# Softball's McKinney looks to rebuild program at Logan

**BY WES ELROD** 

The Logan County Athletics program made one of the biggest splashes of the offseason, as they announced the new head coach for the high school softball program. Last Monday, the Lady Cougars announced that Phillip McKinney, the decorated and former head coach of the Warren East Lady Raiders, will be coaching the Lady Cougars in the spring. McKinney brings 20-plus years of coaching experience and, in his previous stint with the Lady Raiders, compiled 307 career wins, three district championships, four regional crowns, and two KHSAA state runner-up finishes since 2015.

Talking with Coach McKinney, he emphasized it all starts with trust: "You gotta build trust. If I can't trust them, and they don't feel like they can trust me,



2002 GMC Sierra, VIN #1GTEK19T12E248721 Bids will be taken at Auburn Bank ocated at 404 Hopkinsville Rd Russellville, KY until 4:00 P.M Thursday, August 14, 2025. Auburn Bank reserves the righ to reject all bids. 270-725-9999

they're not going to reach their full potential." McKinney also expressed his excitement for this opportunity: "I'm very excited being down here at Logan County, and I say down here because I gotta drive from Bowling Green, but very excited being in this district here at Logan County; it reminds me a lot of Warren East. Samesized schools, good ole country folks, and honestly, Logan County has had a lot of great female athletes in the past 20 to 30 years."

"I'd say in 2003 or 2004, I was at Russellville High School with my dad, Coach Lou Kendall, coaching baseball a little bit. I know the rivalry with Logan and Russellville; I went to Warren Central and to this day and even when I'm down here, I know you're not allowed to wear purple," McKinney said with a chuckle.



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change the mindset for the program, as he pointed to his time at Warren East, "When I took over at East, they had been to the regional finals the past two years, but they couldn't compete with Allen County and Greenwood; they were the two top dogs. We had to change the mindset, not to win championships, but to go in and be in the mix and be able to compete."

"Your goal every year, no matter whether you are starting new or have been at a program for twenty years, is to get out of that first game of district and get to region. See how you draw, and all of the sudden you win a game and you're in the final four. On a given

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McKinney looks to night, maybe you come to a bag instead of throwup with another win, then ing the cutoff, throwing all of the sudden you're playing for a regional championship; it can happen that fast. Just being more consistent, during the season, before the season, and in the offseason. Not that anything wasn't good enough, but just changing that mindset is key," McKinney said.

> McKinney's coaching philosophy is emphasized by aggressive play from his team: "The one thing with my teams, having coached from 6U, all the way to college, is to be aggressive. It's not just running the bases aggressively or swinging at the first pitch, but being aggressive on defense too. Not being afraid to pick someone off, throwing



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Mayor Donna Blake

aggressively. Also, beating the other team in and out of the dugout, making the other team play faster than what they want, make them feel like we're waiting on them."

Coach McKinney harps on the fine details of the game in his coaching: There's little things like making sure the shirt is tucked in. If you got on the wrong socks, the wrong belt, you're not coming out of the dugout. Because it's us against them over there. You have to do the little things, and there's a whole lot of little things. Everybody has to be on the same page and that is



Notice is hereby given that the Logan County Fiscal Court will

hold a public road hearing on August 26, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. in the Fiscal Courtroom during its regular court meeting for the purpose of changing the enrance of Guy Canler Road. The construction of the new entrance will remove 924 feet of old road and add 1,081 of new road. This hearing will be held for the purpose of hearing comments of any citizen who might

entrance of Guy Canler Road. Phil Baker Logan County Judge/Executive

oppose or support changing the

hard to do in sports, but if you can get close and be consistent, then you got a chance."

Last season the Lady Cougars ended the year with a 10-20 record, finishing as the district runner-up and earning a berth in the 4th Regional Tournament. Graduating eight starters from the year prior, the Lady Cougars faced a rebuilding year last season. Now with McKinnev at the helm, the Lady Cougars look to bounce back under his leadership.

Wes Elrod can be reached by emailing wpechagolla@gmail.com.



Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 25-1040-01 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE POSTING OF BOND FOR OBTAINING A PERMIT PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS INVOLVING THE ENCROACHMENT OF A COUNTY ROAD RIGHT OF WAY OR TUNNELING UNDER-NEATH A COUNTY ROAD will be held on August 26, 2025 at 9:00 A M in the Fiscal Court Room of the Logan County Courthouse. A copy of the ordinance may be viewed at the County Judge's Office located at 200 W. 4th St. Russellville, KY 42276 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Logan County Judge/Executive

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