

Brighton baseball starts the season off strong



Senior Sam Williamson hits a ball against Waterford Kettering.

Drew Davis
Photographer

The Bulldogs varsity baseball team started the season off strong on April 6th with two victories against Fowlerville.

They ended last year's season 24-

8-1 landing them 30th in the state. After not being ranked in the top 20 for the 2017 preseason rankings, the Bulldogs look to prove the voters wrong. They posted a record of 5-4-1 in arguably the toughest conference in the MHSAA with 2 of the top 10 teams being in the KLAA. The Bulldogs hope to make a run

Courtesy of Brighton Yearbook Staff
in the playoffs this year after losing in the first round to Dexter High School 6-5 the previous year.

There are six seniors on this year's varsity team. Because this is their last year playing high school baseball, they are very passionate about the season coming and hope they can win it all in their last rodeo here.

"It's weird knowing that this is my last season. It feels like just yesterday I was getting ready for tryouts freshman year. I can't believe I'm already a senior," senior Tommy Coughlin said.

A lot of success comes from team chemistry.

"This season I expect us to be even better than last year. We have a lot of returning guys and many of us have been playing together for a long time," Coughlin said.

Since Coach Charlie Christner got here in 2013, The Brighton Bulldogs have not had a losing season, and 13 players have gone on to play college baseball. Coach Christner played here for Brighton, and graduated in 2001 to go on and pitch for Western Michigan University.

"I expect us to be really competitive, and compete for a conference championship and more. Our toughest games this year will be against Howell, Lakeland, Hartland, and Northville, but we should succeed this year as long as we play good defense, and get good contributions off the mound," Christner said.

Brighton has a very successful history in baseball. Being the only team in Michigan to have multiple Mr. Baseballs (award given to the best baseball player in the state of Michigan) one being 1991 winner Ron Hollis, and the other 1998 winner Drew Henson. However with all the success and great players, the Bulldogs are still looking for a State Championship in the recent years.

They have been to the semi-finals twice in the last 20 years but haven't been able to go all the way. Although they never won a State Championship, Brighton Baseball is still regarded as a highly competitive and top tier program that other teams dread to play.

Upcoming Home Games:
May 4th 4:00 PM vs Linden
May 10th 4:00 PM vs Grand Blanc
May 12th 4:00 PM vs Wylie E. Groves
May 25th 4:00 PM vs Salem

Girls soccer kick off new season with a win

Emily McMahon
Staff Reporter

The Brighton girls soccer team has just started up their season with a record of 1-0. They just had tryouts the first week of March and their practices started the following week. The girls had their first game right before spring break started and got to get a feel of what the season is going to be like and get comfortable playing with their teammates.

"We play Northville on Monday

April 10th and they are in our top 5 rivals this year. My sophomore year they beat us in a shootout in the district finals. I really think we are all going to come out hard against them and win, we have a young and very very talented team this year so ultimately I think it will be a good game but we will end our first home game of the season with a win," senior Emily Brown said.

This year the soccer team has two captains, seniors Sarah Caldwell and Emily Brown. Brown has been on varsity since sophomore year and Caldwell has been on since junior

year. Last year the girls got out in semi finals at regionals, but this year they plan to make it all the way.

"We have a super deep team and I feel confident that no matter who is on the field they can get the job done. Playoffs come down to so many factors but we have the potential to make it to the championship game if things go our way for sure. We also have a young team which will be great for future years," senior Emma Shinsky said.

This will be the third year with the new varsity coach Chris Stevanoic, who has been doing an excellent

job with coaching and selecting the varsity team each year. He doesn't care how long you've been on the team or what club team you play for. Stevanoic is all about who would be best for the current years team. The girls team ended up winning against Northville 2-0 at home on Monday April 10th.

"We all played a great game and came out very strong, we passed well and stayed calm. Everyone looked comfortable while they had the ball and we got the job done and beat them 2-0. It was such a great feeling beating one of our

biggest rivals and I am so excited to see how the rest of the season plays out," Caldwell said.

