

SPRING **SPORTS** **PREVIEW** *2024*



CORTLAND BASEBALL

reloaded for another deep run

By **PAUL CIFONELLI**
Sports Editor
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The Cortland baseball team is losing a few key players from last year's sectional semifinal roster, but a lot of that core is coming back as the Purple Tigers look to continue having lots of success on the field.

Cortland lost 10-9 to Skaneateles in the Section III Class B semifinals last year in a crazy back-and-forth game and the guys are looking to remain at that elite level. The Purple Tigers are back to Class A but moving back to the OHSL Liberty League, creating a different schedule and different looks during the regular season.

"I'm pumped to play all those different guys that I haven't been able to play," senior Ethan Johnson said. "We've always played in the SCAC and made a lot of good relationships over there, so hopefully this year we do that there too."

Ethan Johnson, Caden Albright, Danny Jackson, Robbie Atkins, Owen Johnson, Zach Muir and Antonio Terrazas are all returning after playing well last year.

Cortland lost outfielders Andrew Partigianoni and Chris Yang, first baseman and pitcher Luke Rogoff, DH Tyler Gilbert, utility players Matteo Rabusin and Evan Shank and pitcher Liam Woodard. Ethan Johnson knows those are some big losses, but feels the team is more than capable of moving forward without them.

"We definitely will miss some pieces from last year, but I think it's very doable to fill those holes," Ethan Johnson said.

Cortland head coach Ben Al-

bright knows he has lots of options at lots of different spots and is willing to see how things work out.

"We'll see where guys shake out," Ben Albright said. "It's one of those scenarios where if one guy can handle a position, we have that luxury to move someone else who can play multiple positions. It's nice to have the freedom to be able to do that, the big thing usually is who's on the mound."

Cortland doesn't have a true ace like it did last year with Rogoff, but Ben Albright feels like he still has lots of quality pitching.

"I was really, really pleased with Ethan Johnson last year," Ben Albright said. "He was so solid for us no matter where he was, whether it was behind the plate or on the mound. Then we got to the playoffs and it was, 'We need Zach Muir and Owen Johnson on the mound.' Cal (Albright) was the third in that group and didn't pitch much last year. I just see Zach and Owen filling in where Luke (Rogoff) threw a lot for us last year."

The head coach also mentioned Terrazas as a breakout candidate on the bump.

The Purple Tigers are consistently in the mix for league and sectional titles and that remains the goal in 2024. Ethan Johnson has an idea of what needs to be done to reach those goals.

"I think for us personally, it's about us sticking together as a team and keeping that chemistry and the culture we've had the past couple years," Ethan Johnson said. "If we sustain that we'll be looking good."

Cortland's first game is at 5 p.m. April 3 at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex against Solvay.



Matt Czeitner/sports reporter

Cortland's Caden Albright prepares to take a swing last season. Albright is one of many returners ready to keep Cortland in the sectional title hunt.

BASEBALL

vs. Solvay,	5 p.m.	April 3	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex	vs. Jamesville-Dewitt,	1 p.m.	April 22	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Norwich,	11 a.m.	April 6	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex	vs. Adirondack,	2:45 p.m.	April 25	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Homer or Windsor,	1:30 p.m.	April 6	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex	vs. Elmira Heights,	5:15 p.m.	April 25	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at Homer,	5 p.m.	April 9	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex	vs. Mexico,	5 p.m.	April 30	at NBT Bank Stadium
vs. Homer,	4:30 p.m.	April 11	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex	vs. Mexico,	5 p.m.	May 2	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at Whitesboro,	11 a.m.	April 13	at Whitesboro Middle School	vs. CBA,	5 p.m.	May 7	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Westhill,	5 p.m.	April 16	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex	at CBA,	5 p.m.	May 9	at Christian Brothers Academy
at Westhill,	5 p.m.	April 18	at Westhill High School	at Binghamton,	10 a.m.	May 11	at Conlon Field
vs. Dryden,	11 a.m.	April 20	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex	at Chittenango,	5 p.m.	May 14	at Bolivar Road Elementary School
vs. Moravia,	4 p.m.	April 20	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex	vs. Chittenango,	5 p.m.	May 16	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex

By **PAUL CIFONELLI**
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Coming off a 10-10 season that bested the program's win total from the previous four seasons combined, the Cortland softball team is looking to continue taking steps forward in 2024.

Everything starts in the circle for Cortland, with senior Brenna Hogan returning for her fourth varsity season. She threw to a 2.37 ERA in 111.1 innings pitched with 125 strikeouts.

Brenna Hogan and junior shortstop Sophie Mayer look to be the two on-field leaders with plenty of experience and head coach Jim Hogan sees things the same way.

"Brenna and Sophie have done a great job," Jim Hogan said. "We've been working out in the weight room since November. Sophie is there every day working hard. She's taking a bunch of the younger girls and Brenna has taken some of the older girls. They've led by example really well."

Seniors Claire Turner and Lauren Mott also got plenty of at bats



Matt Czeitner/sports reporter

Cortland's Brenna Hogan throws a pitch last year. Hogan has been a rock in the circle for the Purple Tigers for three years and will lead the team for another run.

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last year, as did sophomore Madalyn Thompson. Outside of that, many younger girls will be seeing playing time this season. Jim Hogan hopes the success from last season permeated throughout the rest of the program.

"We set a nice tone last year," Jim Hogan said. "We started off strong, then we kind of hit a lull. We got a little happy with how we were playing. This year's girls are going to be young and it's going to be tough to replace a couple of the girls that we lost, but we do still have our pitcher and catcher."

The Purple Tigers lost their starting second baseman in Malory Turner, starting third base-

man in Aliza McCormick and starting outfielders Kaitlyn Egolf and Kaedyn Murphy. Mayer knows those are some big shoes to fill but thinks there is enough upcoming talent to make the losses less noticeable.

"It's going to be hard to fill those spots," Mayer said. "We have six seniors this year, so we're excited for them."

"Lots of people will learn new positions and we'll make it work," senior Jadyn Willey added.

Jim Hogan knows last year was a huge leap in his first year as the head coach and hopes the girls take themselves seriously as a blossoming team.

"I think last year we snuck up on people and this year people are going to know who we are," Hogan said. "We're going to have to play solid and steady, my pitcher is going to have to throw strikes and we're going to have to play solid defense."

Despite the success last season, Jim Hogan just wants to see the girls improve this season and continue to love the game.

"My goal is that we play, we have fun, we win some games, we play hard at all times and that we are competitive with the top schools and beat the teams we should beat," Jim Hogan said.

Cortland's first game is at 5 p.m. April 4 at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex against Skaneateles.

