

# SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

## Wildcats

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"I think we have a bunch of kids who are focused on that," Magill said of postseason qualification. "They want to do well as a team, but also as individuals. That's the beauty of track and field. There are team and individual honors. Hopefully, we will have a number of individual qualifiers."

Especially on the girls side, where Magill has a number of veterans returning. The Wildcats are led by junior Emily Fisher, who is the reigning TVL champion in both the shot put and discus and who placed fifth in both events at last year's District 3 meet.

"She's a really good athlete," Magill said. "She'll throw all three throws."

Sierra Stephens also placed eighth in the javelin at districts and is back for her senior season.

"She's our top javelin thrower," Magill said. "And she'll also compete in the high jump."

Another junior, Hattie Kuhns, qualified for states in the 400 last year after finishing third at districts. She is looking strong in the sprints, Magill said.

"She got within two-tenths of the school record in the 400, so hopefully she can improve on that," he said.

Greenwood also returns its top jumpers in seniors Erin Zeiders, who competes in the triple and long jumps, and Jennifer Campbell, a high jumper.

"She might be our best athlete," Magill said of Zeiders. "I'd be surprised if she is not a district medalist. She has enough versatility to help out in the sprint relay or the mile relay. She's such an athlete, which is why I'm looking for her to have a big year."

Campbell has been fighting injuries for the last two years, but seems to be

healthy, Magill said.

Campbell also might run the 400 and 800. She also ran a leg of the 4x800 team which placed sixth at districts, along with senior Sara Barton, junior Lauren Dressler and sophomore Taylor Hartman.

Barton is a solid runner in the individual 800 as well, while Dressler will compete in the distance events. Hartman won a TVL title in the long jump.

"She ran the fastest leg in the 4x800 and that was a shocker," Magill said. "We knew she had that endurance (for the 800), but we found out that she had pop, too."

Greenwood is counting on junior Lauren Wilson to dominate the hurdles and help out in the sprints. Sophomore Alyscia Smith could also be a dark horse in the 800. She was injured at the midpoint of last season, but "there's some ability there," Magill said.

Sophomore Abbey Korber is a reigning TVL distance champion and returns to run the 1,600- and 3,200-meter races and may appear in the 800.

"Her speed has improved," Magill added. "We look for her to have a significant improvement from her freshman season."

So does all of this add up to another TVL title for the Greenwood girls? Magill said, "The girls could be pretty good. We have quite a battle with Millersburg last year."

Magill also expects a fight with Juniata, which moves back to the five-team TVL this season.

The Greenwood boys lost a number of top performers to graduation, including Myers, the TVL's MVP in the field events.

Also gone are Cody Peterson, a TVL champ in the 100, 200 and two relays; Darren Shoemaker, school record holder and district medalist in the 800; and Sal Buonocore, another record holder in the relays.

The Wildcats lost junior Garrett Byers for the season due to a knee injury. Byers was the top 1,600 runner on the roster and ran a leg of the 4x800.

"There were a lot of points there," Magill said. "You are well on your way to winning a meet when you win all of the jumps, sprints, etc. We'll move some people around to fill spots. We have some youth, so we'll have to see what happens."

The Wildcats do have talent. Senior Scott Kerstetter returns in the sprints. He could also race in the 800 and 4x800 relay.

Another senior, Roy Miller, is also back in the sprints, Magill said. "We've seen considerable improvement with him. Early on, he might be a force because he's in pretty good shape for early in the season."

In the hurdles, juniors Curtis Mather and Gabe Schroff look to return to their 2012 forms. The same can be said for senior Niklas Troutman and junior Tyler Fegley in the jumps.

Troutman should excel in the long jump, while Fegley's specialty is the long and triple. "If Tyler stays healthy, he will be a force in the league," Magill said. "He's put some size on to go with his strength and speed."

In the throws, Greenwood is counting on senior Dillon Meehan to shine in the shot and discus, while the best prospects in the distance races are junior Kyle Kolmansberger and sophomore Hunter Miller.

"Kyle was our top 3200 guy under he got hurt last year," Magill said. "Roy runs the 400 on up to the 3,200. He's put on speed and endurance since he worked hard all winter long. I look for him to have a pretty good year."

Magill sees East Juniata and Juniata as the preseason favorites to win the TVL, with the Wildcats in the mix.

## Trojans

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newcomers among the girls in Brooke Staley and freshman Kaitlin Todaro, both crossovers from cross country.

"On the girls side it's kind of nice. Our leading scorer Katrina Hammon is back. Alana Saulen is back, a district sprinter. Tynita White is throwing extremely well for us in the shot put, she's throwing discus this year and we're actually going to get her into throwing javelin also," Wydock said. "Overall I kind of like the balance and experience there."

He said he's especially hopeful that White, who was fourth in the district meet in the shot put, can get herself into a state-qualifying spot in her second season. Boosting

her chances is the fact that the three finishers ahead of her a year ago all graduated.

"We're hoping for something nice for Tynita this year, to take control, take charge," Wydock said.

Numbers are good for the team this year, he said, and there's promise for the future with a good turnout among younger students.

"We have 55 boys out and we have 47 girls — real good numbers. Naturally we have a variety of talent overall," he said, pleased especially with the freshman boys class. "That's what I'm pleased about — we have some youth and we have them there to develop."

Neither team was stellar in the Inter-County Conference last spring, but both put up respectable 5-8 records. The boys will have to work hard to repeat or improve on that.

"We're going to take it one step at a time and just try to be as competitive as we can," Wydock said. "The girls I'm looking for some good things from. We're looking hopefully to improve on that."

Wydock maintains a pragmatic outlook on the season, especially on the track, which has been the place Mount Union has excelled in recent years.

"On the boys side we're going to give our best effort, but with the crew we lost last year — I lost my entire 3,200-meter relay team and 1,600-meter relay team, the milers, two milers, 800 runners and 400-meter runners — we'll struggle a little bit. But I think we'll improve and come along down the road," he said. "We'll hold our own pretty well on the track on the girls side."

## Mustangs

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gaps," he said.

With 53 athletes spread across the boys and girls rosters, Midd-West has its biggest team, and one that Gemberling believes can grow — but admits at the same time growth is hampered because there is no way for the team's classmates to come to a meet at the school — a difference that applies to no other Mid-West sport.

"You don't have that feeling like it's home turf. You're always a guest," Gemberling said. "Our kids, sometimes I think they enjoy it because they get to go different places and see different things. But it does put you at a huge disadvantage."

And the team lacks equipment and abilities — no high jump, no pole vault and just handful of hurdles for the Mustangs to practice with.

"We work in limited

quantities. The jump pit, it's makeshift. We don't have throwing circles — our guys are throwing off macadam," Gemberling said. "We make do with what we've got."

No coach wants to predict anything less than success, but Gemberling concedes that his team — which has not won a dual meet in two years, and hasn't the staff to score enough points to win against most opponents — has its work cut out for it.

"We're not going to win dual meets. I've talked to the kids about that a lot," he

said. "I have some people on the track this year but we don't have a ton, and we don't have a ton of depth."

"Our kids' main focus is league meet, the Lock Haven Invationals that we go to and getting qualified for districts. As a team we push each other, but when it comes down to the nitty gritty we're more of an individual basis than a team basis at dual meets," he said. "We still tell the kids to put out their best effort in the events we put them in, and go from there."

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