

# State wrestling qualifiers ready for season

By Lauren Callison

Two Wildcat wrestlers, one from the boys’ team and one from the girls’ team, will enter this upcoming season with state wrestling experience under their belt.

Junior Trey Ramer, who wrestled at 132 pounds last season, won three matches at the state tournament but did not place in the top eight.

Ramer had always dreamed of making it to the state tournament, and he plans to make it back this year.

“Growing up, I always wanted to wrestle in the high school state tournament,” said Ramer. “Now that I have, I can say it was a great experience, and I’m working toward making it back.”

Losing his last match at state left a bad taste in his mouth that he will remember as he starts fresh this season.

“How it felt after I lost my last match,” he said, “I definitely do not want to feel that again.”

He has been working hard in the off-season to pave his way back and have a different outcome at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines where the boys’ state tournament is held.

ment is held.

“I have been wrestling with the Pack 732 Wrestling Academy to help prepare me for this upcoming season,” he said.

He feels that as an upperclassman he will take on more of a leadership role after gaining experience at the state tournament.

“This season I am definitely going to have to become more of a leader,” said Ramer.

Junior Ava Streeter, who wrestled at 125 pounds, also qualified for the girls’ state wrestling tournament at the Xstream Arena in Coralville but lost two matches there.

Following her state appearance, Streeter broke her arm wrestling over her club season in May at the Iowa/USA free-style championships and has since recovered and will wrestle in the upcoming season as well.

“It has been a long recovery process, and I am hoping I won’t run into any problems with it this season,” said Streeter.

Her experience at state is what pushed her through her recovery and gives her motivation for the season.

“It [state experience] is definitely something that pushes you to want to work harder,” she said.

“It has been what got me through summer wrestling and helped with my injury.”



Photo by Nic Poston

Junior Ava Streeter shakes hands with her opponent at the state meet last season.

Streeter is currently ranked 10th in 1A entering the season.

The girls’ season starts off with an away meet at Bellevue on November 22. The boys’ season will start later on December 3 at home.



Photo By Kaetlyn Hansell

Junior Trey Ramer wrestles at the state meet in Des Moines last season.

# Returning players must fill void for girls’ team



Photo by Nic Poston

Senior Adison Daufeldt drives against a Wilton player in action last season.

By Josh Peel

The Wildcat girls’ basketball team lost nine graduates, including the third lead-

ing scorer in school history.

But Coach Ross DeLong sees the new season as an opportunity for returning players to show more versatility.

“I’m kind of excited actually about it because I think it’s going to put a lot of responsibility on a bunch of different players instead of having one or two players to be able to focus on,” he said.

He added it will be more of a “team effort.”

The basketball team went 10-13 last season and was led by graduate Isabelle DeLong, the coach’s daughter.

Last season, she scored 337 points and averaged 14.7 points per game.

She scored 1,049 points for her Wildcat career, just behind Stacy Makoben with 1,124 points and all-time leading scorer Stacy Schlapkohl with 1,542 points.

More than half of the points last year came from graduates, and Coach DeLong said Isabelle’s leadership and scoring

played a major role for the team.

However, the next generation of Wildcats is ready to step out of the shadow of the graduates.

Senior Adison Daufeldt comes back as the team’s leading scorer with 117 points.

Junior Paige Happ scored 97 points last year, senior Katelynn Toft had 87, senior Mariah Alpen scored 79, and sophomore Allison Toft had 72.

Daufeldt and a few others have been working really hard in the off-season in hopes of having a better season than last year.

She has been lifting weekly, going to open gyms, and working on her shooting and ball handling in her spare time.

Daufeldt feels Alpen and Happ will be the two girls to step up and be leaders on the team to fill the holes.

Last year, Katelynn went out with an ankle injury, and her sister Allison took her spot and got varsity experience.

# Boys’ team looks to rebound under new coach

By Paige Happ

The Wildcat boys’ basketball team looks to bounce back after a winless 2023-24 season with a new coach and new mentality.

New Head Coach Chris Timmerman, who graduated from Durant in 2011, looks forward to coaching the same team he once played for.