SOFTBALL

vs. Skaneateles,	5 p.m.	April 4	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at Homer,	4:30 p.m.	April 9	at Homer Junior High School
vs. Homer,	4:30 p.m.	April 11	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Westhill,	5 p.m.	April 16	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at Westhill,	5 p.m.	April 18	at Westhill High School
vs. Central Square,	2:15 p.m.	April 25	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Lansing,	7:30 p.m.	April 25	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at Mexico,	5 p.m.	April 30	at Mexico High School
vs. Mexico,	4:30 p.m.	May 2	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. CBA,	5 p.m.	May 7	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at CBA,	5 p.m.	May 9	at Christian Brothers Academy
vs. Phoenix,	10 a.m.	May 11	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at Chittenango,	5 p.m.	May 14	at Chittenango American Legion
vs. Chittenango,	5 p.m.	May 16	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at Solvay,	4:30 p.m.	May 17	at Hazard St. Field

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BLAZIN' NUTRITION



CORTLAND GIRLS LACROSSE

has lots to replace, new coach

Matt Czeitner/sports reporter

Cortland's Valerosa Gambitta, center, throws a pass to a teammate last season. Gambitta is coming off a 40-goal season to pace the Purple Tigers' new-look offense.

By **PAUL CIFONELLI**
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There will be a fair amount of new faces all over the field for the Cortland girls lacrosse team, but the Purple Tigers are hoping to build off a 6-10 2023 season with a new coach.

Paige Potter is taking over as the third head coach for the program in as many years. Potter was an assistant coach last year with Taylor Thomas. Kin-dra Catalano coached the team in 2022.

Potter graduated from Cortland Junior-Senior High School in 2017 and played for five seasons at SUNY Cortland as a goalie. She saved 318 shots in 53 games at a 47.0% clip.

The young head coach is happy to have everything underway and get on the field with her team.

"Of course with anything new, there's always nerves and

excited nerves," Potter said. "I'm excited to get the girls out there and see what we've got and evaluate to see how successful we can be this season."

Senior Valerosa Gambitta is the top returner for Cortland after a 43-goal, six-assist junior season. Gambitta will have junior Aubree Larkin for support up front. Larkin went for 18 goals and six assists in 2023.

The Purple Tigers are losing Gabby Cranfield and Olivia Magin, their second and fourth leading scorers, respectively, and Lilly Call. Call missed a large portion of last season due to injury. Gambitta doesn't feel like the pressure will all fall on her due to the skill of some of the younger players.

"I think it's always a team effort to score and we have quite a few girls who are going to be able to step up," Gambitta said. "We had a lot of scorers last year and losing them is hard, but I

also see that we have girls coming up who can fill those shoes."

Cortland will also be forced to replace Hayden Bulger between the posts and Ryleigh Larkin defensively. Defenders Gabby Brown, Ava Smith and Lily Yang all return.

The Purple Tigers are making the move back to the OHSL, but they don't think that will make anything easier. They are excited for a new challenge, though.

"It'll definitely be different because a lot of these teams we haven't seen before in lacrosse," Gambitta said. "I know that we are still going to play some really good teams like Skaneateles, which will be hard but will be fun and exciting to play some new teams too."

"Our schedule is definitely pretty tough this year and our expectations are to do well," Potter added. "We are expecting that tough competition. We're going to build the girls to be successful however they can. We're going

to hopefully be able to build on very basic concepts and be able to take it from there."

With such a young team, Gambitta knows this might not be a banner year for the Cort-

land program but is still hoping to have success throughout the season.

"My goal for our team is to try to match the wins from last year and maybe do a little better,"

Gambitta said. "But then, just altogether I want to see individual growth and team growth."

Cortland's season opener is at 5:30 p.m. March 26 at home against Jordan-Elbridge.

GIRLS LACROSSE

vs. Jordan-Elbridge,	5:30 p.m.	March 26	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
vs. New Hartford,	5:30 p.m.	April 2	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at Mexico,	6:30 p.m.	April 4	at Mexico High School
vs. Johnson City,	10 a.m.	April 6	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at Chittenango,	5:15 p.m.	April 9	at Chittenango High School
at Westhill,	6:30 p.m.	April 12	at Westhill High School
vs. Southern Hills,	5:30 p.m.	April 16	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at Homer,	5 p.m.	April 19	at Homer High School
vs. Cazenovia/Hamilton,	7 p.m.	April 30	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
vs. Marcellus,	7 p.m.	May 2	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at Skaneateles,	6:30 p.m.	May 6	at Skaneateles High School
vs. CBA,	7 p.m.	May 9	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at New Hartford,	11 a.m.	May 11	at New Hartford High School
at Jordan-Elbridge,	7 p.m.	May 14	at Jordan-Elbridge High School

By **PAUL CIFONELLI**
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The Cortland boys lacrosse team will be without stars Ben McGrath and Ryan Kline from last year, but the Purple Tigers are looking to improve off a 6-11 season in 2023.

Ben McGrath had 62 goals and 32 assists last year and Kline followed him up with 32 goals and six assists. Sophomore Finn Thomas and junior Bodey McGrath are the leading returning scorers, with Thomas going for 17 goals and 12 assists and Bodey McGrath contributing 16 goals and 10 assists.

"We definitely lost a lot from Ben McGrath and Ryan Kline not being there," Thomas said. "A lot of young people are coming up, so hopefully we can have a different play style than last year."

Cortland head coach Jason Hall is expecting someone to become the Purple Tigers' go-to player.

"Some of them are going to have to step up, whether they want to or not," Hall said. "Joe Baniewicz, Logan Toomey, Bodey McGrath, and we've got some guys coming up from JV who are going to have to step up."

"Defensively, really everybody's back," Hall added. "Declan Vail, Addison and Kaden Brown, KR Dye, so defensively I think we're going to be alright. It's just offensively we're going to need to find someone to fill Ben McGrath's shoes."

Mark Darling and Baniewicz are the only other returners to score multiple points last season.

Bodey McGrath knows the offense will work itself out, but the players just need to get to work and become a team.

"We've just got to work hard in practice and the first couple weeks, get to it," Bodey McGrath said.

Cortland's returning defenders include seniors Addison and Kaden Brown, Dye and Vail.

The Purple Tigers are moving back to the OHSL after spending six seasons in the Salt City Athletic Conference (SCAC). The move will create a bit of a different schedule for Cortland, but Hall doesn't think it'll be a more favorable one.

"When I played that's where we were, so it kind of feels like that's where we should be," Hall said. "I've gotten so used to the SCAC, it's going to be tough because I think the OHSL is probably a tougher league from top to bottom. The Salt City had a lot of talent, but in the OHSL when you go from the best team to the worst team, there's no easy game."

Hall is looking to continue building the program and wants to build off the six-win 2023 season. He doesn't see taking a step back as an option.

"(The goal is to) gel as a team as soon as possible," Hall said. "If we can gel we can pick up wins very quickly. Expectations are just to try and win every single game. Whether we do or don't is one thing, but we expect to win. We just had our

CORTLAND BOYS LACROSSE



looking to fill big holes

Matt Czeitner/sports reporter

Cortland's Bodey McGrath, right, throws a pass to a teammate last year. McGrath is one of the new leaders of the Cortland offense in 2024.

most successful season in eight years, so we have to build on that. We can't start from scratch."

Cortland's first game is at 7 p.m. March 26 at home against Whitney Point.

