

## The American pastime

**Whitney Johnson**  
Charger Staff

Spring has sprung and along with it America's favorite past time, baseball. As the season begins this March with preseason skirmishes already past, the Cookeville Cavaliers prepare to flex their muscles. Last season the team moved from last place to a solid tie for first in the 7-AAA district.

The home team hosted half of the district tournament for the first time since 1989. They finished with a 27-11 record, and for the first time in school history, all four Murfreesboro teams lost to the Cavaliers.

Last year's team leaned heavily on the success of its seven seniors: Josh Wiegand, Phillip Moore, Adam Littrell, Michael Alcorn, Leighton Smith, Brady Adams and Chad Maddox. Michael Alcorn was named All-State and Co-District 7-AAA Pitcher of the Year, and according to Coach Chaffin was one of the "top pitchers in school history." However, the Cavaliers are prepared to take up the slack.

This year the Cavalier cast features eleven seniors, eight juniors, a sophomore and a freshman.

These players make up a team that prides itself on its work ethic, and they are prepared to come out of their winter conditioning program ready to fight.

Coach Chaffin is optimistic about the upcoming season.

"I hope we continue to build on last year's success when we went from last in the district to tied for first. Last year's seniors raised the bar and we're going to try to raise it even higher."

This should be no problem for such a stellar team as the Cavs.

As Coach Chaffin explains in his official Outlook, "The pitching of a good team usually focuses around one pitcher. The Cavaliers are lucky to have a host of people who could fill that title."

"With five senior pitchers and

five underclassmen to offer plenty of help, the Cavaliers can call their pitching depth into play at anytime and will."

These pitchers include seniors Wes Griggs, Evan Dyer, Wade Bilbrey and Craig Collins. Senior Seth Phifer is a newcomer to the team, but Coach Chaffin says he is confident that Seth will be a valuable asset.

Underclassmen pitchers are Derek Bush, Grayson Grimes, Paul Adams, David Williams and Jeremy Hamm, who was a junior varsity catcher in 2004.

Seniors Tyler Tuner and Chris "Norty" Norton are returning varsity catchers. Junior Brandon Crossman plans to do his fair share before making a full-time move to catching position next year. Freshman Bo Reeder, honored in Baseball America magazine as one of the thirteen best thirteen-year-olds in the country, rounds out the staff.

In the infield will be Brandon Crossman, Bo Reeder, and Juniors Ryan Sarr, Grayson Staggs, Tyler Naylor and Paul Adams along with Captain Rich Froning.

Coach Chaffin stressed defense last year as "a means to improve the team record at a faster rate," according to his Outlook.

The outfield will feature Seniors Luke Pinson, Derek Bush, Morgan Toline and Juniors Gary Lamb and Tyler Naylor.

Many of these players are members of other sports teams and play several different positions; the Cavaliers' versatility is one of the most important of qualities which will see them through the season.

The Cookeville Cavalier baseball season of 2005 will officially begin March 14 in an away game against Ooltewah.

The three varsity home games for the month of March will be against Cumberland County on March 21 at 1 p.m., Ooltewah on March 23 at 4 p.m. and Blackman on March 28 at 4:30 p.m.

## Lady Cavs dominate across the district

**Brandi James**  
Charger Staff

The Lady Cavs finish up their season with a great outcome. On Jan. 8, the girls dominated the Lady Blaze at Blackman High School, with a 55-29 win. Nikki James scored eight points, Kelly Carter scored two, Bianca Burnett had six points as well as four rebounds, Brooke Bennet had four points along with two assists, and senior Leslie Tallent had three points.

Cookeville traveled to White County, where they met their arch rivals, the Lady Warriorettes, in a very anticipated match-up.

The night's lone double-digit scorer was senior Kellye Jolley,

with eleven points. Meredith Redus had eight points and fifteen rebounds. Senior Lacie Bell added four points, while Sparta's Allison Cole had nineteen points and nine rebounds. The Lady Warriorettes defeated the Cavs 41-54, for the first time in six years.

The girls played against the Stars on Jan. 25, and left Siegel with a 60-31 victory. Seniors Meredith Redus, Kellye Jolley and Lacie Bell all had double-digit points for the game.

Much like Siegel, the girls played the Lady Blue Devils at home, and came out with a 51-32 win. Kayla Stewart had nine points and six steals, while fellow senior Jolley added eleven points and seven rebounds, and sophomore Nikki

James added five points.

