



INSIDE: LUDINGTON AND MANISTEE

# SPRING SPORTS

Ludington  
**Daily News**

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## Ludington boys track

# Multi-sport athletes join team

BY EDWARD PAPES  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

The good news for the Ludington Orioles boys track and field team is that it has a large turnout of 40 athletes this spring. But the not-so-good news is that only 12 of that number are upperclassmen and just five of those 12 are returnees from last season.

But the news that might save the day is that coach Mark Willis, now in his sixth season as the leader of the Orioles thinclads, will welcome a solid infusion of basketball and football athletes who have chosen to compete in track and field this spring.

"We have a lot of new kids this spring," said Willis. "We will be headed in a new direction."

Last season, the Orioles won the Lakes 8 Activities Conference crown and took fifth place at the state Division 2 regional meet in Alendale.

"We have lost a lot of guys and a lot of points from that team," added Willis.

Indeed they have. Gone via graduation are mid-distance runners Ben Knoer and Joseph Hatch along with distance runner John



NOAH HAUSMANN | DAILY NEWS

Members of the Ludington boys track team are, front row, from left, Matthew Snyder, John Biggs, Max Hockanson, Ian Ransom, Owen Storm, Hunter Nehm, C.J. Samuels, Marvin Backhaus, Evan Walls, Jonah Lundberg, Will Siegert, Evan Bennett, Shemar Jennings and Skylar Gerber; middle row, Jake Plamondon, Max Munn, Caleb Keegstra, Chazz Rohrer, Dylan Buck, Sawyer Smith and Joshua Laman; back row, coach Mark Willis, Peyton LaCombe, Parker LaCombe, Evan Shay, Colin Anders, Charles Austin, Caleb Smith, Max Knoer, Craig Fuller, Kyle Barnett, Bruce Thompson, Jasseri Lehan, Andrew Talsma, Max Kline, Dylan Griffing, Keese Villarreal, Aaron Conger and assistant Maurie Holbrook. Not pictured: Aiden Mueller and Myles Fritz.

Siegert, hurdler Jared Garten, pole vaulter Caleb Schoon and sprinters Zac Peterson.

Pacing the Orioles this season should be senior sprinter/long jumper Shemar Jennings and junior distance runner Max Kline.

Jennings had one long jump measured at 21 feet last spring. Kline posted a time of 4:42.87 while finishing eighth in the 1600-meter run at the regional meet.

"Both of those guys are

excited for the season to start," said their coach.

Some other upperclassmen who could help include senior pole vaulter Miles Fritts as well as junior sprinters John Biggs and Ian Ransom.

The Orioles should be boosted by the return of junior sprinter Max Knoer, who missed last season because of injury.

Also, the team could get a nice lift from some newcomers who have shown

their athleticism in other sports. Those include seniors Josh Laman, who will be a thrower, and Jayden Hathaway, a high jumper/sprinter. In addition, junior sprinters Skylar Gerber and Parker LaCombe should help out. Another athlete coming back to track and field is sophomore Jake Plamondon. He is a shot putter and discus thrower who set school records in the shot in middle school.

Freshman Peyton La-

Combe as well could be of help in the high jump and mid-distance runs.

"These guys have a lot of promise. And they will be good leaders," said Willis. "But we still need to see what they can do for us."

Willis has 28 underclassmen to work with.

"We have a lot of youngsters and a lot of unknowns," noted Willis.

But help could come from sophomore thrower Chazz Rohrer and freshman hur-

dlar Caleb Smith.

"I know one thing. We have an army of throwers," said Willis.

The 2019 Ludington Orioles boys track and field team roster:

**SENIORS:** Miles Fritts, Jayden Hathaway, Caleb Keegstra, Shemar Jennings, Josh Laman.

**JUNIORS:** John Biggs, Max Kline, Max Knoer, Parker LaCombe, Skylar Gerber, Ian Ransom, Evan Shay.

**SOPHOMORES:** Colin Anders, Kyle Barnett, Dylan Buck, Kyler Garrow, Dylan Griffing, Craig Fuller, Max Hockanson, Jasseri Lehan, Jonah Lundberg, Max Munn, Jake Plamondon, Chazz Rohrer, Owen Storm, Andrew Talsma, Bruce Thompson, Evan Walls.

**FRESHMEN:** Evan Bennett, Aaron Conger, Edward Gamble, Tyler Gingras, Peyton LaCombe, Aiden Mueller, Hunter Nehm, Will Siegert, Caleb Smith, Sawyer Smith, Matthew Snyder, Keese Villarreal.

Assisting Willis this spring will be Craig Fuller, Maury Holbrook and Rich Kirby.

In the Lakes 8 title chase, Willis sees Manistee as the team to beat.

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## Ludington girls track

## Foundation starts with Fountain

BY EDWARD PAPES  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

As Ludington girls track and field coach Scott Stone begins his second season as the Orioles leader, he must be comforted by the thought that he has one of the top 400-meter sprinters in the state to build his team around.

That foundation is senior speedster, Emma Fountain, who won the MHSAA Division 2 state title in the 400 (57.49) last season and who also owns the school records in the 200 and 400.

"Emma is one of the best ever here at Ludington. And is the fastest girl I have ever coached," said Stone, who also coached the Orioles boys team for nine seasons. Last spring, the Orioles won the Lakes 8 Activities Conference title and finished seventh at the MHSAA regional.

The Orioles' biggest loss to graduation from last season is their outstanding thrower, Julie Reynolds.

"We should be strong in the middle-distance and distance races," said Stone. "Our distance relays (3,200 and 1,600) should be real strengths for us. We have a lot of experience back in

those races."

Besides Fountain's considerable contributions, the Orioles expect big-time help from senior middle-distance runner, Randi Stone, junior distance runners, Ruby Strahan and Charlotte Glanville, as well as mid-distance runners junior, Allison Morse and sophomore Gwendelyn Shamel, along with junior pole-vaulters/sprinters, Ellie Schoon and Alex Kovar.

Senior high-jumper Allison Kettler should also provide some points for the Orioles.

Two strong senior athletes, who missed track last season, are back this year to lend a hand. Those two are sprinters Laura Gibson and Tori Clancy.

Other juniors that should give their team a lift include hurdler/high-jumper Natalie Allen and thrower Audra Shoop.

Sophomores that are expected help out are long-jumper Erin Reilly, sprinter/pole-vaulter Lindy Murphy and mid-distance runner Emma Klein.

From the freshman class, aid should come from throwers RyAnn Rohrer and Vanessa Thomas as well as sprinters Elyssia Williams-Lopez, Zoe Boss and Madeline Cooper.



