



Cottage Grove Baseball



Pitcher Wyatt Sayles delivers a strike at practice.

Team Rundown:

The seniors of the Cottage Grove baseball team are excited to officially be the ones calling the shots this year.

“Well the thing I’m most excited for is the growth on the team,” said senior catcher Jaace Cross. “Especially with our senior leaders because last year it was a little rough with our senior leaders. I ended up becoming, in my junior year, becoming one of the senior leaders.”

“The seniors this year had a leadership role last year. The seniors last year kind of slacked, but I mean, it feels good to be officially the leader,” noted senior left fielder Payton Frieze.

For Cottage Grove it will take more than just leadership to get back to the level of success it had two seasons ago when it finished the season

ranked fourth in state.

While the Lions finished last season a game over .500 and fourth in Sky-Em, they have pieces in place this season to be able to compete with the top teams in their league. Their success this year starts with bringing back their starting outfielders in seniors Frieze, Emry Foster and sophomore Hunter Sharkey. Junior all-league pitcher Wyatt Sayles will also be on the mound while Cross, who is looking to play at the collegiate level next season, brings consistency from behind the plate.

“This is his third year starting. He’s a senior behind the plate so it’s really nice to have a senior catcher that can take command and do things,” said head coach Dan Geiszler.



A Cottage Grove coach watches the team getting ready for the season.

Team Perspective with Emry Foster:

On how the team got better in the offseason:

In the offseason our entire team, our entire team from senior to freshmen put in a lot of work. So I’m excited to see that carry on the actual field and the actual game. Lot of BP, lot of batting practice, lot of fielding practice.

We have pitchers before school come in at 6:30 in the morning and practice pitching and everything. Yeah, a lot of hard work and determination.

We lost some good seniors last year, it’s going to be tough to in a sense replace them. There’s definitely some players that haven’t seen varsity level yet. ...Like I said, with as much work as they’ve been putting in the offseason I think we’ll go out there and do just fine.

On what this team does well:

Actual teamwork. We’re a pretty close team. Team bonding, team breakfasts. We do all that kind of stuff so I think communication and teamwork. As a team, getting each other up, not getting down you know if we’re down a lot. Keeping each other up if one of us makes a mistake, stuff like that. Yeah, the positivity will carry us a far distance.

On a teammate that will have a good season:

Payton Frieze. ...He’s been my best friend since kindergarten we’ve played ball together since we were both three-years-old. It’s cool playing up all the way to see us both in the outfield together all through our senior year. It’s nice to have a brother on the field.

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Wishing every team a great season!
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