

farragutpress presents Spring Sports

BASEBALL PREVIEW

Stories by Bill Howard

farragutpress Thursday, March 17, 2022 • 1C



FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS

For more than 20 years, Farragut High School's baseball team has been a perennial state title contender.

Head coach Matt Buckner is confident that won't change this year. But in getting there, he said, his team is gonna take some lumps. The Admirals' schedule, according to Buckner, is Murderer's Row.

"We play an extremely hard schedule, probably about as hard as you could schedule," said Buckner, who coached Bearden for six seasons before coming to FHS in 2010 and winning four state titles, along with two runner-up state finishes. "We play seven teams inside the top 25 teams of America. We could go through some really hard times early on."

Compounding Farragut's challenge will be the team's youth. Several starters are sophomores, though all have experience.

"This will be an extremely young roster," Buckner said. "We had four freshmen who started a majority of the time last year."

Returning starters for Buckner include senior catcher

Garrett Brewer and sophomore centerfielder Brennan Siegler, a UT commit.

"Garrett is our only senior starter, so he'll be the backbone of our defense," the Admirals skipper said.

Buckner's son, sophomore Lukas Buckner, started at second base last year; this year he'll play shortstop. The second-base position was still undecided at deadline.

Another sophomore, Eli Evans, pitched last year and was the designated hitter. This year he'll play both first and third base.

Rotating on the corners with Evans will be Texas A&M commit, Jett Johnston, a junior transfer from Texas.

Two more sophomores, Landis Davilla and Jack Alley, will join Siegler in the outfield.

On the mound, the Admirals pitching should be formidable. The staff is deep and has considerable experience. "We should be deep on the mound," said Buckner.

Any ace designation will go to senior righthander Jaxson Pease, last year's district Player of the Year. Pease was 9-1 in

ROSTER

1	Jett Johnston	Jr.	19	Will Sevens	Sr.
2	Lukas Buckner	Soph.	20	Matt Heflin	Soph.
3	Gavin Brewer	Soph.	23	Keeton Lyell	Jr.
4	Ashton Sulack	Jr.	24	Michael Delph	Soph.
6	Landis Davila	Soph.	26	Matthew Kilbey	Jr.
7	Jack Alley	Soph.	27	Kaleb Toon	Sr.
8	Eli Evans	Soph.	28	Ben Johnson	Soph.
9	Eli Miller	Jr.	31	Jack Steed	Jr.
10	Jake Merrick	Soph.	32	Stratton Scott	Soph.
11	Braylon Hall	Soph.	33	Garrett Brewer	Sr.
12	Jaxson Pease	Sr.	35	Charlie Bozeman	Soph.
13	Hayden Estes	Sr.	36	Jonathan Venero	Jr.
14	Mark Underwood	Jr.	38	Griffin Mashburn	Jr.
16	Cooper Schulze	Jr.	40	Kam Sanders	Jr.
17	Brennon Seigler	Soph.	50	Ellis Gleed	Jr.
18	Kyle Harrison	Jr.	51	Evan Toon	Jr.

Head coach: Matt Buckner

Assistant coaches: Garrett Copeland, Daniel Sharp, Bill Mink, Mark Newby, Dave Roberts, Sam Schulze

Farragut

3-22.....	@ Knoxville Catholic	6 p.m.
Smoky Bear/Demarini Inv. (3-23 to 3-26)		
3-23.....	Jefferson County.....	6 p.m.
3-24.....	Bartlett.....	7 p.m.
3-25.....	Tates Creek, Kentucky...5:30 p.m.	
3-26.....	Science Hill	1 p.m.
3-28.....	Maryville.....	6:30 p.m.
3-30.....	Hardin Valley.....	6:30 p.m.
Hoover Tourney, Alabama (3-31 to 4-2)		
3-31.....	Helena.....	8 p.m.
4-1.....	Harvard Westlake.....	2:30 p.m.
4-1.....	Hoover	10 a.m.
4-2.....	Brooks	5 p.m.
4-4.....	William Blount.....	6:30 p.m.
4-6.....	Bearden.....	6:30 p.m.
4-7.....	Grace Christian	6:30 p.m.
4-8.....	@ Baylor	6:30 p.m.
4-11.....	Heritage.....	6:30 p.m.
4-13.....	@ Maryville.....	6 p.m.
Scott Dean Tournament (4-14 to 4-16)		
4-14.....	Providence.....	7 p.m.
4-15.....	Houston	3:30 p.m.
4-16.....	Worthington.....	10 a.m.
4-16.....	McCallie	1:30 p.m.
4-18.....	@ Hardin Valley.....	5 p.m.
4-20.....	@ William Blount.....	6 p.m.
4-22.....	Combine Academy.....	5 p.m.
4-25.....	@ Bearden.....	6 p.m.
4-27.....	@ Heritage.....	6 p.m.
4-28.....	Throwback Game.....	TBA
4-29.....	Baylor	6:30 p.m.
5-2.....	CAK (Vanderbilt).....	5 p.m.

• Denotes District contest, All times EST

2021.

Joining Pease on the staff will be a trio of seniors: Kaleb Toon, Hayden Estes and Will Severens.

A pair of sophomores can take the mound for Buckner if needed: Stratton Scott and Mi-

cheal Delph.

If the Admirals are to give Buckner his fifth state championship this year, he's confident it will be because of their battle-readiness as a result of

See ADMIRALS on Page 4C

CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS

From 2013 to 2018, Mitch Turner was the baseball head coach at Grace Christian Academy. In 2015, the Rams won a state championship.

For the last three years, Turner skippered The King's Academy, taking the Lions to the state tournament last year and finishing fifth.

Turner, an executive vice-president of sales for a tech company, is in his first year at Concord Christian School — and to say he has a rebuilding project on his hands is an understatement.

CCS has never been competitive in baseball.

This year, Turner's new Lions will play in District 1-A of the East Region in Division II, which includes both his previous teams.

He and his staff are scrambling to determine where each

member of the Lions' limited roster of 15 will play. Some of his boys haven't played organized baseball in years.

"We have five or six players who have experience at the high-school level," he said.

Well into March, "I've never seen these guys on the field in competition," Turner added. "Getting these boys together and picking out their pieces and putting it together to try to make a puzzle ... it's been interesting."

Turner's infield will be young to say the least.

Sophomore Manu Porter



Turner

likely will be at first base. An eighth-grader, Micah Porter, will probably start at second.

Junior Bryce Butler, a transfer from Hardin Valley Academy, will play shortstop, though his play will be limited because of transfer rules.

Third base will likely be manned by freshman Mason Sparks, a "good athlete" according to Turner.

The probable catcher will be sophomore Cody Johnson.

Turner's youth carries over to the outfield, which might remain under construction throughout the season. The most likely trio are junior Brady Moore, sophomore Davis Givens and freshman Zach Langley.

On the pitching staff, Turner has a primary starter in senior Corban Tidwell. After that, as is common with high-school

Concord

3-14.....	@ Fulton.....	6 p.m.
3-21.....	@ The Kings Academy.....	5 p.m.
3-24.....	@ Anderson County	5 p.m.
3-25.....	@ Pigeon Forge.....	5 p.m.
3-28.....	@ Maryville Apostolic.....	5 p.m.
4-1.....	@ Lakeway	5:30 p.m.
4-2.....	FCA Flames (@Tri-Cities)....	2 p.m.
4-4.....	@ Grace Christian.....	5 p.m.
4-7.....	@ Maryville Apostolic.....	5 p.m.
4-12.....	@ CAK	5:30 p.m.
4-15.....	Pigeon Forge (@Powell).....	5:30 p.m.
4-22.....	@ Cosby	5:30 p.m.
4-23.....	@ Anderson County	10 a.m.
4-25.....	@ CAK	5:30 p.m.
4-30.....	@ Anderson County	noon
5-2.....	@ Play-In.....	TBA

rosters, position players also will take the mound. For Turner, this list includes Sparks, Butler, Langley and Porter.

The effectiveness of his pitching staff remains uncertain.

See LIONS on Page 6C

ROSTER

Owen McFall	Sr.
Corban Tidwell	Sr.
Bryce Butler	Jr.
Brady Moore	Jr.
Jaewon Lee	Jr.
Cody Johnson	Soph.
Manu Porter	Soph.
Eli Berkley	Soph.
John Hurst	Soph.
Davis Givens	Soph.
Jake Weichold	Fr.
Mason Sparks	Fr.
Zack Langley	Fr.
Jace Gheen	Fr.
Micah Dewald	8th
Micah Porter	8th

Head coach: Mitchell Turner

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CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS

Under Tommy Pharr, Christian Academy of Knoxville's baseball team has excelled. In 12 seasons, Pharr's Warriors have won four state championships, the first two (2014, 2017) in Division I Class AA, the latter two (2018, 2019) in Division II-A.

Pharr had similar success in his 12 years at the helm at Farragut High (five Class 3A state titles between 2003 and 2009). He denies any formula or secret. "We get good players and we work hard," Pharr said. "I don't know if I have any secret."

According to Pharr, the team strengths of his '22 Warriors will be defense and pitching.

"Our strength is I think we'll be good defensively and our top guys on the mound should be good," Pharr said. "The fact that we lost so many guys (13 to graduation), it's almost like a new team."

"They've worked really, really hard all year," he added. "They're bought in to what we do. I think it's gonna be an exciting year."

Despite last year's losses, a number of seniors will take the field for Pharr this year; three are returning to their positions from last year.

Lipscomb commit Walker Strange will play third base, Grant Sterchi will be in centerfield, and All-Region Tyler Jenkins will be in left field.

All-Region Wes Alig — only a sophomore — will be at shortstop.

Exactly whom to place in a number of other positions is still being decided by Pharr. At deadline Junior Cy Keener and senior Jackson McDowell will rotate at second base. Right field will be manned by a pair of seniors: Evan Cage and Aiden Asbury.

Another pair of seniors will handle first base: Jeremy Crider and Cade Verdeaux. Juniors Bennett Rymer and Connor Nelson will likely be behind the plate. Junior Sam Cecil can play infield or outfield, and will be the designated hitter.

Pharr's pitching staff is deep. Ace designation goes to Belmont commit Simon Tesh. Other likely starters will



Photo courtesy of Pro Photo

be juniors Luke Jones and Andrew Moore. Also available on the mound are Crider and Strange, and a trio of juniors: Aaron Bobo, Caleb Knutsen and Josh Price.

CAK finished 33-10 overall last year, 8-0 in Division II-A East Region District 1, while reaching the semis of the state tournament. Another district title this year would hardly be surprising.

See **WARRIORS** on Page 3C

ROSTER


10 Aiden Asbury	Sr.	23 Liam Quinn	Jr.
12 Evan Cage	Sr.	11 Bennett Rymer	Jr.
4 Jackson Camp	Sr.	33 Wes Alig	Soph.
7 Jeremy Crider	Sr.	40 Lewis Brooke	Soph.
1 Tyler Jenkins	Sr.	27 Christian Rosa	Soph.
9 Jackson McDowell	Sr.	37 Jameson Van Ness	Soph.
16 Grant Sherchi	Sr.	17 Jonathon Van Ness	Soph.
18 Walker Strange	Sr.	45 Grayson Van Rossum	Soph.
19 Simon Tesh	Sr.	30 Tyler Bennett	Fr.
24 Cade Verdeaux	Sr.	25 Hayden Hayes	Fr.
6 Aaron Bobo	Jr.	20 Blake Jarrad	Fr.
2 Tommy Behrens	Jr.	8 Kennedy Bleau	Fr.
14 Sam Cecil	Jr.	41 Ian McCormick	Fr.
5 JK Hamilton	Jr.	32 Jack Pearson	Fr.
3 Ian Johnson	Jr.	44 Sheppard Strange	Fr.
34 Luke Jones	Jr.	43 Chip Shelton	Fr.
22 Sy Keener	Jr.	42 Tyler Slatas	Fr.
21 Caleb Knutsen	Jr.	35 Noah Taylor	Fr.
26 Andrew Moore	Jr.	29 Will Wright	Fr.
13 Connor Nelson	Jr.	31 Jon Yeager	Fr.
15 Josh Price	Jr.		

Head coach: Tommy Pharr

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BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS

Bearden High School baseball has a new skipper in town, and he plans to hit the bases running.

“We’re gonna play a high-pressure style of baseball,” new head coach Dave Prichard said. “Try to put pressure on the defense constantly, whether it’s the run game or short game. We’re not gonna just wait for the next guy to get a hit.”

Prichard spent the previous 15 years at the helm of Cumberland County High School, taking the Jets to the regional tournament three years ago for only the second time in school history.

Prichard’s lineup is still very much under construction. He likes his team’s depth, yet only two position starters return. One is sophomore catcher Brooks Wright, who has already committed to UT.

“Brooks is gonna have to lead the defense,” Prichard said. “He swings a big bat. Even though he’s only a sophomore, we’re gonna lean on him heavily for leadership.”

The other returning starter is outfielder Griffin Oros, one of only five seniors, as the Bulldogs were hit hard by graduation last year.

