

THE CHARGER

KSHSAA releases 2019-20 classes

Kendyl Bolinder
@Bolinderkendyl

With 139 students enrolled, Wabaunsee has been classified as a 2A school again this year.

The Kansas State High School Activities Association, or KSHSAA, has updated the classifications of high schools in Kansas which will go into effect for all 2019-20 activities.

With little change from previous years, athletic director Jeron Weisshaar said most sports will be minimally affected by this year's classifications.

First to see the results of changes emanated by new classifications will be the tennis team, who will travel to Hillsboro for the 3-2-1A regional tournament October 11 and 12. The team will compete against Hillsboro, Bennington, Smoky Valley, Marysville, Elyria Christian, Perry-Lecompton, Kansas City Christian, Rossville, Sabetha, Salina-Sacred Heart, and Maranatha Christian Academy.

"We saw almost all of these teams at the Perry-Lecompton tournament, and placed well," Praeger said. "We haven't yet faced Smoky Valley or Hillsboro, but they have state qualifiers most years."

Rossville and Bennington do not have teams during the regular season, but have players who compete with Hayden and Salina Sacred Heart. They will compete independently at regionals.

Wabaunsee will host regional cross country and sub-state volleyball, both on October 26.

"It's always exciting to host and play in our own gym. With Wabaunsee hosting sub-state, we hope that our fans will fill the stands," volleyball coach Tracy Capoun said. Capoun said the matchups won't affect the team's preparations. "We don't overlook any team, including those in our sub-state. We'll just give it our all regardless of who our opponent is."

As for cross country, coach Alderman is optimistic. "I enjoy hosting regionals, it's extra work, but it's nice to be able to stay at home," Alderman said.

"It's too early to tell how we'll match up. Right now, it doesn't look like it'll be too easy or too rough."

A full list of teams at each is available at kshsaa.org.

AREA SCHOOLS Class/Enrollment

Mission Valley 2A - 156
Riley County 3A - 231
Rock Creek 3A - 294
Rossville 2A - 169
Silver Lake 3A - 213
St. Mary's 3A - 182
Wamego 4A - 446

Largest: Wichita East 6A - 2431
Smallest: Healy 1A - 14

SPORTS BRIEFS

CHARGERS GEAR UP FOR POST-SEASON

CROSS COUNTRY WINS HOME MEET

The Cross Country team took first place in both boys and girls varsity at the Wabaunsee meet Thursday, improving the girls record to 16-9 and the boys to 23-15.

Freshman Rebekah Stuhlsatz placed 2nd with a time of 22:38. Kyndal Maike, Sierra Quathammer, Jenna Donaldson and Cecelia Emmert also medaled. As for the boys, junior Alex Warner finished 4th and senior Bryce Tharman finished 5th. Luke Stuhlsatz, Eli Mumpower and Isaac Lira also medaled.

While it was a small meet, coach Roger Alderman was pleased with the team's performance. "We had 11 season-best times which is good for a challenging course like ours. We still have work to do if we want to keep pace with the other teams that we'll see at regional, but we're headed in the right direction."

The team travels to Centralia Saturday.

TENNIS PLACES AT 2 MEETS

The WHS tennis team took second place as a team Tuesday at a competitive Perry-Lecompton meet. The girls competed against eight other teams, seven which they will face again at regionals.

In singles, Autymn Schreiner placed 5th and Lily Ogden 6th in a 19-player bracket.

"The top four finishers at this year's tournament all went to state last year, and three of them finished in the top four," coach Brendan Praeger said. "For us to finish that high should put us in good position for regionals. I really think our players improve by playing good competition."

In doubles, Kendyl Bolinder and Reagan Feyh placed 6th and Kaytlyn Meseke and Mayah Mumpower placed 11th. "Our doubles teams have had a tough time at this tournament the last few years, but we

were able to get some good wins. Kendyl and Raegan have been improving each week this year, so we just need to peak at the right time."

On Saturday the team finished first at the Sacred Heart in Salina. Schreiner and Ogden both placed first singles with 4-0 records. Bolinder and Feyh placed 2nd in doubles and Meseke and Mumpower got 4th in doubles. "It came down to the final match to determine team points, so it was very close. This was the first week of the year that most of our opponents are 321A teams, so it's exciting that we have been competitive," Praeger said.

The team competed at Chapman Tuesday and completes the regular season Tuesday at Abilene. They head to Hillsboro October 11 for regionals.

VOLLEYBALL IMPROVES TO 20-1

WHS volleyball team continued a successful season Saturday at Olpe. Both varsity and JV squads took first, improving the JV record to 13-3 and varsity to 20-1.

Despite the solid start, coach Tracy Capoun is still pushing the team to improve. "We have been working on our mental game, and I think that's made a difference in the year. They are really working together in a calm, collected way and working to keep their heads up throughout the game. They are also



Freshman Rebecca Stuhlsatz races during the home cross country meet. Stuhlsatz finished second.

having fun and getting excited on big plays which helps our momentum. That makes it fun for the fans to watch kids enjoying themselves while getting the opportunity to play for our school. I'd love to start off ahead, but coming from behind doesn't fluster myself nor the girls."

