

ISSUE 29 VOLUME 35

FARRAGUT, TENNESSEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023 • 1A

Grading for West Mill subdivision gets FMPC approval

TAMMY CHEEK tcheek@farragutpress.com

Shaad Company received Farragut Municipal Planning Commission approval, during its March 16 meeting, for a land disturbance and grading plan for property where Shaad Company intends to develop West Mill subdivision, formerly Westerly subdivision, adjacent to Fox Den subdivision.

Developers are planning to place a subdivision and commercial structures on the 14.5acre property, located north of the intersection of Kingston Pike and Old Stage Road.

"This property is to the west and to the north of Dollar General Store," Town Community Development director Mark Shipley said. "It is divided into a commercial portion that's along Kingston Pike and that's roughly 5.5 acres and then residential property (zoned R-2) that backs up to Fox Den, and that's 8.7 acres."

In Oct. 2023, FMPC decided the firm should go back to the drawing board with its preliminary plat after hearing from numerous Fox Den residents who objected to the firm's placing an access road on Champions Point.

"The property does have two different access options: one was on Champions Point, which is in Fox Den, and then the other is) Vigraton Pile".

CAK soph. triumphs in state pageant



Photo submitted

Blye Allen, a Choto resident and CAK sophomore, enjoys the spotlight moments after being crowned Miss Teen Tennessee USA Saturday, March 11, in Clarksville.

Choto's own crowned: Allen Miss Teen TN USA

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Christian Academy of Knoxville sophomore Blye Allen, a Choto resident, is the new Miss Teen Tennessee USA 2023. She was crowned Saturday, March 11, in Clarksville, competing against 25 candidates from across the state. time participating in Miss Teen Tennessee USA pageant.

"Last year I was second-runner up, and I just decided I would work harder and compete again this year," Allen said. "I started working with coaches and I revamped what I wanted to focus on. "When I first started out, I was like 'Bambi,' just wobbling around and unsure," she added. "But I just kept working hard to overcome my nervousness and became much more confident."

Farragut to state: return \$430k share

Town leaders to Nashville, ask for sales tax restoration portion enjoyed until 2002

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

Looking to help persuade state lawmakers to give towns and cities a bigger slice of the state sales tax pie — actually restoring what they once received — Town of Farragut's top elected and non-elected official made a joint trip to Nashville seeking General Assembly assistance that, if ultimately successful, would annually increase Town coffers by more than \$400,000.

Mayor Ron Williams, Town administrator David Smoak and Trevor Hobbs, assistant to the Town administrator, traveled to Nashville last week

seeking to "talk to our representatives and senators about various bills," Smoak said to Farragut Business Alliance/Shop Farragut board members during that body's monthly meeting Wednesday, March 8, in Town Hall.



Smoak

Of special interest was "a bill that Sen. (Dr. Richard) Briggs (R-District 7, which includes Farragut) and state Rep. (Johnny) Garrett (R-District 45) are helping us with; it's for all municipalities" statewide, the Town administrator added.

The goal is to restore the state-reimbursed percentage of all annual sales tax revenue collected by Farragut and other state municipalities (4.6 percent) from 1947 until 2002. However, that percentage towns and cities received was not applied to a 1 percent state sales tax increase in 2002 (from 6 to 7 percent) — the state, instead, simply kept 100 percent of that increase.

Shipley said.

"So, when the preliminary plat was up for a vote in October Planning Commission meeting, it was denied because of the access onto Champions Point ... was deemed it would not be a good connection because it wasn't designed on the front end for that kind of tie-in," he added.

"It's so crazy," she said. "I never expected it, but I am so excited for it."

Allen has only been competing in pageants for a little more than two years. Previously named "America's Ideal Miss Tennessee Teen," this was her second

She trained with Farragut High School

See MISS TEEN TN USA on Page 3A

"A few years ago, the state needed to balance their budget, so they took a certain percentage back from the cities," Smoak told the FBA/SF board. "It's been 20 years now but they haven't given it back.

"We're asking them — since they're in good shape — to share that back to us to where that used to be," he added.

"What that would means for the Town of Farragut would be about \$430,000 a year in recurring revenue."

Also in 2002, the state increased the local sales tax reimbursement cap on the purchase price of a single item from the first \$1,600 of that price to the first \$3,200 — called the Single Article Cap — yet kept all of the increased tax cap dollars.

As for a bill in General Assembly allowing cities and towns to benefit from the reimbursement jump to \$3,200,

See RESTORE TAX on Page 3A

Fire damage heavy yet limited at Jeffrey Lane home; 0 hurt

Rural Metro Fire responded to a reported house fire in the 11700 block of Jeffrey Lane in Farragut at about 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 16. When crews arrived, they found a fast-moving fire in the garage area. An aggressive attack from firefighters ensued, reducing the amount of damage in the living area of the home, although there was smoke damage throughout the structure. The occupants were safely outside when crews arrived.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Bagwell/RM Fire Public Information officer

Public input sought to help update Advance Knox transportation plan

During what is being called Priorities Week, Knox County government is launching the third and final round of community input for Advance Knox, where the community is being asked to weigh in on proposed transportation projects.

There will be five in-person and two virtual meetings where attendees will be able to prioritize projects and make comments. Residents can attend any workshop convenient for them. In-person workshop times, dates and locations. That includes Northshore Elementary School, beginning at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 29. Anyone needing special accommodations for the meetings should contact the office of Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs at 865-215-2005 to coordinate. Virtual meetings will take place beginning at noon, Wednesday, March 29, and Thursday, April 6. Registration is required. Additional opportunities will be available on the project website through Sunday, April 9. "Knox County's current Comprehensive Plan hasn't been updated in almost 20 years," a Mayor's Office press release stated.



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Vice Mayor, Meyer explain anti re-zone/Harmony votes

One final look at a key BOMA land-use decision

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

The following are comments from two Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen representatives concerning their opinions, and their vote, on whether to allow 10 acres of property behind Ingles to be re-zoned from Office (O-1), General Single-Family Residential (R-2) and Rural Single-Family Residential (R-1) to Community Service (S-1).

Re-zoning would allow developer Doug Horne (owner of Republic Newspapers, LLC, parent company of farragutpress) to build a three-story Harmony at Farragut senior living community.

After the following comments were heard during the Thursday, Sept. 9, BOMA meeting in an almost full Town Hall boardroom, the final vote was three against re-zoning (Mayor Ron Williams, Vice Mayor Louise Povlin and North Ward Alderman Scott Meyer) and two in favor of re-zoning (South Ward Aldermen David White and Drew Burnette).

(The comments of White and Burnette on why they voted in favor, and Williams' comments prior to his vote, can be found in the March 15 farragutpress issue).

The comments of those voting against are listed in the order in which they were called upon to comment by Williams:

Vice Mayor Povlin

"... The bulk of the property that is the subject of tonight's discussion has been zoned R-1 since 1982. In 1982, 1987 and 1992, rezoning requests were approved to re-zone residential property to allow for commercial development of a portion of the property that fronts Kingston Pike, which included the old Ingles in 1982, in addition to the old Ingles in 1987 and a theater, I believe, in 1992.

"In each of these zoning requests, a 95-foot deep buffer zoning district was required to protect the property behind the commercial development, which was zoned primarily R-1 Rural Residential. ... This area has evolved in a way that does not support the 2012 vision of mixed-use neighborhood. ... On page 6 of the (Comprehensive Land Use Plan) it states, 'major updates should include substantial public outreach to help check that the current plan reflects current attitudes.'

See ANTI RE-ZONE on Page 4A



KCSOreports

• At 12:34 p.m., Sunday, March 19, a Knox County Sheriff's Office unit was dispatched to 10918 Kingston Pike, Be Well weight loss, for report of an attempted burglary. Officer spoke with the manager of the business who said no employees had been at the business since about 5:30 p.m., Friday, March 17. Manager said a witness discovered the damage at 11 a.m., March 19. "I observed the door knob to the side door of the business appears to have been struck numerous times with an unknown object," the report stated.

Manager said she had seen "numerous suspicious people around her business at night on a regular basis," the report stated. Manager said the business next door, American Radio, "has been broken into before and now has cameras and she believes" one of the cameras "is able to see the door damaged." Estimated cost to repair damage was listed at \$101 to repair.

• At 8:51 a.m., March 17, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report a theft from Campbell Station Mini Warehouse, 11825 Snyder Road. Complainant said he parks his vehicle there nightly. He discovered the suspect entered the area and stole tools from the truck bed with a value listed at \$1,000.

• At 1216 p.m., Wednesday, March 15, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report a theft from the parking lot of Autumn Care of Farragut, 400 Herron Road. Complainant said an unknown suspect stole tools from the bed of a 2011 Chevrolet Silverado, with a value of loss listed at \$2,100.

Town calendar

• Town of Farragut is applying for a State of Tennessee Local Parks and Recreation Fund Grant for a match of \$1,250,000 to construct a dog park and restroom building at McFee Park and renovate Mayor Bob Leonard Park Field 1 and Field 2, construct an ADA path from the west parking lot for Field 1 and provide ADA access to player benches.

Citizens are invited to ask questions or comment in one of three ways: at Farragut Community Center Assembly Hall beginning at 10 a.m., Thursday, March 23; online via Facebook at Town of Farragut or by e-mailing parksandreecinfo@townoffarragut. org. Deadline is March 23.

See CALENDAR on Page 3A



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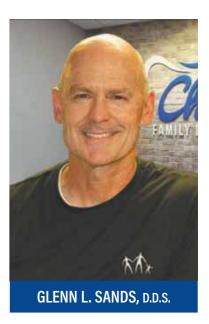
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FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023 • 3A

Restore tax

From page 1A

"that's kind of slowed down for now," Smoak said. "... But we'll see what happens as the budget process goes.

"That would be another significant chunk," he added. "We don't have a lot of big purchase-type things in Town, but we certainly have a handful."

"You've got two boat places coming in (to Farragut)," Williams said. "There's potential there; we'd like to make sure" to collect.

As for tracking the amount, "We don't get detailed reports from the state," Smoak said.

About fiscal year sales tax collection in Town, "It's been a good year so far," the Town Administrator said.

"A lot of that is a little inflationary ... but certainly we're seeing growth, too, so that's been encouraging," Smoak added.

Miss Teen TN USA From page 1A

football and track coach Vic Wharton, and said she received "some very good advice" from others along the way — including not changing her naturally curly hair, and to focus on her own capabilities and attributes.

"You can't change who you are, but you might as well be the best version of who you are," she said. "That can take you a long way."

Allen will be competing later this year for Miss Teen USA at a date and location to be determined. She also will be making many local and statewide appearances in her new role, as she has adopted teen mental health as her focus.

"It is a problem of epidemic proportions," Allen said. "I know people who struggle with it, and I want to spread awareness about how to find help."

Town calendar

From page 2A

• In response to community demand, Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd., now offers open gym volleyball from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. each Friday.

Cost is \$4 per person for the session or two punches on a punch card. Participants must be age 15 or older. Games are played to 15 points using rally scoring. Bring your own ball; net is provided. There is no need to pre-register, but participants must sign up for a free membership the first time they use the Community Center. For more information, visit farragutparksandrec.org/ programsandevents.

• As part of a free Daytime Concert Series in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd, The Emily Mathis Trio will present "Schooled in the Blues" from 2 to 3 p.m., Tuesday, April 11.





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lettertotheeditor **Reader questions logic of BOMA land-use decisions**

The latest Board of Mayor and Aldermen placing low-density residential directly behind (BOMA) vote shows that BOMA decision making is no longer based on our ordinances or the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Ultimately, the three BOMA members voting against the (Harmony senior living) proposal did so for the following reasons.

Both Vice Mayor (Louise) Povlin and Alderman (Scott) Meyer indicated that they were voting against the item primarily because the developer had not proven the need for another assisted living facility and because residents recently voted to change the Future Land Use Map from Medium-Density Residential to Low-Density Residential on the parcel.

One has to ask, should local government be the ones to decide if there is a need for a particular type of development? In past discussions, the Town has never asked other developers to provide proof that there is a "need" for their development. Simply look at the Biddle Farm, the apartments are being built, but the Phase II commercial has not been started, even though the current schedule shows it should be completed in August 2023.

Shouldn't it be up to developers (who) take risks based on their market analysis? I don't think Harmony was willing to invest \$60 million in Farragut if they had not identified a business need. Regarding their second argument, the Horne Properties, (LLC). attorney advised there is Tennessee case law that denial solely based on the desires of citizens is illegal. Mayor (Ron) Williams simply stated his vote was based on the questions: was this a good fit for this district (area) and is 200 units really a transition?

Vice Mayor Povlin also correctly stated that the existing buffer (behind the Ingles) is not a transition and not intended to be a transition. However, in her closing comments, the Vice Mayor stated that she ultimately supports

BOMA anti-rezone

access the current attitudes

of the public." (Concerning

the land area in question)

two Public Vision Workshops

were held, one in November

2021 and one in March of 2022.

These meetings were well at-

"The result of these Public

Vision Workshops clearly in-

dicated the public wanted the

area north of the buffer dis-

trict, and the old Ingles, to be

designated Very Low Density

Residential, which is consis-

tent with the Land Use desig-

nation of Baldwin Park, the

area along Boring Road and

"The proposed Harmony

project is high density in form

Village Green....

From page 2A

tended.

Ingles.

This placement does not provide the adequate transition the Vice Mayor mentioned earlier. In contrast, the S-1 Zoning Ordinance general description states, "This district is also intended as a transitional district to lower density residential by providing for low impact quasi-institutional/residential uses that have minimal traffic demands.'

It is clear that, from a transitional aspect, a S-1 facility is a preferred to a low-density residential development.

Finally, it was noted that in 2016, Vice Mayor Povlin voted three times to approve The Villages, a similar S-1 development 100 yards to the west. As well, then Alderman Williams, approved the same S-1 development at the Second BOMA Reading.

Both did so without any objections to location, scale, form, function or density transition. Even though these votes were raised during the meeting, neither addressed how these two developments were different.

It is clear that this vote was not about consistency with the Town Ordinances, the Land Use Plan and potentially Tennessee case law. It highlights the inequitable ways in which the Town applies these rules and guidance documents based on their personal preferences.

During the recent Hy-Vee discussion, the Town argued against the expansion of the commercial property as it would abut an open green space and with a residential neighborhood bevond that.

Yet, regarding this parcel, the desire is to place low-density residential directly behind (a) grocery store with a open green space in between. The hypocrisy is palpable.

Michael Wilson, Farragut

traffic than all the residential from that facility.' uses the public has repeatedly the service area ... would inindicated they prefer. ...'

Alderman Meyer

"Most of the Municipal Planning Commissioners who recommended this assisted living and skilled nursing facility did so based on the premise that Farragut's aging population needs such a facility.

"Respectfully, I believe an appointed board of volunteers with no population health plan experience is not qualified to determine the health needs of a given population.

"However, the Tennessee Health Facilities Commission is qualified to do so. ... A reasonable service area, which is defined by the THFC as 'a majority of the population of a service area for any nursing home, should reside within 30 minutes travel time

presstalk 865-671-TALK (8255) or editor@farragutpress.com

· For three years my unpaid job was to help each day with after-school pickup. Schools are so crowded that 45 minutes must be allocated to middle, intermediate and high school. Forget the energy to make it to the primary. Not once has anybody proposed new schools for all the multi-family houses built — but putting senior housing up with no further drain on school class size is a problem? They would put tax money in coffers for new schools. Two plus two equals four. This is not hard to understand.

Editor's Note: Knox County Schools, assisted by 5th District rep. Susan Horn, are planning for a new elementary school, supposedly in Farragut.

One site, along McFee Road, seemed close to reality at one time but has since been reconsidered.

• I've been married 57 years — then my husband decided to divorce me. I live in Farragut and I want to stay here, but I am 77 years old. And I'm very disappointed in reading "Senior living shot down 3-2 (lawsuit next?" on page 1A of farragutpress' March 15 issue).

For those who shot it down, there are senior citizens like me who want to stay in Farragut and who have been here for years. We need to have a senior citizen place.

I would love to have gone into the senior living in Farragut here, but if it's shot down, of course, I can't do that. So I ask (Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen) to overturn that ruling to have senior citizen housing. We senior citizens voluntarily help a lot (inaudible) as well as Farragut helping senior citizens. Please (reverse your ruling) because I'm at a loss: my doctor is here, my dentist, everybody. To shoot down senior living is just wrong.

Editor's Note: a number of opponents of re-zoning, which would have allowed for the Harmony at Farragut senior living facility to be built behind Ingles (voted down 3-2 by BOMA), say there are plenty of senior living options, with space available, in and near Farragut.

However, a number of pro-rezoning/pro Harmony advocates of this parcel have said seniors are on waiting lists to enter local senior living facilities.

"Based on this criterion,

clude portions of West Knox

and eastern Loudon County. ...

