

2025  
**COFFEY COUNTY AREA  
FALL SPORTS  
PREVIEW**

A news supplement to  
The Coffey County  
**Republican**  
September 4, 2025

**BURLINGTON**

**HARTFORD**

**LEBO**

**SCC**

**WAVERLY**







# Burlington Wildcats

## Wildcats focus on finding identity, improving weekly

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

BURLINGTON — The Burlington Wildcats are gearing up for a new season of high school football with hopes of improving weekly and peaking for the playoffs.

Cody Carlson is back for a third season as the team’s head coach. He will be assisted by Damon Schmidt, Jon Mariani, Dylan Wonser and Noah Nordgren.

On the field, the Wildcats return four starters on offense and seven on defense. Returning offensive starters include Alex Mautz, Logan Turner and Kaden Hawkins. Mautz and Cole, both seniors, and Turner, a junior, are all running backs who got carries the last two years after playing primarily defense. Hawkins, a junior, returns to the starting right tackle position. Also returning with starting experience is Brody Kitt, who has been a two-year starter at left tackle, where he has done a solid job, but is being moved to center following some personnel changes on offense. Kitt was the first person in Burlington school history to reach the 1,000-pound club in the strength program and has held the squat record, which he just raised to 530 pounds, since the end of his sophomore year. He has received an offer from Friends University to play collegiately.

Offensive starters lost to graduation include quarterback Chance Hegg, a first-team all-league selection

and record holder or top five in every quarterback category who will be dearly missed after having tallied 2,267 total yards and accounted for 70 percent of the Wildcats’ offense, and wide receiver Brody Anderson, an all-state

selection at receiver who is the record holder in seven of nine receiver categories and tallied 1,036 receiving yards plus another 500 in rushing.

Returning defensive starters include Mautz, seniors Bowen McIntosh

and Kyzer Lehmann and juniors Zane Whiteaker, Landon Bober and Logan Turner. Mautz, the team’s strong safety, recorded 48 tackles, including 35 solo

See Football, Page 5



**Kramer Photography**

Members of the 2025 Burlington High School football team are, from left, front row - Levi Hazen, Tate Stahl, Trystan Palmer, Brant Hazen, Carter Turner, Bo Thomsen, Lukas Harred, Cayden Turner, Brayzdn Spring, Grayson Payer; second row - Lane Frey, Tate Powder, Colton Davis, Joseph Gifford, Case Birk, Bowen McIntosh, Brayden Dill, Gavin Crisp, Shawn Mautz, Caleb Birk, Alex Mautz; third row - Colton Cooley, Colby Harris, Oliver Hazen, Aydan Winters, Max Ecton, Dillan Skillman, Hunter Cole, Landon Bober, Lane Warkentine; fourth row - Jace Allen, Maddox Maycumber, Jacob Griffith, Jackson Nuessen, Zane Whiteaker, Dalton Vanover, Logan Harris, Brody Kitt, Logan Turner; fifth row - Landyn Shinn, Jake Leiser, Talis Sharpe, Tegan Smith, Kaden Hawkins, Kyzer Lehmann; back row - manager Sofia Pavlak, Coach Mariani, Coach Wonser, Coach Carlson, Coach Nordgren, Coach Schmidt, manager Tricia Schlotterbeck.

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# Burlington Wildcats

## Ladycats bring strong leadership to the court

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

BURLINGTON — The Burlington High School Ladycat volleyball team is fielding a team, led by a large group of seniors, that will bring solid leadership to the court in 2025.

Cierra Harrison is back for a second season as the team’s head coach. She will be assisted by Nicki Kelly and Jackie Miller.

On the court, the team will be led by a group of seven seniors and two juniors who bring experience. The seniors include outside hitters Korryn Bolen and Bianca Bortolotti, middle blocker Maycee Carlson, outside and opposite hitter Camden Swank and libero and defensive specialists Jaycee Belcher, Adisyn Sleezer and Taylor Kvas. The pair of juniors are middle blocker Mac Medlock and setter Alexa Splechter.

“This is a strong leadership group with a large group of seniors,” Harrison said. “All of our seniors are very talented in different ways. We have a strong defensive group with Jaycee, Adisyn and Taylor. They are always very competitive in practice, but they always do great helping each other and working as a team. Alexa will be a strong setter that is ready to run our offense at a fast pace. We have a lot of the same hitters from last year, bringing back a strong group of Korryn, Camden and Mac and having Maycee and Bianca joining us this year. They are great all-around players. This group brings some of the best leadership I have seen in a team sport in a long time.”



Kramer Photography

Members of the 2025 Burlington High School volleyball team are, from left, front row – Arianna Griffin, Bailee Docman, Arnesia Williams, Kenna Hernandez, Brinley Belcher, Ava Sleezer, Charlotte Dekat, Carlie Schlotterbeck, Aiyanna Dwight; second row - manager Alonna Rodgers, Bianca Bortolotti, Maycee Carlson, Korryn Bolen, Jaycee Belcher, Adisyn Sleezer, Camden Swank, Taylor Kvas, manager Emma Bohannon; third row - assistant coach Jackie Miller, head coach Cierra Harrison, Brynn Sowder, Remington Cole, Mac Medlock, Abbey Kelly, Alexa Bober, Sage Bell, Mya King, assistant coach Nicki Kelly; back row - Lila Beyer, Mackenzie Crooks, Aubrey Freerksen, Addison Fischer, Ane Madrieta, Katey Hazen, Avery Zimmerman, Alanah Solano, Alexa Splechter and Grace Redding.

