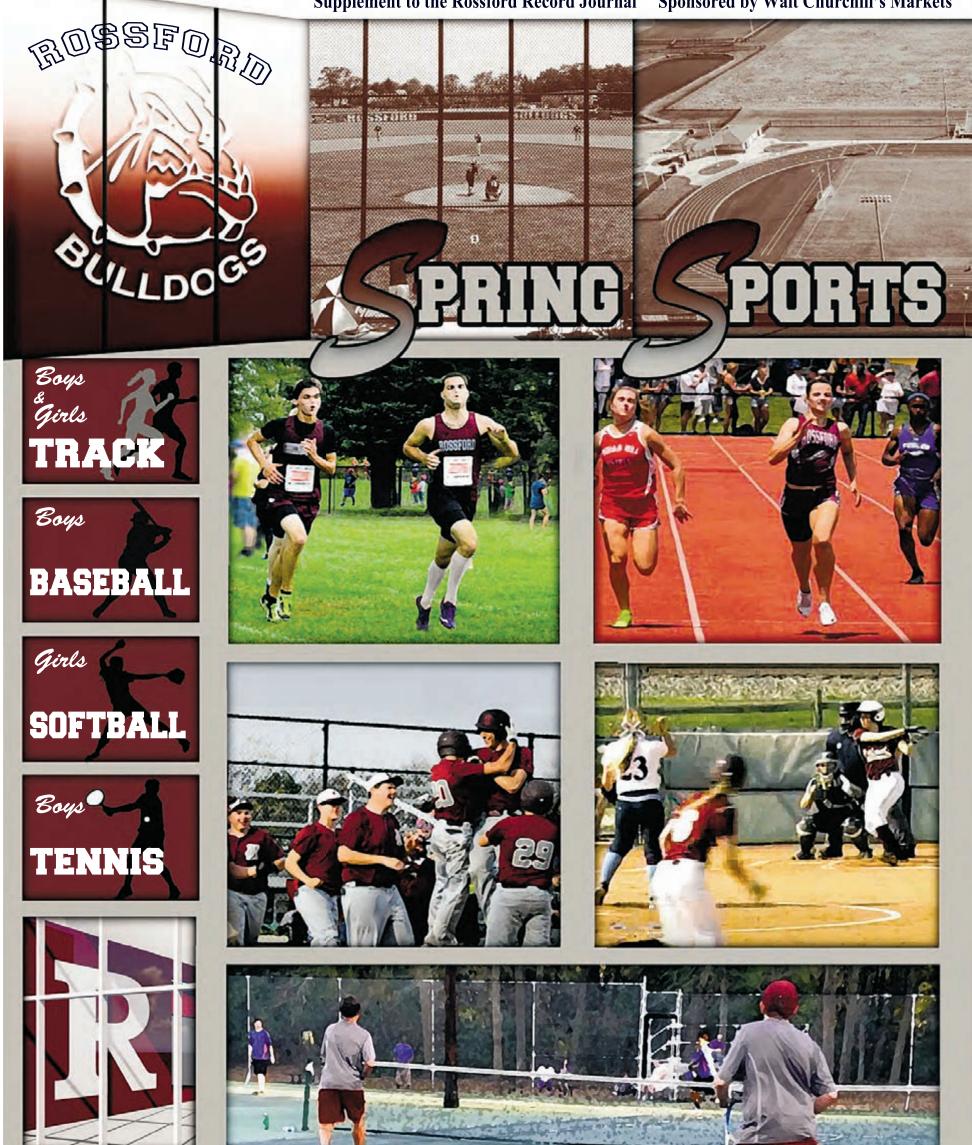
### Supplement to the Rossford Record Journal Sponsored by Walt Churchill's Markets





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# Bulldog baseball counting on pitching to improve

**By Michael Krieger** 

After winning the first league championship in 30 years during 2017, the Rossford High School baseball team last season dropped to 12-15 overall and 6-8 in the Northern Buckeye Conference for a fifth place finish.

According to third-year Head Coach Phil O'Shea, the 2019 squad looks ready to compete in the top half of the league, and with some breaks, might even contend. "We could surprise some

teams this year," he said. "This team could get 18 to 20 wins if the ball bounces the right way."

The reason for O'Shea's prediction? His faith in the Bulldog pitchers.

"The pitching staff is deeper than we've had in a while. We have five or six guys that we can put out there, and they will all give us quality innings."

O'Shea particularly sees senior Cameron Reynolds emerging as the ace of the staff.