From a conservative, cursory

review, I identified the follow-

ing number of Farragut and

West Knox County facilities

within a 15-minute drive: six

nursing homes with 657 beds

and 17 assisted living facilities

with 1,326 beds. I did not re-

view facilities in eastern Loud-

on County, which would obvi-

"In terms of occupancy

rates, I personally contacted

multiple facilities located in-

side of Farragut, and none of

them told me they had a wait-

ing list for beds. ... Without

consideration to, one, existing institution capacity: and, two.

how well we are aging, (need-

ing Harmony at Farragut) is a

ously add to these numbers.

stunted assumption based on a false generalization.

"... Additionally, over the last four years, I have received lots and lots of resident input by attending HOA board meetings, conversing with constituents and reviewing Town workshop overwhelmingly comments supporting keeping this parcel's residential zoning.

"Residents believe the traffic impact from the proposed facility would be greater than residential development, and the form of the proposed facility is not compatible with the residential property surrounding the parcel.

"I hear the residents. I will be their voice. ..."

Editor's Note: Due to space *limitations, a story about three* BOMA reps answering critics during a Thursday. March 9. meeting will run next week.

and scale. The proposed building's scale is much larger than Low Density Single Family "... Public Vision Workshop Residential. produces quantifiable data to

"It's a form and scale the public has indicated they do not want to see in the area. It opens the door for high density use to be considered on the remaining portions of this parcel.

"... There's been much stated about the need for more senior living facilities, but there has been no objective proof that there is an actual need, or that the need is required to be fulfilled within the boundaries of the Town of Farragut.

"A review of the Traffic Impact Study filed with this project and in comparison to residential districts, including very low density and low residential, shows that the proposed project generates more



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business

FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023 • 5A



Sharma led to 35 North

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A new owner has taken over 35 North, 11321 Kingston Pike, on the corner of Kingston Pike and North Campbell Station Road and anticipates opening the food service business in mid-May.

"I'm pretty excited about it," said Knox County resident Vinit Sharma, who recently purchased 35 North. "I hope our Town will love it, given all the businesses and banks ... for those happy hours and meetings."

The name of the business will remain the same.

"I like the name," he said. "And, I live very close so I love the place.

"It's a key location," Sharma added. "At the same time, it is very new and the interior is fabulous."

About the format of the business, "We are keeping everything the same, but what we are doing is putting a kitchen in to bring consistency in the food," the new owner said.

"We are in the process of the kitchen design," he added. "We are shooting for around graduation day (between May 2 and May 30) if everything goes according to our plan."

Along with favorite beers and liquors, the new 35 North will be serving Americana upscale bar foods, such as candied bacon, deviled eggs, smoked salmon dip crostini, barbecued nachos, Boursin cheese, bison burgers with mushrooms, duck burgers and Nashville hot chicken sandwiches.



Photo submitted

In addition to the culinary additions, 35 North will entertain with an open mike, karaoke and live music, Sharma said.

As one of the owners of Iron Works & Grill in Tellico Plains, he brings his knowledge of the restaurant business. "So when the opportunity came, I thought it's a good location and decided I should work on (the purchase)," Sharma said.

"So far, we have the kitchen design ready," he added. "We've got our beer permit. We are looking for some feedback from the (Town) office."

Knox County resident Vinit Sharma, who recently purchased 35 North, is adding a kitchen to include food as part of its business at on the corner of Kingston Pike and North Campbell Station Road. He plans to open sometime around mid-May.

From independence to largest ET-headquartered real estate firm Farragut to welcome Wallace Real Estate

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Coldwell Banker Wallace & Wallace, Realtors, has become Wallace Real Estate, and is now the largest independent real estate firm headquartered in East Tennessee with nearly 500 agents, according to the firm's press release.

The four partners and coowners — brothers George Wallace and Jim Wallace, Claudia Stallings and Andrew McGranaghan — recently made the move to independence to provide more flexibility, support and opportunities for agents in a real estate market that has undergone rapid growth and changes in the Southeast. "I'm excited about it." Stallings said about the new branding at the firm's 10815 Kingston Pike address. "I think it allows us to grow in ways that we were restricted before, as far as location, as far as model." "We're super excited about it," said George Wallace, CEO.



Photo submit

our skills and our talents in a sembled such a talented team around us, including our man-

About making the move, George said, "Our relationship with Coldwell Banker has been excellent, and we are grateful to them for many years of partnership."

However, "We made this change to be able to nimbly provide the best support and tools to our agents and service to our clients while maintaining our warm and personable culture."

The firm has been in business since 1936 — the last 35 years with franchisor Coldwell Banker. sembled such a talented team around us, including our managers and our media and our training, that we wanted to launch out on our own with the talent that we have and (the move) would allow us to make quicker decisions, local decisions, in an ever-changing market that would impact our company in a better way," he said. "We were able to replicate all the services provided by the brand on a local level."

"We believe in local ... we were an independent brokerage for 57 years before we signed on with Coldwell Banker," McGranaghan said.

I HOLO SUDIMILLEU

Wallace Real Estate's four partners and co-owners are, front row, brothers George Wallace, left, and Jim Wallace, and back row, Claudia Stallings and Andrew McGranaghan. They made the move to independence from Coldwell Banker to provide more flexibility, support and opportunities for agents in a real estate market that has undergone rapid growth and changes.

"I think it's energized our management team and energized our agents, and their full range of creativity is now unleashed to really showcase our

talents in the market.

"It will be a better way to express who we are in the market," he added. "It's a great opportunity for us show off "A company with nearly 90 years of success in any industry must have a strong commitment to innovation and the confidence to make big decisions," George said.

With Wallace's long-term agreements with Coldwell Banker expiring at the end of March, George said, "It was the opportunity to make those considerations."

"... We decided we had as-

"We also had the opportunity to join a very large, independent network called Leading Real Estate Companies of the World," Jim Wallace said, explaining there is not a Leading RE headquarters in Knoxville/Knox County, so they had an opportunity to join it.

For more information, call 865-966-1111 or visit online at cbww.com before April 1 or WallaceTN.com thereafter.



westsidefaces

6A • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023

St. John Neumann Catholic Church Casino and Game Night

St. John Neumann Catholic Church parishioners gathered for fellowship in SJN Catholic School gymnasium Saturday, Feb. 11, to enjoy Casino and Game Night. Following a potluck meal, church members tried their luck with casino, card and board games.

Photos by Tammy Cheek



From left, Denisa Zymeri, Amanda Haylett and Caroline Overs



From left, Sister Elizabeth Wanyoike, Sister Resty Nyinoweitu, Megan Vanderhoofven, Maddie Vanderhoofven and Cate Zaleski





Kiara Thomas

Sydney Durtcin

Kathleeen Mulgrew







Joanne Behnke

Stephen Zignore

Kent Rinehart



Nick Beldyk and Mollee Taylor



Haley and Garret Faugot



FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023 • 1B

The 'Real' thing coming



Photo submitted

The Real Madrid Foundation will be teaching European soccer in Farragut this summer for the first time, although the program has offered camps throughout the United States for several years.

Real Madrid Foundation to teach European soccer in Farragut June 26-30

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

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For the first time ever, The Real Madrid Foundation will teach European soccer in Farragut when it hosts a regional soccer camp June 26-30 in Mayor Bob Leonard Park.

The five-day camp is offered to youth ages 6 through 17.

According to the Foundation's website, the upcoming camp "offers the unique and exciting opportunity to experience specialized soccer training, bringing their expert UEFA coaches selected by the Academy of the world's most successful soccer team to help improve soccer skills."

"Real Madrid is one of the biggest soccer clubs in Spain and in the world," said Katherine Sheppard, project manager for the East Coast program. "Real Madrid has a foundation that carries out soccer camps in the United States and other parts of the world, which help fund social projects carried out in multiple countries." Campers and their parents can expect training from "Real Madrid worldwide-recognized methodology," according to the program's website. "Train

Real Madrid is one of the biggest soccer clubs in Spain and in the world."

Katherine Sheppard
 Project Mgr., East Coast,
 Real Madrid Foundation

under the Real Madrid Methodology and improve technically and tactically under the same winning mentality that helped the first team win a record-best 14 Champions League" titles.

The coaching ratio will be one coach for every 14 players, and a Real Madrid technical diwhen I coached her in Spain, and they recommended Mayor Bob Leonard Park to us," Sheppard said. "I came here (to Farragut) and visited the park," meeting several Town Park and Rec employees including "Lauren Cox and Bryson Keith. Meeting them face to face was great, and everyone was very welcoming."

She said there would be 25 camps throughout the United States, and four in Tennessee, including the one in Farragut.

"We have gone to Nashville for four to five years; this will be our second year in Chattanooga ...," Sheppard said.

"We look forward to having the Real Madrid Soccer camp in Town this summer and are thrilled that they have chosen the East Tennessee area to expand their already robust programming," Farragut Tourism manager Karen Tindal said.



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STAFF REPORTS editor@farragutpress.com

The three Farragut-area public high school baseball teams combined to go 12-2 two playing tourneys in Orlando and Sevierville — to open the 2023 season last week.

Ads 4-1 in Florida

Playing many top-level Florida teams while in Orlando, Farragut went 4-1 Monday through Friday, March 13-17, with three of those wins by at least 10 runs.

Lukas Buckner, Brennon Seigler, Ellis Gleed and Gavin Brewer each had two hits in a 6-2 win versus Timber Creek. Winning pitcher Ashton Sulack went four innings (1 hit, 0 earned runs, 8 strikeouts).

Crushing Athletic Varsity 18-0, Buckner laced three hits with four RBI; Jett Johnston homered with three RBI; Seigler had three hits; Charlie Bozeman tripled with two RBI; Jake Merrick had a hit and two RBI. Winning pitcher Michael Delph went four innings (0 hits, 0 runs, 9 strikeouts).

Dominating Flager Palm Coast 12-2, Buckner connected for two doubles, Delph tripled with three RBI and Merrick had two hits and three RBI. Winning pitcher Brodie Roberts went four innings (0 hits, 0 runs, 5 strikeouts).

Following a 10-0 loss to Montverde Academy with Buckner's two hits the highlight, Farragut bounced back to stomp Treasure Coast 15-2. Seigler connected for a triple and double among three hits; Johnston doubled with two hits and two RBI; Brewer's three hits included three RBI; Cooper Schulze doubled with two RBI; Bozeman tripled runs, 3 hits, 6 strikeouts). Ty Denton homered among his two hits with three RBI.

Blasting Gibbs 14-0, Carson Hoffmeister homered (two hits) with two RBI; Jacob Dillion doubled with three RBI.

Whipping Christ School (North Carolina) 10-0, winning pitcher Dillon went four innings (5 hits, 0 runs, 3 strikeouts). Denton homered and tripled with three RBI; Carson

Hoffmeister added three hits and three RBI.

C a l e b N e e l y ' s triple and double with two RBI and Colton Denton's triple and double led HVA



led HVA Roach past Ravenwood 11-7.

Bearden goes 4-1

Bearden's 4-1 record spanned March 13-16 in the Play For a Cure tourney in Sevierville and began with a 13-2 drubbing of Lakeway Christian. Kyle Moss homered (two hits) with two RBI. J.P. Harris doubled and had two RBI. Jonah Kohring had two hits while Greyson Wright homered. Winning pitcher Brooks Wright went four innings (3 hits, 1 earned run, 4 strikeouts).

Aiden Tipton's two homers and six RBI and Harris's home run and five RBI led BHS to a 27-3 dismantling of Morristown East. Rhys Thomas added two hits/five RBI. Winning pitcher Greyson Wright (who homered) went three innings (3 hits, 0 earned runs, 4 strikeouts).

Beating Halls 9-3, Brady Frederick homered with three

rector for every 72 players.

There also is an opportunity for outstanding soccer players to be invited to visit Spain and train in the Real Madrid City facilities and play friendly matches and tournaments among other activities.

Eva Turcios of Farragut was invited to Spain to attend the program, and that is how Farragut came to the attention of camp organizers.

"I met her and her dad, Will,

Cost is \$524 if slots are booked before April 1. Price will be \$599 after that date. Discounts also are offered for multiple family members.

For more information, visit rmfclinicsusa.com. To book online, visit https://rmfclinicsusa.com/info-200-soccer-summer-camp-knoxville-2023.

while Gleed, Delph and Cole Draper each doubled.

Winning pitcher Reid Thomason went four innings (3 hits, 2 earned runs, 6 strikeouts).

HVA 4-0, three shutouts

Tyler Roach's Hardin Valley Academy Hawks went 4-0 the first three shutouts — from Monday, March 13, through Saturday, March 18.

Blanking Karns 6-0, Hawks winning pitcher Micah Hoffmeister went six innings (0 RBI while Evan Goins added two hits. Tipton and Brooks Wright slugged home runs.

Riley Mahan's walk-off homer was the only Dawgs hit, but it was good enough to edge Upperman 2-1. Tipton went seven innings on the mound (6 hits, 1 earned run, 7 strikeouts).

A 2-1 loss to Greeneville saw BHS pitcher Braden Suggs go six innings (3 hits, 0 earned runs, 10 strikeouts). Greyson Wright homered.



community



2B • FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023

Learn how to help vulnerable children: FBC event

STAFF REPORTS editor@farragutpress.com

Local families have the chance to learn more about adoption, foster care and helping vulnerable children at an upcoming conference

Eighth Annual Knoxville Area Foster Care and Adoption Ministries Regional Conference will be held from 8:30 to a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, March 25, at First Baptist Concord, 11704 Kingston Pike.

KAFCAM, started in 2014, is an alliance of about 20 churches and more than 35 agencies, ministries and community advocates who serve foster, adoptive and kinship children and families as well as advocate for family preservation when possible, according to a press release.

"Our members coordinate activities, share lessons learned, provide family support and raise awareness of needs," the release further stated.

"The target audience for the conference is prospective and active foster and adoptive parents, as well as those looking to support the Knox County adoption and foster community.

"The conference is designed to encourage, equip and connect families and bring awareness of the needs of vulnerable children in our community," the release also stated.

Some of the sessions from which attendees will choose include the following: learning the basics about international and domestic adoption and foster care, how to plan and prepare before fostering or adopting, and panels from former foster youth, adult adoptees, current adoptive and foster parents and social workers. There will be informational tables from many local agencies, time to connect with likeminded people and ways to learn to be more effective in helping orphaned and vulnerable children.

World Cultures at FHS in vivid display





FICTOR States

(Above) Farragut High School Spanish Honor Society members, from left, Sam Hurst, Amaya Pride and Olivia Spradling brought attention to "The Pulsera Project" during FHS's annual World Cultures Night Thursday, March 2. The Pulsera Project buys hand-woven pulseras (bracelets) from Central American artists and then partners with student groups to sell them throughout the United States.

(Left) Lulu Dilling of the FHS French Club represented Canada at the event.



Register at www.kafcam.org

See HELP AT FBC on Page 5B





School teachers were among

Knox County Schools Teacher

ville Convention Center Tues-

day, Feb. 28. From left are

Jamey Evans, Parker Miles

and Ann Riddell.

fp 10-Day-plus **Press Planner**

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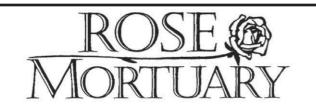
• "Dusty's All Star Circus is coming to the Jacob Building at Chilhowee Park & Exposition Center, 3301 E. Magnolia Ave., at 4:30 and 7 p.m., Friday, March 31; 2, 4:30 and 7 p.m., Saturday, April 1; and 2 and 4:30 p.m., Sunday, April 2.

Ticket prices are \$15 for children (ages 2-17) and \$20 for adults (ages 18 and up). Lap children under 24 months do not require a ticket. In addition, there is a \$49.99 family pack that includes tickets for two adults and up to four children. Tickets are available at dustyscircus.com or by calling 1-800-756-8048.

• Knoxville area AARP Foundation will offer Tax-Aide, a free tax preparation service, at Pellissippi State Community College to taxpayers of all ages and backgrounds. AARP membership is not required. Tax preparation assistance will be offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays, in the Hardin Valley Campus Educational Resources Center (library) on these dates: March 25, April 1 and April 8. Appointments are required for this free service. Visit volsintax.com to make an appointment or call 865-229-4429 and leave a message for an appointment.

· Authors Guild of Tennessee will hold its monthly meeting starting at 11 a.m., Thursday, April 6, in Faith Lutheran Church, 225 Jamestowne Blvd., Farragut. Social time and book exchange begins at 10:30 a.m. Published authors are invited. AGT is now accepting applications for associate membership from authors who have written a book but are not yet published. Serious authors only. In the event of inclement weather, check the AGT website for updates and information: authorsguildoftn.org.