BOYS LACROSSE

vs. Whitney Point,	7 p.m.	March 26	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
vs. Binghamton,	7 p.m.	March 28	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at Dryden,	5 p.m.	April 1	at Dryden High School
at Syracuse,	7 p.m.	April 4	at Corcoran High School
vs. Tully/F-P,	noon	April 6	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
vs. Westhill,	7 p.m.	April 12	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at LaFayette/Onondaga,	6 p.m.	April 16	at Onondaga Junior-Senior High School
vs. Homer,	7 p.m.	April 18	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
vs. Central Square,	noon	April 20	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
vs. Chittenango,	11 a.m.	April 26	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at Cazenovia/Morrisville-Eaton,	4:30 p.m.	April 29	at Cazenovia High School
at Marcellus,	6 p.m.	May 2	at Marcellus High School
at Skaneateles,	7 p.m.	May 7	at Skaneateles High School
at CBA,	7 p.m.	May 9	at Christian Brothers Academy
vs. Jordan-Elbridge,	7 p.m.	May 14	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
vs. Cazenovia/Morrisville-Eaton,	4 p.m.	May 16	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School



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seniors set for big season

By **PAUL CIFONELLI**
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Several of Cortland track & field's elder statesmen have been putting in the work over the off-season and winter season and appear ready to shine in 2024.

Senior throwers Bryan Honan and Michael Dearie and senior sprinter and jumper Jack Phelan all

are coming off big performances during the winter.

Honan's standout performances date back to last spring, when he finished second at sectionals in the discus and third in the shot put. Honan is chasing the school record in the discus of 150 feet, 10 inches that has been held since 1971. He is currently six feet from the record.

Honan also finished ninth in the weight throw at the state indoor

track & field meet with a throw of 58 feet, 5.5 inches.

Dearie improved greatly over the winter and found his way to the state meet as well. He and Honan both went to the national meet at The Armory in New York City. Dearie uncorked a 54-foot, 9.5-inch throw at the state meet that placed him 19th.

Cortland head boys coach Luke Schweider noted that Dearie has

TRACK & FIELD

at Homer,	time TBD	April 3	at Homer High School
vs. Mexico,	5 p.m.	April 9	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
vs. Chittenango,	5 p.m.	April 17	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at Skaneateles,	5 p.m.	May 1	at Skaneateles High School
at Westhill,	4:30 p.m.	May 8	at Westhill High School
OHSL Liberty League Meet,	4 p.m.	May 13	at Chittenango High School

improved greatly in the shot put and feels his senior should place in the top five at both the league and sectional meet.

Phelan has been a star athlete for the Purple Tigers for a few years, as he's been in sectional championship contention in the triple jump and 55-meter dash dating back to the 2022-23 winter. Phelan won the outdoor triple jump sectional title last year with a hop, skip and jump of 43 feet, 11.25 inches.

The senior jumper is also looking to chase down a longtime school record. The triple jump mark dates back to 1966 at 44 feet, 7 inches.

Iniko Abani had a solid year in 2023 and is back on the track & field after spending the winter on the basketball court. Abani, a sophomore, finished second at sectionals in the high jump and third in the 100-meter hurdles and Schweider feels he can continue to improve on those marks.

"He is motivated and working hard in the pre-season to be a better competitor this year," Schweider said. "We are excited to see what he can do this year."

With all the big-time athletes back on the boys side, Schweider has noticed one senior who has re-

ally worked to develop himself into the best athlete possible.

"Feodor Kalytyuk is a good candidate to have a breakout spring season," Schweider said. "Feodor has worked hard all winter and is putting in the work during pre-season. Feodor is a mid distance runner."

The girls team brings back solid athletes in seniors Campbell Bush, Riley Madden, Maude Terwilliger and Sarah Williams, juniors Morgann Doane and Ruby Mullally and sophomore Bailey Dintino.

Cortland's first meet is April 3 at Homer.

BOYS TENNIS

at Phoenix,	4:30 p.m.	April 9	at John C. Birdleough High School
vs. Westhill,	4:30 p.m.	April 10	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
vs. Homer,	4:30 p.m.	April 12	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at Chittenango,	5 p.m.	April 15	at Chittenango High School
vs. Pulaski,	4:30 p.m.	April 17	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at Skaneateles,	5 p.m.	April 19	at Austin Park
at Mexico,	5 p.m.	April 29	at Mexico High School
vs. Marcellus,	4:30 p.m.	May 1	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
vs. Manlius Pebble Hill,	4:30 p.m.	May 2	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School

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The Homer baseball team will sport a veteran and well-rounded roster in 2024 as the Trojans look to get over the hump and win a sectional title.

Homer lost in the first round to a tough Skaneateles team that went to the Section III Class B finals last year to finish a 10-8 season. The Trojans turned things on late in the season, ending the year on a 9-4 run and carrying a five-game winning streak into sectionals.

“We’re excited to be back,” senior Mitchell Earle said. “We didn’t end the season last year like we wanted to, so we’re excited to be back. We know we’ve got a lot of guys coming back and we know it’s going to come down to playing to our full potential. That’s what we work on every day in practice.”

Homer is bringing back nearly the entire 2023 team, just losing starters Noah Young and Jeffrey Stauber. Young and Stauber both hit near the bottom of the order, meaning the top will remain the same this year.

“It just means we have pretty much the same order top to bottom except for those two,” senior Maddox Johnson said. “The team chemistry is all there. We’ve all been playing together since little league. I think it’s going to be a really good year for us.”

Earle, Johnson, senior Tristan Allen and juniors Graydon Hickey and Anderson Read all had at least 10 hits last year.

Homer’s pitching staff also remains largely intact. Earle, a LeMoyne commit, will headline the group after a season with a 0.80 ERA and 97 strikeouts in 43.2 innings pitched. Johnson was a reliable No. 2 starter and Allen was a go-to left-handed reliever, but junior Max Franco is also healthy for a whole season and looks to figure into the pitching rotation.

The staff will be throwing to Hickey this year, who is replacing Young. Earle is used to changing catchers and has been putting in the work to make it a seamless transition.

“All four years I’ve had a new catcher, so I’ve gotten used to the changing,” Earle said. “Me and Graydon, we’ve been work-



looking to reach ‘full potential’

Paul Cifonelli/sports editor

Homer’s Tristan Allen, right, celebrates after hitting a triple last year. Allen is one of Homer’s many starters returning for a run at a sectional title.

ing through the winter doing our morning throwing trying to develop that chemistry and we’ve been throwing bullpens to get used to each other.”

Homer head coach Robert Nasiatka knows he has a talented team coming back and is really pleased with the dedication they’ve shown to continue improving.

“Not only do we have guys coming back, these guys busted their hump from January on,” Nasiatka said. “Pitchers were Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 6 a.m. We had hitting in the evenings and hitting on Sundays. The devotion of these guys is crazy.”

With practices underway, Franco has sensed a swagger about this team that is shown in

great teams.

“The vibe around here is confidence,” Franco said. “I think we have a lot of potential. That’s what our coaches have been preaching to us from the first clinic Jan. 1 – we have a lot of potential and it’s about what we do starting the first day.”

The Trojans have their eyes on a sectional championship and are going to work all season to reach that goal.

“The expectation is to be the best in the section and keep pushing,” Allen said. “We’re just trying to be the best we can.”

Homer’s first game is at 4:30 p.m. April 1 at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex against Fulton.

