

## Dragon baseball team heads into season with high expectations

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

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Last year the Dragon baseball team felt like the season ended prematurely as they were knocked off in the first round of the 2A District 7 semifinals 2-5 to Sedgwick County, a team they had beaten twice during the season.

“Our goal entering the season is to finish better than last year,” first year head coach John Zilla said.

Zilla comes in stressing the importance of playing together as a team, being fundamentally sound and getting in adequate amounts of batting practice every day.

“I hope the kids will buy into the new ideas I’ve come in with and the change of philosophy,” Zilla said.

Zilla will be joined by assistant coaches Brett Gerk and Marcus Kammer.

The season is in full swing as the Dragons topped Haxtun 9-8 and 15-5 Saturday, March 16.

One thing Zilla is very conscious of early in the season is not straining any of the six pitchers’ arms. With limited practices he does not want any kid to throw more than 50 pitches in a game to start the season.



**Dragon baseball letterwinners are pictured from left, Logan Tharp, Deyten Klein, Alfredo**

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**Santos, Jesus Hermosillo, Brett Cumming, Jaydin Goldenstein, Logan Zeiler and Trevor Dalton. The team will be looking to improve upon their 15-5 record from last year that included a record of 11-3 in league play.**

**—Enterprise photo**

The team boasts a lot of varsity experience as they return eight letterwinners, four of which were All-Conference players last year and two who were All-Conference honorable mention.

Seniors Brett Cumming, Jesus Hermosillo and Deyten Klein and junior Logan Tharp were named to the All-Conference team for their play last year while senior Jaydin Goldenstein and junior Trevor Dalton were honorable mentions. Other letterwinners include seniors Logan Zeiler and Alfredo Santos.

Joining the letterwinners this year are seniors Cesar Hinostraza and Astolfo Rojo; juniors Tony Quintana, Ivan Millan, Tanner Smith and Ryan Krogmeier; sophomores Wyatt Powell, Dylan Kotch, Zach Roll and Nathan Miles; and freshmen Taylor Mayden, Marvin Gardea, Scott Osborne, Juan Quintana, Jahir Gardea and Jesus Martinez.

Eighth-graders Brendan Mayden, Brenden Kage and Gunnar Kroeger have volunteered to be team managers.

The Dragons will return to the diamond Saturday, March 23 at 11 a.m. as they hit the road to face Sedgwick County.

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