Members of the Ludington girls track team are, front row, from left, Abigail O'Rourke, Madeline Cooper, Ellie Schoon, Bella Gassaway, Lindy Murphy, Emma Klein, Ruby Strahan and Alex Kovar; back row, coach Rich Kirby, Elyssa Lopez, Alyssa Sayles, Tamberly Williams, Gwen Shamel, Zoe Voss, Emma Fountain, Laura Gibson, Tori Clancy, Charlotte Glanville, Allison Kettler and Natalie Allen.

NOAH HAUSMANN | DAILY NEWS PHOTO

The 2019 Ludington Orioles girls track and field team roster:

**SENIORS:** Tori Clancy, Emma Fountain, Laura Gibson, Allison Kettler, Marian Prentice, Randi Stone.

**JUNIORS:** Natalie Allen, Charlotte Glanville, Heaven Horn, Alex Kovar, Allison Morse, Alyssa Sayles, Ellie Schoon, Audra Shoop, Ruby Strahan, Gwen Shamel.

**SOPHOMORES:** Emma Klein, Lindy Murphy, Erin Reilly, Gwen Shamel.

**FRESHMEN:** Haley Arce, Corriana Boyd, Madeline Cooper, Bella Gassaway, Abi-

gal O'Rourke, RyAnn Rohrer, Vanessa Thomas, Zoe Voss, Tamberly Williams, Elyssia Williams-Lopez.

Assisting Stone with the high school team this season will be Rich Kirby and Maury Holbrook.

In the Lakes 8, Stone forecasts Manistee and Muskegon Western Michigan Christian as two of the toughest opponents.

"Manistee is always tough," noted Stone. "And WMC has some great distance runners."



Members of the Ludington girls track team's throwers are, from left, assistant Rich Kirby, Haley Arce, Corriana Byrd, RyAnn Rohrer, Vanessa Thomas and Audra Shoop.



Best of luck on a great season!

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## Ludington boys golf

# Orioles return core of team

BY EDWARD PAPES  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

"We have everybody back this year," said Ludington boys golf coach Todd Schipper. "The core of our team is juniors and sophomores. The future looks good for us."

Last season, the Oriole boys won the Lakes 8 Activities Conference championship and then finished one place out of qualifying at the MHSAA Division 3 regional meet for the finals.

"That is two years in a row now that we just missed qualifying for the state meet," said Schipper, who is in his third season as the Orioles leader. "We want to qualify this year, but we have moved up to Division 2 and we will be in a brutal regional at Gaylord."

Schipper has "about 24 or 25" young men out for golf this season.

"That is good for our program," said Schipper. "But we will have to do things a little different this season. We will have a varsity team with about six or seven players, a varsity 'B' team with around six or seven players and a junior varsity squad of about 12. Some of the players on the varsity and varsity B teams could



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Members of the Ludington boys golf team are, front row, from left, Brayden Kennedy, Benjamin Zwick, Kyle Heimerdinger, Riley Habermehl, Ethan Koss, Aden Butcher, Carson Holmes, Austin Horacek, Trent Meeker, Evan McKinley, Gavin Mitchell and Edward Gamble; back row, coach Todd Schipper, Justin Plamondon, Joseph Sipes, Kyle Snyder, Brendan Ryan, Garrett Bennett, Bryce Clarke, Jack Heimerdinger, Ben Laman, Blake Benson, Craig Maconochie, Matthew Sarto and junior varsity coach Kelley Chapman.

change spots as the season goes along."

Schipper likes the long-term future of the program.

"Ours is not a one- or two-year blueprint," he said. "We are looking at keeping our success going."

Leading Ludington on the links this spring should be junior Evan McKinley. McKinley finished 11th at the state tournament in Division 3 and earned all-state honors. He also was the top player at the regional tournament.

The Orioles will also look to junior Matthew Sarto, senior Trent Meeker, junior

Ben Laman as well as sophomores Carson Holmes and Blake Benson to put up good scores this season.

"We have a number of guys who have put in a lot of extra time to improve," added Schipper.

Others who could help out the varsity this spring include junior Kyle Snyder, senior Craig Maconochie, senior Garrett Bennett and freshman Justin Plamondon.

"We really have not had a good chance to see a lot of our younger players on the course yet," said Schipper. "There could be changes on

the varsity as we see more of all the players."

The 2019 Ludington Orioles boys golf team roster.

**SENIORS:** Garrett Brown, Craig Maconochie, Trent Meeker.

**JUNIORS:** Ben Laman, Evan McKinley, Matthew Sarto, Kyle Snyder.

**SOPHOMORES:** Blake Benson, Carson Holmes.

**FRESHMAN:** Justin Plamondon.

Assisting Schipper this season will be Kelley Chapman, who will coach the junior varsity.

"She is a real positive for us," said Schipper. "We will be able to give attention to all of our players."

In the Lakes 8, Schipper sees his Orioles right in the mix again for the league title along with Manistee and Muskegon Western Michigan Christian.

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## Ludington girls soccer

# Defense solid, but more goals needed

BY EDWARD PAPES  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

"We will have a pretty young team this spring. But there is a lot of potential," said Ludington girls soccer coach Kris Anderson, who begins his 15th season as the Orioles' leader.

Last season, the Orioles finished tied for last in the Lakes 8 Activities Conference with a record of 1-5-2.

"But we never lost a game by more than one goal," added Anderson. "The league was very close from top to bottom."

Overall, Ludington ended up with a record of 4-10-2. And it lost, 4-2, to Big Rapids in the district finals.

"One of the girls' biggest goals this season is win the district championship," said Anderson.

From last season's squad, the Orioles have graduated eight players: Mackenzie Luce, Caroline Cooney, Courtney Gerovac, Allison May, Claire Leikert, Haileigh Huber, Allison Janowiak and Kennedy Kirby.

Leading the way for the Orioles on the pitch this season should be sophomore center/defender Hailey Stowe, junior forward Bre Mesyar, junior center-mid/forward



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Members of the Ludington girls varsity soccer team are, front row, from left, Anna Wietrzykowski, Kendall Biggs, Sophia Cooney and Hailey Stowe; middle row, Breanna Mesyar, Aubrey Pomorski, Eleah Billings, Elizabeth Lovato, Rachel Cooper and Sarah Hatch; back row, coach Kris Anderson, Katrina Lesinski, Abby Millspaugh, Lindsey Lovato and assistant Andy Hamilton. Not pictured: Olivia Flewelling.

Eleah Billings and senior goalkeeper Lindsey Lovato.

"Hailey (Stowe) is the center piece of our defense," said Anderson. "She was a second-team all-conference selection last year."

