



OAK HILLS ATHLETICS

3200 Ebenezer Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45248 • 513-467-7105 • oakhillssports.com

Ben Hageman, Athletic Director
Mike Price, Assistant Athletic Director
Kyle Prosser, Assistant Athletic Director
Karyn Swanger, Administrative Assistant

The 2020 Highlander Athletic teams have excelled this fall despite unprecedented challenges. The spring of 2020 caused shutdowns across the country and ended many of our student-athletes' high school careers. Teams were prevented from training as a group as quarantines were mandated across the state. Many of our kids worked, grinded, and pushed through the adversity, so that they would be ready when they could compete in the sports that they loved. Their dedication was evident by the results of our fall teams, as many excelled on and off the field.

With no certainty that they would be afforded the opportunity to compete, our fall athletes came back onto campus at the beginning of June. The feelings that these athletes experienced ranged from hope, to excitement, to gratefulness, to fear. They were excited to be back with their friends and teammates, playing the sport that they loved and grateful for the opportunities. At the same time, they were fearful that it could be taken away.

Hand sanitizer, mask, and social distancing became the norm. Coaches had to adapt and change the way that they organized practices. Building culture and team cohesiveness became one of the biggest challenges. All rose to these challenges with grace. I am proud to say that throughout the fall, while we did have positive cases, we had zero cases spread amongst our teams. This could only happen with strong coaching leadership and a conscientious and diligent effort by our student-athletes. All are to be commended.

Throughout the fall, in what is considered by many to be the top public school athletic conference in the state, the Highlanders are currently 5th in the all-sports trophy, a mere two points out of 4rd place and only 10 points away from 2nd. Traditionally, we excel in the winter sports, so this positions us very well moving forward.

Girls' Cross Country

Team GPA: 3.89

The girls' team reached unprecedented heights, finishing the regular season as the 7th-ranked team in the state of Ohio. For context, the GMC has 3 of the top 7 teams in the state. The girls were able to finish 2nd in the GMC and were District Runner-Up. The Regional race did not go as planned. Regardless, the Highlanders finished a respectable 8th and freshman Eva Hensley qualified as an individual to the state meet and finished an impressive 23rd place.

Led by GMC Coach of the Year, alumni Shellie Hageman, alumni Danielle Mercer, and alumni Rachel Price, the extremely young team began leaving their mark on the all-time team records. Alyssa Hammond (#2 all-time), Eva Hensley (#3 all time), Megan John (#4 all-time) led the way for the Lady Highlanders. Ady McDonald (15th all-time), Annabelle McDonald, Julia Hageman,

Megan Huth, Emma Lucas, Cecilia Pastrick, and Madison Coster took turns rounding out the girls' top 10 as major contributors this year.

All-Conference

Alyssa Hammond (10) - 1st Team

Eva Hensley (9) - 1st Team

Megan John(12) - 1st Team

Julia Hageman (10) - 2nd Team

Megan Huth (12) - 2nd Team

Emma Lucas (11) - 2nd Team

Anabelle McDonald (10) - 2nd Team

Boys' Cross Country

Team GPA: 4.0

As with girls CC, the GMC has some of the strongest programs in the state, with 2 teams ranked in the top 5 in the state of Ohio. The Oak Hills boys, led by senior James Schmidt, finished 4th in the conference and as a team. The boys' team also placed 4th at the district championship, which earned them a qualification to the regional championship. This is the first time that both teams qualified for the regional meet in the same year since 2008.

Led by Coaches Nick Continenza and Scott Kinkley, the boys team had a strong mix of established upperclassmen and exciting newcomers. Early in the season, James Schmidt broke Blake Meyer's former school record and ended up rebreaking it weeks later by ultimately running the 5k race in 15:35.2. Ranked in the top tier of runners in the state all season, James qualified for the state championship for the 2nd year in a row and placed 7th overall, the highest ever finish by a Highlander. Cannon Kartye (11), Nate Srode (11), Noah Mckee (10), Joe Helmes (9), Alex Taft (10), Brayden Holland (9), Zack Kroger (12), Danny Herzog (11) and EJ Schneider (9) rounded out the top 10 for the Highlanders this year. While losing this year's senior leadership will certainly hurt, the underclassmen in this group are more than capable of continuing the Highlander's tradition of having strong cross country teams.

All Conference

James Schmidt (12) - 1st Team

Joe Helmes (9) - 2nd Team

Nate Srode (11) - 2nd Team

Football

Team GPA: 3.36

The 2020 Highlander football team may have had the most challenging task of all teams with the restrictions of 2020. The Highlanders had a new staff, led by Head Coach Justin Roden, but lost the bulk of their spring time to implement their new philosophies, schemes, and overall program. Despite these limitations, they produced exciting, competitive football that didn't show up in the win column but clearly shows that we are heading in the right direction.

Led by Senior Quarterback Devin Holt who finished the year ranked sixth in the conference in rushing and fifth in passing, the Highlanders ended the season winning 2 of their final 3 games, including wins over GMC foe Middletown and neighborhood rival Harrison. The JV and Freshman team followed suit, improving each week and ending the season on an upward trajectory. Sophomore Jaxon Schreiber teamed with Holt to split time at Quarterback and ended the year as the number 7 passer in the conference while Senior Logan Hehman, a 2-way starter, finished the year 3rd in receiving yards.

All Conference

Devin Holt - 2nd-Team

Girls' Golf

Team GPA: 4.0

The girls' golf team is led by Oak Hills alumna Teri Egbers and Judy Hoehn. You will not find a more supportive coaching staff anywhere in the city.

