



Junior Ellie Hislop and senior Onika Benson celebrate after the Cross Country Regionals on October 18. Both the boys and girls teams won the Colorado 7 league, and two boys placed for the state competition. Photo courtesy of Taylor Mitchell



Junior Jacob Bauer, a member of the JV boys soccer team, analyzes the movement of other players on the field during a game against the Skyview Wolverines on October 16. The boys lost the game 3-1. Photo courtesy of Suzannah Wistreich



Junior quarterback John Hart pitches to sophomore Noah Wagner who then made a touchdown during the Mountain Bowl game against Evergreen on October 26. While the Lobos had fleeting moments of victory, they ultimately lost the game 20-48. Photo courtesy of Carson Kennedy

BRIEFS

Volleyball

The girls volleyball team won a total of 17 games this season and lost eight games, setting them up to make the playoffs. The team won their first game of the season against Standley Lake High School on August 23, 2018. The girls were also able to win their last game against Arvada, winning all three sets. As a result of their wins, the team made it to the playoffs. On November 2, they lost their first game of the playoffs against the Longmont Trojans. Later that day, they played the Montrose Indians and lost 0-3, ending their time in the playoffs. The girls are now done for the season, but this year gave them many new opportunities to grow and change as a team, especially with the addition of new head coach, Laurie Eddy.

Softball

This year's softball team finished the season with a 21-4 overall record. They were 8-0 in conference play and the Colorado 7 League. Conifer was riding a 19 game winning streak heading into regional play. Led by seven seniors on the team, they were able to make the regionals for the 3rd straight year. The season came to an end along with their 19 game winning streak after two straight losses to Mead and Pueblo Central in the regionals. The first game they played was against Mead and they lost 13-6. While facing elimination, Conifer went up against Pueblo Central. Both teams needed a win to move on in the tournament. The Lobos came up just short as they lost 11-10.

Boys Golf

The 2018 boys golf season has ended, and overall, Coach Barnett considered it to be a solid season. The team placed fourth at regionals sending two players to state. One player, sophomore Dakota Dolph, placed 19th at state and was the all conference player of the year. Freshman Cade Rummel also made it to state. Junior Sammy Jacobs was named practice player of the year as the season came to an end, adding another award winner to the lineup. With the season wrapping up, the team ended up fourth in the league even with the rocky start. "We just have to get more comfortable playing with each other and gaining more experience together as a team. It takes everyone working hard for the same goal," junior Landon Wallace said.

Boys Tennis

The boys tennis team, led by coach Sukie Page, struggled this year, only winning 28 out of 78 matches. The team had a winning percentage of .359. This is a step down from last year, when the team won 50 out of their 93 matches with a win percentage of .538. The Lobos' season started with a loss against Bear Creek, followed by placing third out of four teams at a round robin tournament in Longmont. Over the course of the rest of the season the Lobos lost to Wheat Ridge, Golden, Green Mountain, Evergreen, and D'Evelyn. However, the Lobos beat Alameda, Chatfield, Arvada, and Standley Lake and ended the season with their overall League 7 standing at 4-6.

Marching Band

The Lobo Regiment's marching season came to a close on Monday, October 29, in Pueblo after their performance. With the loss of their original director at the beginning of the marching season the band was filled with uncertainty until the current director, Sean Cartner, came to Conifer. The Lobo Regiment placed eighth in 3A competition with a 60.8, placing fourth in visual performance, eighth in general effect, seventh in music performance, and second in visual achievement. In the end, they placed only .1 behind the state champion, D'Evelyn. The Lobo Regiment is beginning to prepare for the All Area band concert and the Conifer Christmas parade, both in December.

Cross Country

With Ben Anderson and Brian Stotts as coaches, the runners' times significantly improved this year. Sophomore Gwen Walker said, "I shaved off around three minutes, thanks to my coaches pushing me so hard." The boys and girls both won the Colorado 7 League. The boys team had two runners qualify for regionals, placed 5th in the D'Evelyn Dash, and won their first team race in eight years. The Lobos did very well in league, scoring 300 points, which was more than twice as much as the runner up team, Englewood, scored, with 120 points. Many members of the team also received all conference awards.