“Being back on the court that I once played on to coach is a surreal moment,” said Coach Timmerman, who still holds the school record for blocks in a game and a season. “I’m excited for the opportunity and can’t wait to get the season underway.”

Coach Timmerman played at the collegiate level at Ashford University in Clinton but then transferred to Kirkwood Community College to finish his degree.

Coach Timmerman has three years of coaching experience. He was the JV coach for the North Cedar boys’ team for two years then became the varsity coach there for one year.

“Basketball has always been a huge passion in my life, and when I started coaching, my ultimate goal was to always come ‘home’ where I played to see if I could help make a difference,” said Coach Timmerman.

“We have been having open gyms all the way through the summer and even went to a few scrimmages where we picked

up a couple wins.”

As far as practices for the Wildcats, Coach Timmerman wants them upbeat and aggressive.

“We will need to get uncomfortable during practice, so game time becomes second nature,” he said.

Coach Timmerman wants his team to develop a strong mentality going forward.

“Forget last year,” he said about the winless record.

“That doesn’t describe who we are as a team. I think there is plenty of untapped potential in these guys, and we will be able to make some noise and win some games this year.”

Two returning starters for the Wildcats are seniors Bryce Daufeldt and Race Starr.

Daufeldt led the Wildcats last season in many aspects of the game. He had 238 points, 32 steals, and 189 total rebounds. Daufeldt wants to continue his offense and defensive skills this season.

“I plan on improving my offensive and defensive game by always playing hard and giving it my all,” he said.

Daufeldt has put in the work during the off-season by attending open gyms and spending time shooting the ball outside.

After going a season without a win,

Daufeldt doesn’t feel like the season played on him too much mentally because of the hard work and dedication he put into the game.

“I know I left everything on the court every game,” he said.

For Starr, not winning a game last season left him motivated to get better.

“I believe not winning a single game last year made us desperate to get better,” he said “Everyone was trying to find a way to contribute to the team.”

Starr averaged 6.4 points per game last season and returns as the point guard.

“I am very excited to play with this group of guys one last time,” he said. “Coming back with almost everyone from last year is a blessing. I feel like I was able to understand and study them last year, and now I can play and create to help them be the best they can,” he said.

In addition to three returning starters, Daufeldt, Starr, and senior Dylan Arnenholz, the Wildcats will also welcome senior Conner Schwarz, a multi-sport athlete who competed at the state track meet in the 200-meter dash and was also starting short-stop and pitcher for the baseball team.

“Schwarz will bring some taller athletic size to the team and will be another solid body to add that will allow us to mix

Both sisters eclipse 6 feet and will be dangerous for other teams.

At times, Coach DeLong said he will play the two Toft sisters on the court at the same time along with Alpen.

“So that would be a towering front line for sure,” he said.

A lot of teams will have their hands full with Durant’s size, he said.

However, Coach DeLong doesn’t like going into the season with expectations.

Coach DeLong also anticipates Happ will be one player to step up along with sophomore Isla Petersen and a group of other girls.

Every year, someone new surprises him in open gyms.

The future of girls’ basketball at Durant does look bright as younger girls are participating in youth leagues.

“I think the off-season for not just the high school, but even grade school and junior high, has been really good,” he said.

some lineups around,” said Coach Timmerman.

Coach Timmerman sees these returning starters as key players for the Wildcats.

“Daufeldt and Starr understand the pace of a varsity game and will be able to help bring the underclassmen up to speed,” said Coach Timmerman.

Both Daufeldt and Starr look forward to Coach Timmerman’s coaching.

“I feel like he has a lot of heart and compassion for the game of basketball, and I am looking forward to him being head coach this year,” said Daufeldt.

“I am extremely excited to see where this new coach can take us. Most of us already have varsity experience. He just has to find a way to use us. And I can’t wait to find out how he decides to do exactly that,” said Starr.

The two senior leaders have also set goals for their last season as Wildcats. First up is ending the losing streak.

“Getting a win is going to be the thing all of us are looking forward to on the short side of goals,” said Starr.

“But most importantly we all have the determination to make it through the playoffs, and we are going to try our best to do that.”