The team hosted Silver Lake at home Tuesday night and travels to Onaga Saturday.

FOOTBALL LOOKS TO BOUNCE BACK AFTER LOSS

After getting a win in its first home game, the football team suffered a frustrating 0-50 loss Friday at Jeff County North, dropping the record to 1-3 for the season. "The good thing is the younger players are stepping up to earn play time," coach Jess Rutledge said, "but we need to improve on everything. We need to do the things we're coached to do and push ourselves. As coaches we need to show them how to do that." The Chargers play Friday at home against Hillsboro.

Potter wins freshman assassin game

Laurel Barber
@lawl_e_20

An annual tradition for the freshman English class continued as the students studied "The Most Dangerous Game," by Richard Connell.

The class read the short story about a rich hunter stocking his private island with the most dangerous animal: humans. For the related assassin game, each student was assigned another student to 'hunt' and clip with a clothespin, or to eliminate with a black spot on an item they are holding.

Freshman English teacher Brendan Praeger has had his classes play the game for eight years. "When I student taught, the whole school played a game of assassin and I thought that it would be a fun way to add to the lesson," Praeger said.

The freshmen were chaotic during the first day of the contest. Students in the class chased each other around the commons trying to clip each other. They stood against the walls making sure that no one could come up behind them and clip them.

Junior Jayna Keller said the



freshmen took the game seriously. "It was fun seeing them get into it but they may have taken it too far," Keller said.

Freshman Robert Potter emerged as the champion. He eliminated runner-up AJ Grutsch on Tuesday in between classes. The rules stated that eliminations could not take place during class time.

"I was chasing AJ while he wasn't aware and I clipped him," Potter said.

Grutsch emailed Praeger to inform him of the news.

WHS ASSASSIN CHAMPIONS

- 2012: Jason Maciejewski
- 2013: Natalee Kates
- 2014: Sania Huda
- 2015: Erika Prue
- 2017: Raegan Feyh
- 2018: Kara Hafenstine
- 2019: Robert Potter

"I regret to inform you that I have been defeated. In the battle of the wits, Robert came out the winner. I can still feel the bitterness of defeat. I can still feel the clip within my back. In the end, it's a bittersweet event. I feel as if my work has been laid to waste, however, it makes me glad to see that my class president can outsmart all of us. I will spare the details of the battle — the black deaths, the times I was hiding behind a wall and having someone ruin it for me. It was all in good fun. I enjoyed the experience, and hope everyone else did too"

Praeger said that although the game is chaotic, it's a good learning experience for the students. "They learn a lot about planning and who is trustworthy. It's fun to pit them against each other for a day or two each year."

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Freshmen reflect on the 2019 Assassin game.

"What I learned from this is to never trust anyone, even if you're friends."
— Collin Clark

"I learned to be aware of my surroundings at all times."
— Jenna Donaldson

"Don't talk to other people while your classmates are around you."
— Dee Glotzbach

"I assassinated a few people, I actually went to Olivia's house and knocked on her door. So worth it. I learned fear. It so scary to be hunted. Always in suspense."
— Andrew Grutsch

"Kent Berkenmeier sent me a black dot. Don't trust anyone."
— Shaylee Heideman

"I was eliminated because I got out by Collin. I didn't expect my best friend to clip me, so I wasn't worried about him, just everybody else. What I learned was trust nobody, including your friends"
— Owen Johnson

"AJ came to my door at 7:15 in the morning and asked me a random question, then clipped me. I was still half asleep. I learned that I need to stay in bed longer and not answer my door."
— Olivia Mayer

"I eliminated Ashley and Hadlee. I got them both while they were not paying attention. I learned not to trust people, because after I eliminated both of them, they told my new person that I was after them."
— Jacob Meseke

"Bella came up from behind me and clipped me. I didn't eliminate anyone, and I learned that Bella doesn't like me."
— Paxton Meyer

"I was eliminated in lunch by AJ when I was eating my hotdog. I didn't get to eliminate anyone, and I learned to be more aware of my surroundings at all times."
— Eli Oliver

"I was eliminated by David, because he texted my mom to see what class I was in, and he came up from behind and pinned me... I learned that you have to have a lot of strategy to get the person and be sneaky."
— Lanson Parry

"I eliminated no one until the end. I tried to make it to the finals without taking any risks. I collected many pins over time, and I made a private list that included everyone in the game, their targets, and if they had been eliminated."
— Robert Potter

"I was eliminated while watching tik toks before school. Danielle came up behind me and clipped me. I didn't get a chance to eliminate anyone. I learned that you need to be aware of your surroundings, be smarter than your opponents, and don't trust anyone."
— Annie Wright