "We learn a lot of skills and intangible things that you have to practice in softball.

Fighting through adversity, learning how to accept failure, hard work, teamwork — all those things, I've been able to translate them into being an entrepreneur."

"I've been through the trenches, and I know what these girls are going through," she added. "We talk a lot about the mental game and fighting through adversity, and I can relate to that and give them some cues to navigate it."

She acknowledged that this season will be a rebuilding year, as Hall replaces Kaitlyn

Walker, who was with the program for just one season.

"But we have set the tone for what the standard of this program should look like," Hall said. "So while I've told the girls that there will be things we need to overcome, we also want to be all-in on rebuilding this program. And I think they're really excited about that."

One standout will be Ellie Kate Barber, a pitcher who played plenty last season as an eighth-grader.

"She obviously brings a lot of

Webb	
3/9	Sweetwater High School .....Home
3/17	Baylor School .....Home
3/19	Girls Preparatory School .....Away
3/19	Girls Preparatory School .....Away
4/13	Sweetwater High School .....Away
4/13	Coalfield High School .....Home
4/23	First Baptist Academy .....Home
5/5	Chattanooga Christian .....Away

ROSTER

Elizabeth Barber	Fr.
Virginia Crossen	8th
Terralyn Hill	Jr.
Addison Ingram	So.
Zoya Kherani	8th
Layna Mannella	Fr.
Emme Yost	Jr.

experience to the table and has been successful," Hall said. "So we are really leaning on her to be a leader on this team."

Hall is not quite as sure on other positions yet, as Webb will field a roster made up primarily of freshmen and sophomores.

But as daunting as that may seem, it also gives Hall a fresh slate to begin laying the foundation for this program's future.

"I get to lay a foundation brick by brick," she said, "and set the expectation for Webb softball."

Lady Admirals

From page 6C

Shrader has been injured. In her place, sophomore infielder Taylor Wolfgram will likely take up that spot. Fellow sophomore Jade Buckner could see time at catcher, while Camryn Shrader will occupy the shortstop position that Morrison held.

The junior class is comprised of seven returners, four of whom earned All-District honors last season. Returning

catcher Rylee Raby was one such pick last year.

Her battery mate, Radford commitment Hallie Grace Johnson, earned Co-Pitcher of the Year in District 4-4A last season. Now, she will look to rebound on a sophomore year that saw a 21-5 record with a 1.35 ERA.

"She is probably the top returning pitcher in the area," Green said of Johnson. Of the two together, he said: "They saw the most experience in playing time and batting order,

so they will probably anchor the middle of our order."

Eleena Ralston and Daijah Means will occupy the corner outfield spots, and 2025 All-District pick Logan Jameson will return in centerfield after starting there as a freshman.

Meanwhile, 2025 Honorable Mention selection Taylor Albright will be at second base. Fellow Honorable Mention candidate Callie Brown will play first base with Kovacs but will also rotate with Raby behind the plate.

Sophomore Sydney Branson and freshman Wesley Green will compete for outfield time, while freshmen Camden Houston and Raleigh Mizer can be expected to help in the outfield and in the circle, respectively.

"You never know what will happen with injuries, sickness, who's hot or not," Green summarized. "We can adjust based on the strategy we want to use. That will make us really tough to beat because we can do so many things."

Lady Warriors

From page 8C

ed, "because you need to be the total package in this game."

Overall, the Warriors' new coach noted how excited she is to take her pedigree as a player and channel it into a new program in west Knoxville.

"It's everything," Sohm said. "Once you're a competitor, it never gets out of your system. I love this role because I can teach them all the things I know."

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