Three other players will compete to round out the outfield: junior Luke Seagrist and seniors Case Simpson and Carson Cooper.

Bearden

3-22.....@Maryville (non-district) .. 6 p.m.

Smokey Bear/Demarini Inv. (3-24 to 3-26)
3-24.....Jefferson County.....6:30 p.m.
3-25.....@ Seymour.....7:30 p.m.
3-26.....Tates Creek, Kentucky.....10 a.m.
3-26.....McMinn County..... 3 p.m.

3-28.....William Blount.....6 p.m.
3-30.....@Maryville..... 6 p.m.
4-2.....Cookeville.....11 a.m.
4-2.....Cumberland County.....6:30 p.m.
4-4.....@Heritage..... 6 p.m.
4-6.....@Farragut..... 6 p.m.
4-8.....@Kings Academy.....6 p.m.
4-9.....@Cookeville..... TBA
4-11.....@Hardin Valley Academy.....6 p.m.
4-13.....@William Blount..... 6 p.m.

Scott Dean Tournament (4-14 to 4-16)
4-14..... @ CAK.....6 p.m.
4-15.....Houston.....11 a.m.
4-16.....McCallie.....10 a.m.
4-16.....Bradley Central.....12:30 p.m.
4-18.....Maryville.....6 p.m.
4-20.....Heritage..... 6 p.m.
4-22..... @Knoxville West.....6 p.m.
4-23.....Walker Valley.....2 p.m.
4-25.....Farragut.....6 p.m.
4-26.....Knoxville West..... 6 p.m.
4-27.....Hardin Valley Academy.....6 p.m.
4-28.....Gibbs (ThrowBack Game)..... TBA
4-30.....@ Walker Valley.....noon
5-2.....Kings Academy.....6 p.m.

• Denotes District contest

In the infield, juniors Kyle Moss and Aiden Tipton will rotate at first base. A pair of juniors will man second base: Evan Goins and Brady Frederick.

Another pair of juniors — Connor Cloer and Parker Coe — will play shortstop.



ROSTER

2	Connor Cloer	Jr.	16	Evan Goins	Jr.	28	J.P. Harris	Jr.
3	Luke Seagrist	Jr.	18	Braden Suggs	Jr.	35	Griffen Mackey	Jr.
6	Brady Frederick	Jr.	20	Husdon Hoffecker	Jr.	37	Riley Mahan	Soph.
9	Carson Cooper	Sr.	21	Parker Coe	Jr.	40	Jonah Kohring	Soph.
10	Case Simpson	Sr.	23	Tripp Spencer	Sr.	43	Nick Kidd	Jr
13	Griffin Oros	Sr.	24	Kyle Moss	Jr.	98	Reyce Thomas	Soph.
14	Jake Collette	Jr.	25	Jeb Cox	Jr.	99	Aiden Tipton	Jr.
15	Owen Matthews	Jr.	27	Brooks Wright	Soph.		Head coach: Dave Prichard	

“Our biggest strength is our depth,” Prichard said. “I think we can put 17, 18 guys on the field.”

A number of position players will take the mound for the

Bulldogs. According to Prichard, his pitching staff is a work in progress.

“(We’re) unproven on the mound,” he said. “I think you win and lose games on the

mound more than anywhere. We have lots of arms we feel comfortable with, but we just need consistency.”

See BULLDOGS on Page 6C

Warriors

From page 2C

Like any most coach, Pharr takes nothing for granted.

“Lack of experience ... so many of these guys have not been counted on to be the main guy,” Pharr said. “So that would be the main concern.

“We just try to play the game really well in all facets, whatever our talent dictates we should do,” he added. “Our goal is to play really sound baseball, to make the other team beat us and not beat ourselves. Every year it’s fun to see what the new year holds.”

CAK

3-21.....Coalfield.....5:30 p.m.
3-22.....@ Oneida.....6 p.m.

Sevier County Tournament (3-24 to 3-26)
3-24.....East Robertson.....2 p.m.
3-24.....Cumberland County.....4:30 p.m.
3-25.....Clarksville NE.....4:30 p.m.
3-26.....Tates Creek, Ky (at CAK)1:30 p.m.

3-28.....Grace Christian..... 5:30 p.m.
3-29.....@Grace Christian..... 5:30 p.m.

Hoover Tourney, Birmingham (3-31 to 4-2)
4-1.....Oak Mountain.....11 a.m.

4-1.....Chelsea.....1:30 p.m.
4-2.....Calera.....11:30 a.m.

4-4.....Lakeway.....5:30 p.m.
4-5.....@ Lakeway.....5:30 p.m.
4-7.....Providence..... 6 p.m.
4-9.....@Silverdale.....noon
4-9.....MTCS (@Silverdale).....2:30 p.m.
4-12.....Concord.....(Senior Night) .5:30 p.m.

Scott Dean Tournament (4-13 to 4-16)
4-13.....Worthington, Ohio..... 6 p.m.
4-14.....Bearden..... 6 p.m.
4-15.....Walker Valley..... 12:30 p.m.

4-16.....David Crockett.....12:30 p.m.
4-16.....McMinn County.....3 p.m.

4-18.....Lenoir City.....5:30 p.m.
4-19.....Oneida (Military Night)..... 6 p.m.
4-20.....@Boyd Buchanan..... 6 p.m.
4-25.....@The Kings Academy.....5:30 p.m.
4-26.....The Kings Academy.....5:30 p.m.
4-27.....@ Alcoa.....5:30 p.m.
4-28.....Sevier Co. (at Farragut).....2 p.m.
5-2.....Farragut (at Vanderbilt)..... TBA

• Denotes district contest

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HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY HAWKS

Like any baseball head coach entering a new season, Hardin Valley High School's Tyler Roach hopes his team plays good defense, gets timely hits and has strong pitching.

But the difficulty of playing in District 4-4A is as much on his mind as RBI production or ERA efficiency.

"Our district's really tough," said Roach, starting his fourth year at HVA. "Over here we expect the toughest journey always. Usually whoever gets out of our district has a really good chance to compete at the state level."

The Hawks weathered their district well last year — 27-9 overall, 12-2 in the district — and went 2-3 against state power Farragut. The Hawks were eliminated by Powell in the regional tournament.

Roach's squad this year will be a mixture of youth and experience, and should be especially strong on the mound.

Leading the staff will be senior Logan Ozias, who pitched more last year than anyone else. "It's ('ace' designation) is his to lose," Roach said. Junior Adam Baker's fastball has been clocked at 88 mph.

Senior Connor O'Donnell not only beat Farragut twice last year, but also beat Com-

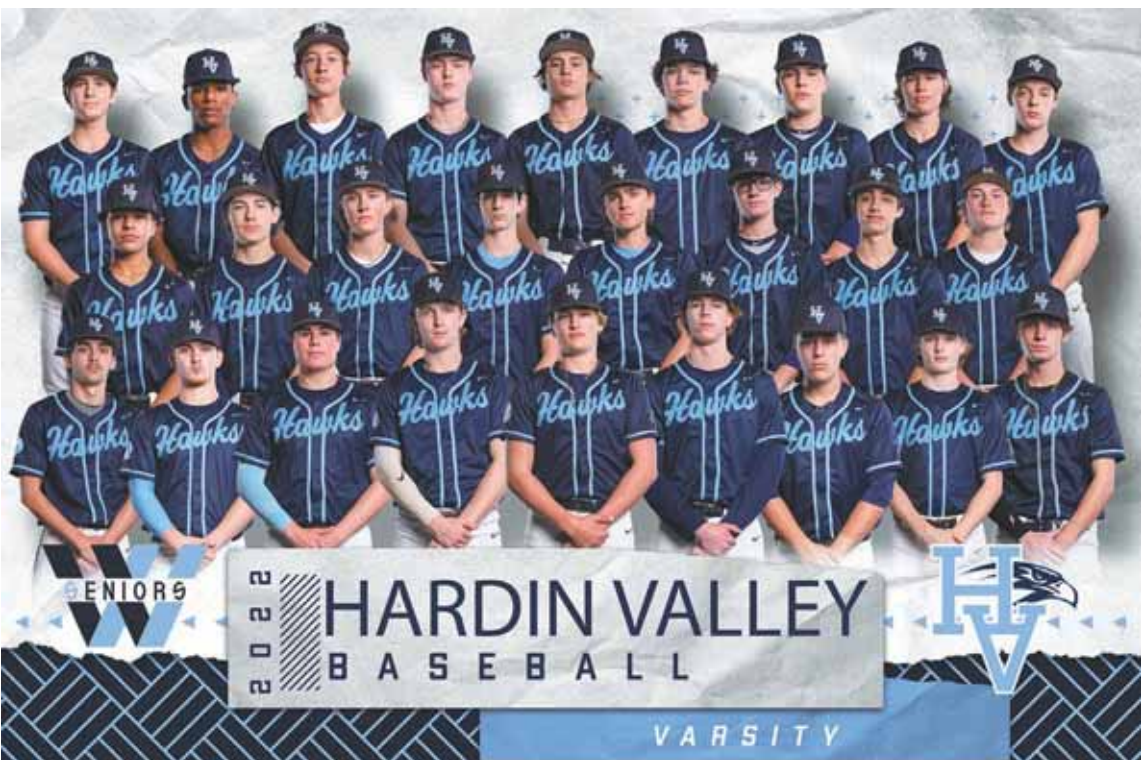


Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs

bine Academy, North Carolina, at the time the 14th-ranked team in the nation.

"We've been lucky with some good arms; we have a lot of returning arms, a lot of experienced arms and a lot of arms that have some decent talent," Roach said. "It's definitely a strength."

See **HAWKS** on Page 6C

Hardin Valley

3-21	..... @ Seymour	..... 6 p.m.
3-23	..... Sevier County	..... 6 p.m.
3-24	..... Science Hill	..... 7 p.m.
3-25	..... Bartlett	..... 7:30 p.m.
3-26	..... Jefferson County	..... 11 a.m.
3-28	..... @ Heritage	..... 6 p.m.
3-30	..... @ Farragut	..... 6:30 p.m.
4-1	..... Science Hill	..... 6:30 p.m.
4-2	..... Cleveland	..... 1 p.m.
4-4	..... Maryville	..... 6 p.m.
4-6	..... @ William Blount	..... 6 p.m.
4-7	..... Knoxville Central	..... 6 p.m.
4-9	..... Walker Valley	..... 6 p.m.
4-11	..... Bearden	..... 6 p.m.
4-13	..... Heritage	..... 6 p.m.
4-14	..... Worthington	..... 4:30 p.m.
4-15	..... Combine Academy	..... 11 a.m.
4-16	..... Houston	..... 11:30 a.m.
4-16	..... Walker Valley	..... 2 p.m.
4-18	..... Farragut	..... 5 p.m.
4-20	..... @ Maryville	..... 6 p.m.
4-22	..... @ Doby's-Bennett	..... 5:30 p.m.
4-23	..... @ Science Hill	..... 11 a.m.
4-25	..... William Blount	..... 6 p.m.
4-27	..... @ Bearden	..... 6 p.m.
4-28	..... Seymour	..... 6 p.m.
4-29	..... @ Walker Valley	..... 6 p.m.
5-2	..... @ Knoxville Central	..... 6 p.m.

• Denotes District contest

ROSTER

1 Trent Chandler	10 Noah Glenn	18 Colton Denton	26 Hunter Armstrong
2 Carson Hoffmeister	12 Austin Bolding	19 Austin King	27 Eddie Tan
3 Henry Ferguson	13 Jaxon Jones	21 Will Webb	28 Caleb Jinks
4 Caleb Neely	14 Mckeeon Maas	22 Micah Hoffmeister	30 Brandon Wright
6 Caden Channell	15 Ty Denton	23 Connor O'Donnell	48 Noah Baker
7 Jacob Dillon	16 Bryce Worley	24 Tyler Pickens	
8 Logan Ozias	17 Carter Goodwin	25 Adam Baker	Head coach: Tyler Roach

Farragut

Admirals

From page 1C

the early gauntlet.

The Admirals, who finished 38-7 last year and made the state semifinals, opened the season this week at a tournament in Ft. Lauderdale that includes, among other teams, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the preseason third-ranked team in the nation according to perfectgame.org.

The Admirals also will play Hoover High School there, one of the top teams in Alabama.

"We're gonna experience some lows, which is fine because by the time it's all said and done we'll be pretty good," Buckner said. "We'll be battle tested and ready to play at a pretty high level."

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KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IRISH

Already a top high school baseball program even when its reloading the talent pool due to heavy graduation losses, Knoxville Catholic should be especially strong in 2022.

“We have a lot of returning starters; we only lost two guys from last year’s team,” said KCHS head coach Caleb Moore, whose team finished 18-15 in 2021 after being eliminated in region post-season play.

Moreover, five of the seven returning positions feature juniors or sophomores.

“And I think we’re going to hit the ball pretty well,” the coach added.

Returnees include junior catcher Joey Lamattina, sophomore shortstop Hudson Lutterman, earning All-state honors in 2021 despite being a freshman, and junior second baseman Daniel Parris.