Boys Soccer

The Lobos soccer team wrapped up their season with a record of three wins and 12 losses. On the 21st of August they lost against Thornton 3-1 in a double overtime brawl. Then, they lost their next six games against Berthoud (3-2), Evergreen (7-0), Denver South (3-2), Bear Creek (4-3), Green Mountain(4-0), and Frederick (4-0). The Lobos ended their losing streak on September 18, beating Woodland Park with a score of 4-1. On the 25th, the Lobos obliterated Englewood with a score of 10-0. The Lobos final five games consisted of one win against Arvada (2-1) and four more losses. With a roster consisting of mostly juniors, there's hope for a successful season next year and a potential playoff run.

Football

Conifer's football season has come to an end after ten games; the team finished with a record of 5-5 for the 2018 season. Conifer's opening game on August 31 was against Woodland Park, and Conifer won 35-17. The next game was against Summit and Conifer won 55-7. They lost the Mountain Bowl against Evergreen, their second to last game, with a score of 26-48. The season ended in a loss against George Washington, with a final score of 22-28. Junior Sam Dunivan completed the season with the highest number of touchdowns, scoring nine for the team throughout their 10 games; Dunivan also scored the most points with a total of 56.

Running for history

A recap of cross country's breakout year

By Alex Ainsworth

The 2018 cross country season has officially come to an end. This year, both the boys and girls cross country teams won the Colorado 7 League. Additionally, the boys cross country team had two runners qualify for state, they won their first team race in eight years, and they placed third in the D'Evelyn Dash.

The cross country team also competed in the Wiggin's Invitational. They won this race, making it one of the greatest races in Conifer cross country history. This was the first race that the team had won in eight years, beating schools such as Greeley Central, Denver North, Niwot,

and 14 other high schools.

The first race of the season was the D'Evelyn Dash. This race consisted of some of the top cross country teams in the state such as Columbine High School, Chatfield High School, and Mullen High School. The Lobos finished third in this race, only behind Longmont and Arvada West High School.

"We were able to keep the momentum from that race throughout the course of the season," sophomore Zack Gacnik said.

For the third straight year, the Lobos cross country team won their league, making them back to back to back

champions in the Colorado 7 League. The Lobos dominated this year's league meet, scoring 120 points. The next best team was Englewood, which scored 300 points.

"We had five runners [make] the first and second all conference teams, with Sean Sands being named league champion," Gacnik said.

The five members of the cross country team that received all conference honors were Seans Sands, Will Toppin, Topi Alahuhta, Zack Gacnik, and James Ulrich.

The team qualified for regionals and finished sixth place, but that wasn't enough for the team to qualify for state.

Although the entire cross country team didn't qualify for state this year, seniors Sean Sands and Will Toppin both qualified for state individually.

Sands and Toppin led the way as the Lobos had five runners named to all conference, their third straight league championship, and their first overall meet win in eight years.

"This year's team was one of the greatest in school history," Gacnik said. "We had lots of young talent, so the team should keep improving over the next couple years."

Wrestling for a new school

Some CHS wrestlers will wrestle for Jefferson High School in the 2018-19 season

By Alex Ainsworth

This year, Conifer will not have a wrestling team, because there is no coach for the team.

Conifer wrestlers who wish to wrestle this season will have to do so for another school. Last year, Conifer had three state qualifiers, but they will have to play for other schools for the time being.

"Matt Creel and I are wrestling for Platte Canyon this year since Conifer doesn't have a team," sophomore Noah

Hartman said.

Hartman placed third in the 2018 Colorado Invitational F2W. Creel has taken this year to focus on wrestling, as he isn't playing baseball anymore.

Along with Hartman and Creel, last year's state qualifiers, sophomore Cayden Condit and junior Zander Condit will continue wrestling, except this year the Condit's will be wrestling with Jefferson High School. Conifer's third state qualifier

and league champion Captain Payne graduated last year.

"It sucks that we won't have a team this year, especially since last year was pretty good overall," Hartman said.

Last year's state qualifiers, Cayden Condit and Zander Condit both had a successful season. Zander placed fifth in the 132-pound bracket at the state championship and first in the Colorado 7 League tournament. Although Cayden

did not place in the state championship, she came in third place in the 106-pound bracket in the Colorado 7 league tournament.

