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## Questions Abound For DHS Track Team

MARCH 15TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

### Questions Abound For DHS Track Team

*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

The DHS track team is quite the unknown heading into the 2012 season. A lot of youth, coupled with inflated numbers over past seasons, leaves many questions about Coach Jill King's squad.

"It's been tough. They're so young that it's hard to figure out where you're going to put all of them. The girls, a lot are back and we have some freshman," King said. "The guys, a lot of them are young. I think we'll be better in middle-distance races than in sprints, and we'll be better in some other areas than we have in the past, so we'll see what happens. This is the most guys we have had in a long time - I think we had 28 come out this year, opposed to eight last year."

The girls squad lost some major talent in the jumps last season, but retained their state-qualifying 4x100 meter relay team. King expects to look to her senior girls for their ability to score points and leadership this year.

"Of my senior girls, I have three back, and they've all scored a lot of points for us in the past - it'll be a mixture of who is ready to step up and who keeps up what they've been doing," she said. "My girls 4x100 meter relay team that went to state last year is back - Taylor Martin, Lindsey Hindman, Brooke Baker,

[/images/Sports/2012/Track/Preseason/20120313\\_IMG\\_6125.jpg](/images/Sports/2012/Track/Preseason/20120313_IMG_6125.jpg)

and Samantha Midgett."

"Taylor [Martin] will solid in sprints again, and I also have her high-jumping this season. I lost Madison Pixley and Raezheem Miller last year, and they were both excellent jumpers" King continued. "Christina Harris, a sophomore, is trying out triple jump, and if she works at it she could be amazing at that."

King noted that her throwers are looking better than they have in several years, despite having several freshman and inexperienced upperclassmen in the lineup.

"I think in the throws, we'll be more competitive this year than we have in the past. Jessica Lindsey is a powerhouse; Mollie Whitehead is outstanding in discus, and Sarah Langley, Destiny Robinson and Shana Bess are all looking great," King said. "Daniel [McCoy] and Dylan [Sandlin] both graduated last year. Andrew Collier was a solid thrower last year in middle school. Zach Lacy and Dylan Heflin are throwing this year - they don't have any meets for me to compare to anything, so I'm anxious to see how they do."

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Lindsey, Robinson, Bess and Collier are

all freshman; Whitehead is returning to the pit after spending her freshman year with the softball team.

"If those freshman stick with it, they can be competitive in the next three years," King noted.

The boys team's youth was a key concern for King, as well as losing junior Austin Richardson for the early part of the season. Richardson had an outstanding year in the high jump and triple jump last season.

"The guys are just so young; we don't have any outstanding sprinters that I know of, unless someone 'comes out of their shell' and shows they can do it," she said. "We have guys that want to try hurdles, and guys that want to jump and throw. Most of our guys are 400 and 800 meter runners, so we have a gap in the 100 and 200."

"I lost Austin Richardson, a great jumper, after he had knee surgery. He'll be back later this season, so we'll see how he does after he comes back."

The Bearcats have just one home meet this season, held on April 17, and are set to open

the 2012 season on Tuesday (March 20), when they head to Cape Girardeau for the Cape Central Open. The meet is scheduled for a 4:00 p.m. start.

*Click here to download the 2012 Track schedule.*

***Photos Above:***

***Top: Samantha Midgett works on the hurdles under the watchful eye of coach Greg Lummukka.***

***Middle: Taylor Martin works on her new event for 2012, the high jump.***

***Bottom: Senior Zach Lacy, in his first year as a member of the track team, works on his form in the shot put during Tuesday's practice.***

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## Sailfish Cruise To Win Over Caldwell

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## Sailfish Cruise To Win Over Caldwell

LANTANA, Fla.- One night after getting shutout by St. Thomas University the Palm Beach Atlantic University baseball team fired back with a 14-2 dismantling of Caldwell College on Tuesday evening at the Santaluces Complex. With both teams playing with wood bats, the Sailfish proved stronger with the sticks as they pounded out 15 hits while drawing eight walks as the offense backed a solid start from junior left-hander Jonathan Kies as the team cruised to their 10th win of the season.

