

2022 Fort Recovery Spring Sports Preview

Strength in seniors



**Whitley
Rammel**



**Jackie
Homan**

***Rammel seeks to end
career with another medal
while Homan leads
strong softball team***

Rammel aims for medal, girls hope more make state

The Indians took a trio to state a year ago.

One of them stood on the podium.

The goal this year is to have a bigger group at the final meet of the season and get more medals.

Senior Whitley Rammel leads a contingent of three Fort Recovery High School track and field athletes who are coming off their first career state berths, and a strong group of

distance runners is primed to make the next step as the Indians get their 2022 season underway.

"With them being underclassmen last year ... they definitely plan on a return trip to state," FRHS coach Christy Diller said of sophomore Mara Pearson as well as seniors Abbie Francis and Rammel. "There's no reason not to expect that."

Rammel finished sixth in shot put in the Division III state meet

at Westerville North. The district champion had set the school record of 41 feet, 1.25 inches, but was unable to best herself at state.

"She feels she can throw further," Diller said. "As she focuses more on fundamentals and really drilling down the specifics — she's looked good in practice this year. That is really exciting to see."

Rammel narrowly missed reaching state in high jump,

and Diller thinks she's got a shot to qualify in two events this year.

"Definitely like to fix that," she said. "We've done a better job so far early on getting her more reps. It's just a matter of making sure we're splitting her time effectively."

Pearson made the finals in long jump but finished ninth and missed out on the podium. She was one of three freshmen to compete in the

event at the state meet.

"I think her confidence is much higher this year," Diller said. "She feels like she belongs there. She's ready to work. She's (been) excited about it since day one."

Francis was 16th in the 100-meter dash in 12.87 seconds. Diller noted Francis is chasing the school records in the sprint events, and will also be part of the sprint relays.

See **Aim** page 3

GOOD LUCK

to all our teams!

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>We're proud of our student athletes for their sportsmanship, their commitment to the team and the hard work they put in every day.</i></p>	 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">We'd like to wish each and every player success on the field and in the classroom, all season and all year!</p>
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Softball team loses key piece from 2021 season

The Indians had the pieces in place for a special 2021 season.

They had an opportunity to win the conference title for the first time in more than a decade, and played for a sectional championship for the third time in the previous 12 seasons.

While those goals came up a bit short, the Fort Recovery High School softball team enters the 2022 season with every piece but one, albeit a huge presence, to replace.

"Expectations haven't changed as far as ... we're still hoping to contend for the (Midwest Athletic Conference) again," said FRHS coach Ryan Thien, whose team was 17-10 (4-3 MAC) last

year and opens the season Monday at home against Ansonia. "Obviously we lost a key player in Brenna Homan. We have to fill her productions."

Homan, who now plays for University of Saint Francis, was the catcher and the leadoff hitter. She led the team in batting average (.543), hits (51), runs (53), walks (13), strikeouts (three) and stolen bases (35). She also set the MAC career record for stolen bases with 86.

Maddie Guggenbiller occasionally spelled Homan at catcher when she wasn't playing third base, so she can help fill that role.

See **Loses** page 4



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Going to Bat for Our Student Athletes

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Aim ...

Continued from page 2
 “Just a matter of figuring out the best place to put her to maximize her abilities,” she said.

Fort Recovery has had a strong distance group in recent years as the girls cross country team has placed 13th and 12th, respectively, in the state meet. Diller is hopeful, although they’re young, that they can join the aforementioned trio at the state finals.

“I think the benefit this year is they have more confidence,” Diller said. “Ellie (Will) and Jenna (Hart) had a great year in the 2-mile. Natalie (Brunswick) had an excellent 1-mile.

“Now they know what they’re doing. They can compete with the big kids. They’re really excited.”

Freshman Anna Roessner is coming off a season during which she was the Midwest Athletic Conference champion in both the 100- and 400-meter dash races as well as the runner-up in the 200 dash. Diller expects the youngster to have an immediate impact for the team.

