## **SPORTS**



#### **CHECK THIS OUT TOMORROW**

Full, in-person, non-"From Staff Reports" coverage of both of Mountain Ridge's regional finals in softball and baseball.

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# Regional softball champs!

# Early runs, masterful Anderson give Keyser 1st-ever bid to state tournament, 2-1

By Michael Minnich

Tribune Sports Editor mminnich@newstribune.info

KEYSER—They did it. For the first time in school history, the Keyser Lady Tornado softball team is statebound, defeating the Lincoln Lady Cougars in the Region II final, 2-1, at Ron Mathias and Friends Field last night.

Keyser advances to face the winner of the Region I championship game between Magnolia and Ritchie County, which was also last night, in the first game of the double-elimination state tournament at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday in Vienna.

Meghan Anderson turned in another tremendous start in the circle for Keyser, striking out 10 batters and allowing just a run on four hits.

Her defense did their jobs well, too, playing an errorfree game.

For Lincoln, freshman Allison Winans allowed two runs on eight hits and struck out four in seven innings.

Keyser lost the toss for home-field advantage, but it may have been a blessing in disguise early. Anderson singled with one

out in the top of the first, moved to second on an error, and scored on Lexi Carr's hard-hit line drive. Anderson worked around

a leadoff walk to keep the lead at 1-0 after one.

pitches to get through the second inning, but Anderson struck Mary Joe Demarco out looking to strand a Lin-gerty to pop out to second to coln runner in the home half strand runners on the corof the inning.

In the top of the third, Carrie Riggleman singled with one out, then Anderson was hit by the pitch in the helmet.

runners in scoring position was left there when Winans' for Sam Hoban, who legged hard line drive was within



Keyser assistant coach Derek Stephen (in hat) and players Faith Nelson (12), Meghan Anderson (35), Katie Hoban (front, right), Sam Hoban (in sunglasses), Lexi Carr (with mouthguard), and Abby Smith celebrate after the final out. TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MICHAEL MINNICH

Winans needed just four out a first-pitch infield single to score Riggleman: 2-0,

Winans got Taylor Hag-

Samantha Elder picked up the first Lincoln hit with a one-out single in the bottom of the third, moved to second on Chelsea Stout's Carr's ground ball put two ground ball to second, but Sam Hoban's reach at second for the final out.

Kendall Keplinger singled with one away for KHS in the fourth, then Katie Tasker knocked the ball up the middle for a two-out single.

Winans struck Riggleman

out to end the inning. Casey Hittel led off the Lincoln fourth with a single, but Marina Fleece bounced out to first, Emily Knight grounded back to Anderson, and Makayla McElwayne struck out swinging. Both teams went down in order in the fifth, then

Keyser went 1-2-3 in the sixth. hest effort in the hottom of

the sixth. Winans singled with one out and was replaced by

courtesy runner Meredith Robinson. Hittel then singled to cen-

ter field, with Robinson taking the extra base to third and Hittel moving up to second on the throw.

The temperature lowered slightly for Keyser when Fleece lined out to Sam Lincoln put together their Hoban at second on the first pitch, but a wild pitch with Knight batting scored Robinson and moved the tying run, Hittel, to third.

> Anderson, though, sat Knight down swinging two pitches later: danger avert-

Riggleman and Anderson

singled with two away in the KHS seventh, but Carr's deep fly ball to center was gloved for the third out. Now it was on Keyser to

get the final three outs. McElwayne, down swi

Demarco, first-pitch ground out to second.

Sarah Martin, looking on 3-2: ballgame.

Keyser (24-9) has won seven in a row and adds to their school record for wins.

### IS, FHS girls favorites at state meet

**By Michael Minnich** 

Tribune Sports Editor mminnich@newstribune.info

KEYSER—The Keyser and Frankfort girls' track teams are legitimate contenders to win the Class AA state championship, which runs today and tomorrow at Laidley Field in Charleston.

The state's best authority on cross country and track, RunWV.com, has Frankfort beating Keyser by two points, 74-72, with Oak Glen (64) and Berkeley Springs (54) the other contenders.

But the ways they'll win it are very different.

For FHS, it's all about two girls: juniors Bria Welker and Katie Jan are projected to be the top two scorers in the entire meet.

Welker, who missed last season due to injury, was named the top girls track athlete in the state as a freshman, and is RunWV's favorite in the 100, 200, 400, and the long jump.

"I don't see where Bria missed a beat," said FHS head coach Amanda Moreland. "She's broken three of the four school records this season, and continues to look great.'

"It's just unbelievable," said FHS assistant coach Bill Cessna of Welker's recovery. "She ran that first



race, and we just knew she was back."