"Bre (Mesyar) was our leading scorer last year," added Anderson. "And Eleah (Billings) really helps us control the middle of the field."

Other players that should play big roles include seniors

Katrina Lesinski, a forward/outside-mid; and Abby Millspaugh, a center mid-defender, as well as juniors Olivia Flewelling and Sarah Hatch, both defenders and outside-mid players.

Other juniors are Elizabeth Lovato, an outside defender, and Aubrey Pomorski, a mid-defender. Sophomores on the squad are Kendall Biggs, a mid-field player, Sophia Cooney, a midfielder, and

Anna Wietrzykowski, a forward and midfielder.

"With 13 girls, we will have just two subs this season," added Anderson. "All 13 of our girls will be important to our success this season."

"Last season, we played great defense, but scoring was our problem," noted Anderson. "We want to play strong defense again, but we want to step up our scoring."

The 2019 Ludington Orioles girls soccer team roster:

**SENIORS:** Katrina Lesinski, Lindsey Lovato, Abby Millspaugh.

**JUNIORS:** Eleah Billings, Olivia Flewelling, Sarah Hatch, Elizabeth Lovato, Bre Mesyar, Aubrey Pomorski.

**SOPHOMORES:** Kendall Biggs, Sophia Cooney, Hailey Stowe, Anna Wietrzykowski.

Assisting Anderson with the varsity this season will be Andy Hamilton, Eric Vengellar and Erin Brown.

At the junior varsity level, Trish Forfinski returns to mentor the younger Orioles.

Anderson sees the Lakes 8 being very close again this season and gives Muskegon Catholic and Muskegon Western Michigan Christian a slight edge in making it to the title.



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## Ludington baseball

# Experienced LHS aims for district

BY EDWARD PAPES  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Twelve well-seasoned seniors, including three all-Lakes 8 Activities Conference first-team picks, stand ready to lead the Ludington Orioles baseball team on the diamond this spring.

"I really love the experience we have," said Orioles head coach Rob Killips Jr. as he starts his 11th season at the helm. "We have so many players that have been on the varsity for either four or three seasons.

"And these guys have really been talking about winning a district title this year."

Last season, the Orioles won the Lakes 8 title but lost to Big Rapids in the opening game of district play. Still, Ludington finished with a fine record of 21-5.

Pacing the Orioles' efforts this season should be senior shortstop/pitcher Nathan Lange, senior pitcher/center fielder Garrett Meeker and senior pitcher/third baseman Nathan Patterson.

Lange, now in his fourth season of varsity play, was the top vote-getter in the league's all-conference balloting last spring. He recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball for NAIA Goshen College in Indiana. Meeker who is also playing in his fourth season on the varsity, was a first-team all-conference selection and should be the Orioles' ace on the mound. Patterson, a three-year varsity member, was also a first-team pick and will probably be the No. 2 hurler.

The Orioles will look for big contributions from seniors Christian Manier, a pitcher/designated hitter



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Members of the Ludington varsity baseball team, are front row, from left, Nate Patterson, Luke Fountain, Calvin Irelan, Garrett Meeker, Kyle Fisher, Noah Petzak and Trevor Latimer; back row, Tyson Beetz, Luke Middlebrook, Sam Bandstra, Nathan Lange, Riley Calhoun, Ashton Cohoon, Christian Manier, Tim Dillehay and Ian Thibault.

and an all-conference second team honoree; Sam Bandstra, a pitcher/outfielder; Calvin Irelan, a second baseman/pitcher; Luke Middlebrook, a catcher/third baseman; Ashton Cohoon, a pitcher/first baseman; Trevor Latimer, a catcher/outfielder; Luke Fountain, a first baseman; Noah Petzak, a second baseman/outfielder; and Kyle Fisher, an outfielder.

"As you can see, we have plenty of pitching," said Killips.

lips.

"I think, however, that hitting will be our strength," said the Orioles' coach. "Lange is our leadoff hitter while Patterson and Manier will be in the middle of our lineup. Bandstra, Meeker and Latimer have always hit well.

"We should be solid one through nine in the lineup," added Killips. "It's our experience that should make us solid."

Four juniors will fill out

the roster. Those are pitcher/outfielder Riley Calhoun, outfielder Ian Thibault, outfielder Tyson Beetz and pitcher/infielder Tim Dillehay.

"These athletes have accomplished a lot in a number of different sports," said Killips. "They know what it takes to win. We will be looking to play up to our potential and our experience this spring."

The 2019 Ludington Orioles baseball roster:

**SENIORS:** Sam Bandstra, Ashton Cohoon, Kyle Fisher, Luke Fountain, Calvin Irelan, Nathan Lange, Trevor Latimer, Christian Manier, Garrett Meeker, Luke Middlebrook, Nathan Patterson, Noah Petzak.

**JUNIORS:** Tyson Beetz, Riley Calhoun, Tim Dillehay, Evan Thibault.

Assisting Killips with the varsity again this season are veteran coaches Tyrone Collins, Todd Han-

sen, Evan Kroeze and Scott Latimer.

The junior varsity squad will be coached by Joe Irelan with assistance from Dan Mesyar.

"Our conference will be tough again," noted Killips. "Every team has just about everyone back. Muskegon Catholic has a strong pitching combo."

This season, the Orioles will be in Cadillac rather than Fremont for the state district tournament.

## Ludington softball

# Pitching to be key for Orioles

BY EDWARD PAPES  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Ludington's fifth-year softball coach Sierra Holmes knows just what the Orioles need for a successful season this spring.

"Pitching. Pitching is the name of the game," said Holmes. "And we have had some girls working hard in the off-season to improve us in that area."

One thing for sure, the Orioles will have a large team. The roster shows 16 players with eight returnees.

"We have a lot of players who can play different positions. But everything is up in the air," said Holmes. "The girls know that they have to earn a position every year. We don't hand them out to the same players year to year. They have to play well to get their spot."

Last season was another tough one for the Orioles.

"I think we won just one or maybe two games in the Lakes 8," noted Holmes.

Three players have been lost to graduation from the squad. But the most notable is catcher Katlyn Knudsen.

This spring, the Orioles return just one all-Lakes 8



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Members of the Ludington varsity softball team are, front row, from left, Megan Mulherin, Bailee Wysong, Tiffany LaFrance, Hannah Roose, Taylor Makowicki, Khyler Villarreal and Alexis Bray; back row, assistant Joe Holmes, Sophia Powers, Alexandra Frey, Jaina Nehm, Elaina Duncil, Mackenzie Howe, Samantha Bush, Lily Roberts, Saige Phelps, Olivia VerStrat and coach Sierra Holmes. Not pictured: Lauren Yennior and assistant Hallie Utter.