So versatile are Lutterman and Parris, “they will be switching back and forth at short and second,” Moore said.

However, “third base is still up for grabs (at deadline),” Moore said, as last season’s starting third baseman, senior Nate Breeden, has moved to centerfield.

The same holds true at first base (at deadline), although, “We had two guys that played their last year; they’ll be com-

Catholic

3-22.....Farragut 6 p.m.

Irish Classic (3-30 to 4-2)
3-30.....Coalfield 6 p.m.
3-31.....Grace Christian 7:45 p.m.
4-1.....Christ School 7:45 p.m.
4-2.....York Institute 5:30 p.m.

4-4.....@McCallie• (DH) 3 p.m.
4-5.....McCallie• 6 p.m.

ETBCA, Knoxville (4-8 to 4-9)
4-8.....Daniel Boone 5 p.m.
4-8.....Sweetwater 7:15 p.m.
4-9.....Dobyns-Bennett (@ORHS) 12:15 p.m.
4-9.....@Oak Ridge 2:30 p.m.

4-12..... @Providence Academy 6:30 p.m.
4-19.....@Baylor (DH)• 3 p.m.
4-20.....Baylor • 6 p.m.
4-21.....Lakeway (St. Jude Night) .. 6 p.m.
4-23.....@ Christ School 4:30 p.m.
4-25.....@ Chatt Christian (DH)• 5 p.m.
4-26.....Chatt Christian• 6 p.m.
4-28.....Knox Central (Sr. Night) 7:30 p.m.
5-2.....Webb School• 6 p.m.
5-3.....@Webb School• 6 p.m.
5-4.....Webb School• 6 p.m.

• Denotes East Region contest

peting again this year for it,” the coach said about senior Connor O’Brien and junior Ben Sompayrac.

Returnees in the outfield feature junior All-state left fielder Miller Spence and junior right fielder Ian Hubbard.

However, “I’ve got a few guys right now who are injured who are typically starters,” Moore said of senior outfielder Spen-



Photo courtesy of Big Orange Professional Photography

ROSTER

1	Spencer Margolis	Sr.	9	Jacob Camfield	Jr.	19	Hudson Lutterman	Soph
2	Ian Hubbard	Jr.	10	Ben Sompayrac	Jr.	23	Michael Casey	Sr.
3	Evon Kolesar	Jr.	11	Richie De La Cruz	Jr.	25	Jack Kupfner	Sr.
5	Miller Spence	Jr.	12	Daniel Parris	Jr.	27	Adam Osborn	Sr.
6	Connor O’Brien	Sr.	13	Nate Breeden	Sr.	29	Ryan Theobald	Jr.
7	Landon Lutterman	Sr.	17	Michael Kelly	Sr.	33	Joey Lamattina	Jr.
8	Canyon Geren	Sr.	18	Trey Kirk	Jr.			
Head coach: Caleb Moore								
Assistant coaches: Johnathan Frebis, Daniel Lutterman, Steve Souder, Adam Walker, Turner Whitfield								

cer Margolis and senior infielder Landon Lutterman.

Landon Lutterman, when healthy, or fellow senior Adam Osborn is expected to man third base.

As for pitching, the ace is All-Region senior righthander Canyon Geren. “Ben Sompayrac (righty) will be there,

too,” the coach added. “I would say Sompayrac would be the No. 2.”

Senior righty Michael Kelly “will be one of our top relief arms,” Moore said. “Another senior, Michael Casey (righty), will be throwing a lot for us as well.”

Another possible arm in the

pitching mix might be Hubbard, especially since he’s a southpaw.

As a unit, “We have some pretty good, quality depth on the mound,” the coach said.

However, a concern Moore brought up was “making sure

See IRISH on Page 6C

WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE SPARTANS

Because of reclassification, Webb School of Knoxville’s baseball team this year will have new, and bigger, Class neighbors in Division II.

“We’re gonna be a younger team this year,” head coach Jordan Wormsley. “I feel good about our team, how early practices and scrimmages have gone. The big thing about us this year is we’re in a different region.”

The Spartans have been moved by the TSSAA to Class AA (from A in recent years). They’ll now take on formidable opponents that include Baylor and McCallie, both out of Chattanooga, and Knoxville Catholic. Gone are familiar region foes such as CAK and Grace Christian.

Most every position in the field likely will be played by more than one Spartan. “We’re gonna see a pretty heavy rotation of guys moving around,” said Wormsley, entering his 10th year as head coach.

At first base, senior Ford Wagner, a returning starter who played mostly outfield last year, will man the position along with sophomore Blake Carter.

“We’re gonna expect quite a bit out of him,” Wormsley said of the power-hitting Wagner, who hit .454 in 2021.

Junior Cole Nathan and sophomore Jack Felton will play second. “Both have done very well in the preseason,” Wormsley said.

Senior Julian Mays, a returning starter in the outfield last

Webb

3-22.....@ Grace Christian• 5:30 p.m.
3-24.....Grace Christian• 5:30 p.m.

Knoxville West Spring Classic (3-25 to 26)
3-25.....William Blount 8 p.m.
3-26.....Plainfield Central, Illinois noon

3-29.....Anderson County 6 p.m.

Anderson/Clinton Co. Tourney (3-31 to 4-2)
3-31.....Grainger County (@ACHS) 5 p.m.
4-1.....Jefferson County (@Clinton) 8 p.m.
4-2.....@ Powell TBD

4-6.....@ Baylor• (DH) 5:30 p.m.
4-8.....The Kings Academy 6 p.m.
4-11.....@ McCallie• 5:30 p.m.
4-12.....McCallie DH• 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Lynn Weaver Memorial Tourney (@ KWHS 4-15 to 4-16)
4-15.....Goodpasture (at Knox West) 6 p.m.
4-16.....Station Camp (at Knox West) 4 p.m.

4-18.....Chattanooga Christian• 5:30 p.m.
4-19.....@ Chatt Christian (DH)• 5:30 p.m.
4-22.....@ Kings Academy 6 p.m.

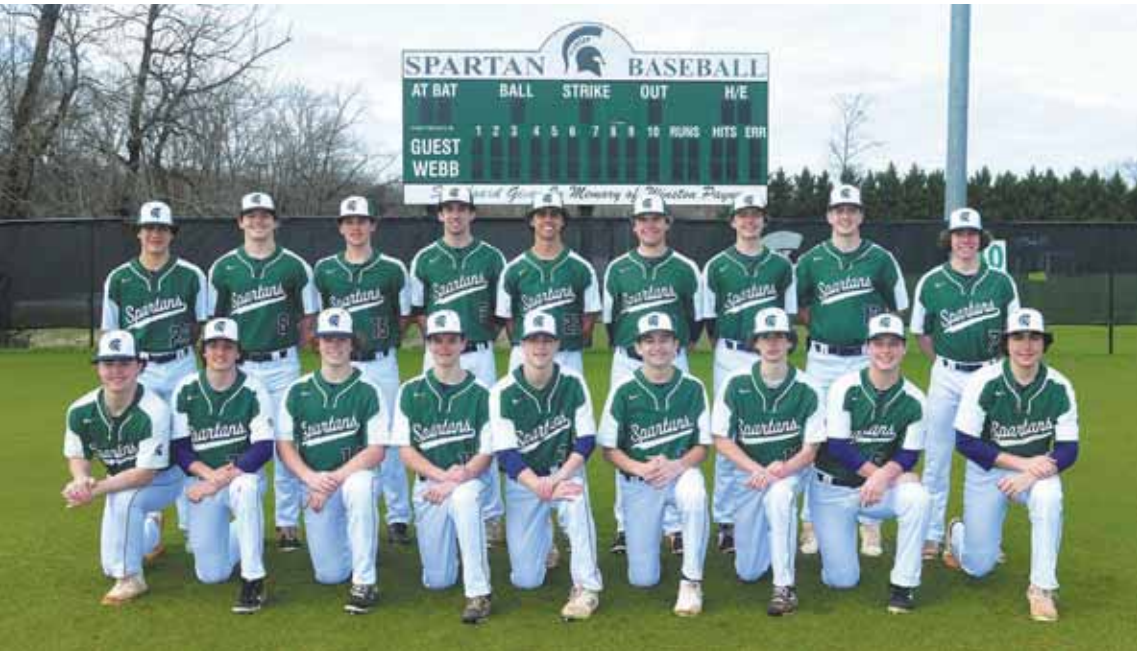
4-28.....@ Lakeway Christian 6 p.m.
4-29.....Lakeway Christian 6 p.m.
5-2.....@ Knoxville Catholic• 5:30 p.m.
5-3.....Knoxville Catholic• 5:30 p.m.
5-4.....@ Knoxville Catholic• 5:30 p.m.

• Denotes East Region contest

year, will be moved to shortstop. Mays hit .398 last year. Senior transfer Eli Varner will help at the position.

Senior Carter Musrock and sophomore Jack Wagner — Ford’s brother — will play third. Musrock started last year both at third and as designated hitter.

Wormsley’s outfield contingent will include players who also will be at other positions — and all can play any of the



ROSTER

1	Cole Nathan	Jr.	8	Cooper Cameron	Soph.	15	Cannon Myers	Jr.
3	Julian Mays	Sr.	9	Jack Wagner	Soph.	17	Asher Harness	Fr.
4	Ford Wagner	Sr.	11	Colten Collier	8th	22	Eli Varner	Sr.
5	Carter Musrock	Sr.	12	Blake Carter	Soph.	23	MaKai Derry	Fr.
6	Jack Felton	Soph	13	Carson Dabbs	Soph.	27	Alec Daniels	Soph.
7	Noah McLemore	Jr.	14	Marcus Roberts	Soph.	33	Griffin Saunders	Soph.
Head coach: Jordan Wormsley								

three spots. Mays, Varner and Felton (when he’s not in the infield) will likely be out there, complemented by sophomore Cooper Cameron.

“A lot of power potential,” Wormsley said of Cameron.

Junior Noah McLemore and freshman MaKai Derry can provide outfield help as needed.

Carter will be first on the catcher rotation for Wormsley.

A pair of sophomores, Griffin Saunders and transfer Alec Daniels, also can catch.

Mays, Varner, Nathan and Wagner will comprise the starting rotation for Webb this year. Mays was 7-1 last year with an earned run average of 3.02. Nathan’s ERA was 2.24.

Musrock and Felton will provide most of the relief.

Wormsley, who played col-

lege ball at Vanderbilt, is confident his team is well-rounded.

“I don’t think we’re gonna overpower anybody,” he said. “I think we’re gonna pitch competitively, we’re gonna play good defense and be sound at the plate as well.”

“I’m really optimistic about all facets of things we’re doing, and the preparation the guys are showing,” he added.



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State Champions

1985, 2010

Region Champions

1996, 1997, 2005, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2018, 2019

District Champions

2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018

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Lions
From page 1C

“Our biggest concern is arms,” Turner said. “All those kids can throw, but there’s a big difference between throwing and pitching. We’re gonna have to be very strategic with how we do that.”

A big part of Turner’s approach to the game is aggressive baserunning.

“We’ll be very aggressive on the bases, always have been,” he said. “We teach our baserunners how to pick up on things that maybe other runners

aren’t. We’re big on advancing on dirt balls, whether it’s blocked successfully or gets past the catcher. We try to take advantage of other people’s mistakes.”

Without any concrete knowledge of how well his players hit, throw or run, Turner sees an intangible, team unity, as a strength.

“The family atmosphere is our strength right now,” he said. “They wanna play for each other. Their heart is the most important thing they have right now. We’ll see how that relates to the field.”

Bulldogs
From page 3C

If the staff has an ace, it’s Wright, who pitched last year. Other starters are likely to be Tipton, Frederick and Goins. Juniors Jake Collette and Jeb Cox will be the primary relievers.

Bearden finished 19-13 overall last year, 6-8 in the district, which is 4-4A this year. By all accounts, it’s a tough lineup and includes perennial state power Farragut. Prichard is all too aware of how challenging his new district schedule will be. But he embraces it.

“I’m excited to be at Bearden ... there’s a lot of tradition,” Prichard said. “I’m excited to play in the best district in the state of Tennessee.”

The Bulldogs didn’t have to wait for district play to face a strong challenge: they opened the season Monday, Mar. 14, at Johnson Science Hill, the defending 3-A state champion.

“We have talent, it’s just unproven,” Prichard said. “The guys that show consistency will be the guys that play every day. I think we will be really competitive. I’m excited to see how we stack up.”

Hawks
From page 4C

Roach also is optimistic about his defense. Sophomore Jacob Dillon, who put up big numbers in JV last year, will be at first base. Second base will be manned by freshman Jackson Jones and/or sophomore Henry Ferguson, who hit above .400 last year in JV.

Junior Will Webb will play third. While not a returning starter, Webb “has the foundation you look for,” according to Roach.

Junior Austin Bolding started at second last year; this year he’ll play shortstop. “I think he’s gonna help us a lot,” Roach said.

Junior returning starter Ty Denton

will be behind the plate for the Hawks. Denton, an All-District player, hit close to .400 last year and is committed to Troy University.

