

Spring sports on their way

Mica Paulicheck
Staff Writer

Spring is on the way, and with spring comes a lineup of sports: baseball, softball, tennis, track and golf. Practices will start March 1st, and the teams will all be readying themselves for a good season. **Baseball:** This year's baseball team will be very young, made up mostly of sophomores.

"We graduated nine seniors last year," said Coach Chad Ripke. "Seven of them were starters on the team that finished 5th in state last year and 3rd the year before."

Two returning starters are juniors Justin Altmeyer and Cameron Duckett. Seniors Dan Webb and Travis Sorenson will be competing for starting positions, as well as returning sophomores Zak Allen, Matt Doyle, Ben MacPherson, Clayton Panzeri, Mitch Vander Linden, Ben Zakheim, and Henry Zaring.

The team's goals include continuing Freeman's success in baseball and completing for a league championship as well as advancing as far as they can in the postseason.

"The kids would love to earn a return trip back to Yakima," said Ripke.

Duckett earned first team all-league infielder honors last season, and junior Justin Altmeyer was named second team all-league infielder.

The first home game will be April 6th against Lakeside. **Softball:** The softball team is fairly experienced with five returning seniors, but every position is open to everyone on the team.

The team doesn't have any goals set yet, but Coach Scott Moore said they would like to achieve a sense of closeness, as well as winning league and going to state.

Their main concern is finding a backup pitcher to work with senior Amanda Malloy.

"I don't know yet [who the outstanding players will be], but anybody can make it and I want my freshman and sophomores to step up," said Moore.

However, he expects the seniors to be leaders on the diamond.

The coaching staff this year will include Jessica Jackson, Guy Coumont, and volunteer coach Melissa Baker.

The first home game will be on April 13th against Chewelah.

Tennis: The girls' tennis team looks for strong leadership from state competitors seniors

Blair Riddle and Katie Bauer who helped earn a state championship last year. They, as well as junior Jenna Lee, are the stars of an experienced girls' team.

The boys' team, however, is fairly young, and they'll be focusing on building the team and learning basic fundamentals. The boys return senior Max Casto and sophomore Austin Fish.

There are no changes in the coaching staff this year. This is Longinotti's eighth season as the head coach, and the second year for junior varsity coach Cathy Lee.

"She brings a ton of experience from playing USTA level tennis to our team," said Longinotti. "Coach Lee will have a bigger role this year, and will be teaching the players a lot of strategy and technique."

The first home game against Valley Christian will be March 23rd.

Track: Both boys' and girls' track teams this year have a good mixture of old and young athletes. The boys have more seniors, and the girls have a bit more youth with only two seniors, Taylor Naber and Stephanie Barrong.

Both teams plan on being highly competitive and their goals include league and district championships. The boys need to work on their throwing events, considering they lost their top throwers last year and others will need to step up.

The boys look for great performances from returning team members, including senior Chase Watson in the javelin, junior Josh Richardson for the 400 meter dash, junior Tucker Rudy who is the top returning 100 and 200 meter runner from our league, sophomore Quinn Robinson for the 800 meter run, sophomore Cody Unfred who is the top triple jumper and long jumper, and senior Casey Strothman for the 110 high hurdles.

The girls' return four record-setting runners in the 800 meter relay: Naber, Barrong, junior Terra Poirier, and junior Talia Neiman. Other returners include junior Morgan Romey, who finished second in discus and fourth in shot put at state, junior Mackenzie DeRuyter who is the top returning distance runner, and sophomore Melissa Andrews who is a top returning 100 meter hurdler.

Andrew Godderz will be helping coaching at the high this year, and Coach John Hayes will be returning.



Photo courtesy Pia Longinotti
Returning spring sport seniors

The "wolf pack": Lady Scotties team-focused

Chelsa Ayers
Guest writer

Often referring to themselves as "The Wolf Pack", The Freeman Scotties are a closely knit team. Alyssa Maine, one of the team's captains, believes this is one of the many reasons why the Scotties are successful.