Activities Conference pick. That is their junior top-hitter, Olivia VerStrat. Verstrat, who has played in center field and at shortstop in the past, will be a pitching candidate this season.

Other top pitching prospects are senior infielder/outfielder Megan Mulherin

and sophomore shortstop Taylor Makowicki.

"Both Megan and Taylor are also strong hitters," said Holmes. "Megan is also a solid fielder at just about every position. Megan (Mulherin) worked on her pitching just about every week this winter."

The Orioles will expect help from senior returnees that include second baseman/first baseman Mackenzie Howe; infielder/outfielder Tiffany LaFrance; outfielder Bailee Wysong; outfielder/designated player Elaine Duncil; infielder Alexis Bray; and outfielder/first

baseman Hannah Roose.

Howe, Bray, Villarreal and Wysong should also be among the Orioles' best hitters.

Junior Saige Phelps, who takes over the catching duties, will be heavily counted on as well.

Filling out the roster are

senior Lauren Yennior, back after not playing last season; juniors Khyler Villarreal, an outfielder/infielder; Samantha Bush, a catcher/outfielder; Jaina Nehm, an outfielder/infielder; Ali Frey, an infielder; and Lily Roberts, a third baseman/outfielder.

The 2019 Ludington Orioles softball team roster:

**SENIORS:** Alexis Bray, Elaine Duncil, Mackenzie Howe, Tiffany LaFrance, Megan Mulherin, Hannah Roose, Bailee Wysong, Lauren Yennior.

**JUNIORS:** Samantha Bush, Ali Frey, Jaina Nehm, Saige Phelps, Lily Roberts, Olivia VerStrat, Khyler Villarreal.

**SOPHOMORE:** Taylor Makowicki.

Assisting Holmes again this season will be her father, Joe Holmes, and Hallie Utter.

At the junior varsity level, Maggie Bates is back to coach the young Orioles.

In the Lakes 8 title chase, Holmes sees Muskegon Orchard View and Manistee as the two top contenders.

"OV has two very good pitchers," said Holmes. "And Manistee is always tough."



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## Ludington girls tennis

## Brown takes helm for Orioles

BY EDWARD PAPES  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

The Ludington Orioles girls tennis team will have a new coach this spring, but he is a familiar face.

Larry Brown, most recently the athletic director at Pentwater Public Schools, will take over the coaching reins from Kelley Chapman. Brown has served as the Orioles boys junior varsity coach and is also known in the area for having run the Lincoln Hills summer tennis program for youngsters for the past four years.

"Tennis is my love, my passion," said Brown, who spent 12 years coaching both girls and boys tennis at Jackson Parma Western. "I just thought that now was the time to dedicate myself to what I love to do."

The Orioles have had a great turnout for girls tennis.

"We have 34 girls out," said Brown. "That is a great thing, but it also presents more challenges. We have decided to have two junior varsity teams and one varsity team. The varsity will have 17 players and the two JV teams will have 17 players. Also, there will be five players that will move between the varsity and the junior varsity as needed."

"We want all the girls to get as much playing time as possible."

The Orioles have lost some strong players from last season due to graduation. Those include Lillie Cunic, Alaina Janish, Kamryn Wallace, Anika Korendyke and Erin Maltbie.

Spearheading the Orioles on the court this spring should be senior No. 1 sin-



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Members of the Ludington girls varsity tennis team are, from left, manager Emma McKinley, coach Larry Brown, Rachel Sarto, Alexandra Marineau, Lindsey Holmes, Grace Taranko, Hannah Filter, Hailee Ward, Jessica Westhouse, Alanna Patterson, Bella VandenHeuvel, Tess Bradley, Kelly McPike, Lillian Kolb, Lesleigh Hiltz and assistant Heather Rose-Wickham. Not pictured: Charlotte Boveroux, Karlee Plamondon, Carmen Wardle and Kirin Krafthefer.

gles player Lindsey Holmes and junior No. 2 singles performer Alanna Patterson.

Sophomore Tess Bradley began the season at No. 3 singles with freshman Kelly McPike starting the season at No. 4 singles. Those positions, though, were not completely solidified.

"I tell all my girls 'You are a doubles player until I tell you you are a singles player,'" said Brown. "This will be a learning experience for the girls as they get used to my entire system."

"One of the things I ask of the girls is, 'Can you play a three-hour match without getting tired?'"

added Brown. "That is a marker for being ready to play."

In doubles play, Brown started the season with juniors Grace Taranko and Hailee Ward at the No. 1 position. Senior Carmen Wardle and junior Isabella VandenHeuvel started at the No. 2 spot. At the No. 3 doubles, senior foreign exchange student Charlotte Boveroux and sophomore Rachel Sarto were paired. Senior Alexandra Marineau and freshman Lillian Kolb were positioned at No. 4 doubles duties.

"Things could change as the season goes along," added Brown. "It is always

subject to change."

It did early on. Some of the pairings in doubles

play changed in the few duals that Ludington competed.

On the varsity squad are senior Lesleigh Hiltz, junior Jessica Westhouse, junior Karlee Plamondon, sophomore Kirin Krafthefer and sophomore Hannah Filter.

"I like the potential of this team," said Brown. "Outside a few players, we are quite young."

The 2019 Ludington Orioles girls tennis team roster:

**SENIORS:** Charlotte Boveroux, Lesleigh Hiltz, Lindsey Holmes, Alexandra Marineau, Carmen Wardle.

**JUNIORS:** Alanna Patterson, Karlee Plamondon, Grace Taranko, Isabella VandenHeuvel, Hailee Ward, Jessica Westhouse.

**SOPHOMORES:** Tess Bradley, Kirin Krafthefer, Hannah Filter, Rachel Sarto.

**FRESHMEN:** Lillian Kolb, Kelly McPike.

Assisting Brown with the varsity will be Heather Rose-Wickham. The junior varsity will be coached by Emily Markham with assistance from Deb Stephens.

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## Manistee girls tennis

# Sheffield: 'A lot of potential'

BY GREG GIELCZYK  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

MANISTEE — She doesn't remember how many dual match wins Manistee's girls tennis team had last year, but that is never a priority for co-head coach Vicki Sheffield anyway.

It's all about the girls improving as individuals, and in that respect, Sheffield, whose husband Greg is also coaching, could recall plenty of growth as the season wore on as the girls won more often than they lost.

The Chippewas graduated the two girls who teamed up in the No. 2 doubles flight, but with everyone else coming back otherwise Sheffield expects to see continued growth.

Just how that might translate into team victories is not of great concern to Sheffield, although she's not adverse to the Chippewas having a better finish overall.