The Fish opted to use wooden bats as their opponent, Caldwell College, plays in an all-wood bat conference.

Dexter native Sawyer Smith saw some of his first action of the season in the blowout win. The sophomore went 1-2 at the plate with a walk, as well as four putouts from his first base position.

The Fish will have the next few days off from game action before returning to the diamond on Friday, March 16, as they will battle Lynn University in Boca Raton at 3 pm followed by a Saturday double-header against LU at the Santaluces Complex beginning at 1 pm. All three games of the series will be broadcast on the Sailfish Sports Network.

***[Click here for the full box score.](#)***

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## Raiders Punch Ticket To NJCAA Tournament

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### Raiders Punch Ticket To NJCAA Tournament

POPLAR BLUFF - Just three days after battling wire-to-wire with Moberly to win the Region XVI championship, Tuesday night's District 4 championship game against Highland was almost anticlimactic for the Three Rivers Raiders.

Three Rivers scored 19 straight points in the first half to wipe out an early deficit and were never seriously challenged as they continued their improbable postseason run, rolling to a 103-79 victory over the Cougars to win the district title and a trip to the NJCAA Tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

"Our season has been a roller-coaster – up and down," Three Rivers sophomore Bobby Peebles said. "But we know at the end if you win, you keep playing. If you lose, you go home. We came together as a team and we all decided that we wanted to go to Hutch."

Said Three Rivers coach Gene Bess: "I'm a believer and I know one thing for sure – God is in control. This has been a fabulous thing to happen to this coach."

Tuesday's win was all the more amazing considering the fact that Highland (26-8) handed the Raiders a 92-75 defeat 15 days earlier in Freeport, Ill. to cap a three-game losing streak to end the regular season.

"My wife calls it miraculous," said Bess, "but we came home and practiced for 10 days. We had a 10-day layoff – that was enough to blow you away – but we actually adapted to the situation and had some of the best practices of the year. The kids were pretty humbled by those three bad losses that we had and they came together during that 10-day stretch."

After that game, many were expecting a close contest in the rematch, but Three Rivers (21-12) made sure that never happened.

Three Rivers trailed 7-5 after Jeremy Parker's bucket just over two minutes into the game, but back-to-back baskets by Bobby Peebles put the Raiders up 9-7 at the 16:46 mark of the first half and ignited a 19-0 run that ended on Terrance Glass' 3-pointer with 12:53 left in the opening session and a 24-7 lead.

Three Rivers led 41-19 after Ignas Palaima's free throw with 3:09 left before the break, but the Cougars used a 7-0 run spread over both halves to cut the gap to 47-35 on Joseph Danforth's basket with 19:29 left in the game.

"We jumped out and got a good start on them but they didn't go away," Bess said. "They're a good team and they can score a lot of points in a hurry."

However, the Raiders slowly began to pull away from there, getting the lead back to 20 points (71-51) on Glass' bucket with 11:34 to go and never looking back the rest of the way.

Peebles led Three Rivers with 24 points, while Elgin "Eli" Lee added 17, Tarius Johnson chipped in 15, Glass tossed in 14, Rudy Harrell put in 13 and Palaima finished with 10.

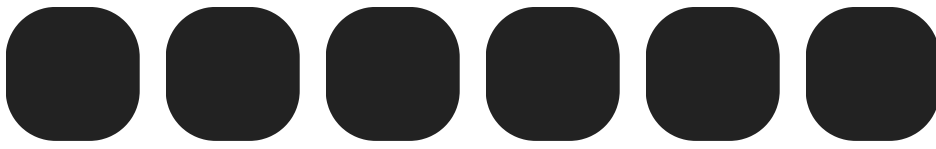
Danforth paced Highland with 18 points, while Samuel Ford added 12 and the duo of Demetrius Tolliver and Aaron Nelson contributed 11 apiece.

The Raiders will open play at the NJCAA Tournament next Tuesday when they face Spartanburg Methodist. Tipoff at the Hutchinson Sports Arena is set for 4:30 p.m.