The team’s goal for 2025 is simply to play one game at a time, to focus on one game at a time to lead to state in Hutchinson.

“We really want to go one day at a time by getting a little better each day and having confidence in ourselves to prove to other opponents that we have

a strong team,” Harrison said.

One of the main keys to success will be to play as a team.

“We started the season with a lot of team bonding to have a cohesive team,” Harrison said. “We even took a day out of the gym and just did team bonding. We always want to help each

other because we have a high level of competition in the gym this year, with a strong freshman class coming.”

The team has good leadership all around, which is a big asset.

See Volleyball, Page 5

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# Burlington Wildcats

## Pedersen steps up to coach Wildcats

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

BURLINGTON — The Burlington High School Wildcat cross country team is returning to the course for the 2025 season and has a new head coach leading the way.

Leah Pedersen will be the Wildcats' head coach this season. She steps up to the position after having been an assistant coach for the team for two years. She will be assisted by Maddie Wilson and Brad Chatfield.

The team will be led by four girls and seven boys this year. Leading the girls will be senior Hattie Burgio, who qualified for state her junior season. Also projected to run at the varsity level are senior Isabella Matney, sophomore Kitana Pease and freshman Sophia Matney. Sophomore Brecken Pedersen, who missed qualifying for state his freshman season by one place, will lead the boys' team. Joining him on the varsity team are senior Logan Ferrara, junior Zach Matney, sophomores Ian Dekat and Jace Finlayson and freshmen Issac Miller and Kaden Marquardt.

Coach and team have already set some goals for 2025.

"Our goals are to grow as a team and grow as individuals learning how to push themselves and hold themselves accountable," Pedersen said.

Support will be key to the team's success in reaching the goals.

"Supporting each other in practices, school and meets will be important," Pedersen said.

Pedersen expects to see the runners improve each week.

"I expect these athletes to grow throughout the season and to see their times progress with each week," Pedersen said.

The Wildcats will attend more than one competitive meet at which they will be challenged. Among the toughest will be the Rim Rock Farm Classic in September and the Louisburg Invitational in October.

The Wildcats will start off the season with competition in their home meet, the Burlington Invitational, at John Redmond Reservoir Thursday, Sept. 4. Races will begin at 4 p.m.



Kramer Photography

Members of the 2025 Burlington High School cross country team are, from left, front row - Brecken Pedersen, Jase Finlayson, Zachariah Matney, Kaden Marquardt; middle row - Kitana Pease, Sophia Matney, Hattie Burgio, Nevaeh Myers, Isabella Matney; back row - head coach Leah Pedersen, Ian Dekat, Isaac Miller, Logan Ferrara, Sayer Dunaway and assistant coach Maddie Wilson.



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# Burlington Wildcats

## Football

Continued from Page 2

and 13 assisted, as well as four tackles for a loss of yards (TFL), two forced fumbles and one interception. He was a Pioneer League All-League Second Team selection at defensive back in 2024, a three-year starter and the team's No. 1 leader, according to Carlson. McIntosh, at strongside linebacker, recorded 24 tackles, including 26 solo and eight assisted, as well as two tackles for a loss of yards and one forced fumble. Lehmann, at defensive end, tallied 55 tackles, including 38 solo and 17 assisted, as well as five sacks, 15 tackles for a loss of yards and one forced fumble. Bober, at free safety, tallied 49 tackles, including 27 solo and 22 assisted, as well as one tackle for a loss of yards and one forced fumble. Turner, at middle linebacker, recorded 61 tackles, including 43 solo and 18 assisted, as well as two sacks, seven tackles for a loss of yards and one forced fumble. A three-year starter who has led the team in tackles two years, he battled an injured back all year but is hoping to stay healthy this year.

"We will look to our returning starters to step up and lead us in the right direction," Carlson said. "It is their responsibility to set the tone for the team not only on Friday nights but to uphold our standards throughout each week."

Projected to join the offensive starting lineup are sophomore Shawn Mautz at quarterback, sophomore Talis Sharpe at wide receiver and sophomore Lane Warkentine at right guard.

Projected to join the defensive starting lineup are Kitt at left tackle and junior Tegan Smith at defensive end.

"We will have a handful of underclassmen earning starting roles," Carlson said. "They'll need to consistently grow and get better each week."

The Wildcats have one main goal this season.

"The main focus will be to find our identity early and improve each week to play our best football come playoff time," Carlson said.

The Wildcats will kick off their season with a game against Santa Fe Trail at Carbondale 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5.

## Volleyball

Continued from Page 3

"Our team's strength is the leadership, not only from the seniors, but everyone in the gym," Harrison said. "I have some strong underclassman leadership, which is hard to find. I think our weakness might be that we have some athletes that are tough on themselves, but that is where our strength comes in, as well."