After two injury-plagued seasons in which he also spent time as a high jumper for the track team, Reynolds is healthy and solely committed to baseball.

O'Shea described the athletic Reynolds as an innings eater with enough quality velocity to be in serious allleague discussions by the season's end.

Joining Reynolds in the rotation should be a combination of seniors Shane Pitzen and Logan Reiter, along with junior Dillon Prater and sophomore Andrew Mc-Manus-all of whom gained varsity experience on the hill in 2018.

Last year's team committed 86 errors-in contrast to the 2017 championship team's 37 errors, so O'Shea notes that another key to success will be "cleaning up things defensively."

"If we can improve on our errors and can get quality starts out of our pitchers, we should be able to win some ball games," the coach explained.

The Bulldog fielders are a veteran group against which opposing teams will have a



RHS baseball team-1, Shane Pitzen, P/Utility; 2, Cameron Reynolds, P/OF; 3, Logan Reiter, P/Utility; 4, William Patterson, P/1B; 5, Collin Jiannuzzi, OF; 6, Brady Cramer, 1B/OF; 7, Drew Bertz, OF/2B; 8, Dillon Prater, P/SS; 9, Jake Shiffert, P/OF; 10, Brian Sprinski, OF; 11, Sam Doughton, 1B/OF; 12, Andrew McManus, P/Utility; 13, Brice Harmon, P/3B; 14, Hunter Broshious, C/1B/P; 15, Nick Walker, P/1B; 16, Ty Wittenmyer, P/1B/3B; 17, Michael Bachmeyer, C/OF; 18, Xavier Taylor, OF; 19, Tyler Dowell, P/MIF; 20, Daniel Selvera, OF; 21, Trenton Bachmeyer, P/Utility; 22, Scott Tripp, P/1B; 23, Seth Walters, MIF; 24, Alex Sears, 1B; 25, Christian Brown, OF/P; 26, Gavin Dewese, P/1B/3B; 27, Kaidyn Herrick, P/1B.

*"If we can improve on our"* errors and can get quality starts out of our pitchers, we should be able to win some ball games." -Coach Phil O'Shea

tough time getting on base. When not on the mound,

Reynolds will split time at third base with Pitzen and upand-coming sophomore Brice Harmon. Reynolds also will spend time in the outfield. Hunter

Sophomore Broshious will be behind the "He's matured and plate. should do a better job of controlling the run game," O'Shea added.

Prater provides good range and a solid glove at short stop, and first baseman Will Patterson will shore up the infield

McManus will play one of the corner outfield positions, and Pitzen and Reiter are versatile enough to cover a multitude of positions throughout the season, including both

middle infield spots and outfield.

One uncertainty the team has is offense, according to O'Shea.

"I'm not sure how well we're going to swing the bat, but we will need to find ways to create some offense," he explained.

"We might have to play more small ball and get creative on the base paths. With our pitching, we might just need to score 2 or 3 runs and that will be enough to win."

That being said, Pitzen, in his fourth year of varsity experience, brings a seasoned bat and a disciplined approach at the plate that should at least get him on base.

Like most years, the NBC league, but looks to be a strong baseball realistically,

league again this season. I feel we can finish in the top Consensus indicates that Genoa has the deepest pitching and Otsego returns a strong core

half of the league. We're just really excited to get going. The Bulldogs opened the regular season with a doubleheader March 23 at the Glenwood complex against Waite High School.

### Bulldog varsity baseball schedule 2019

lineup, which makes those two schools obvious contenders. However. next three spots should be highly competitive be-

ween

" E a s t -

wood and

Lake are still

"Our goal is

always

win

and

Eastwood,

Rossford.

Lake

the

Apr. 4 at Clyde, 5 p.m. Apr. 8 vs. Eastwood, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 10 at Elmwood, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 13 vs. Swanton, 11 a.m. Apr. 15 vs. Genoa, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 17 vs. Lake, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 19 at Fostoria, 4:45 p.m.

Apr. 20 vs. Ottawa Hills, 11 a.m. Apr. 22 at Otsego, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 24 vs. Woodmore, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 26 at Eastwood, 7:30 p.m. Apr. 27 at Port Clinton, 11 a.m. Apr. 29 vs. Elmwood, 4:45 p.m. May 1 at Genoa, 4:45 p.m. May 3 at Lake, 4:45 p.m. May 4 vs. Oak Harbor, 7:30 p.m., at Grays Field of Dreams May 6 vs. Fostoria, 4:45 p.m. May 8 vs. Otsego, 4:45 p.m. May 10 at Woodmore, 4:45 p.m. May 11 vs. Lakota, 10 a.m. May 11 vs. Northwood, 12:30 p.m.