Four boys likely will be the outfield crew — all can play any of the three positions, and experience abounds. Ozias, All-District last year, is a returning starter. Another returning starter is senior Austin King, also All-District last year and a team leader according to Roach.

Junior leadoff hitter Carson Hoffmeister is yet another All-District returning starter. “He can really swing it,” Roach said of Hoffmeister, who hit .400 last year.

Sophomore Caleb Neely played centerfield in JV last year.

Irish
From page 5C

to pound the strike zone,” given that some of his pitchers “don’t have a lot of varsity innings that we’re going to rely on a lot this year.”

As for style of play offensively, “We’re looking to be a lot more aggressive on the basepaths this year,” Moore said. “I think we have a few guys who

can cause some havoc.”

Lacking above average home run power, “We’re going to be kind of a singles and doubles team,” the coach added. “We have a few guys who can knock the ball out of the ballpark, but it’s mostly going to be us manufacturing runs.”

Overall, “I feel pretty good with this year’s team, how they’re working at getting better,” Moore said.

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SOFTBALL PREVIEW

Stories by Alan Sloan, editor@farragutpress.com

farragutpress Thursday, March 17, 2022 • 7C



FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS

ROSTER

4	Vivian Boles	Sr.	19	Caylee George	Soph.
8	Ellie Gorfido	Sr.	7	Emma MacTavish	Soph.
30	Lauren Brakovec	Sr.	6	Kara Mink	Soph.
15	Autumn Caywood	Sr.	21	Hailey Nichols	Soph.
12	Avery Flatford	Sr.	9	Addison Pressley	Soph.
23	Sarah Livingston	Sr.	10	Rilee Kate Ragan	Soph.
44	Emily Musco	Sr.	2	Laney Shrader	Soph.
11	Ava Guzowski	Jr.	28	Aubrie Conger	Fr.
3	Kaitlyn Atwell	Soph.	18	Amelia Dorset	Fr.
24	Anna French	Soph.	35	Audrey Ginel	Fr.

Head coach: Nick Green
Assistant coaches: Judy Siebert, Keely Chamberlain

Farragut

3-22	.....Maryville • (State Champ Night)	6 p.m.	4-12	.....@ Bearden •	5:30 p.m.
3-23	.....Powell	6 p.m.	4-14	.....Hardin Valley Academy •	6 p.m.
3-24	.....Bearden • (FMS Softball Night)	6 p.m.	4-15	.....Crescent, South Carolina	
	<u>Macon County Tourney, Cookeville,</u>			<u>(CBFO Softball Day)</u>	1 p.m.
3-25 and 3-26	(Match-up still to be set)		4-19	.....William Blount •	6 p.m.
3-29	.....@ Hardin Valley Academy •	6 p.m.	4-20	.....@ Concord Christian	5:30 p.m.
3-30	.....@ Alcoa	5:30 p.m.	4-21	.....Heritage • (Senior Night)	6 p.m.
3-31	.....@ William Blount •	5:30 p.m.	4-25	.....Halls	6 p.m.
4-1	.....Anderson Co. (at Heritage)	7 p.m.	4-26	.....@ Grace Christian	6 p.m.
4-1	.....@ Heritage	9 p.m.		<u>Region II Challenge, FHS and Karns,</u>	
4-5	.....@ Heritage •	5:30 p.m.		<u>4-28 to 4-30 (Match-up still to be set)</u>	
4-6	.....@ Gibbs	5:30 p.m.	5-2	.....Grace Christian	6 p.m.
4-7	.....@ Maryville •	6 p.m.			
4-9	.....Concord Christian (Alumni Game)	1 p.m.			

• Denotes district contest

The defending Class AAA state champion Farragut Lady Admirals return six starters, including their iron-woman senior southpaw pitching ace Avery Flatford, an All-state honoree who threw every pitch during the Lady Ads’ four-game Murfreesboro run to the state title.

Already dealing with cystic fibrosis, Flatford, turned out to be even more iron-like than was known late last spring.

“She is coming off hip surgery,” FHS head coach Nick Green said. “Apparently she pitched all of last year with a torn labrum in her hip. That’s pretty impressive.”

But Flatford, a Tennessee Tech signee, appears ready to go for 2022. “Obviously there’s a lot of expectations out of her,” Green said. “She can really make the ball move, that’s her biggest attribute.”

Sophomore Emma MacTavish, who went 6-0 as a freshman starting pitcher last season, returns to provide mound depth.

Her wins in 2021 included beating then defending Class AAA champ Powell, along with perennial Class AA power Gibbs.

Having lost two other pitchers from 2021, MacTavish “will be expected to carry a little bit more of the inning load this year,” Green said. “... We don’t really have a third (pitching) option. We’re a little thin at that position.”

Speaking of big losses, the team’s two best position players are not returning: third baseman Cameron Young, district MVP and No. 3 hitter in the line-up, graduated, while leadoff hitter/centerfield star Avery Strickland chose to concentrate on a major college basketball career as a senior, according to Green.

Despite having a strong core of returnees, “We’re trying to be flexible with our line-up; we’re not quite as deep as we were last year,” Green said.

Returning position players begin with senior catcher Autumn Caywood, a Johnson

University signee. “She had a fantastic year last year,” the coach said. Sophomore Hailey Nichols will provide catching depth, along with sometimes serving as the team’s designated player.

Clean-up power hitting Lauren Brakovec, an All-state honoree who signed with Anderson University (South Carolina), returns at first base. “She broke the (program’s) single-season home run record last year with 11,” Green said. Nichols also is a back-up at first, along with sophomore Carly Vining, a utility infielder.

Senior Emily Musco, an ETSU signee, returns to be the likely starter at second base. “She got hot at the state tournament. ... She could also (back-up) at shortstop if needed,” the coach said. Sophomore Kara Mink and freshman Aubrie Conger also are looking for time at second base.

See ADMIRALS on Page 10C

BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS

Looking to re-energize Bearden’s softball program — once a dominant force under former head coach Leonard Sams that, upon his sudden departure several years ago, became mediocre at best — is new head coach Kenneth Boles.

While saying “we’re going to have a good defense,” Boles showered the most praise on his outfield and catcher — positions featuring the team’s three seniors.

“Centerfield is one of my rock pieces,” Boles said about senior Nicole Couvertiere. “She’s got a great bat, great speed; is a calming influence on the team.

“She’s one of those who’s going to do the right thing all of the time,” he added.

In left field, senior Abigale Mutta “is a good kid, great arm, a lot of potential there,” the coach said.

Youth is the choice in right field, from freshman Abby

Thompson is slotted. “She’s had some travel ball experience; a good kid,” Boles said. “Plays hard, ain’t scared to get dirty.

“One of the ones you want to have on your team.”

Senior catcher Bradynn Belcher “is a great, steady rock for us behind the plate,” he said. “Great kid, great bat, great attitude.”

Leading the pitching staff is ace sophomore Lauren Spainhower. “She’ll do the majority of the pitching for us,” Boles said.

Elsewhere around the infield are three sophomores — Abby Kelton at first base, Rylee Sieber at second base and Allie Seritt at shortstop — with junior Reese Waltman holding down things at third base.

Looking to build a strong junior varsity program, “I have freshmen who are going to be



ROSTER

2	Bradynn Belcher	Sr.	23	Allie Seritt	Soph.	44	Sofia Silvan	Fr.
6	Nicole Couvertiere	Sr.	32	Rylee Sieber	Soph.	55	Ransley Greenoe	Fr.
21	Abigale Mutta	Sr.	47	Abby Kelton	Soph.	77	Abby Thompson	Fr.
8	Reese Waltman	Jr.	9	Abby Pickard	Fr.	83	Kendyl May	Fr.
24	Bella Silvan	Jr.	11	Kendall Hubbs	Fr.	99	Jaycie Overton	Fr.
14	Ashynn Gonzales	Jr.	13	Elizabeth Newman	Fr.			
17	Lauren Spainhower	Soph.	22	Jordan Palmer	Fr.			

Head coach: Kenneth Boles

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HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY HAWKS

While it could be said that Hardin Valley Academy softball has big shoes to fill at head coach, given the departure of highly respected and successful skipper Whitney Hickam-Cruze — the only head coach in program history dating back to 2009 — there’s reason to be optimistic in terms of leadership.

Just as Tennessee Vols softball thrived for decades with co-head coaches, the Hawks began the 2022 season Monday, March 14, under co-head coaches Mitch Fisher, a former HVA assistant coach who knows the program inside and out, and a new face, Katie Browning.

Looking at team strengths, “We have kids who can hit the ball. Our team also comes to work every day and works hard,” Browning said.

As for challenges, “Playing clean defense and consistent hitting,” she said. “This early in the season, I think everyone would like to know how the team is going to react when the lights come on.”

A strong nucleus returns from 2021.

“Our seniors, Addison Ragland, Brooke Taylor, Kylie Tillman, Olivia Neely and Landry Huckaby have been great role

Hardin Valley

3-17.....@ Karns6 p.m.
3-21.....@ Coalfield.....6 p.m.
3-22.....@ Heritage•.....6 p.m.
3-24.....William Blount•.....6 p.m.
3-28.....Knoxville Catholic.....5:30 p.m.
3-29.....Farragut•.....6 p.m.
3-31.....@ Maryville•.....6 p.m.
4-1.....@ Knoxville Central.....6 p.m.
4-5.....@ Bearden•.....5:30 p.m.
4-7.....Heritage•.....6 p.m.

Gibbs Invitational. 4-8 and 4-9
(Match-up still to be set)

4-11.....@ Knoxville Catholic5:30 p.m.
4-12.....@ William Blount•.....6 p.m.
4-14.....@ Farragut•.....6 p.m.
4-18.....@ Lenoir City5:30 p.m.
4-19.....Maryville•.....6 p.m.
4-21.....Bearden•.....5:30 p.m.
4-22.....Knoxville Central6 p.m.
4-27.....Lenoir City6 p.m.

BSA Region II Challenge at Farragut/Karns
4-28 to 4-30 (Match-up still to be set)

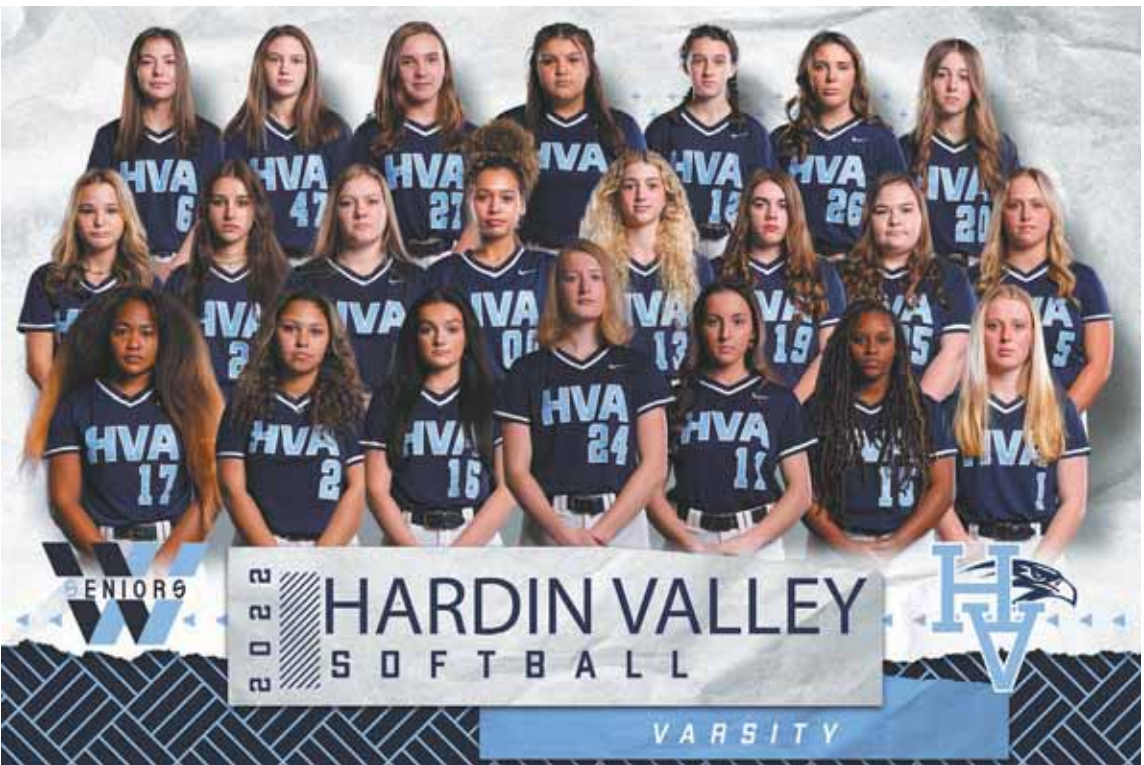
5-2.....Coalfield (Senior Night).....6 p.m.

• Denotes district contest

models to our underclassman about the dedication and hard work it takes to be successful,” the co-head coach said.