“We’re excited to get her going on the relays,” she



Pictured is the 2022 Fort Recovery High School girls track team. Front row from left are Hannah Weigel, Anna Roessner, Abbie Francis, Amalia Giminez-Martin, Jenna Hart and Bailie Muhlenkamp. Second row are Natalie Brunswick, Joscie LeFevre, Kianna Matsuda, Brooke Hart, Ellie Will, Saidy DeRoo and Brynn Stammen. Third row are Allysen Fullenkamp, Karlie Niekamp, Alyssa Heinrichs, Marley Fiely, Megan Diller, Mara Pearson, Emma Fullenkamp and Joelle Kaup. Back row are assistant coach Charley Vasey, assistant coach Shane Stein, Paige Guggenbiller, Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Whitley Rammel, coach Christy Diller and assistant coach Kourtney Diller.

said. “The sprint relays had good success last year, so I’m excited we can reload missing (2021 graduate) Kierra Wendel. Feeling good we can plug Anna into those and she should have success pretty early on.”

As for the Tribe boys, the 13-member team is without a senior. Sopho-

more Trevor Heitkamp, who qualified for state during the cross country season, is likely to be the top performer on the team.

“He has big goals,” Diller said. “Coming in much fitter. That (cross country) experience is going to help him quite a bit. We’re pretty thin on distance, so Trevor is going to be lead-

ing the way for points.”

Diller noted the return of junior Ross Pearson and sophomore Reece Guggenbiller as key sprinters, with Guggenbiller also handling the long jump. Sophomore Lucas Acheson is expected to participate in high jump and some sprint relays.

Because of such a

small team, Diller noted competing for a conference title will be a difficult task. The Indians were eighth last season.

Fort Recovery’s girls were fifth in the MAC, with Minster completing the sweep.

“I think we have kids that can be competitive individually,” Diller said of

the boys. “Girls, hoping we can be in the top three or four. We lack the numbers, too, even on the girls side, but we’ve got some really talented kids.

“We get a couple relays going, get people in the right places I think we’re right up there.”

***Wishing All of Our
Local Teams a
Safe, Successful
and Fun Season!***

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Wishing all of our local athletes a successful year in the field, on the court and in the classroom. Your achievements make this community proud, and we salute your hard work and dedication to the sport and to the team. Keep up the great work!

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Loses ...

Continued from page 2
But Thien said he has been working with freshman Kylie Post as Homan's full-time replacement.

"Caught all the ranks coming up," Thien said of Post. "She's got experience, just not varsity experience. She's actually, in the intersquad scrimmages, been exceeding my expectations."

Behind Homan in terms of batting average were Jackie Homan (.423), Chloe Grisez (.408) and Sophie Pearson (.326). Grisez will reprise her role at shortstop, while Pearson and Jackie Homan will split time between first base and pitcher.

Jackie Homan had a 2.97 ERA with 89 strikeouts and 10 walks in 113 innings, and Pearson came on later in the season to pitch in high-stakes games. In 52 2/3 innings she struck out 51, walked 19 and ended with a 5.18 ERA.

"I think they know the other one is right there waiting to take that job, so that keeps them pushing each other to do bet-



Pictured is the 2022 Fort Recovery High School softball team. Front row from left are manager Courtney Klenke, manager Lilah Thien, Abby Knapke, Cali Wendel, Emma Will, Ava Schoen, Ava Grisez, Macy Shinabery and manager Jenna Homan. Middle row are Britney Tebbe, Ella Schoen, Allison Knapke, Chloe Grisez, Audra Bubp, Kylie Post, Chloe Bubp and Kayla Heitkamp. Back row are coach Ryan Thien, assistant coach Carrie Schoen, Jackie Homan, Maddie Guggenbiller, Kensey Gaerke, Sophie Pearson, assistant coach Lauren Day and assistant coach Renee Evers. Not pictured are Arianna LaBarge and Nevaeh Lennartz.

ter and work harder," Thien said. "We're going to play the hot hand like we did last year. Whoever is pitching better is going to get more innings."

At the plate, Jackie Homan led the Indians in doubles (19), RBIs (39), and home runs (five) last

season. Pearson's five triples led the team, and she also finished with eight doubles, 26 RBIs and 21 runs.

Cali Wendel (.228 AVG, five doubles, 11 RBIs) will play second base, with Ava Schoen, Allison Knapke and Abby

Knapke in line to return as starters in the outfield. Thien said Emma Will, Ella Schoen and Kayla Heitkamp can be in the outfield mix as well.

"We've got quite a bit of experience coming back," Thien said. "Hoping they can top what they did last

year or better what we did last year.