Bulldog JV baseball schedule 2019

Apr. 26 vs. Eastwood, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 4 vs. Clyde, 5 p.m. Apr. 8 at Eastwood, 4:45 p.m.

Apr. 10 vs. Elmwood, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 11 at Anthony Wayne, 5 p.m. Apr. 13 vs. Swanton, 11 a.m. Apr. 15 at Genoa, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 17 at Lake, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 19 vs. Fostoria, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 20 vs. Ottawa Hills, 1:30 p.m. Apr. 22 vs. Otsego, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 24 at Woodmore, 4:45 p.m.

Apr. 27 vs. Perrysburg, 12 p.m. Apr. 29 at Elmwood, 4:45 p.m. May 1 vs. Genoa, 4:45 p.m. May 3 vs. Lake, 4:45 p.m. May 4 vs. Oak Harbor, 3:30 p.m., at Grays Field of Dreams May 6 at Fostoria, 4:45 p.m. May 8 at Otsego, 4:45 p.m. May 10 vs. Woodmore, 4:45 p.m.

356-2380 for more sponsorship information.

Register teams at www.rossfordbaseballclub.org/ RBCgolf by June 2.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Rossford Baseball Club and athletes.

The club's mission is to build baseball through the youth system. In 2018, it launched its inaugural travel rogram. Teams play in the NWOABL and NOBBL.

The club prioritizes developing youth players and making sure they are ready for the high school program.

Baseball club to host golf scramble

The Rossford Baseball Club will host a golf scramble fund-raiser on Sunday, June 9. It will take place at Chippewa Golf Club in Curtice.

The fee is \$65 per person with a scramble format of four-player teams. Green and cart fees are included, along with dinner/lunch and beverage.

Awards will be presented for top teams, longest drive and closest to the pin. There also will be raffles and a tee gift.

Sponsorships are being sought from local businesses and families. Contact Bryan Williams at 419-

#### and could be right there competing for the title

to

the

competitive at the end." O'Shea said.



RHS boys track team–Brandon Abernathy, Jacob Birchall, Christian Brown, Matthew Cassabon, Isaac Clark, Teagan Coyel, Austin Cramer, Logan Cramer, Jamari Croom, Joey DeBortoli, Brent Deyarmond, Chaz Diaz, Herbie Eckhart, Carl Fitch, Noah Fosgate, Devin Garland, Scott Gilbert, Izayah Gillespie, Johnathon Kellermeier, Jacob Lesick, Gavin Linkous, Neil MacKinnon, Jacob Mannor, Gavin Mansor, Braden Miller, Ethan Neblock, Parker Newell, Dylan Niedbalski, Nick Perry, Jake Radde, Lucas Reiter, Luke Rhue, Zach Royal, Keaton Sandmann, Malachi Shugert, Damitri Smith, Mark Swan, Austin Szczublewski, Ian Teague, Logan Vargo, Eli Wilburn, Wyatt Williams, Eric Wingate.

# Track teams hope to build off last year's success

By Michael Krieger

The Rossford varsity track teams both finished third place in the Northern Buckeye Conference last year-the highest finish in years.

With a core of the girls team returning and a promising roster of athletes for the boys, the Bulldogs hope to be in the thick of the NBC race this season.

Head Coach Todd Eckel is in his 17th season at the helm and believes if both teams "find some hurdlers and jumpers and can stay injury free" they can be quite competitive in the league.

"Our hope is to finish as high as possible in the league, and hopefully we'll get some people who advance to state," he said.

The RHS track teams also enjoyed success at several invitationals last year-including first at the Ottawa Hills Invitational, a meet they look forward to this spring.

"It's the last meet of the season before league. They have regular relays, but they also have sprint medleys, which really helps us," Eckel explained.

"We build toward a meet like this all year by putting three individuals in each event. It gives a lot more

Save the date....

**Rossford High School** 

girls softball team

annual golf outing

fund-raiser

Saturday, August 10

at Chippewa Golf Club

ger people the chance to con-

tribute." The 2018 boys team set several school records in the relay events, but three relay runners were lost to graduation.

However, Eckel indicated that often the relays were made of interchange-

able parts, and some boys can step up this year with quality experience from last season.

"We won't have as big a dropoff at relays for the boys as one would expect after last season," he added.