Five starters return, with four of them seniors: Ragland at first base; Taylor, an All-5 Star Preps honoree as an outfielder last year who is now the

See **HAWKS** on Page 9C



ROSTER

Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs

16	Landry Huckaby	Sr.	25	Kaitlyn Mann	Jr.	6	Madison Mann	Fr.
15	Olivia Neely	Sr.	1	Makenzie Mansell	Jr.	26	Ayla Perry	Fr.
24	Addison Ragland	Sr.	00	Avery Thrift	Jr.	4	Nathalia Rodriguez	Fr.
11	Brooke Taylor	Sr.	19	Jenna Hagee	Soph.	47	Emma Kate Schneider	Fr.
2	Kylie Tillman	Sr.	29	Kylie Morgan	Soph.	12	Kate Smith	Fr.
13	Amarah Beebe	Jr.	8	Natalie Nettles	Soph.	33	Alex Souders	Fr.
17	Gracie Gray	Jr.	20	Addison Chandler	Fr.	Co-head coaches:		
5	Sophia Leto	Jr.	27	Madison Cox	Fr.	Katie Browning and Mitch Fisher		

CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS

Beginning his first season as Concord Christian School softball head coach, Haden Roberts looks to keep his youthful Lady Lions afloat in Division II-A East Region District 1.

The pitching staff — actually just one girl — is quite young.

“Our pitching staff is a little different this year; we just have one main pitcher,” Roberts said about eighth-grade righty Baylee Johnson. “She’s jumped right into high school from middle school ball, but we’re excited about her being out there. We have a lot of confidence in her.”

The battery also is young on the receiving side, as freshman Cortlyn Hedger will handle catching duties.

Despite their youth, “I’m very excited to see what they can do and how they react to high school ball,” Roberts said about the Johnson-Hedger battery. “I just have all the confidence in the world in both of them.”

Moreover, “Our infield is very good behind them,” the coach added.

Grace Davis, one of only two Lady Lion seniors, will start at first base.

“We’re excited about her; she’s a captain on the team,” Roberts said. “A good leader for the girls, which is a lot of

Concord

3-14.....@ Lakeway•.....5:30 p.m.
3-22.....Lakeway•.....5:30 p.m.
3-28.....Campbell County6 p.m.
3-29.....Lenoir City.....6 p.m.
3-31.....@ Eagleton C&C Acad. .5:30 p.m.
4-4.....@ Lenoir City.....6 p.m.
4-9.....@ Farragut.....1 p.m.
4-11.....FBA•.....6 p.m.
4-12.....CAK•.....6 p.m.
4-15.....@ Grace Christian• (DH) ...2 p.m.
4-18.....@ Campbell County6 p.m.
4-19.....Eagleton C&C (Senior Night) 6 p.m.
4-21.....@ FBA•.....6 p.m.
4-25.....@ CAK•.....6 p.m.

Region II Challenge @ Karns
4-28 and 4-29

• Denotes East Region contest

help for me.”

Another key eighth-grade starter is Katie Phillips, who’s penciled in at second base. Sophomore Lexi Esteppe, another of four team captains, is the other “up the middle” infield component as starting shortstop.

“And she can come in and pitch when needed,” he added.

Completing the quite youthful CCS infield is sophomore third baseman Athena Lester.

The team’s only other senior, Kylie Phillips, will start in left

See **LIONS** on Page 9C



ROSTER

Grace Davis	Sr.	Baylee Johnson	8th	Sophie Starkey	Jr.
Lexi Esteppe	Soph.	Athena Lester	Soph.	Kate Turner	Jr.
Elena Garcia	Soph.	Nell Pattison	8th	Raleigh Jack Walker	Jr.
Cortlyn Hedger	Fr.	Katie Phillips	8th	Juliette Wesarg	Soph.
Carrigan Jenkins	Soph.	Kylie Phillips	Sr.		
Head coach: Haden Roberts					

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IRISH

While looking to build enthusiasm on campus for Knoxville Catholic softball, new head coach Brooks Cherry has a talented building block in the line-up who also is new to KCHS.

“The kid who’ll probably be the biggest impact kid” is junior catcher Blair Cherry, a transfer from Cookeville “who will lead the defense,” said coach Cherry, also Blair’s father. “She may play a little infield, and may even pitch a little bit.”

An All-Region honoree for the CHS Lady Cavaliers last season, “She a good athlete. Probably will hit in the three or four hole (in the line-up), – will be our power kid,” the coach added, as Blair also was an All-state volleyballer.

As for the need to build on-campus enthusiasm — with a roster low in numbers — “We lost some kids who decided not to play this year,” Cherry said. “We had one kid transfer out to Fulton.

“We’ve got six or seven kids who have never played before,” he added. “... It’s going to be a rebuilding type of year.

“I think we have three returning starters.”

Senior shortstop Laney Barber, a Chattanooga State Community College commit, “will lead off for us,” coach Cherry said about his top-of-the-line-up hitter.

“It’s her knowledge of the game and her ability to find different ways to get on base,” he added about Barber’s biggest strengths. “She’s one of our two true leaders on the field — and brings it every day.”

Samaha Duffy, the team’s only other senior, “is probably going to play some second or third (base),” the coach said. “She’s a kid that can play anywhere.”

The other returning starter is junior Kenzy Navarro, who coach Cherry labels as a “utility kid” capable of playing several positions, including “second or third.

“Got a good bat,” he added about Navarro.

Sophomore Katie Pettinger “will probably play first base,” said coach Cherry, adding she “played baseball growing up”

See **IRISH** on Page 9C

Catholic

3-21.....Notre Dame.....5 p.m.
3-22.....First Baptist Academy5 p.m.
3-28.....@ Hardin Valley Acad. .5:30 p.m.
3-29.....Coalfield5 p.m.
3-30.....CAK.....5:30 p.m.
4-5.....@ Concord Christian (DH) 5 p.m.
4-6.....Midway5 p.m.
4-11.....Hardin Valley Academy .5:30 p.m.
4-12.....@ South-Doyle.....6 p.m.
4-13.....@ Webb School5 p.m.
4-18.....@ First Baptist Academy5 p.m.
4-19.....@ Midway7 p.m.
4-21.....@ CAK.....5:30 p.m.
4-26.....@ Coalfield.....5 p.m.
4-28.....@ Notre Dame (Warner Park) 5 p.m.
5-2.....South-Doyle6 p.m.
5-3.....Webb School5 p.m.

Photo submitted

Coach Brooks Cherry with KCHS Lady Irish seniors Samaha Duffy, left, and Laney Barber.



ROSTER

1	Kenzy Navarro	8	Jordan Nix	14	Katie Gonzales	24	Allaynah Scott
2	Alice Parris	9	Samaha Duffy	15	Morgan Lainge	28	Naddia Talo
3	Angel Wade	10	Marissa McBrayer	20	Grayce Lane	32	Maura Laco
4	Danielle Kaczmarek	11	Katie Pettinger	22	Laney Barber	34	Emma Brinkman
5	Blair Cherry	12	Caroline Krueger	23	Maria Wilson		

Head coach: Brooks Cherry

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS

A familiar face moves up to take charge of Christian Academy of Knoxville high school softball.

Hannah Seaver Logan served as CAK Middle School head coach for the previous three seasons, while also an assistant on the high school staff.

Though probably lacking the talent from the program's back-to-back state championship teams of 2016 and 2017, these 2022 Lady Warriors feature strong upperclassmen leadership, according to Logan, while having experience returning at several positions.

Senior pitcher Emma Bethel, an All-District honoree last season, returns as staff ace.

"She's just a super-intense competitor," Logan said. "She's going to do whatever it takes to win. ... She's really stepped up in terms of being a leader."

Her pitches "have a lot of speed, a lot of movement," the



Seaver Logan

coach added.

Returning starter Addison Smith, a versatile utility player who's now a junior, will anchor shortstop duties.

Junior Aubrey Morgan is back to play third base.

"They have been leaders in their own right," Logan said about her other two upperclassmen. "They've been working really hard to keep the other girls motivated."

For Bethel, Smith and Morgan, "This year has been a fresh start for them," the coach added. "The whole thing that we've been trying to stress is commitment to the process, and understanding that whatever we get is not always going to be immediate."

"All three have been committed to keeping everyone encouraged through that process."

As for their talent on the field, "All three of them can have really hot bats; really good offensive and defensive players," Logan said. "And just very coachable, all-around great girls."

Overall, "We've just got a great group of girls. All of

See **WARRIORS** on Page 10C

CAK	
3-21 .....Fulton.....	6 p.m.
3-22@ Grace Christian•.....	6 p.m.
3-24 .....Grace Christian•.....	6 p.m.
3-28 .....FBA•.....	6 p.m.
3-30@ Knoxville Catholic.....	5:30 p.m.
3-31@ Lakeway•.....	6 p.m.
4-4@ FBA•.....	5:30 p.m.
4-5 .....Lakeway•.....	6 p.m.
4-7 .....South-Doyle.....	6 p.m.
4-8@ Carter.....	5:30 p.m.
4-11@ The Kings Academy•.....	6 p.m.
4-12@ Concord Christian•.....	6 p.m.
4-19 .....The Kings Academy•.....	6 p.m.
4-21 .....Knoxville Catholic.....	5:30 p.m.
4-22@ Campbell County.....	6 p.m.
4-25 .....Concord Christian•.....	6 p.m.
4-26 .....Campbell County.....	6 p.m.
4-28@ Bearden.....	5:30 p.m.
• Denotes East Region contest	

Photo submitted

CAK softball captains, from left, are junior shortstop Addison Smith, senior pitcher Emma Bethel and third baseman Aubrey Morgan.



ROSTER

5	Emma Bethel	55	Charlotte Cole	18	Kate Myers
33	Addison Smith	10	Halle Bedwell	9	Gracie Kringen
00	Aubrey Morgan	14	Caroline Rogers	3	Sophie Carroll
28	Kyla Hill	27	MG Matthews	8	Audrey Blankenship
Head coach: Hannah Seaver Logan					

Hawks

From page 8C

shortstop; Tillman catching; Neely, and outfielder, and Gracie Gray, an All-5 Star Preps pitcher in 2021 and centerfielder.

However, as of early March, "We are still evaluating players and seeing who fits where in our lineup," Browning said. "We have a lot of great players, and any position is up for grabs."

While Sophia Leto joins Gray atop the Lady Hawks pitching staff, "We are also developing some younger freshman and sophomore pitchers,"

Browning said.

Playing in the same district as rival Farragut, defending Division I Class AAA state champion with lots of talent returning this season, "I think we play in one of the toughest districts in the state," Browning said. "The teams to come out of this district will be the ones with the best pitching and hitting and make the fewest mistakes."

"I think our players, especially our upperclassmen, know this and are determined to be successful this season and show our younger players what it takes to be successful in this district."

Lions

From page 8C

field. "She's a multi-sport athlete," the coach said, adding the elder Phillips and Davis, as senior team captains, "Have really been a big help and a big lift for the team."

Centerfield is the starting

position for the other team captain, junior Sophie Starkey.

"We're expecting really big things out of our team captains," Roberts said.

Juliette Wesarg, a sophomore foreign exchange student from Germany" according to the coach, will start in right field.

Overall, "I have a very young team, but a very hard-working team," the coach said.

As for concerns, in addition to inexperience, "A lot of the girls are playing in different places than they have in the past," Roberts said.

Irish

From page 8C

but doesn't have much experience playing softball.

The team's only pitcher as of Wednesday, March 9, was freshman Emma Brinkman.

"She's been doing well at practice," the coach said.

Freshman Jordan Nix "will play some outfield."

As for a team strength, "It's their willingness to show up at practice every day and work hard, and wanting to

learn the game," coach Cherry said. "We've got a lot of young kids, a lot of new kids."

"Depth is the biggest concern," he added.

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WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE SPARTANS

After one year under David Moore, a highly respected and successful high school softball head coach for decades, Hannah Stephenson moves up from assistant coach to take charge of Webb School of Knoxville softball.

The youthful new boss, also a standout catcher under Moore at Farragut (Class of 2016), wasted no time singling out a pair of focal points, senior pitcher Kylie Bridwell and junior infielder Hannah Bruce, as the Lady Spartans look to build on a winning season from 2021.

“I’m looking to (them) being our two biggest contributors this year,” she said. “But they’re both going to be playing a little bit of a different role.

“I’m looking at Kylie to play a little bit bigger role on the mound,” the coach added. “And Hannah Bruce is going to be playing a lot more middle infield. She was at third base a lot last year.”

Freshman Jeneva Mitchell returns to centerfield after contributing in a huge way as an eighth-grader last season.

“She was our most productive hitter last year; she was our leadoff,” Stephenson said. “We’re looking at her to develop some more and get on base even more than she did last year.”