The girls' team continues to improve their overall depth and competitiveness, finishing the season 5th in the GMC and sending an individual golfer to districts for the 2nd year in a row. The Highlanders were led by Freshman Debra Brogan, a District Qualifier who finished the year with the 7th lowest average in the GMC at 39.53 per 9 holes. Junior Sam Nuss continued on her strong sophomore year where she was a district qualifier by posting an average score of 44. Sophomore Lucy Rankin (47.8), Junior Lydia Essert (51), and Junior Erin Kumler (53.6) rounded out the top 5.

With the core returning, we have high hopes and expectations for our girls program over the next several years.

All Conference

Debra Brogan - 1st Team, 2nd Team SWOHSGGCA Div 1

Sam Nuss - 2nd Team

Lucy Rankin - 2nd Team

Boys' Golf

Team GPA: 3.84

The boys golf team has had a resurgence of the last few years. Led by alumnus Derrick Reed, the Highlanders were able to finish 6th in the GMC and missed qualifying for districts by one place. Seniors AJ Kontsis (39.6 avg) and Allen Nienaber (44.1) led the way for the Highlanders. Ryan Williamson (44.9), Anthony Weinmann (45.03), and Anthony Singler (45.22) round out the top 5. Will Steioff (10) had the shot of the year for his hole-in-one @ Miami Whitewater.

All-Conference

AJ Kontsis - 2nd Team

Allen Nienaber - 2nd Team

Girls' Tennis

Team GPA: 4.0

The Lady Highlanders continue their strong upward trajectory. Led by GMC Coach of the Year Jeremy Miller and Nick Harper, the team set a new mark for school wins in a season with 13. The ladies finished 3rd in the GMC, the highest finish since joining the conference. Furthermore, in the final rankings, the girls ended ranked 5th in the City of Cincinnati and had five girls named to the all-conference selections.

The Highlanders were paced by Senior Mia Ziebro, a 2019 qualifier for districts and distinguished singles player in the city. Morgan Lint (9) and Gabby Kadakia (10), despite playing singles all year, teamed up together, making it to Districts during the post-season tournament. Molli Malone (11), Abigail Miller (12), and Avery King (10) rounded out the girls top 6.

All Conference

Mia Ziebro - 3rd Team - 2nd Singles
Morgan Lint - 3rd Team - 1st Doubles
Molli Malone - 3rd Team - 1st Doubles
Abigail Miller - Honorable Mention - 2nd Doubles
Avery King - Honorable Mention - 2nd Doubles

Boys Soccer

Team GPA: 3.83

The boys' soccer team this year gave us many memorable, heartstopping moments. From the improbable score as time expired versus Elder to claiming their first Sectional Championship since 1985, this team never lacked excitement. Led by Alumnus, GMC Coach of the Year Bill Schoer, the Highlanders fought their way to a third place finish in conference standing (10-5-4) and a final s. They had a thrilling postseason run, claiming a Sectional Title and advancing to the District Finals for the first time since 1986.

RJ Linenkugel (12) paced the way for the Highlanders offensively, finishing fourth in the conference in goals scored (12) and fifth in offensive points (30). JJ Meyer (12) and Austin Dennis (12) were also large contributors to the Highlanders offense. Goalkeeper Chad Smith (12) finished 2nd in the conference in shutouts and paired with fellow goalkeeper Owen Parker (12) as a stout backline.

All-Conference

RJ Linenkugel - 1st Team (All Southwest)
Chad Smith - 1st Team (All Southwest)
Logan Muhlen - 1st Team
JJ Meyer - 2nd Team
Devin Fitzgibbon - 2nd Team

Austin Dennis - 2nd Team

Girls Soccer

Team GPA: 3.87

The girls' soccer team, led by alumnus Kevin Spraul, finished the season with a 12-5-4 record and tied for 3rd in the GMC. The 12 wins are the most since 2016 and the girls advanced to their 3rd District Final in school history. One of the many highlights was when the girls upset an undefeated and #2 ranked Loveland to claim the sectional title.

In addition to a season of team accomplishments, this squad placed a number of girls in the record books. Sophia Kuerze (10) broke the single goal season record (25), for Oak Hills as well as the single-season record for offensive points. Esperanza Estrada (12) led the Highlanders in assists and was 4th in the conference in offensive points. Anna Thomas (12) was a force in goal, tying for the conference lead in shutouts and placing 4th in saves.

All-Conference

Sophia Kuerze - 1st Team (1st Team All-Southwest Ohio, 2nd Team All-State)

Esperanza Estrada - 1st Team (1st Team All-Southwest Ohio)

Erykah Cornett - 1st Team

Anna Thomas - 1st Team

Abby Linenkugel - 2nd Team

Molly Sheridan - 2nd Team

Girls Volleyball

Team GPA: 4.0

The girls' volleyball team continued their seven year streak of finishing 4th or higher in the GMC. Led by Coach Sarah Redman, the team started the season a bit rocky but drastically improved as the year progressed, amassing an 8 game win streak toward the end of the season.

The team was led by Riley Broughton (11), who led the conference with 663 assists and was 5th in the conference in aces. Broughton continues to place herself in the record books for number of assists in a season (8th) and in serving aces (5th). Riley Grove (11) led the team in kills, placing her 8th overall in the conference while Jillian Yates (11) led the team in blocks. Kaitlyn Hester (11) was 3rd in the conference in digs with 316, which also places her in the record books for the Highlanders. Kate Nemann (12) was selected to represent Oak Hills in the senior Showcase.

All-Conference

Riley Broughton - 1st Team (3rd team All District)

Riley Grove - 2nd Team

Katelynn Hester - 2nd Team