· Featuring the Knoxville debut of Metropolitan Opera mezzosoprano Renée Tatum, Amadeus Chamber Ensemble is coming to Farragut next month. Under the direction of former Knoxville Opera director Brian Salesky, ACE will present its next concert beginning at 5 p.m., Sunday, April 16, in St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 633 St. John Court. Admission is free and the public is invited.



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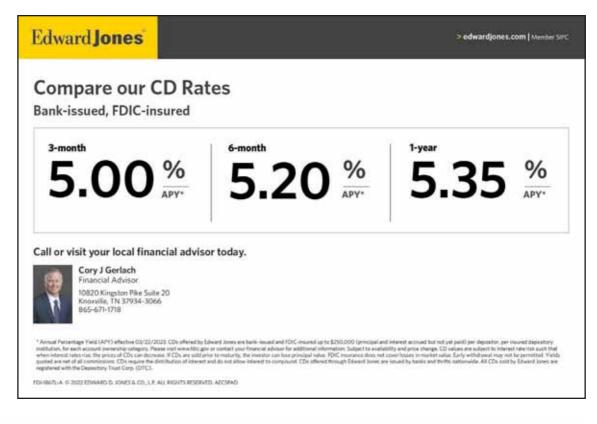


FPS Teachers of the Year

Three Farragut Primary School teachers were honored during the annual Knox County Schools Teacher of the Year Banquet in Knoxville Convention Center Tuesday, Feb. 28. From left are Jessica Burkhart, Lana Hsieh and Ruth Granroth



Photos submitted



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Among top 300 high school scholars nationwide is FHS senior Signh

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Farragut High School senior Ridhima Singh's scientific acumen officially was recognized earlier this year when she was selected one of the top 300 high school scholars nationwide from almost 2,000 entries in the Regeneron Science Talent Search 2023.

She was the only scholar from Knox County and one of only three statewide to be selected.

"We celebrate this year's scholars for their exceptional work and unmatched motivation to use the power of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to make a meaningful mark on the world," said Christina Chan, senior vice president, Corporate Communications & Citizenship at Regeneron.

Singh's evaluated tive growth in urban areas versus rural areas due to climate change. She said the competition and project reflected her personal interest in math and science.

project last year, all during the summer,

with Dr. Jiafu Mao of Oak Ridge National Lab, who served as my research mentor," she said.

"We evaluated vegetative growth in 75 cities across the U.S. for the project with a goal to submit" for the Talent Search, which is described in a press release as "the nation's oldest and most

prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors," the FHS senior added.

"Scholars were chosen based on their outstanding research, leadership skills, community involvement, commitment to academics, creativity in asking scientific questions and exceptional promise as STEM leaders demonstrated through the submission of their original, independent research projects, essays and recommendations," the release added.

Singh said she was "thrilled" to be named among the top 300, which was accompanied by a \$2,000 prize for each scholar and their respective schools.

"It was really cool to know the project was among the top 300 out of more than 1,900," she said, adding she worked three to four hours a day on the project, evaluating and analyzing the results.

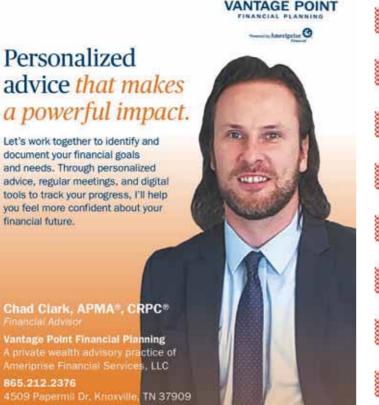
"I've been doing science for a long time. When I was younger, I liked math specifically, then I was introduced to science in middle school and found it interesting, too."

Singh also has been a member of both the Farragut Middle and FHS science bowl teams when the clubs won top state honors. She is president of the FHS Math Club and vice president of the school's Science Club, and also is a member of Model UN and National Honor Society.

"I'm really grateful to Dr. (John) Bartlett (FHS principal) and my teacher/ science club sponsor, Mr. (Matthew) Milligan, for their support these four vears," Singh said.

STEM also plays a part in Singh's Girl

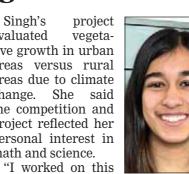
See TOP 300 IN NATION on Page 5B



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Singh

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Help at FBC

From page 2B

for \$15/person. A light breakfast and lunch are included.

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Top 300 in nation From page 4B

Scout Gold Award project, as she was able to introduce the fields to area disadvantaged students.

STEM will be her initial focus in college, Singh said, before she plans to segue into computer science and economics

The senior has yet to decide on a college.

Singh is the daughter of Debjani and Nagendra Singh. She has a younger brother, Ruhaan.



St. John Neumann Catholic School sixthgraders recently presented their research projects during the school's annual Science Fair. Winners will have an opportunity to present their projects at the Regional Fair. First place was Henry Benton, right, for "Wind Turbines: Does the number of blades matter?" Second place was Isabella Ramirez with her project "Balancing Blood Sugar." Third place finisher Easton Halter's project was "Can Fish Taste the Rainbow?" Honorable mention: Allison Domeracki, Megan Frana, Elena Lemmons, Malachi McGrath and Ansley Serio.

Photo submitted









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farragutpress presents Spring Sports BASEBALL. Stories by Alan Sloan, editor@farragutpress.com farragutpress Wednesday, March 22, 2023 • 1C

FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS

For a program that always reloads, even if there are several key graduation losses, the 2023 Farragut Admirals baseball team might be especially scary.

Though losing its ace pitcher, starting catcher and designated hitter, the highly touted FHS Class of 2024 is now junior-laden — and looking to lead a repeat as Class 4A state champions and add to the program's stature as having the most TSSAA baseball state crowns in state history (11).

"We're a pretty hard-working team," said FHS head coach Matt Buckner, a recent inductee into Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame who has led the Admirals to five state titles in 12 seasons (excluding 2020/COVID). "Focusing on doing great, not just in high school, but moving on after that, too.

"They're a pretty focused group, too — I don't really have to say a lot to them," he added. "The season's always going to come with highs and lows. I'm pretty confident we've put the work in. I feel good about what we've done."

From first to third base and in the outfield — the Admirals return intact, led by TBCA Player of the Year and preseason All-American Lukas Buckner, a third-year starting



ROSTER

Jett Johnston	Sr	12	Jonathan Venero	Sr	26	Matthew Kilbey	Sr
Lukas Buckner	Jr	13	Ellis Gleed	Sr	27	Braxton Lewis	Jr
Gavin Brewer	Jr	14	Mark Underwood	Sr	28	Ben Johnson	Jr
Ashton Sulack	Sr	15	Ryan Wallace	Jr	30	Cole Draper	Soph
Landis Davila	Jr	16	Cooper Schulze	Sr	32	Stratton Scott	Jr
Reid Thomason	Soph	17	Brennon Seigler	Jr	34	Brodie Roberts	Soph
Eli Evans	Jr	18	Braydon Alexander	Soph	35	Charlie Bozeman	Jr
Eli Miller	Sr	20	Matt Heflin	Jr	40	Kam Sanders	Sr
Jake Merrick	Jr	23	Keeton Lyell	Sr	50	Griffin Mashburn	Sr
Braylon Hall	Jr	24	Michael Delph	Jr			
	1						

shortshop as a junior.

1

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11

Infield-wise, Jett Johnston, senior who is a pre-season All-American and a future SEC player as a Texas A&M signee, returns to play third base. "He's a talented player," coach

Buckner said. "... He's got big power; had a really good post season for us last year."

Junior Jake Merrick, who turned the critical double play to get Farragut out of a basesloaded seventh-inning jam to beat Houston and win the 2022 state crown, returns at second base.

Junior Eli Evans, the championship game offensive hero with a two-out bases-clearing double to break a seventh-in-

Farragut

3/21 Catholic6:30
3/22 William Blount @Wb 6:00
3/24-3/25 Bradley Central Tourney
3/27 HVA @ HVA6:00
3/29 Heritage @ Heritage 6:00
3/30-4/1 Hoover Tourney
4/3 Bearden @Bearden6:30
4/5 Maryville @Maryville6:00
4/6-4/8 Scott Dean Tournament
4/10 William Blount6:30
4/12 HVA6:30
4/14 Combine Academy
4/15 Combine Academy 11:00
4/17 Heritage6:30
4/19 Bearden6:30
4/21 Hendersonville-
@Hendersonville7:00
4/22 John Pope Paul II
@ JPP II 11:00
4/22 Clarksville Academy
@JPP II1:30
4/24 Maryville6:30
4/26 CAK6:30
4/27 Pigeon Forge7:00
(Throwback)
5/3 District Tournament

ning 1-1 tie, will be at first base - though he played third a lot in the state tournament last season.

"Eli came on strong at the

See ADMIRALS on Page 5C

HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY HAWKS

Already having built one of the top high school baseball programs in East Tennessee, Tyler Roach and his Hardin Valley Academy Hawks are looking to take the next step.

There's enough talent and experience returning to certainly keep that reputation intact.

Can these Hawks contend for a high state tournament finish?

Returning "the majority of our line-up," Roach said, "it's been fun to watch the maturity happen. I mean, we were a young team last year. We were real close to making it out of the district again." Now, a year later, "Like in practice, I'll say, 'this is what we're doing today,' ... but then, they're the ones who are coaching each other and getting on each other," he added about players taking charge, being motivated to succeed. "And the confidence is coming out as well, because now they have that experience. ... Just play loose. "We saw that (recently) in a scrimmage — and for a first scrimmage, I'll take that all day.



Hardin Valley

3/23	7:00 Rhea County
3/24	6:00 Knoxville West
3/251:0	00 @ Knoxville West
3/27	6:00 Farragut
3/29	6:00 @Maryville
3/30 5:00) Loudon (at Powell)
3/31 5:00 0	Cookeville (at UCHS)
4/1	11:00 @ CCHS
4/1	1:30 @ CCHS
4/3	6:00 Heritage
4/5	6:00 William Blount

Returning field/DH starters Senior catcher Ty Denton,



Jacob Dillon

Neels Schoonbee

Caden Channell

Mckeon Maas

Austin Bolding

ROSTER

Tanner Goset

Bryce Worley

Colton Denton

Ty Denton

Will Webb

Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs

Jax Sparks

Adam Baker

4/6 5:00 Bradley Central 4/711:00 Goodpasture 4/7 1:30 Westfield 4/106:30 @ Bearden 4/126:30 @ Farragut 4/146:00 @ Rhea County 4/1512:00 @ Morristown West 4/176:00 Maryville 4/196:00 @ Heritage 4/206:00 Karns 4/216:00 Knox Central 4/246:00 @ William Blount 4/26 6:00 Bearden 4/276:00 Walker Valley 4/286:00 @ Walker Valley 5/16:00 @ Knox Central

a Troy University (Alabama) commitment, is now a fouryear varsity starter who will

Carson Hoffmeister

Henry Ferguson

Carter Goodwin

Caleb Neely

Caleb Jinks

Boone Fields

Jaxon Jones Micah Hoffmeister be counted on for leadership Jacob Dillon, a junior who

returns at first base, "hit about

Brandon Wright

Tyler Abshagen

.300 last year" as a sophomore,

See HAWKS on Page 2C

Best wishes for a great season! Jeffrey J. Eberting, DMD, MS Eric G. Hatten, DDS **Eberting Orthodontics Eberting Orthodontics** 865-983-3570 | www.EbertingOrtho.com Follow Us on Facebook @MaryvilleOrthodontist EbertingOrthodontics Knoxville Maryville Morristown Jeffrey J. Eberting DMD, MS Eric G. Hatten DDS **619 Smithview Drive** 10792 Hardin Valley Road 920 West Main Street Knoxville, TN 37932 Maryville, TN 37803 Morristown, TN 37814

Christian Academy of Knoxville Warriors

The way Tommy Pharr's Christian Academy of Knoxville baseball Warriors were compiling state championships late last decade, this nine-time TSSAA high school baseball state champion head coach was approaching John Wooden-like status for dominance.

While his Warriors have remained one of Division II-A's top teams the past two seasons. a state title hasn't capped off that success. Last year's team finished a solid 29-8, but fell short of a state tourney trip to Murfreesboro.

Though there's a lot of new starters in the fold, never count out a Pharr-coached team when it comes to state title contention.

Biggest team strength

"I think we're going to be pretty good on the mound and play good defense," Pharr said. Concerns

"Offensively, how well we'll hit," the coach said. "We've got a lot of new guys, a lot of unproven guys.

"We'll see if we can get better at that as the seasons goes along.'

Top returning talent

Wes Alig, junior shortstop who is a Kennesaw State commitment, "I think was the MVP of our district last year," the coach said. "He was our best player last year and will be our

Hawks

From page 1C

his coach said.

Providing lots of depth at second base, Austin Bolding, a senior, and Jaxon Jones, a sophomore, "both played significant innings for us last year," Roach said.

Junior Henry Ferguson, an East Tennessee State University commitment, returns to the fold at shortstop.

To round out this ultra-experienced infield is senior third

baseman Will Webb, an All-District honoree last season.

Senior Sy Keener returns

at second base. "He's another

solid player," Pharr said. "He's

gotten better and stronger

Josh Price

Jon Yeager

Chip Shelton

Hayden Hayes

Bleau Kennedy

Joey Sulish

Liam Quinn

Parker Jones

Will Wright

Shepard Strange

best player this year."

Sy Keener

Connor Nelson

In left field, senior Carson Hoffmeister — another four-year starter — has provided lots of pop at the top of the Hawks' line-up.

Junior Caleb Neely returns in center field, while senior Caden Channell is penciled in for right field.

Colton Denton returns to serve, primarily, as the team's designated hitter.

Pitching, youth At the top of Hardin Valley's

pitching rotation are returning All-District honorees Micah Hoffmeister and senior Adam Baker.

over the years. We're looking

Rymer returns. "A solid play-

er, tough kid," the coach said.

Senior catcher Bennett

to have a big year from him."

Dillon and Webb also will start on the mound, the coach added.

Freshman pitcher Jax Sparks is among the young arms who have caught Roach's eye during preseason.

Overall on the mound, the coach said he had nine capable arms, "and six of them threw between 82 and 86 (mph). We've got some depth this

year," which includes "guys who haven't pitched before but are trying it out."

vania University (Kentucky)

signee, is a returning starter

Concerns

Roach pointed out momentum shifts happen to even the best of programs over the course of a given season.

"You can peak in April, and someone else can peak in May – and you're the better team on paper, but they go further than you do," the coach said. "... We'll be trying to get hot at the right time."

He pointed out a familiar col-

lege baseball example: the nation's No. 1-ranked Tennessee Vols lost in the NCAA Tournament Regional round last season, yet the No. 9-seed from the SEC, Ole Miss, not only made the NCAA Tournament — but

won the national championship. About timing the Hawks' peak to happen in May each

season. "I've been trying to figure that out for five years now," Roach said.

"We'll see what happens."





ROSTER

Sr.

Sr.

So.

So.

So.

So.

Fr.

Sr.

Sr.

So.

So.

So.

Collin Crider

Jack Pearson

McCormick Tyler

John Kirby Hamilton

Jonathon Van Ness

Caleb Knutsen

Jackson Biles

Luke Jones

Aaron Bobo

Sam Cecil

Noah Taylor

Lewis Brooke

Photo Courtesy of Pro Photo

Jr.

Fr.

Jr.

S0.

Jr.

Fr.

Sr.

So.

Sr.

S0.

Fr.

Fr.

Fr.	Wesley Alig
So.	Micah Bennett
So.	Christian Rosa
Sr.	Blake Jarrard
Sr.	Jameson Van Ness
Jr.	Alex Trimble
So.	lan Johnson
Sr.	Tyler Slatas
Sr.	Bennett Rymer
Jr.	Tyler Bennett
Sr.	Brody Waller
So.	Gavin Bergeron

"Scrappy is probably the best who's moving to left field. "He's a real good hitter and a way to describe him." Senior Sam Cecil, a Transyl-

solid kid, too," Pharr said.

See WARRIORS on Page 3C

CAK
UAIX
Bradley Central Tournament 4:00 @ McMinn Co

3/23-25.