Webb		
3-21.....Oak Ridge	5:30 p.m.	
3-24.....@ Clinton	5:30 p.m.	
3-26.....@ Harriman.....	noon	
3-30.....@ Karns	5:30 p.m.	
3-31.....Seymour	5:30 p.m.	
4-5.....Fulton.....	5:30 p.m.	
4-7.....@ Seymour	5:30 p.m.	
4-9.....@ Greenback.....	noon	
4-11.....Bearden.....	5:30 p.m.	
4-13.....Knoxville Catholic•	5:30 p.m.	
4-19.....@ South-Doyle.....	5:30 p.m.	
4-20.....Baylor• (DH).....	5:30 p.m.	
4-22.....@ The Kings Academy.....	5:30 p.m.	
4-26.....@ Kingston	5:30 p.m.	
4-29.....@ GPS (DH)•	4 p.m.	
5-2.....@ Oliver Springs.....	6 p.m.	
5-3.....@ Knoxville Catholic•	5 p.m.	
5-5.....Chattanooga Christian• (DH)	4 p.m.	
• Denotes East Region contest		

Joining Bridwell to help lock down opposing bats is sophomore pitcher Taryn Breeden. “I expect them to be about 50-50” in pitching time,” the coach said. “Those are our only two options on the mound.”

Senior Mason Dunlap returns as catcher. “We expect her to play a big role behind the plate,” Stephenson said.

Meanwhile, “First and third base (candidates) are fighting for positions right now (as of deadline),” she said. “We’ve got a couple of eighth-graders coming in,” as Matazja Goins and Lorelei Lee are “expected



ROSTER

Kylie Bridwell	Sr.	Hannah Bruce	Jr.	Lorelei Lee	8th
Mason Dunlap	Sr.	Jeneva Mitchell	Fr.	Matazja Goins	8th
Taryn Breeden	Soph.	Kristin Courtney	Soph.	Gracie Laque	Soph.
Caroline Rice	Jr.	Megan Gilbert	Sr.	Libby Dunaway	Fr.
Head coach: Hannah Stephenson					

to be fighting for those positions.”

Junior Caroline Rice and senior Megan Gilbert “could also be filling those roles.”

Gilbert, a right fielder in 2021, “also could be in the mix to play left field,” the coach added.

Freshman outfielder Libby Dunaway “is a super-good athlete ... we’re looking at her to really develop and play a pretty big role on the team as well.”

Sophomore Kristin Courtney “was new to the sport last year, and has made a lot of

development” while seeking playing time in right field.

Still looking to contribute are “a couple of girls who (we didn’t) have at practice due to playing in other sports” who hadn’t been with the team long enough (as of deadline) to accurately access, the coach said.

Bulldogs

From page 7C

battling all over the place to get time,” Boles said about his nine varsity roster rookies. “We’ve not had that at Bearden in the last few years.

“Our JV is going to be a big, strong rock for us this year ... they’re playing 25 to 30 games,” he added. “It’s going to carry a lot of the load.”

Three freshmen will add

depth, including Sofia Silvan, who is “probably my fourth outfielder on my varsity team,” Boles said. “... She’ll do a lot of (designated) running for me.”

Pitching depth should come from freshman Ransley Greenoe, “a great addition to our team,” the coach said.

Freshman catcher Kendall Hubbs “is going to be behind the plate some for me this year,” Boles said. “She’ll be right there, she just needs

some experience.”

Overall, “They are a family; they have bonded together,” the coach said. “... These girls are a pretty tight group.

“Together, they’re a loud group, but they’re a proud group.”

One final point of pride: “We had four girls that made Pre-season All-Academic,” Boles said of Silvan, Couvertiere, Belcher and Waltman.

Bearden

Commando Classic, Hendersonville.
3-17 to 3-19. (Match-up still to be set)

3-22.....William Blount•	5:30 p.m.
3-24.....@ Farragut•	6 p.m.
3-29.....@ Maryville•	5:30 p.m.
3-31.....Heritage•	5:30 p.m.
4-5.....Hardin Valley Academy•	5:30 p.m.
4-6.....Webb School	5:30 p.m.
4-7.....@ William Blount•	5:30 p.m.
4-8.....@ Grace Christian	5 p.m.

4-11.....@ Webb School	5:30 p.m.
4-12.....Farragut•	5:30 p.m.
4-14.....Maryville•	5:30 p.m.
4-18.....Jefferson County.....	5:30 p.m.
4-19.....@ Heritage•	5:30 p.m.
4-21.....@ Hardin Valley Acad.....	5:30 p.m.
4-28.....CAK	5:30 p.m.
4-29.....Sweetwater	5:30 p.m.
5-3.....@ Jefferson County	5:30 p.m.

• Denotes district contest

Warriors

From page 9C

them love each other,” she added.

Sophomore Kyla Hill returns as catcher, while sophomore Charlotte Cole is back at second baseman.

“We have a pretty large freshmen class,” Logan said, which will feature one returning starter, Caroline Rogers,

“who will probably be doing a little bit of everything.”

Other freshman starters are Halle Bedwell in centerfield and Mary Grace Matthews at first base.

Yet another freshman who played varsity last season, Kate Myers, “will be a pitcher, and maybe have some time over at first base,” the coach said.

Admirals

From page 7C

Yet another returning starter is junior shortstop Ava Guzowski, an All-District honoree and Kennesaw State University commitment. “She put up some really big numbers last year for us, too. She had like seven or eight home runs,” Green said.

Sophomore Rilee Kate Ragan will provide depth at shortstop, and possibly at second base.

Third base, however, “Is up in the air (as of deadline),” the coach said, but added sophomore Laney Shrader was the top candidate to start, though she was battling an injury.

Also competing at third is sophomore Anna French “who will probably play a little bit of everything depend-

ing on what are needs are,” including the outfield.

Senior Sarah Livingston, a Tennessee Tech signee and All-District Honorable Mention last season, is the lone returning outfield starter, likely moving to left field after starting in right field in 2021. “She’s also working in centerfield,” Green said.

Senior Vivian Boles, “who platooned a lot last year” in the outfield — including at the state tournament — “will more than likely get an opportunity to earn a starting position out there,” the coach said.

Sophomore Addison Pressley, who saw a little varsity outfield time as a freshman in 2021, also is in the mix. “She got a pinch-hit base hit in the state championship game that kind of got us going,” Green said.

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Nick McBride

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Stories by Alan Sloan

farragutpress Thursday, March 17, 2022 • 11C



Photo Courtesy of Carlos Reveiz

FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS

One of the best one-two scoring-punch tandems in program history, star forwards Timi Omitaomu and Jake Lowe, are no longer around to provide goals for second-year head coach Bradley Culbreth and his 2022 Admirals.

“We lost a lot of talent with who scored a majority of our goals,” Culbreth said of the 11 seniors and five starters graduating from the Class of 2021, which anchored a team reaching the Class AAA state quarterfinals with a final 15-3-3 record.

“We lost Lucas Arnold and Max Kaplan on the defensive end.”

However, six returning starters feature “top players” Will Gallaher, an All-state junior defender; Christian Helton, senior midfielder; Joshua Holas, senior defender; Brooks Burnette, a sophomore forward earning All-District honors as a freshman; Jack Bukovitz, a junior midfielder, and Righter

Cressman, senior goalkeeper who, despite a broken hand, came off the bench late in the season to earn the Admirals skipper’s praise.

Also looking to shine include sophomore midfielder Zane Unger. “He is a bright spot for us who is young, but will contribute,” Culbreth said.

Transfer Eric Sonnenschein, a junior midfielder, “is very talented. He will help us,” the coach said.

Austin Love, a senior defender, “Started some games last year; he has a bright year ahead,” Culbreth said.

Camden Williams, a junior defender, “will also contribute this year.”

Overall, “Our expectation this year is to build on what we did last year,” the coach said. “The players have had a year with the coaching staff to build trust and a relationship. They know how things are done and what is required from them.”

With state runner-up, peren-

Farragut

3-21@ Oak Ridge7 p.m.
3-22@ East Hamilton6 p.m.

Smoky Mountain Cup
(Rocky Top Sports World 3-24 to 3-26
(Match-ups to be determined)

4-1Knoxville West7 p.m.

Bearden Invitational 4-7 to 4-10
(Match-ups to be determined)

4-11William Blount*7 p.m.
4-14@ Bearden*TBA
4-16@ Austin-East7 p.m.
4-19Maryville*7 p.m.
4-22@ CAK7 p.m.
4-25@ Lenoir City7 p.m.
4-29Hardin Valley Academy*7 p.m.
5-3Heritage (Senior Night)6 p.m.

• Denotes District games

cial Tennessee power and rival Bearden once again a district opponent, “Our district will be very difficult to make it out of,” Culbreth said.
“But the Farragut program expects to compete with every team we play.”

ROSTER

Gavin Barnes	Soph.	Joshua E. Holas	Sr.
Joe Brennen	Fr.	Reid Howard	Soph.
Jack O. Bukovitz	Jr.	Austin E. Love	Sr.
Alex W. Burger	Jr.	Langalibalele Lunga	Fr.
Brooks Burnette	Soph.	Daniel Martin	Fr.
Juan Byas	Fr.	William Martinez	Fr.
Tyler Carswell	Fr.	Ahadu Mengesha	Fr.
Righter Cressman	Sr.	Ahmad Messidi	Soph.
Jacob Daurity	Soph.	Jonathan Moreno	Fr.
Anders Deets	Soph.	Colton Mousley	Soph.
Phuc G. Do	Senior	Case Pappas	Soph.
Jackson Eggleston	Soph.	Myles Paschel	Fr.
Timothy Finnegan	Jr.	Daniel Prepchuk	Fr.
Jackson Fisher	Jr.	Gavin Samples	Fr.
Rowan Floyd	Fr.	William Scaffidi	Fr.
William P. Gallaher	Jr.	Samual Shuman	Fr.
Conrad Gentry	Fr.	Trey R. Slagle	Fr.
Jacob Guerrero	Jr.	Eric Sonnenschein	Jr.
Zack Guigou	Fr.	Ian D. Sorochan	Jr.
Michael Guigui	Soph.	Jonah Thomas	Soph.
Andrew Hall	Soph.	John T. Tucker	Soph.
Malik Hamed	Soph.	Zane Unger	Soph.
Christian B. Helton	Sr.	Camden M. Williams	Jr.

Head coach Bradley Culbreth
Assistant coaches: David Melendy, Brad Pease

HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY HAWKS

ROSTER

00 Gray Stephens	14 Brady Margo	28 Josh Colomac
0 Avery Bolas	15 Bobby Manrod	29 Blaine Dulniak
1 Maddox Stimson	16 Louis Pennoyer	31 David Hart
2 Keon Woods	17 D.J. Powers	32 Nathan Holbrook
3 Mason Sandidge	18 Jack Brewer	33 Duncan Mauck
4 Connor Mast	19 Jaylen Harris	34 Caleb Combs
6 Gavin McCormick	20 Rami Altiti	35 Tito Hernandez
7 Aiden Posey	21 Ben Brophy	36 Nolan Burgess
99 Victor Martinez	22 Vance Easler	37 Edwin Calderon
9 Brady Hammer	23 Marques Powers	38 Gustavo Gabriel
10 Collin Combs	24 Mason Stuewe	40 Jackson
11 Daniel Perez	25 Nathan Fawver	Yarbrough
12 Ish Palacios	26 Ricardo Espinal	Head coach Jessie Stephens
13 Gavin Standafer	27 Ivan Usynin	Assistant coach Caleb Bethel

Hardin Valley

Meet in the Middle Tourney 3-18 and 3-19
(Match-ups to be determined)
3-24@ Oak Ridge7 p.m.
3-29@ Maryville7 p.m.
3-31Knoxville Catholic7 p.m.
4-5Heritage*7 p.m.
Bearden Invitational 4-7 to 4-9
(match-ups to be determined)

4-12Lenoir City7 p.m.
4-14Webb School7 p.m.
4-19@ William Blount*7 p.m.
4-21@ Bearden*7 p.m.
4-26Powell7 p.m.
4-29@ Farragut*7 p.m.