The Ladycats will have some tough opponents who will challenge them and test their skills, particularly in the Pioneer League.

"Santa Fe Trail and Wellsville both have players that are versatile and are hard workers in the gym," Harrison said.

The Ladycats will open their season at Rossville 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, and will also host Jayhawk Linn and Santa Fe Trail 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9.



Kramer Photography

Burlington High School cheerleaders for the fall 2025 season are, from left, front row – Brenna Pearson, Brayleigh Harden, Olivia Ziegler, Kiara Martin, Ella Ervin, Jaycee Reed; back row - Kassidy Martin, Isabella Combes, Emma Cunningham, Taryn Stultz, Grant Guptill, Cohen Hazen, Jule Rolf, Kynslie Noonan, Cassidee Cole and Natalee Menard.



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# Hartford Jaguars

## Jaguars welcome Kistner as new head coach

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

HARTFORD — The Hartford High School Jaguar football team is welcoming a new head coach for the 2025 season.

Taking the reins as the team's head coach is Dalen Kistner. This is his first year as a head coach, but he is an alumnus of Hartford High School and played football for the Jaguars when he was in high school. He will be assisted by Kolton Neill and Scott Romieser.

Offensively, the Jaguars return a strong core of upperclassmen, according to Kistner. They include Simon Blankley, Daden Wilson, Coy Wilkinson, Tyce Ndegwa and Landen Schultz.

"These five juniors and seniors are not only talented athletes but also key leaders in our program," Kistner said. "As we work to reshape the team culture, they've fully embraced the changes and are setting the standard, leading the rest of the team in the right direction."

Blankley, Wilkinson and Ndegwa will also be leaders defensively.

"On defense, Simon, Coy and Tyce bring a lot of experience and leadership, while sophomores Connor Trestler and Carson Menke are stepping up and showing a lot of potential," Kistner said. "This group gives us a solid base to build around on that side of the ball."

The Jaguars also have several players looking to contribute to the team this season.

"Parker Engle, Kolt Stein, Colt Heck-

athorn and Dakota Olson are all guys we expect to make an impact this year, rotating on both sides of the ball and giving us some solid depth," Kistner said.

The Jaguars are aiming to be a more competitive team in 2025. Kistner said with the leadership of the upperclassmen and the growth of the younger players, he and the team feel like they're headed in the right direction.

"The buy-in has been great, and the energy around the program is the best it's been in a while," Kistner said.

The keys to the team's success are pretty simple, according to Kistner: stay healthy, stay disciplined and keep building that team-first mentality.

"We just need to keep doing the little things right every day," Kistner said. "If we stay focused, play physical and continue to push each other in practice, we'll give ourselves a shot to compete every Friday night."

One of the team's biggest strengths is their experience.

"We've got a solid group of upperclassmen who've been through the grind and know what it takes," Kistner said. "Our leadership has really stepped up, and we've got some good size and athleticism on both sides of the ball. On the flip side, depth could be a challenge in some spots, especially if injuries start to pile up. We're also still working on consistency, playing at a high level every snap, not just

in spurts. But overall, we like where we're at and believe this group has what it takes to grow and compete."

Among the most challenging games for Hartford will be those against Bur-

lingame, Rural Vista, Madison and Lebo.

The Jaguars will open the season with a game against Fairfield at Langdon 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5.



Annabelle Payton/The Republican

Members of the 2025 Hartford High School football team are, from left, front row – Parker Engel, Brysyn Jacobs, Daden Wilson, Bentlee Schultz, Colt Heckathorn; middle row – Dakota Olson, Brady Kelley, Kolt Stein, Carson Menke, Connor Trestler; back row – Landen Schultz, Coy Wilkinson, Tyce Ndegwa and Simon Blankley.

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**Good Luck Jaguars!**





# Hartford Jaguars

## Lady Jaguars welcome Sheahan as head coach

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

HARTFORD — The Hartford High School Lady Jaguar volleyball team is welcoming a new head coach this season but will have some familiar faces on the court.

Leo Sheahan will be the Lady Jaguars head coach this season. This is Sheahan's first season as a head coach. He will be assisted by Brittany Barrett.

On the court, the Lady Jaguars return four starters to their lineup. They include seniors Aubrey Finnerty and Sydney Sull, junior Jade Wilson and sophomore Lauryn Finnerty. Aubrey Finnerty is an outside and middle hitter. Sull is the team's libero. Wilson is a setter and defensive specialist. Lauryn Finnerty is a setter and right side hitter.

"Aubrey, a four-year varsity athlete and now a senior, has established herself as a powerful hitter and a strong leader on the court," Sheahan said. "Sydney, also a four-year varsity senior, anchors the defense as libero. Her consistency in serve receive and digging has been invaluable, and she has embraced a leadership role by mentoring younger athletes in passing and serve receive. Jade is a smart setter who also brings consistency in the back row. Her ability

to read the court and distribute the ball effectively makes her a key playmaker for the team. Lauryn made an immediate impact as a freshman on varsity and continues to excel in both hitting and setting, contributing versatility and reliability to the lineup."

Joining the returning starters are Keighly Giesken-Mears and Mylee Giesken-Mears.