3/23

0/20	
3/24	4:00 @ Combine Academy
	9:00 @ Bradley
3/25	2:30 @ Walker Valley
3/27	5:00 Concord (DH)
	@ Hoover Tournament
	5:30 Morton
	2:00 Grace Christian
	4:30 Prattville
	9:00 Helena
	5:30 The Kings Academy
	. 5:30 @ The Kings Academy
	Scott Dean Tournament
	5:00 Coffee Co
	11:00 Tates Creek
	1:30 Mountain View
	6:45 @ Providence
	6:45 Providence
	5:00 @ Coalfield
	5:30 Coalfield
	5:30 Lakeway
	5:30 @ Lakeway
	5:30 @ Bearden
	Silverdale
	6:00 Sequoyah
	Farragut
	District Tournament
	Region Tournament
	Round of 12
	Quarter Finals
5/23-25	State Tournament





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Bearden

3/24 Science Hill6:30

3/25 Knox Central 1:00

3/27 Maryville 6:30

3/29 @ William Blount6:00

3/30 Sweetwater (@ Clinton) 5:00

3/31 Providence Academy6:00

4/1 Portland 4:00

4/1 Webb6:30

4/3 Farragut6:30

4/5 Heritage 6:30

4/7 @ Sevier County4:45 4/8 Johnson Central, KY

(@ Oak Ridge)7:15

(@ Bearden)......10:00

(@ Bearden)......12:15

4/10 Hardin Valley.....6:30

4/15 @ Science Hill......1:00

4/17 William Blount6:30 4/19 @ Farragut6:30

4/20 Jefferson County......6:30

4/21 CAK.....5:30

4/24 @ Heritage 6:00

4/26 @ Hardin Valley6:00

4/28 Oak Ridge6:30

5/1 @ Oak Ridge.....6:00

(@ Farragut) TBD

4/27 Throwback Game

4/6 George Rogers Clark, KY

4/8 Station Camp

.5:30

3/23 @ West

BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS

A healthy portion of Bulldogs talent returns to help Bearden baseball navigate a tough District 4-4A in 2023.

Six starters return — many earning local and/or state honors — to a team that finished as district tournament runner-up before losing at Powell in the Region 2-4A semifinals, which ended the Bearden season at 25-17.

About his team's biggest strength, "It's the opposite of last year: experience," said head coach Dave Prichard, now in his second season at BHS. "We return a ton of guys who came into last year with no experience, and now they've' got a lot of it.

"We had some success down the stretch last year, and we're just looking to build off of it," he added.

Junior Brooks Wright returns behind the plate to catch — but he'll also be throwing toward the plate at the most critical times. "An All-state player, phenomenal bat, a good leader," the coach said.

"He'll also throw for us. ... I think Brooks will probably be the go-to ace," Prichard added.

Evan Goins, senior third baseman whose versatility found him playing at different infield spots in 2022, "had an All-District season; superconsistent with the bat, a real heads-up player," the coach said.

Brady Frederick, senior sec-



ROSTER

2	Luke Seagrist	Sr	19	Matt Schroeffel	Fr	37	Riley Mahan	Jr
3	J.P. Harris	Sr	20	Hudson Hoffecker	Sr	38	Cole Wilhoite	Fr
6	Brady Frederick	Sr	21	Eli Algood	Sr	39	Ian McCloud	Fr
8	Jonah Kohring	Jr	23	Cameron Cooper	So	41	Hunter Tolbert	Fr
9	Parker Coe	Sr	24	Kyle Moss	Sr	43	Calvin Blackmon	Fr
10	Tori Riggins	So	25	Jeb Cox	Sr	44	Charlie Loftin	Fr
12	Isaiah Whited	So	26	Logan Benko	So	45	Walter Pankau	Fr
13	Tripp Greer	Sr	27	Brooks Wright	Jr	46	Jack Fennell	Fr
14	Jake Collette	Sr	28	Connor Sipe	So	47	Tyler Cline	Fr
15	Owen Matthews	Sr	30	Evan Cope	So	48	Fenn Piper	Fr
16	Evan Goins	Sr	31	Greyson Wright	Fr	49	Cristian Baker	Fr
17	Brody Benko	Jr	34	Hunter Harris	Fr	98	Rhys Thomas	Jr
18	Braden Suggs	Sr	36	Bobby Powell	Fr	99	Aiden Tipton	Sr

ond baseman, also earned All-District honors last season. "He had a really big offensive year," Prichard said.

Frederick's value extends to the mound. "He's probably a primary relief guy out of the bullpen," the coach said.

Junior Riley Mahan, "a spot starter last year" according to

the coach, will start in right field. "He had a really good second-half of the year offensively... He finished well in the District Tournament. A power guy."

Senior Luke Seagrist returns in center field. "Just a blessed runner and phenomenal defensive player," Prichard said. "He

 \mathbf{C}/\mathbf{A}

puts a lot of pressure on people offensively."

Senior Parker Coe, starting shortstop, "is a plus defender," the coach said. "I'm looking for him to do a little bit more with the bat this year.

Senior J.P. Harris "did a great job as a (designated hitter) and pinch hitter,"

Prichard said.

Attempting to bounce back from shoulder surgery is senior Owen Matthews, who "looks to compete" for the designated hitter role. "He had some good power numbers last year."

Senior Kyle Moss, who saw

See BULLDOGS on Page 5C

Warriors

From page 2C

Experienced pitchers returning include senior Luke Jones, a Lincoln Memorial University commitment who'll serve as staff ace. "He'll be our top guy," the coach said. "He's a solid pitcher and player, and just a great kid. A hard worker." Senior pitcher Caleb Knutsen "will be one of our top guys on the mound," the coach said.

Junior Jonathon Van Ness "will be one of our better guys on the mound," Pharr said.

Seniors Aaron Bobo and Josh Price "pitched a lot for us last year," the coach said.

Sophomore Bleau Kennedy also will be "one of our guys

on the mound."

Stepping up

Junior Christian Rosa and senior Connor Nelson "are in the mix" to start at third base. At first base, sophomore Tyler Bennett "is probably the leading candidate there," Pharr said. Also looking for time at first is senior Liam Quinn.

Junior catcher Jameson Van

Ness is fighting for time behind the plate.

In the outfield, sophomore Jack Pearson is pegged for center field, with Kennedy seeking playing time in center.

Right field is a battle between seniors John Kirby Hamilton and Ian Johnson. Junior Lewis Brooke also will look for outfield playing time when he recovers from a hand injury.

Freshman Joey Sulish "is going to have a chance to help us on the mound and in the field. ... He's one of our better pitchers," the coach said. "He's a really good player as a freshman.

"He's an infielder, but he may play in the outfield for us some."





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Concord Christian SCHOOL LIONS

A young program has a lot of returning starters — despite having just two seniors who see playing time — for second-year head coach Mitch Turner and his Concord Christian School baseball team.

"Returning experience is a strong suit for us," Turner said. "We've got guys in the program for a year now, so they know what I expect out of them.

"We've got a bunch of hardworking kids who are on a routine now and who have a full year-and-a-half since we came into the program as the coaching staff," he added.

As a whole, "They are really learning how to play the game of baseball," the coach said.

A pair of juniors, both transfers, and a sophomore look to carry a big load on the mound.

Juniors Grayson Van Rossum and Atlee Alexander, a lefthanded pitcher, "are going to do really well on the mound for us," the coach said.

Sophomore Mason Sparks saw pitching time as a freshman. "He has got a really live arm. We're really excited about his upcoming season and the rest of his career with us," Turner said.

Junior catcher Cody Johnson returns, as does junior first baseman Manu Porter, who also pitches. Yet another ju-



nior, Cale Smith, is back playing second base.

The left side of the Lions' infield features the roster's only seniors, both of whom return as starters: shortstop Bryce Butler and third baseman Brady Moore. Butler and Moore also pitch.

Junior centerfielder Davis Givens, yet another returning starter, "kind of anchors down our outfield," Turner said.

Sophomore Zach Langley, left fielder, saw extensive playing time as a freshman.

When he's not pitching, Al-

exander will start in right field. Freshman Micah Dewald

"catches, pitches and plays middle infield. He plays pretty much anywhere for us ... he'll pretty much be an everyday starter," the coach said. "He is one of the brighter lights in our program right now because he's so young and talented. He got to play last year as an eighth-grader.

"He's going to make a huge impact as a freshman," he added.

Having a half-dozen eighthgraders are on the roster, "It's always nice being a private school (with all grades) on the same campus, where eighthgraders get to play up on the high school team," Turner said. "They get that experience and get kind of transitioned."

The coach said "a couple" of those eighth-graders "who stand out" might see varsity action.

Caleb Stuart "will catch for us some, will pitch some and will play first base," the coach said.

Drew Snow "will play some middle infield, pitch and play outfield."

Concord

3/204:30 @ The Kings Academy	
3/235:30 @ Webb School	
3/275:00 @ CAK (DH)	
4/34:30 @ Providence (DH)	
4/45:00 @ Knoxville Catholic	
4/6 5:30 @ Hampton	
4/105:30 @ Lakeway (DH)	
4/135:30 @ Webb School	
4/17 5:00 @ Grace Christian (DH)	
4/185:30 @ Cumberland Gap	
4/205:30 @ Sweetwater	
4/25 5:30 @ Campbell County	
4/28District Play-In Series	
4/29District Play-In Series	

ROSTER

15	Bryce Butler	Sr
5	Brady Moore	Sr
35	Cody Johnson	Jr
7	Manu Porter	Jr
3	Atlee Alexander	Jr.
12	John Hurst	Soph
17	Davis Givens	Jr
6	Cale Smith	Jr
11	Mason Sparks	Soph
1	Zack Langley	Soph
9	Micah Dewald	Fr
8	Caleb Stuart	8th
13	Drew Snow	8th
16	Grayson Van Ross	sum Jr.

WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE SPARTANS

Lots of talented pitching arms look to hold down opponents, while many Webb School of Knoxville batters get adjusted to having bigger roles against Division II-AA and other top area pitchers in 2023.

These baseball Spartans look to improve upon a fourth-place region finish in 2022.

"We play in a very tough region against very good teams," head coach Jordan Wormsley said, with region rivals Knoxville Catholic, Baylor and Mc-Callie (eventual state champ) reaching the state "final four" in Murfreesboro last spring.

Top overall talent

Senior second baseman Cole Nathan, the team's leadoff hitter in 2022, returns. "He had our highest batting average and most hits," Wormsley said.

Having committed to Carson-Newman University, Nathan "is also one of our top arms

Also a Spartans pitcher, "Carter "will probably be a spot starter, but a frequent reliever who we are going to count on for his arm strength and ability on the mound," the coach said.

MaKai Derry, a sophomore, will transition from a startcenter ing

fielder as a

order

average,'



Wormsley said. "... I can see him making a move toward the top of the lineup for us."

Yet another pitcher who the coach sees as a "possible spot starter," Derry should be consistent reliever."

field playing time is junior Connor Knight, a transfer from California. "He's shown a lot of great potential with the bat and in the outfield," the coach said. "A very good athlete. ... I think he could hit maybe somewhere in the middle of our order. Some potential there for power and run production.'

Knight also is expected to be one the team's top pitchers, "a guy I would anticipate being a starter and pitching a lot of key innings for us."

Battling for the center field spot is junior Alec Daniels, who "looks great in the outfield," Wormsley said. "He really can run; hits very well also."

Daniels also adds depth behind the plate.

Freshman Colten Collier also looks to play center field. "A good defensive outfielder, good potential" the coach said. "... He's had a lot of experience

Webb

3/23	5:30Concord Christian	4/14	5:30 Lakeway Christian
3/2	5 @ Sevier County Tourney	4/17	4:00 Chatt. Christian (DH)
3/27	7 5:00 Baylor	4/18	5:00@ Chatt. Christian
3/28	3 4:00 @ Baylor (DH)	4/20	5:30 Grace Christian
3/31	I-4/1 @ Anderson/Clinton Tourney	4/24	5:30 @ Lakeway Christian
4/3	5:00McCallie	4/25	6:00 @ Grace Christian
4/4	4:00@ McCallie (DH)	4/27	5:30 Sweetwater
4/7-	-4/8 ETBCA Tournament	4/29	1:00@ Maryville
4/12	2 6:00 @ Alcoa	5/1	5:00 Knoxville Catholic
4/13	3 5:30Concord Christian	5/2	6:00@ Knoxville Catholic

ROSTER

22	Camden Deans	Senior	3	Griffin Saunders	Junior
6	Cannon Myers	Senior	9	Jack Wagner	Junior
1	Cole Nathan	Senior	7	MaKai Derry	Sophomore
23	Charles Robinson	Senior	17	Asher Harness	Sophomore
12	Blake Carter	Junior	11	Colten Collier	Freshman
10	Carson Dabbs	Junior	27	Grayson Gregory	Freshman
8	Alec Daniels	Junior	33	Ethan Walls	Freshman
5	Jack Felton	Junior	13	Trevson Derrv	8th Grade



Wormsley

pitching-wise," the coach said.

At third base, Wormsley highlighted junior Jack Wagner, who also played outfield in 2022.

Likely to be in the middle of the Spartans' batting order, Wagner "hit well for us, over .300 last year," the coach said.

"He's also one of our top arms in terms of pitching."

Junior first baseman Blake Carter played mostly outfield, or served as the designated hitter, in 2022. "A very productive hitter; hit for a very high average," Wormsley said. "Our highest power potential at the plate we see out of him. I think he led us in extra-base hits last year.'

Junior Griffin Saunders returns behind the plate. "He was our primary catcher last year," the coach said. "He's made a lot of progress with the bat."

Junior Jack Felton "I see as a utility guy we use in a lot of different places," Wormsley said. Primarily an outfielder last season, Felton "will probably spend a little more time in the infield. ... A good hitter."

Still another Webb infielder who pitches, Felton also fits the "spot starter/primary reliever" profile.

"Most of our outfield will be new players," Wormsley said. Expected to get lots of out-

playing baseball at a high level.

"I think there's a lot of similarities between he and Alec," Wormsley added. "I think either of those guys, if not starting in center, could have a place in left field."

Battling for time in left field is sophomore Asher Harness. "He had a tremendous season for our JV team" in 2022, the coach said. "His bat, as well, is very accomplished.

"He is also a pitcher."

Also battling for left field is senior Cannon Myers. "He's been a very hard worker within our program," Wormsley said.

Top pitchers

Any one of three pitchers "could be the No. 1 guy," the 24 Connor Knight Junior

coach said.

"The most power potential probably comes from Connor Knight and Jack Wagner," Wormsley added. "The two of them probably have the most stuff. Either of them could be our ace.

"Cole Nathan has always been a very sound pitcher. He's got great stuff as well."

Junior pitcher Carson Dabbs "could easily be our fourth starter," Wormsley said. "He could easily be a key reliever. Good velocity, great movement, great action on everything he throws. He'll be super

competitive for us." These four top pitchers "are mid-80s plus" in terms of mph, the coach added. "At the high school level, that's usually going to give you a chance to be successful."

Biggest team strength

"The potential for our pitching and pitching depth could be our biggest strength," Wormsley said. "We've got, easily, nine guvs throughout our pitching rotation that have high school experience and have pitched in big games and big roles.

"Defensively, I think we're going to be strong," he added.



State Tournament Appearances

1985, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014

State Runners-Up 2003, 2005, 2011

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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KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IRISH

Five starters return in the field, including a pair of Allstate outfielders, for a 2023 Knoxville Catholic baseball team coming off a third-place TSSAA Division II-AA state finish last season (26-14 final record).

"The top-half of the lineup is definitely a strength of ours," said Irish head coach Caleb Moore, in his eighth season leading this KCHS program.

However, when asked about the team's biggest strength, "I think it's our starting pitching," the coach said. "... I think our starting depth on the mound is really good."

Top talent

Senior Ben Sompayrac returns at first base, while also being one of the team's top pitchers. "He's a veteran leader; he's been there a lot," Moore said. "He's pitched a lot of innings for us. ... He's another good arm for us; he really knows how to pitch and get people out."

In the middle infield and on the mound, junior Hudson Lutterman and senior Daniel Parris "are really high-level players for us ... and both pitch for us as well," the coach said. "They've played a lot of highlevel baseball. They are an integral part of our team."

In fact, Moore said Parris likely is the Irish staff ace. "He's a Tennessee signee," the coach said. "He's a really good pitcher. He can throw multiple pitches for strikes.³

Lutterman "will probably be one of the first guys out of the bullpen for us," he added. "If it's close toward the end of a game,

ROSTER

Nick Turner 12 **Daniel Parris** Sr 25 Harrison Vieira Soph Soph 26 Ryan Theobald Sr 13 Jamie Bentley Fr JJ Murphy Fr Sr 14 27 Ian Hubbard Hutson Oakes Soph Lex Lucier Fr Evon Kolesar Sr 15 Grant Tallent 28 Nate O'Donnell Jr Soph 29 Alex Ditmore Soph 16 Jack Judd Jr **Cooper Ackermann** Fr Miller Spence Sr 17 Charlie Chady Fr 30 **Colton Breeden** Jr Kemp Avans Fr 19 Hudson Lutterman 31 Aidan Alexander Jr Jr Cooper Williamson Soph 20 Manny Maurer Soph 32 Mason Fields Jr 21 33 Carter Muth Fr Bryce Gulbrand Soph Joey Lamattina Sr 22 34 Jacob Camfield Sr Nicholas Kaczmarek Jr Ben Sinclair Fr 23 Ben Sompayrac Kaleb Johnson 51 Sr Fr **Coleman Sharp** Fr **Richie DeLacruz** 24 99 Sr Cade Avans Jr Tanner Muir Fr

that'll kind of be his role."