"Definitely think we're going to be pretty sound this year. Basically the same team back except the catcher, which is the huge piece."

Fort Recovery was seeded fifth in the district tournament last year and

fell in the sectional final to No. 3 seed Lincolnview. The Indians, who lost to the Lancers 4-3 during the regular season, were up 2-1 after the third inning but a five-run fourth dashed their title hopes.

See **Loses** page 6
LOSES

FRHS softball

Date	Opponent	Time
Monday, March 28	Ansonia	5 p.m.
Thursday, March 31	South Adams	5 p.m.
Friday, April 1	Mississinawa Valley	5 p.m.
Saturday, April 2	Lima Bath	11 a.m.
Monday, April 4	Celina	5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 5	Anna	5 p.m.
Friday, April 8	Fort Loramie	5 p.m.
Saturday, April 9	Franklin-Monroe	3 p.m.
Monday, April 11	St. Marys Memorial	5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 12	Parkway	5 p.m.
Thursday, April 14	Jay County	5 p.m.
Saturday, April 16	Ayersville Tourney	noon
Monday, April 18	Wapakoneta	5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19	Marion Local	5 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	St. Henry	5 p.m.
Friday, April 22	National Trail	5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26	Coldwater	5 p.m.
Thursday, April 28	Minster	5 p.m.
Monday, May 2	Arcanum	5 p.m.
Tuesday, May 3	Versailles	5 p.m.
Thursday, May 5	New Bremen	5 p.m.
Saturday, May 7	Coldwater Tourney	11 a.m.
Monday, May 9	Tri-Village	5 p.m.
Home games in bold		

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Eyink takes over youthful baseball team

The Indians graduated their top two hitters.

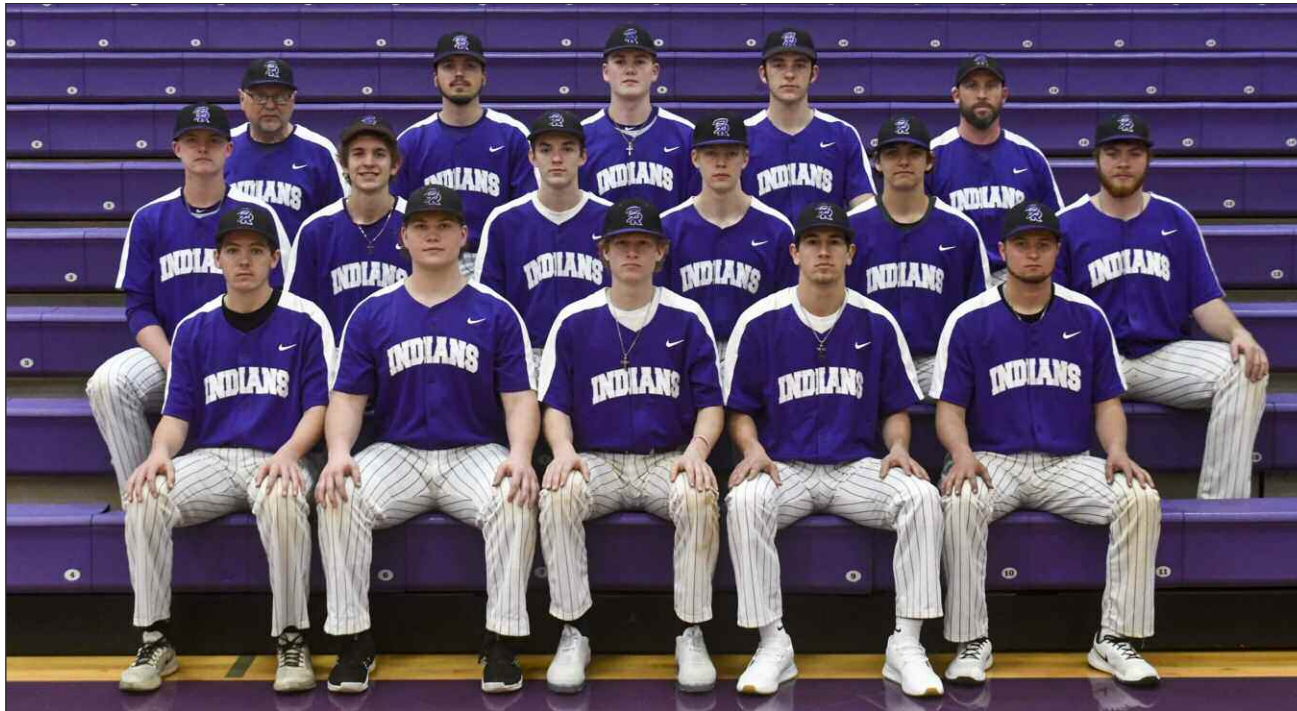
Their two best pitchers are gone as well, one to graduation and another to an injury.