BASEBALL

vs. Fulton,	4:30 p.m.	April 1	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Windsor,	11 a.m.	April 6	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Cortland or Norwich,	1:30 p.m.	April 6	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Cortland,	5 p.m.	April 9	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at Cortland,	4:30 p.m.	April 11	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Dryden,	1 p.m.	April 13	at Doubleday Field, Cooperstown
at Chittenango,	5 p.m.	April 16	at Bolivar Road Elementary School
vs. Chittenango,	5 p.m.	April 18	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Clinton,	noon	April 20	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. East Syracuse-Minoa,	11 a.m.	April 22	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at Solvay,	11 a.m.	April 24	at Hazard St. Field
vs. Ithaca,	4:30 p.m.	April 26	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Westhill,	4:30 p.m.	April 29	at Onondaga Community College
vs. Central Valley Academy,	4 p.m.	May 1	at NBT Bank Stadium
vs. Westhill,	4:30 p.m.	May 2	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Mexico,	5 p.m.	May 7	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at Mexico,	5 p.m.	May 9	at Mexico High School
vs. Skaneateles,	7 p.m.	May 10	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
at CBA,	5 p.m.	May 14	at Christian Brothers Academy
vs. CBA,	4:30 p.m.	May 16	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex



UNDERAGE DRINKING MYTHS and FACTS

Do you know the difference between these myths and facts about underage drinking in Cortland County and beyond? Let’s clear the air.

MYTH #1

Most kids in Cortland County drink alcohol.

FACT!

In Cortland County, a survey of 7th-12th graders shows that only 8.4% have consumed alcohol in the past month, and only 25% have ever tried it, indicating the majority of local teens do not drink.

MYTH #2

I can’t do anything to stop my kid from drinking, they’ll do it no matter what.

FACT!

Teens with trusting relationships and clear family rules about alcohol from their parents tend to start drinking later. Parents can also directly reduce their child’s access to alcohol, especially since home is where most Cortland County teens obtain it.

MYTH #3

It’s better to wait until kids are older to talk about the dangers of alcohol.

FACT!

The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests beginning talks about alcohol by age nine. Early and regular conversations are key to addressing early exposure and peer pressure.

MYTH #4

Allowing kids to drink at home is a “safe” option.

FACT!

A study found that kids given alcohol by their parents are more likely to binge drink and suffer alcohol-related harm. Cortland County enforces a social host law, penalizing adults who let minors drink on their property with fines or jail time.

MYTH #5

European teens may drink more responsibly due to early, guided exposure at home, unlike teens in the U.S.

FACT!

European teens typically drink more and get drunk at younger ages compared to American teens, with U.S. youth drinking less frequently than their counterparts in Western Europe, Iceland being the exception.

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HOMER BOYS LACROSSE

to rely on defense in 2024



Paul Cifonelli/sports editor

Homer's Wyatt Wilbur sized up the defense while maintaining possession of the ball last year. Wilbur is one of the few returning offensive players for the Trojans.

By **PAUL CIFONELLI**
Sports Editor
pcifonelli@cortlandstandard.com

The Homer boys lacrosse team is returning most of a quality defense from the 2023 season, but will have to replace nearly all of its offense to succeed in 2024.

Homer's defense allowed 9.9 goals per game last season. The Trojans held opponents to five goals or fewer on three different occasions.

"We're losing one of our best defenders from last year in Tucker Gabriel, but we've got huge seniors in Kyle Wright, Mason McCall and Liam O'Connor stepping up to be leaders for us," senior goalie Ben Bradshaw said. "They're ready to show what they've been preparing for in the offseason."

Homer head coach CJ Nye brought on Zach McMullin as an assistant coach and is excited for the tweaks McMullin can make to the defense.

Nye, entering his second season, knows his defense will be strong again this year. For as much as the trio of Wright, McCall and O'Connor will step up, Bradshaw has become an elite goalie. He made 211 saves at a 60.8% clip as a junior after stopping 145 shots at a 51.2% rate as a sophomore.

"It starts with our goalie and our captain back there, Ben Bradshaw," Nye said. "He's got tons of IQ and he's seen a lot of things. For him to lead the defense is awesome."

While the Trojans' defense is nearly identical, the offense is going to look vastly different. Junior Daniel Stiles is the only offensive player to finish in the top five in points last season, scoring 18 goals and dishing out 12 assists. Alex Vo-

tra and Cooper Swartz, both juniors, finished sixth and seventh on the team last year, respectively.

"We definitely lost a lot and it will take some time getting used to the roles looking to score," senior Wyatt Wilbur said. "We have a lot of young guys that have experience. I think we'll be ready no matter what."

Nye was the JV coach for two seasons before becoming the varsity coach in 2023 and a lot of the upcoming juniors played for him in 2022. He and the players are all familiar with the system and each other and Nye is confident someone will elevate themselves into the top dog.

"We're always looking for someone to step up and take the next step in their game," Nye said. "We have a good group of kids who have been playing in my system since JV and are juniors - Daniel Stiles, Cooper Swartz, Alex Votra. On top of that we have three years of experience from Wyatt Wilbur, who we haven't relied on as much on the offense last year. This year we're going to use his IQ and skills to lead us out there."

Homer has been a top program in Section III Class C for years and the Trojans hold themselves to a high standard. The players feel they're always in sectional title contention, and this season is no different.

"Obviously, the goal is to win the championship, like any other team," Bradshaw said. "We all want to be better this season. We want to improve ourselves and through that we're going to win the championship."

Homer's first game is at 6:30 p.m. March 26 at Fulton. The Trojans' home opener is at 7 p.m. April 2 against LaFayette/Onondaga.

BOYS LACROSSE

at Fulton,	6:30 p.m.	March 26	at G. Ray Bodley High School
at Whitney Point,	5 p.m.	March 28	at Whitney Point High School
vs. LaFayette/Onondaga,	7 p.m.	April 2	at Homer High School
at Jordan-Elbridge,	7 p.m.	April 4	at Jordan-Elbridge High School
vs. Carthage,	2 p.m.	April 6	at Paul V. Moore High School
vs. Skaneateles,	7 p.m.	April 16	at Homer High School
at Cortland,	7 p.m.	April 18	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at Penn Yan,	time TBD	April 23	at Penn Yan High School
at Westhill,	1 p.m.	April 26	at Westhill High School
vs. CBA,	7 p.m.	May 2	at Homer High School
vs. Auburn,	11 a.m.	May 4	at Homer High School
vs. Marcellus,	7 p.m.	May 7	at Homer High School
at Tully/F-P,	6 p.m.	May 9	at Tully High School
vs. New Hartford,	noon	May 11	at Homer High School
at Cazenovia/Morrisville-Eaton,	6:30 p.m.	May 14	at Fenner Road Field
at LaFayette/Onondaga,	5 p.m.	May 16	at LaFayette Junior-Senior High School

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HOMER TRACK & FIELD

set for another big season

By **PAUL CIFONELLI**
Sports Editor
pcifonelli@cortlandstandard.com

The Homer track & field team has emerging athletes on both the boys and girls team who can continue breaking out within Section III.

Seniors Damian Brown, Anderson Lowell and Cooper Van Dee lead the Homer boys team. Brown is a long distance runner who has been competitive at sectionals dating back to the winter of 2022-23, Lowell is a thrower who looks to be the top on the boys side and Van Dee is a sprinter and mid distance runner.

Junior Nick Costa has emerged over the last year as a solid relay runner and sprinter and junior Tristyn Henkel broke out as a sprinter in the winter.