"Keighly has quickly established herself at the net and will be one of our most consistent blockers this season," Sheahan said. "Mylee, despite not playing last year, has brought stability to our back row with her passing and has stepped up to contribute as an outside hitter, as well."

The team's goals for this season are to achieve a winning record, maintain a team passing average about 2.0, record 12 or more kills per set, limit dropped balls to fewer than two per match and serve with more than 90 percent accuracy.

"Another key goal is to raise our team's volleyball IQ, which is developing the ability to read the court and make smarter decisions about ball placement," Sheahan said. "We are also focused on shaping a stronger team culture, one

See **Hartford V-ball**, Page 13



Annabelle Payton/The Republican

Members of the 2025 Hartford High School volleyball team are, from left, Emmalie Bess, Riley Nichols, Aubrey Finnerty, Jade Wilson, Sydney Sull, Keighly Giesken-Mears, Lauryn Finnerty, Mylee Giesken-Mears and Addisyn Williams.

## Hartford to have single runner in 2025

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

HARTFORD — The Hartford High School cross country team will be a young, one-person team in 2025.

Longtime coach Tammy Windle returns for her 20th year as Hartford's head cross country coach.

On the course, Hartford will have only one high school runner this season, newcomer Cecilia Westhoff. Westhoff is a freshman this year, but she did run cross country in junior high.

"My goal is for Cecilia to improve her time throughout the season," Windle said.

An important key to success in reaching that goal will be for Westhoff to stay healthy.

A year ago, the Jaguars had three experienced runners, but all were lost to graduation.

"Graduation hit our team hard," Windle said. "Cody Cleveland, Oliver Smith and Samuel Blankley all have competed at the

state meet at least once, with Cody having competed twice, and they have all moved on to either the military or college. We only have one high school runner this year, and three junior high runners."

Westhoff, as well as the Jaguars' three junior high runners, will open the season with competition in the Burlington Invitational at John Redmond Reservoir Thursday, Sept. 4. Races will begin at 4 p.m.



Annabelle Payton/The Republican

The only member of the 2025 Hartford High School cross country team is Cecilia Westhoff.



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# Lebo Wolves

## Wolves to field younger team in 2025

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

LEBO — The Lebo Wolves, coming off a 7-3 season that was led by a group of six seniors, will have a lot more younger faces on the field in 2025.

Brian Hadley enters his eighth year as the team’s head coach. He will be assisted by Dennis Becker.

“With only four returning juniors and seniors this season, we will have to rely on a large number of sophomores and freshmen to help lead the charge,” Hadley said. “However, these underclassmen are used to winning in junior

high, and hopefully, they can transition that into high school.”

Leading the Wolves on the field will be senior Brayden Hopkins. He played safety for the team last season and was a leading receiver with 14 catches for 242 yards. He was a Lyon County League All-League Second Team selection as a junior.

Another returning starter the Wolves are excited for is junior Ayden Ferguson, who was the team’s starting tight end and linebacker a year ago. As a sophomore, he was an LCL All-League Honorable Mention selection at tight end and led the team in receiving

touchdowns with three.

Joining Hopkins and Ferguson are sophomores Jaxon Grimmatt and Mateo Plummer. Grimmatt is a player who got some varsity reps at running back and linebacker. Plummer is a young player who started at linebacker for the Wolves as a freshman. Hadley said he can’t wait to watch Plummer play as a sophomore and is excited to see his growth this season. Grimmatt and Plummer are the team’s top returning rushers and defensive players. As a freshman, Grimmatt had 20 carries for 86 yards and two touchdowns rushing and, on defense, one sack, while Plum-

mer had 10 carries for 68 yards rushing and, on defense, 25 tackles and one tackle for a loss of yards.

Looking to join the starting lineup is sophomore Brock Hadley, who was the Wolves’ starting junior varsity quarterback as a freshman.

“The Wolves will be a very young team this season, but we are excited to see what these young freshmen and sophomores can contribute to the team,” Hadley said. “They are an athletic group who are very talented.”

Strengths for the team this year in-

See Wolves, Page 13



Photo submitted

Members of the 2025 Lebo High School football team are, from left, front row – Dayton Graybeal, Jaxon Grimmatt, Aiden McFaul, Brock Hadley, Brayden Hopkins, Daniel Rausch, Mateo Plummer, Eli Konrade, Jesse Durst, Jae-Mykel Hall; back row – William Edwards, Cooper Fehr, Ayden Ferguson, Matthew Ferguson, Garrison Knight, Brycen Hopkins, Colby Fehr, Rayden Risner, Jett Edwards and manager Kohlton Shoemaker.

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Lebo Wolves

Ball control, decision making  
to be key for Lady Wolves

Katie McMurray  
Reporter

LEBO — After a 2024 season in which they went 43-4 and finished as Class 1A Division II State Runner-up, the Lebo Lady Wolves are entering a new season in which ball control and decision making will be key to their success.

The Lady Wolves, coached by returning head coach Gina Peek and assistant coach Tiffany Tastove-Rosine, will have to do some rebuilding, as they lost to graduation several seniors including Saige Hadley, Siara Crouch and Abi Jones, who all earned multiple postseason honors.

