

Sports in review

By Vincent Rowland, Riley Eubanks and Adam Crozier

Girls Basketball Record: (14-10)

Postseason: Won a share of the conference title, early exit in sectionals

2016 was a landmark year for the girls basketball team, capitalizing on a strong central core lineup to rip off landmark wins against Center Grove and Columbus North, (who was riding on the coattails of a 37-game winning streak), and Franklin Central, among others. The team was able to ride separate five-game and four-game winning streaks off the backs of sophomores **Melody Johnson**, **Ariana Booker** and **Catie Baird**, junior **Sadie Hill** and senior point-guard **Brandi Martin**. Head Coach **Mike Armstrong** achieved his 400th career victory in a thrilling 54-53 victory over Center Grove. Seniors **Destiny Thurman** and **Cameron Reed** contributed to the Falcon cause off the bench throughout the year.

Baseball (in season):

The 2017 baseball team has shown an impressive turnaround from the previous year, almost matching their win total last year by mid-April (9). The Falcons have been led by their strong pitching rotation, which included a no-hitter by senior **Bryce Garrity** over Franklin Community and an equally impressive complete game shutout of Southport by junior **Jesse Wainscott**, who out-pitched sophomore IU commit **Avery Short** in a 1-0 nail biter. The team is supported by several strong underclassmen, including sophomore **Caden Reed** and juniors **Adam Taylor** and **Alex Morgan**, among others. The Falcons will begin sectional play May 24.

Softball (in season):

Early in the season the softball team struggled, getting outscored 68-12 in a four game losing stretch in April. The team leans on senior **Katie Thomas** to lead them out of a tough stretch and revitalize the fire that was present in 2016 when they finished the season with a winning record. Senior **Makayla Wampler**, junior **Makiah Thomas** and freshman **Kennedy Thatcher** are also key players for sectionals, which begin May 22.

Girls Soccer:

Record: (3-9)

Postseason: Early exit in sectional

The Falcons had a rough transition in head coach Emily Lahay's first year with the reigns to the team, winning seven fewer games than they did the previous year and falling victim to a miserable slump where they lost seven of their final eight games, outscored 20-2. Senior **Ellie Guenther**, one of the team's best players, tore her ACL, ending her high school career on a disappointing note. Sophomore **Melody Johnson** started her soccer career under instant pressure, taking over the starting goalie spot. The team will move on without key seniors **Emma Barrett**, **Claire Scahill** and **Cameron Cotter**.

Girls Cross Country:

Postseason: Senior Olivia LeMasters advanced to semi-state

20:13, 19:37, 20:08. Those were the times that sent LeMasters to Shelbyville's semi-state, ending up close to two minutes shy of advancing to the state finals. That gap may seem extraordinary, but it relays the cold fact that, once LeMasters got that far into the postseason, she was competing against some of the best runners in the state. The team as a whole finished 6 of 10 teams in Franklin Community's sectional, one spot shy of advancing to regionals. Top runners for the team in 2016 included LeMasters, junior **Kayla O' Brian**, sophomore **Trinity Spurgeon** and graduating seniors **Emily Rinear** and **Chelsea Costello**.

Boys Track (in season):

The boys track team has banded through its final year without a proper home track to run on, given the stadium construction. They have fared well in away meets that have all been co-ed (boys and girls meet, an uncommon thing for most larger high schools), such as the Southport-Roncalli meet, which featured boys, girls and unified track. The team will compete in sectionals May 18 in some of the final runs for seniors **Kyle Linder**, **Kameron Overly**, **Alex Rozzell** and **Shane Dickey**.

Girls Tennis (in season):

The tennis team struggled in its last year, playing home meets at the middle school because of the football's stadium construction. Head Coach **Daniel Schoch** described senior **Sarah Turo-Shields'** hitting style as "unorthodox," partly because she's left-handed and partly because of her non-traditional ground stroke. The team will send off Turo-Shields, **Rose Sung**, **Lal Pui**, **Angela Cer Chin Par** and **Emily Rinear**. The team will begin sectional play May 17, where they hope junior **Anna Osborne** will help lead the team to redeem their close loss last year to Southport in the sectional championship.

Unified Track (in season):

The unified track team entered its second season at Perry, this time with their eyes set to surpass their 9th place spot in the state finals last year. The team, compiled of both male and female athletes and partners, most of which also partake in PM's Best Buddies program, will compete in sectionals on May 26. Graduating seniors include partners **Timmy Annee**, **Brandi Martin**, **Sunny Nier**, **Kain Rust** and **Erika Shellenberger** and athletes **Jonashea Cunningham** and **Raylin Harris**.

Football:

Record: (3-7)

Postseason: Early exit in sectional

Going into the 2016 season, after losing almost an entire offensive line to graduation, the football team gained a new coach, **Matt Henninger**, who helped bring back confidence. It was time for seniors **Brandon Worley**, **Tom Bolen**, **Steve Woolbright** and **Travis Ashley** to make their move. Despite the losing season, the team averaged 78.6 receiving yards per game. The team will play in the new Falcon Stadium in the 2017-2018 season.