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In the outfield, senior Allstate honoree Miller Spence returns to play left field. "He can be a table-setter," Moore said. "He has good speed."

Senior Ian Hubbard, another All-state honoree, returns in center field — and pitches. "He threw a lot of conference games for us last year," Moore said. "Hit eight home runs for us last year as well. He has good power and good speed."

Battling for the start in right

Seniors Eli Algood and Tripp

Greer "also will be battling for

some time," the coach said.

field is junior Grant Tallent and sophomore Cooper Williamson. "They could see their way on the field as a (designated hitter) if they are not playing in the outfield," the coach said. "Each provides good speed. ... Cooper pitches for us as well."

Depth

While the starting catching and third base positions were "a little bit up in the air for us" entering the season, Moore said he has capable candidates. Battling for the spot at

third includes senior Richie DeLacruz. "He provides us a lefthanded bat," Moore said. "He can play a lot of small-ball: bunt, hit-and-run."

Photo Submitted

Senior Ryan Theobald is versatile "as a utility player" who will see lots of playing time according to Moore. "He can play second, he can play short, he can play third, he can play outfield. He's a Jack-of-all-trades, a high-energy guy."

Elsewhere, sophomore Hutson Oakes "will get some time

cy," the coach said. "We were

up and down on the mound,

which kind of led to us being

up and down throughout (last)

"We're light years ahead of

where we were last year on the

season.

Catholic
Gathone
3/23West Ridge @ Sevier Co 4:30 pm
3/24 East Roberston @ Sevier Co
2:30pm 3/25@ Sevier County 5pm
3/27V McCallie (DH) 4 pm
3/28@ McCallie 6pm
3/29 Christ School (NC) 7pm
3/30 Marshall County 2:30pm
3/31 Middle Tennessee Christian
4/1William Blount 5:30pm 4/3 Madison Southern (Ky) 5pm
4/4Concord Christian 6 pm
4/11Greeneville 6 pm
4/15 @ Christ School (NC) 2pm
4/17@ Baylor 6 pm
4/18 Baylor (DH) 4 pm
4/20@ Lakeway Christian 6 pm 4/22Morristown West 1pm
4/24Chatt Christian 6 pm
4/25@ Chatt Christian – (DH) 4 pm
4/29 Powell @ Smokies Stadium
5/1@ Webb 6 pm
5/2Webb 6 pm

Tbd..... Dii-AA Tournament at first base and also on the

5/3@ Webb 6 pm

mound," Moore said.

Adding to pitching depth is senior Jacob Camfield. "He'll get some time starting, and probably in conference games be one of our first bullpen arms," Moore said.

Biggest concern

Moore said "overall depth" is his biggest concern, especially behind the plate and in the bullpen. "We're going to have to have a couple of people to step up," he said.

Behind Wright and Fred-

erick among his top pitchers,

"We've got Tipton, Suggs and

Isaiah Whited (sophomore);

those will be guys we lean on

from the starting perspective,'

once we start the season."

Bulldogs

From page 3C

playing time at first base last season, is battling for that starting spot with junior Rhys Thomas and senior Aiden Tipton

Having "a lot of outfield

Admirals

From page 1C

end of the season," coach Buckner said. "Really had a excellent playoff run. A really talented player; I think Jake's a Division I (college) player also. I think he'll have a big year. Eli's an excellent, and steady, defender."

At shortstop, Lukas Buckner also was named East Tennessee Baseball Coaches Player of the Year plus

Among top young talent "who may get an opportunity to see some action" according to Prichard are sophomore Cameron Cooper (outfielder) and freshman Greyson Wright (infielder).

mound," he added. "We just As for team pitching overall, "We're looking for consistenneed to see that consistency

Senior Cooper Schulze provides depth behind the plate.

Looking to become the team's designated hitter while providing outfield depth, is junior Charlie Bozeman, a Samford University commitment. "He's a strong kid who should provide us with some punch in our lineup," the coach said.

As for pitching, "We have a super-talented staff," the Admirals skipper said.

"Probably the best guy, statistically, we have re-

Coach Buckner did not mention a possible closer among his staff.

Prichard said.

With all the talent and experience, what's the biggest concern for this team?

"One thing is staying healthy," Buckner said. "We've already had some guys dinged up a little bit. That would concern me a little bit."

In addition, "Just trying to stay in the mindset of playing good day to day," he added. "We have a talented team, but you still have to do it on the field.

depth" according to Prichard, junior Brody Benko "has had a really good (pre-season)," as he battles for starting time with seniors Hudson Hoffecker and Braden Suggs.

several local honors.

In center field, Brennon Seigler "is on some preseason All-American lists." Buckner said about vet another standout junior.

Senior Mark Underwood, whose defense and clutch hitting in the state title game were huge last May, returns in left field. "Mark hit over .390 last year," coach Buckner said.

Junior Landis Davila, yet another clutch bat, returns in right field.

"That's a talented group; good athletes and good runners (on the bases)," coach Buckner said about his returning outfielders. "Pretty elite defenders. ... Basically three center fielders. ... Brennon and Landis both had good years, hit over .300."

Junior Gavin Brewer takes over catching duties from his brother after Garrett Brewer graduated last spring. "Gavin is a really talented player — I think he's a college baseball player if he has a big year," coach Buckner said. "He's a converted infielder who's done a great job learning how to catch."

turning is Stratton Scott, a UT commit," coach Buckner said about the junior. "He had a big summer, and we're expecting big things out of him."

Others in the talented category who also bring experience include juniors Michael Delph and Braylon Hall.

However, "We have some new additions that are going to be quite good," the coach said.

Look for senior pitcher Ashton Sulack, a 6-foot-3 lefty, to play a bigger role this season. "I think he's going to be really, really big for us," coach Buckner said.

Junior pitcher Ryan Wallace, a lefty, is another "who I am expecting big things from," the coach said. About junior Braxton Lewis, "I think he's going to have a big career" finish.

About junior pitcher Matt Heflin, "I have pretty high expectations for him," coach Buckner said.

Sophomore Reid Thomason also is in the mix. "I think he's going to be tremendous," the coach said.



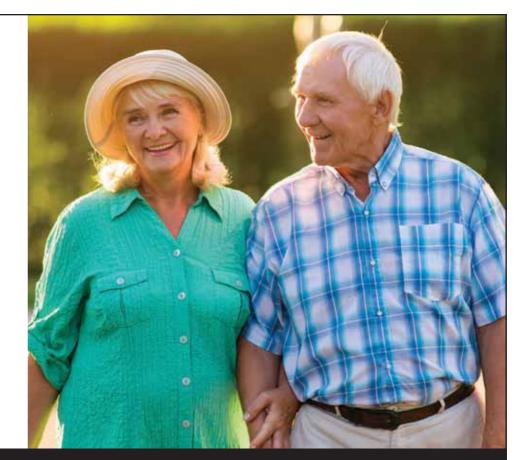
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6C • farragutpress Wednesday, March 22, 2023

HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY HAWKS

For its first 13 years as a high school program, dating back to its first season in spring 2009, Hardin Valley Academy softball had one leader: head coach Whitney Hickam-Cruze.

But the Lady Hawks of 2023 will have its third head coach in as many seasons.

Looking to lead HVA back to the winning ways of seasons past, new head coach Autumn Collin faces the challenge of reversing a rough 2022 season.

Starters

Leading the quest for victories are five Lady Hawk returning starters plus some younger talent Collin is praising.

Returning staff pitching ace Gracie Gray, a senior, is one of two team captains. "She's an amazing force on the mound and at bat," Collin said. "She's an amazing hitter; last year she had 50 RBIs."

Senior Makenzie Mansell, another returning starter, will probably start in either left or right field according to Collin, but also could play some at second base. "She's a great leader," the coach said.

Senior Kaitlynn Mann, the other team captain, will play third base while adding depth as a pitcher. "She's a team leader," Collin said.

Senior center fielder Avery Thrift is the team's lead-



off hitter.

Sophomore Alex Souders is the starting catcher. "She is hard working and can block the ball like nobody's business," the coach said.

Sophomore Ayla Perry, who Collin described as a "lefty slapper," returns after starting at shortstop as a freshman.

See LADY HAWKS on Page 9C

Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs

- 00 Avery Thrift
- 1 Mackenzie Mansell
- 3 Kayla Sosebee
- 4 Nathalia Rodriguez
- 6 Madison Mann
- 8 Natalie Nettles
- 11 Bella Garcia

12 Kate Smith

- 13 Brielle Garson
 - 15 Corley Vaughn

ROSTER

- 16 Kami Taylor
- 17 Gracie Gray
- 19 Jenna Hagee
- 20 Addison Chandler

Hardin Valley

3/27 5:30@ Carter
0/21 0.00 South
3/28 6:00@ Bearden
3/30 6:00@ Farragut
3/31 6:00Karns
4/3 6:00Oak Ridge
4/4 6:00 Heritage
4/6 6:00@ Maryville
4/7 1:00@ Powell
4/10 5:30 Carter
4/11 6:00 William Blount
4/13 6:00 Bearden
4/14-4/15 TBA @ Gibbs Invitational
4/17 6:00Knox Central
4/18 6:00 Farragut
4/19 6:00 South-Doyle
4/20 6:00@ Heritage
4/24 7:00@ Karns
4/26 6:00Knoxville West
4/27-4/28Reg. Chal. HVA/FHS
5/1 6:00Clinton

- 25 Kaitlynn Mann
- 26 Ayla Perry
- 27 Madison Cox
- 29 Ashlynn Storms
- 33 Alex Souders
- 47 Emma Kate Schneider

Concord Christian School Lions

Concerning the young Concord Christian School softball program, head coach Haden Roberts said there's a lot of things "I'm excited about" in 2023.

"I think our biggest strength is our depth and our experience," said the coach, whose team looks to build on a threewin season in 2022 with six returning starters. "Being able to work together as one team, as one family, is really what we have a fact of "



Sophie Starkey

Raleigh Jack Walker

Kate Turner

Addi Brown

Lexi Esteppe

Athena Lester

Concord

3/ 20	@Campbell County 5:30
3/21	@CAK5:30
3/ 23	The Kings Academy 6:00
3/ 25	Lenoir Citynoon
3/25	@ Lenoir City6:00
3/ 27	@FBA5:30
3/ 28	Lakeway5:30
3/ 31	Grace Christian (DH) 5:30
4/3	@TKA6:00
4/6	Fulton6:00

4/11 @Lakeway5:30

4/13 Eagleton (DH)5:30

4/22 FBA.....2:00

4/25 Campbell Co. 6:00

4/14

4/17

4/18

@Fulton6:00

@Rockwood5:30

CAK.....5:30

build our team off of."

Top players Junior Lexi Esteppe, returning at shortstop, "was the top performer on our team last year, and one of the top performers in the district — All-District," Roberts said.

Offensively, the coach said Esteppe had one of the top batting averages in the East Tennessee area in 2022, "and over a .900 fielding percentage," which — similar to her batting average — "also is the highest in school history."

Senior Sophie Starkey returns at first base. "Sophie's our senior leader this year," Roberts said. "We'll be relying on her to do a lot for us." Freshman Katie Phillips will get the start at second base.

Only an eighth-grader, Kensley Jennings will start at third base. "We're really excited about her," Roberts said.

Sophomore Alexis Haynes, a transfer, is starting catcher.

See LADY LIONS on Page 10C

ROSTER

SR	Abbie Lambert	JR	Tasiana Porter	FR
SR	Cortlyn Hedger	SO	Chloe Nestor	FR
SR	Alexis Haynes	SO	Caris Baggett	FR
SR	Claudia Sanchez Jimenez	SO	Kensley Jennings	8th
JR	Katie Phillips	FR	Manhattan Shuler	8th
JR	Nell Pattison	FR		

Best wishes for a great season!





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FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS

Back-to-back TSSAA state championships, an impressive transfer, a 20-game winning pitcher and lots of punch expected from its three-throughfive hitters — not to mention a second season enjoying its has Nick Green's Farragut Lady Admirals softball team looking to reach the top once again.

While graduation hit FHS hard in some places, there's lots of talent once again from top to bottom.

"I don't see us going 43-3" as his 2022 state champs finished, Green said, adding his Lady Admirals were 85-5 during the past two championship seasons combined.

With another extremely tough schedule early on, "We might lose five games the first week," he added.

Either way in terms of a start, "We have to make sure we stay positive," the Admirals skipper said.

Biggest contributors

Junior pitcher Emma Mac-Tavish takes over as staff ace, coming off a stellar 20-2 season in 2022. "She pitched a lot of big games for us," Green said. "She will be the main workhorse for the staff this year.'



ROSTER

Ava Guzowski Sophia Leto Avery Mattina Anna French Caylee George Emma MacTavish Hailey Nichols	Sr Sr Jr Jr Jr Jr	Addison Pressley Rilee Kate Ragan Laney Shrader Aubrie Conger Amelia Dorset Audrey Ginel Elsa Morrison	Jr Jr Soph Soph Soph Soph Soph	Christie George Courtney George Baylee Johnson Bridget Kovacs Alexa Shrader RC Pack	Fr Fr Fr Fr Fr
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Sophomore transfer Elsa Morrison (from Indiana), the new starting catcher, "will probably be the biggest impact player for us this year," the Admirals skipper said. "I think she's going to be an incredible player. She can hit, catch, throw. She will definitely dominate behind the plate."

With Morrison already drawing interest from major college programs including Tennessee and Florida State, "She will pretty much shut down everyFarragut

3/23 @ Heritage 5:30
3/24-3/25 @ Wildcat Classic,
Hixson TN TBD
3/28 @ William Blount 5:30
3/29 Karns JV 6:00
3/30 Hardin Valley 6:00
3/31 Unaka6:00
4/3 Central 6:00
4/46:00
4/6 @ Bearden 5:30
4/11 Heritage6:00
4/12 Powell (CBFO Night) 6:00
4/13 William Blount 6:00
4/18 @ Hardin Valley 5:30
4/19 @ Halls 6:00
4/20 @ Maryville 6:00
4/21 Alcoa6:00
4/25 Grace Christian 6:00
4/27-4/29 Region 2 Challenge TBD
5/1@ Gibbs

body's running game," Green added, "and give us a tremendous boost offensively in the

See LADY ADS on Page 8C

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IRISH

Though five starters return had never to the fold for second-year head coach Brooks Cherry, depth is a serious concern across the Knoxville Catholic softball roster.

"We're down to 11 or 12 kids," Cherry said, having dealt with similar depth issues — experience-wise — in 2022.

"I think last year we started our first game with 19 kids, but 16 of them had never played high school softball — 14 KCHS performers, "We won

played softball period," Cherry said. Though playing at Divithe sion II-AA level "in a

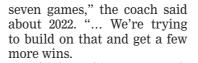
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SO

many Cherry unproven



"I think our biggest strength will be our senior leadership," Cherry added. "We have two kids who play the game the right way.'

Top players

Senior Blair Cherry, who has moved behind the plate to catch, "led our team last year in hitting and home runs,"

coach Cherry said.

Beginning just her second season of playing softball at KCHS, senior Katie Pettinger "will play some first (base) and third (base)," the coach said. "A really good athlete."

Kenzy Navarro "started pretty much every game last year at second base and had a good year," coach Cherry said, adding the junior also could see time at third.

Sophomore outfielder Alice

Parris "started about half the season" in 2022. She could also find time at first base.

Sophomore Danielle Kaczmarek returns as an outfield starter. "She has good speed," coach Cherry said.

The Lady Irish will rely on a freshman pitcher as staff ace.

Caitlyn Brooks "will be our starting pitcher," coach Cherry said. "She's proven she can

See LADY IRISH on Page 10C



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BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS



Good enough to defeat a Farragut team that lost only three games the entire season — while the Lady Ads repeated as state champs the junior-laden and "faster" Bearden softball crew is looking to take the next step toward contention for District 4-4A supremacy.

Though losing a catcher and starting center fielder he said were "two big pieces" helping the 2022 team finish 19-6-1 as district runner-up, secondyear head coach Kenneth Boles has seven of nine Lady Bulldogs starters returning.

"Our team strength this year is going to be our increased speed," the coach said. "We've worked through the off-season, and we've picked up a lot in our speed."

In addition, "We're going to be a little more team-oriented this year," 'he added. "Last year we had a few bumps."

Overall, "If we can get this weather to cooperate, we're going to have a great season," Boles said.

However, "Our district is probably the toughest district

Allie Seritt Rylee Sieber Lauren Spainhower Jaycie Overton Abby Thompson Reese Waltman

in the state," he added. **Top talent**

On the mound, the one-two punch of Lauren Spainhower and Rylee Sieber, both juniors, return. "They're battle-tested, both of them," the coach said, adding that when Sieber isn't pitching, she'll start at second base.