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## DMS Volleyball Has Preseason Scrimmage

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### DMS Volleyball Has Preseason Scrimmage

*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

The Dexter Middle School volleyball team was on display Tuesday night in their preseason scrimmage. Family and friends packed the T.S. Hill Middle School gym to watch the seventh and eighth grade squads duked it out on the court.

Head coach Melissa Hahn was pleased with her teams' performance in the scrimmage, but was quick to point out areas they need to work on.

"I was pretty pleased with my eighth grade's transitions, I thought we had a lot of good pass and hits," Hahn said. "The eighth grade has some really good servers, and that was our big weapon last year. We didn't have many missed serves, and I was happy with that."

"Both teams needed to work on communication. I thought that was our big weakness, and that's what we're going to be working on in practice tomorrow," she continued. "Also, staying up; getting over those mental mistakes and pre-game jitters. I saw a lot of really good things tonight."

The DMS volleyball program has set a high bar for itself in recent years; last season, both the seventh and eighth grade squads went undefeated, without losing a single set. Hahn

thinks her seventh grade squad has the talent to achieve the feat this season, but notes the hard work that will be required.

"We're going to have to work hard every practice. That's our goal, to go undefeated every season," she said. "We'll have to play to the best of our ability, but if we play our game to the best of our ability and cut out the mental mistakes, we have the talent to do that."

The Lady Bearcats are set to open their season Thursday (March 15) night against the Sikeston Lady Bulldogs; the eighth grade squad posted a lopsided victory over Sikeston during their seventh grade year.

"Last year, we beat them 25-1 in the first set, with 14 aces in the first set. I'm hoping for a game that we can really show off some talent. We faced that some last year - our serves were good, but they didn't really get to play," Hahn said. "I love that we have those good servers, but I really want them to play. Sikeston just doesn't have the youth program that we have, so their seventh grade girls come in a little weaker. Once they get involved, their eighth grade comes in a lot stronger. I know a lot of those girls from Sikeston because Julia (Coach Hahn's eighth grade daughter, who is a member of the team) has played soccer with them, and they have great athletes, so I'm anxious to see what a year is going to do to them."

The season opener is scheduled for seventh grade action at 6:00 p.m., with the eighth grade squad immediately following.

***Click here for the full roster. The 2012 schedule can be found here.***

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## Bearcat Baseball Opens Season Friday

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Bearcat Baseball Opens Season Friday

*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

The pop of a baseball as it strikes a glove is a welcome sound to many early in the Spring, and gloves have been popping as the Dexter Bearcats are busy preparing for the 2012 season.

The 'Cats had a solid season in 2011, finishing at a .500 clip despite battling injury throughout the year. A walk-off, 12 inning win over Scott City in the District Semifinals put the 'Cats in the District Championship game against Kennett; the Tribe would down the 'Cats 8-0 and move on to the Final Four in the State Tournament.

"We've never gotten to go outside as much as we have this spring. That puts us ahead of where we usually are, but at the same time everyone else is getting to go outside too. We've made the most of our time outdoors, but we've had a big rain set in, so it will be a while before we can get back out on the field," head coach Brian Becker said. "Hopefully, by the time next Friday gets here it'll dry out and we'll be able to get back on it one or two more times before then."

The Bearcats faced a brutal road schedule last season, but will reap the benefit of playing 13 of their 18 regular-season games at home during the 2012 campaign.

"We were road warriors last year, and this year we get to stay home quite a bit more," Becker commented. "We finished .500 last year, and hopefully being the home team will lead to more victories. That final at-bat can have a big say in the outcome of the game a

lot of times."

The 'Cats lost just two players to graduation last season - third baseman Bryn Hester, who is currently playing at Harding University, and center-fielder Josh Sifford. Coach Becker is excited about his team's chances, as the Bearcats return all other major contributors from last season.

"Loosing 'Siff' and Bryn, they were two good ball players, but we have a lot of experience coming back. A bunch of different kids got a lot of playing time. D.J. Dowdy started behind the plate for half the season; he did a great job for me, and he's only getting better. Cody Neldon saw a lot of action late in the year, and he's going to see the field every time we go out there. He hit over .440 in 20-something at-bats." Becker said. "We only have about 10 kids that we rotate on the varsity level, so all of my kids coming back are going to see a lot of time. Hopefully that will spell good things for us."