Only three starters from the 2024 team return, seniors Ally Peek and Allison Konrade and junior Rachael Barnhardt. Peek is a setter and outside hitter and earned a Lyon County League All-League Second Team selection her junior season. Konrade is an outside hitter, middle blocker and setter, while Barnhardt is an outside hitter and middle blocker.

“Ally will be our primary setter and one of our outside hitters,” Peek said. “She has worked on her ability to be offensive in and out of system. She led the team in ace serves last year. Allison will be a starting middle blocker/outside hitter and be setting if we opt for the 6-2. Rachael will be starting at middle blocker/outside hitter. She really broke out offensively toward the end of last year and key in our return to the state championship game. We will be looking for her to be effective offensively in and out of system.”

Joining the returning starters are seven players looking to make an impact on the varsity team this season. They include seniors Cassidy Potter



Photo submitted

Members of the 2025 Lebo High School volleyball team are, from left, front row – Alexis Hutchinson, Rachael Barnhardt, Aubriana Vannocker, Ally Peek, Allison Konrade, Cassidy Potter, Nicholle Bacon, Maya Wilson, Brooklyn Hutchinson; back row – Grace Patton, Adisynn Scheer, Kaylee Zumbrunn, Haley Gorton, Maggie Shoemaker, Aslan Rosine, Rya Plummer, Alyssa Vandever and Delilah Onnen.

and Aubriana Vannocker, juniors Mya Wilson, Brooklyn Hutchinson and Lexi Hutchinson and freshmen Maggie Shoemaker and Aslan Rosine. Potter returns after an injury that kept her out last year, while Vannocker will see some playing time defensively. Wilson is new to Lebo, but Peek said she has

been able to incorporate herself into the team quickly and will help with defensive responsibilities. Brooklyn Hutchinson and Lexi Hutchinson are both opposite side hitters. Shoemaker will see some playing time at middle hitter, and Rosine could impact the varsity game at the serving line.

Coach and team have already set some goals for the season.

“My goal for the team every year is to play the best volleyball that we can every time we step on the court, do what we do and let the wins and losses

See Lady Wolves, Page 16

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# LeboWolves

## Lebo-Waverly returns five girls with state experience

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

LEBO — After a 2024 season in which its girls' team qualified for state, the Lebo-Waverly USD 243 cross country team, which is made up mostly of Lebo athletes but is also open to Waverly athletes, is working to continue to cultivate a successful program.

Amanda Durst returns for her fourth season as the team's head coach. She will be assisted by Nathan Nance.

Returning runners include five members of the 2024 girls' team that placed sixth at state. They include senior Cira Plummer, who was also a state qualifier in 2022, as well as juniors Ellie Grimmer, Chloe Whalen and Chrissy Rivas and sophomore Adelynn Harvey. On the boys' side, returning runners include sophomore runners Sam Bailey and Eli Seaman, both from Waverly. Lebo sophomore Reid Gausman is a new runner for the boys. Lost to graduation were two-time boys' state champion Caleb Durst and girls' state medalist Kennah Speer.

"Our team goals for this season are to continue to cultivate a successful program and to promote individual growth," Durst said. "Individuals hope to see progress throughout the season. Our girls' team has their sights set on a return to the state championship in November."

Hard work and a commitment to perseverance will be necessary to accomplish these goals.

"I also think it's important for athletes to enjoy the process and keep a positive attitude when working through injuries and other trials," Durst said. "We began cultivating a team atmosphere this summer with training and a team camp, and athletes are excited to begin the season."

Durst sees some strengths and potential weaknesses for the team.

"I believe one strength for the girls will be their ability to 'pack run' during the early stages of races," Durst said. "They are comfortable training at similar paces and can use this



Photo submitted

Members of the 2025 Lebo-Waverly cross country team are, from left, front row – Cira Plummer, Ellie Grimmer, Chloe Whalen, Chrissy Rivas, Adelynn Harvey; back row – Reid Gausman, Eli Seaman and Sam Bailey.

to their advantage to encourage one another during competition. We are also beginning the season injury-free, which has not been the case in the past. Once again, a weakness would be the number of high school boys. While we gained a new cross country athlete in Reid, we are still lacking enough boys to make a team. However, our middle school program has grown to 12 athletes, six boys and six girls. The future is hopeful for full high school teams."

The toughest meets on the schedule for 2025 include those at Wamego Country Club, including the Wamego Invitational in September and the state championship in November, and the Rim Rock Farm Classic in September.

The Lebo-Waverly cross country team will open their season with competition in the Burlington Invitational 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, at John Redmond Reservoir near New Strawn.



Photo submitted

Lebo High School cheerleaders for the fall 2025 season are, from left, front row – Delilah Onnen, Aubriana Vannocker, Grace Patton, Alyssa Vandever; back row – Chrissy Rivas (Howler), Chloe Whalen, Elayna Charboneau, Allison Konrade and Brooklyn Hutchinson.





# SCC Titans

## Mason to coach 2025 Titan football team

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

LeROY — The Southern Coffey County High School football team is returning to the gridiron for a new season and will be led by a new head coach.

