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SUMMER BOND



DEAN HUMPHREY/The Daily Sentinel

MONTROSE JUNIOR NATE ROBERTSON is part of a solid pitching staff that has Indians coach Landon Wareham excited this season. Montrose is 2-0 this season after a pair of wins in the Bill Fanning Classic.

LAYING A FOUNDATION

Montrose baseball team establishes unity, is primed for stellar season

By PATRICK BAHR
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High school baseball teams are developed the summer before the spring season. During those dog days, teams will play as many as 50 games, not only honing their fundamentals, but bonding as a team.

That's when the Montrose High School baseball team gets to work. When the summer season is over, a majority of the players move on to a fall, then a winter sport.

Despite the long layoff from swinging a bat or playing catch, second-year Montrose coach Landon Wareham knows the base established in the summer is always there.

"With as many games as we played with this group the past two summers, they know how to play ball," Wareham said. "It's hard during the normal high school season because you get 19 games. It's the summer when they play 50 games that we get so much better."

Wareham has been a large reason for the program's turnaround. The Indians were 6-13 the year before Wareham, who starred at Olathe High School before becoming an All-American at Mesa State College, arrived. Last season,



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JEREMY STORTER, LEFT, WAS an all-SWL selection last season, and this season should lead the Indians and second-year coach Landon Wareham.

Montrose finished 8-9 and made the Class 4A playoffs, winning its first round-game against Fort Lupton 13-7.

This year, Montrose should continue to improve with a majority of its starters returning. "We are deep," Wareham said. "We have 10

guys who started at least 50 percent of the season last year, and we have all of our arms back."

This season has started well for the Indians, who won their first game against Eagle Valley 6-3. Last Friday, Montrose improved to 2-0 with a 14-2 win over Woodland Park in the Bill Fanning Classic. Wareham said people have started to notice the Indians' success.

"We had our first home game (against Eagle Valley), and I bet we had close to 350 people there, and I've never seen it like that," Wareham said. "It was awesome, and we are trying to do our part to keep it going."

Montrose is led by seven seniors, including Jeremy Storter, an all-SWL selection last season.

The Indians also have a solid group of juniors in Nathan Robertson, Roland McLaren and Bryce Gaber.

McLaren, an all-conference outfielder last season, said what makes the Indians strong is their cohesiveness.

"We've played together for five years, and it's basically the same team," McLaren said. "We want to keep getting better and stronger, and just do the best we can."

Offensively, the Indians should have enough to compete with most teams, but it's the pitching staff that has Wareham excited. A half-dozen pitchers are fairly interchangeable, with Robertson, Storter, Gaylden Berry, Bryce Gaber, Jake Plankis and Zane Hemond.

"We don't have a clear-cut guy that's our Friday night guy, but we also don't drop off," Wareham said. "We have one guy that's a lefty, one guy's a side-armed, so it depends on what we want. None of them are overpowering, but they all give us a good chance to win."

Montrose will be busy during spring break week, hosting Paonia today before playing in the Broomfield tournament beginning Thursday.

Ready to roll



GRETEL DAUGHERTY/The Daily Sentinel

CENTRAL'S WHITE TEAM CAPTAIN Tyler Zimmerman and the Warriors are heading to Colorado Springs on Saturday for the bowling state championships.

Central sending two teams to bowling state championships

By PATRICK BAHR
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Saturday, the best high school teams from across the state will battle to be called the best.

With basketball teams playing at various sites around the state, the high school bowling state championships are at Harmony Bowl in Colorado Springs.

The Central High School bowling team is sending two teams to the tournament. Larry Robbins started the program seven years ago and has seen it grow into three teams at the school.

"We usually start out with about 30 kids a year," Robbins said. "Even though we aren't quite recognized as a CHSAA (Colorado High School Activities Association) sport, we try to follow all the CHSAA rules."

Those rules include staying eligible in class and regular attendance at practice and tournaments. Robbins said the players keep each other accountable.

"We treat it like a (CHSAA) sport, everyone has to show up at practices or else you don't bowl," White team captain Tyler Zimmerman said. "I think it's a great sport."

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GRETEL DAUGHERTY/The Daily Sentinel

CENTRAL SENIOR RICHARD REED bowls during practice at Orchard Mesa Lanes. Reed recently bowled a 278 at a bowlathon fundraiser.

Master Mackey

Musher seeks 4th straight win in Iditarod

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Both knees are shot, injected with synthetic cartilage until he can have surgery next summer. His right arm is still healing from a major operation to fix a staph infection. He continues to deal with other side effects of cancer.

But Lance Mackey is gunning for his fourth consecutive win in the 1,100-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, which started Sunday in Willow.

Musher Paul Gebhardt of Kasilof was the first Monday to reach the checkpoint at Rainy Pass, about 224 miles beyond Anchorage. He arrived with all 16 dogs late Monday morning, and passed the first musher to leave the previous checkpoint in Finger Lake — Canadian Sebastian Schnuelle.

Going into the race, Mackey said his 16-dog team looked sharp, with new youngsters and a core of veterans that are capable of beating 70 other teams to the finish line in Nome on Alaska's western coast. The Fairbanks musher, whose father and brother are past Iditarod winners, said he feels as competitive as he has been in the past, despite a host of health issues that make you wonder how he can even get to the trail.

"I know. A lot of people say the same thing," he said. "But I make up mentally what I'm lacking a little bit physically."

That motto could apply to his entire mushing career since he was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2001 and underwent extensive surgery as well as radiation treatment and the loss of his salivary glands. After returning to the sport, he went on

to become the only musher ever to win both the Iditarod and the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race in the same year, taking about two weeks off between races. It's a feat he has accomplished twice.

Mackey speaks openly about using medical marijuana on the trail as a post-cancer painkiller and appetite enhancer. He also talks about facing a misdemeanor count of marijuana possession after being found with a small amount at the Anchorage airport in January, after his medical marijuana card had expired.

For this race, he said he's staying away from pot. That's because the Iditarod for the first time is testing mushers for alcohol and illegal drugs, although a provision allowing testing has been on the rule books since 1984. Officials say exemptions



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THREE-TIME DEFENDING IDITAROD CHAMPION LANCE MACKEY, left, coaches Jamaican rookie Newton Marshall on Sunday before the start of the 1,100-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Willow, Alaska. Mackey is mentoring Marshall and aiming for a fourth straight win.

include Marinol, a government-approved drug that contains the active ingredient in marijuana, but Mackey said he's even laying off on his own prescription.

Mackey believes the policy is directed at him. He said other competitors have complained

that pot has given him an advantage.

"We're going to prove some people wrong," he said. "The dogs are the ones doing all the work, for the most part. I don't see much of an argument beyond that."

Stan Hooley, executive director of the Iditarod Trail Committee, said it would be "hard to deny" speculation that the implementation is targeted at Mackey.

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