The 'Cats will regain the services of Josh Overall, who went down early last season after bizarre circumstances led to a season-ending shoulder surgery; the senior looks to fill in Hester's vacant third base spot and add another arm to what is shaping up to be an outstanding pitching staff.

"We lost [Overall] last year after he had shoulder surgery. He was on the mound last year in the Notre Dame game; during the first inning his dad came over and told me that I'd better enjoy him while I had him," Becker said. "He went out and pitched a great game and hit a home run, and then he was done for the year. He'll fill in some at third base, and he'll be back on the mound."

Starters Jordan Miller and Brad Potts will return to lead the rotation, as well as seniors Alex Cliff and Owen Flowers. Logan 'Perry' Northern, who saw extensive time as a reliever last season, will also return for the 'Cats.

"Jordan Miller saw a lot of time on the mound last year, and he'll slide in some at third base as well. Alex Cliff will be back - he didn't pitch any last year because of back problems. He's such a violent football player, and he stayed injured a lot. He made it through football season this year and stayed healthy, and he's going to try it on the mound again this year," Becker noted. "[Brad] Potts did an outstanding job on the mound last year; he drew a lot of the tougher teams, but finished with a .500 record and a 2.4 ERA. He did an outstanding job for us, and I look for much of the same this year. Logan Northern and Owen Flowers both did a great job for us last year. 'Perry' does a good job;

he comes out, throws strikes, and uses his breaking ball effectively."

A big question mark heading into the season was the health of shortstop Chase Young. Young, a three-sport athlete, sat out the latter part of the basketball season due to a nagging knee injury, but Becker indicated the junior would be good-to-go for the season opener.

"Chase is fine. His knee was bothering him the latter part of basketball season, so he had to sit out," he said. "He's swinging the bat well, and he's showing good range out at shortstop. He doesn't seem to have any ill effects from the problems he was having during basketball. It's a different sport - you get out there on the hardwood, and that can [irritate] injuries a lot more than going out there on the dirt can."

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The 'Cats look to have another great year on offense as well -

Young, Cliff, and Miller all earned All-District honors, while Potts was named to the All-Conference team in 2011. Potts was the hero of the District Semifinal game against Scott City; his shot into left-center drove in the winning run in the 12 inning contest.

"It's a pretty good group to return, especially with only one of them being seniors," Becker said of the group. "We're looking for some good things from our returning players, and our big thing right now is to stay healthy. We aren't that deep, because we have some kids that just aren't ready for the 'big time' yet. It's like any program - you want your kids to grow up a little before you throw them into the fire."

The Bearcats are set to open the season on Friday (March 16) afternoon, when they host the Doniphan Dons. Becker noted the premium of multi-run innings (due to new bat regulations) would make pitching and defense be more important than ever.

"I'm going to use a lot of pitchers, and we'll hopefully go out there and throw strikes and swing the bats well," he said. "The key is to throw strikes and play good defense, and it's going to be paramount this year. A one run lead this year is almost equivalent to a two or three run lead in years past. We'll have to be smart on the base-paths and not give up easy outs."

First pitch is scheduled for 4:15 p.m. on Friday, weather permitting.

***For the full season schedule, [click here](#).***

***Photos Above:***

***Top: Jordan Miller (left) delivers a pitch to Cody Neldon (right) during a bunting drill during Monday afternoon's practice.***

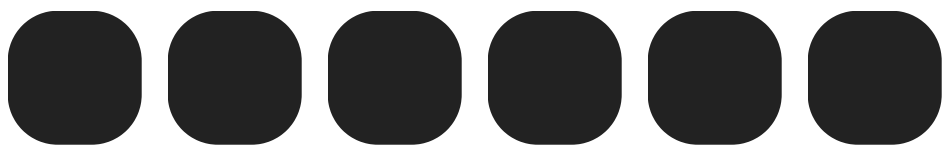
***Middle: Senior Josh Overall works with a wood bat during Monday's practice.***

***Bottom: Assistant Coach Aaron Pixley instructs junior Brad Potts on proper bunting technique during Monday's practice.***

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