When Spainhower isn't pitching, she will start in center field.

Junior Abby Kelton returns at first base. "She does a great job over there for me," Boles said.

Shortstop Allie Seritt, yet another junior, "doesn't say a lot but she gets the job done," the coach said. "She's kind of like one of those hard-hat people, she puts on her hard-hat

ROSTER -

Elizabeth Newman

Ashlynn Gonzales

Jordan Palmer

Madelyn Brown

Makhia Nickerson

Abby Kelton

Abby Pickard Kendall Hubbs Bella Silvan Sofia Silvan Kendyl May Ransley Greenoe

and goes to work."

Senior Reese Waltman returns to play third base. "She's going to be my core and my anchor for this infield because she brings a lot of stability, a lot of ball knowledge," Boles said. "She's been here through a lot of change and turnover, but she's stuck with it and she does a great job."

Despite the talent loss at catcher, "I'm going to be pretty good behind the plate," Boles said about new starter Kendall Hubbs, a sophomore. "She has taken giant steps this year and she'll probably be in the mix for some outfield varsity time this year, and run some bases for me."

Senior Jaelynn Story provides catching depth.

Farragut High School

Bailey Hauge Megan Lawson Jaelynn Story Catherine Smith Aleksandra Walker

When Sieber is pitching, freshman Megan Lawson will fill the void and start at second base. "She brings a lot of pop in her bat," the coach said. "She's one of those kids you can't really do without. She's a great kid. ... She may do some catching."

In the outfield, sophomore Abby Thompson is set to play right field. "She was there last year, so she's got some experience," the coach said.

Thompson will move to center field when Spainhower is pitching, and sophomore Sofia Silvan will start in right field.

Left field is the starting position for Jaycie Overton, a sophomore. "She's going to bring a little pop with her bat," Boles said. "She played quite a bit

Bearden

	3/23	@ Maryville5:30
	3/24	Cosby 5:30
	3/28	Hardin Valley Academy5:30
	3/30	Heritage5:30
	3/31	@ Jefferson Co 5:30
	4/1	@ Claiborne High School (DH)
	4/4	William Blount 5:30
	4/6	Farragut High School 5:30
	4/11	Maryville6:00
	4/13	@ Hardin Valley Academy 5:30
	4/17	@ Knoxville Halls 6:00
	4/18	@ Heritage5:30
	4/20	@ William Blount * 5:30
	4/21	@ Clinton5:30
	4/24	Lakeway Christian5:30
	4/25	Jefferson Co 5:30
	4/27	@ Karns5:30
	4/28	Karns5:30
1		

for me last year. I put her in a lot of situations that freshmen aren't supposed to be in, just to see if she could handle it. She did well last year."

Lady Ads

From page 7C

middle of the order."

Junior Hailey Nichols, who served as the team's designated player during the regular season last spring, will be at first base — where she filled in, due to injury, during the playoffs. "She gives us a nice big bat in the order," Green said.

Junior Rilee Kate Ragan,

has real good defensive ability and pretty good instincts," the coach said. "... Obviously, she'll be in the middle of the (batting) order somewhere."

Junior Laney Shrader, who returns as starting third baseman, had been limited in preseason workouts and scrimmages due to injury.

Green said the combination of Guzowski, Morrison and Nichols in the power portion Junior Addison Pressley, the lone returning outfield starter and the team's leadoff hitter, will move from left field to center field. "She had a really good year last year at the top of the order for us," Green said. "There's no reason to expect her not to have the same, or better, year this year."

Sophomore Amelia Dorset "will be competing for one of those corner spots," either left said. "Provides a little bit more offensive firepower for us out there."

Depth

Senior transfers Avery Mattina, also a first baseman, and Sophia Leto, also an infielder, "Will give us much-needed depth in the pitching staff," Green said.

Freshman pitcher Baylee Johnson, a transfer who played at a local private school as an eighth-grader, is not eligible for varsity action this season per TSSAA transfer rules. vide depth at second base. "A pretty good defensive kid," the coach said.

Either Morrison or Ragan could be moved to relieve Guzowski at shortstop, Green said.

Ready to play third if needed is Leto, who Green said "has some infield experience." Freshman Alexa Shrader also is expected to provide depth at third. "She has really good de-

"who had some spot starts" in the middle infield during 2022, is the new second baseman. "She's displayed pretty good defensive ability," Green said. "She runs pretty well; we'd like to see her hit .300 or something like that."

Anchoring the infield is senior standout Ava Guzowski, a three-year starting shortstop who is a Kennesaw State University (Georgia) signee. "She of the batting lineup "should be really good, batting at three, four, five ... should be pretty productive."

With those three leading the way, infield "will be the strength of our team this year, as long as we get all of our starters back." Green said.

Losing two starters to graduation after last season, "outfield is a little bit thinner," the coach said. field or right field.

A slap hitter, Dorset "had a couple of spot starts last year," the coach said.

Sophomore Audrey Ginel also is expected to play one of the corner outfield positions. "She's improved a lot offensively," the coach said.

Junior Anna French is in the mix for outfield playing time. "She'll be battling for one of those corner spots," Green "But she will be able to pitch in the JV games for us," Green said.

Providing catching depth are Nichols and French. Backing up at first base will be freshman Bridget Kovacs, who could start whenever Nichols is moved to catcher. Sophomore Aubrie Conger will profensive skills," the coach said.

Outfield depth is a real family affair, featuring junior Caylee George, who also will see "courtesy running or pinchrunning time," along with her freshman twin sisters, Christie George and Courtney George.

The twins "both run pretty good, too, so we could use them as (base) runners, probably early on," the coach said.



CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS

According to head coach Hannah Seaver Logan, there's "three to watch" for Christian Academy of Knoxville high school softball in 2023. The program is coming off a 16-8-1 season in 2022.

'Three to watch'

Senior Addison Smith "is primarily going to be a pitcher for us," Logan said about her staff ace and All-District honoree. "But she also serves as a shortstop and center fielder."

Offensively, Smith batted .458 last season according to the coach, "with five home runs six triples, 19 stolen bases, and she had 28 runs scored."

On the mound in 2022, "She maintained a 2.17 (earned-run average)," Logan added.

"She's an outstanding kid. She has a really fantastic work ethic."

Senior Aubreigh Morgan "is our starting shortstop," Logan said about the All-District honoree, finishing last season with a .361 batting average including one home run and 10 RBI, plus 13 stolen bases.

"She's a phenomenal athlete to watch," the coach added. "A hard worker."

Moreover, Smith and Morgan "are really good leaders who care more about doing the right thing and being good students and taking care of their teammates than they do just winning," Logan said. "But they're also ultra-competitive people; they know how to light a fire in every single girl."

Sophomore Gracie Kringen, another returning All-District



ROSTER -

Aubreigh Morgan	Sr.	Caroline Rogers	Soph.	Charlotte Cole	Jr.
Sophie Carroll	Fr.	Kate Myers	Soph.	Estella Tarbox	Soph.
Audrey Blankenship	Fr.	Mary Grace Matthews	Soph.	Mabel Miller	Fr.
Gracie Kringen Halle Bedwell	Soph. Soph.	Kyla Hill Addison Smith	Jr. Sr.	Greer Dugger	

honoree, will start in left field. "She's a lefthanded slapper who batted .491" with 22 RBI, nine steals and scored 17 runs according to Logan. "She is one of the quietest, most reserved people when you get to know her," the coach said. "... She is an outstanding player and an outstanding person, too."

Other key players Sophomore Halle Bedwell

will start in center field. Right field "is kind of an open position right now," 'the coach said. Sophomore Caroline Rogers

sophomore Caroline Rogers and junior Kyla Hill "rotate between catcher and third base," Logan said. "Both of them play both positions really well."

Junior Charlotte Cole is set to start at second base. "She's been playing for the (school) since she was a fourth-grader," Logan said.

Starting at first base is sophomore Mary Grace Matthews. "She is one of our power hitters," the coach said. "Just a really, really phenomenal athlete. Very motivated.

"If you were to ask, 'hey, who is the workhorse on your team?' It's Mary Grace, she's fantastic."

Among top pitchers is sophomore Kate Myers. Cole and Smith also will pitch. "This year our pitchers are more movement-based, so our defense is going to have to be behind them a little bit more" in 2023, Logan said.

"I think our biggest team strength lies in our chemistry," the coach said. "The girls all care about each other a lot. This is my 10th season as a softball coach, and I've never had a group of girls that have

Biggest strength

ever been this cohesive." Concerns

"We have a young team," Logan said. "The bulk of our team is from sophomores on down."

Lady Hawks

From page 6C

"We're expecting big things out of her at-bats. She can hit, bunt, slap — she can do it all."

Addison Chandler, also a sophomore, "will probably be our second baseman," the coach said, but added she also could see time in the outfield. Either way, "We expect some big things from her," Collin said.

Natalie Nettles, a junior, is the other corner outfielder. "She can track the ball really well," the coach said.

Jenna Hagee, also a junior, "is a lefty power hitter" starting at first base, Collin said.

Freshman Kayla Sosebee is

the team's No. 2 pitcher, Collin said. Also providing depth on the mound is sophomore Emma Kate Schneider, "who is our back-up catcher," the coach said. Her defensive versatility means Schneider likely will play some in the outfield.

Sophomore Nathalia Rodriguez adds pitching depth while serving as a back-up third baseman. Sophomore Madison Mann will back-up at first base.

Biggest team strength

"Our biggest strength is, I think, our ability to adapt," Collin said.

"... We've been really focusing on defense as a team."

Her pitchers exhibiting a good command of the strike zone — even allowing more pitches to be put in play — is key.

"Letting our defense work is the big thing that I want to focus on," the coach said.

Concerns

"The mindset of getting them to believe they're better than what they think. ... Going out with a positive attitude about it," Collin said.



CAK

3/23	5:30 Lakeway Christian
3/27	6:00 Grace Christian
3/28	5:30 @ Jefferson County
3/30	6:00Seymour
3/31	6:00@ The Kings Academy
4/3	5:30.@ First Baptist Academy
4/4	6:00@ Knoxville Catholic
4/5	6:00@ South-Doyle
4/6	5:30 Carter
4/11	5:30 Grace Christian
4/13	6:00 The Kings Academy
4/14	5:30 Webb School
4/17	5:30First Baptist Academy
4/18	5:30@ Concord Christian
4/20	5:30 @ Lakeway Christian
4/24	5:30@ Webb School
4/25	6:00 Knoxville Catholic
4/26	6:00 South-Doyle
4/27	5:00@ Sevier County
5/1	5:30@ Oneida
5/2	5:30. Eagleton Career Academy
5/3	6:00@ Midway
	3/27 3/28 3/30 3/31 4/3 4/4 4/5 4/6 4/11 4/13 4/14 4/17 4/18 4/20 4/24 4/20 4/24 4/25 5/1 5/2



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WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE SPARTANS

There's a lot of "new" with Webb School of Knoxville softball

A program filled with inexperienced players and a new head coach will have quite a place to learn and perform: opening a new softball field just below the school's baseball field — with a new fieldhouse to be shared by the softball and baseball programs set to open sometime in early April.

"We're super-excited about our new field," head coach Tommy Bryant said.

As for winning games, "It's going to be a re-building year," the coach said. "But we do have some really strong players.

"We're going to lean heavily on our senior shortstop/ pitcher Hannah Bruce, who has signed to play with (University of Virginia) Wise," he added. On the mound, "She's going to help us pick up the slack.

"We're going to lean heavily on our seniors."

Senior pitcher Bryn Lawson is staff ace. Seniors Caroline Rice (catcher, first base), Abby Beaty (infield/outfield) and Hollie Shamiyeh (first base and outfield) look to be leaders.

"We'll also be leaning heavily on junior Molly Bryant," who will play either third base, first base or catcher, the coach said. "She's a big stick. She led the state in home runs (among freshmen)" in 2021.



ROSTER

Caroline Rice	Sr	Hannah Bruce	Sr	Jeneva Mitchell	Soph	Lyla Henderson	8th
Bryn Lawson	Sr	Taryn Breeden	Jr	Libby Dunaway	Soph	Terralyn Hill	8th
Abby Beaty	Sr	Molly Bryant	Jr	Matazja Goins	Fr	Avery Wade	8th
Hollie Shamiyeh	Sr	Alexis Barton	Jr	Aubrey Halkett	8th	Emme Yost	8th

Sophomore center fielder Jeneva Mitchell will bring "bigtime help," coach Bryant said. Mitchell will move to shortstop when Bruce is pitching. Sophomore Libby Dunaway (infield/ outfield) also will see lots of playing time.

Freshman Matazja Goins (first base, third base or catcher) "played a little bit last year" as an eighth-grader.

Junior Taryn Breeden was the team's pitching ace last year, but "she's probably not going to get to pitch any this year" due to shoulder surgery, the coach said.

As for Breeden being able to contribute as a hitter or pinch-runner, "She's not going to be able to play until maybe halfway through the season," coach Bryant said.

Biggest team strength

"We've got good team speed," the coach said. "And we've got a mixture of power and contact hitters as well.

"Their attitude and their togetherness: this is a great group of young ladies," he added. "Everybody's got each other's back.'

Moreover, "the handful of really good players are helping

Webb

0 10 4	
3/24	5:30@ Knoxville West
3/25	5:30@ Loudon
3/27	5:30 Kingston
3/28	3:30@ Baylor
3/29	5:30 Rockwood
3/30	5:30 Fulton
3/31	1:00@ Loudon
4/1	12:30 Harriman
4/3	5:30 Knoxville Catholic
4/4	5:30@ Knox Central
4/6	5:30Oakdale
4/10	5:30 West
4/11	3:00 Girls Preparatory School
4/13	5:30 First Baptist Academy
4/14	5:30@ CAK
4/15	11:00 @ Chattanooga Central
4/17	5:30@ Knoxville Catholic
4/18	6:00@ Oakdale
4/19	5:30Knox Central
4/24	5:30 CAK
5/1	6:00Grace Christian
5/2	5:00@ Sweetwater
5/5	4:30 @ Chattanooga Christian

the girls that are new," coach Bryant said.

Concerns

That Lawson stays healthy because there is limited pitching depth.

Overall experience, the coach said, is another big issue. "We've got a lot of girls who haven't played before and are just learning the game. ... Learn as they go, trial by fire."

Lady Lions

From page 6C

The coach said he anticipates Haynes to be "a leader behind the plate."

Nell Pattison, a freshman, will start in left field. Junior Abbie Lambert anchors down things in center field. "She's a newcomer to our team," the

coach said. "A really experienced player. We're excited to have her out there leading our outfield.'

Senior Raleigh Jack Walker is the right fielder. "She's also a newcomer," Roberts said. "She's played a big role in (girls) sports at Concord, so we're real excited."

Cortlyn Hedger is staff ace among pitchers. "She's new to pitching, but has a lot of potential," the coach said. "She's been a big leader on our team since the eighth grade. She's jumped into this new role and she's done a great job."

Roberts did not mention any other Lady Lions pitchers.

Junior Athena Lester will be the CCS designated player. "She comes back to our team with a really high batting average from last year," Roberts said. "A lot of experience." Extra depth

Having freshman Chloe Nestor and eighth-grader Manhattan Shuler on the varsity roster "gives us a lot more

depth than we've had in the past. A lot more athleticism," the coach said.

Assistant coach

Roberts made a point to praise assistant coach Grace Gordon. "She helped this program out a lot," the head coach said.



Knoxville Catholic High School

3/21	6:00 First Baptist Academy	4/14	6:30 Loudon
3/22	6:00Knoxville West	4/17	5:30 Webb School
3/23	6:00Coalfield	4/18	5:30@ First Baptist Academy
3/27	6:00Cocke County	4/20	6:00@ Coalfield
3/28	5:00 @ Girls Preparatory School	4/25	6:00@ CAK
3/29	6:00 Knoxville West	4/27	6:00@ Cocke County
3/30	3:30 @ Baylor (DH)	4/28	5:00 Notre Dame
4/3	5:30 @ Webb School	5/1	6:30@ Loudon
4/4	6:00 CAK	5/2	5:00@ Chattanooga Christian
			-

On the mound, sophomore

4/11 5:30......@ Eagleton Career Academy

ROSTER

Kenzy Navarro	Ir	Katie Pettinger	Çr	Caitlyn Brooks	Fr
Nenzy Navario	01.	Nalie i ellingei	01	Gailiyii Diooks	
Alice Parris	Soph	Maria Wilson	Jr	Deja Casby	Fr
Danielle Kaczmarek	Soph	Maura Laco	Jr	Autumn Shaffer	Fr
Blair Cherry	Sr	Emma Brinkman	Soph		

Lady Irish

From page 7C

throw strikes and knows how to compete on the mound."

Sophomore Emma Brinkman likely will start as either the designated player or in the outfield, the coach said.