Sophomore Garrett Berthelot had a solid winter as a mid

distance runner and a jumper and sophomores Levi Guay and Aidan Small both performed admirably as long distance runners.

Sophomore Ingrid Aagaard had an incredible winter season for the Homer girls team as a sprinter, mid distance, long distance and relay runner. Aagaard made the state qualifiers in both the 600-meter and 1,000-meter

races in the winter and qualified for sectionals in every race from the 55-meter dash to the 1,500-meter race.

Junior Hannah Bouwens has been a top-tier thrower for Homer since last year and will continue to improve this spring. She went to the state qualifier in both the shot put and weight throw in the winter.

Senior Maggie Mahunik is

a long distance runner that just missed out on sectionals during the indoor season, junior Eleanor Ensign was just a touch behind sectional qualification in the shot put during the winter and sophomore Amelia Wagner was both a hurdler and mid distance runner in the winter.

Homer's first meet of the season is at home on April 3 against Cortland.

TRACK & FIELD

vs. Cortland,	time TBD	April 3	at Homer High School
at Westhill,	4:30	April 10	at Westhill High School
vs. Jordan-Elbridge,	4:30 p.m.	April 17	at Homer High School
vs. Mexico, Living Word Academy,	4:30 p.m.	April 29	at Homer High School
at Chittenango,	4:30 p.m.	May 7	at Chittenango High School
OHSL Liberty League Meet,	4 p.m.	May 13	at Chittenango High School

HOMER GIRLS LACROSSE



ready to roll after building year

Paul Cifonelli/sports editor

Homer's Maria Partis carries the ball up the field last season. Partis is one of three 20-point scorers returning for the Trojans this year.

By PAUL CIFONELLI
Sports Editor
pcifonelli@cortlandstandard.com

GIRLS LACROSSE

vs. Clinton,	7 p.m.	March 28	at Homer High School
at Southern Hills,	4:30 p.m.	April 1	at LaFayette Junior-Senior High School
vs. Jordan-Elbridge,	7 p.m.	April 4	at Homer High School
vs. New Hartford,	7 p.m.	April 5	at Homer High School
vs. Chittenango,	5:30 p.m.	April 11	at Homer High School
at Skaneateles,	7 p.m.	April 16	at Skaneateles High School
vs. Cortland,	5 p.m.	April 19	at Homer High School
vs. Westhill,	12:30 p.m.	April 22	at Homer High School
at CBA,	7 p.m.	May 2	at Christian Brothers Academy
vs. East Syracuse-Minoa,	3 p.m.	May 4	at Homer High School
at Marcellus,	6 p.m.	May 7	at Marcellus High School
vs. Mexico,	7 p.m.	May 9	at Homer High School
vs. Cazenovia/Hamilton,	6:30 p.m.	May 14	at Homer High School
at Syracuse,	6:30 p.m.	May 15	at Nottingham High School

work to improve in 2024.

"I think it's really been a blessing in disguise that we didn't lose anybody," Nye said. "We get to come back with a group that we saw such growth from the beginning of the year to the end of the year and we can just build on that. I feel like you never don't lose somebody."

"We feel we're several steps ahead because we are bringing back such a core group of girls," Seibel said. "The new players that are coming up from our modified squad or that decided to join, we're just excited to welcome anybody and bring them along the best that we can."

Despite the tough season, Ma-

ria Partis, Lilly Sorenson and Eila Spanbauer all went for 20 or more points last year. Partis had 27 goals and two assists as a sophomore, Sorenson went for 12 goals and seven assists as a junior and Spanbauer contributed 24 goals and one assist as a freshman in an abbreviated season.

With all three in line to play the whole season and senior Caitlin McCloy and sophomore Emma Effinger due to contribute full-time, Seibel and Nye are excited to see how the girls fit together.

"A lot of what we do, we always compare it to being a puzzle," Seibel said. "We are just re-

ally looking forward to placing players where we think they're going to mesh the best together and continuing to make the shifts we need to make to bring out the best in everyone."

Another perk of returning the whole 2023 team is there's only additions to make to the roster. Homer struggled last year with

depth and was consistently calling girls up to have subs. The Trojans will have a full complement of players this year and that will allow the coaches to make some more tactical decisions.

"With the numbers we had

last year, we had to make drastic changes game to game," Nye said. "Now, we make changes as we see fit."

Homer's first game is at 7 p.m. March 28 at home against Clinton.

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BOYS TENNIS

vs. Pulaski,	4:30 p.m.	April 9	at Homer High School
at Marcellus,	4:30 p.m.	April 10	at Marcellus High School
at Cortland,	4:30 p.m.	April 12	at Cortland Junior-Senior High School
at CBA,	4:30 p.m.	April 15	at Christian Brothers Academy
vs. Chittenango,	4:30 p.m.	April 17	at Homer High School
at Cazenovia,	4:30 p.m.	April 18	at Cazenovia High School
vs. Westhill,	4:30 p.m.	April 29	at Homer High School
at Skaneateles,	5 p.m.	April 30	at Austin Park
at Onondaga,	4:30 p.m.	May 2	at Onondaga Junior-Senior Central School
at Mexico,	11 a.m.	May 4	at Mexico High School
vs. LaFayette,	4:30 p.m.	May 7	at Homer High School
vs. Phoenix,	4:30 p.m.	May 9	at Homer High School
at Manlius Pebble Hill,	4:30 p.m.	May 10	at Manlius Pebble Hill School

DRYDEN SOFTBALL

Looking for similar success with new leaders

Matt Czeitner/sports reporter
Dryden's Laci Prignon, left, and Chloe Russell high five after making an out last year. Prignon and Russell will help lead the Lions after losing four key seniors.



By **PAUL CIFONELLI**
Sports Editor
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The Dryden softball team is looking to remain a threat for an IAC championship in 2024 despite losing four key seniors.

The Lions will be without Kahlen Cornell, a pitcher now at Division II Georgian Court, first baseman Ava Henry, third baseman Becca Stafford and outfielder Emma Owens.

Senior middle infielders Laci Prignon and Chloe Russell will now step up as the team leaders, but have had a relatively easy time sliding into that role.

"It's definitely challenging trying to step up because Kahlen, Ava and Becca all had a huge role being big leaders," Prignon said. "It's not as hard of a transition as it should be because we've been playing together for so long."

"They're big shoes to fill," Russell added.

Senior Olivia Surine, junior

Brook Webster and sophomores Kennesy Drake and Abby Turco also contributed to the 2023 squad.

Outside of the six big returners, Dryden will be relying on a lot of younger players. Russell knows there will be some growing pains early on but remembers how quickly she was able to adjust to the varsity level and hopes it's the same for this group.

"It's definitely hard when you're brand new to adapt," Russell said. "As the season goes along they'll progress."

Dryden head coach Dave Allen has already seen his team working hard to get better and is impressed at the development from such a young squad.

"They all work hard," Allen said. "Looking back a year ago, you look at what you're going to have the next year. They keep growing every time we're at practice or doing open gyms in the wintertime. They keep get-

ting better and better."

Prignon and Russell have been part of a winning program at Dryden and don't plan on falling back in the IAC pecking order any time soon. The duo wants to lead the Lions back to the IAC title game with the help of the younger girls.