Sheffield is particularly excited about the numbers this year. There are 18 girls on the roster and the majority of them are relatively new to the sport.

"We're going to keep everybody," Sheffield said. "It's not enough for a (junior varsity) team, but we go to a lot of schools who have extra players.

"Last year, as our players finished up, they'd go and play an exhibition match. So, this year we'll be able to keep those girls on our roster, have them travel with us and they'll be able to

play exhibition.

"In the first couple of weeks, they'll be allowed some challenge matches. So, if they don't make the top 12, as each week goes on there can be a little bit of movement."

**'We definitely want to see improvements out on the court.'**

**We want to see more than losses as time goes on, and all of the other things like good sportsmanship and etiquette.'**

**Vicki Sheffield**  
Manistee tennis  
co-head coach

Manistee's roster:

**SENIORS:** Breanna Alexander, Carmen Diez Muga, Katherine Huber, Madeline Tabaczka and Jaelyn Thomas.

**JUNIORS:** Caitlynn Davis, Corinne Denman, Julia Gutowski, Jessica Gutowski, Arianna Kamaloski, Marial Rahn and Natalie Shively.

**SOPHOMORES:** Ava Bladzick, Destini Gardner, Sydney Linke

and Arada Thaitae.

One of the Chippewas' biggest wins last year was a 6-0 shut out against Traverse City Christian on the road, highlighted by the top two singles players, Katie Huber and Jaelyn Thomas, rallying from behind after each lost their opening sets.

"I anticipate that some of our singles players will be back in their spots," Sheffield said. "Our No. 1 singles, I'm not seeing anyone yet."

Thomas returns, as do fellow seniors Brianna Alexander, who was part of the No. 3 doubles team, and Maddy Tabacka, who came into last year as a doubles player but switched over to the singles and had great success.

A pair of freshmen on the team last year, Emily Krolczyk and Ava Bladzick, are back as sophomores.

"I see a lot of potential in these girls," Sheffield said. "We want them to come away loving the game, having some success and knowing the game.

"We definitely want to see improvements out on the court. We want to see more than losses as time goes on, and all of the other things like good sportsmanship and etiquette."

Sheffield expects to see more internal competition for starting spots, but still figures a regular starting group will be fleshed out early in the season.



GREG GIELCZYK | DAILY NEWS

Members of the Manistee girls tennis team are, front row from left, Arada Thaitae, Destini Gardner, Ava Bladzick and Emily Krolczyk; middle row from left, Natalie Shively, Jessica Gutowski, Corinne Denman, Caitlynn Davis, Julia Gutowski and Marial Rahn; back row from left, Arianna Kamaloski, Jaelyn Thomas, Breanna Alexander, Carmen Diez Muga, Katie Huber, Madeline Tabaczka and Lauren McElrath. Not pictured: Sydney Linke.

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## Manistee softball

## Chippewas expect to be in title hunts this spring

BY GREG GIELCZYK  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

**MANISTEE** — Manistee's girls softball team lost three quality players off last year's team that lost, 7-0, to Reed City in the district championship game, but the Chippewas expect to be competitive this spring.

Gone are all-region third baseman Cami Edmondson, all-district and all-conference catcher Maddi Miller as well as all-team conference second infielder Sara Schaefer.

The Chippewas have a lot coming back to a team that finished 15-18 last year, including their No. 1 pitcher, Emma Witkowski.

Three of Manistee's losses came in the Holland Invitational where the Chippewas saw Division 1 and Division 2 pitchers, and they're scheduled to compete there again this year.

Injuries ruined the Chippewas' chances in the district tournament as Erin Vander Weele suffered a concussion in practice and didn't play in the districts, Miller was dealing with an ankle injury while Taylor Murray was also out.

Other than losing their last game, head coach Ross Vander Weele felt the Chippewas finished the season fairly strong.



Members of the Manistee girls softball team are, front row, from left, Sequoya Oleniczak, Erin Dorn, Ashley Walle, Emma Witkowski and team manager Miley Baczewski; back row from left, Audrey Stallings, Cheyenne Renner, Taylor Murray, Madelynn Verheek, Addy Witkowski and Allison Bladzik.

GREG GIELCZYK | DAILY NEWS

Manistee's roster:

**SENIORS:** Sequoya Oleniczak, Erin Dorn, Ashley Walle, Emma Witkowski and Erin Vander Weele.

**JUNIORS:** Madelynn Verheek and Allison Bladzik.

**SOPHOMORES:** Cheyenne Renner and Taylor Murray.

**FRESHMEN:** Audrey Stallings and Addy Witkowski.

"Last year we won

some games we probably shouldn't have, and we lost some games that we definitely should have," head coach Ross Vander Weele said. "I'm very comfortable with the team we're putting on the field."

"I've added two pitching coaches, both of whom played collegiately. One of them is Jennifer Elliott, who was the Mason County Central head coach last year, and

Megan VanderWal.

"We've improved a lot just having someone who can consistently work with our pitchers. It's starting to show dividends, and I'm very comfortable with Addy Witkowski behind the plate."

A freshman, Witkowski has a good deal of experience outside of high school having played travel softball the last few years and exhibits a maturity well beyond her

years. Emma Witkowski is her older sister.

Coach Vander Weele says there are several candidates trying out for the third base position. A starter probably won't be named until the first game.

Erin Vander Weele, the coach's daughter, will again be stationed at short. First and second base were still up in the air as the team entered the spring break.

Coach Vander Weele said that Madelynn Verheek, Allison Bladzik and Sequoya Oleniczak are all comfortable playing at second.

The Chippewas are looking at freshman Audrey Stallings and sophomore Cheyenne Renner at first base. Both have shown they can field the position.

Expected to start in the outfield are Erin Dorn and senior Ashley Walle. Vander Weele added that if he puts Taylor Murray out there, he'll have the fastest outfield around.

The pitching rotation will include Verheek and Erin Vander Weele to begin the season, but it could possibly include Renner who has pitched before. Addy Witkowski also pitched at the travel level, and could see some time in the circle.

Manistee appears to be set in the middle of the batting

order, for now.

"Last year I batted (Erin) at No. 3 in the order, and I don't expect that to change," coach Vander Weele said. "Emma followed her at No. 4."

"Emma is a great contact hitter, and hits for a little bit of power. She's smart and knows the game. Erin Dorn will probably lead off. Emma and her will probably alternate."

Coach Vander Weele hasn't decided on who he'd like to bat in the cleanup spot. It could be one of the freshmen coming up, who had been making solid contact in the batting cage.

"I'm curious about how our pitching holds out," the coach said. "If we were to have any issues with Emma, she is clearly my No. 1, that could be a disaster for us."