"There is strength in numbers, and we know that in order to be competitive," said Maine. "We've got to have complete and total faith in each other." The team spends a great amount of time together during the almost 5 month season. Putting in six-day-a-week practices, weekly pool workouts, and hilarious team functions, the Scotties become a second family for the players and coaches during the season. This commitment has a focus, however, and that is something that never wavers from the players' and coaches' minds: to win the State 1A Championship.

"We have one goal, and one goal only: the Gold Ball," said

Mackenzie Taylor, the junior captain.

The Freeman Scotties finished the season co-champions of the NEA League, and won the District tournament, earning a #1 seed to this week's Regional competition. Suffering only one loss during league play, the Scotties have worked extremely hard, and are always trying to improve the different aspects of their game. Head Coach Ashley Taylor and Assistant Coach Kaila Floyd believe solidly that defense wins games, and that is a primary focus of the Scotties.

"We're not much of a shooting team," Taylor says with a laugh. "So we're always working on improving that." The grueling workouts with the team's personal trainer and physical therapist, Steve Allen, help to keep the girls in shape and prepared for the difficulty of the games ahead of them. Hard work is a part of the

daily agenda for the Scotties, and it's something that the girls have learned to appreciate.

With four returning seniors, there is a solid base of knowledgeable veterans to the team. The strength of the Freeman



Photo courtesy of Pia Longinotti

Scottie program lies in the leadership from the oldest girls to the youngest, and this season has been an exemplary representation of this special bond. Hang around with this team for no more than five minutes, and you will see that they are incredibly comfortable with each other, almost TOO comfortable, and always cracking up, or doing something ridiculous. But when it comes to the game of basketball, the Scotties leave those silly times behind.

"We focus on intense defense, extreme hustle, and, well... we play like boys!" Coach Taylor said. But besides working

toward getting twelve or less turnovers, having good passes, and out-rebounding their opponents by ten, each player knows that it's critical to work as a team. Before every game, when going over the targets and objectives, the most important on the white board is to "Work as One." And that's something that each and every person in the program takes to heart.

"We don't focus on ourselves, our goal is the team. We don't think about ourselves, we think about everyone," said senior captain Megan McIntyre.

Just like a ruthless wolf pack, the Scotties rely upon each other to reach the success that they know is possible. With the friendship and good times they've shared, the strong coaching leadership, and the personal drive for greatness that each player contains, the Freeman Lady Scotties are a competitive team that takes the game of basketball seriously, and loves what they do.

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High School Project Status



Northeast corner of classroom wing. Roof sheathing and dry-in in progress.



Northeast corner of the classroom wing. Roof sheathing and dry-in in progress.



Northwest corner of classroom wing. Note covered walkway and hollow metal frames on site.



Northwest corner of the new gymnasium. Roofing and fascia installation in progress.



Gym "A" Note duct soc installed and protected. Fire Sprinkler piping, lights, speaker box and existing flag protected.



Coaches/Boys locker room facing east.



Corridor 101 (Main Entrance) looking west. Note stairwell to second floor, saddles for roof structure and column at Multi-Purpose room north wall.

Elementary School Project Status

Construction documents are currently underway. During this phase the approved design is turned into a set of drawings that can be bid and built by the contractor. Current details being worked on include: gymnasium equipment, cafeteria layout, hallway design, incorporating natural daylight and finalizing outdoor plazas.

Transportation Cooperative Project Status

The District applied for state matching funds to assist with the construction of a transportation co-op. Currently, weekly meetings are held and will continue through the schematic design and design development phases to bring the project up to the same level as the elementary school. This will enable the Co-op and elementary bids to be opened concurrently. Immediate work involves studying site plan options and locating various program components and vehicular circulation. Partners in the Transportation Co-op include Rosalia, Tekoa and Liberty school districts.