"Back-to-back division champs," Prignon said.

"Be the best leaders and role models we can be," Russell added.

Allen thinks Prignon and Russell have the ability to lead a team to those heights, but the overall success will depend on his newcomers.

"I have no doubt in those girls," Allen said. "We're going to have to sit back and see how the younger players are going to do. It's a team sport and it's going to take a group of us to get there."

Dryden's first game is at 4:30 p.m. March 28 at Watkins Glen. The home opener is at 4:30 p.m. April 3 against Elmira Heights.

SOFTBALL

at Watkins Glen,	4:30 p.m.	March 28	at Watkins Glen High School
at Spencer-Van Etten/Candor,	4:30 p.m.	April 1	at Spencer-Van Etten High School
vs. Elmira Heights,	4:30 p.m.	April 3	at Dryden High School
vs. Trumansburg,	4:30 p.m.	April 8	at Dryden High School
at Trumansburg,	4:30 p.m.	April 10	at Trumansburg Central School
vs. Trumansburg,	4:30 p.m.	April 12	at Dryden High School
vs. Lansing,	4:30 p.m.	April 15	at Dryden High School
at Lansing,	4:30 p.m.	April 17	at Lansing High School
vs. Lansing,	4:30 p.m.	April 19	at Dryden High School
vs. Watkins Glen,	4:30 p.m.	April 22	at Dryden High School
at Elmira Notre Dame,	4:30 p.m.	April 24	at Elmira Notre Dame High School
vs. Newark Valley,	4:30 p.m.	April 26	at Dryden High School
at Whitney Point,	4:30 p.m.	April 29	at Whitney Point High School
vs. Whitney Point,	5:30	May 1	at Dryden High School
at Whitney Point,	4:30 p.m.	May 3	at Whitney Point High School
at Moravia,	4:30 p.m.	May 6	at Moravia High School
vs. Southern Cayuga,	4:30 p.m.	May 8	at Dryden High School
at Waverly,	4:30 p.m.	May 9	at Waverly High School

Dryden girls looking to lead track & field squad

By **PAUL CIFONELLI**
Sports Editor
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Many of the girls on the Dryden track & field team are coming off successful springs and winter and appear to be poised to continue those big performances in the 2024 season.

Freshman Reagan Burnham is at the top of the list. She made a surprise trip to the outdoor state meet as an eighth grader last spring by shattering her personal record in the 3,000-meter race. She followed that up with a state meet appearance in the winter as the 1,000-meter leg runner on the Section IV medley relay team.

Sophomore Jade Brockner has also broken out as a young athlete. Brockner was a top six sprinter in the winter season and has been a key member of multiple relay

teams for the Dryden girls.

Junior Maysie Davis, sister of recently-graduated Carlea Davis, is in her second year of track & field and is still finding the events she truly shines in. Maysie Davis is primarily a jumper and hurdler.

Seniors Ella Bloomfield-Brown and Raelen Green are the veterans for the girls side. Bloomfield-Brown returns to the outdoor team after spending last year as a rotary student. Dryden head coach Karen Weaver felt Bloomfield-Brown had a good indoor season getting her feet back under her. Green has been a consistent presence as a sprinter, long jumper and relay team member for the Lions and had solid outdoor and indoor seasons lately.

Three seniors and a junior will top the Dryden boys team after the Lions lost lots of top-notch athletes last year. Dryden gradu-

ated Ben Anderson, Matt Cubero, Aiden Green, Max Haney, Ceon Miles, Lucas Morrow, Xavier Scott and Nate Turner.

Senior Ethan Gibbs will be one of the Lions' top male athletes as a consistently strong runner in the 400-meter hurdles. Senior thrower Alex Weibly came on strong at the end of the last spring season and figures to be the team's best thrower. Senior Linkin Hess also made big strides as a mid distance runner in the spring of 2023 and Weaver has noticed how hard he has been working to continue improving.

Junior Suansian Songput broke out in the long jump and triple jump at the end of last year and parlayed that into a solid winter season.

Dryden's first meet will be at 4:30 p.m. April 2 at Elmira Heights.



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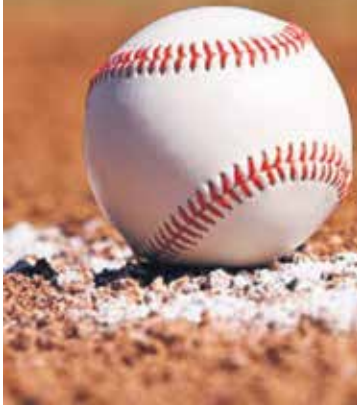
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DRYDEN BOYS LACROSSE

poised for breakout with new coach

By **PAUL CIFONELLI**
Sports Editor
pcifonelli@cortlandstandard.com

Under new head coach Colton Oliver and with plenty of returning talent, the Dryden boys lacrosse program feels rejuvenated and in prime position for a big 2024 season.

Oliver is a 2018 graduate of SUNY Brockport, where he scored 22 goals and had 10 assists as a midfielder over his four-year career.

Oliver is a first-year teacher at Dryden Elementary School and has brought lots of excitement to the program in just a few months.

"I've had some experience with indoor, so I know some of these guys," Oliver said. "It's just been getting them to do the little things right and doing things the way lacrosse should be played. I know that in the past some things have been a little different, but this is a new era of Dryden lacrosse and I'm really excited for it."

The Lions have lots of returning players, and they've been really

receptive to everything Oliver has preached so far.

"I don't think there's been too much to get used to," junior Brendan Williams said. "We came in with a positive mindset and an open mind, open to being coached and trusting him to refurbish our program."

Williams and junior Luke Eshelman lead a talented crop of offensive weapons. Williams went for 29 goals and 23 assists last year and Eshelman contributed 36 goals and four assists. Junior Finnegan O'Brien also notched 11 goals and five assists.

"The two of them (Williams and Eshelman) are really talented players," Oliver said. "Having them as juniors is even more exciting. Getting them to do the little things right, because they are so talented, (is important). One of the biggest things I learned from playing lacrosse is that talent will only take you so far. I think that's what I'm trying to preach to all these guys."

The only offensive loss from last year is Zakary Eshelman, Luke's older brother. Williams

thinks this group has only gotten better and they are in line for a big year.

"We have a lot of good offensive players coming back, a lot of good underclassmen stepping up this year," Williams said. "I think we have one of the better offenses in Section IV and I think we're going to cook this year."

Dryden's defense is also mostly intact, but junior Hunter Covington is taking over between the posts for Hajo Wise. Wise was a major reason the Lions hung around in games last year, but Oliver is fully confident in Covington's abilities.

"An athlete in goal never hurts," Oliver said. "He's very athletic and has very quick hands and feet. I think having that defense in front of him will really support him. But he's just a stud."

Junior defender Aiden Davis knows the change in goal will put a little added pressure on the defense early on while Covington gets comfortable. He thinks the guys are up for the challenge and can provide enough support.