• Denotes District games

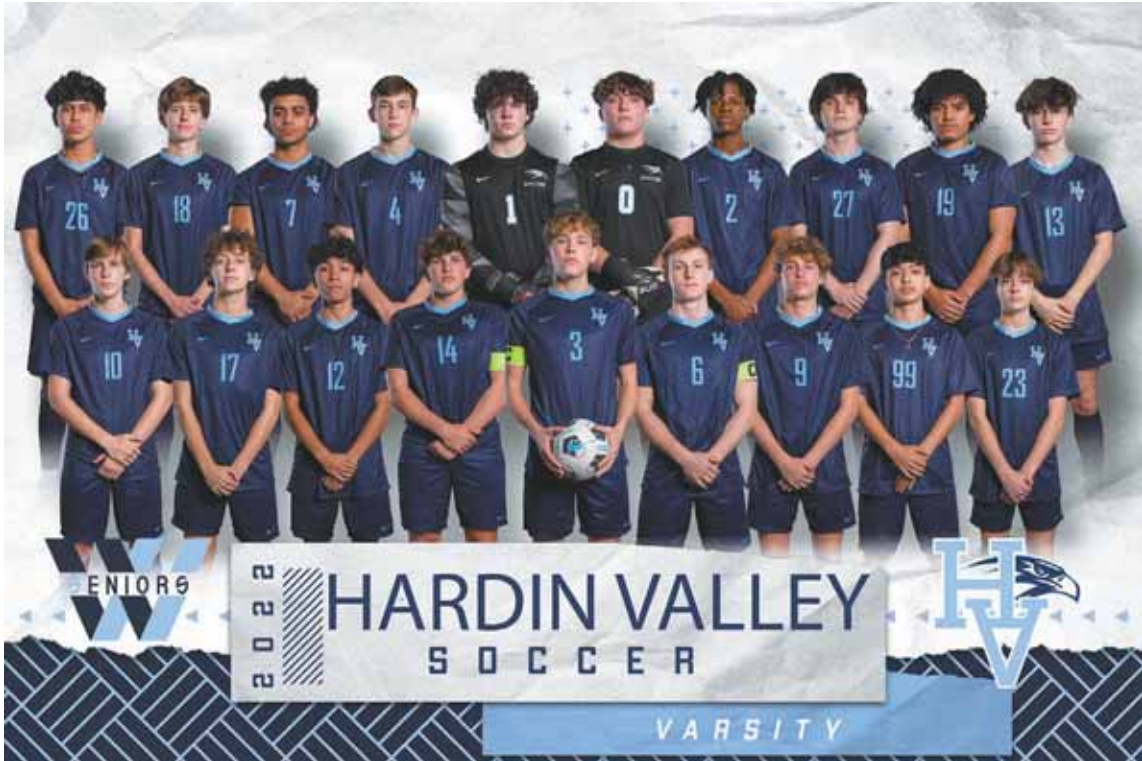


Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs

Even while losing star midfielder Rudy Dardon, who transferred to state runner-up Bearden, nine Hardin Valley Academy starters return from a program that reached the Class AAA substate level in 2021.

“We only lost to Bearden and Farragut all year,” HVA head coach Jessie Stephens said, as the Admirals, also a state tournament team last season, edged the Hawks in both the district and region championship games.

Back are sophomore forward Brady Hammer, senior midfielders Collin Combs and Ivan Usynin, defenders Victor Martinez and Mason Sandidge, defender/forwards Brady Margo, Ish Palacios and Gavin McCormick, and goalkeeper Maddox Stimson.

An All-State, All-Region and All-District honoree last season, “Brady Margo is one we’re really excited about,” Stephens said. “He’s an All-state type of player. He’s just high-energy, high work-rate. Just

a very versatile player; we can play him all over the field where we need him.

“He’s just like the heartbeat of the team.”

All-District honorees side-by-side last season, “Getting Combs and Usynin back in the midfield is really nice for us,” she added. “They play very well together.”

Hammer “has a great attitude and a great work rate,” Stephens said about the All-Region and All-District freshman in 2021. “He adds a lot of speed and ability to that front line.”

Also an All-Region selection in addition to All-District, Palacios “is another versatile player who’s got a great pace, great attitude, a great work rate,” the coach said.

Sandidge, a senior centerback, “has been kind of the glue back there for us” who gives “steady consis-

See HAWKS on Page 14C

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BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS

After coming painfully close to winning the program’s sixth state championship last fall, Ryan Radcliffe’s Bearden boys once again are likely contenders for state title honors — especially with a huge senior class.

“I can’t think of the last time we had 15 seniors,” said coach Radcliffe, who has won state crowns as a player at BHS (2006) and as head coach (2016 and 2019). “A lot of seniors are eager to play. ... A lot of veteran leadership as well.”

Graduation losses have been at least partially offset by welcoming a new and experienced area star player: senior Rudy Dardon is a former Hardin Valley Academy midfielder who now wears maroon and gray, having transferred.

“He was an All-state player last year for Hardin Valley,” Radcliffe said.

Though a bit concerned about his team’s overall size and physicality, “Our hope is Rudy can come in and help us kind of fill that physicality role,” the coach added. “He’s a big boy. We’re excited about him.”

Overall, “There’s plenty of returning talent back.”

As an All-state and district MVP honoree last season, “Julian Strickland’s obviously going to be one of the big ones,”

Bearden

Bob Sims Invitational (Atlanta).
3-18 to 3-19
3-18 Westminster Academy..... TBA
3-19 (to be determined)..... TBA

3-24.....@ Knoxville West7 p.m.
3-29.....Webb School7 p.m.
3-31.....@ Lenoir City7 p.m.

Bearden Invitational 4-7 to 4-10
(match-ups to be determined)

4-14.....Farragut•7:30 p.m.
4-18.....McCallie7 p.m.
4-19.....@ Heritage•6 p.m.
4-21.....Hardin Valley Academy•7 p.m.
4-26.....@ Maryville•7 p.m.
4-28.....William Blount•6:30 p.m.
4-29.....@ Jefferson County6:30 p.m.
5-2.....@ Greenville6 p.m.
5-4.....@ Knoxville Central7 p.m.

• Denotes District games

Radcliffe said about the senior midfielder.

Fellow senior midfielder Dylan Kolnick “has started for the past three years ... who we expect big things from,” the coach said.

All-state forward Lucas Nordin, a junior, “should be able to put in a lot of goals for us,” Radcliffe said.

Ethan Ford, a junior forward, returns, as does senior defender Cody Coover, “who has started the past two years,” the coach said.



ROSTER

00	Logan Nelson	Fr.	13	Maddox Arnold	Jr.	27	Shawn Spencer	Soph
0	Marcus Bishop	Jr.	14	Griffin Foster	Soph	28	Cooper Cross	Sr.
1	Ethan Shaw	Sr.	15	Eric Freudenber	Jr.	29	Jasper Clapp	Sr.
2	Ethan Ford	Jr.	16	Hamid Djouadi	Jr.	30	Jack Tirgrath	Soph
3	Ashton Moss	Sr.	17	Oscar Reyes	Sr.	31	Daniel Kinney	Fr.
4	Christian Moss	Sr.	18	Max Ewing	Sr.	32	Brody Schwall	Fr.
5	Jack Raulston	Soph	19	Shepard McMurray	Soph	33	Preston Ford	Fr.
6	Rudy Dardon	Sr.	20	Lucas Nordin	Jr.	34	Lucas Ford	Fr.
7	Dylan Kolnick	Sr.	21	Luke Wilkins	Sr.	35	Omar Hawazi	Soph
8	Cody Coover	Sr.	22	Tate Whillock	Jr.	36	Jackson Wolverton	Fr.
9	Logan Hunt	Sr.	23	Levi Brady	Sr.	36	Wylder Lee	Soph.
10	Julian Strickland	Sr.	24	Josiah Yeow	Jr.	37	Yousuf Al Haddad	Fr.
11	Cole Hutchison	Jr.	25	Nic Prins	Soph	38	Cole Stopka	Fr.
12	Harrison Schwall	Jr.	26	Seamus Forsyth	Jr.	39	Chandler Donohoe	Jr.

Head coach Ryan Radcliffe; Assistant coaches: Peyton Berry, Chris Meystrik

What Radcliffe labeled as a “good goalkeeper battle” took place between senior Ethan Shaw and junior Marcus Bishop. “I think both have the ability,” he added.

Logan Hunt, a senior midfielder, “has really looked good in preseason that I expect to see a lot of minutes from this year,” Radcliffe said.

Senior forward Oscar Reyes

“came on strong last year,” the coach said. “He scored some big-time goals for us in the postseason.”

See BULLDOGS on Page 13C

KNOXVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Featuring an international flair similar to its boys basketball team, Knoxville Christian School spring sports will be represented in 2022 by its start-up varsity boys soccer team, with Ivansky Rosario serving as head coach.

“The biggest strength that we have is the mix of international players ... and our determination to be the best that we can be,” Rosario said.

“We’re a new team that’s hopefully getting built for the long run,” he added.

Nigerian native Obognna Agbo, a sophomore left attacking midfielder, “is our star player,” Rosario said.

Senior Eduardo Grimaldo, from Italy, “is one of the pillars we have on defense.”

“We also have two German international students,” Rosario said of seniors Joel Morsi, right forward, and Paul Stegmann, goalkeeper.

“That man can stop a ball, let me tell you,” the coach added about Stegmann. “We’re really happy we were able to

KCS

3-21.....Eagleton.....5 p.m.
3-22.....Paideia.....5 p.m.
3-29.....@ JFW6 p.m.
4-5.....Paideia.....5 p.m.
4-12.....Concord Christian.....6 p.m.
4-14.....JFW.....6 p.m.
4-19.....Clayton Bradley.....6 p.m.
4-26.....@ Lakeway.....6:30 p.m.
5-10 to 5-13 @ NACA Tourney..... TBD

have him.”

Team captain Konner Lavalle-Rivera, a senior centerback, and his brother, Parker Lavalle-Rivera, a freshman right attacking midfielder, “are definitely two of our stronger players,” Rosario said.

Sophomore Connor Wallman “is my striker.”

Co-captain Jacob Young, a sophomore left fullback, will be joined defensively by senior Owen Dunham, a right fullback.

“We have a nice mix of players who understand the game and players who are new and up-and-coming,” the coach said.



ROSTER

Konner Lavalle-Rivera	Samuel Quinn	Obognna Agbo
Parker Lavalle-Rivera	Morisson	Joel Morsi
Jacob Young	Anthony Hardy	Paul Stegmann
Owen Dunham	Seth Prnhagen	Eduardo Grimaldo
Kiran Varma	Zunze Hong	Connor Wallman

Head coach Ivansky Rosario

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IRISH



A trifecta of four-year starters — one each up top, at midfield and in back — look to bring along what will be, this year, the youngest team we’ve had in my 10 years at Knoxville Catholic High School,” said head coach Gordon Heins, whose team finished 7-5-2 in 2021.

“It’s a challenging, rebuilding year.”

The three seniors who have started since their freshman seasons are centerback Moises Rojas-Diaz, who anchors the defense; All-state center-midfielder Quinn Brennan; and senior forward Chris Grill, a Union University commitment.

Also a returning upperclassman starter is senior centerback Colin Della-Rodolfn.

“It’s really good to know that we’ve got returning players that will help” with the youth

Catholic

3-21.....Karns7 p.m.
Cleveland Tournament 3-23 to 3-25
(Match-ups to be determined)
3-28.....@ Grace Christian5:30 p.m.
3-30.....@ Hardin Valley Academy ..7 p.m.
4-5.....Baylor•6 p.m.
Dobyns-Bennett Tournament 4-7, 4-8
4-7Dobyns-Bennett8 p.m.
4-8Morristown West6 p.m.
4-11.....@ Cookeville6 p.m.
4-18.....@ Lenoir City7 p.m.
4-22.....@ Chattanooga Christian TBD
4-25.....@ Loudon6 p.m.
4-27.....@ Webb School•5:30 p.m.
5-2.....@ Oak Ridge7 p.m.
5-4.....Powell7 p.m.
5-6.....@ McCallie• TBD

• Denotes Region games

ROSTER

1	Chris Grill	12	Moises Rojas-Diaz	27	Ryan Mather
3	Colin Della-Rodolfn	14	Patrick Barry	28	Rodrigo Padilla
5	Mario Rivera	16	William Ainsworth	29	Marcos Garcia
7	Anthony Johnston	17	Quinn Brennan	30	Tyler Dorn
8	Daniel Walsh	18	Austin Ayo	43	Magnus Dickinson
9	Jonathan Shaver	22	Christian Grover	41/20	Mac Hawley
10	Alex Powers	26	Elijah McManaway		Joshua Palacios

Head coach Gordon Heins, Assistant coaches: Christian Cardona, Riley Hogan, Ryan Hunse, James Ayo

Play with
your
Heart

Talk
with
your Feet

Best of luck to
our West Knox teams!

Knox County Register of Deeds
Nick McBride

See IRISH on Page 13C

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS

A coach quite familiar with Christian Academy of Knoxville boys soccer, with an opposing program inside the county, has taken over as Warriors head coach.

Bobby Deets looks to build a program with a strong state championship-winning tradition, though CAK hasn't captured a boys soccer state crown in more than a decade.

Starters are centerback Kaleab Belk, forward Weston Parker, outside fullback Dario Love, centerback Greyson Stokely, forward Jack Britton, outside-back Walker Douglass, attacking midfielder Chase Stokely, center-midfielder Will Franks, goalkeeper Lane Roberts, defensive midfielder Lukas Schreuder and forward Adam Howard.

Junior goalkeeper Ethan Gibson also looks to contribute.

As a unit, "They've played together, either at the club level or at CAK, for quite some time," Deets said. "You've got three or four years of experience with these guys.

"I've got several seniors stepping up to take leadership roles," he added, pointing to Britton, Greyson Stokely and Roberts. "That's also trickling

CAK		
3-22.....	Alcoa.....	7:30 p.m.
3-29.....	FBA*.....	7 p.m.
4-1.....	Concord*.....	7 p.m.
4-5.....	Lakeway Christian*.....	6 p.m.
4-8.....	(To be determined)	7 p.m.
4-12.....	Berean*.....	6 p.m.
4-14.....	@ Greeneville.....	7 p.m.
4-19.....	@ Grace Christian*.....	6 p.m.
4-22.....	Farragut.....	30 p.m.
4-28.....	@ Maryville.....	7 p.m.