The only returning relay regular is junior **Ian Teague**. In addition to his role on the sprint relays, he will be called upon to run the 100m, 200m and 400m.

Senior and three-year letterman **Austin Szczublewski** will contribute in the sprints and was a district finalist last year.

Junior **Jacob Mannor** also returns after reaching district finals in the 200m.

"The performance of some of our unproven sprinters is going to be key," the coach noted.

In middle and long distances, senior **Parker Newell** has proven to

"Our hope is to finish as high as possible in the league, and hopefully we'll get some people who advance to state." –Coach Todd Eckel

be the most accomplished in the 800m while sophomore **Malachi Shugert** will try to build off cross country success in the 1600m and the 3200m.

Senior **Brandon Abernathy** is the team's most seasoned hurdler and will compete in the 110m and 300m, with the latter being his strongest event.

Leading field events will be senior **Brent Deyarmond** in the shotput and the discus.

Eckel also appreciates some promising freshmen coming into the program. **Gavin Linkous** is proving he has the toughness to be successful as a runner and a thrower, and **Logan Vargo** brings quickness and athleticism to contribute early on as a sprinter or in middle distance.

On the girls side of the team, the

Bulldogs return **Katie Clark**, a three-time state qualifier in the 400m.

Last year, she finished fourth in Columbus. Two seasons ago, she qualified for state as a member of the 4 x400m relay team.

Clark is the returning league champ in the

100m, 200m, 400m, and the 4 x 400m relay and will compete in all those events this spring.

Juniors **Karagyn Durco** and **Ireland Hutchins** competed alongside Clark in the 4 x 400m relay at state two years ago.

The team should benefit from so many girls with experience running at state.

"That kind of leadership is hard to come by," the coach said.

Durco will compete in the sprints and as a member of the sprint relays while Hutchins will sprint and possibly be called upon to hurdle.

Sophomore **Olivia DeBortoli** returns as reigning league champ in the 800m and as a member of the league champion  $4 \times 400m$  relay with Clark and Durco.

"To have a freshman finish that high in the league is promising," said

tie Eckel, who predicts that DeBortoli is poised to be even better.

Other noteworthy returners are **Madison Stacey** on the 4 x 200m relay, and **Lucy Hoskins** leading distance runners in the 1600m and 3200m.

In field events, **Katie Owen** and **Monica Pupik** look competitive in the shot and disc.

"We didn't lose many girls, numbers-wise," Eckel said. "We do lack some depth in the distance races, and we need to find some consistency from our jumpers."

Regardless of low numbers across the board, Eckel believes that finishing in the top half of the league is realistic for both squads.

The team to beat will again be state powerhouse Eastwood.

"Eastwood sets the tone for the rest of the league," the coach pointed out. "They are consistently a state power, and we have to measure ourselves by their standard. Some of our sprint relays should be able to compete with them, and that's pretty exciting."

The track season began April 2 with Rossford hosting a tri-meet with Ottawa Hills and Toledo Christian.

## RCRC plans variety of spring programs, events

The Rossford Community Recreation Center will host several fun and instructional youth baseball programs this spring.

**Coach Pitch Baseball**–for boys and girls ages 6 to 8. Cost is \$40 for recreation center members and \$60 for nonmembers.

Games will be on Tuesday and Thursday at Beech Street Park.

Practices will be during the week at IBEW baseball fields. Registration deadline is April 12.

**T-ball**-for boys and girls ages 4 to 5. Cost is \$40 for members and \$60 for nonmembers.

A T-ball clinic will be on Saturday, May 4 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Games will be played on Saturday mornings, and there will be one practice a week. Registration deadline is April 26.

#### Easter Egg Hunt

The recreation department will offer a free spring egg hunt Saturday, April 20, at Total Sports Rossford, 10020 South Compass Drive.

The free event starts at noon and is open to all Rossford residents and students up to and including the fourth grade.

Toby Ledesma, director of parks and recreation, said 5,000 eggs with candy will be placed around the facility for the children to find.

This is the sixth annual spring egg hunt hosted by the city. After the egg hunt, baskets will be raffled off to the children.

The recreation department is asking for donations from local businesses to help with the event.