Jan is touted to win the 800, 1600, 3200, and is tabbed fourth in the 400.

There's your 74 points right there. "The team scores are go-

that stat man Nate [Hayes] has it figured out, it's between us, Keyser, and Oak Glen. We look for Bria ing to be very interesting," to go first in all four events, said Moreland. "The way See GIRLS Page 9

Event titles, top 10 finishes goals for boys



Frankfort's Trae Miller is projected to score points in the 1600. TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LEE BROWN (KNOBLEY.COM)

By Michael Minnich Tribune Sports Editor

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KEYSER-The Keyser Golden Tornado and Frankfort Falcons, although See BOYS Page 9

#### **BOYS**

not favorites to win the team title, still have the potential to win several events and finish strong at the Class AA boys' track meet at Laidley Field in Charleston today and tomorrow.

"It's going to be fun to go down there and watch and see what we can do," said Keyser coach Scott Furey. "We have the potential to win three or four events, I really do. The 4x2 and 4x4 can be something we can definitely win. I think Craig Westfall has it in him to win the 800. He placed a strong sixth last year at the state meet, kind of coming from nowhere. J.R. Flint, on a great day, can win the high jump.'

Frankfort will be looking to their middle-distance runners, both individually and in relays.

"Our 4x8 relay broke the school record," said

Katie to finish first in

three of her four and right

behind Bria in the 400."

the case. Obviously, a lot

of things can happen,"

said Cessna. "We talk

about Jan and Welker all

season long, but there's

'We're hoping that is

**GIRLS** 

FROM PAGE 8

FHS coach Tim Haines. "They're ranked first going into the state meet. They've really done well."

"Hopefully the 4x8 will pull it out," said Haines. "We can score some points in the 200 and 300 meter hurdles and hopefully finish in the top ten."

Haines also points at Trae Miller and Shane Ickes in the 800, 1600, and 3200 as potential top-six finishers.

'If they do what they're supposed to, and what they've been doing all year, I think we'll be okay."

Keyser won the regional title by one point over Frankfort.

"It came down to the 4x4," said Furey. "We needed to beat Frankfort, who had a great, great meet. Their distance kids were phenomenal, way better than what everyone expected, except for them."

"Our guys were able to pull it out with a pretty im-

pressive performance. We had our best time of the season," said Furey. "But the fact that we're pole vaulting now really helps. We got three points in the pole vault. We also got a big, huge point from freshman Timmy Biser in the 800 meters, which was not something we'd really expected."

Other factors were Frankfort dropping the baton in the 4x100 meter relay and Berkeley Springs falling when leading the 4x200.

"We don't care how we win it, as long as we win it," said Furey. "I knew it was going to be close."

"We had 14 [kids at the meet], and Keyser had 41, so there were a couple of events that we didn't have anyone, then. It was close," said Haines. "If you don't win it, then they pick up third, fourth, fifth."

'We're going to be competitive. We're going to work hard. We're going to

"Sharia's in four events;

represent everyone that's come before us," said Furey. "I like our chances. Put us up against somebody in that hot heat, just like when we were running against Frankfort in that 4x4."

"Our goal is top 10. I think we can go top 7. If we had a super day, top 5. Losing what we've lost...last year's class was the most successful that we've ever had in track and field. While we had Jeremy Green and Taige Redman and that superclass in 2009, those sophomores then got us a bunch of points that year. If things go right, we could potentially be three-time defending state champions," said Furey. "These kids have worked hard and they don't want to let go of the tradition that's been started. The fact that they went out and got regionals is proof positive to me that they're going to go down and give their best effort."

Frankfort and Berkeley Springs in the process. "It was one of the best

Keyser's Craig Westfall may be a state champion by

#### weekend's end. TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MICHAEL MINNICH

SPORTS BRIEFS

Brooke Saville, who's been a big part of our team. And there's other girls who didn't qualify for that, but they're out there every day and pushing those Frankfort performed up

to Moreland's expectations at the regionals, qualifying Welker and Jan in four events, plus Brooke Saville in the 300 meter hurdles.

"We did our best to make sure that Welker and Jan qualified in all of their events, so that when they get down to the state meet, they can participate in four events," said Bill

For Keyser, it'll be more balanced.

"There are 12 young ladies qualified for the state track meet," said Dawson. "As far as I can tell, the quality of where we're qualifying is a lot better [than past years], I think. We have two girls that qualified in the 100, three in the hurdles, two girls in the 300-meter hurdles...Sharia Hernandez, I thought, did a great job at the regional track meet, and she has improved tremendously, even since last year.'