"Fielding will be a strength. I'm very comfortable with the infield, and the outfield is seasoned. As far as batting-wise, every year the pitchers we face get tougher and tougher, but our girls can deliver."

Vander Weele sees Ludington, Orchard View and Western Michigan Christian should all be battling for the league title.

Manistee is hosting the district tournament, and the Chippewas are excited about that.

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# Manistee girls soccer

## Manistee seeks to replace Tatum's leadership

BY GREG GIELCZYK  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

MANISTEE — Coming off a 7-6-2 season in 2018, which included a 1-1 tie with arch rival Ludington, the Manistee girls soccer team was excited to get this season started.

But the Chippewas will have to find someone to step up and fill the void left by the graduation of leading scorer Makayla Alcayde, who finished last year with 14 goals.

Another key loss was Tatum Liston, who was one of the team's better scorers and along with Alcayde was named to the first team All-Lakes 8 Activities Conference.

"Tatum was our leader out there," Manistee head coach Jaclyn Trahan said. "She was an all-around athlete, and was not afraid to take on players.

"She was the voice of our team, both on and off the field. She always encouraged the girls, and motivated them to keep going no matter what."

The Chippewas do return a second team all-conference player in sophomore Alora Sundbeck, who also earned a spot on the all-district Team.

"Sundbeck was one of our



Members of the Manistee girls soccer team are, front row from left, Rachael Owens, Nicole Weaver, Lily Sandstedt, Amber Miller, Nevaeh Mannon, Jasmyn White and Alora Sundbeck; back row from left, Brynn O'Donnell, Kiera Raymond, Megan Huber, Amanda Peddie, Heather Antal, Hilda Anthan, Maja Vinding, Olivia Smith and Lauren Mendians. Not pictured, Tiffany Elo.

GREG GIELCZYK | DAILY NEWS

center defenders in the back line, and she was just like a brick wall," Trahan said. "She was strong, aggressive and cleared the ball when necessary. She was confident in her skills, too."

Returning sophomore Olivia Smith was also named second team all-conference as a freshman last year, and Trahan said she has great

foot skills.

Trahan was impressed with Smith's decision making last year despite her inexperience on the varsity, finding teammates in space and getting the ball to them. She could easily cut and make a move around people in the midfield line.

Manistee is rebuilding its defense and midfield be-

cause of graduation losses.

But, everyone else is returning along with some additions from the junior varsity team and a couple of foreign exchange students.

Manistee's roster:

**SENIORS:** Nicole Weaver, Kiera Raymond, Amanda Peddie, Heather Antal, Hilda Anthun, Tiffany Elo and Maite Tolentino.

**JUNIORS:** Trista Arnold, Megan Huber, Nevaeh Mannon, Amber Miller, Lily Sandstedt and Jasmyn White.

**SOPHOMORES:** Brynn O'Donnell, Maja Vinding, Rachael Owens, Olivia Smith and Alora Sundbeck.

Trahan admitted that she's not entirely sure yet who will step in to fill the

shoes of Alcayde and Liston. She expects to be alternating players up top to start the season, and see if anyone emerges to take the reins of the offense.

Heather Antal and Nicole Weaver played midfield last year, while Kiera Raymond and Amanda Peddie bring more leadership to the squad as well.

Veteran starting goaltender Lauren Guenthardt graduated, too, and the Chippewas are looking at sophomore Rachel Owens to fill that spot.

"Rachel played in part of our district game last year, and she'll be our varsity goalie this year," Trahan added. "She's excited about playing the goalie position."

Trahan added that the Chippewas are continuing with the team motto of "Give a Perfect Effort." Toward that end, the team has made practice commitments.

Manistee also was more competitive overall in the conference, keeping most games close, and finished third. The Chippewas want to continue that growth.

The Chippewas lost to Reed City, 5-1, in the MH-SAA Division 3 district tournament last year but are expecting to get past the first round this time around.

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# Manistee baseball

## Chippewas moving on from 'rocky' 2018 season

BY GREG GIELCZYK  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

MANISTEE — Coming off another season when its goals quickly fell by the side as it got off to a slow start and never really picked things up, Manistee's baseball team hopes for better results this spring.

That's largely due, as it most often is, to the return of some veteran players who'll play pivotal roles in the 2019 campaign. Most notably, in the pitching rotation.

While teams did score a lot of runs against the Chippewas last year, only some of that could be attributed to the pitching staff's tendency to put runners on base with walks.

But the defense has to shoulder part of the blame as well. The Chippewas were too often guilty of not making the plays behind their pitchers, and the combination of walks and defensive mishaps led to big innings for the opposition.

It didn't help that the offense failed to click most of the time, and that lack of production made it impossible for the Chippewas to rally from behind, or lead early.

"We had kind of a rocky road season," Chippewas coach Dave Edmondson said. "We're hoping to put



Members of the Manistee boys baseball team are, front row, from left, Logan Buren, Abdiel Nunez, Evan Bauman, Austin Guenther, team manager Calvin Edmondson, team manager Ethan Edmondson and Jeffrey Huber; back row, Jaret Edmondson, Kylar Thomas, Gilbert Torres, Caine Weed, Brady Mikula, Donovan Kirchinger, Andrew Jackoviak, Titus Lind and Bishop Davis. Not pictured: Jeremy Oakley, Jesus Reyna Cruz, Jackson Salingue, Caden Schmutzler, Hogan Miller, Logan Baldwin, Cameron Fink, Josh Fitzgerald and Joseph Kott.

something together here. We lost really only one senior that was a big-time contributor.

"But we got quite a few seniors this year, returning seniors that should help us out that have been on the varsity at least three years."

In addition to those seniors that Edmondson speaks about, there are also some younger players coming back who have some experience, just not a lot.

Numbers are a concern, with only 13 on the varsity roster, but Edmondson is okay with that since he says

it's the 13 guys he wants.

"If you're going to have 13 people, you got to have 13 warriors and that's what we got," Edmondson added. "There's some seniors that made a good contribution last year, and we're looking for them to do the same thing this year, and kind of step it up a little bit."

"We've asked them to demand (that) their teammates step up and play harder than they've ever played before. Because we had a not-so-good season last year, we're asking them to do things differently ... (to) change

their mindset, change the way they think about things, change the way they do things."

Everyone is probably going to take their turn on the hill this spring, Edmondson said, but the Chippewas do have some experienced pitchers coming back.

That includes Evan Bauman and Austin Guenther, who were regular starters last year. Both are seniors. Another senior pitcher coming back is Abdiel Nunez.

Also returning is junior Andrew Jackoviak, who saw extensive duty at third base

last season but could be used anywhere in the infield or outfield.