Zach Mason will be the Titans' head coach this season. While this is his first year at SCCHS, he brings three years of experience as a head coach.

The Titans return four starters on each side of the ball. They include senior quarterback and defensive back Trey Winn, senior wide receiver and linebacker John Rolf, junior running back and linebacker Cyrus Nickel and junior running back and defensive end Josh Snyder. Rolf and Nickel were the team's top tacklers a season ago.

"John is recovering from a torn ACL; he has been great about working to get to where he is able to play and being an extra set of eyes, especially with the younger guys and helping them fix small things," Mason said. "Cyrus is a great leader by example with his work ethic and coachability."

"Trey catches on to things pretty quickly, so he can help get people where they need to be on the field," Mason said. "Offensively, I think Josh will be tough to bring down. If we can get him going downhill, he is going to be tough."

The Titans also have two sophomores and six freshmen who could contribute to the team this season.

"I think that any of our freshmen could make an impact," Mason said.



Photo submitted

Members of the 2025 Southern Coffey County High School football team are, from left, front row - Trey Winn, Nate Winn, Cyrus Nickel, Treyton Houston, Brandon Bussell; back row - Josh Snyder, Brantlee Jones, Syrus Koder, John Rolf, Lane Morrison and Tyler Rolf. Jacob Snyder is also part of the team but was unavailable for the photo.

"They are going to be our depth and possibly a starter or two. All of them are fairly athletic and can help us out in a pinch or for stretches. They are Treyton Houston, Brandon Bussell, Tyler Rolf, Brantlee Jones, Lane Morrison and Jacob Snyder.

"Our two sophomores could make an impact, as well," Mason continued. "They both played some minutes last year, especially when numbers got low. Watching film from last year, you could tell they were starting to figure things out toward the end. If they can lean into their experience from last year and start somewhere close to where they left off, they will have an impact."

The Titans' goals for this season are to get better every day and go out every Friday and compete. Focusing on the small things at practice will be a key to success.

"If we can work on getting good at the small things, I feel that we can compete in every game we play," Mason said.

The team's strength is the returners.

"Ending the season last year with

only six or seven people, everyone got some meaningful minutes," Mason said. "This also helped them to be able to work through adversity. Our weakness is going to be depth with experience. Half of the team is freshmen, so for our main subs and possibly a starter or two, this will be their first season of Friday night football. Making sure they are as ready as possible so we can try to limit the growing pains will be key."



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# SCC Titans

## Lady Titans rebuilding, working to improve

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

LeROY — The Southern Coffey County Lady Titans are preparing for the 2025 season with a young team that is working to make improvements.

Jeff True enters his 15th year as the team's head coach. He will be as-

sisted by Pam Lee. The two coaches have only one returning starter to work with this season.

Returning to the starting lineup is Cheyenne Dyke. A sophomore, she is the team's setter.

"Cheyenne is our only returning starter," True said. "She was our setter last year and will do a solid job for us again at that position."

Joining her are several players looking to make an impact this season. Junior Layla Decker returns to the team with some varsity experience.

"Layla saw some action on the varsity last season and will give us solid leadership as a junior," True said.

Two transfer students also look

to help the team, senior Hailey Honn and junior Alexis Reidinger.

"Hailey transferred in from Burlington," True said. "She is a senior that hasn't played volleyball since middle school but had a great summer in the gym. She will be an outside hitter for us."

See SCC Volleyball, Page 13



Photo submitted

Members of the 2025 Southern Coffey County High School volleyball team are, from left, Riley Schemm, Cheyenne Dyke, Emma Kent, Shanae Yoder, Layla Decker, Hailey Honn, Brooke Marlow, Madalynn Garretson, Brooklynn Bishop, Alexis Riedinger and Delilah Dornes. Melissa Edwards is also a part of the team but was unavailable for the photo.

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## Hartford V-ball

Continued from Page 7

built on positivity, trust and working together. Finally, we want to grow in resilience, learning to stay focused and fight through challenges rather than backing down when the game gets tough.”

Sheahan sees a lot of potential in the team.

“Our team has a great deal of talent, and we’re focused on bringing it all together,” Sheahan said. “We are consistent in serving and strong at keeping the ball off the floor. Alongside a few powerful hitters, we have several players who excel at placing the ball with precision. While our blocking isn’t our strongest area, our reliable passing helps balance that out. When we play in system, we perform at a high level, and we are continuing to improve in out-of-system situations. The pieces are all there – we just need to keep building our communication and energy to put it all together.”

The Lady Jaguars will compete against multiple tough opponents. Some of their toughest competition, according to Sheahan, will come from within the Lyon County League, particularly Marais des Cygnes Valley and Lebo.

“Marais des Cygnes Valley features strong athletes and had an impressive showing in league play last season,” Sheahan said. “Lebo has long been a formidable opponent under the leadership of Coach Gina Peek, who has guided her teams to state appearances year after year. Although they will be reloading after the graduation of all-state players Abi Jones and Saige Hadley, their discipline and tradition of success will continue to make them a tough matchup.”