First-year Fort Recovery High School baseball coach Kevin Eyink will have his work cut out for him this year as the Tribe looks to move on from a 9-17 record and the loss of a half dozen seniors.

"We lose some good players there," said Eyink, who was named in September to succeed Jerry Kaup after spending nine seasons as an assistant. "I feel like we've got some good young players coming up here. We have a good group coming back."

Eyink mentioned his three seniors: first baseman Kendrick Wendel, third baseman/pitcher Brock Dues and catcher Marcus Gaerke.

Wendel batted .231 with three doubles, 10 runs and nine RBIs in 2021. Dues was third on the team with his .289 average at the plate while adding 13 runs, 12 RBIs and four doubles. On the mound, Dues had



Pictured is the 2022 Fort Recovery High School baseball team. Front row are Riggs Tobe, Bo Thien, Landon Post, Tory Homan and Brock Dues. Middle row are Wyatt Bihn, Alex Dues, Tucker Overman, Jackson Ervin, Marcus Gaerke and Kendrick Wendel. Back row are assistant coach Tom Galdeen, assistant coach Ben Homan, Daniel Patch, Cale Rammel and coach Kevin Eyink.

a 4.15 ERA with 31 strikeouts and 10 walks in 25 1/3 innings.

Gaerke did not have varsity experience last season.

"Hopefully just some of that senior leadership," Eyink said when asked what he expects out of the trio. "Hopefully they can show that work ethic and be leaders that way

and bring guys along with them."

Gone are Ryne Post and Cobe Wendel, who batted .351 and .303, respectively. Post was the team's shortstop, while Wendel played outfield.

Daniel Patch, who went 2-3 with a 1.83 ERA, led the squad in starts (eight), innings pitched (46) and strikeouts (70)

as a sophomore. But an elbow injury will keep him from playing this year.

"That's a big person to (not) have out there," Eyink said.

Dillan Evers, who was second with 36 1/3 innings as a senior, went 4-2 with a 1.93 ERA, 33 strikeouts and 15 walks.

Eyink said juniors Jackson Ervin, Bo Thien and

Wyatt Bihn will join Dues in the rotation.

"Jackson, Wyatt, those guys have got to step up as pitchers this year," Eyink said. "They don't have a ton of varsity experience yet but they're looking good. I'm hoping they get a good start out of the gates and bring the pitching staff along."

Sophomore Troy Homan

will also be pitching when he's not anchoring the outfield in center. Homan had a team-high 11 appearances on the mound last year, and his 1.41 ERA was the Tribe's lowest. He struck out 24 and walked nine in 24 2/3 innings while finishing 1-3 and recording the team's only save.

See **Takes** page 6

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Loses ...

Continued from page 4

Two days later, the Indians had a make-up game with the Minster Wildcats to settle the conference standings. A win would have made a three-way tie for first, giving the Indians their first MAC championship since 2005. But the Wildcats shut out the Tribe 10-0 in six innings to end the Tribe's season.

After Monday's season opener, Fort Recovery hosts South Adams and meets Mississinawa Valley on April 1. The Tribe has home MAC games against Parkway (April 12), Marion Local (April 19), Coldwater (April 26), Minster (April 28) and

New Bremen (May 5). It has road conference games against St. Henry (April 21) and Versailles (May 3).

Key non-conference games include Celina (April 4), Jay County (April 14) and Wapakoneta (April 18).

Thien said one key to the season will be keeping the girls focused every day.

"Battling the conditions outside, not letting anything like the weather (affect) keeping their focus," he said. "It's a short season but it's every day, so keeping their focus and keeping them on task with playing fundamental defense and having quality at bats."

GOOD LUCK

to our teams!



501 Greenville Rd, Fort Recovery, OH 45846

To the student athletes, coaches and fans who keep the spirit of friendly competition, teamwork and achievement alive, we wish you a successful and rewarding season!