Freshman Deja Casby "is projected to start at shortstop," he added.

Junior Maria Wilson "will probably start in right field or first base," coach Cherry said.

Freshman Autumn Shaffer likely will start in left field, while junior Maura Laco "will get some time this year in the outfield," the coach said.



SEE RICK CULOTTA • 8729 KINGSTON PIKE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37923



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farragutpress presents Spring Sports Stories by Alan Sloan, editor@farragutpress.com

farragutpress Wednesday, March 22, 2023 • 11C

FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS

Whether it's the high school, college or professional ranks, year No. 3 for a head coach often proves to be a turning-point season. Really big things have been known to happen in such situations — especially programs with rich histories.

Bradley Culbreth, who enters his third season as Farragut boys soccer head coach, isn't making any big predictions, especially coming off a rare losing season (7-9-2) for a program his father, the late Wallie Culbreth, led to four state championship and one national title (2004) in just a seven-season span: 2003-2009.

However, "I can promise you that won't happen with this team," Culbreth said about another losing record. "There might be some tight games this year, but we expect to be winning at the end of them all.

"Last year was a growing year for us physically and mentally," he added. "We had some internal dynamics that we all learned from that was necessary growing pains. This team is eager to live up to the Farragut soccer expectations and hang a new banner at the field."

With Farragut's final game last season a district tourney playoff loss to rival Bearden, eventual Class AAA state runner-up, "I was eager to roll the ball out when last season ended," Culbreth said. "This is going to be a fun team to coach.

"Defense is mature, midfield has depth," Culbreth said about



his team strengths. "We are big, strong and fast. ... I have a lot of different dynamics to this team.

"Putting them in a position to be their strongest is the hard part because they all do so many different things," which Culbreth labeled "great problem."

Concerns

"Starting fast in games," the coach said. "Every team has an identity, and this group likes to get settled in before they get go-

See FARRAGUT on Page 12C

ROSTER

Ty Finnegan	Sr.
Rowan Floyd	So.
William Gallaher	Sr.
Zack Guigou	So.
Ethan Guo	Fr.
Hudson Hale	Fr.
Malik Hamed	Jr.
Nathan Henderson	Fr.
Willam Kim	So.
Muhammad Malik	So.
Daniel Martin	So.

Ryan McCueFr.Ahadu MengeshaSo.Ahmad MessidiJr.Jonathan MorenoSo.Case PappasJr.Zaxton RobertsFr.Gavin SamplesSo.Cooper SandidgeFr.Samuel ShumanSo.Peyton SimmonsJr.Ruhaan SinghFr.

3/27 Oak Ridge High School7:00
3/31 @ (N) Bearden Invitational
1/1 @ (N) Reardon Invitational 7:00

Farragut

3/24 @ West High School7:00

High School7:00 4/18 Austin-East High School .6:30 4/20 Hardin Valley Academy * 7:00 4/25 @ William Blount

High School*6:00 4/28 Bearden High School ..* 7:30 5/2 @ Heritage High School .* 6:00 5/4 East Hamilton High School 6:00

Photo Courtesy of Carlos Reveiz

Claudio Song	Jr.
Eric Sonnenschein	Sr.
Charlie Sorochan	Fr.
lan Sorochan	Sr.
Jonah Thomas	Jr.
Lincoln Unger	Fr.
Zane Unger	Jr.
Connor Watson	Fr.
Camden Williams	Sr.

BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS

Brady Anderson Fr.

Jr.

So.

Sr.

Jr.

S0.

Fr.

Jr.

Fr.

Fr.

Gavin Barnes

Joe Brennen

Jack Bukovitz

Juan Byas

Brooks Burnette

Adrian D'Aloisio

Anders Deets

Edwin Denic

Ethan Eriksen

Matthew Burney Fr.

In the last three TSSAA Class AAA boys soccer state championship games, perennial power Bearden has represented the eastern half of Tennessee.

Wearing the championship crown after a thrilling overtime shootout victory in 2019, the SoccerDawgs have finished as state runner-up the past two seasons (2020 season lost to CO-VID). An All-American forward leading a deep and talented front line, plus star potential on defense and goaltending, are expected to carry Bearden early in 2023 while a young, but



Bearden

3/23	7:00	Knox Central
3/24	7:00 Christ F	Presbyterian Acad
3/28	7:00	Lenoir City
3/30-	4/2Be	arden Invitational

4/10 7:00.....Greeneville

4/13 7:00@ Hardin Valley Academy

4/18 7:00..... Alcoa

4/20 7:00......Maryville

4/25 6:00..... Heritage

4/28 7:30.....@ Farragut

4/6

7:00 Knox West

6:30.....@ William Blount 5/3 See BEARDEN on Page 15C Bearden High School boys soccer seniors Photo Courtesy of Liza Hutchison ROSTER Nic Prins Aidan Ainsworth Fr. Chris Faircloth So. Omar Hewzi Jr. Shepard McMurray Hayden Tate Sr. Jr. Jr. Cole Hutchison Andy Mowery Jack Tirgrath Yousuf Al Haddad So. Ethan Ford Sr. Sr. Fr. Jack Raulston Jr. Jr. Lucas Ford Addison Johnson Tate Whillock Omar Ardahji So. So. Ben Mowery **Brody Schwall** So. Fr. Fr. Sr. Marcus Bishop Sr. Preston Ford So. Eli Keener Fr. Logan Nelson So. Harrison Schwall Sr. Yasir Wirya Jr. Jackson Wolverton Hamid Djouadi Sr. **Griffin Foster** Daniel Kinney Lucas Nordin Sr. **Dillon Sims** Jr. So. Jr. So. Wylder Lee Bryce Pereyo Shawn Spencer Ethan Yeow Ahmed Dkhiri Fr. Eric Freudenberg Sr. Jr. So. Jr. Fr. **Chandler** Donohoe Noah Price Jashua Garcia So. Jaden Mann Cole Stopka Josiah Yeow Sr. Jr. So. So. Sr.





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HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY HAWKS

A nice mix of experience and talented young soccer players at Hardin Valley Academy — known for being quick on their feet as a team year in, year out — look to challenge for District 4-AAA supremacy in 2023.

The task is harder without one of the team's best players — who doubles as a team leader. Brady Margo, senior All-state defender and a team captain, "is out right now with a major injury," head coach Jessie Stephens said. "We're doubtful we'll have him at all this season. That's a really big hit for us. ... He's so talented and so charismatic. He just kind of puts the team on his back."

Among her six healthy starters who return, "We're getting Brady Hammer back," Stephens said about the All-Region 2-AAA/All-District junior forward. "He's very creative and very dynamic on the ball. He brings a lot of speed to our team."

Senior DJ Powers, a returning All-District starter in the midfield. "is a really consistent, really steady piece for us," said the coach, whose team was eliminated in the district tourney semifinals in 2022 despite losing just two games all season. "A good decisionmaker; kind of like commands



Lawson Bledsoe

Avery Bolas

Jack Brewer

Ben Brophy

Nolan Burgess

Josh Colomac

Blaine Dulniak

Ricardo Espinal

Vance Easler

Jose Galicia

Fr.

Sr.

Sr.

So.

Jr.

So.

So.

So.

Jr.

Fr.

the midfield for us."

Senior Ishmael Palacios, an outside fullback who's transitioning from forward, "is one of my favorite players to watch," Stephens said. "He is just a great kid and a great defender — we're so lucky to have him back."

Junior Marques Powers, also an outside fullback, "is our only returning back-line player," the coach said. "He's

See HVA on Page 13C

ROSTER

Brady Hammer Jr. Dane Hammer Fr. David Hart Fr. Tito Hernandez Jr. Nathan Holbrook So. Benjamin Knapp Fr. Ryder Kolesar Fr. Adam Leonard So. Robert Manrod Sr. Brady Margo Sr.

Connor Mast Sr. Duncan Mauck So. Derek Moran-Ruiz Fr. Ish Palacios Sr. Matthew Pastor Fr. **Daniel Perez** Jr. D.J. Powers Sr. Margues Powers Jr. Kayden Segich Sr.

Benson Smith

Rees Smith Fr. Gavin Standafer So. **Gray Stephens** So. Ali Tarch Fr. Ethan Tucker So. Cash White Fr. Ryder White Fr. Camden Wolfe Fr. Jackson Yarbrough So.

Hardin Valley

3/23 Oak Ridge7:00

.....7:00

.....7:00

3/30 @ (N) Bearden Invitational

3/31@ (N) Bearden Invitational

4/1 @ (N) Bearden Invitational

4/4 @ Heritage * 6:00

4/6 @ Webb School 6:30

4/11 William Blount *7:00

4/13 Bearden *7:00

4/18 @ Lenoir City *7:00

4/20 @ Farragut *7:00

4/25 Maryville *7:00

4/27 @ Knoxville Catholic ...7:00

5/2 @ Powell7:00

Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs

CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS

Coming off earning a trip to the TSSAA Division II-A Region tournament last season. Concord Christian School's boys soccer team is loaded with experience and maturity for 2023.

"I've got everybody back, and there's 10 seniors," head coach Fernando Lopez said. "We've got experience, but I think the biggest thing this year is unity.'

Praising the "hard work" from his team as a whole, "I think it's been showing in the pre-season," the coach said. "They came in fit.

"I think we're ready to take on all the teams," he added. "... We're focused and ready to take on the challenge."

Top talent

Senior Kayden Sherritze returns as goalkeeper. "He's a one of the up-and-coming lead-

strong keeper; he's been working hard all preseason," Lopez said. "I'm really confident with him in the



Lopez

coach said. 'Very calm and decisive."

Senior midfielder Army Eckles "is calm on the ball and distributes the ball well," Lopez said. "He has worked hard all pre-season to get fit."

Sophomore Gage Jacobs "is

ers of the team," the coach said about the midfielder.

Three forwards Lopez highlighted were senior Marshall Craft, sophomore Franklin Von Hagen and senior Jared Huff.

Von Hagen "was one of my top players last year" as a freshman, the coach said. "Very crafty and versatile – can play anywhere on the field."

Craft and Huff "are versatile, can also play the midfield," Lopez said. "They are two other players who have been working hard in pre-season."

Concerns

Looking ahead, "We'll have to rebuild the program next year," Lopez said, as the Lions will look to groom some of the younger players for leadership roles ahead.

Concord

Fr.

3/24 @ McMinn County	4/4 CAK5:30pm
(Smoky Mtn Cup)8:00 pm	4/6 @ Oak Ridge6 pm
3/25 @ Halls	4/11 Maryville Christian 5:30pm
(Smoky Mtn Cup)3:30pm	4/14 @ The King's Academy6:30pm
3/26 @ William Blount	4/20 Grace Christian 5:30pm
(Smoky Mtn Cup)1:30pm	4/25 @Lakeway Christian6 pm
3/28 @ Providence Academy5 pm	4/27 @ Berean Christian5:30 pm

ROSTER

Jake Baldwin	Sr	Kayden Sherritze Sr	Franklin
Marshall Craft	Sr	Leo Yamanaka Sr	Von Hagen Soph
John Dunn	Sr	Nate Von Hagen Jr	Cooper Craft Fr
Army Eckles	Sr	Alex Baldwin Soph	Jackson Krahl Fr
Caden Gheen	Sr	Jace Gheen Soph	Josh Miller Fr
Jude Goldenberg	Sr	Jordan Harrell Soph	Ben Mollenhour Fr
Jared Huff	Sr	Gage Jacobs Soph	
Jaewon Lee	Sr	Harvey Scott Soph	

of Sherritze, senior Jude Goldenberg centerfullback. "He's one of the lead-

back."

is

Farragut

From page 11C

ing. It will be on the coaches to keep the same level of intensity from start to finish."

Top returnees

Senior Eric Sonnenschein "is a dynamic midfielder with a very high soccer IQ," Culbreth said. "He is our quarterback on the field that connects all three phases of the game."

A pair of All-state defenders returning are seniors Jack Bukovitz (All-state in 2022 and a two-time All-Region 2-AAA and All-District honoree) and Will Gallaher (All-state 2021 who also is a two-time All-Region 2-AAA and All-District honoree).

"I don't think there's two better center-backs in the state," Culbreth said. "They're both 6(-foot-)2, and both of them have started the last two years. They don't make it easy on yah. (This pair) makes me very solid from the back upward."

Brooks Burnette, a junior forward, earned All-Region and All-District honors as a freshman in 2021. "Brooks is big, strong and fast — he's going to make it hard on you," the coach said.

Junior forward Zane Unger "has a lot of upside and is very skilled," Culbreth said. "... Zane has grown, put on a lot of muscle, but he's tricky with his feet.

"Brooks and Zane, they've both started for two years also.'

Other returners who contributed as starters or off the bench last season are Juan Byas (sophomore defender), Case Pappas (junior midfielder/defender), Gavin Samples (sophomore forward, midfield), Ian Sorochan (senior forward), Jonah Thomas (junior defender), Camden Williams (senior defender), Gavin Barnes (junior goalkeeper), Ty Finnegan (senior defender), Ahadu Mengesha (sophomore midfielder), Anders Deets (junior midfielder), Zack Guigou (sophomore midfielder) and Lincoln Unger (freshman multi-positions).



Best wishes for a great season!





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KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IRISH

With eight starters returning — "and two transfers that are going to be starting" Knoxville Catholic boys soccer may be ready to reverse its two-year struggles playing in Division II-AA according to the boss.

"I've got a bunch who have been through the trenches, I'll say that much," said Gordon Heins, in his 11th season as KCHS boys soccer head coach. "... We're probably deeper than we have been in the past."

As a Division II-AA East Region team, "We are in the hardest region in the state," Heins said about sharing the region with powerhouse Chattanooga Baylor among others.

Though having never won a region game in the program's first two seasons playing in Division II-AA (0-6-1), "We've got a lot of third-year and secondyear starters who know what it takes," the coach said. "We're much better prepared this year than we've been in the past."

Biggest strength

"Our biggest strength is in the midfield for sure ... attacking and defending in the midfield," Heins said.



ROSTER

Marcos Garcia

Magnus Dickinson

Joshua Palacios

Tyler Dorn

Mac Hawley

Jack Tucker

William Ainsworth Austin Ayo Christian Grover Jonathan Shaver Elijah McManaway Ryan Mather **Rodrigo Padilla**

Top talent

Chris Grill

Mario Rivera

Daniel Walsh

Alex Powers

Patrick Barry

Despite the team's experience, there's only one senior who's a returning starter: midfielder Mario Rivera.

"He's just the complete player," Heins said. "He's intelligent, he plays simple, he's

very, very deceptive in his play. He wins all the 50-50 balls. He can place the ball 40 yards diagonally right to someone's feet.

"He's probably one of the best players that we've had here since I've been here in my

Trevor Belanger Grayson Goodale

11 years, for sure," the coach

added about Rivera. "He kind

of sets the standard for every-

Another key midfielder is

sophomore returning starter

Josh Palacios, "who is very similar to Mario," Heins said.

body else."

J.T. Tucker

Catholic

3/25	@ Baylor School *.3:00/ 5:00
3/28	@t Christian Academy
of	Knoxville7:00
3/30	@ Chattanooga
Cł	nristian School *6:00
4/4	Alcoa High School 5:00
4/4	Loudon High School7:00
4/11	Powell High School7:00
4/14	@ Farragut High School . 7:00
4/19	McCallie School *7:00
4/21	@ Christian Academy
of	Knoxville7:00
4/25	Webb School
of	Knoxville *7:00
4/27	Hardin Valley Academy7:00
5/2	Lenoir City High School7:00
5/4	Oak Ridge High School7:00

Transfer J.T. Tucker, a sophomore, will start as a centermidfielder. "He's very intelligent player," the coach said. Having junior Jonathan Shaver back "as a third-year

See KCHS on Page 14C

Webb School of Knoxville Spartans

Loaded with talented upperclassmen — though lacking "a traditional striker" according to the head coach — Webb School of Knoxville boys soccer looks to fly high in its second season playing the state's biggest private schools in Division II-AA.

Key players remain who contributed to the Spartans' Division II-A state championship in 2021. "We're an older team: we've got 12 seniors and seven juniors," Webb head coach Jared Ziegler said.

"And the guys are really fired up to play this year (based on) the way we went out last year," he added about a tough season-ending state quarterfinal playoff loss to Memphis Christian Brothers (final 9-4-1 Webb record). "I think they've got a chip on their shoulders, something to prove."