The Lady Jaguars’ season opener saw them take part in their first tournament of the year, the Peabody Tournament at Peabody, on Saturday, Aug. 30. They played matches against Crest, Madison and Northern Heights at Allen Tuesday, Sept. 2, and will next take on Waverly and Madison at Waverly 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9.

## Wolves

Continued from Page 8

clude speed, playmaking ability and the experience of the returning upperclassmen.

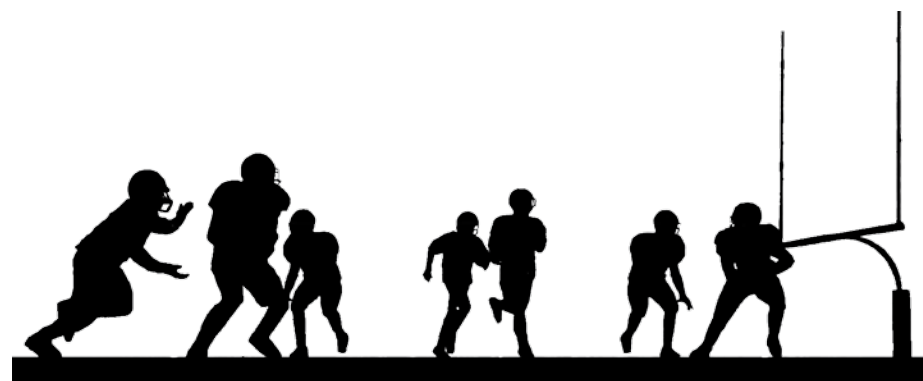
“We have a lot of team speed and playmakers,” Hadley said. “We have been able to make the second or third round of the playoffs the last four years and gained much-needed experience in big games.”

Potential weaknesses include overall youth and needing to replace the six graduated seniors.

“We will be a very young team with only two seniors and two juniors, and we will be replacing six senior starters who led us in passing, rushing, interceptions and tackles,” Hadley said. “We will have to rely on people to step up at skill positions who have

limited experience.”

The Wolves will kick off their season 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, with a road game at Lyon County League rival Madison.



## SCC Volleyball

Continued from Page 12

“Alexis is a sophomore who will be our other outside hitter,” True continued. “She is another transfer student who brings a lot of athleticism to the floor.”

Also looking to make an impact on the team are freshman newcomers Brooke Marlow and Madalynn Garretson, who are both middle hitters.

“Brooke and Madalynn will be strong hitters,” True said. “They both have a lot of potential. They will both get better and better as the season goes on.”

A significant key to success this season will be health.

“We have to stay healthy,” True said. “Our goals are, simply, to get better each day. If we can do that, I think we should be able to compete well in the Three Rivers League.”

There are 15 schools in the league, and some of the Lady Titans’ toughest matches will be against those schools.

“Jayhawk Linn, Uniontown, Erie and Oswego will all be pretty good,” True said.

The Lady Titans hosted Uniontown and Pleasanton for

their season opener Tuesday, Sept. 2, and will next take on Madison and Liberty Homeschool at Madison 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11.



Photo submitted

Southern Coffey County High School cheerleaders for the fall 2025 season are, from left, front row – Cheyenne Dyke, Riley Schemm; back row – Emma Kent, Mady Garretson and Jacie Bishop. Delilah Dornes and Lexi Riedinger are also part of the team but were unavailable for the photo.





# Waverly Bulldogs

## Four returning starters to lead Bulldogs

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

WAVERLY — The Waverly Bulldogs are returning to the gridiron for a new season of high school football and will

have a mix of familiar and new faces on the field.

Nick Fraenza enters his seventh season as the team's head coach, and he will have four players with starting experience to work with this fall. Key

losses to graduation were offensive lineman and defensive end Andy Foltz and offensive and defensive lineman Colten Woodson.

Players returning with starting experience are senior Ty Glissman, ju-

nior Dustin Foster and Rylan Rasmussen and sophomore Maxwell McNabb. Glissman is a tight end and defensive end and was a Lyon County League All-

See Waverly, Page 16



Photo submitted

Members of the 2025 Waverly High School football team are, from left, front row – Clayton Bartlett, Alec Stice, Dustin Foster, Michael Lee, Ben Wagner, Jaxson Arb, Erik Quitter; back row – Kaiser Fraenza, Carter Ohl, Tatum Williams, Ty Glissman, Hayden Ohl, Maxwell McNabb, Rylan Rasmussen and Colt Marsh. Jaxson Bradley is also part of the team but was unavailable for the photo.

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# Waverly Bulldogs

## Lady Bulldogs fielding team with great rapport, love of volleyball

**Katie McMurray**

Reporter

WAVERLY — The 2025 Waverly Lady Bulldog volleyball team will be one that features both familiar and new faces, as well as a solid chemistry and love of the game.

Kelly Stice enters her third season as the team's head coach. She will be assisted by Lori Turner.

On the court, the Lady Bulldogs return four starters, senior Allie Stukey and juniors Zoey Hirt, Macy Seems and Lydia Foltz. Stukey is the team's setter, while Foltz is a middle hitter. Hirt and Seems are both outside hitters.

