

2020 HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS

ELITE 11

Here is a look at a top returning player from each area school for the 2020 season:

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KELSEY RHOADES

An All-THB and All-CIC performer a year ago, Rhoades is back to lead a balanced Alexandria golf team this season. Rhoades shot a 94 at the CIC tournament at Elwood last year as the Tigers fell just four shots back of champion Frankton. She was the low Tiger at sectional with a 99 at Noblesville. One of many fall athletes whose spring season (tennis) was canceled, she is excited to get back to competition this fall.

"I definitely think we can do some great things this season assuming we get to have it," Rhoades said. "I get in my head a lot, so my goal is to chill out and make it fun this year."

ALEXANDRIA - GOLF



SEBASTIAN RODRIGUEZ


The players responsible for 20 of Anderson's 22 goals last season have graduated, but the Indians return Rodriguez, one of their most important defensive pieces.

The goalkeeper last year, Rodriguez was responsible for 104 saves and allowed just 18 goals. He authored four shutouts in 2019 and is looking forward to leading the team in 2020.

"I'm really excited, we've got some new people this year," Rodriguez said. "Last year was really beautiful, we communicated with each other, and we put in a lot of competition against some great teams."

Rodriguez is hoping to play soccer next year in college.

ANDERSON - SOCCER



LARRY RODRIGUEZ

The APA soccer team had plenty of success in 2019, including a state ranking and a sectional game victory — both school firsts — and Rodriguez was central to that success.

Rodriguez led the Jets with 13 goals last season and chipped in a pair of assists. One of his scores came in a 3-1 sectional win over Tri-Central, and he is hoping that 2020 can yield similar results.

"We have some good talent coming back, and we hope to help our underclassmen understand what it takes to be a successful team," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez is undecided on his future plans, but hopes to play college soccer.

ANDERSON PREP - SOCCER



EMMA ALLEN


Allen has been a part of consecutive Broncos teams to advance to regional and is hoping for a third trip, her second at the top of the team's scorecard.

Allen shot an 83 at the Muncie Sectional last year, which was tied for fourth best score in the field.

While it may have been a disappointing day at the Lapel regional, that did nothing to dampen the excitement from sectional.

"I think we were all excited about getting our PRs (personal records) that day," she said. "We were more excited about beating our score from the previous year, plus it was so close between us and Winchester to win it."

DALEVILLE - GOLF



HAYDEN WATTERS

A young Elwood tennis team graduated just one senior last season, and Watters will move up to assume the No. 1 singles position in 2020.

After watching Jake Ball and Kaleb Haley play the top spot the past two seasons, Watters knows his new role means playing the best player every opponent has. He is looking forward to the challenge and to leading the younger players.

"I'm kind of nervous, to be honest," Watters said. "I'm excited, but I'm nervous. I'm trying to hit with the freshmen quite a bit when we head out to practice."

Watters plans to study graphic design and hopes to attend Indiana University.

ELWOOD - TENNIS



BRADLEY LAWRENCE

Lawrence was a major factor in the Frankton boys cross country team advancing to semistate the past two years.

In 2019, Lawrence placed 26th at sectional and 28th at regional before a 141st place finish at semistate. He is hopeful that his senior cross country season does not fall victim to cancellation the way his spring track season did, but is excited to be back with his teammates.

"It's pretty exciting, but are we going to have it or is it going to end up getting canceled?" Lawrence said. "It's been pretty fun, everyone works better together."

Lawrence is planning on pursuing an engineering degree.

FRANKTON - CROSS COUNTRY




NICK THALLS

Lapel enters the fall of 2020 seeking an eighth straight sectional championship, and Thalls was a strong contributor to the team that won No. 7.

Last season, Thalls teamed with Corbin Renihan to win their No. 1 doubles match in the sectional championship against Anderson and went on to post one of two Lapel points in a 3-2 loss to Marion at regional. He anticipates a similar role for himself this season.

"I'll probably play one doubles again, but I'm not sure who my partner will be," Thalls said. "Once we get through some practice and workouts, we'll figure out who that might be."

LAPEL - TENNIS



CAMERON WIEHBRINK


A regional qualifier in 2019, Wihebrink is back looking for even more success leading the Lions in 2020.

Wihebrink was 36th at the Pendleton Heights Sectional and 68th at Delta the following week last season. He has set qualifying for semistate as a realistic goal for himself this year.

"I've been pacing myself and focusing more on my speed during certain times during the race," Wihebrink said. "We're just taking it one day at a time."

He also hopes to stay close to home after high school and plans to run cross country and track and field next year at Anderson University.

LIBERTY CHR. - CROSS COUNTRY



NICK EVANS

For an experienced Argylls team with high hopes for 2020, Evans is back as one of the leaders.

Evans split time in 2019 between singles and doubles, but paired with Jackson Manwell to advance in the doubles postseason tournament.

He says he does not have a preference between the two, but does like having a teammate on the court with him.

"They're about the same to me," Evans said. "I like having a teammate there playing along, it's a lot easier to give up on yourself than on a teammate, so with doubles there's that extra push."

Evans plans on playing baseball in college next year.

MADISON-GRANT - TENNIS



MACY BROWNING

A co-captain for a team with 16 seniors, Browning returns as one of the top playmakers for the Arabians.

Last year, Browning scored seven goals and assisted on six others as Pendleton Heights finished 9-6-2.

Now a senior leader, she is planning to use much of what she has learned from some of her predecessors.

"I think I learned a lot from the seniors who I was captain with last year, they helped me grow into a leadership role," Browning said. "I'm kind of looking to do the same thing."

Browning has committed to play soccer at Indiana Wesleyan, where she will study nursing.

PENDLETON HEIGHTS - SOCCER



KATIE CRAIG

There were successes in 2019 for Craig, but through hard work she is already eyeing big improvements for 2020.

She was All-Henry County, All-MEC and All-THB in 2019 as well as Henry County individual medalist. Craig has been busy winning tournaments this summer and is looking to advance beyond sectional this fall.

"I've been playing a lot of tournaments, my driving has been really good, but I still have to work on my putting and chipping," Craig said. "The short game has always been the hardest part."

Craig intends to play golf in college and study business and accounting.

SHENANDOAH - GOLF



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