

Veteran Pirate team eyes 10-5A title

Cantu says program is 'hungry' for some on-field success

By Greg Ford

Sports Editor

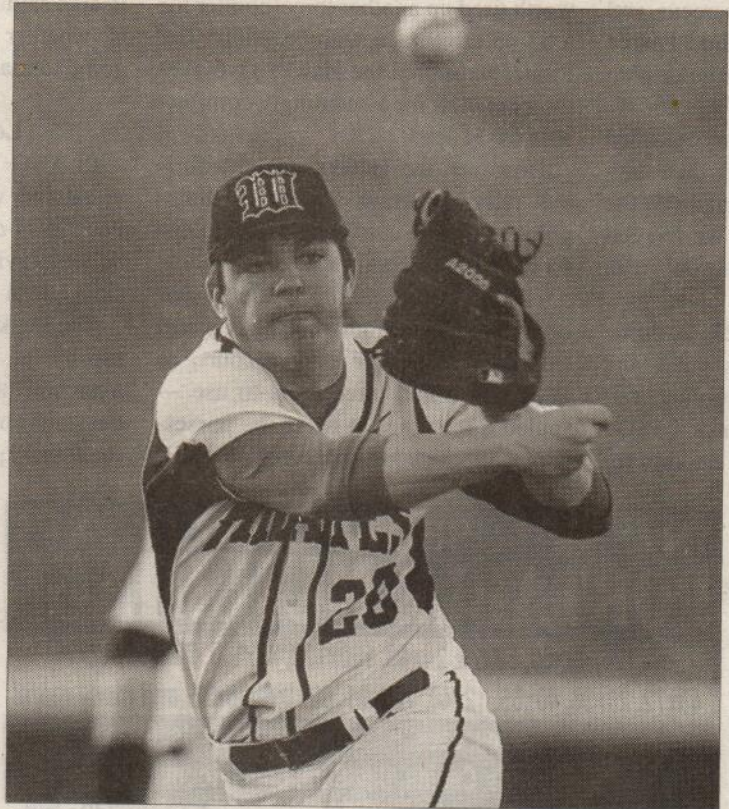
sports@wylie-news.com

The past couple of seasons have been ones during which youthful Wylie players have gained valuable on-field experience.

Now, in 2015, head coach Jonathan Cantu sees all that experience paying off in a team that's ready to compete for a district crown.

"We have a lot a returners coming back — the juniors are our big class — and there are some returning starters at the senior class and the junior class," he said. "I think we only lost one starter from last year, and

See DISTRICT page 4B



Oladipo Awowale/The Wylie News

Junior Nick Dayton is one of the Pirates expected to help solidify the Wylie pitching staff this season.

District play starts St. Patty's Day

continued from page 1B

a couple of pitchers, but we've got everyone else back."

He added, "I think they are hungry (for the playoffs). The program is hungry, that's for sure ... They believe this is our year, and we believe it. That's just our focus, and we're looking to not only get in (the postseason) but make a run at the district championship."

Returners expected to make an impact are seniors Darius Carter (shortstop) and John Kendrick (outfield), as well as Ryan Rigsby and Ricky Freeman.

"There are a lot pitchers coming up on that staff who we're going to expect big things from," Cantu noted.

Among them are juniors Nick Dayton, Peyton Graham and Levi Hon, with the latter two moving up from a junior varsity

team that lost just one district contest in 2014, the coach said.

District 10-5A play begins St. Patrick's Day (March 17) at home against McKinney.

"It seems like every year we're in a buzz saw district," Cantu said. "Everybody is going to be good, and everybody has a shot. We feel we have just as good a shot as anybody else. Our focus is one game at a time and not look ahead."