On Feb. 1, the girls hosted Riverdale, in hopes of repeating their victory of the past game on Jan. 7.

The Lady Warriorettes had different plans. The Warriorettes outscored the Lady Cavs 30-6 on the free-throw line and beat the Cavs with a 50-56 score. The game brought the girls to 19-5 record.

The girls traveled to Warren County and defeated WCHS 50-45. The night's leading scorer was senior Kayla Stewart, who had seventeen points, including two three-point shots.

Redus added eleven points, Jolley added eight points and Bell added seven points.

Traveling to Murfreesboro on Feb.

8, the Lady Cavs went up against the number one team in the girl's district. The Patriot's proved that with their 38-56 win over the Cavs. The Lady Cavs were 5-for-18 on the free-throw line and had twenty-five turnovers. Senior Lacie Bell led the team with nine points, including three 3-point shots. The loss brings Cookeville's record to 19-6.

On Feb. 11, the girls played against the Lady Blaze. The game was an easy win for Cookeville, winning 58-22. This victory brings the girls record to 4-18 in the District.

Good luck to the girls as they travel to Blackman to compete in the Districts.

## Soccer season starting up

**Jonathan McNabb**  
Charger Staff

The boys soccer season officially begins on Mar. 15 at home against



**SPRING INTO SOCCER: Boys Soccer**  
Players prepare for a successful season

Chattanooga Christian, but this late start does not mean they have not been hard at work.

The soccer team has been working since early January. Conditioning started the second day back from winter break and practice began on Feb. 14. Their first scrimmage was on Feb. 22.

Boys' soccer coach, Charlie Hardee, expects the team to be one of the top four in the eight team district this year and possibly one of the top two with a couple of good breaks.

"The key to this season is working hard and playing together as a team," says Hardee. "We will have to play hard every minute of every game to be successful."

"We don't have many seniors this year, so we will be depending on many juniors and sophomores to play well."

Seniors on the team this year are Jake Hafner, Mike Ford, Chuck Acheson, Wesley Boles and Mike Sherfy, but juniors Blake Walker and Andrew Ebersole also

have significant leadership roles on the team.

The soccer team really appreciated all their fan support last year. "We know soccer is not a popular sport in Tennessee," says Chuck Acheson, "but anyone who came to see a game last year knows what it meant to the team."

Fan support is a major factor in our performance. We hope that many people will come to watch the games starting in March."

## High expectations for softball

**Brandon Riches**  
Charger Staff

The Lady Cavs Softball team is preparing to start their season here at Cookeville High School. This season they will be recovering from the loss of their previous pitcher and training the new pitchers Kari Kanipe and Jennifer Lee to get them well-prepared for this season's first game.

The team also has a new assistant coach, Joy Jones, who is replacing D.D. Tennant who left to serve as the new principal at Jackson County schools last August. The schedule

consists of thirty-seven games which will comprise of the same teams as the previous year.

The seniors on this year's team include Joanna Slagle, Tara Polk and Kayla Allen. Sam Brooks, the head coach for this year's team, will be leaving as of next year to take responsibility of Upperman's football team as their head coach.

Brooks is excited about this season and says "[There] are high expectations as always, [and] the staff and I are really looking forward to the year." The Lady Cavs are preparing for a very competitive and successful season here at CHS.

## Looky, it's lacrosse

**Paige Bowman**  
Associate Editor

The lacrosse team is gearing up for the season. Preparation for lacrosse includes running; the team does not do strength training.

In lacrosse, nine players plus a goalie are on the field at a time.

a club. They are not funded by the school and rely on fundraisers and donations to meet their financial needs. Many of their competitors are better funded, so they are at a disadvantage. However, this year, many other inexperienced teams are in their division, and they have a better chance of winning their



**A LESSON IN LACROSSE--** Cookeville High School players defend their goal. Photo by Brandon Riches

The game begins with a two player face-off. Players score by throwing the ball into the opposing team's net. Though lacrosse players often suffer injuries, according to Coach Kurt Snider it "looks much more violent than it is." Carrying around those sticks must be tempting, but the rules are no hitting in the head, below the waist or in the back.

This is only the second season for the lacrosse team, which is actually

division and going on to state.

Coach Snider is optimistic for the upcoming season. The team has thirty-two members, ten of which are new.

"Lacrosse is both the oldest sport in North America and the fastest-growing," says Junior Chase Sliger. The lacrosse team's first games are on Mar. 5, and will be played at home against Ravenwood and Brentwood.

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