Senior Nathan Pope returns as a goalkeeper with tons of experience. His first start came as a freshman "during the cancelled season (2020)," Ziegler said. "He's basically played almost every game since." In goal when the Spartans won the 2021 Division II-A state title, Pope's shutout performance in the championship-



winning match "was the best game I think he's played in his life," the coach added. "He's definitely one of our leaders a quiet lead-by-example type of player. ... A really smart kid." Senior Luke Dolin returns as a player "who's played all over for us: outside back, on the wing ... though he's had an injury plagued career," Ziegler said. "He's super tough. ... He's one of the most tenacious players I think I've ever coached. He's just completely fearless. Signing with Elon University (North Carolina), senior J.P. Quigley, a Tennessee Sportswriters All-State honoree last season, returns to the midfield

— his main position — though due to defensive injuries played center fullback most of last season.

Webb

3/24	@ Austin-East High School
	6:30 PM
3/28	The King's Academy
	5:45 PM
4/6	Hardin Valley Academy
	5:30 PM
4/11	@ Oak Ridge High School
	7:00 PM
4/14	@ Chattanooga Christian
	School* 6:00 PM
4/19	Loudon High School
	5:45 PM
4/21	Baylor School* 6:00 PM
4/25	@ Knoxville Catholic
	High School* 7:00 PM
4/29	@ West High School
	2:00 PM
5/2	@ McCallie School5:30 PM

an attacking midfielder. "He's another guy who can do it all," Ziegler said. "Really a positive kid; he's fast, strong and tech-

'He can play anywhere for

us, but he's primarily our holding mid(fielder)," the coach said.

Junior Alex Middlecoff, a two-year starter, returns as nical.

A Rhodes College (Memphis) signee, senior Pierce Miller, returning as a wing (forward),

See WEBB on Page 14C

HVA

From page 12C

one of my favorites — he's so consistent. He's a super-steady defender. In my opinion, one the better ones around. I love how Marques plays. ... Very consistent and very smart."

Senior goalkeeper Avery Bolas also returns.

"We've got a new goalkeeper coming in; his name is Adam

Leonard," Stephens said about the sophomore. "I'm really excited about him getting in the mix. He's very talented.'

Senior Connor Mast, a defensive midfielder, "is being moved to the back line," Stephens said. "He's really sturdy, not flashy; a consistent player. It's good to have him back. We'll need that senior leadership that he brings to the field. "We've got some newcomers we're excited about," the coach added. Nathan Holbrook, a sophomore, will start at forward. "He's worked really hard this off-season. You can see a lot of improvement in him."

Ben Brophy, also a sophomore forward, will see lots of playing time. Gavin Standafer, a sophomore midfielder, "got some minutes last year as a freshman.'

Among the younger players, "Our freshman class, overall, like I'm very pleased with the style of soccer they play and their soccer knowledge," the coach said.

Biggest team strength

"I'd say we're decently quick," Stephens said about her Hawks. "That's something we've always had, overall, is really solid team speed. Our ability to get in behind people

has always been a strength of ours."

Concerns

"I would say a big weakness for us is just (lacking) size," the coach said. "... We play a pretty style of soccer, but we don't have a lot of size and strength."

By comparison, Stephens said district rivals Bearden, Farragut and Maryville "are huge."



HRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS

At the top level of Christian Academy of Knoxville boys soccer talent and experience, the "CAK 8" are expected to toe the line — including well beyond the soccer pitch.

About his six top senior returnees, and two junior standouts, "These guys are the leaders ... I expect them to be leaders on and off the field," said second-year CAK head coach Bobby Deets, whose 2022 team was district champs and region finalist before falling in the Division II-A state quarterfinals.

Setting the desired example is senior outside fullback Dario Love, who is out indefinitely with an injury.

"Dario's leadership, on and off the field, is exemplary," the coach said. "His attitude is second to none. He's going to help the coaching staff this year while he's injured. I'm hoping he returns by the end of April. beginning of May."

Overall with the CAK 8, Deets labeled them "a very talented group.'

"I'm looking forward to another great year, seeing these guys grow in maturity and wis-

returning (starter) goalkeeper

is a huge advantage," Heins

said. "He's 6-(foot)-2, athletic,

strong, fast, quick, communi-

cates well. Distributes the ball

Defense is another strong

and experienced area, with

dom," he added. **Other CAK 8**

Senior Chase Stokely, attacking midfielder, "was one of our leading goal scorers last year,"



out of them," Deets said of Stokely and Franks.

Senior forward Adam Howard will add to the offensive firepower, as will fellow senior forward Walker Beavers, who "probably will be a starter," the coach said.

Both top juniors, Lukas Schreuder and Carson Woodroof, are defensive midfielders. "I'd like to see them really step up and take ownership of those roles," Deets said.

Two top senior defenders return in Kaleab Belk, center fullback, and Walker Douglass, outside fullback.

Goalkeeping (as of this story's deadline) "is one of those things we're continuing to work on daily," the coach said. Senior Jonathan Poston is among those in the mix.

Others in the mix

Senior Ethan Harpending (outside forward) and junior Mac Collier (center-midfield) are battling for playing time, as are senior defenders David Elliott, Cade Box, Ethan Coffey and Wesley Hood.

Despite the CAK 8 and the other above-mentioned talent,

Walker Beavers

Ethan Boudreaux

Walker Douglass

Kaleab Belk

Cade Box

Caleb Bradley

Ethan Coffey

Mac Collier

David Elliott

Will Franks

"We also have a lot of young talent that are freshmen this year," Deets said. "A large freshmen group; around 10.

"We'll look for some of them to contribute," he added.

Biggest strength

"The overall strength of the team is understanding how simple this game can be played," Deets said.

Concerns

"How to integrate these freshmen and have them grow up real quick," the coach said. "I expect them to catch up to speed quickly."

ROSTER -

Ethan Harpending	Sr.	Triston Miller	So.
Nate Hickman	Fr.	Graham Morrell	Fr.
Wesley Hood	Sr.	Jonathan Poston	Sr.
Adam Howard	Sr.	Lukas Schreuder	Jr.
Tucker Jack	Fr.	Jake Slack	Fr.
Ethan Johnson	Fr.	Chase Stokely	Sr.
Elijah Krokowski	8th	Colby Stokely	Fr.
Micah Krokowski	Fr.	Andrew Tsapenko	Fr.
Hudson Ley	Fr.	Carson Woodroof	Jr.
Dario Love	Sr.		

three returning starters.

William Ainsworth, a junior, "bigger, faster, stronger, more intelligent," Heins said.

Junior Rodrigo Padilla "is probably our best outside defender," the coach said about this third-year starter.

Right fullback, junior Ryan Mather, is another third-year starter.

Still another third-year starter, who this season has moved to center-fullback, is junior Austin Ayo.

Up top features sophomore forward Marcos Garcia, who started as a freshman. "He's bigger, faster, stronger and more confident than he was last year," Heins said.

Also a starting forward is

freshman Jack Tucker, "who brings a lot of strength up top that we haven't had in terms of a pure finisher," the coach said. "He was on the Nashville FC Academy team."

Freshman Trevor Belanger is another youngster starting at forward. "A strong, quality player up top," Heins said.

Junior Grayson Goodale

could play either up top or as a defender. "He is going to be a very strong contributor, and probably first off the bench," the coach said. "He's the strongest and most athletic player we have."

CAK

3/23 8:00@ Morristown East

3/24 2:00 @ Seymour (SMC)

3/25 1:30..@ Jefferson Co. (SMC)

3/28 7:00 Knox Catholic

3/31 7:30 The Kings Academy

4/11 6:00 Providence

4/14 7:00@ Berean

4/18 7:00 Grace Christian

4/27 6:15 @ Lakeway Christian

4/4

4/6

7:00.....@ Concord Christian

7:00.....@ Farragut

(SMC)

Others looking to add depth include sophomore midfielder Christian Grover and junior midfielder Patrick Barry.

Webb

KCHS

From page 13C

From page 13C

very well."

"has been a starter his whole career as well," the coach said. A Tennessee Sports Writers All-State honoree as a sophomore, "He's an incredible attacking threat."

Repeat honors last year as a junior were thwarted due to a back injury. "... He's one of the fastest guys I think I've ever seen. ... I think he's a Division I (college capable) player."

Junior midfielder Warren Hurst, who "played a lot of minutes for us last year," has recovered from a broken leg suffered last fall, Ziegler said. "He's a warrior, and he's going to be an important component

for us this year."

Junior forward Roman Nasser "played a lot of minutes in the second half of the season for us last year," the coach said. "We've played him at striker, and also played him at wing."

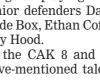
Sophomore Greyson Webb 'will probably be in the starting line-up at times," Ziegler said. "He can play in the midfield, we've played him at striker some and we've played him on the wing. ... He's really technically gifted."

Senior Axel Mnzava, left fullback, "saw a lot of minutes at defensive midfield last year," the coach said. "He did great in that spot for us last year; buthe's been really good for uson the back line in four preseason games."

Senior Carter Prince, a firstyear starter at center-fullback, "started playing significant minutes" in 2022," Ziegler said. "... I'm really happy with Carter." **Biggest strength**

"We seem really tight knit," the coach said. "I think the guys really enjoy being around one another."





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Sr.



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CHRISTIAN SCHOOL KNOXVILLE

Despite having a roster filled with high school soccer players practically new to the sport, Knoxville Christian School's boys team still managed four wins in eight games during the program's inaugural season in 2022.

Many of those players return, and should be better with an added year of experience.

"This is the second year of the program, and we're definitely going in the right direction," Knights head coach Ivansky Rosario said. "They've definitely shown a lot of grit ... way more than we had last year."

However, "Most of them have barely any experience playing," the coach added. "This is their second or third year of playing.

"But they've shown a desire to grow."

Top players

Among many returning starters is junior Conner Wallman, the team's left striker who led the Knights in goals scored last season.

On the opposite side looking to fill the nets is Ryan Haeberli, right striker (forward) who also was near the top in goals scored.

Also

Parker

Valle

who



home key goals last season. "Keep an eye

on Parker," Rosario said.

Jacob Young, also a junior, looks to add scoring punch at forward.

Adding still more experience to the line-up is center-back/ defensive midfielder Kiran Varma, a senior.

Zunze Hong, a sophomore, is a key right midfielder/defensive midfielder. Caleb Hamman, a junior, returns as the KCS goalkeeper.

Nicolas Lopez, a sophomore transfer from Madrid, Spain, could be a key cog as a defensive midfielder. "He is a workhorse for sure," Rosario said.

3/28

4/3

4/6

4/10

4/14

4/18

4/21

5/1

5/4

5/9-5

Caleb

Jacob

Ryan

Nicola

Evan S

Parker

Tristar

Kiran

Two more Knights to watch among the younger players, the coach said, are Brady Perkins and Bo Griffin.

Bigger schedule Adding seven more matches to its regular season schedule in 2023 allows the Knights to gain even more game-time experience. In addition, KCS will travel to Dayton (Rhea County) for the annual National Association of Christian Athletes tournament May 9-12.

Biggest team strength

"I'd say our resilience and our ability to look at ourselves and know what we have to do to push forward," Rosario said about the biggest team strengths.

KCS

4:00@ JFW	
4:30JFW	
5:30@ Clayton Bradley	
5:30 Ambassadors	
4:30JFW	
5:30@ Lakeway Christian	
1:00@ Berean	
7:00 @ Karns	
5:30Ambassadors	
TBA@ NACA Tournament	j/12

ROSTER

Hamman	Conner Wallman
Young	Evan Swanson
Haeberli	Elizabeth Aturinda
as Lopez	Eli Vaughan
Smith	Zunze Hong
r La Valle Rivera	Bo Griffin
n Cody	Brady Perkins
Varma	Katie Barnes

Bearden

From page 11C

talented, midfield adjusts in an area hit hard by graduation.

"We lost about four seniors in our midfield last year," said BHS head coach Ryan Radcliffe, whose team is coming off a 21-2-3 season in 2022.

Those graduation losses weren't just physical in nature.

"I think the biggest difference you're going to see this year is, we had a lot of big voices last year in our senior class — a lot of leadership and vocal presence," Radcliffe said. "That's going to be the biggest thing for us to find this year, are those vocal people. Find some leadership amongst the talent.

"I think talent-wise, we compare to last year — maybe even have a little bit more talent this year," the coach added. "But talent alone doesn't win you a championship."

Specifically, Radcliffe said he is looking for "some people in there, especially some seniors, who can step up and take on some leadership roles for us."

Proven talent

When analyzing overall talent, a good place to start with the SoccerDawgs is senior All-American/two-time All-state forward Lucas Nordin, named Tennessee Player of the Year last season.

He scored 38 goals in 2022, and has "right around 60" for his career — having lost most of his freshman season in 2020 due to COVID cancellations.

"In all honesty, he looks faster and stronger than he's been in the past," Radcliffe said. Although saying Nordin "is not the most vocal" in terms of leadership style, the coach added, "He's definitely somebody that we're going to lean on in terms of production on the field.'

In fact, "He just seems to be on a different level now."

Also up top is fellow senior Ethan Ford. A third-year starter, "he's a multi-sport athlete, strong and fast and physical," Radcliffe said. "We rely on him to score goals."

Junior forward Dillon Sims "played varsity for us as a freshman, then went to Nashville for his sophomore year, and now is back," the coach said. "He's definitely one we're going to rely on to help score some goals and (add) assists up top.

"I think our attack and our front line is going to be special to watch and fun to watch," he added.

Jack Raulston, a junior, will look to lead among a midfield with many new faces. "He's played a lot, both as a freshman and as a sophomore," Radcliffe said. "He looks good," he's grown; and has taken some big steps forward. Another player

who we hope can step in and score some goals for us."

Defensively, senior Cole Hutchison "is a two-year starter for us in the back line," the coach said. "Again, somebody we'll rely on a lot, hopefully giving us some experience and some leadership."

Junior Shepard McMurray is a returning defensive starter "who has experience back there," Radcliffe said.

Sophomore goalkeeper Logan Nelson "started for us as a freshman," the coach said. "Hopefully he'll be able to take a new step forward for us."

Emerging talent

Among new starters and players looking to see lots of playing time include sophomore Cole Stopka, "somebody in the back who's really had a good pre-season," Radcliffe said. "A big kid."

Junior Nicolas Prins "is a very talented kid who's going

to step into our back line," the coach said. "He had a phenomenal scrimmage (recently).'

In his first season as a SoccerDawg, senior Hayden Tate is a forward "who may score a lot of goals for us this year," Radcliffe said.

Senior forward Harrison Schwall "will get a lot of minutes up top.

"We definitely have a fair amount of forward depth that hopefully can help us score a lot of goals and take a lot of pressure off of Lucas as well," the coach added.

Looking to fortify the midfield is senior Eric Freudenberg. "He's looked good. He'll probably play a big role," Radcliffe said.

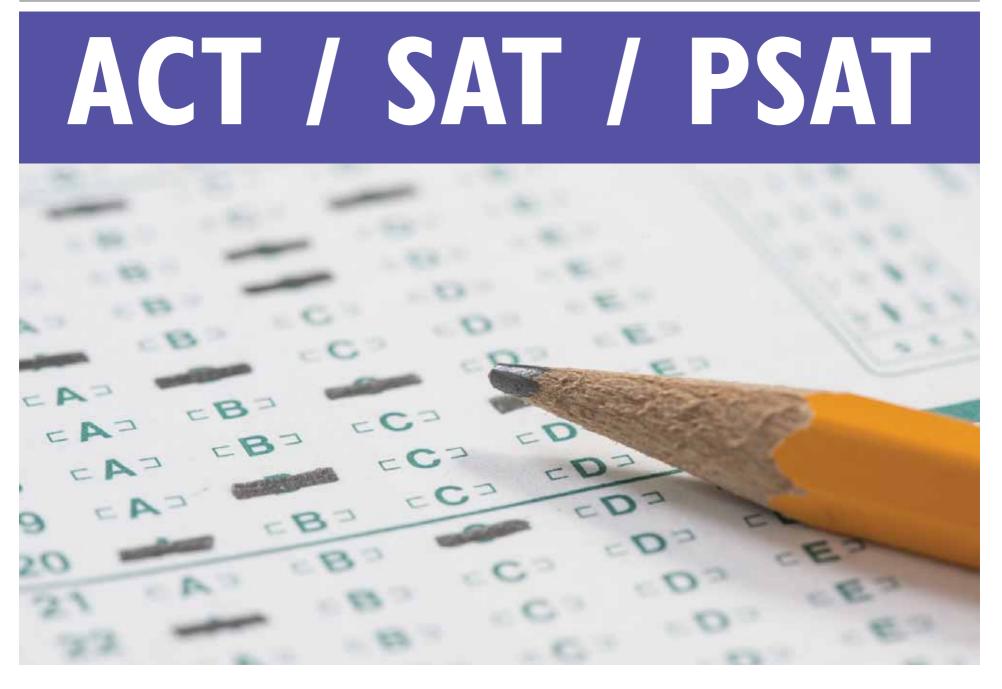
Senior Hamid Djouadi looks to contribute as either a midfielder or forward. "He will be a bigger piece to our puzzle this year, too," the coach said.

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