

SIGNING,

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after taking a college visit there earlier in the school year.

"I immediately liked the campus and they had programs there that I wanted to pursue, which was a major factor in why I wanted to go there," Allen said. "Plus, I knew their baseball staff was really good and that they had a good pitching staff."

Allen will get the chance to pitch alongside former McNary standout Josiah Gilbert, who is entering his sophomore year at Pacific. But the thing Allen is most looking forward to is just being able to play at the next level.

"Getting to go onto the the next level is really exciting because not a whole lot of people are able to do that," Allen said. "It just shows that a lot of hard work and perseverance will take you where you need to go."

While Covalt and Allen are both greatly looking forward to playing baseball in college, they also want to finish off their high school careers at McNary on the right note.

"Going into their senior year, we're going to expect them to be leaders in their own unique way," Keeker said. "Tyler will be more of a vocal guy and David will lead based on his actions and work ethic."

"We expect them to lead the way and perform well in the field."



McNary pitcher Faith Danner enters the season as one of the best arms in the Conference.

CELTS,

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ting average to go along with 19 RBIs.

Alexa Cepeda (junior- OF): As a sophomore, Cepeda was the team leader last season in runs scored (37) and stole bases (25). She was named a 2018 honorable mention.

"Alexa's one of those kids that gets on all the time," Wise said. "And when she gets on, she's so quick and smart and she causes a lot of havoc."

Kate Ronning (sopho-

more- 3B): Also was a honorable mention performer last season. Batted .368 and had an on-base percentage of .455.

Abbi Covalt (sophomore- 2B): Batted .410 as a freshman and is McNary's third honorable mention performer that's returning to the team.

Another big benefit for this McNary team will be the addition of freshman pitcher Hannah Ebner.

Last season, Danner pitched in all but one game as Wise did not have much confidence in the rest of his pitching staff. However, Wise believes that he will be able to take the load off his star pitcher a little bit

more this season.

"(Hannah) is a good pitcher. So now we have that backup if Faith is having a bad day or needs some rest," Wise said. "It's nice that we have someone else we can go to."

With the majority of his starters returning, it's clear that Wise believes that this group has a high ceiling.

"We want to win a conference title and make a deep run in the playoffs," Wise said. "I think this group is going to get better as the year goes on."

TRACK,

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Nary's other high-level sprinter last season and is expected to improve in the 100m and 200m.

"We expect (Rios and Hernandez) to pick up right where they left off," Gauntz said. "They are only going to get faster."

McLean Schmidt (senior): McNary's best returning hurdler. He had top-15 finishes at districts last year in the 100 and 300-hurdles.

With the addition of Bend,

Mountain View and Summit to the conference, Gauntz knows that his team will be challenged from week to week. But McNary's goals for the season aren't about how many dual meets they win or how many kids they send to state. It's all about building towards success for the future.

"I don't really have expectations on how many kids we'll take to state. I just want kids to be faster, jump higher and throw farther than they did at the beginning of the year," Gauntz said.

"I want a lot of (personal records) at the conference meet."



McNary sophomore Kennedy Buss runs the 800 meters in a meet from last season.

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