Shinsky scored the first goal of the game 8 minutes into the second half against Northville. A few minutes after Shinsky got fouled in the box and Emma Gould took the penalty kick and scored finishing the game with a final score of 2-0 Brighton with the win. They are off to a great start this season with many more games to play.

Next Home Game:
May 2nd 7:00 PM vs Milford

Rugby looks to win States again this season

Josh Marcum
Staff Reporter

The Brighton rugby team added another trophy to its case last year and is trying to add another one this year but in Division 1.

After a very successful year, the Dawgs are competing in Division 1 now and without the help of the previous captains, who lead the way with leadership qualities, they have to rebuild and adjust to the competition and style of Division 1 talent.

This year their only captain is senior Parker Bowman. He is currently looking to recruit players because they are in dire need of teammates.

"We have a lot of potential in this groups of boys this year, half of the team is just learning of the sport and picking up fast, i think if we work hard enough we can win it all," Parker Bowman said.

For Rugby, instead of having a freshmen, junior varsity, and varsity team, they have an A team and B team due to the lack of popularity of

the sport in Brighton. The A team is the more experienced, better players, while the B team is mostly developing kids who are new to rugby.

Last year both the A team and B team played opponents in Division 2, but now the A team places Division 1 teams, while the B team still plays Division 2 opponents.

"I've only been to 2 practices so far, and i've been getting the hang of it fairly quick, but it's a lot of nonstop running, so I have to get into good shape, but so far it's seemed like a

lot of fun, and my teammates are really helpful, and cool," senior James Morris said.

Rugby and football are fairly similar sports in terms of the contact of the sport, but in rugby there are three quarters, each quarter being thirty minutes long, with no stop of action, and there is fifteen players from each team on the field at the exact same time. Also when you score instead of a touchdown, they're called tries, which are worth 5 points and a free kick is worth 2 points. If a team

scores then after the free kick, the opponent's kick off to the team that just scored.

"I was surprised by our performance in our first game against Dexter, which we came into the game thinking we were going to lose, but we came out swinging and beat them." senior Nolan Lenz said.

So far this season A team's record is 2-0, while B Team is currently 0-4, its looking like a promising season for the A Team while they look to make playoffs and win states again this year.

Next Home Game
May 10th 4:00 PM vs Grand Blanc
May 20th 11:00 AM vs East Lansing

Girls softball team full of potential heading into May

Naomi Aguirre
Staff Reporter

Brighton's softball team had their first game Monday, April 10th at home vs. Waterford Kettering High school, their first away game was April 12th vs Pinckney High School and they definitely came out with a win.

A few of the varsity players have been on the team all four years including, Victoria Lee, Brooke Liss, Emily Salmon and Nicole Handelsman. Softball is not the girl version of baseball; it is a nine-sided game played on a grass diamond just like baseball and they both have 9 fielders. However, in the eye of the athletes, it is a whole other ball game.

There are many differences when it comes to softball and baseball for example the base path, field size, size of the ball, bats and the pitching area. There are 7 innings in softball and 9 in baseball. Softball and baseball have their similarities but are very different at the same time.

This year's softball team is destined for success. They have done well in

the past and are hoping to do even better this year. Varsity head coach Nikki Greathouse will make sure to start the season off with a swing and finish with a bang.

Softball is not recognized enough by the school and should have more audiences in the stands at the games, I understand the weather might be a complication at times but definitely make it out to one of their many games this season to support the bulldogs and come with spirit. JV is even less recognized than varsity, make sure to come a little earlier to watch the youngins play some ball.


"I've only gone to one or two softball games in my high school years but they were definitely fun to watch and I loved the environment," senior Danielle McDougall said.

Softball girls are not afraid to get down and dirty, they come out with dirt all over their uniforms and they leave everything out on the field. They have very fast players including Emily Salmon who is a speed demon, she scored a touchdown at the girls powderpuff game and ever

since then she has been a player to watch.

Girls varsity softball should definitely be more appreciated and recognized by everyone. Girls on the

team are full of potential and always play the best they can and come out with no regret and no what if's, they do what they came to do, and always play to win with no mercy.



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