"We've got to be almost picture

BOYS LACROSSE

vs. Owego Apalachin,	5 p.m.	March 25	at Dryden High School
at Watkins Glen,	5 p.m.	March 27	at Watkins Glen High School
vs. Cortland,	5 p.m.	April 1	at Dryden High School
at Whitney Point,	5 p.m.	April 5	at Whitney Point High School
at Elmira Notre Dame,	6 p.m.	April 10	at Elmira Notre Dame High School
at Chenango Valley,	7 p.m.	April 12	at Chenango Valley Middle-High School
vs. Watkins Glen,	6 p.m.	April 15	at Dryden High School
at Windsor,	5:30 p.m.	April 17	at Windsor High School
vs. Whitney Point,	6 p.m.	April 19	at Dryden High School
vs. Seton Catholic,	6 p.m.	April 22	at Dryden High School
vs. Marcus Whitman,	11 a.m.	April 27	at Dryden High School
at Seton Catholic,	7 p.m.	May 1	at Seton Catholic High School
vs. Windsor,	6 p.m.	May 3	at Dryden High School
at Oneonta,	6 p.m.	May 8	at Oneonta High School
vs. Elmira Notre Dame,	6 p.m.	May 10	at Dryden High School
at V-V-S,	1:30 p.m.	May 11	at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School

perfect with the slides and picking up our guys," Davis said. "No Hajo stinks, but we trust our guy Hunter in the cage, so I think we will do pretty good."

Dryden is riding a wave of energy early in the season and feels as

confident as ever. Despite winning just six games last year, the Lions are confident they have what it takes to make a deep run this year.

"The big goal we have as a team is a sectional title," Williams said. "We're going to work as hard as

we can to get there."

"A goal for us is to work hard every day and get better than we were last year," Davis added.

Dryden's season opener is at 5 p.m. March 25 at home against Owego Apalachin.

BASEBALL

at Watkins Glen,	4:30 p.m.	March 28	at Watkins Glen High School
at Spencer-Van Etten/Candor,	4:30 p.m.	April 1	at Spencer-Van Etten High School
vs. Elmira Heights,	4:30 p.m.	April 3	at Dryden High School
vs. Trumansburg,	4:30 p.m.	April 8	at Dryden High School
at Trumansburg,	4:30 p.m.	April 10	at Trumansburg Central School
vs. Trumansburg,	4:30 p.m.	April 12	at Dryden High School
vs. Homer,	1 p.m.	April 13	at Doubleday Field, Cooperstown
vs. Lansing,	4:30 p.m.	April 15	at Dryden High School
at Lansing,	4:30 p.m.	April 17	at Lansing Middle School
vs. Lansing,	4:30 p.m.	April 19	at Dryden High School
vs. Cortland,	11 a.m.	April 20	at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex
vs. Watkins Glen,	4:30 p.m.	April 22	at Dryden High School
at Newark Valley,	4:30 p.m.	April 26	at Newark Valley High School
at Elmira Heights,	noon	April 27	at Thomas A. Edison High School
at Whitney Point,	4:30 p.m.	April 29	at Whitney Point High School
vs. Whitney Point,	5:30 p.m.	May 1	at Dryden High School
at Whitney Point,	4:30 p.m.	May 3	at Whitney Point High School

TRACK & FIELD

at Elmira Notre Dame,	4:30 p.m.	May 6	at Elmira Notre Dame High School
vs. Southern Cayuga,	4:30 p.m.	May 8	at Dryden High School
at Elmira Heights,	4:30 p.m.	April 2	at Thomas A. Edison High School
at Marathon,	4 p.m.	April 11	at Appleby Elementary School
at Trumansburg,	4:30 p.m.	April 15	at Trumansburg Central School
at Johnson City,	10 a.m.	April 20	at Johnson City High School
at Newark Valley,	4:30 p.m.	April 23	at Newark Valley High School
vs. Lansing,	4:30 p.m.	April 29	at Dryden High School
at Odessa-Montour,	4:30 p.m.	May 3	at Odessa-Montour Central School
IAC Championships,	4:30 p.m.	May 6	at Dryden High School
at Union-Endicott,	noon	May 11	at Union-Endicott High School

BOYS GOLF

at Elmira Notre Dame,	3:30 p.m.	April 18	at Mark Twain Golf Course
at Newark Valley,	3:30 p.m.	May 7	at Grandview Farms Golf Course



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JANUARY ATHLETE OF THE MONTH: HOMER'S LILLY SORENSON



Homer's Lilly Sorenson, top, looks at the clock while maintaining top position during the state tournament at Onondaga Community College. Sorenson is the Cortland Standard's January Athlete of the Month, sponsored by the Royal Auto Group.

Homer senior Lilly Sorenson is the Cortland Standard's January Athlete of the Month, sponsored by the Royal Auto Group.

Sorenson finished fourth at the Girls State Wrestling Invitational on Jan. 26. She went 3-2 at the state meet to finish her last season with a 24-4 record, including 19 wins by pin. Sorenson was a

member of the 2022-23 Homer girls wrestling team, the inaugural season for the program. She was 7-1 with six pins last year en route to a second-place finish at states. It was the first season the New York State Public High School Athletic Association sanctioned girls wrestling.

Homer head girls wrestling coach

Anna Cummings nominated Sorenson not just for her accomplishments on the mat, but off it as well.

She said Sorenson has been a great leader and role model for the younger girls in the program.

Homer had a nine-girl roster this year, with Sorenson as the lone senior, four juniors, a sophomore and two freshmen.

Paul Cifonelli/sports editor

FEBRUARY ATHLETE OF THE MONTH: TULLY'S LORENZO GARAFOLO

Tully senior Lorenzo Garafolo is the Cortland Standard's February Athlete of the Month, sponsored by the Royal Auto Group.

Garafolo turned into a machine for the Tully boys basketball team late in the season, guiding the team to a 12-game winning streak that ended in the Section III Class C semifinals. The senior point guard averaged 18 points per game in sectionals and 16.0 points and 4.5 assists over the winning streak.

Garafolo also broke out as a leader on a Tully team looking for one. Tully boys basketball coach and athletic director Ryan Dando said he commanded the respect of his teammates on and off the court and acted as a true floor general at all times.

The senior finished his final season donning the red and black averaging 14.4 points, 4.4 assists and 2.3 steals per contest. He scored a career-high 26 points twice and had six 20-plus point outings.

Tully finished the season 17-6 after starting 5-5.



Paul Cifonelli/sports editor

Tully's Lorenzo Garafolo finishes celebrating after knocking down a 3-pointer earlier this season. Garafolo is the Cortland Standard's February Athlete of the Month, sponsored by the Royal Auto Group.

ATTENTION ATHLETES AND COACHES!

Once a month, coaches nominate high school athletes for our Athlete of the Month program.

An athlete can be nominated for solid performances during play, but can also be aided by good work in the classroom/community, overcoming major adversity, or exceptional leadership.

Tell your coach to nominate an athlete today by emailing pcifonelli@cortlandstandard.com or mlawrence@cortlandstandard.com.