"Coach Turner and I are very excited to be back in the gym with this group of girls," Stice said. "They are fun, hard-working and determined. They have put in a lot of work this summer in the weight room and gym. We are excited to see their work pay off. Senior Allie Stukey is a four-year starter. She will provide a lot of leadership on the court. Juniors Lydia Foltz, Macy Seems and Zoey Hirt look to be impact players this year at the net."

Among the players joining them will be junior Evelyn McMillen and senior Kate Wagner.

"Evelyn looks to be an impact player defensively this year," Stice said. "Kate will contribute a lot to the team offensively."

This season, the Lady Bulldogs hope to build off the work the girls put in during the summer in order to have a winning season. There will be a few keys to success.

"We will have to stay focused whenever we are in the gym, work very, very hard and stay healthy," Stice said.

A big asset for the team, according to Stice, is that the girls have a great rapport with one another and have a lot of fun playing volleyball together.

"One of our biggest strengths this year is the fact that these girls really like each other," Stice said. "They have a chemistry and kinship that will be a very big key to our success."

There will be several matches during the season that will put the Lady Bulldogs to the test.

"The Lyon County League is always tough," Stice said. "Lebo and Marais des Cygnes Valley will be tough again this year, and it is always hard to beat Olpe."

The Lady Bulldogs opened the season at Burlingame Tuesday, Sept. 2, and will host West Elk and Crest for their home opener 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4.



Photo submitted

Waverly High School cheer/dance team members for the fall 2025 season are, from left, front row – Gentry Hermreck, Macy Seems, Lydia Foltz, Heidi Foltz, Ella McNabb, Grace DeMaranville; back row – Sophia Thornbrugh, Adalynn Glover, Bella Glover, Lacey Johnson, Jasmynn Bathory and Spencer Yeager. Taryn Vogts is also part of the team but was unavailable for the photo.



Photo submitted

Members of the 2025 Waverly High School volleyball team are, from left, front row – Anabel Risch, Isabella Glover, Ella McNabb, Kate Wagner, Allie Stukey, Macy Seems, Evelyn McMillen, Zoey Hirt; back row – Taryn Vogts, Sophia Thornbrugh, Jasmynn Bathory, Heidi Foltz, Abby Risch, Gentry Hermreck, Spencer Yeager and Rhylie Giffin.



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## Lady Wolves

Continued from Page 9

take care of themselves,” Peek said. “Specifically, I would hope we maximize our intellect, have ball control and out serve and out pass our opponents. As long as we continue to get better every day and every week, I think they can expect to continue the success of previous years.”

The Lady Wolves want to play a disciplined and intelligent game.

“Controlling our unforced errors is going to be a key factor in winning games,” Pek said. “Having better ball control and decision making will be a key factor in winning and losing any close matches. We have a great schedule that will push us throughout the season to keep playing high level volleyball.”

No opponent is being taken lightly by the Lady Wolves.

“We view them all as tough,” Peek said. “We cannot look past or assume anything about our opponents. Some of our league opponents will be able to step their game up on any given night and make things challenging. Our tournament schedule remains pretty tough,

with two of those tournaments having a lot of Class 3A competition.”

Alongside the varsity team, the Lady Wolves also have a solid junior varsity squad.

“Our JV team is again going to be strong,” Peek said. “This is so helpful to the overall program, because we get great competition in practice every day, and they help the competitive atmosphere of having to earn your playing time. They are working hard every day knowing that they may have to fill some roles for us if illness or injuries happen. Their efforts this summer show me they are committed to filling those roles well so that our level of play stays where we want it.”

The Lady Wolves opened their season with matches against Central Christian, Goessel and Herington at Herington Tuesday, Sept. 2. They will next host Yates Center and Marais des Cygnes Valley 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8.

## Waverly

Continued from Page 14

League Second Team selection at defensive end as a junior. Foster plays at running back and linebacker and, as a sophomore, earned a LCL All-League Second Team selection at running back and a LCL All-League Honorable Mention selection as a kick returner. Rasmussen is able to play at either tight end or offensive tackle on offense and is a linebacker on defense. McNabb is a running back and linebacker who earned a LCL All-League Honorable Mention selection at tight end as a freshman.

Also projected to join the starting lineup are two sophomores and three freshmen. Sophomores Ben Wagner and Colt Marsh are vying for the starting center position on offense, while Wagner will also likely play as a defensive tackle on

defense. Freshman Alec Stice is projected to be the starting quarterback and strong safety. Michael Lee is projected to start at offensive tackle and defensive tackle. Hayden Ohl is challenging Rasmussen for time in the starting tight end position and will also start at defensive end.

Although the first kickoff hasn’t taken place yet, the Bulldogs are already facing some adversity Fraenza says they will have to work hard to overcome.

“I thought we would take a big step forward this year, but with injuries to key players in the off season, we may have problems with depth,” Fraenza said. “We will have to work even harder together to achieve our goals.”

The team’s schedule will provide multiple tough opponents against whom the Bulldogs will be able to test their skills and work to learn, grow and utilize skills to the best of their abilities. Among the toughest opponents will be top rival Lebo and Marmaton Valley, whom Fraenza believes to be the best team in the district in which the Bulldogs will compete.

The Bulldogs will open the season with a home game against Wichita Life Prep Academy. Kick-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.



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