The two siblings will continue to wrestle at a high school level and make another push for state. As for Hartman and Creel, they will wrestle in Bailey, looking to improve the Platte Canyon wrestling team and play a big role in their 2018-19 season.

Lobos fall to Demons

Boys basketball loses to Golden 56-69

By Luca Gorla and Chartom Burton

On December 5, the Conifer Lobos went up against the Golden Demons. Unfortunately, the Golden Demons came out on top with a score of 56-69.

Although the Lobos won the rebound battle, they lacked consistency on their shots, 37%, field goal percentage, to Golden's 60%. Junior Elijah Cook was feeling it from behind the arc, dropping 19 points with five threes, of which came in just the third quarter. Cook had this to say about dropping those threes:

"I just thought we were going to win. I thought we were coming back. We were for a little bit, but then we got cold."

Cook wasn't the only one that dominated a stat line. Junior Landon Wallace played twice his size during their game. Wallace is 5'10", one of the shortest players on the court; however, he led the team and the game in total rebounds grabbed with 10 rebounds. Junior Cody Jacobson wasn't too far behind him, with seven rebounds.

Jacobson played a solid game. He knew what went wrong during the final minutes

of the game and understood what the team needed to get back.

"The team could've communicated better, played with more effort and given it our all," Jacobson said.

The fourth quarter was the weakest part of the game for the Lobos.

"We should have stayed with them in the fourth because we beat them in the third quarter. If we had been able to keep up with them, it would have made a big difference," Jacobson said.

Morale was low at the end of the game as the players ran the game through their head again, thinking of every possible outcome they could've done to change the course of the game.

"I think they need to improve on their intensity, honestly. We have a lot of skill and a lot of great potential. Most of them are getting used to varsity competition and the margin for error is a lot smaller once you get up to that varsity level," coach Eric Valerio said.

The Lobos have only just started to play together at the varsity level, and chemistry

is still building. They headed to Steamboat to face off against other teams as they competed in the Steamboat Springs Shootout tourney. The Lobos came in at second place in the tournament, with a record of 2-1. They beat North Ridge 43-32, they went on to beat Roosevelt 62-57,

but then lost to Steamboat Springs 60-34.

"Now they're focused on improving every day; that's what matters. They go to film study and really are investing in the program. Like the Sixers, we say 'trust the process,'" Valerio said.



The Lobo players line up to shake the Golden players' hands at the end of the game. Their next home game be against the Evergreen Cougars on Monday, December 17 at 7PM. Photo by Luca Gorla

Girls basketball preview

Girls basketball team ready to compete

By Luca Gorla

This year's girls basketball team is rostered and is ready to hit the court, coming off of their last season which earned them third in the 4A/3A Colorado 7 basketball League, with a record of 11 wins, 13 losses.

The girls basketball team is a completely different program this year, with a new head coach, John Coder. Coder plans to "implement a new up-tempo style of basketball."

"It is an exciting time of our season," Coder said. "There have been lots of changes. Even though we are young, we have depth and experience at key positions."

This season the team will also be introducing many new players. The entire roster consists of 19 players. Even though four seniors on the team have left, JV coach Molly Snively feels confident in the team.

"It's going to be difficult, but we have

a really good group of kids, and I think we're going to do really well this year," Snively said.

Snively considers this a "building period," but, with the surplus of new players who are eager to play, things are going smoothly so far. The varsity roster is currently set at 10 players, consisting of three freshmen, four sophomores, two juniors, and one senior.

The fact that the team is mostly made up of underclassmen greatly contrasts with last year's team which was half-upperclassmen. Even though there's an age gap between many of the players, Snively can see a strong team chemistry forming.

"They all get along well, so I think that's going to be a strength of ours because they're all really supportive of each other," Snively said. "That's really important, because they don't get mad at each other, and when someone makes a mistake it's like, 'Alright, here we go, let's do it again.'"

Having strong chemistry between players is critical for the foundation of a good team, and so far, that foundation looks sturdy.

"The team has a lot of potential, and with the help of our coaches, I feel like we have a good shot at taking league," junior Jordyn West, a varsity player, said.