Manistee's roster:

**SENIORS:** Logan Buren, Abdiel Nunez, Evan Bauman, Calvin Edmondson and Gilbert Torres III.

**JUNIORS:** Andrew Jackoviak and Bishop Davis.

**SOPHOMORES:** Titus Lind and Brady Mikula.

**FRESHMEN:** Kyler Thomas and Caine Reed.

Edmondson has been impressed with how some of the younger guys have thrown the ball in practice.

"We changed the way they throw the ball, and changed their mechanics. We're hoping for good things with that," Edmondson said. "Because they have some action on it, and the ball moves a little bit. We're hoping they step up and throw some good games for us."

"Part of our two goals this year is, No. 1 we don't want to walk anybody. When you walk people you get yourself in a bad situation. You add to your pitch count."

"And No. 2 is you put your defense to sleep. ... We want to cut down on the errors, and cut down on the walks."

Edmondson expects defending Lakes 8 Activities Conference champion Ludington to be tough again this spring with its starting line-

up returning basically intact.

Western Michigan Christian also has a boat load of veterans coming back, Edmondson added. and Muskegon Catholic is always solid.

"It's going to be a good conference," Edmondson said. "We're just hoping to come out and gain experience every time, and get better. That's our goal."

"Really, I think the biggest strength is the direction of the program. I think a lot of things are starting to fall into place, with the Lake Michigan Laker organization."

"We got a lot of guys who are in that organization that are coming up through the ranks. I guess we were going through the growing pains last year, and hopefully we get out of the growing pains this year."

Edmondson added that there are two youth teams this year that are not playing a purely intramural schedule but facing other schools like Frankfort, Traverse City St. Francis, Kingsley and Cadillac.

The middle school program leads right into the summer league program which plays a lot of games in a short amount of time, Edmondson said.

It's how the coach hopes to build the Manistee baseball program.



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# Manistee boys golf Returning seniors expected to lead

BY GREG GIELCZYK  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

MANISTEE — After finishing second in the Lakes 8 Activities Conference last year, the Manistee boys golf team didn't accomplish its goals at the regional tournament in taking fifth place, so there is more to prove this spring for the Chippewas.

The Chippewas actually were tied with Muskegon Western Michigan Christian late in the season after finishing second at a league jamboree in Muskegon.

But it was a tight race, with only four strokes separating Manistee, WMC and Ludington in the overall standings heading down the stretch.

Numbers are up this year with 15 guys on the roster, which coach Mike Swanson hopes will make for some spirited competition for the five scoring positions.

There are also three returning seniors who were all contributors as juniors, which gives the Chippewas leadership both on and off the course.

Ethan Anderson, Rocco Staszczak and Jayden O'Hagan are entering their fourth year on the team.

Swanson is counting on their experience to be a steadying influence on the younger boys.

"It's exciting to have them back," Swanson said. "As a coach, you always like to have more than one senior on the team. But, at the same time you don't want the other guys to rely too much on them because you need everyone to be playing well."

"We have some experienced players along with them, but they were not regular starters. What we are looking at is filling three spots."

Manistee's roster:

**SENIORS:** Ethan Anderson, Jayden O'Hagan and Rocco Staszczak.

**JUNIOR:** Neven Johnson.

**SOPHOMORES:** Caleb Adamski, Mason Adamski, Michael DeRosia, Ronald Nalley, Garrett Nemitz, Jeffrey Schwass, Donovan Watson, Tyler Wilhoit and Raven Winter.

**FRESHMEN:** Brady Johnson, Joseph Oberlin and Seth Thompson.

Swanson said a few of the underclassmen were used in some of the conference matches last year, and that

experience will come in handy this spring.

Bottom line is someone is going to have to step up, and Swanson is just excited to see who it is. With three vacancies to fill, the competition is wide open.

Neven Johnson has the most experience, twins Caleb and Mason Adamski have a leg up on the others.

Each player wrote down what they wanted to accomplish this year, Swanson said. But the coach said the goal is always to have fun and play by the rules.

"If we can learn how to play by the rules, than we can develop a competitive aspect after that," Swanson says. "Ludington had some younger players who should be better this year, so the Orioles will be tough again."

"Muskegon Catholic was strong last year. So, I guess we're looking for a three-horse race and we'll see who can pull it out. You lose some experience every year, and you try to fill it up with the younger guys."

The Chippewas set the bar a bit higher with last year's success, and they'll be facing higher expectations this year with three golfers coming back.



GREG GIELCZYK | DAILY NEWS

Members of the Manistee boys golf team are, front row, from left, Michael DeRosia, Jeffrey Schwass, Neven Johnson and Seth Thompson; back row from left, assistant Chad Murray, assistant Pat Martine, Raven Winter, Caleb Adamski, Mason Adamski, Ethan Anderson, Jayden O'Hagan, Rocco Staszczak and coach Mike Swanson. Not pictured: Donovan Watson, Tyler Wilhoit, Ronald Nalley, Brady Johnson, Garrett Nemitz and Joseph Oberlin.



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# Manistee boys track Chippewas have 'target on our backs'

BY GREG GIELCZYK  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

MANISTEE — The Manistee boys track team expects to be strong in the distance relays after making its spring debut at the Saginaw Valley State indoor invitational.

The Chippewas should also be solid in the individual sprint events as well, led by Blake Mikula and Keaton Ensley. But there are questions surrounding the distance races with the graduation of Jack Gustad and Elliott Kamaloski.

If first impressions count for anything, the Chippewas might just have the athletes to fill those vacant distance spots when the regular season gets underway.

Campbell Kolk was a big contributor in the high jump and pole vault. He qualified for state and captured the regional title in the high jump last year.

Noah Owens might just have answered the question of who was going to step up with Kolk gone after he finished eighth in the high jump in Saginaw at 5 feet, 3 inches.

The Chippewas found out that they might also have a long-jumper in Trac Allen after he went 18 feet, 2 inches for sixth place in



GREG GIELCZYK | DAILY NEWS

Members of the Manistee boys track team are, front row from left, Noah Owens, Hunter Van Gordon, Trevor Johns, Christian Huer Sparks, Jack Sandstedt, Anselmo Sarabia, Bruce Mercer, Thomas Veine, Cameron Fink and Ben Granger; second row, from left, Evan Scarlata, Carter Kissell, Dylan Johnson, Declan McCann, Torin Sheptock, Jesus Reyna-Cruz, Blake Mikula, Ransom Hoeflinger, Jordan Fink, Ayden Bladzick-Garber, Samuel Mosher, Dominic Valencia and Joseph Kott; back row, from left, coach Hilary Edmondson, assistant Dana Wayward, John Glover, Gavin Weaver, Anderson Johns, Darren Guzikowski, Logan Buren, Luke Kooy, Roger Lind, Trevor Mikula, Conner Rischel, Will Elbers, Bishop Davis, assistant Devin Schweigert and coach Eric Thuemmel.