Boys Basketball:

Record: (8-14)

Postseason: Early exit in sectional

The Falcon trifecta of seniors **David Jackson**, **Nate Mills** and **TJ Comer** wished to go out with a slam, but fell just short. The team led Roncalli going into halftime of their sectional opener, but lost the lead late in the game (similar to what happened with the girls basketball team). Juniors **Adam Taylor** and **Andre Harlan** and sophomore **Semaj Danley II** will try to surpass all expectations when they take the court next year.



2016 - 2017

Boys Soccer:

Record: (12-4-1)

Postseason: Advanced to the semi-state championship

The boys soccer team was ranked 16th in the state. With a conference record of 3-2-0, the boys stood in fourth place to finish off the season. Seniors **Van Thatang**, **Zo Sang Liana**, **Noah Nash**, **Zaul Tapia** led the winning season. Senior goaltender **Trevor Byrd** held his own in the net all season, averaging over one save a game. Senior **Timmy Annee** scored four goals throughout the season. Juniors **Boi Sang Thang** and **Robert Lenhrin**, who both lead the teams in goals in 2016, will be the leaders on the team in 2017.

Boys Swimming:

Record: (7-5)

Postseason: Senior Noah Coomler advanced to state finals

Senior **Noah Coomler** surpassed a number of his own records, qualifying for state finals. He ended in fifth place, finishing his senior year with a huge splash. With a home record of 4-2, coach **Chris Etherington** knew his boys were ready to paddle on, defeating rival Southport as well as Decatur Central and Greenwood.

Girls Golf:

Record: (12-2)

Postseason: Shellenberger 1 stroke away from the state finals

Four-time medalist senior **Erika Shellenberger** averaged a stroke count of 41.3 as this year came to an end. In past years Shellenberger was rising to the top, and she has now made it becoming this year's strongest player. Upcoming juniors **Alex Quinlan**, **Annie Eisenbarth** and junior **Sloane Howard** have been adding new techniques to their short game as they will soon lead the team together.

Boys Volleyball (in season):

The team started off promising, winning their first two games. Senior standouts include **Nick Webber**, **Gage Barton** and **Timmy Annee** are up for the fight of their lives as the competition will soon become close to unbearable. The team will compete in Noblesville's regional tomorrow.

Girls Track (in season):

Training almost daily, the girls are looking to make their mark out on the field this year. Senior field stars **Alexis Hill**, **Heather Orr** and **Kaitlyn Kunkel** as well as junior **Sadie Hill** have accomplished significant feats off the track as senior runners. Senior **Terrencia Gayden** and juniors **Iylana Hunter**, **Maddie Michael** and **Kayla 'O Brian** alongside sophomores **Trinity Spurgeon** and **Melody Johnson** look to outrun their limits at sectionals on May 16.

Girls Swimming

(Record: 6-6)

Postseason: 5th of 12 at sectionals

Senior **Shelby Brookbank** decreased her time for the 200-yard freestyle at sectionals at Franklin Community High School Feb. 4. Seniors **Julia Barnett** and **Autumn Lawson** as well as various other underclassmen devoted most of their free time to swimming, sleep and school as they exhibited a rigorous practice schedule.

Boys Cross Country

Postseason: 7th place sectionals

Senior **Kameron Overley** ran his record best time of 18:02:6 at sectional. Head Coach **Gary Raker** is taking a loss next year losing seniors **Kyle Linder**, **Shane Dickey**, and **Alex Rozzell**, but the future still looks promising. Juniors **Cole Knoblett** and **Chris Switzer** became this year's best performing juniors on the squad.

Wrestling

(Record: 18-1)

Postseason: team state runner-up, sends five to state

Perry Meridian finished its team season as the top dual meet team in Indiana. After losing to Brownsburg, its only loss, the self-described 'burly boys' defeated Brownsburg on senior night. Seniors **Anthony Ruhana**, **Rilee Miller** and **David Clayton** participated in regionals. Thirteen of 14 individual wrestlers qualified for semi-state. Five from there went on to compete at state at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, including seniors **Suni Nier** and **Kain Rust**. Rust placed sixth in his weight class.

Girls Volleyball

(Record: 16-5)

Postseason: Won sectional

Varsity seniors **Heather Corbin**, **Alexis Hill**, **Dee Slagle** and **Hayden Cole** showed their stripes as they blocked many shots coming over the net in every game. Perry defeated Roncalli and Chatard, but obliterated rival Southport not allowing them a single set. "The better birds," Hill dubbed them in an earlier *FOCUS* interview. Under the leadership of retiring head coach **Patrick Carlson**, the team won the sectional championship.

Boys Tennis

(Record: 11-12)

Postseason: Won sectional

The tennis team won its 8th consecutive sectional win. Seniors **Davis Demeter**, **Brian Carpenter**, **Devon Amos**, **Anthony Haboush** and **Zach Gaither** swept Seecina in the final, keeping their win streak alive. Losing many seniors from last year's team, this year's boys kept the streak alive showing their strength behind the net.

Boys Golf (in season):

Senior **Nick Osterburg** started the season in Florida where he participated in one of his many tournaments. He placed seventeenth of 132 golfers. Senior **Brian Carpenter** spent one of his earlier matches assisting an injured player. Together, these upperclassmen provided experience, awe and support for their majority sophomore varsity team. They won the Eagle Creek Tournament. The team will compete in sectionals on June 3, where Osterburg is vying for another state finals run.