KHS will be led individually by Hernandez in the sprints and Erica White in the hurdles, both of whom could get points in multiple events, but their depth could be the deciding factor.

nately did not have a lot of depth," said Moreland. 'Keyser, on the other hand, has a lot of depth and a lot of potential in every event. It could come down to the last race of the meet, where we do not have a team entered, that could determine who wins."

The Lady Tornado are projected to score points in all five relays and are the favorites in the 4x100, 4x400, and shuttle hurPayton Derryberry will be in four, with the relay those events."

Keyser comes in off of their second straight regional title, beating both

events; Erica White will be in four events; Allison Evans will be in four events. We have a lot of young ladies in multiple events. We have two ninth graders that qualified in the 400," said Dawson. "We have an opportunity to actually move up in

performances by a Keyser team that I've seen in a long time," said Dawson. "I thought one of the most exciting races was the hurdle event. We had qualified three young ladies, and they ended up going 1, 2, and 4, and all qualifying for the state meet."

"It was a loaded region, a very competitive region, and we were fortunate enough to get that we needed to win it," said Dawson.

So, have the words 'state title' been on the lips of the KHS coaches and athletes?

"There's so much pressure being put on that," said Dawson. "If we do what we need to do, if we are mentally prepared for the stress, then you're going to be successful. Most of the girls have been at the state track meet before. They know what goes on down there, and I think that they'll be prepared for it."

"In my opinion, you have Frankfort, you have Oak Glen, you have Berkeley Springs, and you have Keyser. You have four really solid teams," said

"I think it will come down to who has the best performance in a particular event: not necessarily winning the event, but performing where they should be performing, said Dawson.

Dawson looks at the relays as the potential swing

"If we can finish at the top in the relay events, I think it would be to our advantage. If we can hold on to where we're going into the state track meet going into other events, we'll be fine. State track meet's different: everybody knows you have one shot. And everybody's up for it."

Neither school has ever won a state title in girls' track.

**MOUNTAIN RIDGE** 

#### **Hosting regional** track meet today

Mountain Ridge will be hosting the Region 1A West Track & Field Meet on Friday, May 18.

Competing schools are Boonsboro, Brunswick, Clear Spring, Hancock, Manchester Valley, North Carroll, Northern Garrett, Southern Garrett, Smithsburg, Fort Hill, Allegany and Mountain Ridge.

The coaches' meeting will be at 2 p.m. and the meet will begin at 3 p.m.

Admission is \$5.00 for anyone over the age of seven years. Only MPSSAA passes will be

accepted. Spectators are reminded that parking along the stadium access road where the curb is painted red is forbidden.

LEGION BASEBALL

#### **Tryouts Saturday**

Tryouts for the Ridgeley Post 136 American Legion baseball team will be held on Saturday at 9 a.m. at Frankfort High School.

Players must be born after January 1, 1993; documents are not required at tryouts.

For more information, contact Mike Angellatta at 301-338-2591.

**LOCAL RACES** 

#### Conquer 5K Sat.

Aging & Family Services of Mineral County is proud to announce "Conquer the Dam," the first 5K fundraising run/walk at Jennings Randolph Lake.

Proceeds from this event, scheduled for Saturday, May 19, will support the Meals on Wheels program of Mineral County.

The event begins and ends at the top of the Howell Run Picnic area. There will be a downhill start and then cross the dam and then reverse direction with a slight uphill climb to the finish. Cost is \$20 early registration; \$10 for those 14 years old and

For more information, call 304-788-5467 or email lkitzmiller@wvaging.com.

PEN-MAR-WV

#### Golf tourney Sat.

The Pen-Mar WV Baseball League will hold their third annual golf tournament on Saturday, May 19 at Rocky Gap Golf Resort. Entry fee is \$340 per foursome (pre-registered).

Registration begins at noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m., with dinner and awards to follow in the pavilion at 6 p.m.

Prizes include: a hole-in-one \$5,000 cash prize and buy-ups are available for mulligan and powerball, \$2,500 putting challenge raffle, closet to pin and long drive challenges, 1st through 3rd place money awards.

Walk-up teams are welcome on tournament day on a first

come basis, up to 36 total teams. For more information and to register contact James Altobello at 304-738-4565 or via email at james altobello7@hotmail.com

KHSTENNIS

#### **Baked steak** fundraiser May 27

The Keyser boys' and girls' tennis teams will hold a steak dinner at the Keyser Moose Lodge on Sunday, May 27 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost is \$8.

Menu includes baked steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, roll, dessert, and drinks.

Take-outs are also available. Tickets may be purchased from any boys' or girls' tennis team member, or by contacting coach Don Kingery at 304-813-

Tickets will also be available at the door, while supplies last.



Frankfort's Bria Welker could win four events at the