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Good Luck Fort Recovery Sports!



Takes ...

Continued from page 5

Homan had a tough time at the plate, managing just two hits in 40 plate appearances, though he did score seven times.

Cale Rammel is in line to make his varsity debut in left field, while Riggs Tobe will be moving to right field from behind the plate.

Between Dues and Wendel in the infield will be Alex Dues at shortstop and Landon Post at second. Eyink said Thien can rotate with Wendel at first base.

"Alex Dues and Troy Homan, to me they're two of our most important spots," Eyink said. "They'll also pitch a lot. I look for them to have good years."

The Indians hit just .235 as a team last year and Eyink said he sees that as the biggest challenge for this group.

"We've just struggled putting the ball in play," he said. "Somehow we've got to find a fix to that or learn to manufacture with steals and bunts."

Fort Recovery opens Midwest Athletic Conference play at home April 7 against Delphos St. Johns. It also hosts MAC rivals New Knoxville (April 14), St. Henry (April 21) and Versailles (May 3). The In-

FRHS baseball		
Date	Opponent	Time
Monday, March 28	Celina	5 p.m.
Friday, April 1	Mississinawa Valley	5 p.m.
Saturday, April 2	Crestview	noon
Monday, April 4	Lehman Catholic	5 p.m.
Thursday, April 7	Delphos St. John's	5 p.m.
Friday, April 8	Houston	5 p.m.
Saturday, April 9	Ansonia	11 a.m.
Monday, April 11	Tri-Village	5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 12	Parkway	5 p.m.
Thursday, April 14	New Knoxville	5 p.m.
Saturday, April 16	South Adams (DH)	11 a.m.
Monday, April 18	Lima Shawnee	5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19	Marion Local	5 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	St. Henry	5 p.m.
Saturday, April 23	Lincolnvew	1 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26	Coldwater	5 p.m.
Thursday, April 28	Minster	5 p.m.
Saturday, April 30	Russia (DH)	11 a.m.
Monday, May 2	Arcanum	5 p.m.
Tuesday, May 3	Versailles	5 p.m.
Thursday, May 5	New Bremen	5 p.m.
Tuesday, May 10	St. Marys Memorial	5 p.m.
Thursday, May 12	Wapakoneta	5 p.m.
Friday, May 13	Franklin-Monroe	5 p.m.
Home games in bold		

dians have road MAC games against Parkway (April 12), Marion Local (April 19), Coldwater (April 26), Minster (April 28) and New Bremen (May 5).

Coldwater and New Bremen shared the MAC championship last year, the 32nd for Coldwater and first for New Bremen. Fort Recovery was eighth with its 3-6 clip.

"Every game in the MAC is going to be hard," Eyink said. "You're going to face some really good pitchers. I think it's going to come down to our pitching depth; do we have enough good pitchers to throw multiple MAC games a week and really throw a No. 1 and No. 2 guy out there and be able to compete?"

Hope this season is the best one yet!

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Good Luck, Indians!



Pictured is the 2022 Fort Recovery High School boys track team. Front row from left are Christian Marchal, Caden Marchal, Conner Kaikala, Michael Laux and Austin Steinbrunner. Middle row are Reece Guggenbiller, Owen Hietkamp, Brett Lauber, Chase Kaiser, Mitchell Bertke and Trevor Heitkamp. Back row are assistant coach Charley Vasey, assistant coach Shane Stein, Ross Pearson, Drew Langenkamp, Lucas Acheson, coach Christy Diller and coach Kourtney Diller.

FRHS track

Date	Opponent	Time
Tuesday, March 29	Marion Local quad	5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 5	Parkway tri	4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 8	Celina Relays	4:45 p.m.
Tuesday, April 12	Versailles & DSJ	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19	Minster & St. Henry	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26	Anna quad	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 3	Mercer Co. @ CW	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 5	Mercer Co. @ CW	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 10	MAC @ Minster	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 10	MAC @ Minster	4:30 p.m.

Home meets in bold

**Photos by
Ray Cooney.
Stories by
Chris Schanz.**

*Good
luck, and
keep up
the great
work!*



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Good luck during the spring season



Baseball

Opening date: March 28

Sectional: May 14-21

Softball

Opening date: March 28

Sectional: May 7-14

Track

Opening date: March 29

District: May 16-21