

# OHS girls soccer wraps up season first in region

By Rishi Patel

staff writer

The Oxford girls soccer team had another productive season this year. The Lady Chargers finished with an overall record of 13-7 and a district record of 9-1, placing the team first in 7A Region 1. The team is also ranked No. 16 in the state of Mississippi.

“Coming out of last season, we knew we wanted more out of this year. We started working in the postseason last year by continuing to condition, hitting the weight room hard, and being intentional with practices on the field,” senior midfielder Taylor Grace Hamilton said. “We continued to do these things throughout the summer and preseason this year.”

The team beat the Germantown Mavericks 2-0 in the first round of playoffs and advanced to the next round but unfortunately, lost to the Clinton Arrows 4-0. The team was doing their best job preparing for the playoffs.

“One of our biggest strengths this year is the way we have only gotten better throughout the season,” senior goalkeeper Kaitlyn Urbanek said. “Early on we were not playing our

best soccer and I think the team has done a great job of working through that and getting better each game.”

The team had improved vastly from last year with an overall record of 6-7 and a district record of 2-2 in 6A Region 1. They had worked on their problems from the year prior and had improved on many aspects of their game.

“I think we transitioned very well. We just worked on our struggles last year and tried not to let them be the same again,” junior forward Madison Strum said.

The team was pushing themselves to be at the top of their game and also developing the younger players to be at the best of their abilities.

“Junior and senior year it has been more about challenging myself and the younger girls to push themselves to become the best they can be,” senior midfielder Anna Claire Perkins said. “We have a lot of new young girls which caused our older players to step up. The older girls had to learn to play and grow with the younger girls to become a team.”

The team’s goal for this year was to win a state championship but ultimately

fell short in the second round of the playoffs.

“Our goal every year is to win a district championship and the state championship. This year we won our district championship and we are the first seed heading into playoffs. Being district champs gives us motivation and excitement for the road ahead of us as we went for a state title,” Hamilton said.



Photos by Kendall Kipping



**Top Left:** Freshman **Ella Reeder** gets awaits the ball being passed to her in the girls’ game against the Clinton Arrows. The team fell short of a victory with the final score 4-0.

**Top Right:** Junior **Madison Strum** moves the ball down the field as she approaches the goal. Strum has been a member of the soccer team for the past three years.

**Left:** Junior **Sonia Sanodval** makes her way down the field preparing to go after the ball. Sanodval played central midfielder for the Chargers this season.

## OXFORD HIGH GIRLS TRACK STARTS PREPARATION FOR UPCOMING SEASON

By Anderson Shows

sports editor

The Oxford High School girls track team has begun preparation for the upcoming 2023-2024 track season. The team is led by head coach Chris Patton and assistant coach Chris Gardner. The track season will begin on Mar. 2 at the South Panola Invitational. The track team has worked hard during the offseason to make this year their best season yet.

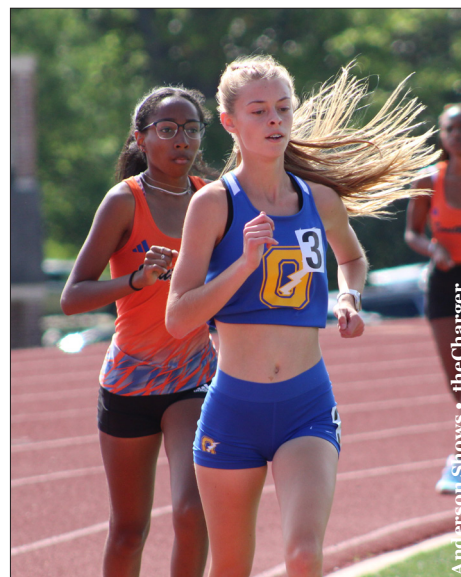
“At practice we see each other put in lots of effort,” sophomore Maggie Irwin said. “At races we see each other try to turn that hard effort into wins. It’s a process that takes a lot of mental and physical work, but it’s something I love to be a part of.”

This year’s team does focus on putting in the effort to win, but also focuses on having fun while doing it. Many team members came to be a part of the track team due to their natural love for the sport.

“I always loved running when I was younger, so my parents encouraged me to join the track team in the 7th grade,” senior captain Bella Monteleone said. “It awakened a competitive spirit in me, and I quickly fell in love with the sport. Track has brought me so many amazing people and relationships.”

The team is working hard to make sure that they give their all at every single meet they attend. Each teammate makes a point to support each other, as most members are close friends.

“The track community is very close knit,” Irwin said. “I think the team is very fun, we have a positive atmosphere to be in with constant support on and off of the track.”



Sophomore **Maggie Irwin** runs in the girls two mile event during last year’s north half meet in Oxford, Miss. Irwin placed first in the race and advanced to the state championship meet in Jackson, Miss.

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