To donate, contact Mr. Ledesma at 419-666-2905 or by email at tledesma@rossfordohio.com.

aseball programs this The hunt Sa and girls ages 6 to 8. South C bers and \$60 for non-The



RHS girls track team–Mariyah Bivens, Gabrielle Boyd, Kaitlyn Clark, Olivia DeBortoli, Aeriel Douglas, Karagyn Durco, Ana Encalado, Olivia Harmon, Shannon Henderly, Bella Hernandez, Lucy Hoskins, Ireland Hutchins, Alexis Hutchinson, Aryanna Klocko, Allayna McManaway, Alyssa Morris, Katie Owen, Sarah Pavuk, Monica Pupik, Ava Rohrs, Anna Schunk, Liz Spears, Madison Stacey, Kayla Taylor, Haylee Troutman, Mia Webb, Savannah Yandell, Brooklyn Yanez.



Bulldog track meet schedule 2019

Apr. 9 vs. at Otsego with Genoa, 4:30 p.m.
Apr. 11 at Springfield Invitational, 4:30 p.m.
Apr. 16 at Eastwood Dual, 4:30 p.m.
Apr. 18 at Gibsonburg Invitational, 4:30 p.m.
Apr. 23 at Elmwood with Fostoria, 4:30 p.m.

Apr. 26 at Port Clinton Invitational, 4:30 p.m. Apr. 30 home vs. Lake and Woodmore, 4:30 p.m May 3 at Ottawa Hills Green Bear Relays, 4 p.m. May 11 NBC Championship at Eastwood, 9 a.m.

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#### ROSSFORD SPRING SPORTS 🐇 APRIL 2019 🐇 PAGE 6

### **Boys tennis swings** into new season

**By Michael Krieger** 

Second year Head Coach Bobby Johnson admits that last season at the helm of the Rossford High School boys tennis team presented some challenges.

With few experienced players, the Bulldogs struggled to an 0-14 season.

This season the coach is confident his team will show improvement.

"We have a lot of home matches. We will try to build some confidence with some wins," he explained. "We just need to relax and play. If we can take what we've done in practice to the matches. the team should be successful.'

Senior Parrish Dragon returns as the most experienced player and should play mostly at first singles.

"Parrish is practicing really well. He's developed a good serve, a nice slice kickserve," said Johnson, who believes Dragon's offseason work will pay dividends.

spring

Egg Hunt

April 20, Noon

at Total Sports,

Rossford

Free to Rossford residents

and students up to

fourth grade

Also returning are the doubles team of Hunter Korzac and Duncan Odneal.

The Bulldogs welcome new players in senior Dylan Niedbalski and freshman Blake Pierce.

According to Johnson, Pierce hits the ball well and sees it well for playing for the first time.

Johnson acknowledged their greatest struggle will be playing from behind in every match before the competition starts.

Because the Bulldogs only have five on the roster, they do not have enough players to fill every slot in a varsity line-

It is likely that they will have to forfeit one or two line up spots unless they can recruit more players. Johnson said.

"I would like to encourage anyone interested to come. It's still not too late," the coach emphasized.

The team competes in the Northern Buckeye Tennis

bold, Bryan, Ada and Ayersville.

league title in 2015, and Johnson believes this year they match up well against the league competition even with having to forfeit spots.

RHS opens the season against Wauseon. "We did well against them last year,"

**Coach Pitch Baseball** 

registration deadline

is April 12

"Because of the low numbers we're kind of behind the eight ball, but we still believe we

Apr. 15 at Maumee, 4:30 p.m.

Catholic, 4:30 p.m. Apr. 24 vs. Clay, 4:30 p.m. Apr. 25 vs. Fremont, 4:30 p.m. Apr. 26 at St. Joseph Central Catholic, 4:30 p.m. Apr. 27 vs. Bryan, 10 a.m. Apr. 30 at Whitmer, 4:30 p.m. May 1 vs. Oak Harbor, 4:30 p.m.



Apr. 17 vs. Northview, 4:30 p.m. Apr. 18 vs. Wauseon, 4:30 p.m. Apr. 19 at Fostoria, 4:30 p.m. can win," he Apr. 22 at Toledo Central said. Check out these exciting events & programs! Register now T-Ball registration online deadline is April 26 for boys and girls ages 3-5





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# **RHS softball returns core of experienced players**

**By Michael Krieger** The Rossford varsity softball team labored in vain during 2018. There is no other way to describe a season that concluded 2-20 overall with a 0-14 league record.

Head Coach Tom Kralovic begins his 18th season at the helm of the Bulldogs and emphasizes this year's focus will be on improving.

Still, he also feels some uncertainty heading into this spring.

"We start with six nonleague games and should have a better understanding after the first games of where we actually are," Kralovic explained.

