

Loggers: ‘There are six to eight guys who might throw for us’

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“We know we have one of them. One of our goals in the early season is to try and build some depth behind Eli. He will be the anchor of the staff, then we have six or seven guys. It might be one of those years, where you ask a guy, ‘can you give me three outs?’ Then on to the next guy.”

The next guy is Wallace,

a senior who missed a year of baseball due to a football injury. Or it could be Jaxson Goodman, or Logan Flues, or Devin Hoover.

“We have lots of unknowns on the mound,” Miller said. “There are six to eight guys who might throw for us.

“One of our better arms is Ryson Patterson. But he’s learning at catcher, and that’s a full-time job. So it’s

hard to bring him out from behind the plate.

“That’s one of our challenges, not a lot of depth at the catcher position. One of our better arms on the mound is also our No. 1 catcher.”

Meanwhile, “it’s been a while since (Wallace) has picked up a baseball,” Miller said. “He’s a good player. He has a strong foundation, from his youth days in

Knappa and his high school years before he got hurt. He’s working hard and will be one of our better arms and one of our better bats.”

Other seniors on the roster include infielder Ryker Coffey, outfielders Luke Goozee, Tyler Green, Shaun Lackey, and third baseman Logan Bartlett, one of the best hitters at the 2A level.

“Lackey is a solid player, can play every position, and

we’re hoping he can be an everyday outfielder,” Miller said. “Ryker Coffey returns at second base, and he’s very solid.”

In addition to Goodman and Takalo, the junior class has Patterson and first baseman Mason Westerholm.

Also contributing will be Hoover and sophomore Cameron Miethe, and freshman Drew Miller.

Miller’s assistant coaches

are Kirk Miller and Tim Miller.

Prediction: If the Loggers can spend the pre-season beating big-school teams from San Francisco and Denver, they can handle anyone from the 2A level in Oregon. With a 1-2 punch of Takalo and Wallace on the mound, the Loggers appear unbeatable. Again. For the third year in a row, state champions.

JEWELL BLUE JAYS

SPRING 2019 | TRACK



Photos by Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

LEFT: Nedi Morales will try to help Jewell replace Gabi Morales in point-scoring for the Lady Jays this season on the track. RIGHT: Aiden Bixel is one of the key throwers and pole vaulters for the Jewell track team.

Key athletes return for the Jewell Jays

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

Jewell track coach Joe Kaczenski has a good mix of experienced athletes and talented youth this year, as the Blue Jays head into the 2019 season. “We’re 19 strong, with some key people back,” said Kaczenski, a few weeks into the spring season. Jewell lost some big point-scorers from last season — Emma Guillen, Gabi Morales, Thomas Meehan and Ben Stahly among them — but the Jays also have some familiar names returning. Senior returner Lily Kaczenski had a strong finish to the 2018 season, in which she won the district pole vault competi-

tion and placed fourth in the javelin. She advanced to the state meet in Eugene, where she took second in the pole vault, clearing 8 feet, 4 inches. On the other hand, the Lady Jays will have a hard time replacing Morales, who led the Jewell girls to a fourth-place finish out of 14 teams in last year’s Casco/Valley 10 league meet, won by the North Clackamas boys and the Southwest Christian girls. Morales won the 300-meter hurdles, took second in the 100-meter hurdles and third in the high jump in the district meet. Junior Nedi Morales will try to step in where Gabi left off, as she saw action in several different events to start the 2019 season, including the 800 meters, javelin,

long jump and triple jump. She also competes in the pole vault. Besides Kaczenski and Nedi Morales, Jewell had just three other athletes on the girls’ roster through three weeks, including sophomore Ally Phillips and freshmen Brenna Shaw and Alivia Swearingen. Jewell has more numbers on the boys’ side, where the Jays have to replace Meehan (fifth in district 3,000 meters) and Stahly. To start with, the Blue Jays will look to get points from senior Jacob Lilley and sophomore Aiden Bixel. Lilley qualified for the finals in the district 110 hurdles last year, and he also competes in the sprints, discus, pole vault and triple jump.

As a freshman last year, Bixel was third in the district pole vault, 10th in the shot put and 13th in both the discus and javelin. Sophomore Eddie Berg is another returner, and competed in the 800 and 1,500 meters in Jewell’s first meet of 2019, as well as the javelin. Jewell has juniors Josh Ruch and Chase Swearingen, but the rest of the roster is fairly young, with sophomore Desmond Chronister and freshmen Cyrus Blodgett, Nick Nikander, Logan Payne and Andy Valdez. Meanwhile, Jewell’s refurbished track surface resulted in the Jays’ first home meet in 25 years last season, and Jewell is scheduled to host another invitational April 20.



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