Cortland Standard



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MARATHON SCHEDULES

BASEBALL			
vs. Groton,	4:30 p.m.	April 1	at Marathon High School
at Tioga,	4:30 p.m.	April 3	at Tioga Central School
at Moravia,	4:30 p.m.	April 8	at Moravia High School
vs. Moravia,	4:30 p.m.	April 10	at Marathon High School
at Moravia,	4:30 p.m.	April 12	at Moravia High School
vs. Union Springs,	4:30 p.m.	April 15	at Marathon High School
at Union Springs,	4:30 p.m.	April 17	at Union Springs High School
vs. Union Springs,	4:30 p.m.	April 19	at Marathon High School
at Newfield,	4:30 p.m.	April 24	at Newfield Central School
vs. Southern Cayuga,	4:30 p.m.	April 29	at Marathon High School
at Southern Cayuga,	4:30 p.m.	May 1	at Southern Cayuga Central School
vs. Whitney Point,	time TBD	May 4	at Marathon High School
vs. Newfield,	4:30 p.m.	May 6	at Marathon High School
vs. McGraw,	4:30 p.m.	May 13	at Marathon High School

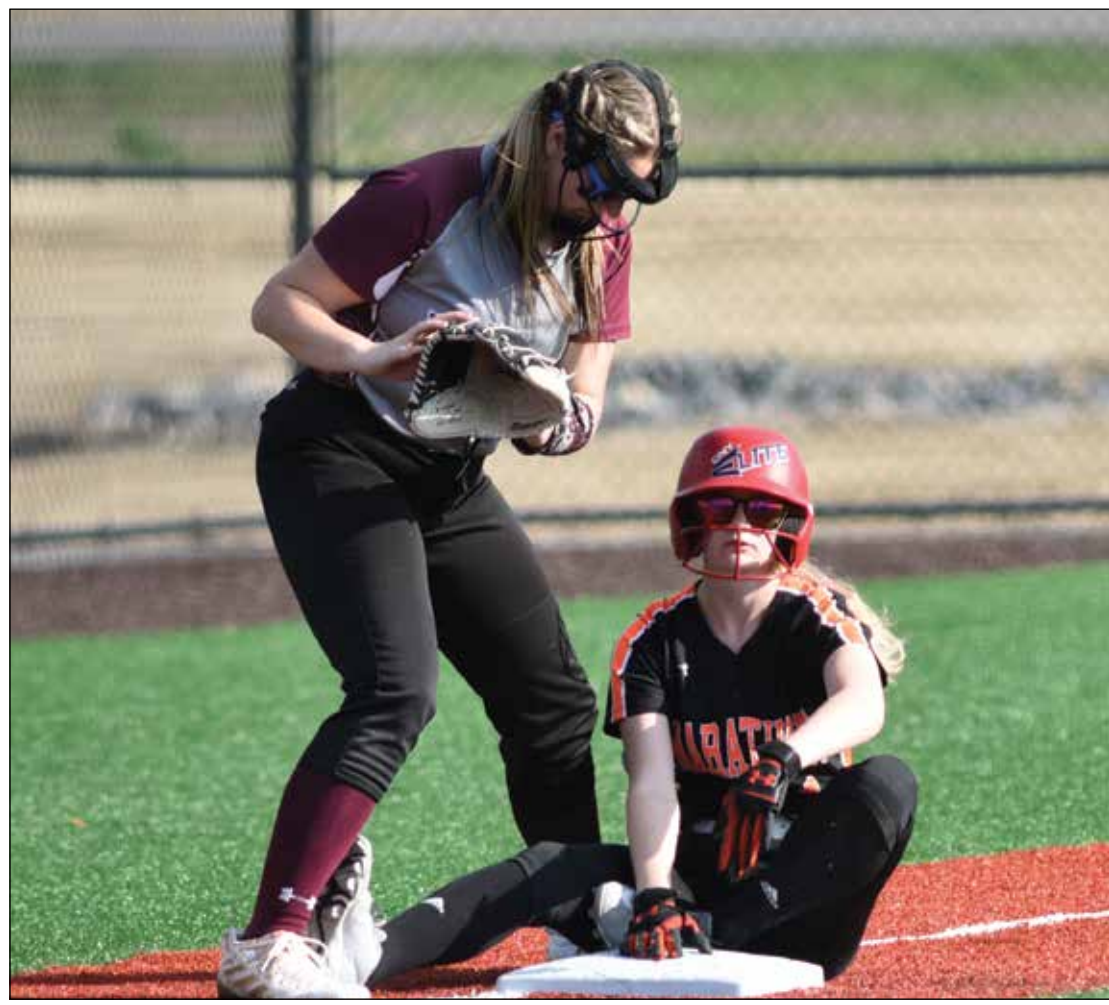


SOFTBALL			
vs. Groton,	4:30 p.m.	April 1	at Appleby Elementary School
at Tioga,	4:30 p.m.	April 3	at Tioga Central School
at Trumansburg,	4:30 p.m.	April 5	at Trumansburg Central School
at Moravia,	4:30 p.m.	April 8	at Moravia High School
vs. Moravia,	4:30 p.m.	April 10	at Appleby Elementary School
at Moravia,	4:30 p.m.	April 12	at Moravia High School
vs. Union Springs,	4:30 p.m.	April 15	at Appleby Elementary School
at Union Springs,	4:30 p.m.	April 17	at Union Springs High School
at Newfield,	4:30 p.m.	April 24	at Newfield Central School
vs. Southern Cayuga,	4:30 p.m.	April 29	at Appleby Elementary School
at Southern Cayuga,	4:30 p.m.	May 1	at Southern Cayuga Central School
vs. Southern Cayuga,	4:30 p.m.	May 3	at Appleby Elementary School
vs. Trumansburg,	4:30 p.m.	May 6	at Appleby Elementary School
at Cincinnatus,	4:30 p.m.	May 14	at Cincinnatus Central School

TRACK & FIELD			
Marathon at Candor,	4:30 p.m.	April 2	at Spencer-Van Etten High School
vs. Union Springs,	4:30 p.m.	April 9	at Appleby Elementary School
vs. Dryden,	4 p.m.	April 11	at Appleby Elementary School
vs. Groton, Newfield,	5 p.m.	April 15	at Appleby Elementary School
at Southern Cayuga,	4:30 p.m.	April 22	at Southern Cayuga Central School
at Groton,	4:30 p.m.	April 29	at Groton High School
IAC Championships,	4:30 p.m.	May 6	at Dryden High School

BOYS GOLF			
vs. Union Springs/Port Byron,	3:30 p.m.	April 10	at Maple Hill Golf Course
vs. Odessa-Montour,	4 p.m.	April 18	at Maple Hill Golf Course
at Candor,	4 p.m.	April 23	at Catatunk Golf Course
at Union Springs/Port Byron,	3:30 p.m.	April 30	at Wells College Golf Course
vs. Tioga,	4 p.m.	May 7	at Maple Hill Golf Course
at Spencer-Van Etten,	3:30 p.m.	May 9	at Shepard Hills Golf Course

GIRLS GOLF			
vs. Odessa-Montour,	3:30 p.m.	April 5	at Maple Hill Golf Course
at Odessa-Montour,	4 p.m.	April 11	at Hillendale Golf Course
at Vestal,	3:30 p.m.	April 18	at Apalachin Golf Course
at Horseheads,	4 p.m.	April 18	at Willowcreek Golf Course
IAC Championships,	9 a.m.	May 17	at Hillendale Golf Course



Marathon's Marissa Allen, right, sits on third base after stealing it last year. Allen leads a young Marathon squad that could make some noise in the IAC. *Paul Cifonelli/sports editor*

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