Due to a young line-up the past two seasons, Rossford actually has one of the largest groups of returners among league teams.

The cupboard for the Bulldogs shouldn't be bare with an experienced core of seniors and juniors back.

Senior **Sara Seman** will play left field and junior **Hannah Pierce** returns in center.

Junior Maddie Schimming will split time between the other outfield position and shortstop. Valerie Swope will anchor the infield at second base.

Playing the corner infield

Head Coach Tom Kralovic begins his 18th season at the helm of the Bulldog softball program. He emphasized this year's focus will be on improving.

positions will be **Brooke Beale**, while **Emilia Christoff** assumes most of the catching duties.

Junior **Meghan Jarosz**, a third-year starter, is set to handle most of the pitching, but Kralovic indicated that Swope could log innings in the circle as well.

In the past, the Bulldogs relied heavily on Jarosz, but this year Kralovic believes they will have more pitching options.

One area where they plan to improve is limiting what Kralovic calls "extra outs."

"Last year we averaged 17 pitches per inning. We would have a chance to get out of the inning, but then we would boot the ball, drop the ball and force the pitcher then to throw maybe five or six extra pitches. That kind of performance is hard on the pitcher."

Offensively, Rossford looks to be more competitive and hopes to achieve that by making better contact with the ball.

Kralovic admitted that practicing at Owens Community College while the high school undergoes renovations has forced limitations in practice, especially with hitting.

"We just don't have the space needed to really work

One is highly touted Ashley Hitchcock of Eastwood, whom Kralovic claims is one of the best in Ohio.

Joining Eastwood near the top of the standings should be Otsego and Elmwood.

on hitting at Owens," he said.

Conference again will be a

challenging league top to bot-

the top pitchers in the area,"

tom

Kralovic said.

The Northern Buckeye

"The league has three of

Rossford started the season March 26 traveling to Lakota.



RHS softball team-2, Zoe Hassar; 4, Val Swope; 5, Sarah Seman; 6, Brooke Beale; 9, Hannah Pierce; 10, Maddie Schimming; 12, Paige Kromenacker; 13, Rylin Reynolds; 14, Megan Jarosz; 19, Aubrey Zolciak; 21, Marie Findley; 24, Sophie Seckel; 26, Emilia Christoff.

### Bulldog varsity softball schedule 2019

- Apr. 4 at Clyde, 4:45 p.m.
  Apr. 8 vs. Eastwood, 4:45 p.m.
  Apr. 9 vs. Evergreen, 4:45 p.m.
  Apr. 10 at Elmwood, 4:45 p.m.
  Apr. 13 vs. Toledo Christian, 11 a.m., 1 p.m.
  Apr. 15 vs. Genoa, 4:45 p.m.
  Apr. 16 at Liberty Benton, 5 p.m.
  Apr. 17 vs. Lake, 4:45 p.m.
  Apr. 19 at Fostoria, 4:45 p.m.
  Apr. 22 at Otsego, 4:45 p.m.
  Apr. 23 at Port Clinton, 4:45 p.m.
- Apr. 24 vs. Woodmore, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 26 at Eastwood, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 29 vs. Elmwood, 4:45 p.m. Apr. 30 at North Baltimore, 5 p.m. May 1 at Genoa, 4:45 p.m. May 3 at Lake, 4:45 p.m. May 6 vs. Fostoria, 4:45 p.m. May 8 vs. Otsego, 4:45 p.m. May 10 at Woodmore, 4:45 p.m. May 13 at Rogers, 5 p.m.



Saturday, May 18 Glenwood Sports Complex Cost: \$40 for a returning alum \$60 for a first time alum.



Northern Lakes League/Northern Buckeye League Champions 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1967 | 1969 | 1970 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1980 | 1984 |1987 | 2017

Calling all former RHS baseball players, we invite you to play in the Rossford Alumni Baseball game.

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9:00 - Gates open
9:55 - Mayor first pitch
10:00 - RBC youth team scrimmages
11:00 - Alumni Registration begins
12:15 - Alumni/HS Homerun Derby on Varsity Field (\$10 entry)
12:45 - Alumni introductions. RBC/HS/Alumni Group Picture

12:15 - Alumni/HS Homerun Derby on Varsity Field (\$10 entry) 12:45 - Alumni introductions- RBC/HS/Alumni Group Picture 1:00 - Alumni Game- Varsity Field- Vets, JV field- Young guys 3:00 - End Alumni Game - Food and beverages after the Game