Saginaw.

As for the distance relays, help might be forthcoming from Ransom Hoeflinger, Will Elbers, Dylan Johnson and Anselmo Sarabia in the 3200 meter event.

Sarabia joined with Jesus Reyna-Cruz, Keaton Ensley and Trevor Mikula in the 1600 relay at Saginaw to give the Chippewas a sliver of sunlight in the early going.

Manistee's roster:

**SENIORS:** Trac Allen, Lo-

gan Buren, Cameron Fink, Benjamin Granger, Christian Heuer-Sparks, Trevor Johns, Bruce Mercer, Noah Owens, Jack Sandstedt, Anselmo Sarabia, Garrett Sheaks, Hunter VanGorden, Anthony Vaughn and Thomas Veine.

**JUNIORS:** Bishop Davis, William Elbers, Enrique Garcia, William Henkel, Carter Kissel, Roger Lind and Blake Mikula.

**SOPHOMORES:** Keith Barke, Trent Beaudrie, Keaton Ensley, John Glover, Ransom Hoeflinger, Anderson Johns, Dylan Johnson, Ian Kamaloski,

Joseph Kott, Declan McCann and Torin Sheptock.

**FRESHMEN:** Ayden Bladzick Garber, Jordan Fink, Darren Gutowski, Luke Kooy, Samuel Mosher, Connor Rischel, Evan Scarlata, Cory Wagoner and Gavin Weaver.

Jack Sandstedt sat out all of last year with injuries, but is fully recovered after going through rehabilitation, according to Manistee co-head coach Hilary Edmondson, and is expected to contend for Lakes 8 Ac-

tivities Conference honors.

Blake Mikula is a junior, but has been to the MH-SAA state championships and adds some depth to go along with seniors Trevor Johns and Sarabia.

"I think we're lacking a little bit in experience in the jumps," co-head coach Eric Thummel said. "We have a few kids who have done it, but I think we're a little green in that area right now."

"We're hurting in the hurdles as well. We lost Junior

Sarabia. We could always rely on him to score points in the hurdle events. We're looking to fill the spots."

The Chippewas are particularly thin in the throwing events, where they don't have any experienced hands to rely on. And, what little experience they do have in the throws hasn't had a whole lot of success. It's an area that Thummel will watch closely this season. What they do have is a number of athletes expressing interest in doing the throws.

Sarabia won an individual regional title in the 800-meter run, and ran a leg on the 3200-meter relay with Gustad, Bradlee Popkowski and Kamaloski that won the title last year.

Manistee had designs on winning the Lakes 8 title, but had to deal with some adversity with injuries. Despite some questions in some areas, Thummel figures on the Chippewas being right up there again this year.

"With the numbers and experience we have, I would think there would be a target on our backs," Thummel said. "I think all sprint relays have a shot at making state."

Expectations are running high for the Chippewas.



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# Manistee girls track

## Dorn expected to shine for Manistee girls

BY GREG GIELCZYK  
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

MANISTEE — Erin Dorn is expected to be the brightest star for the Manistee girls track and field team this spring, because she has qualified for state all three years and is looking to make it four straight this year.

She'll be splitting her time again between track and softball, and is only a few weeks removed from the girls basketball season as the Chippewas' point guard.

Her competitive fire has served her well, and she particularly enjoys running track because it combines team sports with individual effort.

"When you're out there running, you're in control of what you're doing and don't have to rely on anybody else," Dorn said. "But at the same time, you're still part of a team and I like that atmosphere as well."

"Senior year, I'm really looking to go to state again. We always seem to get our relays there, but I'd really like to go in an individual event, too."

After rehabbing following surgery to repair a torn labrum in her right hip last



Members of the Manistee girls track team are, front row, from left, Kaya Long, Kendahl Wright, Noelle Fink, Erin Dorn, Ceci Anderson, Sara Thompson, Morgan Ju, Ali Orts and Ava Thuemmel; second row, from left, Dani Miles, Courtney Haag, Allie Thomas, Raegan Cadden, Jenna Fortier, Callie Ronning, Logan Wayward and Olivia Holtgren; third row, from left, coach Hilary Edmondson, assistant Dana Wayward, Alyssa Jackoviak, Lily Lester, Julia Tabaczka, Kasey Eckhardt, Karra Cone, Kyla White, assistant Devin Schweigert and coach Eric Thuemmel.

summer, Dorn says she's fully healed and completely healthy.

She added that she's been dealing with the hip injury the last couple of years, but found it was really difficult to push through it and decided to have the surgery to take care of the problem.

The Chippewas are lacking experience in the hur-

dle events, where they are looking at a group of freshmen who have shown some potential in training.

But, the coaches won't know just where they stand with the hurdles until they get out on the track, which they were hoping to do when they returned from spring break.

Manistee's roster:

**SENIORS:** Ciara Anderson and Erin Dorn.

**JUNIORS:** Izzy Barton, Karra Cone, Noelle Fink, Morgan Ju, Kaya Long, Alejandra Orts, Sara Thompson, Ava Thuemmel and Kendahl Wright.

**SOPHOMORES:** McKenna Connell, Olivia Holtgren, Lily Lester, Paris Reeser, Haley Reynolds and Logan Wayward.

**FRESHMEN:** Raegan Cadden, Kasey Eckhardt, Jenna Fortier, Courtney Haag, Alyssa Jackoviak, Izzy Kamaloski, Danni Miles, Kallie Ronning, Julia Tabaczka, Allie Thomas and Kyla White.

Last year was the first time in 10 years that Manistee did not send its 1,600-meter relay team to

state, and the Chippewas are determined to avoid making it two years in a row.

"I think with the incoming freshmen it's going to be very competitive among the girls to fill those four spots," co-head coach Hilary Edmondson said.

As far as the distance runs are concerned, Noelle Fink has had some success in the past but has been mostly up and down, although co-head coach Eric Thuemmel said that she's been looking strong early.

Thuemmel added that Dorn should be fighting for a spot at state in the 800 meters as well as the relays.

"With all the youth we have on the girls side, it's difficult to tell how things will shake out," Edmondson added. "It's going to be a matter of finding the right event for each of the girls."

"All that young talent is still undeveloped, and is usually going to have some ups and downs. It'll be interesting to see if they can smooth things out quickly and make some noise."

"But, the nice thing about it is we have big numbers, and with a load of freshmen and sophomores, the future certainly looks very bright."

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