• Denotes East Region

down to the junior class as well.

"... I only have one freshman this year."

Defensively, Greyson Stokely "holds the line back there very well," Deets said. "He continues to talk and communicate with that line."

Chase Stokely "is great on his feet, he's quick," the coach said about the standout midfielder. "He's constantly looking to distribute the ball."

Also in the mix includes sophomore forward Daniel Gallegos. "I look forward to seeing what he can do this year and the next couple of years," Deets said.

Overall, "Our team strength, I would say, is our focus," the coach said. "It's something



Photo Courtesy of CAK

ROSTER

0	Ethan Gibson	7	Ethan Coffey	15	Carson Woodroof	23	Ethan Harpending
1	Jonathan Poston	8	Jack Britton	16	Daniel Gallegos	24	David Elliott
2	Kaleab Belk	9	Walker Douglass	17	Lukas Schreuder	25	Wesley Hood
3	Weston Parker	10	Chase Stokely	18	Adam Howard	27	Cade Box
4	Dario Love	11	Will Franks	19	Ian McLemore		Head coach Bobby Deets
5	Greyson Stokely	12	Triston Miller	21	Walker Beavers		Assistant coach
6	Patrick Calhoun	13	Lane Roberts	22	Mac Collier		Zander Tonkin

we're constantly looking to improve on.

"And team unity, as an entire group," he added. "I think there's a chemistry there that

not all teams have. And I'm proud to be part of this."

However, between the players and new coaches, "We're trying to figure out each oth-

er," he added. "As far as what we are looking at this year, we're looking at being successful both on and off the field."

Irish

From page 12C

movement, the coach said.

One of two non-senior returning starters is sophomore goalkeeper Jonathan Shaver. "He's certainly going to be able to anchor our very strong defense back four," Heins said.

Also returning on defense is sophomore William Ainsworth, who shifts inside this season from his outside back

spot in 2021.

Filling that vacant outside back spot is yet another sophomore, Rodrigo Padilla.

Junior Mario Rivera, a transfer from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who's originally from Honduras, will start at defensive center-midfield. "He comes in with a lot of technical and tactical ability that really does strengthen that position," Heins said. "And in our formation, that defensive

center-mid generates the attacking, and also is your first line of defending.

"We really picked up a jewel in having him. ... He's a fantastic player."

Having "a tremendous amount of potential" is freshman Joshua Palacios, a starting center-midfielder.

Joining Grill up top is a new starter, senior Anthony Johnston.

Also a new starter at center-

forward is freshman Marcos Garcia. "He has a lot of technical ability and a very good shot. But he's got to learn to play with fewer touches ...," Heins said.

Overall, "I would say the biggest team strength is, this is the first year, I would say, that we have three quality center-midfielders," the coach said. "I think the midfield is certainly going to be the strength of the team, along with our defend-

ing back four and goalkeeper.

"So, I see a really good defensive strength team," Heins added.

However, "We're probably lacking a little bit in the attack, with little experience except for one returning starting forward," the coach said.

"Who's going to step up to score goals?"

The bottom line: "I see a lot of defensive games for us," Heins said.

Bulldogs

From page 12C

Senior twins Ashton and Christian Moss, along with se-

nior Luke Wilkins — all three being defenders— "are taking on bigger roles this year," Radcliffe said.

"And there are other juniors

and sophomores who are taking on new roles that we're excited about," he added.

Sophomore Jack Raulston "played a big role for us in the

postseason last year," Radcliffe said. "He scored in the state semifinal game."

Sophomore defender Shep-ard McMurray "hopefully will

fill a need we're going to have in the back."

Returning defender Cole Hutchison, a junior, also looks to make a big impact.



CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE VARSITY SOCCER

Boys' Soccer State Championships in 2016, 2013,
2012, 2009, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003



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2022 CAK
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CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS

Whatever Fernando Lopez can accomplish in 2022 as Concord Christian School’s new boys soccer head coach, it likely will serve the Lions program well in 2023.

The team has no seniors. “They’re very teachable and have a lot of potential,” Lopez said about his new team. “And they have heart, they will work non-stop.”

Referencing freshman center-forward Franklin Von Hagen, “He was the standout last year” as an eighth-grader, Lopez said. “He’s very athletic, brings a lot of creativity. He’s versatile, both left- and right-footed, and has a lot of speed.”

Junior center-fullback Jude Goldenberg, also a starter, “has got a lot of leadership skills ... he’s one of the team leaders in the back,” the coach said. “Very calm. Technically he can see the field very well.”

Junior Army Eckles, a starting defensive center-midfielder, “is our team captain, he’s the voice of our team,” Lopez said. “He organizes the team around him. Very good distribution skills.”

Junior Marshall Craft, a starting forward/attacking midfielder, “is very creative and sees the field well,” the coach said.

Sophomore starting goalkeeper Kayden Sherritze “is

Concord	
Smoky Mountain Cup 3-19 to 3-20 (Rocky Top Sports World)	
3-19..... Smith County	10:50 a.m.
3-19..... Section, Alabama.....	6:10 p.m.
3-20 ... Campbell County	12:40 p.m.
3-25..... Lakeway Christian•.....	6 p.m.
4-1..... @ CAK•.....	7 p.m.
4-5 Ambassadors	6 p.m.
4-8..... @ Grace Christian•.....	6 p.m.
4-12..... @ Knoxville Christian.....	6 p.m.
4-14 ... @ Northview Academy	6 p.m.
4-19..... First Baptist Academy•.....	6 p.m.
4-21..... The King's Academy•.....	6 p.m.
4-26 ... Berean Christian• (Sr. Night) ..	6 p.m.
• Denotes East Region game	

strong and solid,” Lopez said. “The team trusts him in the back. He can distribute the ball real well and he’s a very good shot-stopper.”

Jake Baldwin, a starting midfielder/defender, “is very technical, and he’s another leader of the team,” the coach said.

Junior Caden Gheen, a starting outside right fullback, “is very fast and athletic,” Lopez said.

Junior Jared Huff, a starting wing forward, “has a very good shot,” the coach said. “He’s versatile, too. He’s another guy that I expect a lot of goals from.”

Sophomore starter Nate Von



ROSTER

Alex Baldwin	Fr.	Harvey Scott	Fr.	Kayden Sherritze	Soph.
Army Eckles	Jr.	Jake Baldwin		Marshall Craft	Jr.
Caden Gheen	Jr.	Jared Huff	Jr.	Nate Von Hagen	Soph.
Franklin Von Hagen	Fr.	Jordan Harrell	Fr.	William Pitts	Fr.
Gage Jacobs	Fr.	Jude Goldenberg	Jr.	Jeremiah Fletcher	
Head coach Fernando Lopez, Assistant coach Nick West					

Hagen “is a very strong center-back ... and he’s another solid organizer for the team,” Lopez said. “And he can play outside-back.”

Freshman midfielder Gage Jacobs, another starter, “is very shifty and very good technically.”

Freshman defender/forward

Alex Baldwin “will contribute a lot,” the coach said.

Harvey Scott, freshman defender and goalkeeper, “is a good, solid player.”

Jeremiah Fletcher, a midfielder/defender, “is a very athletic and versatile player,” Lopez said.

Jordan Harrell, a freshman

defender, and William Pitts, a freshman defender/forward, also look to contribute.

As for concerns, “The numbers are low,” the coach said about his roster size. “We’ll have to play possession-style soccer. If we don’t, they’re going to get tired because we don’t have that many subs.”

WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE SPARTANS

While a hard act to follow, as a perfect record state champion from 2021, the Webb School of Knoxville Spartans return lots of key pieces from that 20-0-0 team.

However, two obstacles make a repeat effort — just to win another state title, let alone having another perfect record — even more difficult in 2022.

The Spartans have moved up to Division II-AA, now locking horns with the state’s biggest private schools.

And the loss, apparently for the entire season, of All-state forward Ben Pensky — who injured his knee last fall — “is a huge blow because he’s our engine,” head coach Jared Ziegler said. “His leadership on the field is invaluable.

“But he’s ‘coach’ Penske on the sideline, too. He’ll be a captain even though he’s not playing,” the coach added.

Ziegler is especially proud of his team having many “versatile players giving us greater flexibility” who can play more than one position. “Makes us harder to defend.”

As for junior forward-wing Pierce Miller, “I think the Tennessee Sportswriters selected him All-state last year,”

Ziegler said. “... He’s so fast; he’s gained so much muscle weight being in the gym lifting. He can blow by just about anybody. He’s got pretty good technical skills.”

Senior Preston Holmes, a centerback who recently signed with East Tennessee State, “is an amazing player,” the coach said. “He anchors our defense, but also has a lot of attacking prowess, too. He can play anywhere on the field.”

Senior Otto Niendorff, a part-time starting forward last season, “will probably be in the middle up top as our central striker,” Ziegler said. “He’s a wonderful ball-striker, strikes the ball really, really cleanly.”

Senior All-state honoree Spencer Bernard “plays holding mid(fielder), attacking mid, basically anywhere on the midfield,” the coach said. “Sometimes up top, he’s a really versatile player. ... He’s a great attacking midfield player.”



Ziegler

Junior goalkeeper Nathan Pope was a starter most of last season “and had a pretty good year,” Ziegler said.

Senior Zander Brown, a Milligan College commitment, “will play on our back line, but he also has a lot of excellent attacking qualities,” the coach said. “He’s a wonderful kid, super quick. He’s a special player.”

Senior defender Zachary Graham, who dealt “with a nagging knee injury” in 2021, looks to amplify his role. “He’ll probably be a left or right (full) back for us,” Ziegler said. “He also might up (top) at a wing.”

Senior Garrett Webb, a returning starter, “is going to be up (top) at one of our wing positions,” the coach said.

Senior forward-wing Greyson Webb also adds lots of experience.

Junior J.P. Quigley “is a guy who’s going to play a lot,” the coach said. “I see him as our holding mid. ... He’s really solid, a strong player; good ball winner. Can play a ball with either foot. Plays good defense.”

Sophomore Alex Middlecoff “is going to be, I think, another anchor in the middle of the field,” Ziegler said. “Much more of an attacking-minded

ROSTER

0 Bayless Bolt	Soph.	17 Peter Hollenbach	Soph.
13 Nathan Pope	Jr.	18 Luke Dolin	Jr.
00 Ben Pensky	Sr.	19 Otto Niendorff	Sr.
2 Zander Brown	Sr.	20 Preston Holmes	Sr.
4 Warren Hurst	Soph.	21 Pierce Miller	Jr.
5 Zachary Graham	Sr.	22 Roman Nasser	Soph.
7 Garrett Webb	Sr.	23 Jaylon Green	Sr.
8 JP Quigley	Jr.	24 Clovis Igiraneza	Jr.
10 Spencer Bernard	Sr.	25 Owen Youngblood	Jr.
11 Axel Mnzava	Jr.	26 Ryder Solberg	Jr.
12 Carter Prince	Jr.	27 Greyson Webb	Sr.
13 Jacob Ellis	Soph.	28 Luke Lentz	Sr.
14 Alex Middlecoff	Soph.	33 Morgan McNally	Soph.
16 Reese Milam	Sr.	34 Keaton Wyrick	Jr.

Head coach Jared Ziegler
Assistant coaches: Steve Massaro, Luke Wheat

Webb

3-22.....Austin-East	TBA	4-19.....Dobyns-Bennett	5:30 p.m.
3-29.....@ Bearden	7 p.m.	4-22.....@ Baylor•.....	6 p.m.
4-1.....Oak Ridge	5:30 p.m.	4-28.....Knoxville Catholic•.....	5:30 p.m.
Bearden Invitational 4-7 to 4-9 (match-ups to be determined)		4-30.....Chattanooga Christian•.....	1 a.m.
		5-4.....@ McCallie•.....	6:30 p.m.

• Denotes East Region games

midfielder.”

Junior Luke Dolin “is just such a scrappy player; he’s got

a non-stop motor with intensity. Creates opportunities for us.”

Hawks

From page 11C

tency that we need,” Stephens said.

D.J. Powers, a midfielder,

“hopefully can step up since we lost Rudy,” the coach said.

Keon Woods, freshman defender/forward, “has great pace, great foot skill,” Stephens said. “I’m really excited

to see how he develops coming into the high school game.”

Connor Mast, a defender/midfielder, “has improved over the off-season with his fitness and getting into the weight

room,” the coach said.

Overall as a strength, “I think we’re pretty quick all over the field,” Stephens said. “We’ve got some speed there — I’d like to see us use it.

“And our work rate remains high,” she added. “... I think we’ve got a close-knit group.” As for concerns, “We’re a little bit on the small side,” the coach said.



Webb School
OF KNOXVILLE



A CHAMPIONSHIP
TRADITION

STATE & REGION RECORDS (2009-present)

State Tournament Final Four Appearances

2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2021

State Runner-Up

2013

State Champions

2012, 2015, 2016, 2021

Region Champions

2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2021

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