

Girls tennis returns nine seasoned players

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The girls tennis team return nine veteran players to their squad and have added several new players. Coach Susan Fullhart told *The Nugget* that new players join the squad each day, and players fill the court in practice.

Several seniors are back for their final year: Brenna Weems will bring powerful strokes and good serves to her game, and Jesse Farr-Baenziger will be a very strong net-player. Maya Wieland is a strong all-around tennis player, and Gwen Knoop is a fine all-around athlete. Kenna Cardin brings tenacity to her game.

Also back for another year are junior Emma Tara, who plays very consistent at the net, and sophomores Lacey Gilmore and Annika Stadel.

Weems and Farr-Baenziger will start the season at the No. 1 doubles spot and Knoop and Wieland will most likely play No. 2 doubles.

Fullhart has several possible teams in mind for the No. 3 and No. 4 spots, but doesn't expect the lineup to really shake out until much later in the season.

Fullhart said, "I expect

all of these returning players to turn their experience into success on the court."

The Lady Outlaws singles line-up is a bit slimmer, as most of the girls prefer doubles.

Lacey Gilmore is one of the players who prefers singles. Fullhart noted that Lacey's steady and consistent style of play is perfectly suited for singles play.

"A couple of the new girls are hoping to play singles as well. I expect the singles line-up to be even more fluid than the doubles throughout the season," said Fullhart.

At least half of the Outlaws squad is comprised of first-year players, some of whom have little to no experience on the court. Rylee Weber and Hawley Harrer are two of the newcomers that Fullhart expects to make some noise on the court.

"Both of these girls are very athletic, competitive and motivated, and that's a winning combination," said Fullhart.

The large number of players that are on the team will create some extra competition as players vie for the 12 varsity spots. Fullhart told *The Nugget* that the competition will make everyone better.

Baseball team swings into season

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws baseball team returns four seasoned seniors to the squad, and they have hopes to defend their league title and make it five in a row this year.

Seniors Ben Larson, Justin Harrer, Jonathan Luz, and Cody Kreminski return for their final year. Larson plays outfield for the Outlaws and is a sure-handed fielder. Ben is left-handed and makes good contact when he hits the ball.

Harrer will be the Outlaws' No. 1 pitcher this season, and is able to throw a change-up, a fastball, and a curveball. Justin will also play at shortstop. He has great speed, runs the bases well, hits for power and average and can steal bases once he gets on.

"He can turn any ball hit in the gap into an extra base because of his speed," said Coach Steve Hodges.

Luz will play at shortstop, second base, and also see some time as pitcher. Jonathan is a great defensive player, is

quick, and has great range in the field. He's also a threat on the base paths.

Kreminski rounds out the senior players. Cody will primarily play at first base, but might also see some time on the mound. Cody also hits for power and average, and the coaches expect a great year from him at the plate.

Alex Olivier is the Outlaws' only returning junior. Alex will play at centerfield, will do some pitching, and may even spend some time as catcher. Alex is a great runner, and a good base-stealer.

Two sophomores, Ryan Cook and Alec Gannon, are also back for another season. Cook will play at third base and in the outfield, and may see some time on the mound. Hodges noted that Cook is steadily improving and becoming a better hitter. Gannon will play in the outfield, and possibly in the infield. Alec is a left-handed hitter for the Outlaws and can put down the bunt.

New to the team this year are junior Connor Lake, and

freshmen Zach Morgan and Odin Thorson. Lake will see time in the infield and also as pitcher. Connor broke two small bones in his foot while diving for a ball in practice and will be out for four weeks.

Morgan will primarily play third base. Zach is a powerful hitter and will also be in the Outlaws pitching rotation. Thorson will play in the outfield and pitch as a lefty for the team. Odin has great speed and is a good bunter.

Hayden Parsons, Jake Larson, Jonathan Bertagna, and Jacob Gurney will be swing players, and it's possible they will see some time on the varsity squad.

Hodges said, "There will definitely be competition for starting positions on the team. Nothing is set in stone. Our Arizona trip gives us a real indication of what our opening day league lineup will be."


The Outlaws will swing into action on Thursday, March 19, with a home game against Mt. View. A day later, they will play at home against Hidden Valley.

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